



MILLER HOMES

**GRAVESTONE OF BLACKIE, THE WAR HORSE AT THE FORMER LIVERPOOL RSPCA CENTRE,
HIGHER ROAD, HALEWOOD**

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

AUGUST 2022

DATE ISSUED: **AUGUST 2022**
JOB NUMBER: **GM11664**
REPORT NUMBER: **005**
VERSION: **V02**
STATUS: **Final**

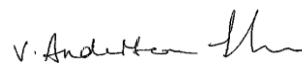
MILLER HOMES

**GRAVESTONE OF BLACKIE, THE WAR HORSE AT THE FORMER LIVERPOOL RSPCA
CENTRE, HIGHER ROAD, HALEWOOD**

HERITAGE STATEMENT

PREPARED BY:

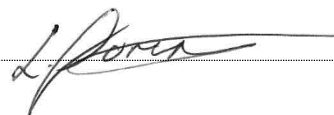
V Anderton- Senior Heritage Consultant
Johnson



REVIEWED &

APPROVED BY:

L Goring Technical Director (Heritage)



This report has been prepared by Wardell Armstrong LLP with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, within the terms of the Contract with the Client. The report is confidential to the Client and Wardell Armstrong LLP accepts no responsibility of whatever nature to third parties to whom this report may be made known.

No part of this document may be reproduced without the prior written approval of Wardell Armstrong LLP.



Wardell Armstrong is the trading name of Wardell Armstrong LLP, Registered in England No. OC307138.

Registered office: Sir Henry Doulton House, Forge Lane, Etruria, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 5BD, United Kingdom

UK Offices: Stoke-on-Trent, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Bury St Edmunds, Cardiff, Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Newcastle upon Tyne and Truro. International Offices: Almaty

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES
LAND AND PROPERTY
MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING
MINERAL ESTATES
WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2	DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND HERITAGE PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT.....	2
3	ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND SETTING.....	5
4	PROPOSED WORKS	9
5	IMPACT ASSESSMENT	11
6	ASSESSMENT AGAINST LEGISLATION AND PLAN POLICY	13
7	CONCLUSION.....	14
8	GLOSSARY.....	15
9	BIBLIOGRAPHY	16

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Listing Description of Gravestone of Blackie, the War Horse (NHLE: 1436263)
Appendix 2	Blackie's Headstone Setting Out Plan
Appendix 3	Test Pit Technical Note
Appendix 4	Cleaning Method Statement

DRAWINGS

GM11664-009	Location of the Grade II Listed Gravestone of Blackie, the War Horse
-------------	--

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This report has been prepared to accompany an application for listed building for the cleaning and subsequent re-siting and fixing below ground of the Grade II listed gravestone of 'Blackie, the War Horse' (**NHLE: 1436263**) as part of landscaping works associated with the recent planning approval for the redevelopment of the former Liverpool RSPCA Centre, Higher Road, Halewood for housing with associated landscape, infrastructure and associated works (Planning Reference: 19/00104/FUL). The landworking works include for the creation of a simple landscaped area at the current location of the gravestone with associated interpretation board installed at the site of the Grade II listed gravestone of 'Blackie, the War Horse'.
- 1.1.2 The works have the potential to impact upon the significance of the listed gravestone. This Heritage Statement details the proposed works including the methodology for cleaning and provides a proportionate statement of significance in order to assess the impact of the works.
- 1.1.3 Previous works undertaken by Wardell Armstrong LLP include a Historic Building Recording on an eighteenth-century barn and pet cemetery at the Site and excavation of a test pit around the base of the gravestone to ascertain any current below ground fixing method. These works included an initial recording of the Grade II listed gravestone including initial observation on its present condition. The small test pit excavation found no evidence of any below-ground base and/or fixtures, and it appears that the headstone is free-standing within a shallow soil slot up to 0.20m deep. Rooting has possibly been the cause of the subsidence of the headstone. The test pit was backfilled and reinstated after investigation (See Appendix 3).
- 1.1.4 The assessment was undertaken in accordance with terminology expressed within the National Planning Policy Framework and Historic England good practice guidance.

2 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND HERITAGE PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

2.1.1 A heritage asset is defined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as ‘A *building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions because of its heritage interest*’ (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2021, Annex 2 page:67).

2.2 Legislation

2.2.1 Designated heritage assets protected by statutory legislation comprise Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wrecks, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.

2.2.2 Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas are protected under the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act (1990). In relation to development proposals, the legislation states that:

‘in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the secretary of state shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses’ (section 66).

2.3 National Policy

2.3.1 In ensuring the statutory duty of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act, the NPPF requires that in determining applications ‘*great weight*’ should be given to the asset’s conservation and that ‘*substantial harm to or loss of... grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional*’ whilst ‘*substantial harm to or loss of...assets of the highest significance, notably Scheduled Monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, Grade I and II* listed buildings, Grade I and II* Registered Parks And Gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional*’ (MHCLG 2021, para:199 & 200).

2.3.2 The significance of a heritage asset (designated or non-designated) is defined within the NPPF as ‘*the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic*’ (MHCLG 2021, Annex 2 page:71).

2.3.3 The setting of a heritage asset (designated or non-designated) is defined as ‘*the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may*

change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.’ (MHCLG 2021, Annex 2 page:71).

2.3.4 Where heritage assets (designated or non-designated) are to be affected by development, *‘local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance’* (MHCLG 2021, para:194).

2.3.5 Developments where substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset should be assessed against specific tests and should deliver substantial public benefits which outweigh any loss or harm (MHCLG 2021, para:201). Less than substantial harm to a designated asset would require public benefits including the securement of an optimum viable use (MHCLG 2021, para:202).

2.4 Local Policy

2.4.1 Local policy from the Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy (adopted 2016) has been reviewed as part of the assessment. The relevant elements of the policy on heritage are quoted below:

Policy CS20: Managing the Borough’s Historic Environment

1. Development proposals in Knowsley should preserve or enhance the borough’s historic and architectural assets, including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens and archaeological remains, together with other local areas, buildings and structures of historic importance. The Council will:
 - a. Require preservation of the local distinctiveness and character of heritage assets through sensitive design of new development, including appropriate integration with their setting and immediate landscape;
 - b. Prevent demolition and/or development which would result in substantial harm or the loss of a designated heritage asset or its setting, unless the proposal would result in substantial public benefits which clearly outweigh the harm or loss;
 - c. ~Where a development proposal will result in less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset or its setting, assess such harm against the benefits or the proposal; and

- d. Facilitate long term conservation and enhancement of local assets and areas of historic importance, including through the preparation of Conservation Area Management Plans.
2. The re-use of vacant and underused historic assets will be encouraged with favourable consideration given, where appropriate, to proposals which will:
 - a. Enable a use for a purpose sympathetic to its conservation;
 - b. Retain or introduce public access; and
 - c. Enhance the importance of the asset for tourism, leisure or the economy.
3. Development proposals on sites which include, or are considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets or comprising archaeological interest, should be accompanied by a heritage impact statement.

