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**17-19a Park Street, Denbigh,  
North Wales.  
June 2013**

**aeon archaeology**

Archaeological Evaluation  
Project Code: A0015  
Report no. 0013

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North Wales.  
June 2013**

Report no. 0013

Archaeological Evaluation  
Aeon Archaeology  
17 Cecil Street  
Chester  
CH3 5DP

Project Code: A0015

Date: 13/06/2013

Client: Nexus Heritage

Written by: Richard Cooke BA MA MifA  
richard.cooke@aeonarchaeology.co.uk

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## *Non-Technical Summary*

*Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by The Drapers' Company (landowner) to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation of a c.0.7ha development area, located in the town of Denbigh, North Wales.*

*Five archaeological test pits were excavated as part of the programme of evaluation. Test pits 1 and 2 showed that the area had been heavily disturbed, most probably during the construction of Bodgwilym villa in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This disturbance would have resulted in the complete removal of any preserved unknown archaeological remains and it is considered that these areas would be entirely devoid of any archaeological remains.*

*Test pit 3 was aborted due to the discovery of live utilities connecting the property 19a with Park Street, but was useful in determining that an additional area had been disturbed and had no potential for the preservation of archaeological remains.*

*Test pits 4 and 5 showed that the garden paddock to the rear of number 19a Park Street had been undisturbed during the development of the site. Indeed, a thick deposit of topsoil had been imported onto this part of the site to level the ground surface and improve the soil fertility. An agricultural drainage gully was found running from east to west in both test pits 4 and 5 and dating evidence suggests that these belong to around the 17<sup>th</sup> century. These areas are believed to have good potential for the preservation of further buried archaeological remains.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by The Drapers' Company (landowner) to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation of a c.0.7ha development area, located in the town of Denbigh, North Wales (centred on NGR **SJ 055 661**) (figure 1).

The site is bounded by Park Street to the north, Peake's Lane to the west, a narrow unnamed street to the east, (a continuation of St. David's Lane) and St. David's Lane to the south. The site contains a number of different levels, as the land gradually falls away to the east and the contours crossing the site create a large difference in level between Park Street and St. David's Lane. The changes in level within the site form terraces and large portions of the site exhibit relatively little development. The evaluation consisted of the excavation of five archaeological test pits to evaluate all potential features within the test pits.

Number 17 Park Street, is in the western corner and to its rear is a complex of buildings which were adapted for use by a school which occupied the site during the twentieth century. No. 19 Park Street, which faces on the road frontage, is a mid-19th century residence. Behind No. 19 Park Street sits a large, detached, 19th century villa, Bodgwilym. This once had substantial gardens. Beyond the villa are a series of terraces, the lowest one being formerly an enclosed walled garden.

There had not been any previous archaeological work or investigation at the site, and the potential to encounter buried archaeological remains was unknown.

The following people and organisations are thanked for their help and contribution to the project. Anthony Martin of Nexus Heritage; the Denbighshire County Archaeologist Fiona Gale; Marcus Headifen who assisted with the fieldwork and recording of the evaluation test pits; Mike Hopkins and Paul Foode of Jones Lang LaSalle; and Priya Ponnaiyah of the Drapers' Company.





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Figure 1: Location of the property of 17-19a Park Street, Denbigh (shaded in red). Scale 1:10,000 at A4.

**Aeon Archaeology**  
 Richard Cooke BA MA MIFA  
 17 Cecil Street, Boughton, Chester. Cheshire CH3 5DP  
 Tel: 07866925393  
 www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

## 2.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the works was to evaluate and characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains to provide sufficient data on the historical development of the site, so as to provide the current owner, prospective purchasers and the Local Planning Authority with material information relevant to disposal and redevelopment of the site.

The principal archaeological interest at the site derives from the fact that the site is likely to have witnessed complex, multi-phase development over several centuries, adjacent to and, eventually within one of Wales's most historically significant towns. The earliest known standing buildings date from the turn of the 19th century but the cartographic evidence suggests that there were buildings on the site prior to this. The 1610 Speed map of Denbigh illustrates two buildings on the site indicating that the site was occupied by at least the early 17th century.

Nexus Heritage, in consultation with the Denbighshire County Archaeologist, had produced a design brief (Nexus Heritage ref: 3136.R01A) for the archaeological evaluation work. This determined that the broad aims of the archaeological evaluation were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the owners to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow Denbighshire County Council to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative works that may be required to support a planning application to redevelop the site.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation test pits were determined to be:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Denbighshire.

An Archaeological Project Design (appendix III) was written by Aeon Archaeology and submitted to Nexus Heritage and the Denbighshire County Archaeologist in April 2013. This formed the basis of a method statement submitted for the work. The archaeological evaluation and recording was undertaken in accordance with this Project Design.

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006), and in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance: Excavation* (IFA 1995 revised Oct 2008). Five stages are specified:

- Phase 1: project planning
- Phase 2: fieldwork
- Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design
- Phase 4: analysis and report preparation
- Phase 5: dissemination

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. The purpose of this phase is to carry out the analysis identified in phase 3 (the assessment of potential phase), to amalgamate the results of the specialist studies with the detailed site narrative and provide both specific and overall interpretations. The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by Clwyd Powys Historic Environment Record so that it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving the material and documentary records from the project.

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Test Pits**

The number, size, orientation and distribution of the archaeological test pits were agreed in advance of excavation with the Denbighshire County Archaeologist and Nexus Heritage. The test pit array was designed to investigate areas that may contain archaeological features (figure 2). There was latitude on the location of each test pit and slight repositioning to take account of buried services and other constraints was acknowledged as a distinct likelihood within the project design.

A JCB with toothless ditching bucket was used to open the test pits under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and overburden were removed by machine in spits down to archaeological deposits or natural sub-soils. All subsequent features were excavated by hand.

A written record of the deposits and all identified features in each test pit was completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas. All subsurface remains were recorded photographically, with detailed notations. The photographic record was completed using a digital SLR camera (Canon Eos 550D) set to maximum resolution.

Contingency provision was made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.
- Expansion of test pit limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core pit area.

The archaeological works were surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The pits and archaeological features within them were accurately located on a site plan prepared at the most appropriate and largest scale.

All excavations were backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure the site was left in a safe and tidy condition.



### **3.2 Data Collection from Site Records**

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs, plans and finds were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce both an outline plan of the site and detailed illustrations.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photo record so that the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

### **3.3 Finds Methodology**

All finds were collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Finds numbers were attributed and they were bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts were cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology.

### **3.4 Environmental Samples Methodology**

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

### **3.5 Storage and curation**

The finds are currently the property of the landowner but it is strongly recommended that these are donated to a museum for long term storage. Acceptance of this report by the client is taken as agreement to this transfer of ownership to a museum; to be confirmed with the Denbighshire County Archaeologist.

The finds have been prepared for deposition according to the Museum and Gallery's established guidelines. A full inventory of the archive will be created to aid accession.

### **3.6 Report and dissemination**

This report will be placed in the public domain by submitting it to the Clwyd Powys Historic Environment Record within 6 months of completion unless the client specifically requests the report to remain confidential for a longer period. The report will also be made available on the internet through the RCAHMW Coflein website.

## **4.0 HISTORY OF THE SITE**

(Reproduced from Nexus Heritage document no. 3136.R01a)

The history and development of Denbigh has been the subject of several major studies and it is relatively well understood. There have been several archaeological investigations undertaken within Denbigh ranging from desk-based assessments through to formal excavations. In summary, the castle and walled town at Denbigh were constructed by Henry de Lacy in the second half of the 13th century. However, there is a school of thought that argues for earlier occupation of the hill-top site as a stronghold of Dafydd ap Gruffydd.

By the early 14th century the fortifications were largely complete and the creation of a borough resulted in an influx of English families. A manor was established near to the castle which included two granges, a byre, a dovecote and two fishponds, extending over 75 acres. As early as the beginning of the 14th century, the town had expanded beyond the confines of the walls and down the northern slopes of the hill. By 1311 an annual fair was being held and, the 'Survey of the honour of Denbigh' of 1334 refers to a borough within the walls and a market town without.



By the late 15th century the growth of the town beyond the walls demonstrated the commercial success the town enjoyed, with more than four times as many burgages outside as inside. This period also witnessed a devastating fire in the extra-mural areas and the besieging of the castle by the Earl of Pembroke during the Wars of the Roses. The town was a centre for artisans such as drapers, glovers, shoe-makers, mercers and weavers. In the historical record the 15<sup>th</sup> century also sees references to High Street, Beacon's Hill, Pepper Lane and Sowter Lane, indicating the establishment and permanence of these thoroughfares. Speed's map of 1610 reflects the general disposition of the walled town and the extra-mural areas.

A decline within the walls began in the late 16th century and continued through the early post medieval period: and the focus of the town shifted towards the High Street with three roads- Love Lane, Henllan Street and Lower Street - leading off it. Lower Street (now Vale Street) had three minor streets running parallel to it. During the Civil War in the mid-17th century, Denbigh again became important militarily. There was a battle in 1645 and the castle was besieged, surrendering to the Parliamentarians in the following year. Some expansion occurred between the early-17th and mid-19th century with a total of 330 buildings in the town recorded at the end of the 17th century. Further redevelopment occurred later in the 19th century and during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Historic Environment Record data was secured from the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for an area defined by a radius of 500m from the centre of the site. For the purposes of the assessment a total 25 archaeological sites (which includes buildings under or around which archaeological remains may be present) and a total of 21 archaeological events (excluding field visits and photographic surveys of standing buildings) were identified. No known features of archaeological interest are recorded for the assessment site. However, in addition to the archaeological interest related to the late medieval and post-medieval development of Denbigh there is an interest in the line of a suspected Roman road (Waddelove 1979) extending from Rhug Park to St. Asaph (HER PRN 17881). During a phase of road maintenance to the north of the site on Park Street a metalled surface and ditch 0.45m deep were observed (Frere 1992, 222). Evidence of this road may be present on the site.

## **4.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

### **4.1 The Documentary Archive**

The following documentary records were created during the evaluation test pitting.

Context sheets	28
Test pit sheets	5
Drawings	5 drawings on 3 sheets
Digital photographs	32

### **4.2 Environmental Samples**

No environmental samples were taken as part of the evaluation test pitting as all archaeological features produced artefacts that could be dated by typological analysis.

### **4.3 Artefacts**

Glazed 17 <sup>th</sup> century ceramic	2
Clay pipe fragments	5
Buckley Ware ceramic (18 <sup>th</sup> century)	5

Victorian/20 <sup>th</sup> Century Ceramic	25
Victorian/20 <sup>th</sup> century floor tiles	2
Bone	3
Glass	3
Brick fragment	1
Iron	1
Coal	1
Modern building waste	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

## 5.0 SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF THE MATERIAL ARCHIVE

Fifty percent of the artefacts recovered during the programme of evaluation test pitting were ceramic sherds of Victorian or 20<sup>th</sup> century date. In addition two decorated floor tiles (find no. 5 and 6), two glass bottles (find no. 1 and 2), a green glass sherd (find no. 22), and a fragment of red brick (find no. 28) are almost certainly also from this time period. As such, sixty-two percent of all of the artefacts recovered from the site were of Victorian or 20<sup>th</sup> century date. Moreover, two further artefacts recovered were a part of an electrical socket (find no. 8) and a modern metal castle nut (find no. 7).

These artefacts were limited to the soil horizons and test pits that had been disturbed or deposited during the construction and extensive landscaping associated with Bodgwilym villa in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The earliest artefacts recovered were two brown glazed ceramic sherds (find no. 16 and 27) characteristic of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. These came from secure contexts and most likely date to the time period when the site was under agricultural cultivation. In addition a rusted iron nail (find no. 26) was recovered from the same context as one of the sherds and is most likely also 17<sup>th</sup> century in date.

