



FIBRE OPTIC CABLE TRENCH

LYME PARK, DISLEY, CHESHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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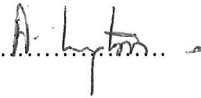
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SUMMARY

The National Trust commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks from the park entrance to the timber yard at Lyme Park, Disley, Cheshire (NGR SJ 9661 8428 to SJ 9622 8258). The groundworks comprised the excavation of a pipe trench associated with the laying of fibre optic cables. The pipe trench was a total of 2000m in length, but it was agreed with the National Trust that only two sections of the trenching would be subject to a watching brief.

Lyme Park dates to the fourteenth century, and the proposed groundworks were likely to impact on several known archaeological features. The original medieval park pale and driveway were situated to the north of the scheme, and there were two major post-medieval carriage driveways, which extended north/south through the park, known as Green Drive and Hawthorn Drive, in this central section. To the south of the scheme, towards the timber yard, earthworks had been observed. As a result, an archaeological watching brief was required in order to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains encountered during the groundworks; the watching brief took place on various dates in April, May and June 2013.

Although the section of the trench to the north had the potential to reveal the park pale, it was not identified. A stone wall, **004**, was located near to Bollinghurst Bridge, near to the main drive, and also a tree-lined avenue, which was seemingly an earlier line of driveway that extends out from the main drive. The orientation of the wall was slightly skewed to both the adjacent main drive and the tree-lined avenue and it is not certain if it related to either. The wall has been interpreted, on the basis of its visual appearance, as a former boundary wall.

Two culverts (**006** and **007**) were observed in the southern section of the cable trench, and provided for drainage in the area. It was possible that they extended out from the area of the nearby former stable buildings. The earlier culvert was made out of brick, and was seemingly replaced with a later, larger stone one. The change possibly coincided with the addition of new buildings to the stables, and the reworking of the area, as shown on the tithe map for Lyme Handley *c* 1850. By 1871, the stables had largely been demolished, with only the south-eastern corner being retained as kennels. It is possible that mixed demolition deposits observed throughout this section were from the former stables.

The archaeological remains observed during the excavation of the fibre optic cable trench were of low archaeological significance. The three structural elements observed were seemingly related to drainage or served as a putative boundary wall. To the south of the scheme, the demolition rubble and burnt deposits observed could not be interpreted within a wider context, and were probably deposits related to the demolition of the former stable buildings. No further work is recommended

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank National Trust for commissioning the project, specifically Jamie Lund, Emily Ball and the Lyme Park grounds team who undertook the excavations.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Vickie Jamieson and Becky Wegiel, both of whom contributed to the report. The original desk-based research was undertaken by Jeremy Ashbee and Richard Newman. The drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh and Anne Stewardson. The project was managed by Jamie Quatermaine, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 National Trust commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in the course of the laying of a fibre optic cable from the entrance to Lyme Park, Disley, Cheshire next to the Stockport to Whaley Bridge railway line, across the park heath land towards the house and then down to the timber yard (NGR SJ 9661 8428 to SJ 9622 8258, Fig 1). The groundworks entailed the mechanical excavation of the pipe trench.
- 1.1.2 The proposed groundworks had the potential to impact a series of documented archaeological features. The northern section potentially impacted the original medieval park pale and the driveway which extended up to the present park entrance. The central section of pipeline extended parallel, and adjacent to two major carriage driveways; Green Drive and Hawthorn Drive, which are both of post-medieval date. The southern section of the pipeline had the potential to impact earthworks in the vicinity of the timber yard. Due to the archaeological potential in the vicinity of the north and south sections, the National Trust Archaeologist requested that the pipe trench in these locations be excavated under permanent archaeological supervision, to mitigate the ground disturbance. The central section of the pipeline did not directly impact on the carriage ways and, therefore, only a limited archaeological presence was maintained, whereby OA North were in attendance if called out by National Trust staff in response to any identified features. This would ensure that any archaeological remains encountered would be identified, investigated and recorded. The archaeological watching brief took place on various dates throughout April to June 2013. The following report provides a summary of the fieldwork results.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 Lyme Park is located to the south-east of Stockport, south of Disley and west of Whaley Bridge, Cheshire (NGR centred SJ9645 8240; Fig 1), on the westernmost edge of the Peak District National Park. The house and buildings lie amongst a mix of gently undulating parkland and woodland, with open moorland to the east. To the north the estate is bound by the Horse Coppice and Bollinhurst reservoirs, and on either side by tracts of undulating farmland.
- 1.2.2 The area is dominated by north/south ridges, some peaks reaching over 500m in height, which are sandwiched between the Peak District to the east and the Cheshire Plain to the west. The underlying geology comprises interbedded and folded shales and gritstones, including Millstone Grit outcrops, isolated coal measures and outcrops of limestone to the south-east (Countryside Commission 1998). The overlying soils consist of typical stagnogley soils of the Clifton range (Ordnance Survey 1983).

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The following section presents a summary of the historical and archaeological background of the northern section of the park through which the pipeline extended, and is based on information provided by the National Trust brief.
- 1.3.2 **Prehistory:** there is limited evidence for human activity around the study area in the prehistoric periods. A Neolithic flint axe was found on Cage Hill (NTSMR 52747), whilst a polished jadeite axe was discovered on Park Moor in 1930 in undisturbed clay during drainage works, although the exact find spot is unknown (NTSMR 52742). A possible cup-marked grit stone block was found near Coalpit Clough (NTSMR 52768); however, such marks are not uncommon on gritstone and it is probable that the marks are of natural origin. Knightslow Wood contains two groups of mounds (northern NTSMR 52743-6 and southern 52893), which have been interpreted as possible Bronze Age barrows and, consequently, implied prehistoric activity within the study area.
- 1.3.3 There is also a large natural mound (NTSMR 52951) known as Knight's Low which is reported to have had a cairn on its summit (Sainter 1878). The suffix 'low' often occurs in the context of mounds, particularly burial mounds. 'Low', from the Anglo-Saxon *hlaw*, meaning mound, is commonly found in association with a personal prefix. Although *hlaw* names often relate to mounds of Anglo-Saxon date they are also associated commonly with prehistoric mounds. 'Knight' is also of Anglo-Saxon origin: *cnicht* denotes a knight or household servant of a Lord (Ekwall 1960, 282), although an alternative reading is 'young man' (Dodgson 1970, 200). Here, the knight element seems to have been applied because of a tradition linking a possible burial mound at the site with the burial of Sir Piers Legh (II) in 1422, after the Agincourt campaign.
- 1.3.4 **Roman and Early Medieval:** no finds or sites of Roman date have been discovered within the study area. It may be considered that during the first millennium AD, the Lyme area was occupied primarily by ancient woodland and that settlement was sparse. Certainly, this was the situation that seemed to exist at the end of the millennium, as recorded in Domesday Book. Towards the end of the Anglo-Saxon period the Lyme area was part of the hundred of Hamestan (Higham 1993, 176).
- 1.3.5 The Forest of Macclesfield was often referred to as the 'Forest of Lyme' (Cox 1905, 136) presumably because of its situation on the western flank of the Pennines and it is from this apparently ancient regional term that the later township and estate derives its name. It is also likely that several of the place-names of the study area and its immediate vicinity are of long standing, dating to the period before or around the Norman Conquest. These contain a high incidence of words connected with wood management and woodland and suggest that the region of Lyme Park was heavily wooded at least during the early medieval period.
- 1.3.6 The Domesday survey of Cheshire does not make reference to any townships in the vicinity of the Lyme estate. The presence of crosses at Disley, however, indicates that the area was settled by at least the tenth century, and unless the area was subsequently deserted, the absence of settlement evidence recorded

in the later eleventh century would not seem to be an entirely accurate reflection of the settlement situation around Lyme.