3 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND SETTING

- 3.1.1 The gravestone is located at the western extent of the Site adjacent to Baileys Lane. The gravestone is in need of some minor maintenance to address surface discolouration. The overall condition (based on visual observation only) of the stone appears to be good with no visible chips or cracks (Plate 1).



Plate 1: The Grade II Gravestone of Blackie, the War Horse. Photographed 04/05/2021

- 3.1.2 A description of the interests held by the Grade II listed Gravestone of 'Blackie, the War Horse' (**NHLE: 1436263**) is presented below. These are discussed in proportion to the value of the asset and as far as is necessary in order to determine the potential effect of the proposals on this.

Historic Interest

- 3.1.3 The historic interest of the gravestone stems principally from the association with Blackie the War Horse, the asset providing a physical memorial to the memory of Blackie and his role within the First World War.
- 3.1.4 The listing description (Appendix 1) identifies historic interest through three themes which are expanded on below:

- Blackie's association with the wartime poet, his master, Leonard Comer Wall, and how their bond is reflective of thousands of soldiers and their horses on the western front during the First World War;
- The strong cultural and historic significance in representing the key role animals played in war; and
- The gravestone's rarity in remembering an individual animal which served in, and survived, the First World War.

3.1.5 At the outbreak of the First World War Leonard Comer Wall was studying at Clifton college and immediately volunteered. Although it is unknown where Blackie was prior to the war it is likely he was born c.1905 and bought from a local farm or business. This was common practice throughout the war where thousands of horses and animals, including pigeons, were bought by the military for the war effort. Wall received his first commission on the 29th of August 1914 as temporary Lieutenant. Blackie, Wall, and his groom Frank Wilkinson were posted to the Western Front on the 9th of September 1915 (Royden).

3.1.6 The trio saw action on the Somme and around Arras before being moved north to Ypres. At Flanders field Wall wrote the well-known poem 'Red Roses', the final line of which became the motto of the 55th Division and placed on the graves of those who died (*Ibid*). It is this poem to which Blackie's gravestone draws some significance.

3.1.7 In June 1917 Wall was promoted to Lieutenant and a week later was in action at Ypres whilst riding Blackie. On the 8th of June Wall, Wilkinson and Blackie were hit by shrapnel from an exploding shell. Wilkinson died instantaneously and Wall died the next day. However, Blackie survived the explosion suffering from injuries which scarred his body for the remainder of his life. After the explosion Blackie continued to serve the war effort (*Ibid*).

3.1.8 Lieutenant Wall's will, uncovered in 1918, revealed instructions that upon the event of his death Blackie was to be cared for and upon Blackie's death he should be buried with his masters' medals. This dedication Wall had to Blackie is representative of the thousands of soldiers and horses who fought on the western front, the horses whom the soldiers relied upon, trusted and their most faithful companions during the horrors of war (War Horse Memorial 2022).

3.1.9 After the war Wall's wishes were followed; his mother bought Blackie, loaning him to the Territorial Riding School in Liverpool. In 1930 Blackie was pensioned off to the

Horse's Rest in Liverpool, the precursor to the Liverpool RSPCA Centre, which cared for retired working horses. It is believed, in his later years, Blackie became somewhat of a local celebrity leading Liverpool May Day Horses' Parades alongside a fellow ex-war horse Billy. During the parade he wore his masters' medals, further showing the connection between master and horse (Royden).

- 3.1.10 Blackie resided at the Horse's Rest until his death in 1942. The news of Blackie's death was covered nationally with the announcement posted as far as Portsmouth, Dundee and Belfast. As per Lieutenant Wall's request, Blackie was buried with his master's medals (Royden/War Horse Memorial). A gravestone was erected for Blackie, a rarity for animals who served, and survived, in the First World War. The gravestone also signifies the importance Blackie held to Lieutenant Wall's family, who carried out Wall's wishes, and those who cared for him. The gravestone was listed in 2017.
- 3.1.11 Blackie and Lieutenant Wall are a key example of the bond shared between master and horse during the First World War. The brief time they were together was clearly impactful upon Wall. This bond is something seen throughout the First World War and in modern day society. The celebration of Blackie's life in the form of the gravestone is a constant reminder of his service and the service of other animals throughout the war effect.

Architectural Interest

- 3.1.12 The gravestone comprises of York Gravestone which is a form of hard sandstone. The design of the gravestone has a triangular head with stepped shoulders. The simple design bears similarities to those in military cemeteries. It is this similarity which significance is drawn upon.
- 3.1.13 The letters are cut and finished in black enamel paint. The inscription on the gravestone records Blackie's name, the regiment he served, and the place and date of his death. The gravestone reads similar to those of human soldiers. The level of respect given to Blackie through this gravestone akin to those in the military furthers the connection Blackie had with his master and those who looked after him in his later life. The inscription reads:

‘Black Horse
“Blackie”
Aged 35 years
a Battery 275th Brigade R.F.A. 55th Division
France and Flanders 1915-1918
At the Liverpool Horses’ Rest
1930-1942’

Contribution of Setting

- 3.1.14 The current setting of the gravestone is one of transition, however the former setting prior to the commencement of the approved redevelopment comprised the former pet cemetery where the gravestone was located at the western extent of the cemetery, which was overgrown and no longer in use.
- 3.1.15 The new setting of the gravestone is to comprise a simple landscaped area where the gravestone will form a focal point and where an interpretation panel will be erected to inform visitors on Blackie’s role in the war and his relationship with Lieutenant Wall.
- 3.1.16 The gravestone draws its significance from its historic and architectural interest, as such the wider setting is not judged to contribute to the asset’s significance. The change to the setting of the asset is however judged to offer an enhancement to its significance allowing the asset to be better experienced and its historic interest better appreciated and thus raising its communal value. The addition of the interpretation board will inform and educate visitors on Blackies’ life, the roles horses played in the First World War and the bond between master and horse.

4 PROPOSED WORKS

4.1.1 The works proposed comprise the following:

- Cleaning of the gravestone;
- Re-siting of the gravestone within its current location within a simple landscaped area; and
- Fixing of the headstone whereby it would be set into a slot / 'shoe' 200mm below proposed ground line on a concrete sub-base with no fixings or drilling (see Plate 2 and Appendix 2).



Plate 2: Photograph showing the concrete base from the side elevation.

- 4.1.2 The works to clean the gravestone are necessary as part of the maintenance of the asset and will help ensure its long-term future conservation.
- 4.1.3 The re-siting of the gravestone is required as part of the approved redevelopment of the Site which has sought to incorporate the gravestone within the layout. It is proposed the memorial is located within a purpose-built raised area at its current location to enhance the visibility of the gravestone within the new development.

Methodology for Cleaning

- 4.1.4 The proposed works to the gravestone are to be undertaken by Birkenhead Monumental Company (BMC) who have over thirty years of experience hand crafting

headstones and undertaking cleaning and renovation works – see Appendix 4 for a copy of their method statement.

- 4.1.5 The company is a registered organisation with the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) which guarantees the work undertaken.

Removal

- 4.1.6 The gravestone will be carefully removed by BMC. The most appropriate method to access and removed the gravestone from the ground will be subject to a risk assessment on the site. The gravestone will be strapped to their truck and carefully driven to an appropriate point at the Site for it to be off loaded via tailgate and lifted into a lorry for safe transportation to the BMC workshop and premises. The gravestone will remain at the premises until the ground is ready for re-instatement.