All but one of the clay pipe stems recovered were found within deposits containing Victorian or 20<sup>th</sup> century artefacts, as was all of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware ceramic sherds. This is indicative of their commonality within soil horizons and the frequency by which they are intermingled with later deposits. However, it is possible that the pipe stem fragments and the 18<sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware sherds originated from soil horizons indigenous to the site but had been displaced during the construction of the villa and later school buildings.

One clay pipe fragment (find no. 13) was found within the fill of a gully which also produced one of the 17<sup>th</sup> century ceramic sherds (find no. 16) as well as three small mammal bones (find no. 14) and a fragment of coal (find no. 15). It is probable that this clay pipe stem as well as the other artefacts from the gully are in-situ and date to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

## 6.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PITS

The evaluation test pits were designed to evaluate and characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains. Each test pit is described and discussed separately; details of the contexts are included in appendix I. The location of the test pits can be found on figure 2 with the location and direction of photographs shown on figure 8

## **Test pit 1** (figure 3; plates 1 and 2)

### *Description*

Test pit 1 was located to the west of the main school buildings, in the centre of a well tended lawn and adjacent to Peake's Lane. The purpose of the test pit location was to determine whether there was potential for the preservation of archaeological remains in this area, and in particular whether there had been any structures fronting on to Peake's Lane.

The test pit measured 1.5m square in plan and was excavated to a depth of 1.28m. The depth of the test pit was determined by reaching the maximum permitted by Health and Safety and the natural substrata was not reached.

The test pit was dominated by the edge of a large pit [1006] whose eastern edge was clearly visible in the south facing section of the test pit. The base of this pit and the remaining edges were not visible and continued beyond the limits of excavation. The pit had a near vertical eastern edge and had been excavated through a mid grey-brown silt-clay deposit (1007) which was visible in the west facing section and produced a fragment of red brick (find no. 28) and a sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware (finds no. 29). This deposit was unsorted and had clearly been deposited into the area in one episode, possibly as part of the construction of the school buildings.

The lowest fill of pit [1006] that was visible was a dark brown-grey silt-clay (1005) which produced five sherds of a white glazed Victorian jar (finds no. 12). Above this the pit was filled with a light grey-brown silt-clay (1004) and a mid-red sand (1003) which did not produce any artefacts. The final and upper fill of the pit was a mottled mid grey-brown and mid-red sand-silt (1002) which produced seven sherds of a white and white/blue glazed 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic dish (finds no. 30), one sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware (finds no. 31), and three sherds of a white glazed Victorian jar (finds no. 32).

The pit [1006] was sealed by a dark-grey sand-silt deposit (1001) with frequent concentrations of cinder, ash and demolition debris which produced two Victorian glass bottles (finds no. 1 and 2), two fragments of clay pipe stem (finds no. 3), two sherds of 20<sup>th</sup> century white glazed ceramic (finds no. 4), two fragments of decorated floor tile (finds no. 5 and 6), one metal castle nut (finds no. 7), and 1 part of an electrical socket (finds no. 8). This deposit was overlain by a thin layer of dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil and turf (1000) which did not produce any artefacts.

### *Discussion*

The earliest observed deposit within test pit 1 (1007) was clearly a deliberate dumping layer which most likely had been deposited across the area as part of the landscaping works associated with the construction of Bodgwilym villa in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This deposit produced a sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware (finds no.29) which had most probably become intermingled with the horizon during the construction works, but may originate from the site when it was formerly utilised as agricultural land.

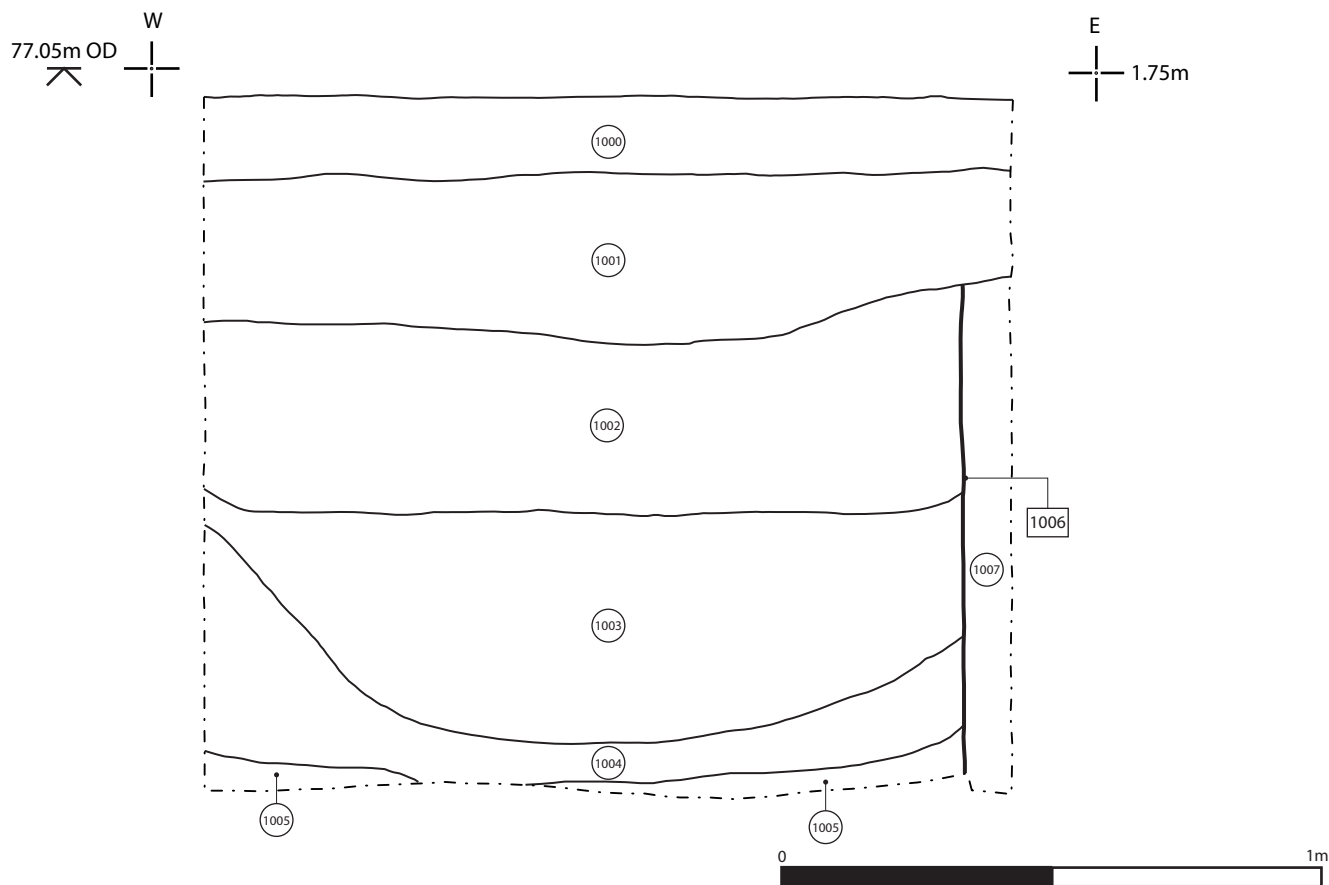
The large pit [1006] which cuts into the dumping deposit (1007) is also almost certainly related to the extensive groundworks associated with the villa construction and the artefact assemblage retrieved from its numerous fills is consistently from the Victorian period, thus supporting this hypothesis. Furthermore, it is clear from the evidence that once the deposition of material within the pit had ceased, a waste layer (1001) containing high concentrations of cinder, ash and debris associated with construction works had been laid across the area to level it, upon which a shallow topsoil layer (1000) and turf were added to complete the landscaping works.

Despite the relatively deep dimensions of the test pit the natural substrata was not encountered and it can be surmised that the construction works had resulted in the removal of the substrata layer. This



would have removed any unknown buried archaeological remains and thus the area in proximity to test pit 1 can be considered to be entirely devoid of archaeological potential.

Figure 3: South facing section of test pit 1.



Contexts	
1000: Dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil	1004: Light grey-brown silt-clay
1001: Dark grey sand-silt sub-soil	1005: Dark brown-grey silt-clay
1002: Mottled mid grey-brown with mid red sand-silt	1006: Post-Medieval pit
1003: Mid red sand and cobbles	1007: Mid grey-brown silt-clay

Plate 1: South facing section of test pit 1, scale 1.0m.





Plate 2: Test pit 1 from the south, scale 1.0m.



## **Test pit 2** (figure 4; plates 3 and 4)

### *Description*

Test pit 2 was located to the south of Park Lane, upon an enclosed garden terrace. The purpose of the test pit location was to determine whether there was potential for the preservation of archaeological remains in this area, and in particular whether there had been any structures fronting on to Park Lane or any evidence of the Roman road observed during utility works.

The test pit measured 2.0m by 1.65m in plan and was orientated from north to south. The test pit was excavated to a depth of 1.2m where the natural substrata (2004) was encountered. This horizon comprised a mid to light orange-yellow clay which gently sloped down to the north and towards Park Lane. Above the natural substrata was a mixed brown, red and grey clay and silt-clay demolition layer (2003) which contained high concentrations of rubble and slate debris. This deposit produced one sherd of Victorian/ 20<sup>th</sup> century blue and white glazed ceramic (find no. 21), and one sherd of green glass (find no. 22). This layer had been sealed by a thick deposit of bright yellow clay (2002) which produced one large rim sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware (find no. 17). Above the clay layer was a subsoil horizon of mid grey-brown silt-clay (2001) and a topsoil horizon of dark black-brown silt-clay (2000).

### *Discussion*

The stratigraphy in test pit 2 shows that the area had been stripped down to the natural substrata clay (2004) at some point in the past, most probably as part of the construction of Bodgwilym villa in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The naturally occurring clay (2004) gently slopes towards Park Lane to the north and appears to show the natural incline of the terrain prior to urbanisation. A layer of demolition or perhaps construction waste (2003) was deposited over the natural clay, most probably upon the completion of the villa construction works, and which the artefact assemblage suggests was in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This was then sealed by a thick layer of clay (2002) which also served to level the ground surface as part of the landscaping works. The single large rim sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware recovered from this horizon has either been imported onto the site along with the clay deposit, or has originated from the site when it was formerly under agricultural use and had got intermingled with the removal and deposition of the soil horizons. The clay layer was then covered by a layer of soil as part of the landscaping works which then naturally separated over the past century into the topsoil (2000) and subsoil (2001) horizons observed.

The stratigraphic evidence obtained from the test pit shows that the area had been highly disturbed during the construction of Bodgwilym villa, with the original soil horizons having been removed onto, and most likely into, the natural substrata. This would have removed any unknown buried archaeological remains and thus the area in proximity to test pit 2 can be considered to be entirely devoid of archaeological potential.



Figure 4: East facing section of test pit 2.