- 1.3.7 **Medieval:** Lyme Handley as a parish was seemingly under represented in Domesday Book (OA North 2006); however, it is clear that much of this part of Cheshire was poorly developed and sparsely populated in the late eleventh century. The designation of the area as 'forest' (Forest of Macclesfield) is a definition, denoting land outside the common law and held in demesne as a hunting reserve, rather than an indication of a wooded landscape character (Jones 1986 161; Rackham 1986, 130). However, a prevalence of place-names associated with woodland leave little doubt that, at least in the early medieval period, the Forest of Macclesfield was in places densely wooded, though the frequent *leah* suffixes also suggest that there were many clearings within the woodland. One of the earliest known references to Lyme as a distinct district within the Forest of Macclesfield occurs in 1259, when Henry III restored forest rights to the men of Lyme (Barraclough 1951, 103).
- 1.3.8 Lyme Park lies within the area of the medieval forest and the first documentary reference to the establishment of a park occurs around the year 1346, in the form of a grant from King Edward III to Sir Thomas Danvers, D'Anyers, (OA 2006). In 1398, Richard II finally granted a parcel of land in Macclesfield forest called Hanley to Sir Piers Legh, descendant of D'Anyers, forming, at least, the nucleus of the later estate (Angus-Butterworth 1932, 115-116). The Lyme medieval deer park is believed to have been similar in extent to the present park and to have used the western approach road as its principal means of access. In 1465-6 the park was described as being surrounded by a park pale, and containing fields, woods, underwoods, meadows and pastures (Earwaker 1880, 2, 293; Driver 1971, 84).
- 1.3.9 The most significant defining landscape feature of a deer park, and one which physically expressed its private nature and distinctiveness from other areas of hunting, such as forests and chases, was its enclosure by a fence known as a pale. In 1465-6 the park pale mentioned in the description of Lyme Park, would have been made of wooden fencing. In 1521 there are references to the '*ryng pale*' of the park (Earwaker 1880, 295), which was replaced by a dry stone wall in c 1598 (Banks 1993, appendix A); however, English Heritage's *Register of Parks and Gardens* (1986) claims that the present wall was built in 1665.
- 1.3.10 By 1465 the park also included a hall, which Earwaker and others have taken to be little more than a hunting lodge. However, it is clear from the ancillary buildings that this was a high status medieval establishment, a manorial farmstead capable of supporting a lord and his entourage. This fifteenth century building appears to have been demolished in the following century, the oldest fabric surviving in the present structure of the hall dates to the mid-sixteenth century, when the house was rebuilt by Sir Piers Legh VII.
- 1.3.11 **Post-Medieval:** the post-medieval period witnessed the gradual conversion of the deer park into a landscape park, prized as much for its ornamental as sporting value. Nevertheless, hunting and the keeping of wild beasts remained an important aspect of the Park's landscape.

- 1.3.12 **Summary development of the Park landscape in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries:** a design dating to c 1740, housed in the JRL, clearly shows the mill and mill pond, the stables, the hall, a circular pond to the west of the hall - constructed between 1598-1620 (Banks 1993), and the kitchen gardens to the south-west of the hall. The Pollett plan of 1824 contained in the GMCRO (E17/210/167) has been shown to have the faint pencil marks of a nineteenth century design proposal superimposed upon it and also has marks of rubbed out features. The erased features indicate that the kitchen garden, marked in 1740, was removed between, 1824 and 1850 when the tithe map shows that it had disappeared (GMCRO E17/210/30).
- 1.3.13 Only a few of the other proposals marked on the 1824 plan appear to have been carried out by 1850; these included the construction of four new lakes, but only one of these, Horse Coppice Reservoir, was constructed (GMCRO E17/210/30). Horse Coppice Reservoir, as superimposed onto the 1824 map, was in place by 1850 in a truncated form (GMCRO E17/210/30). In 1871 it was marked on the 1st edition map as Stockport Reservoir, by 1897 a second reservoir had been built at its eastern end, which removed the northern part of Bollinhurst Wood (GMCRO E17/210/189).
- 1.3.14 The majority of the eighteenth and nineteenth century developments within the Park, away from the immediate environs of the house, related as much to the economic and sporting exploitation of the Park as they did to its ornamentation. The later eighteenth century witnessed landscape changes caused by developments in the agriculture of the estate, rather than the layout of the gardens. Among these were improvements of moorland for pasture and clearance of large areas of woodland, including the last remnants of the medieval woodland. This was most apparent in the progressive felling of Elmerhurst Wood at the northern end of the Park, the wood having completely disappeared by 1824 (GMCRO E17/210/167).
- 1.3.15 By 1824 new plantations were established in Lantern Wood and Knightslow, as well as in the Rookery or Crow Wood which had been a plantation from at least the early eighteenth century (GMCRO E17/210/167). Woodland was also already established at Hampers Clough, where alders and cypress were growing in 1796 (Banks 1993, appendix A) and larch had been planted c 1798 (Banks 1993, appendix A). Between 1824 and 1850 Hampers Wood plantation was extended southwards and fenced, Knightslow Wood was extended to include Bull Close and a new plantation was established in Pursefield (GMCRO E17/210/30). Between 1850 and 1897 Crow Wood was extended to the north, Coalpit Clough was planted, and plantings were made in Outer Turf House Meadow, to screen the new kitchen gardens, stable block and kennels which had been relocated there as per the design plan superimposed on the 1824 map (GMCRO E17/210/167).
- 1.3.16 **Park Roads:** the earliest approach into the Park is considered to have been from the west, that is from Macclesfield (Banks 1993). An early route across Park Moor is suggested by the place-name Bowstone Gate and it is interesting to note that the present road past the Bowstones is the only local road which is followed for any distance by the park boundary. It is possible given the apparent kink in the road, as it approaches the Park, that it was, at sometime in antiquity, diverted away from the Park. The north route (Green Drive) was in

use at least by the end of the seventeenth century, it is shown extending perpendicularly out from the frontage of the Hall on the paintings of 1670 and 1695/6 and is also shown as a primary drive on the landscape proposal of 1740. The earliest map showing the local road system is Burdett's map of Cheshire of 1777, which records a large area surrounded by a park pale. Specifically shown are the hall, the Cage, the Lantern and 'the Lodge' at the extreme south of the estate, close to the northern edge of 'Spoon's Moor'. The principal roads are shown from the north, following the line of Red Lane to Disley and the west, the latter being the Macclesfield road and the road from Poynton that joined it near the Knott (Burdett 1777).

- 1.3.17 In 1768 roads were being made within the Park; the steward's accounts refer to roads made from the North Gate to the house, a road from the Horse Coppice to the house and a road from Bullocks Gate Low Lime (SCL B/JJ/6). The first of these roads was probably the Hawthorn Drive, which replaced the Green Drive as the main north/south drive and led to the North Gate. The second road would appear to correspond with the Green Drive which was probably altered at this time; by 1824 (GMCRO E17/210/167) it led past Horse Coppice via Red Lane. In 1781 a road was made from the North Gate to Turf House Meadow, but it would appear to have been abandoned by 1824 (SCL B/JJ/6; GMCRO E17/210/167).
- 1.3.18 In addition, the 1824 plan depicts the East Approach, which the Banks Survey identifies as originating in the mid-eighteenth century (Banks 1993, fig 9), and Hampers (Killtime) Bridge (NTSMR 52735), a grade II listed structure to the east of the house (NGR SJ 9677 8228), which is considered to have been in existence as early as 1756, as indicated by a date stone. A bridge is shown in this location on Pollett's plan (1824: GMCRO E17/210/167), which also shows proposals for new routes from the house using this bridge and leading to the southern part of the Park. These proposed new routes were all sinuous and were clearly intended to enhance the pleasure of perambulating through the grounds (GMCRO E17/210/167), whereas the roads in existence in 1824 were utilitarian in function. For the most part, these new road proposals do not appear to have been implemented with the exception of a route crossing the Knott and Pursefield, which was in place by 1850 (GMCRO E17/210/30).
- 1.3.19 By the 1850s the approach to the Park from the west was superseded as the principal approach by that from the north (Banks 1993, fig 11) and it is probable that this change in emphasis had occurred prior to the drawing of Pollett's plan (1824). The construction of the Stockport and Whaley Bridge branch railway line in 1854, precipitated this reorientation as the Leghs brought Lower Park Field and Higher Park Field into the Park; the Park was extended from the brook to the railway and from the north side of the railway up to the turnpike road. A new lodge and gates were erected to the north of the railway, re-using the seventeenth century gate piers from the hall forecourt (Banks 1993) and a set of new smaller gate piers were erected on the inside of the re-used piers. Between 1850 and 1871 a new road was established between Elmerhurst Cottages and Plattwood Farm (GMCRO E17/210/30 and OS 1st edn 6' to 1 mile). In 1902-03 James Yates created the present main drive (Banks 1993, appendix A) and the former approach, the Hawthorn Drive, was abandoned.