Cleaning

- 4.1.7 This process will be undertaken in three steps. No chemicals or acids will be used in the restoration process.
- The gravestone will be washed down with a bristle brush and water to remove water soluble dirt and loose deposits. The brush will be dipped in a bucket of clean warm water and scrubbed across the surface of the stone. A dry, clean sponge used to soak up any excess with the cleaning water changed regularly.
 - Following brush cleaning the stone will be subject to steam cleaning using a DOFF type system. A small sample test patch will be undertaken on the rear of the stone to test the system noting the intended outcome is to remove dirt and biological deposits.

Re-instatement

- 4.1.8 The gravestone will be transported back to Site by appointment.
- 4.1.9 The gravestone will be re-fixed in the ground via a concrete sub-base with a slot (see Appendix 2). No fixings or any form of drilling will be applied to the headstone.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 Assessment of Impact

5.1.1 The NPPF stipulates three levels of potential impact to designated heritage assets. The NPPF references these as:

- Substantial harm;
- Less than substantial harm; and
- No harm (Significance is sustained or enhanced).

5.1.2 Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) discusses how to assess substantial harm where it states 'In general terms, substantial harm is a high test, so it may not arise in many cases. For example, in determining whether proposals would cause substantial harm to a Listed Building, an important consideration would be whether the adverse impact seriously affects a key element of its special architectural or historic interest. It is the degree of harm to the asset's significance rather than the scale of the development that is to be assessed. The harm may arise from works to the asset or from development within its setting' (Para 19).

5.1.3 The application of the terms 'less than substantial' and 'substantial' is made on professional judgement and experience. With reference to the terminology of the NPPF the level of impact to designated heritage assets expressed by this assessment will be either no harm, less than substantial harm or substantial harm.

5.1.4 As part of the approved landscaping works, the proposed works to the asset require the temporary removal of the gravestone from its current location. During this time, the existing gravesite will be unmarked, and the gravestone will be subject to cleaning, as per the methodology included above.

5.1.5 The works to clean follow best practice guidance. The works will restore the original intention of the gravestone and are judged to offer an enhancement to its significance better revealing both the historic and architectural interest it holds.

5.1.6 In respect to the reinstatement of the asset on site, the proposals would retain the physical fabric of the gravestone with no fixings or drilling undertaken. This is the most sensitive and appropriate way of ensuring that the monument is secure. No harm is judged to result to the significance of the gravestone.

Summary

5.1.7 It is concluded that the proposed works to the Grade II listed gravestone would cause

no harm to its significance, the works instead having a beneficial impact to significance offering heritage benefits including the following:

- enhancing the significance of the gravestone through the use of appropriate cleaning techniques and enhancing the contribution of its setting through re-siting within a publicly accessible, simple landscape area as part of the wider layout of the new housing development.
- The proposed fixing of the stone within a new below ground base which will reduce the risk of future movement of the gravestone; and
- Appropriate maintenance of the asset and its incorporation into the new housing scheme will help secure the optimum viable use of the gravestone and support of its long-term conservation.

6 ASSESSMENT AGAINST LEGISLATION AND PLAN POLICY

6.1 Legislation

- 6.1.1 With reference to Section 66 of the 1990 Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act the proposed works would preserve the features of special architectural or historic interest possessed by the gravestone.

6.2 National Policy

- 6.2.1 In accordance with paragraph 194 of the NPPF this report has provided a proportionate account of the significance of the gravestone of 'Blackie, the War Horse', a Grade II listed asset. This assessment accords in full, with paragraph 194.
- 6.2.2 A beneficial impact (no harm) to the significance of the gravestone of Blackie, the War Horse is judged to result from the proposed work and the proposals are in accordance with the requirements of the chapter 16 of the NPPF.

6.3 Local Policy

- 6.3.1 Relevant local policy is presented within the Knowsley Core Strategy.
- 6.3.2 Applicable local policy is presented within Policy CS20. Section 1 of the policy is applicable. The proposals would, having a beneficial impact, be in accordance with the requirement of section 1 of policy CS20 preserving the significance of the gravestone. The proposed methodology for reinstallation of the asset will satisfy Section 1d as this will facilitate long term conservation of the asset.
- 6.3.3 Section 2 would also be applicable as the proposals aim to use an underused historic asset through sympathetically restoring the asset, introducing public access and, through the presence of the interpretation board, enhance the asset for local tourism/leisure activities.
- 6.3.4 This report, and those previously undertaken satisfies section 3.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1 This assessment, undertaken in full accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, has assessed the potential impact of proposals to clean and re-site, on the significance of the Grade II listed gravestone of 'Blackie, the War Horse'.
- 7.1.2 The works aim to make the gravestone a feature within the new housing development whilst informing and educating visitors on Blackie, his bond with Lieutenant Comer Wall and provide a brief insight into how horses were used in the First World War. These elements all feed into demonstrating and enhancing the significance of the Grade II listed gravestone. This will be completed through the addition of an interpretation board which will highlight the historic interest thus demonstrating these factors. It is perceived this will be a beneficial impact.
- 7.1.3 The placement upon the raised area will make the gravestone a focal point in the development, encouraging people to visit and learn about Blackie's life. This will be more focal than its current position; gravestones are a visible point of memorial so increasing visibility is a beneficial impact.
- 7.1.4 The cleaning will again improve the gravestone's condition and the visibility of the lettering. The materials used are not intended to harm the gravestone. The works will be a benefit to the architectural interest contributing to the significance of the asset.
- 7.1.5 The works are judged to enhance the significance of the asset and to offer the following heritage benefits:
- enhancing the significance of the gravestone through appropriate cleaning and enhancing the contribution of its setting through re-siting on a raised area as part of the wider layout of the new housing development.
 - The proposed fixing of the stone which would mean the fabric would be retained will reduce the risk of future movement of the gravestone; and
 - Appropriate repair of the asset and its incorporation into the new housing scheme will help secure the optimum viable use of the gravestone and support of its long-term conservation.
- 7.1.6 On this basis and as set out within Section 6, the proposals are considered to comply with national and local policy on heritage grounds.

8 GLOSSARY

Archaeological Interest There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.

Source: Historic England Conservation Principles 2017 (consultation draft)

Architectural Interest The properties of a place resulting from and revealing the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types.

Source: Historic England Conservation Principles 2017 (consultation draft)

Artistic Interest The influence of human imagination and skill to convey meaning through all forms of creative expression on the physical properties of a place and its setting or on their associations and appreciation. Artistic interest may relate to the influence of a place on art as well as the use of skill and design embodied in its fabric.

Source: Historic England Conservation Principles 2017 (consultation draft)

Harm Changes for the worse, here primarily referring to the effect of inappropriate interventions on the heritage interest of a place that reduces their values to society.

Source: Historic England Conservation Principles 2017 (consultation draft)

Historic Interest The connections between a place and past lives and events.