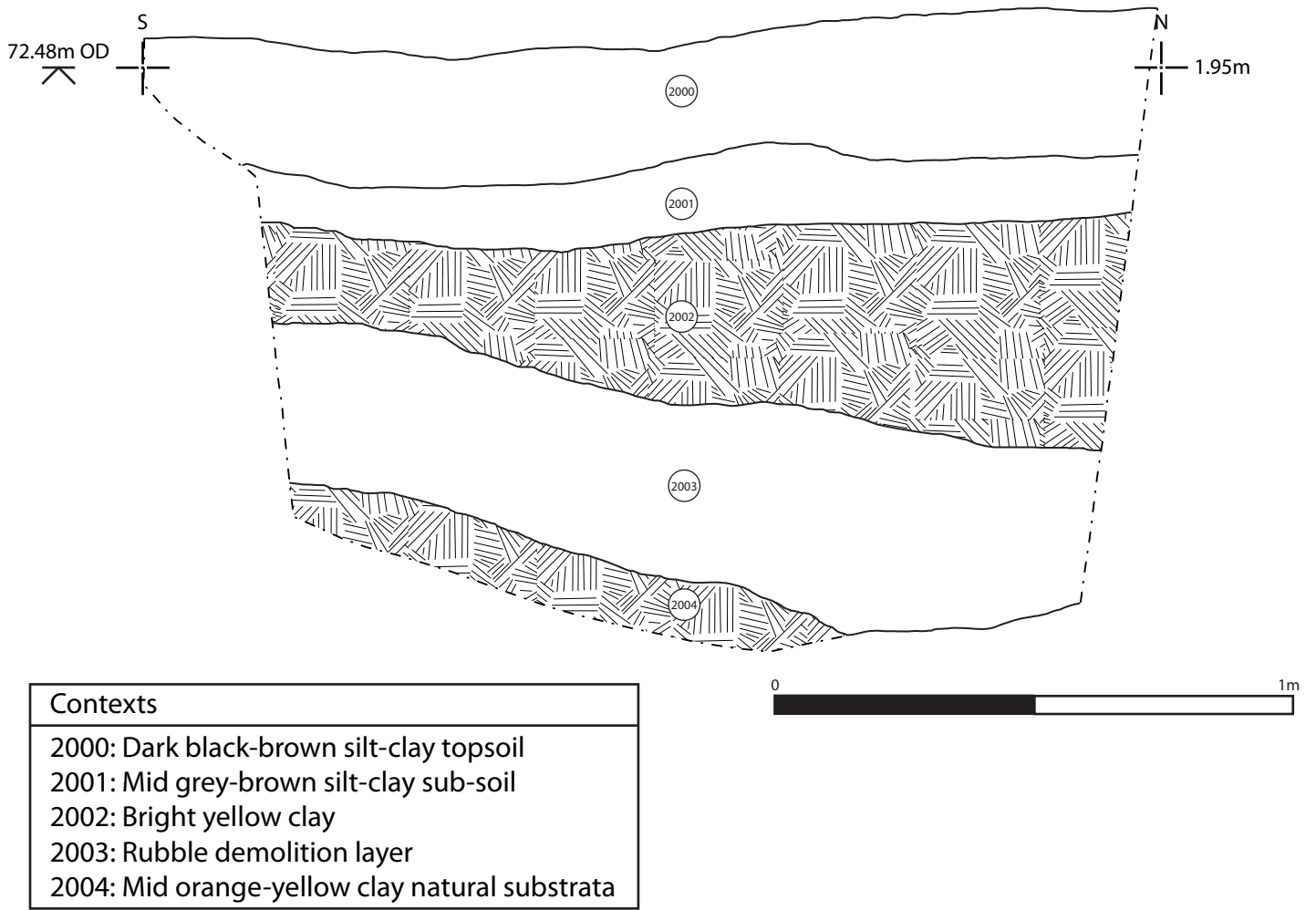


Plate 3: East facing section of test pit 2, scale 1.0m.





Plate 4: Test pit 2 from the south, scale 1.0m.



### **Test pit 3 (plate 5)**

#### *Description*

Test pit 3 was located to the immediate north of 19a Park Street on a small patch of lawn between the property and Park Street. The purpose of the test pit location was to determine whether there was potential for the preservation of archaeological remains in this area, and in particular whether there had been any structures fronting on to Park Lane or any evidence of the Roman road observed during utility works.

The test pit was abandoned almost immediately upon excavation due to encountering a sewer main connecting the northeast corner of 19a Park Street. The pipe ran north-eastward from the property, through the small patch of lawn and presumably into a rising main trenched within Park Street.

The test pit was then relocated westward but still between the property and the road, but was again abandoned when a live armoured electrical cable was detected using the CAT scanner. Observation of the lawn further to the west showed that a water pipe ran from the property to an outside tap on the adjacent boundary wall, and thus it was concluded that it would not be possible to excavate test pit 3.

#### *Discussion*

The small patch of land to the north of 19a and Park Street has been heavily disturbed through the trenching of utilities to the property. As such, it can be surmised that any unknown archaeological remains in this area would have been disturbed and removed by the utilities and thus the area around test pit 3 can be considered to be entirely devoid of archaeological potential.



Plate 5: Test pit 3 from the north, scale 1.0m.





## **Test pit 4** (figure 5; plates 6 and 7)

### *Description*

Test pit 4 was located in the garden paddock at the rear of 19a Park Street, towards the southern boundary wall adjacent to St. David's Lane. The purpose of the test pit location was to determine whether there was potential for the preservation of archaeological remains in this area. The test pit was repositioned slightly to the south of the location agreed in the project design to avoid vegetation.

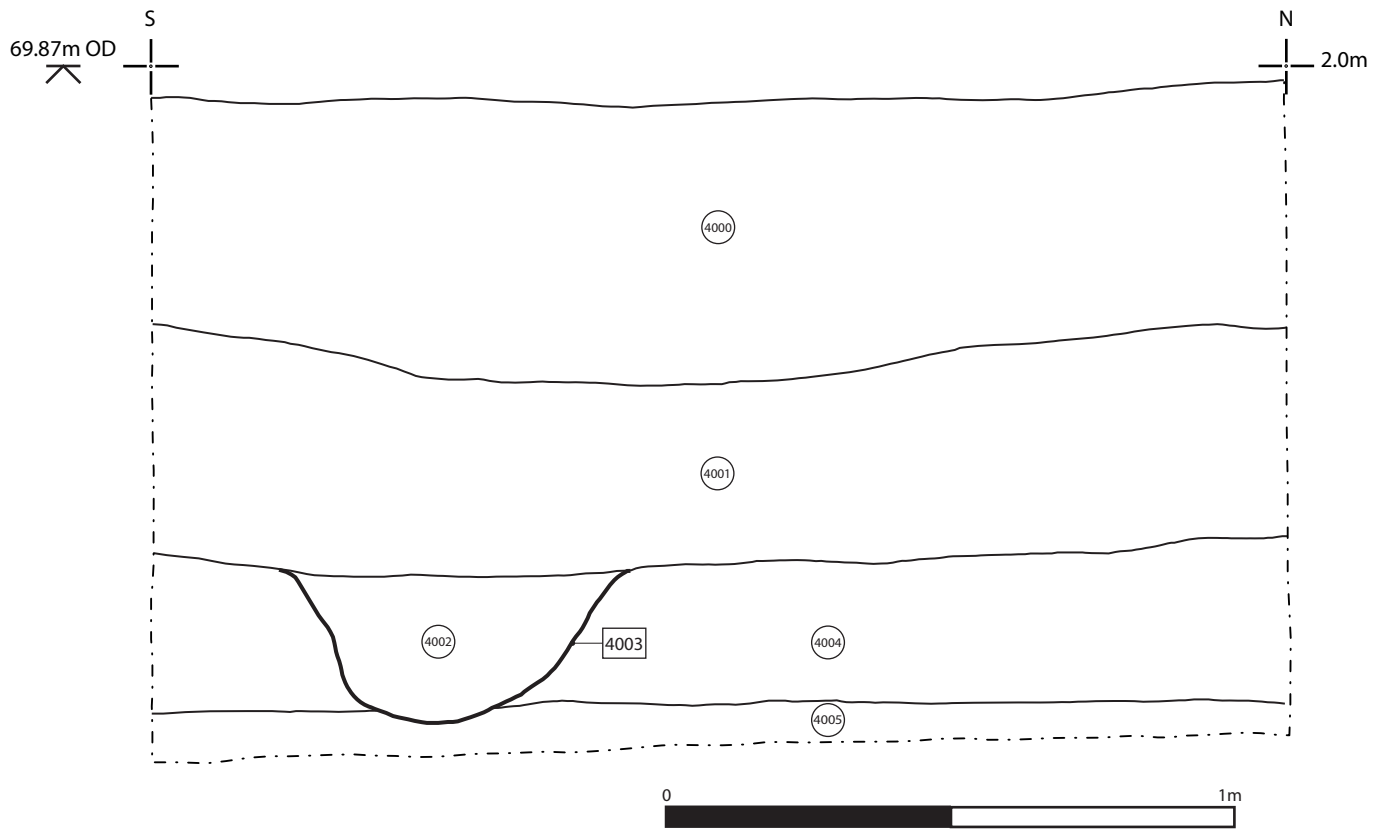
The test pit measured 2.0m by 1.6m in plan and was orientated from north to south. The test pit was excavated to a depth of 1.16m where the natural substrata (4005) was encountered. This horizon comprised a light brown-orange clay-sand over which a subsoil of light grey-brown clay-sand (4004) was deposited which produced a rusted iron nail (find no. 26), and one sherd of brown glazed ceramic of probable 17<sup>th</sup> century date (find no. 27). Through this subsoil horizon a linear gully [4003] measuring approximately 0.6m in width and 0.26m in depth had been cut, which ran from east to west across the southern part of the test pit. The gully had concaved sides and base and was filled with a single mid grey-brown clay-silt (4002) which did not produce any artefactual evidence. The fill of the gully was overlain by the original mid grey-brown clay-silt topsoil (4001) which produced one clay pipe stem (finds no. 23), two sherds of 20<sup>th</sup> century blue, gold, white and pink painted ceramic (find no. 24), and one rim sherd of 20<sup>th</sup> century white glazed ceramic (find no. 25). The original topsoil horizon (4001) had been overlain with a deep deposit of imported topsoil (4000) comprising a dark grey-brown clay-silt.

### *Discussion*

The stratigraphy in test pit 4 shows that the area has had a large deposit of topsoil (4000) imported most likely as part of the landscaping works in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This also served to increase the depth and fertility of the soils to thus function as the orchard to Bodgwilym villa. The natural substrata (4005), original subsoil (4004) and topsoil (4001) appeared to be undisturbed, and thus there is a potential for the preservation of unknown buried archaeological remains within proximity to test pit 4.

The linear gully [4003] which cuts through the subsoil horizon (4004) did not produce any artefacts, however the subsoil produced a ceramic sherd of probable 17<sup>th</sup> century date and it can thus be surmised that the gully is also from around this time. It most likely functioned as an agricultural drainage ditch when the site was under agricultural cultivation and does not appear to be large enough in dimensions to have functioned as a boundary ditch.

Figure 5: East facing section of test pit 4.



Contexts	
4000: Dark grey-brown clay-silt imported topsoil	4004: Light grey-brown clay-sand subsoil
4001: Mid grey-brown clay-silt original topsoil	4005: Light brown-orange clay-sand natural substrata
4002: Mid grey-brown clay-silt fill of gulley [4003]	
4003: Cut of linear gulley	

Plate 6: East facing section of test pit 4, scale 1.0m.





Plate 7: Test pit 4 from the east, scale 1.0m.



## **Test pit 5** (figure 6 and 7; plates 8, 9 and 10)

### *Description*

Test pit 5 was located in the garden paddock at the rear of, and in close proximity to 19a Park Street. The purpose of the test pit location was to determine whether there was potential for the preservation of archaeological remains in this area. The test pit had not originally been part of the evaluation programme but was excavated as an additional test pit as it was not possible to excavate test pit 3.

The test pit measured 2.0m by 1.9m in plan and was orientated from north to south. The test pit was excavated to a depth of 1.4m where the natural substrata (5008) was encountered. This horizon comprised an orange-red slightly silty sand over which lay a natural substrata layer of bright white clay (5007). Over this lay another natural substrata horizon of yellow clay (5006) and over which lay a final natural substrata layer of yellow-grey silt-clay (5005).

This naturally occurring silt-clay had been cut by a linear gully [5003] measuring 0.46m in width and 0.44m in depth, running from east to west across the northern part of the test pit. The gully had been outside the original limit of excavation with only the southern edge visible during machining, and thus the decision was made to extend the test pit approximately 0.4m to the north to reveal the whole of the gully. The sides were fairly gradual to the south and near vertical to the north, having been undercut in places. The base was slightly concaved and the whole gully had been deliberately backfilled with a single fill of mid red-brown silt-clay (5004) which produced one clay pipe stem (find no. 13), three small mammal bones (find no. 14), one fragment of coal (find no. 15), and one sherd of brown and cream glazed ceramic of probable 17<sup>th</sup> century date (find no. 16).