- 1.3.20 **Extractive Industries:** it has long been recognised that mineral extraction was carried out within the Lyme Park estate during the post-medieval period. This included, within the Park, stone quarrying in Pursefield, Park Moor, Cage Hill and the Knott, and coal mining at Coalpit Clough. Lyme Park lies across a geological boundary, with exposed deposits of the Coal Measures to the west and the Pennine Millstone Grit to the east (Sylvester and Nulty 1958, 6-7). The extraction of coal in East Cheshire was slow to develop as the regions of Macclesfield and Bollington were originally concerned primarily with the production of textiles (*ibid*). The coal itself was of a poor quality with an excessive sulphurous content, and was generally only mined on a small scale for local and domestic use (Harris 1979, 92). By the end of the seventeenth century the Leghs were mining in the vicinity of Lyme Park; in 1691 a pit was sunk on their behalf in the Sponds (GMCRO E17/113/1). Following a roof collapse, a new pit was sunk there in 1695. Further collapses occurred in 1696 and 97, when the enterprise was finally wound up with the pits having proven to be uneconomic (GMCRO E17/113/1). The frequent redigging of these small pits in close proximity to one another at the Sponds, as in many other early coal mining ventures, provides an explanation for the line of small pit features along Coalpit Clough (NTSMR 837/8).
- 1.3.21 The features in Coalpit Clough have not been identified as belonging to a documented phase of mining activity. DA Kitchen, an expert on nineteenth century coal mining in East Cheshire, visited these sites in 1978 and thought that they were earlier than 1700 in origin. The earliest documentary references to coal mining within the Park comes from the eighteenth century Steward's accounts. In May 1729 William Bradshaw was paid £1 for opening an old coalpit 20 yards deep within the Park (SCL B/JJ/6). The next month it is recorded that William Brown was paid £3.19s.2d. for '*drawing and winding coal*' in the 'old pit' in Lyme Park. There are further references and payments during 1729, including payment for driving a level 16 yards at 6d. a yard (SCL B/JJ/6). The accounts contain references to such activities into the 1730s (info. Kate Atkinson pers comm). That the colliery was termed the old pit in 1729 suggests that the pit had been mined for some time. This colliery may have been in Coalpit Clough but unfortunately its location within the Park is not specified. Coal mining in the Park had ceased before the 1770s and no coal pits are shown on Burdett's map of 1777.
- 1.3.22 A map and geological cross section of the Park dated 1780, indicates that there was still interest in mining within the Park in the late eighteenth century but also reveals that there were no collieries present in 1780 (GMCRO E17/210/212). No pits are shown within the Park on Pollett's plan of 1824 (GMCRO E17/210/167) and despite records of coal mining on the Legh estates elsewhere, and in the vicinity of Lyme Park, there are no references to coal mining within the Park in the early nineteenth century.
- 1.3.23 **Saw Mill:** nineteenth century maps show a saw mill to the north west of the house. The mill and millpond (NTSMR 52725 and 52726) are marked on the map of 1824 (GMCRO E17/210/167) and again in 1897, when the mill pond is described as a fish pond and the mill as a sawmill and a smithy (GMCRO E17/210/189). This is probably the site of the mill (presumably a corn mill) referred to in the mid sixteenth century (Renaud 1876, 225), though this mill could have lain within the estate outside the Park. No reference was made to a

mill in 1465, and it is likely to have been mentioned, if one existed, as the description of Lyme Park at that date details the various ancillary buildings to the hall (Earwaker 1880, 293). The mill is represented on the landscape proposal of *c* 1740, by which date it may already have been a saw mill, for by the mid-eighteenth century the Leghs were taking their corn to other grinding mills outside the Park, such as Norbury (SCL B/JJ/6), which was owned by the Leghs.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A formal brief was produced by the National Trust (*Appendix 1*), and a project design (*Appendix 2*) was submitted by OA North in response. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and English Heritage guidelines (IfA 2008a, 2008b, 2010; English Heritage 2006).

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 The entire fibre-optic cable trench measured approximately 2000m in length, of which a permanent archaeological presence was maintained during the excavation of 500m, from the park entrance next to the railway line to just beyond the area of Green Drive (the old carriageway). A second length of trenching approximately 150m in extent was archaeologically monitored, at the southern end of the scheme. The trench was excavated by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, and was 0.4m in width, and 0.50m in depth. The purpose was to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains encountered.
- 2.2.2 A daily record of the nature, extent and depths of groundworks was maintained throughout the duration of the project. All deposits and features of archaeological significance observed were cleaned, excavated by hand, and recorded on *pro forma* sheets produced by OA North and using a system based on that of the English Heritage former Centre for Archaeology. Features were illustrated on permatrace, in plan and section, at a suitable scale (1:10 and 1:20), and located on a plan provided by the client, and then tied into the Ordnance Datum. A digital photographic archive was produced, with scales as appropriate.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project brief, and design (*Appendices 1 and 2*), and in accordance with current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2006). The material, paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Trust on completion of the project. Five bound paper copies of the report will be given to National Trust, with an additional copy to the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

3. FIELDWORK RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains encountered during the groundworks for the proposed development, and the following is a summary of the findings. The area of the watching brief is plotted in Figure 1 and a list of contexts used has been provided in *Appendix 3*.

3.2 RESULTS

3.2.1 *Northern Section:* the natural geology, **003**, was overlain with varying depths of subsoil, **002**, which in turn was sealed by topsoil **001** (0.1m thick). A north/south-aligned stone wall foundation, constructed of poorly-dressed field stones, was observed (**004**; Plate 1; Figs 2 and 3); it was 0.5m wide and was overlain by the topsoil (**001**). It was interpreted as the remains of a former boundary wall.



Plate 1: north-east-facing view of wall 004

3.2.2 Alongside the existing drive way, a make up layer, **005**, was observed (not illustrated), which was probably part of the construction of the road, and

would appear to be of modern construction. No further archaeological features were observed.

- 3.2.3 **Southern Section:** the trench at the southern end of the cable route was excavated through an area of extensive earthworks. The natural geology (**009**) was overlain by disturbed deposits (**010**), which contained fragments of broken handmade brick, pottery, glass and worked stone (**008**, not illustrated). Lenses of burnt material were also observed within this deposit, which was sealed by topsoil (**011**).
- 3.2.4 Two culverts were observed (Fig 4). The earlier, **006**, was brick built (0.35m wide, and observed to a height of 0.2m), and on a north-west/south-east-alignment (Plate 2). This had been cut at the southern end by a later, larger stone-built culvert, **007** (Plate 2), though this relationship is not shown on the figures. This later culvert was more substantial, being 0.35m wide internally.



Plate 2: Brick culvert 006, looking south

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The section of the trench to the north had potential to reveal medieval and post medieval remains. However, no remains of the carriageways or park pale were observed. A stone wall, **004**, was located near to Bollinghurst Bridge and close to the main drive, but its orientation was north/south, which is skewed with respect to the north-east/south-west alignment of the drive. Examination of historic maps that extend back to the period of Polletts plan of 1824 (OA North 2006) show field walls in the general area, but nothing in this location. The only feature identified in this location is a tree-lined avenue (Fig 2), which was seemingly an earlier line of driveway given that it extends out from the present drive. It is orientated north-north-east/south-south-east, and is *c* 5m away from the location of the wall foundation. It is also slightly skewed from the north/south orientation of the wall and, despite its proximity, it is not certain if the wall foundation related to the avenue.
- 4.1.2 It is not clear where the two culverts (**006** and **007**) observed in the southern section of the trench originated. It was possible that they came from the stable buildings, as first seen on the Plan of Lyme Park by Thomas Pollett, 1824 (Matrix Archaeology 2013). The replacement of the narrow brick culvert with the larger stone one perhaps coincided with the addition of new buildings to the stables, and the reworking of the area, as shown on the tithe map for Lyme Handley *c* 1850 (*ibid*). By 1871, the stables had largely been demolished, with only the south-eastern corner being retained as kennels. It is possible that the mixed demolition deposits observed throughout this section were from these buildings.

4.2 SIGNIFICANCE, IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.2.1 All of the archaeological remains observed during the excavation of the fibre optic cable trench were of low significance. The three structural elements observed were seemingly related to drainage or served as a putative boundary wall. To the south of the scheme, the demolition rubble and burnt deposits observed could not be interpreted within a wider context, and were probably deposits related to the demolition of the former stable buildings. No further work is recommended.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

5.1 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- Burdett, 1777 *Map of Cheshire* (LP116)
- GMCRO E17/210/30 1850 tithe map
- GMCRO E17/210/167 Pollett's 1824 map
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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

Invitation to tender: Archaeological watching brief on trenching through the deer park at Lyme Park, Cheshire.

Introduction

The National Trust would like to invite Oxford Archaeology North to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation and costing for an archaeological watching brief on a project to install a new fibre optic cable through the deer park at Lyme Park, Cheshire.