Source: Historic England Conservation Principles 2017 (consultation draft)

Significance The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

Source: NPPF 2019

Setting of a heritage asset The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

Source: NPPF 2019

9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Documentary Sources

- CIfA (2020) *Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*, Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- DCLG. (2019) *Planning Practice Guidance*.
- Historic England. (2008) *Consultation principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment*.
- Historic England. (2017a) *The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3*.
- Historic England. (2017b) *Consultation principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment consultation draft*.
- Historic England. (2022) *National Heritage List for England downloadable GIS data*.
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. (2021) *National Planning Policy Framework*.
- Royen M (undated) *Leonard Comer Wall and Blackie the War Horse* Accessed 22nd March 2022 via http://www.roydenhistory.co.uk/halewood/history/blackie/blackie_leonard_comer_wall.pdf
- Wardell Armstrong (2021) *18th Century Barn and Pet Cemetery at the Former Liverpool RSPCA Centre, Higher Road, Halewood: Archaeological Building Report*.
- War Horse Memorial (2022) *Hero Horse No.2 Blackie* Accessed 22nd March 2022 via <https://thewarhorsememorial.org/100-hero-horses/blackie2/>

APPENDIX 1

Listing Description of Gravestone of Blackie, the War Horse (NHLE: 1436263)

Gravestone of Blackie the war horse – Grade II Listed Building

Official List Entry: 1436263

Summary

Gravestone to Blackie the war horse who served during the First World War, c1942. Sandstone
Reasons for Designation

The gravestone of Blackie the war horse is listed at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

Historic interest: * Blackie's close association with his master, the wartime poet Leonard Comer Wall, and the fact that Blackie is buried with his master's medals, reflects the strong bonds shared between thousands of soldiers and their horses on the western front.

* It has strong cultural and historic significance in representing the key role animals played, and the sacrifices they made, in the First World War;

* It is a rare memorial commemorating an individual animal that served in, and survived, the major battles of the First World War;

Architectural interest: * Its modest yet elegant design bears similarities to those in military cemeteries, whilst the inscription recording Blackie's name, regiment, and place and date of death reads like those ascribed to human soldiers.

History

Blackie was a horse that served with the 275th Brigade Royal Field Artillery 'A' Battery - 55th West Lancashire Division during the First World War, alongside his master Lieutenant Leonard Comer Wall. Wall was born in West Kirby, Wirral in 1896 and was educated at Clifton College, Bristol where he was still studying at the outbreak of the First World War. He obtained a commission with the 275th Brigade Royal Field Artillery 'A' Battery - 55th West Lancashire Division during the early days of the war and was posted to the Western Front on 9 September 1915. Details of Blackie's early life are not known, although he is believed to have been born c1905.

Lieutenant Wall was a wartime poet who composed a number of poems during his active service on the Front. One of his poems known as 'The Rose of Lancaster', which was written in Flanders in April 1917, included the line 'We win or die who wear the Rose of Lancaster'. The line was adopted later in 1917 as the motto of the 55th West Lancashire Division and encircles the divisional sign. Metal discs were also produced bearing the crest of the division and the poetic line, which were placed on the graves of those in the division killed during the war. The motto is also carved on the monument to the 55th Division in the Grade I-listed Anglican Cathedral Church of Christ, Liverpool.

In Lieutenant Wall's will he requested that if he did not survive the war that his faithful horse Blackie be buried with his medals or decorations. Lieutenant Wall was killed in action at Ypres whilst riding Blackie on 9 June 1917 at the age of 20. He is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge in

the Belgian province of West Flanders and his gravestone is inscribed with the line from his poem. He is also commemorated on a memorial plaque inside the Grade II-listed St Bridget's Church, West Kirby, and also on the Grade II*-listed Hoylake and West Kirby war memorial, which stands on the top of Grange Hill. Blackie received severe shrapnel injuries in the same incident, but remained in service on the Front for the rest of the war, and by the end of the war he had taken part in the battles of Arras, Somme, Ypres and Cambrai. He retained the marks of his shrapnel wounds until his death. Driver Francis Frank Wilkinson was Blackie's groom. He was killed in action on 8 June 1917 at the age of 23 and is also buried at Lijssenthoek.

After the war Lieutenant Wall's mother Kate bought Blackie from the Army and lent him to the Territorial Riding School in Liverpool. In 1930 he was 'pensioned off' and retired to live at the Horses' Rest in Halewood where he remained until his death at the age of 37 in December 1942. It is understood that Blackie used to lead Liverpool's May Day Horse Parade along with another ex war-horse known as Billy, and was adorned with his master's medals. Blackie's death received press coverage across Britain, from the local Liverpool Daily Post to the Gloucester Citizen, Portsmouth Evening News, and Dundee Evening Telegraph. He was buried in the north-west corner of the western field fronting Higher Road with his master's medals and a gravestone was erected. The gravestone has been cleaned in recent years making the inscription legible again.

Details

Gravestone to Blackie the war horse who served during the First World War, c1942. Sandstone.

Location: the gravestone is located in an overgrown area in the far north-west corner of a field on the western side of the site and is accessed via a linear grassy walkway alongside the northern edge of the field boundary.

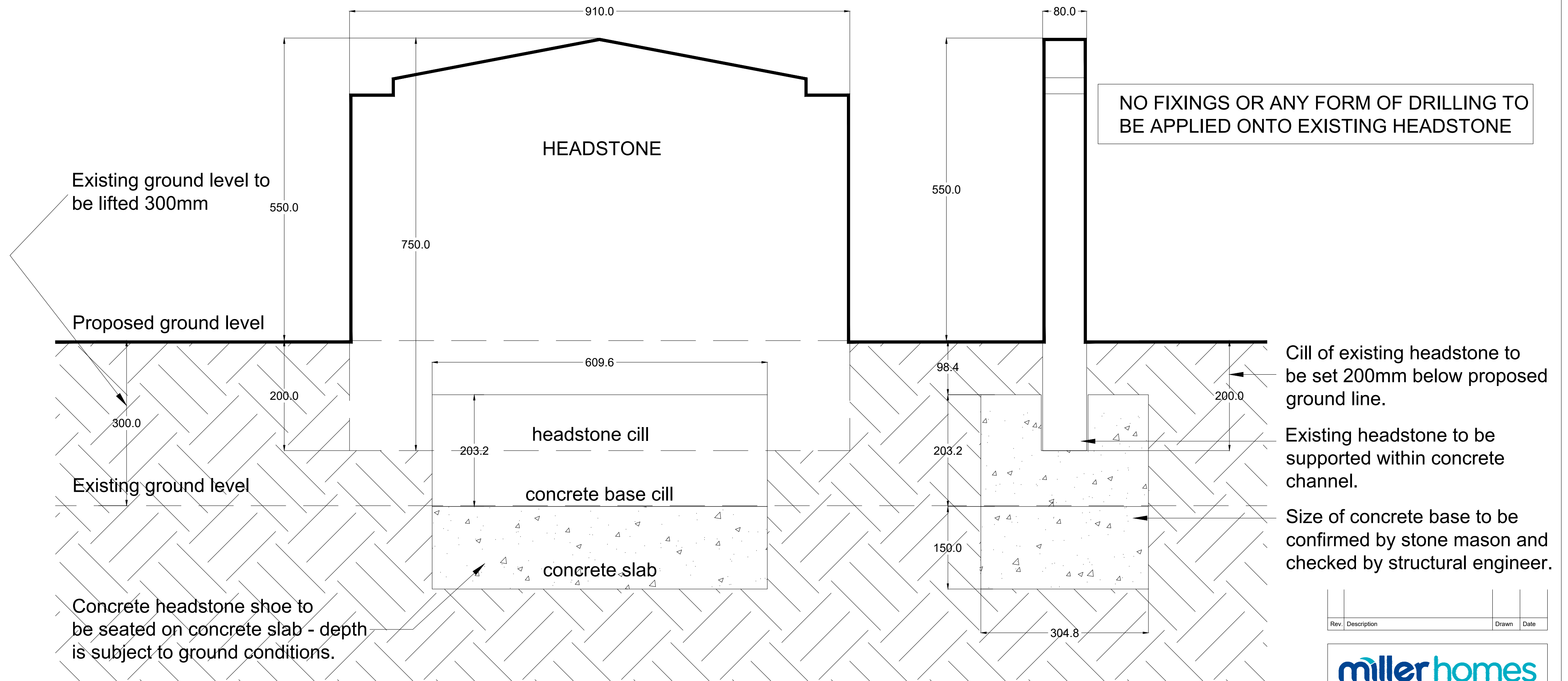
DESCRIPTION: the gravestone is constructed of sandstone and has a triangular head with steps to each end. The inscription reads: 'BLACK HORSE/ "BLACKIE"/ AGED 35 YEARS/ A BATTERY 275TH BRIGADE R.F.A. 55TH DIVISION/ FRANCE AND FLANDERS 1915-1918/ AT THE LIVERPOOL HORSES' REST/ 1930-1942'. The grave has been covered by modern artificial turf and is surrounded by a modern low ornamental white picket fence.