The in-filled ditch would still have been partially recessed when it was sealed by a mid red-brown silt-clay subsoil (5002) over which lay a mid to dark black-brown silt-clay topsoil (5001). The topsoil layer produced two sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware (find no. 9), one fragment of clay pipe stem (find no. 10), one sherd of Victorian/ 20<sup>th</sup> century blue and white ceramic (find no. 11), one base sherd of 20<sup>th</sup> century yellow glazed ceramic (find no. 18), one sherd of 20<sup>th</sup> century yellow and brown glazed ceramic (find no. 19), and one sherd of 20<sup>th</sup> century brown glazed ceramic (find no. 20). The original topsoil horizon (5001) had then been overlain with a deep deposit of imported topsoil (5000) comprising a dark black-brown silt-clay.

### *Discussion*

The stratigraphy in test pit 5 shows that the area has had a large deposit of topsoil (5000) imported most likely as part of the landscaping works in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This also served to increase the depth and fertility of the soils to thus function as the orchard to Bodgwilym villa. The natural substrata (5005), original subsoil (5002) and topsoil (5001) appeared to be undisturbed, and thus there is a potential for the preservation of unknown buried archaeological remains within proximity to test pit 5.

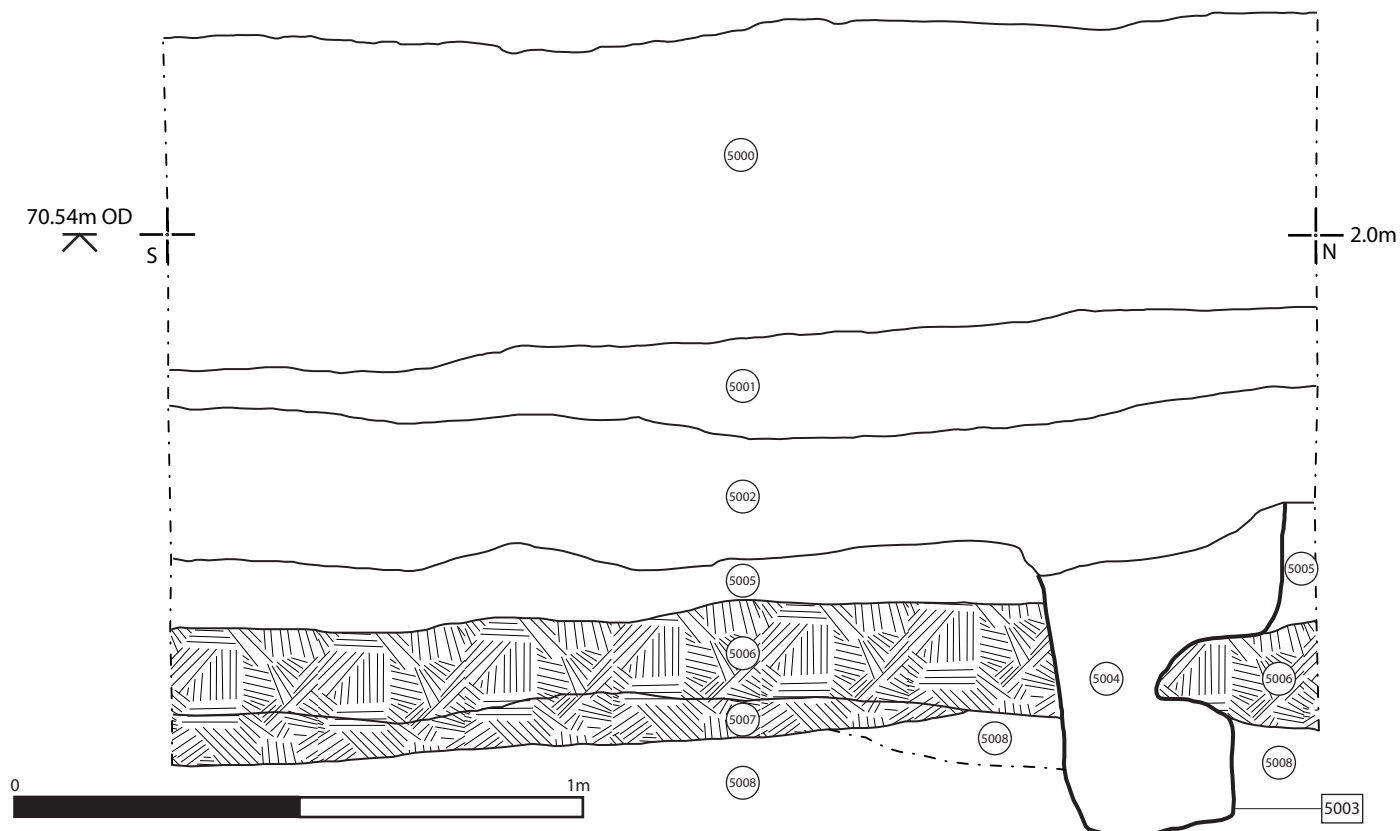
The linear gully [5003] which cuts through the subsoil horizon (5005) produced a clay pipe stem and pottery sherd that are characteristic of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the size and dimensions of the gully suggests that it functioned as an agricultural drainage ditch when the site was under cultivation. Indeed, the east-west orientation of both this gully and the one found in test pit 4 are in a complementary orthogonal projection with the plot boundary depicted on the tithe map of 1841, supporting the theory that they were drainage gullies rather than boundary ditches. The presence of the small mammal bones within the fill as well as the undercutting of the northern side of the gully suggests that it was open to the elements, and carried running water with the force to cause the undercut. When the gully had gone out of use it had been deliberately backfilled in a single episode.

The gulley lies approximately 22.6m south of the site boundary wall that fronts Park Street to the north, and lies approximately 27.0m north of the gulley [4003] discovered in test pit 4. The test pit 4 gulley lies approximately 12.0m north of the site boundary to the south which fronts St. David's Lane. The distances between the gullies and the boundary walls do not appear to be consistent and they may be either not contemporary or excavated at random points across the plot. However, it is also possible that there may be other undiscovered gullies crossing the site. If it is assumed that the gulley in test pit 4 is the most southerly of a series of drainage gullies then a distance of approximately 12.0m would separate them, suggesting that there would be another agricultural gulley between test pits 4 and 5, and a fourth gulley beneath number 19a and between test pit 5 and the northern site boundary wall. There is however no current further evidence to support this hypothesis.

When the levels of the two drainage gullies are considered, the top break of slope of the test pit 5 gulley lies at 70.03m OD while the test pit 4 gulley lies at 69.01m OD. This is a fairly substantial drop over a distance of 27.0m but is most likely indicative of a natural sloping terrain which runs southward towards St. David's Lane, and it is probable that the gullies are contemporary.



Figure 6: East facing section of test pit 5.



**Contexts**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 5000: Dark black-brown silt-clay imported topsoil     | 5004: Mid red-brown silt-clay fill of gully [5003] |
| 5001: Mid/dark black-brown silt-clay original topsoil | 5005: Yellow-grey silt-clay natural substrata      |
| 5002: Mid red-brown silt-clay subsoil                 | 5006: Yellow clay natural substrata                |
| 5003: Cut of linear gully                             | 5007: White clay natural substrata                 |
|   | 5008: Orange-red sand natural substrata            |

Plate 8: East facing section of test pit 5, scale 1.0m.





Figure 7: Plan of test pit 5 showing gulley [5003].

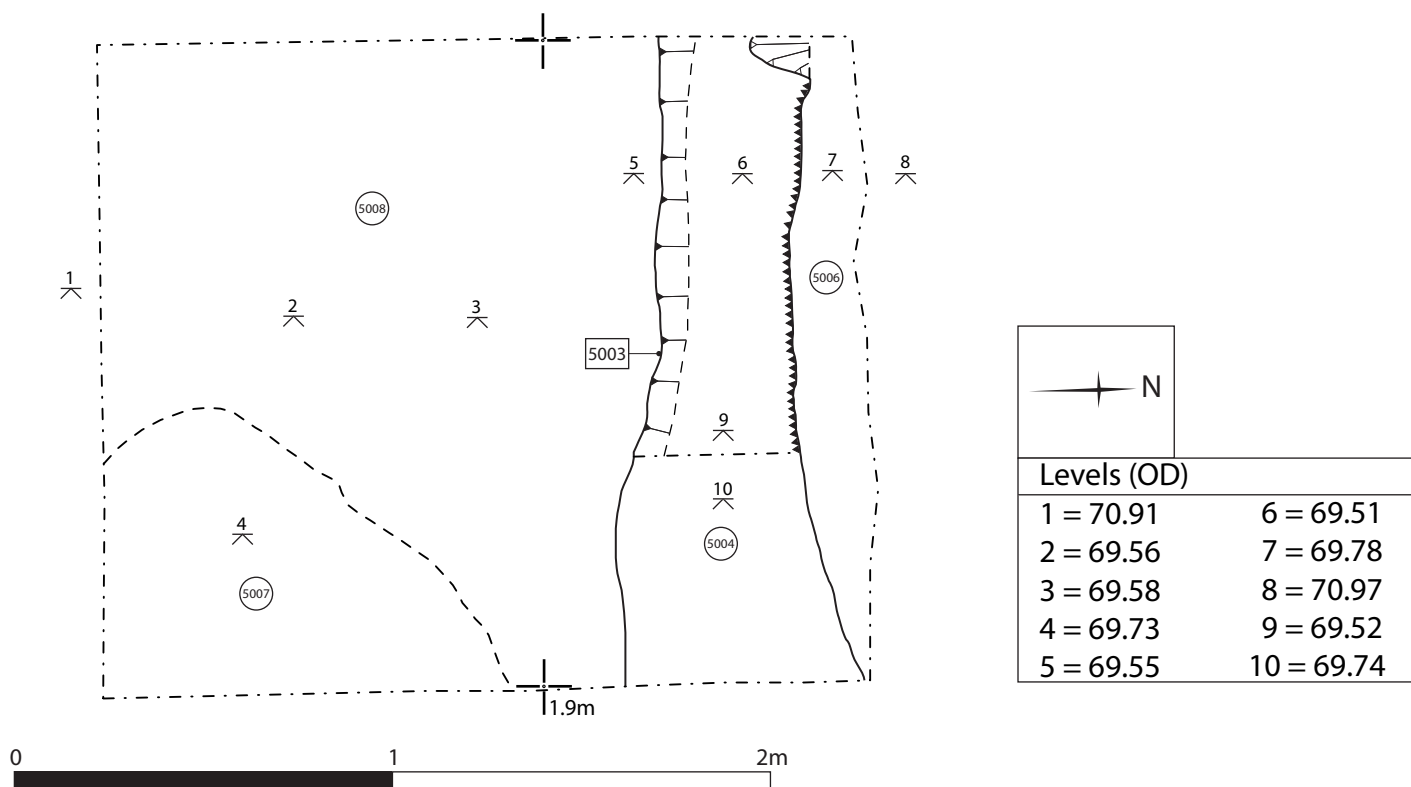


Plate 9: Test pit 5 from the east, scale 1.0m.





Plate 10: Gulley [5003] from the east, scale 0.5m.





## 7.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the evaluation test pits at 17-19a Park Street, Denbigh can be used to create an archaeological deposit model of the areas of the site known to have been disturbed during the construction of the school; the areas known to have not been disturbed; and the areas where the level of disturbance is currently unknown. This model can be directly related to the potential for the survival of unknown buried archaeological remains.

As can be seen from figure 9 the majority of the site is either occupied by buildings or has been shown through the excavation of the evaluation test pits to be disturbed and thus have no potential for the preservation of archaeological remains. This area encompasses the locations of evaluation test pits 1, 2, and 3 as well as the area immediately east of Bodgwilym villa and south of number 19a Park Street.