As part of the Trust's program of planned business and communication improvement work the National Trust have requested BT to install a new fibre optic cable from the junction box outside the property, through the deer park at Lyme Park, to the complex of buildings known as the Timberyard.

The new armoured cable will be in a separate trench running through previous undisturbed ground. This process will require a trench to be excavated by a mini-digger to accommodate an armoured cable. The cable trench is likely to be backfilled every 6m, although this is obviously subject to change on-site.

The total length of the cable trench is close to 2000m. However, only those sections highlighted in green on the attached map require a permanent presence from an archaeologist to perform an archaeological watching brief. The sections highlighted in red have a reduced archaeological potential and therefore as permanent archaeological presence is not required. A member of National Trust staff will be present on-site during the excavation of the trench highlighted red and will contact the archaeologist and request a visit in the event that any non-natural layers or deposits are encountered.

The cable will enter the existing network communications duct already in-situ at the Timberyard Buildings. The complex of buildings at the Timberyard are designated as Grade II Listed Buildings.

The history and archaeological character of Lyme Park is well understood, largely as a result of detailed desk based studies and intermittent archaeological investigation. Using the information, a preliminary desk based impact assessment of the proposed route has indicated that the route will pass close to three known archaeological sites of features will be impacted upon by the works, the details for these three sites is presented as Appendix 1.

On this basis would like Oxford Archaeology North to develop a simple Written Scheme of Investigation and costing that responds to this brief and the outline specification of work provided by BT (see separate specification).

Archaeological Background

The Park at Lyme was created out of a relatively unsettled and well wooded part of the Forest of Macclesfield in the fourteenth century. After being enclosed as a deer park, it was developed as an ornamental landscape during the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries, whilst still retaining some of the characteristics of a medieval deer park. The Park experienced numerous minor changes in the form of new buildings, vistas, tracks, woodland plantings and fellings, though the basic pattern of land subdivision and the shape of the Park remained remarkably consistent from at least the seventeenth century through to the nineteenth.

The Park landscape was affected by numerous industrial activities, mostly stone extraction and coal mining, although much of this industrial production was on a small scale for estate use, and the landscape impact of the workings were generally hidden from the house. The National Trust Sites and Monuments Record (NTSMR) records a total of 379 individual sites. Many of these were identified and mapped during the production of a Historic Landscape Survey report in 2006 by Oxford Archaeology North.

There is no evidence to suggest that the operations in the deer park will disturb any known archaeological sites or features. However, the historic and archaeological potential of the deer park is well known as a result of previous research and investigation. As such it is felt that an archaeological watching brief would be an appropriate form of mitigation.

Outline of work required

The proposed archaeological watching brief should observe the initial excavation of the cable trench in order to identify and record any features or finds of archaeological interest that come to light.

The main aims of the watching brief are as follows:

- To attend and supervise the ground works associated with the excavation of the new trench for the new fibre optic cable for all sections highlighted red on the attached plan.
- To attend to inspect and record any archaeological features or deposits encountered along those sections of trench highlighted in red when requested by a member of the National Trust staff.
- The contractors undertaking the ground works will be instructed by the client to stop work if requested by the archaeological contractor to allow for recording on exposed features as necessary. If significant archaeological features are found the archaeological contractor should contact the National Trust Archaeologist or Lead Ranger who will consider the issues and provide further instruction.
- The ground works contractor will be instructed to provide sufficient time for the archaeologist to clean and record features and finds of archaeological interest. However, the archaeologist should not delay the works without good cause. Close liaison between the archaeological contractor and site foreman will be essential.
- The archaeological recording methodology will follow the standard guidelines set down by the *Institute of Field Archaeologists*. The record to consist of a minimum of a brief written statement with drawn and digital photographic record of any archaeological features or finds that are encountered along with working shots of the ground works.
- The archaeological contractors are to comply with the requirements of Health and Safety legislation.

Project outputs

A report will be produced that describes the results of fieldwork and contains the following:

- Non-technical summary.
- Brief historical and archaeological background.
- Reasons for the watching brief.
- Methodology.
- Results, illustrated as appropriate by drawings and quality digital photographs. To also include general working shots.
- An annotated digital survey plot showing the extent of the excavations and location of any archaeology encountered (a digital version of the maps and plans attached will be provided on request).
- Discussion of significance of results.
- List of archives consulted.

An ordered and fully catalogued archive will be produced to be deposited with the National Trust. At the conclusion of the investigations, the contractor will provide the products described below to the National Trust Archaeologist in the following fashion:

- Five bound paper copies of the report.
- An additional bound copy of the report to be sent to the County Archaeologist/HER.
- Two digital copies of the report complete with all plans and images fixed in the body of the report in both Adobe PDF and Word formats.

Should no significant archaeology be encountered a brief written report will still be produced.

Other Considerations

The contractor should inform Jeanette Connolly (National Trust Property Administrator) of their arrival at Lyme Park and follow what ever booking in arrangements are required at the property. Reception will be able to ensure that all contractors involved in the work can liase as necessary.

The working area is within an area accessible by the public and due regard must be given to the health and safety and general comfort of visitors.

Responsibility for the hire of plant and safety fencing will be the responsibility of the ground works contractor.

The National Trust will provide welfare facilities (toilet and hand washing facilities, a room to site and eat lunch) for the archaeological contractor.

The National Trust archaeologist will monitor the implementation of the watching brief.

General terms

The archaeological contractor must prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation and costing which should be forwarded to the National Trust Archaeologist prior to the start of work.

The National Trust will retain copyright over the resulting report and all associated archival material (including all digital maps and photographic material), and shall have absolute control over the use and dissemination of that information. The National Trust fully recognises the originator's moral right to suitable accreditation in any publication of the results.

The project will be undertaken by the contractor acting on an independent basis. Staff working on the project will not be deemed employees of the National Trust. Tenders should reflect this fact and more specifically the Contractor will take sole responsibility for the payment of tax, National Insurance contributions, etc. If VAT is payable, this too should be indicated in the bid.

Timescale

The ground work contractor has indicated that they would like to begin work on the 15th April 2013. As with all projects, it is possible that the start date may move forward or back at short notice, it will be the job of the National Trust Archaeologist to ensure the contractor is kept up to date with changes to the timetable.

The final report and project archive should be handed over within two months of the end of the project. The National Trust Archaeologist should be given an opportunity to comment on the report at the final draft stage.

The archaeological contractor should indicate to the National Trust archaeologist if they are able to undertake the work as soon as possible to provide time for alternative arrangements to be made.

Useful Contacts

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APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 The National Trust (hereafter the 'client') has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) prepare a simple Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of archaeological watching brief during ground works for trenching as part of the laying a fibre optic cable across Lyme Park. The ground works will entail the excavation of a narrow trench by a mini-digger, and will be excavated and backfilled in typically 6m sections. Although the overall length of the cable trench is near to 2000m long, only parts of the route will require a watching brief; the sections outlined in green on the proposal map will require a permanent presence watching brief, whereas the remaining archaeological recording areas will be subject to a call out from National Trust staff.
- 1.1.2 The following WSI has been prepared in accordance with a detailed brief provided by the National Trust and, therefore, should be read in conjunction with the document and the earlier detailed and non-intensive landscape surveys (OA North 2006; 2007).