This List entry has been amended to add the source for War Memorials Online. This source was not used in the compilation of this List entry but is added here as a guide for further reading, 27 October 2017.

Appendix 2

Setting out Plan

1. The gravestone will be washed down with a bristle brush and water to remove water soluble dirt and loose deposits. The brush will be dipped in a bucket of clean warm water and scrubbed across the surface of the stone. A dry, clean sponge used to soak up any excess with the cleaning water changed regularly.
2. Following brush cleaning the stone will be subject to steam cleaning using a DOFF type system. A small sample test patch will be undertaken on the rear of the stone to test the system noting the intended outcome is to remove dirt and biological deposits.



Project Title

Wilbury Park, Halewood

Drawing Title

Blackie's Headstone
Setting Out Plan

Scale	Drawn By	Checked By	Authorised By
1:10	MH	MH	MH
	Date 11.07.22	Date 11.07.22	Date 11.07.22
Job No.	Drawing No.		Revision
	WP-BH-P-01		#

Rev.	Description	Drawn	Date

Appendix 3

Test Pit Technical Note



MILLER HOMES

BLACKIE THE WAR HORSE GRAVESTONE, HIGHER ROAD, HALEWOOD

TEST PIT TECHNICAL NOTE

JULY 2022

DATE ISSUED: July 2022
JOB NUMBER: GM11664
SITE CODE: HRH-B
OASIS REFERENCE: wardella2-507828
ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID REF: SJ 45454 84770
REPORT VERSION NUMBER: 0007 (0.2) DRAFT

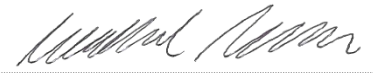
MILLER HOMES

BLACKIE THE WAR HORSE GRAVESTONE, HIGHER ROAD, HALEWOOD
TEST PIT TECHNICAL NOTE

JULY 2022

PREPARED BY:

Michael Mann Senior Archaeologist



REVIEWED BY:

Kevin Horsley Associate Director



APPROVED BY:

Kevin Horsley Associate Director



This report has been prepared by Wardell Armstrong LLP with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, within the terms of the Contract with the Client. The report is confidential to the Client and Wardell Armstrong LLP accepts no responsibility of whatever nature to third parties to whom this report may be made known.

No part of this document may be reproduced without the prior written approval of Wardell Armstrong LLP.



Wardell Armstrong is the trading name of Wardell Armstrong LLP, Registered in England No. OC307138.

Registered office: Sir Henry Doulton House, Forge Lane, Etruria, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 5BD, United Kingdom

UK Offices: Stoke-on-Trent, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Bury St Edmunds, Cardiff, Carlisle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, London, Newcastle upon Tyne, Shefford and Truro. International Offices: Almaty.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES
LAND AND PROPERTY
MINING AND MINERAL PROCESSING
MINERAL ESTATES
WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	1
1 INTRODUCTION.....	2
1.1 Project Background	2
2 METHODOLOGY	2
2.1 Standards and Guidance	2
2.2 Site Archive.....	2
3 TEST PIT RESULTS	3
4 BIBLIOGRAPHY	4
APPENDICES	5
APPENDIX 1: PLATES	6
APPENDIX 2: FIGURES	9

PLATES (APPENDIX 1)

Plate 1; Image of Blackie the Warhorse. Fred C Palmer Equestrian Portrait WW1.	6
Plate 2; Shot of Blackie's gravestone overgrown, looking north-northwest, 1x0.5m scale.....	6
Plate 3; Shot of test pit showing topsoil (100) and headstone {101} , looking north-northwest, 1x0.5m scale.....	7
Plate 4; Shot of Blackie the War Horse's grave after test pit backfilled, looking west-southwest, 1x0.2m scale.....	7
Plate 5; Shot of Blackie the War Horse's grave after test pit backfilled, looking north- northwest, no scales.	8

FIGURES (APPENDIX 2)

FIGURE	TITLE	SCALE
Figure 1:	Blackie's location and previous evaluation work	1:1,000
Figure 2:	Plan and section	1:20

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) thanks Miller Homes for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Also, WA thank Sefton Council's Conservation Officer for their assistance, and Alison Plummer, Planning Archaeologist at Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) for her advice throughout.

The test pit was excavated and recorded by Michael Mann who also wrote the report and prepared the figures. The project was managed by Alice Howell, and the report edited by Kevin Horsley.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned by Miller Homes to undertake the excavation of a test pit adjacent to the Grade II Listed Gravestone of Blackie the War Horse (NHLE 1436263, Plate 1) at Higher Road, Halewood, centred at National Grid Reference (NGR): SJ 45454 84770. The test pit was required to inform on the methodology for removing the gravestone as part of the works proposed under Listed Building Consent planning reference 22/00143/LBC, for which it is intended that the gravestone is removed, restored and repaired, and subsequently reinstated.
- 1.1.2 On the 4th July 2022, Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) undertook the excavation of the test pit in order to ascertain whether, and how, the gravestone is secured within the ground, including depths.
- 1.1.3 This technical note outlines the work undertaken on site and the results of the test pit investigation.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and Guidance

- 2.1.1 The test pit was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for field evaluation* (2020a), and the WA Technical Manual No.1 Excavation Manual (2020a).
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the *Standard and guidance for field evaluation* (CIfA 2020a), the *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2020b) and the WA Post-Excavation Handbook (2020b).
- 2.1.3 The test pit was excavated following a method statement prepared by Wardell Armstrong, prepared with advice from the Conservation Officer for Sefton Council (WA 2022).