Through the excavation of test pits 4 and 5 it has been shown that the area extending from the south of number 19a Park Street to the southern boundary of the site has the potential for the preservation of archaeological remains. This area had a thick layer of imported topsoil deposited on it, most likely upon the construction of the villa in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This also functioned to increase the depth and fertility of the soils which made the area suitable for an orchard garden which served the main house. Both test pits 4 and 5 had east to west orientated agricultural drainage ditches of probable 17<sup>th</sup> century date and there is therefore the potential for the preservation of earlier remains within this part of the site.

The areas shaded in yellow on figure 9 represent the parts of the site where the potential for preserved archaeological remains is currently unknown.

Cadw considers that the top of Park Street was clearly integrated into the historic town but below Peake's Lane, Park Street possessed more of the characteristics of a back lane, with only sporadic development up to the mid-to late-19<sup>th</sup> century (Nexus. 3136.R01a). The array of test pits at 17-19a Park Street have to some degree helped to confirm this hypothesis. Test pits 4 and 5 clearly show that no development had taken place within the area between number 19a and St. David's Lane and that this area had almost certainly been utilised for agriculture up until it became part of the landscaped gardens for Bodgwilym villa in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## 8.0 SOURCES

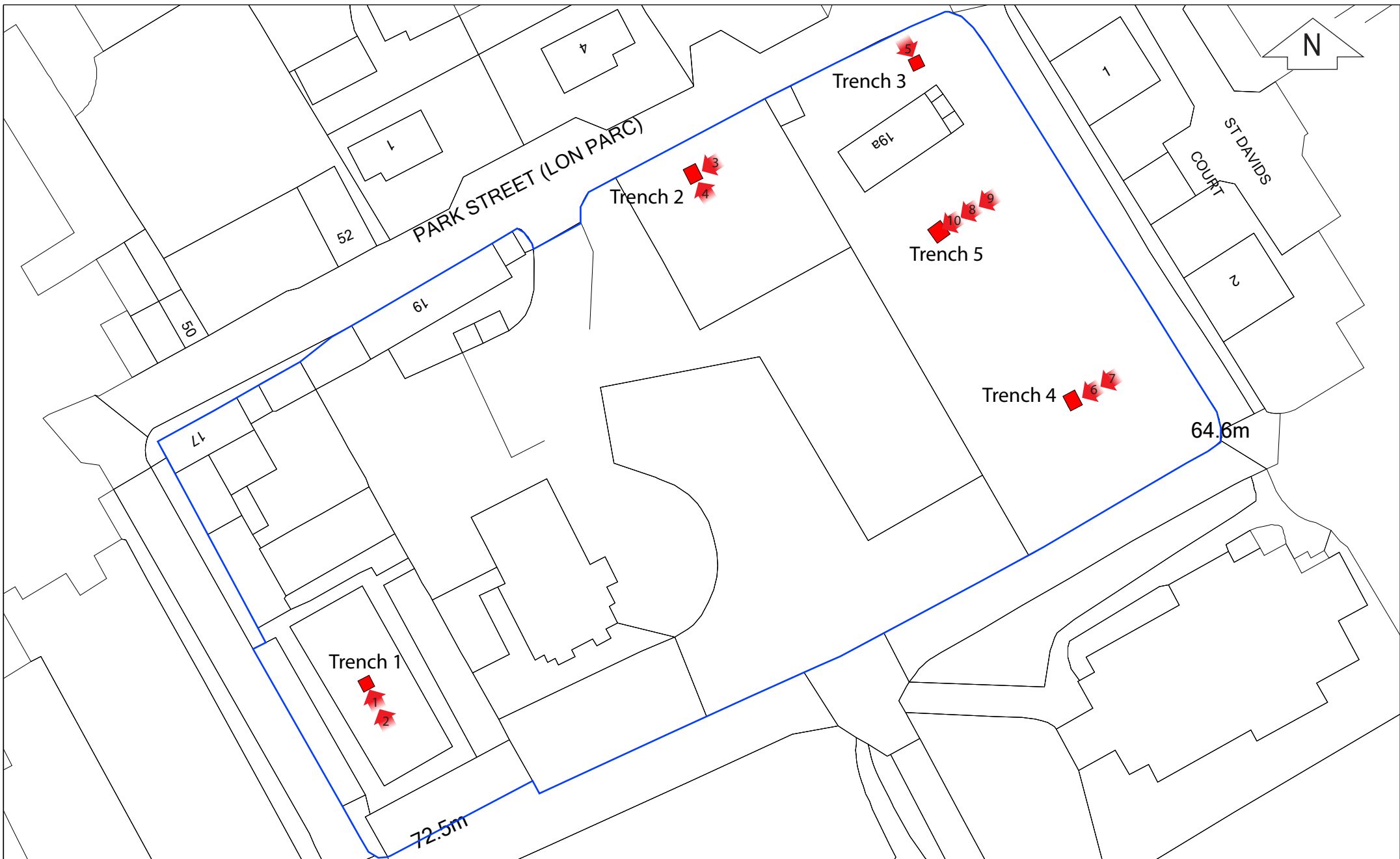
English Heritage, 1991. *Management of Archaeological Projects*

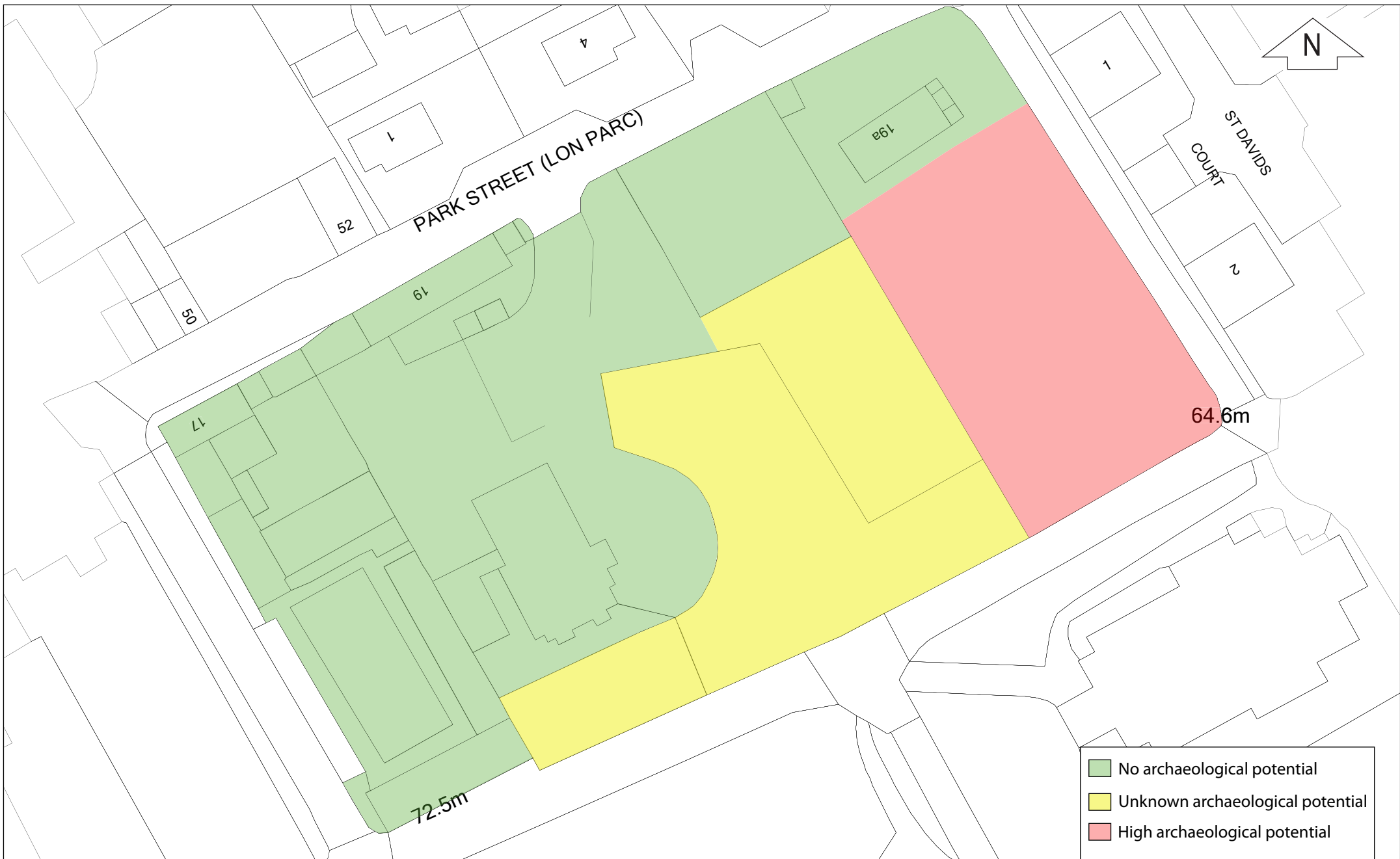
English Heritage, 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide*

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Nexus Heritage Document no: 3136.R01a





## APPENDIX I – DETAILS OF EVALUATION TEST PITS

### Test pit 1

Grid reference: SJ 05495 66136

Test pit size: 1.5m x 1.5m

Maximum depth: 1.28m

Orientation: n.a.

Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description
1000	0	Topsoil - A firm dark grey-brown clay-silt with occasional sandstone pebbles.
1001	0.16	Subsoil – A soft/ loose dark grey sand-silt with very frequent cinder, ash and occasional cobbles. Produced two Victorian glass bottles (find no. 1 and 2), two clay pipe stems (find no. 3), two sherds 20 <sup>th</sup> century white glazed ceramic (find no. 4), two fragments of Victorian decorated floor tile (find no. 5 and 6), one modern metal castle nut (find no. 7), and one fragment of a modern electrical socket (find no. 8).
1002	0.42	Top fill of pit [1006] – A firm mottled mid grey-brown and red mixed sand-silt with frequent sandstone pebbles and occasional mortar flecks. Produced seven sherds of 20 <sup>th</sup> century white glazed ceramic dish with blue painted willow-ware design (find no. 30), one sherd of 18 <sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware ceramic (find no. 31), and three sherds of a Victorian white glazed jar (find no. 32).
1003	0.72	Fill of pit [1006] – A moderately firm mid-red sand with frequent sandstone cobbles and pebble inclusions.
1004	1.11	Fill of pit [1006] – A firm light grey-brown silt-clay with occasional mortar and charcoal flecks.
1005	1.2	Primary fill of pit [1006] – A firm dark brown-grey silt-clay with occasional mortar and charcoal flecking, as well as occasional sandstone pebbles. Produced five sherds of Victorian white glazed ceramic jar (find no. 12).
1006	0.35	Large Victorian rubbish pit, extends beyond the limits of the test pit and measuring >1.2m in depth. Has near vertical side to the east but no other limits revealed.
1007	0.33	Deposit – A firm mid grey-brown silt-clay with occasional pebbles and mortar flecks. Produced one fragment of red brick (find no. 28), and one sherd of 18 <sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware ceramic (find no. 29).

## Test pit 2

Grid reference: SJ 05534 66196

Test pit size: 2.0m x 1.65m

Maximum depth: 1.2m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description
2000	0	Topsoil – A moderately soft dark black-brown silt-clay with infrequent small stones and glass sherds.
2001	0.25	Subsoil – A moderately soft mid grey-brown silt-clay with occasional small stone inclusions.
2002	0.35	Deposit – A very firm bright yellow clay with infrequent small angular stones. Produced one rim sherd of 18 <sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware ceramic (find no. 17).
2003	0.52	Deposit – A fairly firm mixed brown, red and grey mixed clay and silt-clay with very frequent brick, slate, and stones. Produced one sherd of Victorian/ 20 <sup>th</sup> century blue and white glazed willow-ware ceramic (find no. 21), and one sherd of green glass (find no. 22).
2004	0.85	Natural substrata – A very firm mid to light orange-yellow clay with fairly frequent small angular stones.