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of the archaeological survey of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 20 years. OA North employs a qualified archaeological and landscape surveyor (Jamie Quartermaine BA DipSurv MIFA) who has over 19 years experience of surveying buildings and landscapes, having worked closely with the National Trust and the Lake District National Park Authority on numerous projects. OA North has particular experience in the recording and analysis of park landscapes and formal gardens.
- 1.2.2 The work will be draw upon expertise from our Lancaster office. The overall management, GIS work, and archaeological surveys will be undertaken from the Lancaster office.
- 1.2.3 **Parks:** OA has a considerable experience of landscape survey in the context of historic parks and designed landscapes, including the NT estates at Croome Park and Hanbury Hall (Worcestershire), Stowe Park, (Buckinghamshire), the Parke Estate (Devon), the English Heritage property at Audley End (Essex), local authority properties at Shorne Wood Country Park (Kent), Priory Park (Surrey), Ashton Court Estate (Bristol), and privately owned properties including Rycote Park and Thame Park (Oxfordshire).
- 1.2.4 At Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire, OA were commissioned by the NT to undertake a desk-based assessment and detailed walkover survey aimed at identifying all cultural heritage assets of the Estate. Below the eighteenth century designed landscape, a rich landscape of earthworks dating from the prehistoric through to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods were preserved. The work also included looking at the significant 18th century landscape and the concepts which lay behind it, including an unusual amphitheatre set within the Park and the designed gardens.
- 1.2.5 The Park estate at Bovey Tracey, Devon, was subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment and site walkover survey by OA, with the purpose of identifying historic landscape and archaeological resources and reporting on management and constraint issues. It also contained a dismantled railway and associated features, woodland boundary banks, trackways and the formal gardens and buildings of the house itself.
- 1.2.6 The project at Croome Park comprised a detailed survey of key features of the first complete landscape park designed by Capability Brown, including a detailed photographic and structural survey of the 18th century Ha-Ha, and of a number of significant buildings by architects such as Robert Adam and James Wyatt. The OA work at Thame Park focussed on the production of a comprehensive Heritage Assessment of the estate, resulting in the re-discovery of the main Abbey complex including the Abbot's lodgings, and the infirmary.
- 1.2.7 In the North West archaeological surveys and archaeological studies of parklands include those at Lyme Park, Cheshire, Lowther Park, Cumbria, Lathom Park and Rufford Park, both

Lancashire. Lowther Park involved a detailed documentary and surface survey of one of the more significant and sizeable parks in Cumbria, and examined both the development of the park and its associated deer park, but also recorded the extensive Roman and prehistoric pre-park remains. Lathom Park, was the seat of the Stanley family, and was at one time the most powerful seat in the North-West. OA North has recently undertaken a landscape survey of the Sizergh Park estate, Cumbria, on behalf of the National Trust.

- 1.2.8 The Lyme Park survey, for the NT, involved a comprehensive documentary and archaeological survey of all elements of the large (6 sqkm) parkland, looking at the formative processes of the park and its buildings which was intended to provide the basis for the restoration and management of this extremely important site. The work was undertaken in two stages; the first stage was undertaken in 1996/1997 when the majority of the work was undertaken and a report was completed. The report was then refined and recast in 2006, but this did not entail new survey work. The archaeological data was compiled within a database and within CAD and the report was presented in four volumes. The first (Non-intensive) presented the history of the park along with an identification survey gazetteer of all monuments, the subsequent three volumes presented the results of a detailed survey examining selective elements of the landscape, such as the woodland, drainage, vistas and roads, buildings, and gardens.
- 1.2.9 Oxford Archaeology North was commissioned by The Landscape Agency (on behalf of the National Trust) to conduct an archaeological and historical landscape survey of Hatchlands Park, Surrey, which recorded and evaluated the archaeological and historical features within the park to inform a management plan for the park.
- 1.2.10 **Gardens:** Garden surveys of most relevance include an extensive archaeological study of the formal and nursery gardens of Lyme Park, Cheshire, for the National Trust, a survey and evaluation was undertaken of the walled garden at Bostock Hall, in Cheshire and an evaluation and survey was undertaken of the Astley Hall Gardens. OA North has also undertaken detailed surveys of complex gardens at Rectory Wood Gardens, Heysham Head and St Catherine's Estate, Cumbria, again for the National Trust, further detailed survey, with the Landscape Agency, included a map regression analysis of Lowther Castle gardens in Cumbria as part of proposals to restore the gardens. OA North has undertaken the survey and excavation of both a fernery at Eller How gardens in Ambleside, Cumbria, for Channel 4 Television (Lost Gardens Series, broadcast 25/11/99), and, again with The Landscape Agency, on the parterres surviving beneath Salisbury Lawn at Chatsworth House, Derbyshire in advance of a proposed Anthony Gormley art installation on the lawn.
- 1.2.11 Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the different requirements of various clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables. OA is accustomed to undertaking projects to strict timetables, and to fulfil a wide variety of requirements. OA North is one of the bodies endorsed by the IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists; No. 17) and has both the expertise and resources to undertake this project to the highest standards

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to identify any archaeological deposits or features that may be present during groundworks. It will be undertaken in order to mitigate the impact by means of preservation by record of any such archaeological features or deposits. The work will be carried out in line with current IFA guidelines and in line with the IFA Code of Conduct.
- 2.2 **Archaeological Watching Brief:** to maintain a permanent archaeological presence during the excavation work for the cutting of the cable trench. The purpose is to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains that may be encountered. Where such remains cannot be adequately recorded under watching brief conditions it may be necessary to undertake consultation with all interested parties to determine and implement the appropriate mitigation.
- 2.3 **Report:** the results of the fieldwork and any post-excavation assessment will culminate in a final report to be submitted within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork (subject to any specialist reports outstanding).

- 2.4 **Archive:** a site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2 (1991)). The information will be finally disseminated through the deposition of the archive at a local museum, and report at the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

3. IMPACTS

- 3.1 The cutting of the proposed cable trench extends near to three sites (Sites 52932, 52757 and 52758) identified by the non-intensive survey (OA North 2007) and which have the potential to be impacted by the proposed development:

Site: 52757*0 **Name:** Old Carriage Drive: Green Drive

National Grid Ref: SJ 9649 8398 - 9644 8251

County SMR No

Site Description: A major carriage drive extending north/south through the Park, which survives as a substantial earthwork feature. It is shown on Pollett's 1824 map and also on current mapping. At the northern end it survives as a well made and obvious track leading along Cage Hill to the north end of the estate. The track is about 3 to 3.5m wide and has a hardcore base with occasionally patches of cobbling. The track is raised in places to 0.7m above the surrounding ground surface. The detailed line of the carriageway will be recorded as part of the detail survey.

General Period:

Post Medieval

Site Type:

Carriageway (line of)

Site: 52758*0 **Name:** Old Carriage Drive: Hawthorn Drive

National Grid Ref: SJ 96518381 SJ 96398252

County SMR No:

Site Description: The carriageway is an obvious and well defined feature for most of its length although it has suffered considerable disturbance at both ends. The main section of carriageway is 3m to 4m wide with a ditch and steep scarp slope on its eastern side and an embankment on its western side. Spaced along its length are a series of small 3-4m diameter circular features that probably mark the places in which trees once lined this site. This site was formerly one of the main north/south routes through this end of the Park and is shown to have been in use on Pollett's map of 1824.

General Period:

Post Medieval

Site Type:

carriageway

Site: 52932*0 **Name:** Park Pale and Driveway

National Grid Ref: SJ 96608420

County SMR No: 1633/2/5

Site Description:

The Cheshire SMR records the discovery of a 'U' shaped ditch that may have formed part of the original medieval park pale and may defined the course of the original park driveway; it was identified during a watching brief carried in 1994 on behalf of North West Water (GMAU 1994).

General Period:

Medieval/Post Medieval

Site Type:

Park Pale and Driveway

4. METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1.1 **Risk assessment:** OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). OA North will liaise with the client to ensure all health and safety regulations are met.

- 4.1.2 **Contamination:** any contamination issues must also be made known to OA North in order that adequate PPE can be supplied prior to commencement. Should any presently unknown

contamination be discovered during excavation, it may be necessary to halt the works and reassess the risk assessment. Any specialist safety requirements may be costed as a variation.

4.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

- 4.2.1 **Introduction:** the development will entail a process of cutting a narrow cable trench through the park, in approximately 6m sections. It is proposed that the watching brief be maintained during the cutting of these sections within the central section of the park (highlighted in green on the attached mapping). In addition OA North may potentially be called out by members of the National Trust if archaeological features are identified in the northern and southern sections of the route (in red). This will be a programme of field observation that will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits during this process of ground disturbance.
- 4.2.2 **Methodology:** the work will comprise archaeological observation during the excavation, to include the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified.
- 4.2.3 Discovery of archaeological remains will require stoppage of the excavation. This will be carried out as efficiently as possible in order to minimise disruption. Depending on the deposits revealed, it is anticipated that the average time for the suspension of works in the locale of the identified archaeological remains will be approximately 2-4 hours. There will be close liaison between OA North and the site foreman.
- 4.2.4 Clearance will be given for construction to proceed once the archaeologist is satisfied that either no remains are present, or that they have been adequately recorded, or that the level of impact will not disturb any deeper remains that can be preserved *in situ*.
- 4.2.5 **Complex or extensive remains:** should the remains be too complex or extensive to be investigated and recorded under watching brief conditions then the area will be fenced-off and the National Trust Archaeologist, National Trust Lead Ranger and the Cheshire Archaeological Officer will be immediately contacted in order to determine the requirements for further investigation. All further laying of cable within the marked area will cease until clearance is given to proceed. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design.
- 4.2.6 **Investigation and recording:** putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified by the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (i.e. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 4.2.7 **Recording:** all elements of the work will be recorded in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*MAP2*) and the best practices formulated by English Heritage's Centre for Archaeology (CfA) and the Institute for Archaeology (IfA) (1999). The archaeological structures will be planned using a survey grade differential GPS (Leica 1200) which is accurate to $\pm 0.02\text{m}$. All planning data will be digitally incorporated into a CAD system in the course of the evaluation and will be superimposed onto base survey mapping. This process will generate scaled plans which will also be subject to manual survey enhancement. The drawings will be generated at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20 scale but can be output at any scale required.
- 4.2.8 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale digital plan. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 4.2.9 Levels will be recorded and reduced to their OD heights, with all benchmark and TBMS to be shown. The location of all features excavated will be recorded by Total Station with

appropriate spot heights and tied into the OS grid. Altitude information will be established with respect to OS Datum. The location of the remains within the areas of construction will be based on site plans provided by the client containing OS information.

