



**SWS UK LTD,  
FARLETON OLD  
ROAD,  
CLAUGHTON,  
LANCASHIRE**

**Archaeological  
Watching Brief**



**Oxford Archaeology North**

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**SWS UK Ltd**

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## SUMMARY

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SWS UK Ltd propose to erect a sub-station gas meter store, covered walkways and undertake various other improvements at their offices on Farleton Old Road, Cloughton, Lancashire (Planning reference 05/00806/FUL; SD 5636 6650). The site lies within an area of archaeological potential associated with the Lancaster to Overborrow Roman Road (Margary 705, 1973; Lancaster Sites and Monument Record PRN 550) and, accordingly, Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS) requested that a programme of archaeological recording be undertaken during all groundworks associated with the development. Subsequently, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by SWS UK Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief of the excavation of a trench measuring 60m in length, 0.8m in width and up to 1.5m in depth.

The watching brief was undertaken in September 2005 and identified a thin layer of made ground overlying natural clay, into which several post-medieval ceramic and stone-built field drains had been inserted. No archaeological other features were observed, including any associated with the Roman Road, and it is concluded that this feature runs outside of the present development area.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North would like to offer thanks to Mr Jens Fogh of SWS UK Ltd for commissioning the project, to Lancashire County Archaeology Service for issuing the project brief and to the staff of Tim Butler contractors for their assistance on site.

The watching brief was undertaken by Jason Clarke, who also compiled this report. The drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who also edited the report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Following proposals by SWS UK Ltd for the erection of a sub-station gas meter store, covered walkways and various other improvements at their offices on Farleton Old Road, Claughton, Lancashire (Planning reference 05/00806/FUL; SD 5636 6650), Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS) issued a brief (*Appendix 1*) for a programme of archaeological recording to be undertaken during all groundworks associated with the development. Subsequent to the submission of a project design to meet this brief (*Appendix 2*), Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by SWS UK Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief. The groundworks observed comprised a trench 60m in length, 0.8m in width and up to 1.5m in depth for drainage pipes.

### 1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The present development site lies at the northern end of the village of Claughton, at the junction of the main Hornby Road (A683) and Farleton Old Road. Claughton itself is a small village within the Lune Valley, some 15km to the north-west of Lancaster.

1.2.2 The general landscape of the area largely comprises similar undulating pasture, with several variations caused by the numerous river valleys (Countryside Commission 1998). The fields tend to be small and well maintained with a relatively large amount of woodland and parkland (*ibid*).

1.2.3 The majority of the underlying geology comprises Carboniferous rocks, in particular of the lower Millstone Grit groups (Brandon *et al* 1998). The overlying soil, comprising Cambic stagnoley soils of the Brickfield 3 association (Soil Survey 1983), is almost entirely glacially-derived and part of a Drumlin field with scattered bedrock outcrops (Brandon *et al* 1998). To a lesser extent it is also produced by fluvial deposits collected in the Lune valley, which are derived from various rock types (*ibid*).

1.2.4 Previous development on the site has indicated that the site slopes from north-east to south-west and that a buried ground surface survives at a depth of 1.7m on the south-western side. Further, it is thought there has been little modern disturbance in the area of the proposed drainage runs and that the current tarmac surface, which covers the development area, lies almost directly on the former ground surface with little or no preparatory sub-base.

### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 There are no known sites or finds of Mesolithic or Neolithic date within the area of works, although there are examples of contemporary sites along the Lune Valley. The earliest finds from the village are of Bronze Age date, and include the bronze and stone tools and weapons from the garden of Bank House farm, just to the north-east of the present site (OA North 2003), as well as a barrow. There is also a possible Iron Age irregular enclosure on the fell

above Claughton, which, although uninvestigated and undated, could relate to settlement activity, and is mirrored by another example to the south-east at Quernmore (English Heritage 1996).