## Test pit 3

Grid reference: SJ 05562 66210

Test pit size: 1.5m x 1.5m

Maximum depth: 0.7m

Orientation: n.a.

Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description
-	-	Test pit abandoned due to buried utilities.

#### Test pit 4

Grid reference: SJ 05580 66169

Test pit size: 2.0m x 1.6m

Maximum depth: 1.16m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description
4000	0	Imported topsoil – A soft dark grey-brown clay-silt with occasional rounded sandstone pebbles and occasional mortar flecks.
4001	0.4	Original topsoil – A firm mid grey-brown clay-silt with occasional sub-rounded sandstone pebbles and occasional coal, mortar, and charcoal flecks. Produced one clay pipe stem (find no. 23), two sherds of 20 <sup>th</sup> century blue, gold, white and pink painted ceramic (find no. 24), and one rim sherd of 20 <sup>th</sup> century white glazed ceramic (find no. 25).
4002	0.82	Fill of gulley [4003] – A firm mid grey-brown clay-silt with occasional charcoal flecks, and very occasional sub-angular sandstone pebbles.
4003	0.82	Cut of gulley – A linear gulley orientated from east to west and measuring 0.26m in depth. Has concaved sides and base.
4004	0.82	Subsoil – A firm light grey-brown clay-sand with occasional large sandstone pebbles. Produced one rusted iron nail (find no. 26), and one sherd of 17 <sup>th</sup> century brown glazed ceramic (find no. 27).
4005	1.05	Natural substrata – A firm light brown-orange clay-sand.

## Test pit 5

Grid reference: SJ 05564 66189

Test pit size: 2.0m x 1.9m

Maximum depth: 1.4m

Orientation: N-S

Context	Depth below surface (m)	Description
5000	0	Imported topsoil – A moderately firm dark black-brown silt-clay with infrequent small stones.
5001	0.52	Original topsoil – A moderately firm mid to dark black-brown silt-clay. Produced two sherds of 18 <sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware ceramic (find no. 9), one clay pipe stem (find no. 10), one sherd of Victorian/ 20 <sup>th</sup> century blue and white willow ware ceramic (find no. 11), one sherd of 20 <sup>th</sup> century yellow glazed ceramic (find no. 18), one sherd of 20 <sup>th</sup> century yellow and brown glazed ceramic (find no. 19), and one sherd of 20 <sup>th</sup> century brown glazed ceramic (find no. 20).
5002	0.65	Subsoil – A moderately soft mid red-brown silt-clay with occasional charcoal flecks.
5003	0.87	Cut of gulley – A linear gulley runs from east to west across the test pit and measures 0.46m in width and 0.44m in depth. It has a gentle concaved side to the south and a vertical and sometimes undercut side to the north. The base is slightly concaved.
5004	0.87	Fill of gulley [5003] – A moderately soft mid red-brown silt-clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Produced one clay pipe stem (find no. 13), three small mammal bones (find no. 14), one fragment of coal (find no. 15), and one sherd of 17 <sup>th</sup> century brown and cream glazed ceramic (find no. 16).
5005	0.94	Natural substrata – A soft yellow-grey silt-clay.
5006	1.02	Natural substrata – A moderately firm yellow clay.
5007	1.19	Natural substrata – A moderately firm bright white clay.
5008	1.25	Natural substrata – A soft orange-red sand.

## APPENDIX II – GAZETTEER OF ARTEFACTS

Finds no.	Context	Description	Photograph
1	1001	1 x Victorian glass bottle	I
2	1001	1 x Victorian glass bottle	I
3	1001	2 x clay pipe stems	I
4	1001	2 x 20 <sup>th</sup> century white glazed ceramic sherds	I
5	1001	1 x Victorian decorated floor tile fragment	I
6	1001	1 x Victorian decorated floor tile fragment	I
7	1001	1 x modern metal castle nut	I
8	1001	1 x modern electrical socket fragment	I
9	5001	2 x 18 <sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware ceramic sherds	II
10	5001	1 x clay pipe stem	II
11	5001	1 x Victorian/ 20 <sup>th</sup> century blue and white willow ware ceramic sherd	II
12	1005	5 x Victorian white glazed jar sherds	III
13	5004	1 x clay pipe stem	IV
14	5004	3 x small mammal bones	IV
15	5004	1 x fragment of coal	IV
16	5004	1 x 17 <sup>th</sup> century brown and cream glazed ceramic sherd	IV
17	2002	1 x 18 <sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware ceramic rim sherd	V
18	5001	1 x 20 <sup>th</sup> century yellow glazed ceramic base sherd	VI
19	5001	1 x 20 <sup>th</sup> century yellow and brown glazed ceramic sherd	VI
20	5001	1 x 20 <sup>th</sup> century brown glazed ceramic sherd	VI
21	2003	1 x Victorian/ 20 <sup>th</sup> century blue and white willow ware ceramic sherd	VII
22	2003	1 x green glass sherd	VII
23	4001	1 x clay pipe stem	VIII
24	4001	2 x 20 <sup>th</sup> century blue, gold, white and pink glazed ceramic sherds	VIII
25	4001	1 x 20 <sup>th</sup> century white glazed rim sherd	VIII
26	4004	1 x rusted iron nail	IX
27	4004	1 x 17 <sup>th</sup> century brown glazed ceramic sherd	IX
28	1007	1 x red brick fragment	X
29	1007	1 x 18 <sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware ceramic sherd	X
30	1002	7 x Victorian/ 20 <sup>th</sup> century blue and white willow-ware ceramic sherds	XI
31	1002	1 x 18 <sup>th</sup> century Buckley ware ceramic sherd	XI
32	1002	3 x Victorian white glazed ceramic jar	XI





Plate I: Artefacts from context (1001) (labels correspond to small find numbers, see appendix II).



Plate II: Artefacts from context (5001) (labels correspond to small find numbers, see appendix II).

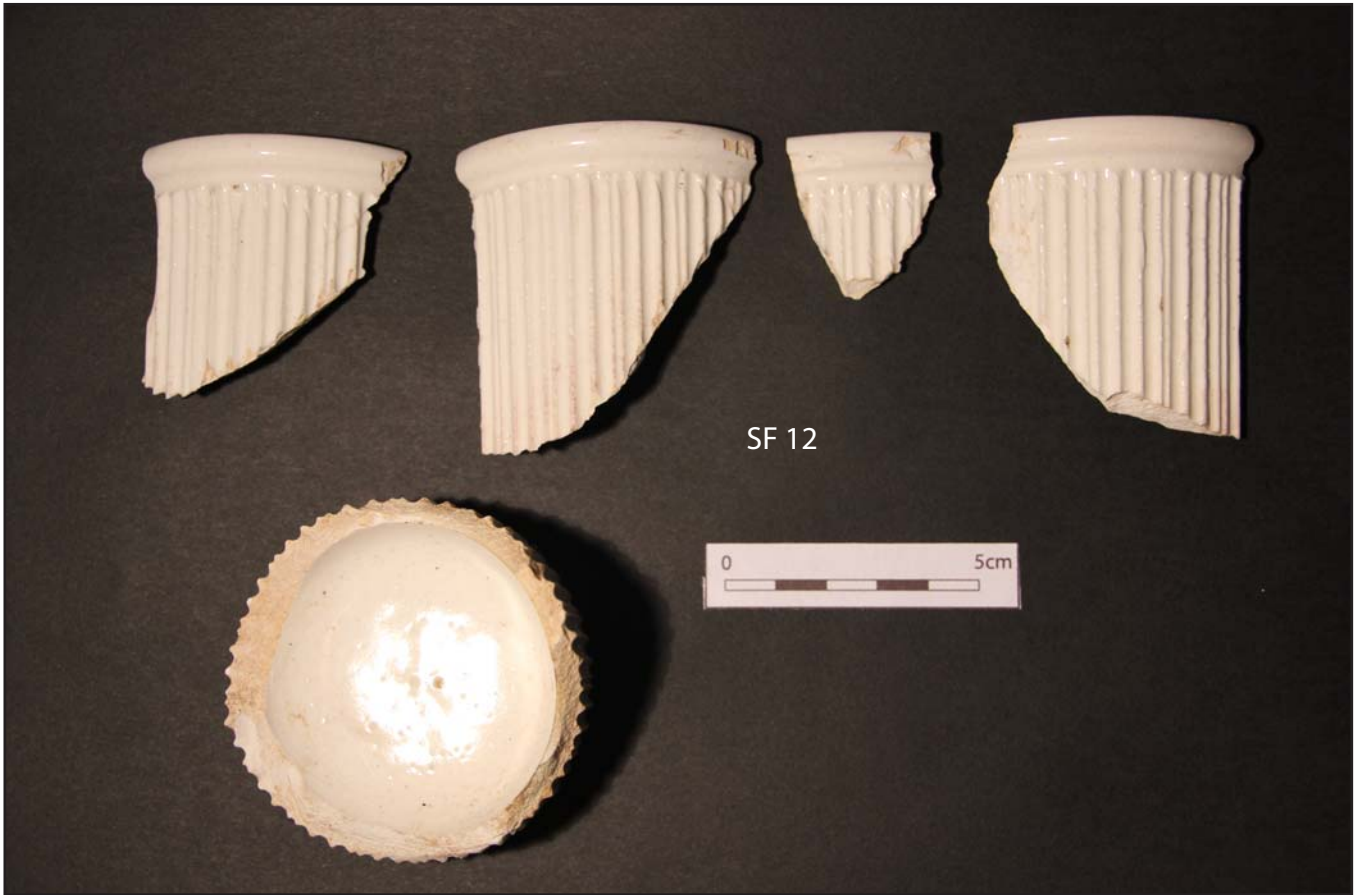


Plate III: Artefacts from context (1005) (labels correspond to small find numbers, see appendix II).



Plate IV: Artefacts from context (5004) (labels correspond to small find numbers, see appendix II).