2.2 Site Archive

- 2.2.1 Wardell Armstrong LLP supports the **Online Access** to the Index of Archaeological Investigation**S** (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project

will be made available by WA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: **wardella2-507828**.

3 TEST PIT RESULTS

- 3.1.1 A targeted archaeological test pit adjacent to the Grade II listed Gravestone of Blackie the War Horse (NHLE 1436263) in order to ascertain whether, and how, the gravestone is secured within the ground, including depths (Plate 2).
- 3.1.2 This was required to inform on the methodology for removing the gravestone as part of the works proposed under Listed Building Consent planning reference 22/00143/LBC, for which it is intended that the gravestone is removed, restored and repaired, and subsequently reinstated.
- 3.1.3 It was intended that the results of the test pit investigation would inform on how best to remove the gravestone, ensuring as little loss to its fabric as possible, and would also inform on how best to reinstate it.
- 3.1.4 Before any investigation was undertaken, it was noted that the grave and surrounding area had been completely overgrown, and as such, many items associated with the grave such as a small picket fence, were already damaged (Plate 2). A layer of artificial grass and geomembrane was cut and temporarily placed aside to excavate the test pit.
- 3.1.5 The headstone **{101}** consisted of a smooth dressed sandstone slab which measured 0.91m long, 0.08m wide and 0.75m deep. A roughly square test pit, measuring 0.80m long, 0.62m wide was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.25m along the eastern edge of the headstone (Plates 3 and 4). Topsoil **(100)**, comprising moderately compact dark greyish brown, silty clay was removed up to 0.15m below the base of the headstone, to reveal any potential fixtures/fittings and base which may have been formerly attached to the headstone.
- 3.1.6 There was no evidence of any below-ground base and/or fixtures, and it appears that the headstone was free-standing within a shallow slot up to 0.20m deep. Rooting had possibly been the cause of the subsidence of the headstone.
- 3.1.7 The test pit was backfilled and reinstated after investigation (Plate 5).
- 3.1.8 No archaeological finds or animal bones were encountered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

4 BIBLIOGRAPHY

CIfA 2020a. *Standard and guidance for field evaluation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Reading

CIfA 2020b. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. Reading

Wardell Armstrong (WA) 2020a. *Technical Manual No.1: Archaeological Excavation Manual*. Unpublished internal document, Wardell Armstrong LLP

Wardell Armstrong (WA) 2020b. *Technical Manual No.2: Post-Excavation Handbook*. Unpublished internal document, Wardell Armstrong LLP

Wardell Armstrong (WA) 2022. *Test Pit Method Statement to Investigate the Gravestone of Blackie the War Horse: Higher Road, Halewood*. Unpublished document, Wardell Armstrong LLP

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1; Image of Blackie the Warhorse. Fred C Palmer Equestrian Portrait WW1.



Plate 2; Shot of Blackie's gravestone overgrown, looking north-northwest, 1x0.5m scale.



Plate 3; Shot of test pit showing topsoil **(100)** and headstone **{101}**, looking north-northwest, 1x0.5m scale.

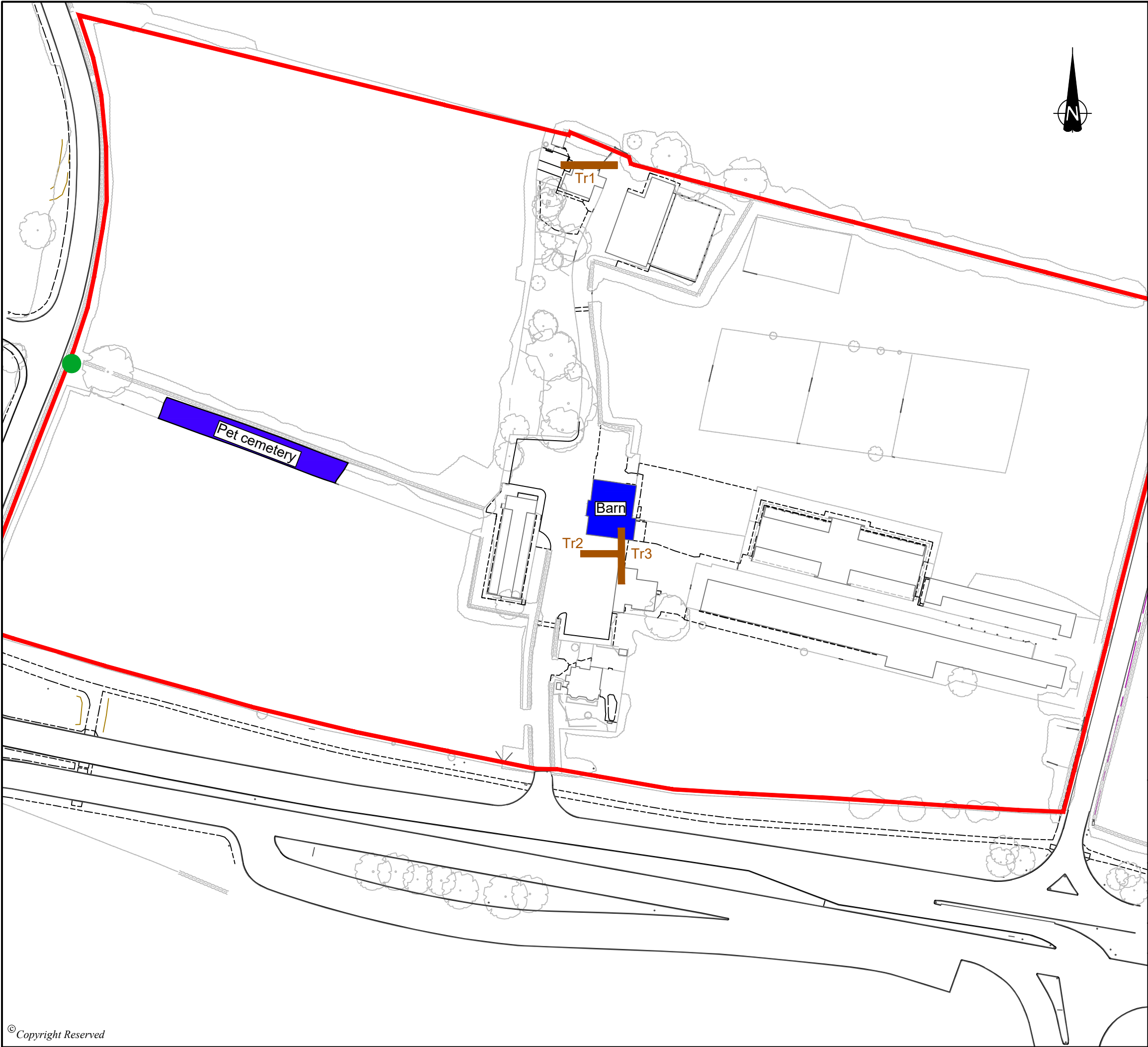


Plate 4; Shot of Blackie the War Horse's grave after test pit backfilled, looking west-southwest, 1x0.2m scale.



Plate 5; Shot of Blackie the War Horse's grave after test pit backfilled, looking north-northwest, no scales.