- 4.2.10 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced.

4.3 GENERAL PROCEDURES

- 4.3.1 **Environmental Sampling:** samples (bulk samples of 40 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). Monolith samples will be collected from freshly exposed sections through all buried soils/old ground surfaces by trained staff. These will be returned to OA North's offices for processing.
- 4.3.2 Deposits of particular interest may incur additional sampling, on advice from the appropriate in-house specialist. The location of all samples will be recorded on drawings and sections with heights OD etc.
- 4.3.3 Between 50%-100% of bulk samples shall be selected for processing, based on the advice from OA North's in-house environmental manager. An assessment of the environmental potential would include soil pollen analysis and the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features. In addition, the samples would be assessed for plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits.
- 4.3.4 It may be required to obtain dating evidence through radiocarbon dating, dendrochronological or other such techniques. This would only be undertaken in consultation with the client.
- 4.3.5 **Human Remains:** previous work has not produced any evidence for the potential for human remains. However, should any be discovered they will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. The client, Cheshire Archaeological Officer and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Home Office license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations. Any delays caused by unforeseen and complex excavation of inhumations may be subject to a variation to the cost of the contract and will be agreed with the client.
- 4.3.6 **Finds:** all finds recovered during the evaluation investigation (metal detecting and trial trenching) will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.
- 4.3.7 Finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (current IFA guidelines) and subject to expert advice. OA has close contact with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs in-house artefact and palaeoecology specialists, with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation, and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines (UKIC). Emergency access to conservation facilities is maintained by OA North with the Department of Archaeology, the University of Durham.
- 4.3.8 Neither artefacts nor ecofacts will be collected systematically during the mechanical excavation of the topsoil unless significant deposits, for example clay pipe waster dumps, are encountered. In such an eventuality, material will be sampled in such a manner as to provide data to enhance present knowledge of the production and dating of such artefacts, although any ensuing studies will not be regarded as a major element in any post-excavation analysis of the site. Other finds recovered during the removal of overburden will be retained only if

of significance to the dating and/or interpretation of the site. It is not anticipated that ecofacts (eg unmodified animal bone) will be collected during this procedure.

- 4.3.9 Otherwise, artefacts and ecofacts will be collected and handled as per specification. All material will be collected and identified by stratigraphic unit during the evaluation trenching process. Hand collection by stratigraphic unit will be the principal method of collection, but targeted on-site sieving could serve as a check on recovery levels. Objects deemed to be of potential significance to the understanding, interpretation and dating of individual features, or of the site as a whole, will be recorded as individual items, and their location plotted in 3D.
- 4.3.10 All finds will be treated in accordance with OA standard practice, which is cognisant of IFA and UKIC Guidelines. In general this will mean that (where appropriate or safe to do so) finds are washed, dried, marked, bagged and packed in stable conditions; no attempt at conservation will be made unless special circumstances require prompt action. In such case guidance will be sought from OA North's consultant conservator.
- 4.3.11 All waterlogged finds will be treated as appropriate. In the case of large deposits of waterlogged environmental material (eg unmodified wood), advice will be sought with the OA North consultant with regard to an appropriate sampling strategy.
- 4.3.12 Where possible, spot dates will be obtained on pottery and other finds recovered from the site. Artefacts will be examined and commented upon by OA North in-house specialists. Initial artefact dating shall be integrated into the site matrix.
- 4.3.13 Any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.

4.4 REPORT

- 4.4.1 **Final Report:** a copy of the draft report will be forwarded initially to the National Trust Archaeologist for approval. Once this has been finalised five bound copies of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, together with two digital copies (both pdf and word) on CD, within six weeks of completion of the fieldwork, unless an alternative deadline is agreed with the client. A pdf version will also be submitted to the Cheshire HER for reference purposes. The report will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above in order to come to as full an understanding as possible of the archaeology of the development area. The report will include;
- a front cover to include the NGR,
 - a concise, non-technical summary of the results,
 - the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken,
 - description of the methodology, including the sources consulted,
 - a summary of the historical background of the study area,
 - a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the impact,
 - a discussion of the results, highlighting their significance,
 - a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design,
 - the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted,
 - a site location plan related to the national grid,
 - appropriate digital plans showing the location and position of features or sites located and the extent of all excavations and interventions,,
 - plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds,

- illustrative photographs as appropriate, including working shots

4.4.2 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

4.5 ARCHIVE

4.5.1 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out during fieldwork will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) 2006). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork to the appropriate level. OA North conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit appropriate elements of the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum.

4.6 OTHER MATTERS

4.6.1 **Monitoring:** OA North will ensure that any significant results are brought to the attention of the National Trust and the Cheshire Archaeological Officer as soon as is practically possible. The work will be monitored under the auspices of the Cheshire Archaeological Officer. Monitoring includes reviewing site work, the progress of excavation reports, archive preparation. The Cheshire Archaeological Officer will be informed of the start of the field work in advance of the start date.

4.6.2 **Insurance:** the insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with OA North and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of OA North, in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of OA North or any of its employees, there applies the insurance cover of £5m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.

4.6.3 **Working Hours:** normal OA North working hours are between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday, though adjustments to hours may be made to maximise daylight working time in winter and to meet travel requirements. It is not normal practice for OA North staff to be asked to work weekends or bank holidays and should the client require such time to be worked during the course of a project a contract variation to cover additional costs will be necessary.

5. WORK TIMETABLE

5.1 **Archaeological Watching Brief:** the duration of the archaeological presence for the watching brief will be dictated by the client's schedule of works and is anticipated to commence on April 15 2013. OA North can undertake the work at short notice.

5.2 **Report:** the client report will be completed within approximately six weeks following completion of all fieldwork elements, subject to any outstanding specialist reports.

5.3 **Archive:** the archive will be deposited within six months following completion of the site work.

6. STAFFING

- 6.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Jamie Quartermaine** (OA North Senior Project Managers) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 6.2 The fieldwork will be undertaken by an OA North supervisor or assistant supervisor experienced in this type of project, who will be responsible for liaison with the site contractors and the client, and other relevant interested parties with regards to on-site work and procedures. The attending archaeologist will be supported by specialist staff based both on site and in the office in Lancaster.
- 6.3 Finds management will be undertaken by **Christine Howard-Davis** (OA North Finds Manager) who will also provide specialist input on certain finds categories.
- 6.4 Environmental management will be undertaken by **Elizabeth Huckerby** (OA North Environmental Manager) who has unparalleled experience of the palaeoecology of the North West through her work on the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey. Elizabeth will be assisted by **Denise Druce**, both of whom will provide specialist input on charred remains and pollen, and will advise on site sampling procedures and co-ordinate the processing of samples and organise internal and external specialist input as required.