- 1.3.2 The present development site lies within an area of archaeological potential relating to the suspected route of the Lancaster to Overborrow Roman Road (Margary 705, 1973; Lancaster Sites and Monument Record PRN 550), which could cross the development area. The presence of a Roman road is attested by the discovery of a milestone in Artle Beck in 1803. The inscription (*RIB* 2272) reads '*For the Emperor Caesar Trajan Hadrian Augustus, Chief Priest, with Tribunician power, three times Consul, Father of his Country, from... 4 miles*' (OA North 2003). No early post-Roman finds are known from Claughton, although a number of fragments of Early Christian sculpture have been recovered from other Lune Valley sites, such as Hornby, Halton and Lancaster, suggesting that the area may have been occupied by a number of monastic communities (Newman 1996).
- 1.3.3 The settlement is recorded as *Clactun* in the Domesday Survey (Williams and Martin (eds) 1992) and two important medieval sites lie just to the east of the development site. St Chad's church dates to the early twelfth century and the churchyard has several medieval crosses. The original thirteenth-century hall, located at what is now Claughton Hall Farm, was rebuilt c 1km to the south-east in the early twentieth century (LCC 2006).
- 1.3.4 In the surrounding area there is a great deal of toponymic and physical evidence for post-medieval quarries and mines and in the mid- to late nineteenth century, the West End and Claughton Manor brickworks were established, west of the Caton to Hornby Road (Winstanley 2000, 58-59).

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 The LCAS-approved project design (*Appendix 2*) was adhered to in full throughout the duration of the project, and all work was consistent with the standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and approved best practice.

### 2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 The watching brief area consisted of 60m, north-west/south-east aligned linear trench, 0.8m in width and up to 1.5m in depth (Fig 2). The trench was dug using a 360° excavator with a 0.8m wide ditching bucket. Any archaeological features were recorded using OA North's *pro-forma* sheets, and monochrome and colour slide photographic record was maintained.

### 2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage guidelines (1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Lancashire Record Office, Preston.



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### 3. FIELDWORK RESULTS

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#### **3.1 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS**

- 3.1.1 The observed deposits consisted of 0.1m - 0.5m of made-ground, which contained modern bricks from the Hanson brickyard, next door, and modern gravel hardcore. This overlaid the natural geology, which was blue/grey sandy clay, and was occasionally cut by modern services, ceramic field drains and one well-constructed stone drain, at a depth of 0.5m - 0.6m. No other archaeological features, including the Roman road, were observed and no finds were made.

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## 4. DISCUSSION

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### 4.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The watching brief revealed only features of low archaeological significance, with the ceramic and stone field drains likely to date to later post-medieval agricultural activity on the site. The relative shallowness of the material overlying the natural glacial clay beneath the overburden deposits, may suggest that the watching brief area has been subject to some degree of truncation. Despite the likelihood of truncation, it seems improbable that this was so severe that all traces of the Roman road and any associated ditches would have been removed; it seems more likely that the route of the Roman road lies outside of this particular area.

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## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### 5.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

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### 5.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

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## 6. ILLUSTRATIONS

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### 6.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Location map

Figure 2: Watching brief location map

### 6.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Excavated drainage trench

Plate 2: Stone Drain within excavation trench

Plate 3: General working shot of trench under excavation

## APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

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APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

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SWS UK LTD,  
FARLETON OLD  
ROAD,  
CLAUGHTON,  
LANCASHIRE

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF:  
PROJECT DESIGN**

**Oxford Archaeology North**



September 2005

SWS UK Ltd

OA North Job No: T2543

NGR: SD 5636 6650

Planning Application No:  
02/008606/FUL

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Planning application 05/00806/FUL was submitted to Lancashire County with a proposal for the existing of site roads, car parks and hard-standing areas, erection of sub-station gas meter store and covered walkways and various other improvements throughout the site at SWS UK Ltd, Farleton Old Road, Cloughton, Lancashire (NGR SD 5636 6650). Following a request by Mr Jens Fogh of SWS UK Ltd (henceforth, the Client), Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submitted a project design to meet the requirements of a brief provided by Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS) for the undertaking of a watching brief. The watching brief is to monitor all groundworks which penetrate more than 0.15m below the existing ground surface and which are associated with the construction of drainage runs and manholes shown on drawing no. L22167/1/09 running to the north of the lorry parking area between two warehouse buildings. These drainage runs are thought to be excavated to a depth of c1.2m.