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES



DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING

-  Site Boundary
-  Subject to building recording
-  Trial Trenches
-  Blackie the Warhorses' Gravestone

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRN	CHKD	APPD
----------	---------	------	-----	------	------

CLIENT

Miller Homes

PROJECT

Higher Road, Halewood

DRAWING TITLE

Figure 1:
Blackies location and
previous evaluation work

DRG No.	GM11664-001	REV	A
---------	-------------	-----	---

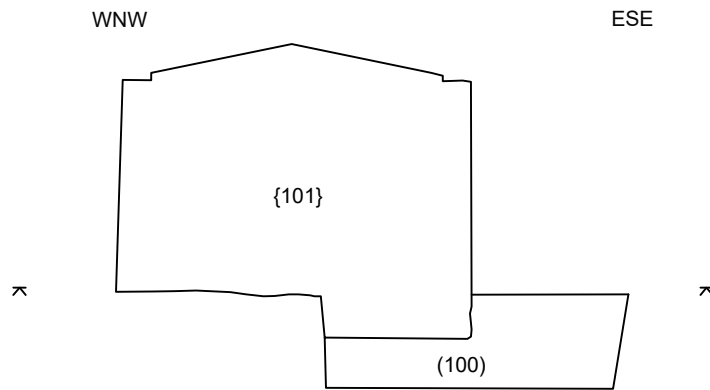
DRG SIZE	A3	SCALE	1:1,000	DATE	July 2022
----------	----	-------	---------	------	-----------

DRAWN BY	ACH/MM	CHECKED BY	KTH	APPROVED BY	KTH
----------	--------	------------	-----	-------------	-----



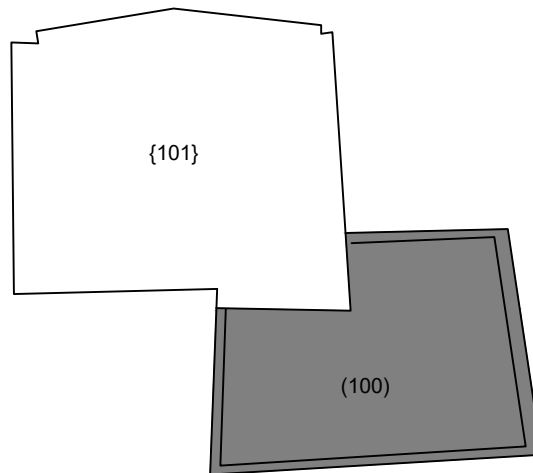
- BOLTON | TEL 01204 227 227
WWW.WARDELL-ARMSTRONG.COM
- ☐ BIRMINGHAM
 - ☐ CARDIFF
 - ☐ CARLISLE
 - ☐ EDINBURGH
 - ☐ GLASGOW
 - ☐ LEEDS
 - ☐ LONDON
 - ☐ MANCHESTER
 - ☐ NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
 - ☐ STOKE ON TRENT

DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING



Section 1: South-southwest facing section of gravestone {101} and test pit # 1.

0 1m



Plan 2: Plan of gravestone {101} and test pit # 1.

0 1m

© Copyright Reserved

CLIENT Miller Homes	DRG No. GM11664-002		REV A	
	SIZE A4	SCALE 1:20	DATE July 2022	
PROJECT Higher Road, Halewood	DRAWN BY MM	CHECKED BY KTH	APPROVED BY KTH	
	DRAWING TITLE Figure 2: Plan and section			





■ BOLTON | TEL 01204 227 227
WWW.WARDELL-ARMSTRONG.COM

☐ BIRMINGHAM	☐ LEEDS
☐ CARDIFF	☐ LONDON
☐ CARLISLE	☐ MANCHESTER
☐ EDINBURGH	☐ NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
☐ GLASGOW	☐ STOKE ON TRENT

STOKE-ON-TRENT

Sir Henry Doulton House
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5BD
Tel: +44 (0)1782 276 700

BIRMINGHAM

Two Devon Way
Longbridge Technology Park
Longbridge
Birmingham
B31 2TS
Tel: +44 (0)121 580 0909

BOLTON

41-50 Futura Park
Aspinall Way
Middlebrook
Bolton
BL6 6SU
Tel: +44 (0)1204 227 227

BRISTOL

Desk Lodge
2 Redcliffe Way
Bristol
BS1 6NL
Tel: +44 (0)117 203 4477

BURY ST EDMUNDS

Armstrong House
Lamdin Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP32 6NU
Tel: +44 (0)1284 765 210

CARDIFF

Tudor House
16 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ
Tel: +44 (0)292 072 9191

CARLISLE

Marconi Road
Burgh Road Industrial Estate
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA2 7NA
Tel: +44 (0)1228 550 575

EDINBURGH

Great Michael House
14 Links Place
Edinburgh
EH6 7EZ
Tel: +44 (0)131 555 3311

GLASGOW

24 St Vincent Place
Glasgow
G1 2EU
Tel: +44 (0)141 428 4499

LEEDS

36 Park Row
Leeds
LS1 5JL
Tel: +44 (0)113 831 5533

LONDON

Third Floor
46 Chancery Lane
London
WC2A 1JE
Tel: +44 (0)207 242 3243

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

City Quadrant
11 Waterloo Square
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4DP
Tel: +44 (0)191 232 0943

TRURO

Baldhu House
Wheal Jane Earth Science Park
Baldhu
Truro
TR3 6EH
Tel: +44 (0)187 256 0738

International office:

ALMATY

29/6 Satpaev Avenue
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Office Tower
Almaty
Kazakhstan
050040
Tel: +7(727) 334 1310

Appendix 4
Method Statement (Birkenhead Monumental)

Birkenhead MONUMENTAL

V.A.T. No. 741 3079 50

Regd. No. 03821037

3rd August 2022

Company

27 Brookway . North Cheshire Trading Estate . Prenton . Wirral CH43 3DS

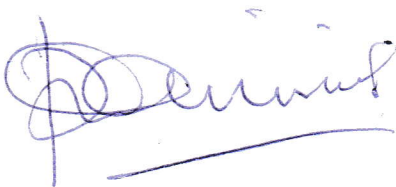
Johnathon Lowe Design Manager Miller Homes

METHOD STATEMENT

In line with the wishes of Knowsley Council I am happy to re submit a revised Method Statement.