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context Number	Category	Form	Brief Description
001	Deposit	Layer	Dark-brown, friable clayey silt with 40% stones. 0.10m thick. Topsoil.
002	Deposit	Layer	Mid-orange brown, friable sandy silt with 30% stones. 0.40m thick. Subsoil.
003	Deposit	Layer	Dark-brownish yellow, firm sandy clay with 60% stones. Natural geology.
004	Structure	Wall	Sandstone stones forming foundation of a drystone wall. One course high. 0.12m thick. On a North to South alignment.
005	Deposit	Layer	Dark-brown, friable silty sand. Contains crushed up coke and pottery fragments. Make up layer for main road into park
006	Structure	Culvert	Brick built culvert, handmade red bricks, 0.35m wide, 0.2m deep
007	Structure	Culvert	Stone built culvert
008	Deposit	Layer	Mixed demolition deposits observed in the southern part of the cable trench
009	Deposit	Layer	Dark-brownish firm sandy clay. Natural geology.
010	Deposit	Layer	Made-up deposit with fragments of brick, pottery, glass, and lenses of burnt material
011	Deposit	Layer	Dark-brown, friable clayey silt. Topsoil

ILLUSTRATIONS

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location and route of cable

Figure 2: Detail plan showing location of wall foundation **004** in relation to putative tree-lined avenue (OA North 2006)

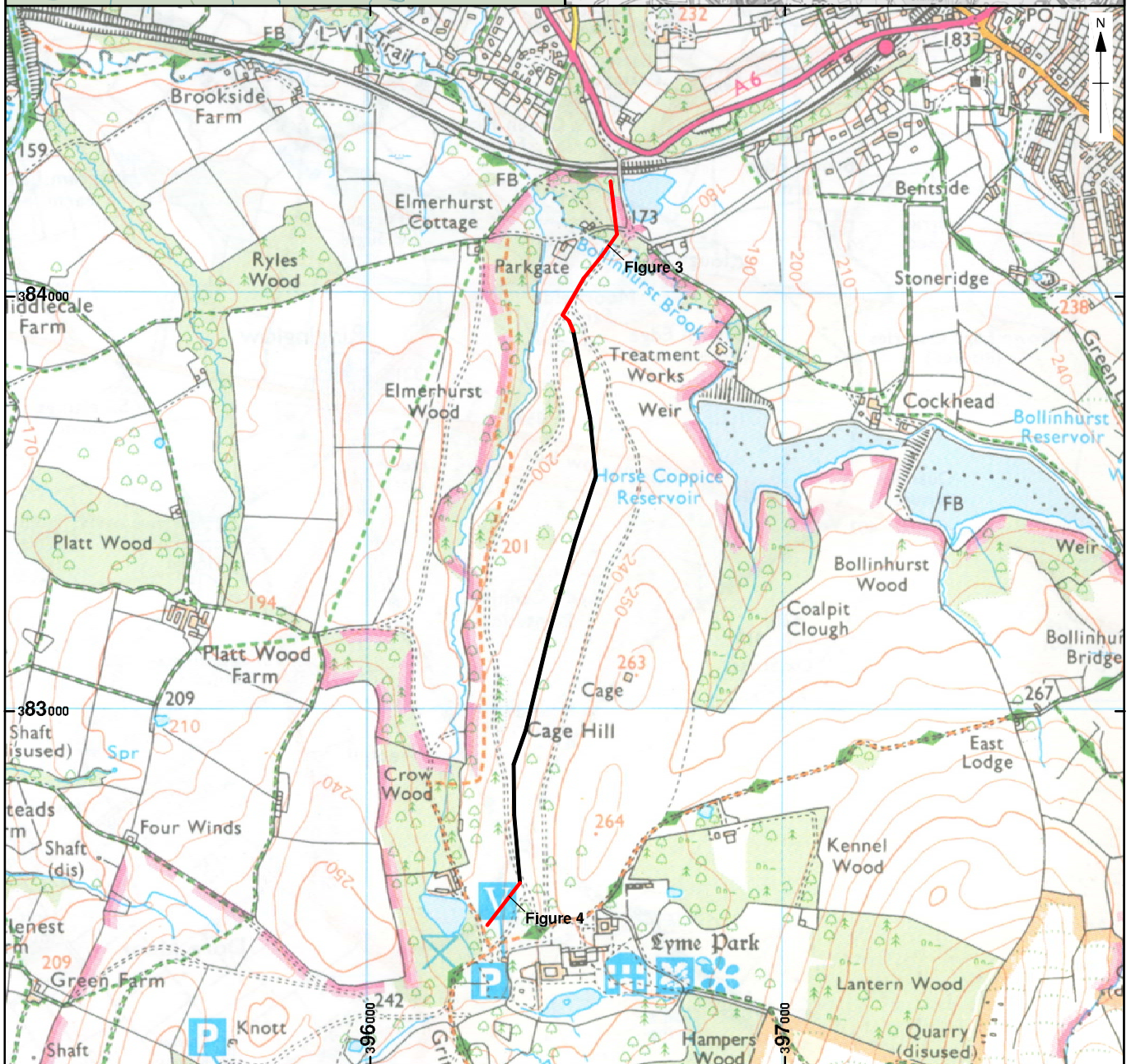
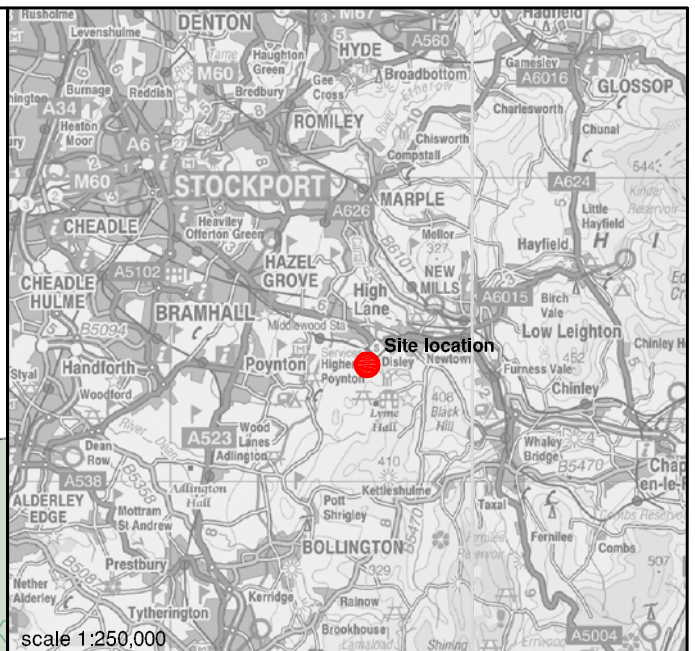
Figure 3: Boundary wall foundation **004**

Figure 4: Plan of culverts **006** and **007**

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: North-east-facing view of wall **004**