**Plate V:** Artefacts from context (2002) (labels correspond to small find numbers, see appendix II).



**Plate VI:** Artefacts from context (5001) (labels correspond to small find numbers, see appendix II).

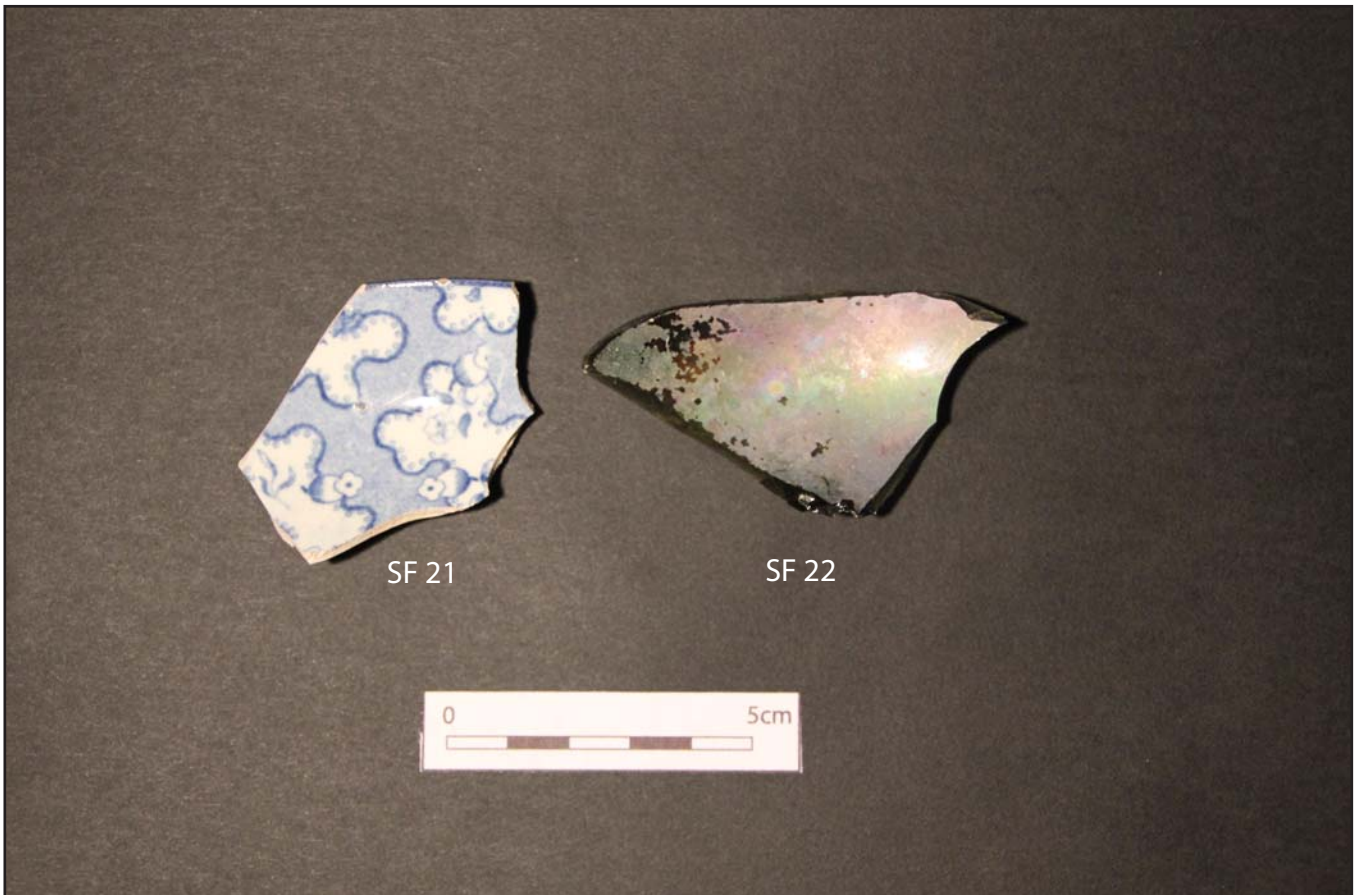


Plate VII: Artefacts from context (2003) (labels correspond to small find numbers, see appendix II).

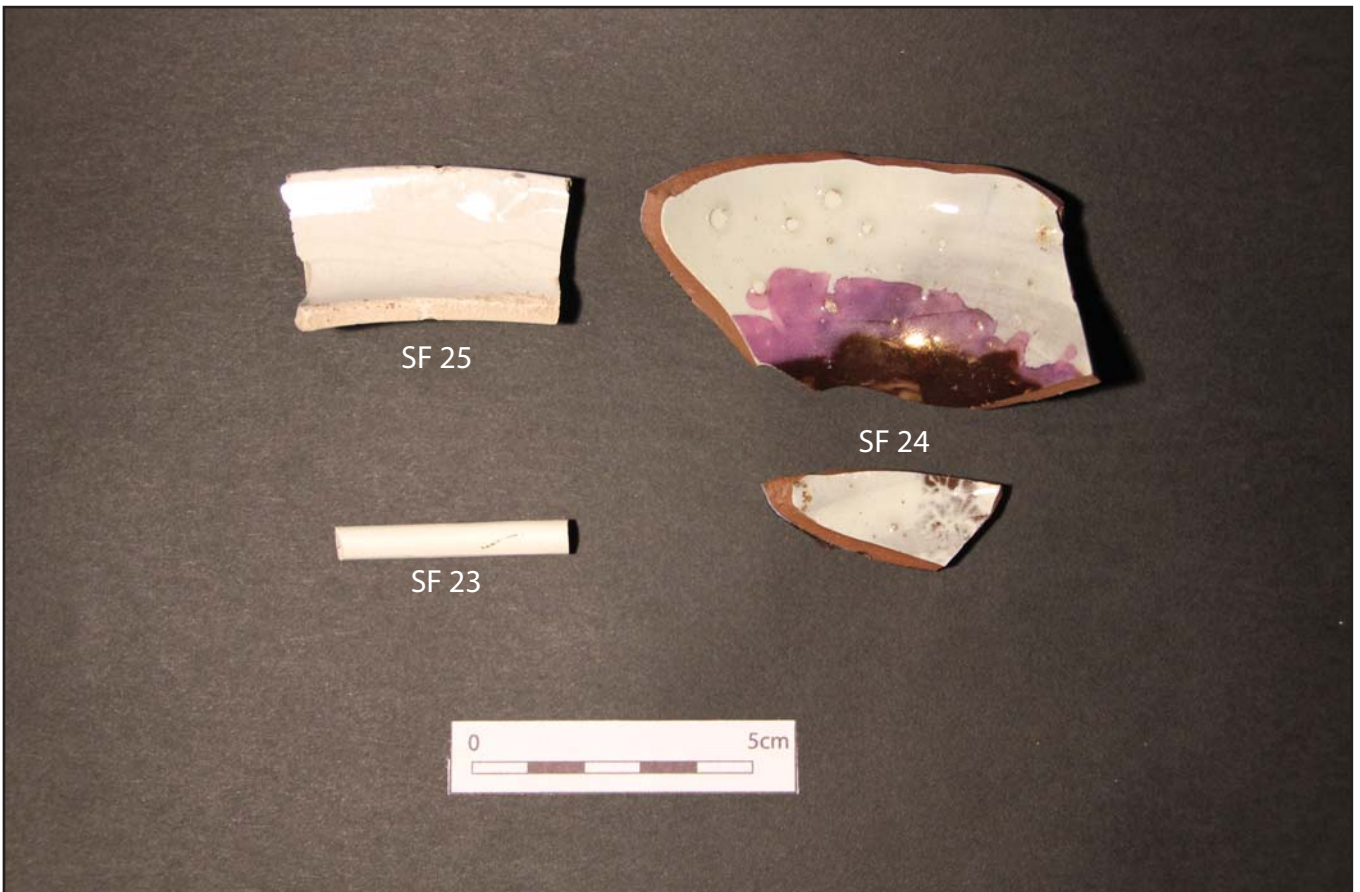
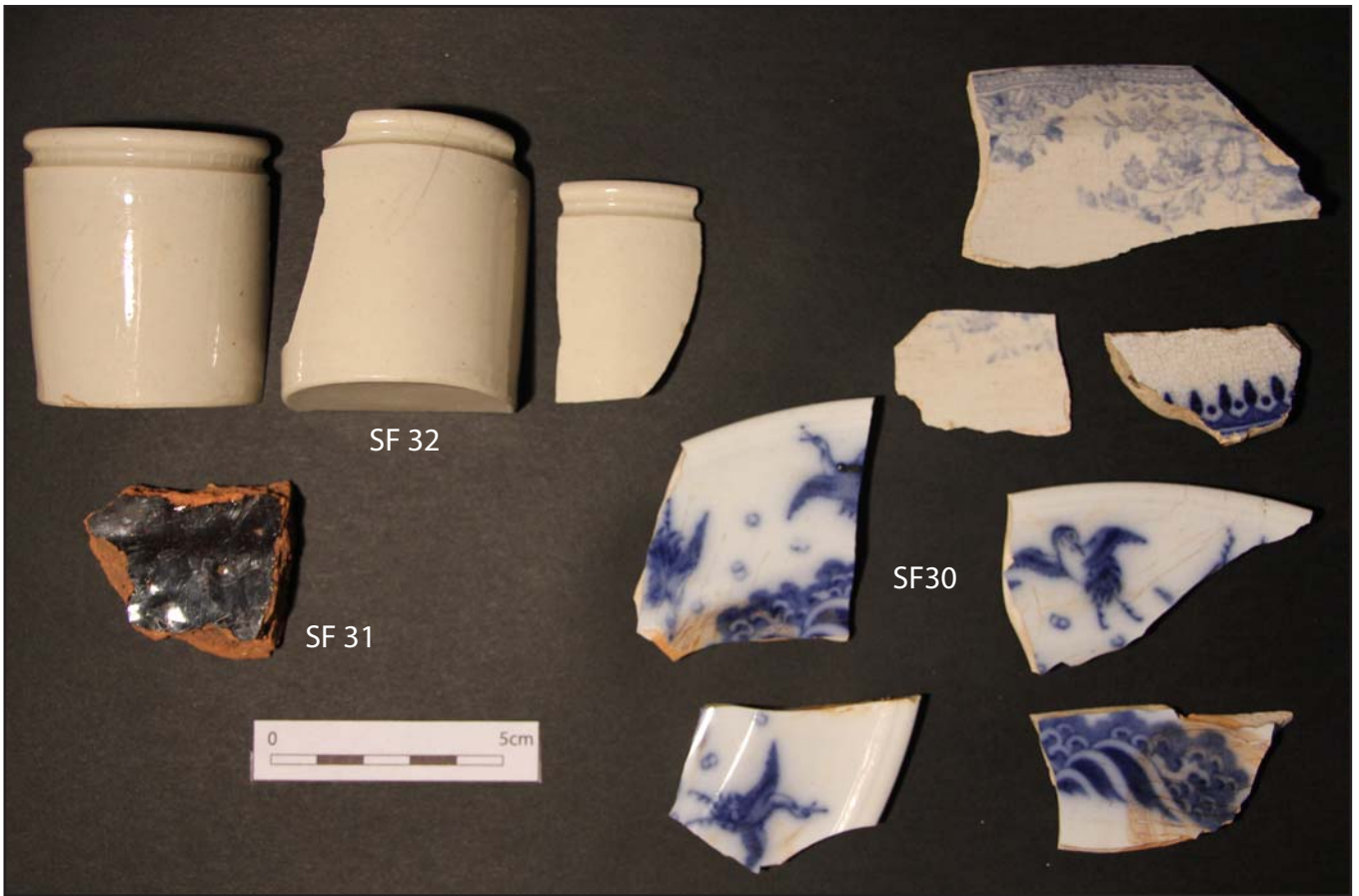


Plate VIII: Artefacts from context (4001) (labels correspond to small find numbers, see appendix II).





**Plate XI:** Artefacts from context (1002) (labels correspond to small find numbers, see appendix II).

## **APPENDIX III – PROJECT DESIGN FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



**LAND AT 17-19A PARK STREET,  
DENBIGH**

**PROJECT DESIGN FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION (T0021):**

**Archaeological Trial Pits**

Prepared for

***Nexus Heritage***

April 2013

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been asked by Nexus Heritage on behalf of Jones Lang LaSalle to provide a cost and project design for carrying out a programme of archaeological evaluation of a c.0.7ha development area, located in the town of Denbigh, North Wales (centred on NGR **SJ 055 661**). The evaluation will consist of the archaeological excavation of 4 archaeological trial pits, measuring 1.5m<sup>2</sup> on to the natural substrata to evaluate all potential features within the trenches. The topsoil and any overburden will be removed by mechanical excavator, and any archaeological features encountered will be sample excavated by hand in order to determine their character and date. The location of the trenches is shown on Figure 1.

The site is bounded by Park Street to the north, Peake's Lane to the west, a narrow unnamed street to the east, (a continuation of St. David's Lane) and St. David's Lane to the south. The site contains a number of different levels, as the land gradually falls away to the east. The contours crossing the site create a large difference in level between Park Street and St. David's Lane. The changes in level within the site form terraces and large portions of the site exhibit relatively little development.

Number 17 Park Street, is in the western corner and to its rear is a complex of buildings which were adapted for use by a school which occupied the site during the twentieth century. No. 19 Park Street, which faces on the road frontage is a mid-19th century residence. Behind No. 19 Park Street sits a large, detached, 19th century villa, Bodgwilym. This once had substantial gardens. Beyond the villa are a series of terraces, the lowest one being formerly an enclosed walled garden.