- 1 Blackies headstone will be washed down with a bristle brush and water to remove water soluble dirt and loose deposits. The brush will be dipped in a bucket of clean warm water and scrubbed across the surface of the stone. A dry, clean sponge used to soak up any excess with the cleaning water changed regularly.
- 2 Following brush cleaning the stone will be subject to steam cleaning using a DOFF type system. A small sample test patch will be undertaken on the rear of the stone to test the system noting the intended outcome is to remove dirt and biological deposits.
- 3 The lettering will not be repainted, but left as is, with regard to the fixing of the stone. The stone will not be drilled in any way, but will be concreted into a bespoke "shoe" (similar to those used to fix war memorials) set on a concrete base below ground level. A photo and dimensions of this device will be provided for the council's approval.
- 4 The extra cost for the work will be £560.00 plus VAT, bringing the total to £1710.00 plus VAT

Kind Regards



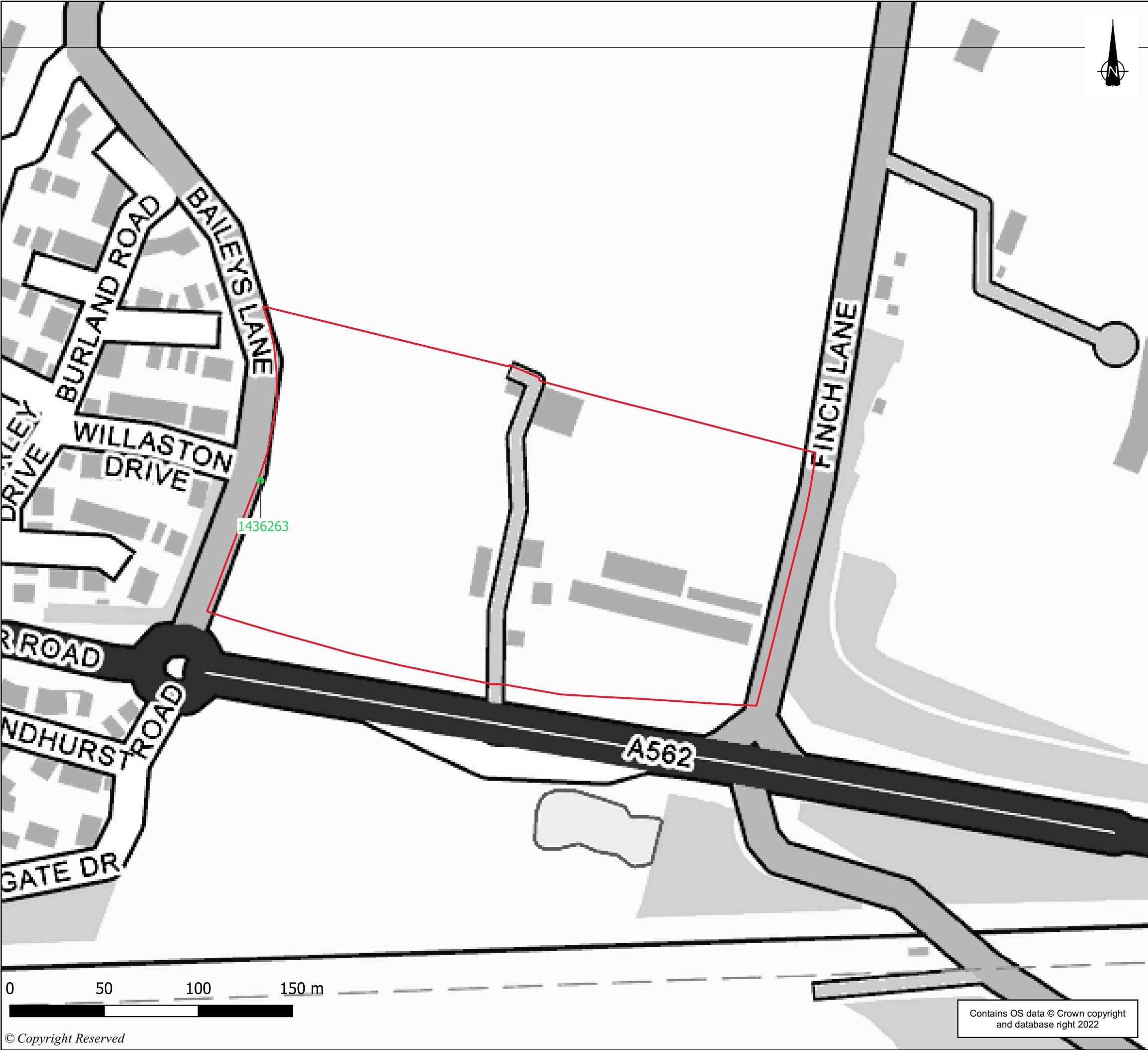
David Williams

MILLER HOMES

GRAVESTONE OF BLACKIE, THE WAR HORSE AT THE FORMER LIVERPOOL RSPCA
CENTRE, HIGHER ROAD, HALEWOOD
HERITAGE STATEMENT



DRAWINGS



DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING

- KEY
- Site Boundary
 - Grade II Listed Gravestone of Blackie, the War Horse

REVISION	DETAILS			DATE	DRN	CHKD	APPD
CLIENT							
MILLER HOMES							
PROJECT							
GRAVESTONE OF BLACKIE, THE WAR HORSE AT THE FORMER LIVERPOOL RSPCA CENTRE HIGHER ROAD, HALEWOOD							
DRAWING TITLE							
LOCATION OF THE GRADE II LISTED GRAVESTONE OF BLACKIE, THE WAR HORSE							
DRG No. GM11664-009				REV v1			
DRG SIZE A3		SCALE 1:2,000		DATE March 2022			
DRAWN BY VA-J		CHECKED BY LG		APPROVED BY CB			



STOKE ON TRENT | TEL 01782 276700
WWW.WARDELL-ARMSTRONG.COM

☐ BIRMINGHAM

☐ BOLTON

☐ CARDIFF

☐ CARLISLE

☐ EDINBURGH

☐ GLASGOW

☐ LONDON

☐ MANCHESTER

☐ NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

☐ SHEFFIELD

Contains OS data © Crown copyright
and database right 2022

STOKE-ON-TRENT

Sir Henry Doulton House
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5BD
Tel: +44 (0)1782 276 700

BIRMINGHAM

Two Devon Way
Longbridge Technology Park
Longbridge
Birmingham
B31 2TS
Tel: +44 (0)121 580 0909

BOLTON

41-50 Futura Park
Aspinall Way
Middlebrook
Bolton
BL6 6SU
Tel: +44 (0)1204 227 227

BRISTOL

Desk Lodge
2 Redcliffe Way
Bristol
BS1 6NL
Tel: +44 (0)117 203 4477

BURY ST EDMUNDS

Armstrong House
Lamdin Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP32 6NU
Tel: +44 (0)1284 765 210

CARDIFF

Tudor House
16 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ
Tel: +44 (0)292 072 9191

CARLISLE

Marconi Road
Burgh Road Industrial Estate
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA2 7NA
Tel: +44 (0)1228 550 575

EDINBURGH

Great Michael House
14 Links Place
Edinburgh
EH6 7EZ
Tel: +44 (0)131 555 3311

GLASGOW

24 St Vincent Place
Glasgow
G1 2EU
Tel: +44 (0)141 428 4499

LEEDS

36 Park Row
Leeds
LS1 5JL
Tel: +44 (0)113 831 5533

LONDON

Third Floor
46 Chancery Lane
London
WC2A 1JE
Tel: +44 (0)207 242 3243

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

City Quadrant
11 Waterloo Square
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4DP
Tel: +44 (0)191 232 0943

TRURO

Baldhu House
Wheal Jane Earth Science Park
Baldhu
Truro
TR3 6EH
Tel: +44 (0)187 256 0738

International office:

ALMATY

29/6 Satpaev Avenue
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Office Tower
Almaty
Kazakhstan
050040
Tel: +7(727) 334 1310