Plate 2: Brick culvert **006**, looking south

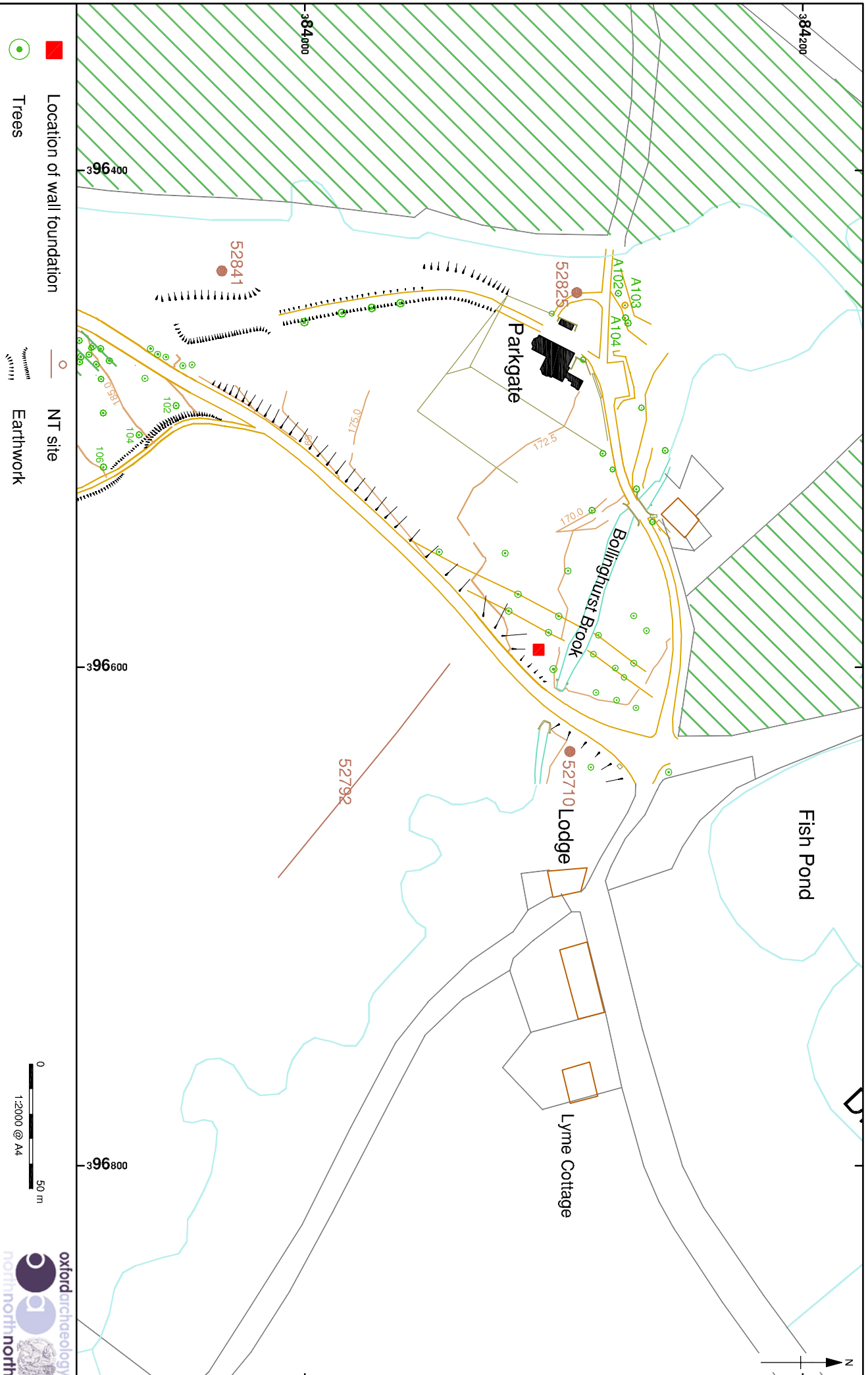


- Route of pipeline
- Parts of pipeline covered by watching brief

0 2.5 km
1:15,000 @ A4



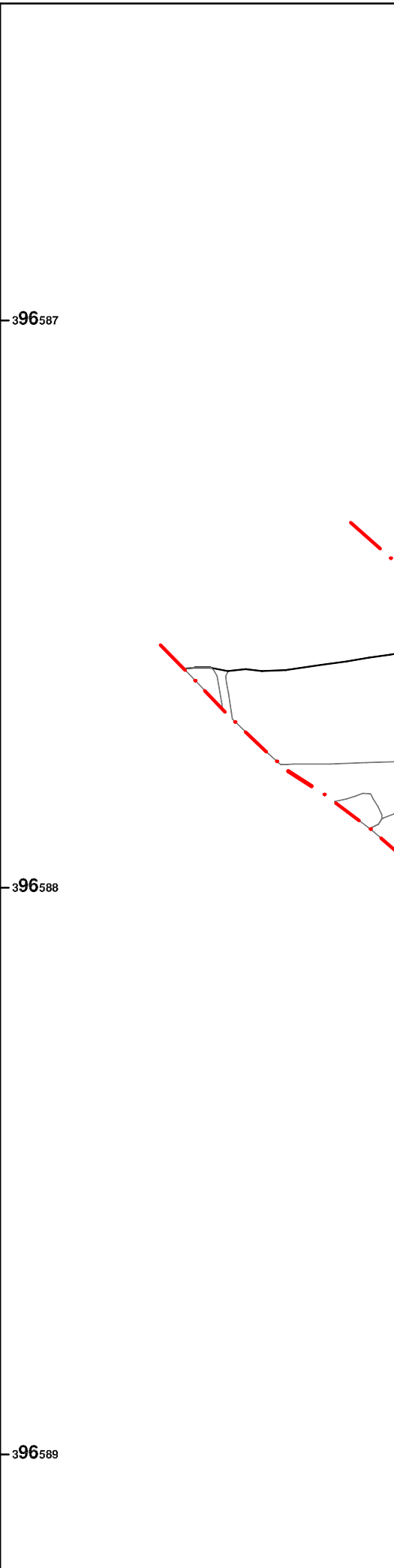
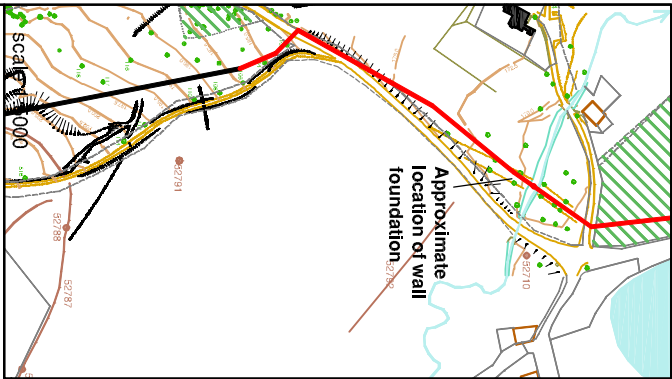
Figure 1: Site location and route of pipeline



- Location of wall foundation
- Trees
- NT site
- Earthwork



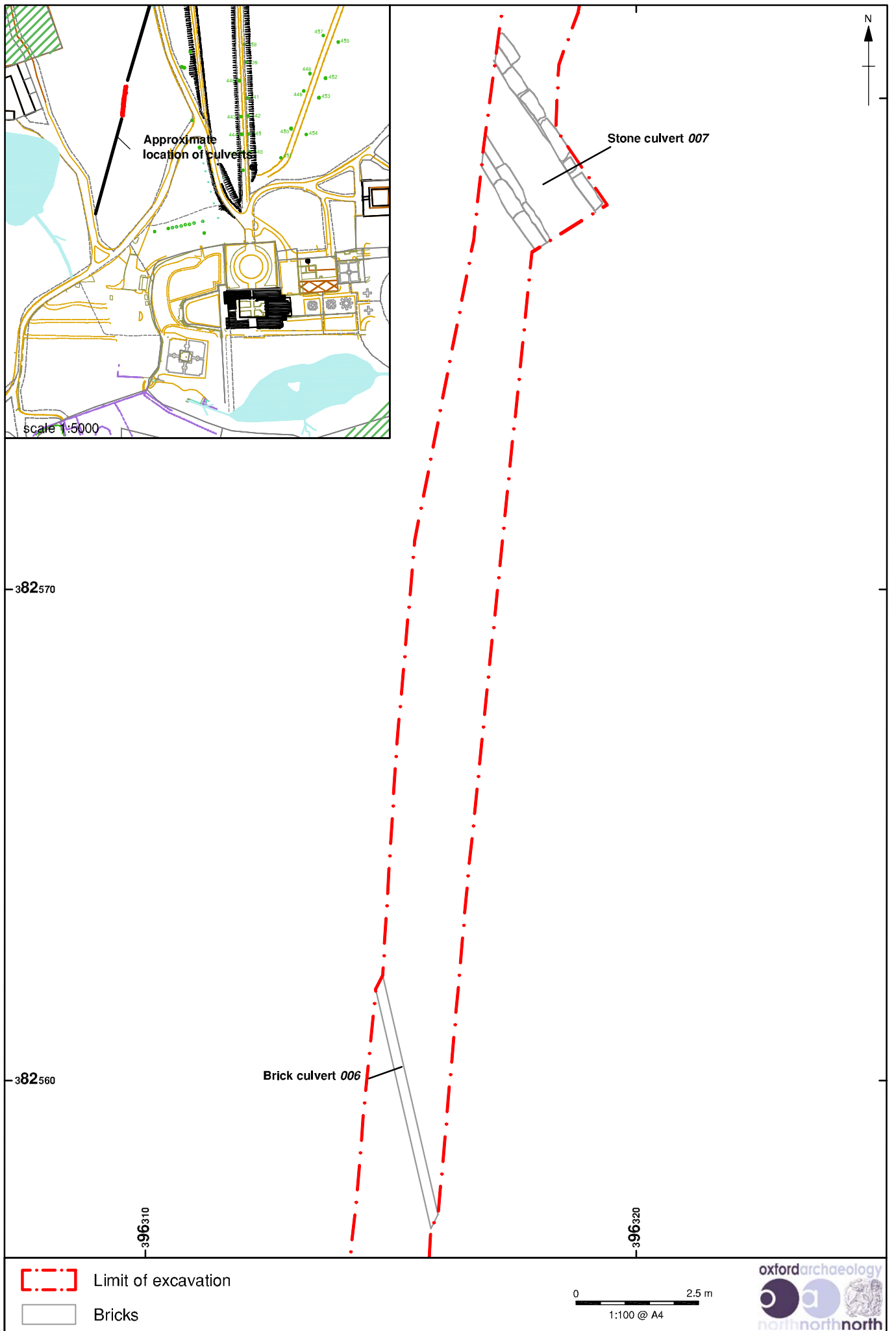
Figure 2: Detail plan showing location of wall foundation in relation to putative tree-lined avenue (OA North 2006)



- Limit of excavation
- Wall outline

- Stones

Figure 3: Boundary wall foundation 004



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Figure 4: Plan of culverts 006 and 007