The archaeological evaluation work is being undertaken as part of a programme of addressing material considerations prior to the site being released to the market for development. The principal archaeological interest at the site derives from the fact that the site is likely to have witnessed complex, multi-phase development over several centuries, adjacent to and, eventually within one of Wales' most historically significant towns. The earliest known standing buildings date from the turn of the 19th century but the cartographic evidence suggests that there were buildings on the site prior to this. The 1610 Speed map of Denbigh illustrates two buildings on the site indicating that the site was occupied by the at least the early 17th century.

The aim of this programme of archaeological test pits is to establish the archaeological significance of the site, to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving monuments or remains, and to help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies. The subsequent report will include an assessment of the potential for further investigative work if required, and where relevant give recommendations for an appropriate mitigation strategy.

There has not been any previous archaeological work or investigation at the site, and the potential to encounter buried archaeological remains is currently unknown.

The current design conforms to the guidelines specified in the *IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 2001 & 2008).

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

(Reproduced from Nexus Heritage document no. 3136.R01a)

The history and development of Denbigh has been the subject of several major studies and it is relatively well understood. There have been several archaeological investigations undertaken within Denbigh ranging from desk-based assessments through to formal excavations. In summary, the castle and walled town at Denbigh were constructed by Henry de Lacy in the second half of the 13th century. However, there is a school of thought that argues for earlier occupation of the hill-top site as a stronghold of Dafydd ap Gruffydd.

By the early 14th century the fortifications were largely complete and the creation of a borough resulted in an influx of English families. A manor was established near to the castle which included two granges, a byre, a dovecote and two fishponds, extending over 75 acres. As early as the beginning of the 14th century, the town had expanded beyond the confines of the walls and down the northern slopes of the hill. By 1311 an annual fair was being held and, the 'Survey of the honour of Denbigh' of 1334 refers to a borough within the walls and a market town without.

By the late 15th century the growth of the town beyond the walls demonstrated the commercial success the town enjoyed, with more than four times as many burgages outside as inside. This period also witnessed a devastating fire in the extra-mural areas and the besieging of the castle by the Earl of Pembroke during the Wars of the Roses. The town was a centre for artisans such as drapers, glovers, shoe-makers, mercers and weavers. In the historical record the 15<sup>th</sup> century also sees references to High Street, Beacon's Hill, Pepper Lane and Sowter Lane, indicating the establishment and permanence of these thoroughfares. Speed's map of 1610 reflects the general disposition of the walled town and the extra-mural areas.

A decline within the walls began in the late 16th century and continued through the early postmedieval period: and the focus of the town shifted towards the High Street with three roads- Love Lane, Henllan Street and Lower Street - leading off it. Lower Street (now Vale Street) had three minor streets running parallel to it. During the Civil War in the mid-17th century, Denbigh again became important militarily. There was a battle in 1645 and the castle was besieged, surrendering to the Parliamentarians in the following year. Some expansion occurred between the early-17th and mid-19th century with a total of 330 buildings in the town recorded at the end of the 17th century. Further redevelopment occurred later in the 19th century and during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Historic Environment Record data was secured from the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for an area defined by a radius of 500m from the centre of the site. For the purposes of the assessment a total 25 archaeological sites (which includes buildings under or around which archaeological remains may be present) and a total of 21 archaeological events (excluding field visits and photographic surveys of standing buildings) were identified. No known features of archaeological interest are recorded for the assessment site. However, in addition to the archaeological interest related to the late medieval and post-medieval development of Denbigh there is an interest in the line of a suspected Roman road (Waddelove 1979) extending from Rhug Park to St. Asaph (HER PRN 17881). During a phase of road maintenance to the north of the site on Park Street a metalled surface and ditch 0.45m deep were observed (Frere 1992,222). Evidence of this road may be present on the site.

### **3.0 METHOD STATEMENT**

#### ***3.1 Archaeological Test Pits***

Before test pitting commences an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface re-instatement and health and safety protection measures will be agreed with the Nexus Heritage and the Denbighshire Development Control Archaeologist.

The number, size, orientation and distribution of the pits have been agreed with the Planning Archaeologist of Denbighshire County Council. The trial pit array has been designed to investigate areas that may contain the archaeological features. There is latitude on the location of each trial pit and slight repositioning to take account of buried services and other constraints is acknowledged as a distinct likelihood.

### 3.1.1 Specific Methodology

If archaeological deposits are identified they will be manually cleaned, excavated and recorded to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features.

Contingency provision will be made for the following:

- additional excavation of up to 100-% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.
- Expansion of test pit limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core pit area.

The archaeological works will be surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The pits, deposits, features and structures within them will be accurately located on a site plan prepared at most appropriate and largest scale.

A written record of the trench content and all identified features will be completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas.

Any subsurface remains will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations, measured drawings, and a measured survey. The photographic record will be maintained, using a digital SLR camera set to maximum resolution. Photographic identification boards will also be used.

All trenches will be opened with a JCB excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

Trenches and spoil heaps will be routinely investigated through the use of a metal detector and any finds/artefacts collected and processed as outlined in section 7.0.

To prevent any potential health and safety risk to the public and staff the trenches will require cordoning with orange mesh fencing secured with road pins. The cost of these materials are provided in the cost estimate.

All excavations will be backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure the Aeon Archaeology will leave the site in a safe and tidy condition. Aeon Archaeology has not been requested to re-lay turf/lawn surface nor reinstate hard standing surfaces as found.

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for delays and subsequent costs incurred through the onset of adverse weather. If such conditions occur additional costs may be incurred.

### 3.1.2 Evaluation Aims

Nexus Heritage, in consultation with the Denbighshire Development Control Archaeologist (Fiona Gale), has produced a design brief (**Nexus Heritage ref: 3136.R01A**) for the archaeological evaluation work. This determined that the broad aims of the archaeological evaluation were:



- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the owners to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow Denbighshire County Council to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative works that may be required to support a planning application to redevelop the site.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation test pits were determined to be:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Denbighshire.

NB. If significant archaeological activity is identified within any trench (e.g. extensive and/or complex features/artefacts/deposits), cf. [para. 4.0](#).

### **3.2 Post-excavation Assessment**

An assessment of the potential of the results of the excavation for further analysis, in accordance with the recommendations in English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP 2) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork except for where the site has been found to be sterile. The post-excavation assessment will be completed within six months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

The requirement for post-excavation assessment will be agreed with the Curatorial Archaeologist upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.

### **3.3 Post-excavation Analysis**

Following assessment, full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

The cost quoted does not include examination of, conservation of or archiving of finds discovered during the archaeological programme, nor of any radiocarbon dates required, nor

of examination of palaeoenvironmental samples. Contingency costs are provided for these at the end of the project brief.

### **3.4 Post Excavation Report**

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary
- A table of contents
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site
- A statement of the project aims
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements
  - A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data)
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses
  - A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
  - A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
  - Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository

One digital .PDF copy of a draft version of the report will be made available by the Archaeological Contractor to Nexus Heritage for comment within four weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. Nexus Heritage will forward the draft report to Jones Lang LaSalle and Denbighshire County Council for review. Should the delivery of the report depend on the incorporation of reports arising from specialist and/or laboratory work then a revised timetable for delivery of the draft report may be agreed upon conclusion of the fieldwork stage.

Provision will also be made for all archaeological work on site, including the post-excavation analysis, conservation of artefacts, any supplementary scientific analysis and for the subsequent publication of results in an appropriate journal.

The project will be monitored by the Curatorial Archaeologist at The Denbighshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service.

### **3.3 Archive**

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled and cross-referenced, and lodged in an appropriate place (to be decided in consultation with the regional Historic Environment Record) within six months of the completion of the project.

## **4.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS**

The identification of significant archaeological features during the evaluation stage may necessitate further archaeological works. This will require the submission of new cost estimates to the contractor and may be subject to a separate project design, to be agreed by the Denbighshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service prior to implementation.

This design does not include a methodology or cost for examination of, conservation of, or archiving of finds discovered during the evaluation, nor of any radiocarbon dates required, nor of examination of palaeoenvironmental samples associated with any peat deposits. The need for these will be identified in the post-fieldwork programme (if required), and a new design will be issued for approval by the Denbighshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service Archaeologist.

## **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

If necessary, relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each liner feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

## **6.0 HUMAN REMAINS**

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the Cheshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service Archaeologist informed. If

removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

## **7.0 SMALL FINDS**

The vast majority of finds recovered from archaeological excavations comprise pottery fragments, bone, environmental and charcoal samples, and non-valuable metal items such as nails. Often many of these finds become unstable (i.e. they begin to disintegrate) when removed from the ground. All finds are the property of the landowner; however, it is recommended that all finds are donated to an appropriate museum where they can receive specialist treatment and study. Access to finds must be granted to Aeon Archaeology for a reasonable period to allow for analysis and for study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the fieldwork phase. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Denbighshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service Archaeologist. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds with the exception of unstratified items dating to the twentieth or twenty-first centuries AD which will be recorded by material, type, form, identification and weight, and discarded.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location and height will be plotted; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All finds will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

### **7.1 Unexpected Discoveries: Treasure Trove**

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.

- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.
- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

## **8.0 STAFF & TIMETABLE**

### **8.1 Staff**

The work will be managed and undertaken by Richard Cooke BA MA MIfA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology. A second archaeologist (Tbc) will also be utilised on site to excavate and record the archaeological test pits.

### **8.2 Timetable**

The evaluation work can currently be undertaken from 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013, although the client is encouraged to give as much notice as possible to Aeon Archaeology as project commitments are currently fairly high.

## **9.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

## **10.0 INSURANCE**

*Liability Insurance – Towergate Insurance Policy 000467*

- Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence
- Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence
- Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 30/09/13



*Professional Indemnity Insurance – Towergate Insurance Policy 2011025521290*

- Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 30/09/13

## **11.0 GENERAL**

All project staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The project will follow the requirements set down in the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation prepared by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

A Method Statement and Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork and circulated to all staff concerned.

## **12.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 2001 & 2008).

Nexus Heritage Document no: 3136.R01a

## **COST ESTIMATE**

Cost estimate is based on an hourly rate.

Welfare to be supplied by client; plant to be supplied by Aeon Archaeology.

Please note [para. 4.0](#)

### **Archaeological Test Pits/Limited Excavation: 4 trenches (9m<sup>2</sup>)**

Staff time (2 archaeologists) - archaeological evaluation  
5 days

6 x panels harris fencing

Orange mesh fencing 1 x 50m rolls

Road pins x 16

VRS Rover GPS hire

JCB and operator (2 days)

### **Report & Archiving**

Staff time – 5 days

Please note the following:

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for any delays to the work programme resulting from the discovery of archaeological sites or finds.

The cost quoted does not include examination of, conservation of or archiving of finds discovered during the archaeological programme, nor of any radiocarbon dates required, nor of examination of palaeoenvironmental samples. Contingency costs are provided below.

## **CONTINGENCY COSTS**

The following contingency costs will apply if relevant:

Cost of orange mesh fencing: £22.95 per roll

Cost of road pins: £2.50 each.

Cost of TERAM geotextile matting: @£39.95 roll

Shoring of pits, if required, will be charged at cost of material and acro-prop hire.

Removal of excess spoil, or temporary storage of spoil at cost of haulage and tipping. It is anticipated that the spoil will be stored on-site ready for re-instatement.

Cleaning, examination and drawing of finds £250/day

Conservation of finds £250/day

Materials and containers for storage of finds will be charged at cost

Examination and report of skeletal remains £250/day

Examination of palaeo-ecological samples £250/day

Radiocarbon dates: AMS £450 per date

Note: All figures are quoted exclusive of VAT, which will be added at the appropriate rate.

## **SPECIALISTS**

Specialist advice required will be sought from the following list:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: Oxford Archaeology
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Bulth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Waterlogged environmental: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Environmental samples: Oxford Archaeology
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Pottery (all periods): Oxford Archaeology
- Clay pipe: Oxford Archaeology

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