### 1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.2.1 Previous development on the site has indicated that the site slopes from north-east to south-west and that a buried ground surface survives at a depth of 1.7m on the south-western side. It is suspected that the Roman Road from Lancaster to Overborrow (Margary 705), Lancashire Sites and Monument Record PRN 550, could cross the development area. Further, it is thought there has been little modern disturbance in the area of the proposed drainage runs and, that the current tarmac surface, which covers the development area, lies almost directly on the former ground surface with little or no preparatory sub-base.

### 1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of undertaking watching briefs of all periods, having conducted a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 25 years. Fieldwork has taken place within the planning process and construction programmes, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.

1.3.2 OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) **registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed in accordance with the Lancashire County Archaeology Service document entitled *General Conditions for Appropriate Archaeological Contractors in Lancashire*.

2.2 **Watching Brief:** a permanent presence archaeological watching brief will be maintained during groundworks associated with drainage runs and manholes (*Section 1.1.1*) in order to determine the presence, date, quality and state of preservation of archaeological features on the site.

2.3 **Report and Archive:** a report will be produced for the Client within about eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. The report will aim to summarise the results of the watching brief within the context of existing knowledge about the site and its surroundings. These results will provide the basis for any recommendations for further work, should this prove appropriate. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

### 3. WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.1 In line with the objectives and stages of the archaeological works stated above, the following work programme is submitted:
- 3.2 **Watching Brief:** to be maintained during any ground disturbing activities relating to the construction of drainage runs and manholes (see *Section 1.1.1*)
- 3.3 **Report and Archive:** production of a suitably illustrated report and properly ordered archive.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 4.1.1 A programme of field observation will accurately and systematically examine and record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features, horizons and/or deposits revealed during the course of ground disturbance, along with any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 4.1.2 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 plan. A photographic record of archaeological features and general working shots, utilising monochrome print and colour slide will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 4.1.3 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more measured sections will be produced, regardless of the presence of archaeology.
- 4.1.4 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified during groundworks, 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 (ie. 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).
- 4.1.5 It is assumed that OA North will have the authority to stop the works for a sufficient time period to enable the recording of important deposits. In addition, should the Roman road be encountered, then it will be necessary to widen the excavation trench to a minimum width of 1m in order for a detailed record to be made of this feature. It may also be necessary to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified or a high density of archaeology is discovered, but this would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and LCAS and will require a variation to costing.
- 4.1.6 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered 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. LCAS 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, and if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.
- 4.1.7 **Recording:** all information identified in the course of the watching brief works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs or contact prints) to identify and illustrate individual features as well as the nature of the demolition work. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.



- 4.1.8 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). Levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.
- 4.1.9 **Treatment of finds:** excavated soil will be searched as practicable for finds. The presence and nature of finds definitely dating to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries will be noted but they will not otherwise be retained. All other finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed, as appropriate, in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines. Except where noted above, all identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.
- 4.1.10 **Treasure:** 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.
- 4.1.11 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features or human remains being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the Planning Archaeologist, as to the extent of further works to be carried out, and in agreement with the Client. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design.

## 5. REPORT

- 5.1 The results of the data gathered in *Section 4.1* above, will be collated and submitted in report format, illustrated with the relevant photographs and drawings. Where appropriate, the report will attempt to relate any findings to the known history and archaeology of the site, and to its local setting.
- 5.2 One bound and one unbound copy of the report will be submitted to the Client, and one bound copy and another in digital format will be submitted to LCAS and to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record together with an archive CD-ROM. Any subsequent work arising from this survey will be subject to separate consideration in liaison with LCAS and the Client.
- 5.3 The final report will include a copy of this project design, the relevant LCAS brief, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above, and will include details of the final deposition of the project archive. Illustrations will include a location map, trench location plan and plans and sections of trenches drawn at an appropriate scale.
- 5.3 A brief summary of the fieldwork will be prepared and submitted to the Council for British Archaeology North West *Archaeology North West* within 12 months of the completion of the project.

## 6. ARCHIVE

- 6.1 The results of the watching brief will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The fully indexed project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include all the original records and drawings along with fully labelled and indexed slides and contact prints. It will include summary processing and analysis of any features and finds recovered during fieldwork, in accordance with UKIC guidelines. The deposition of a properly ordered

and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository, is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA, and arrangement to this effect will be made with the museum curator prior to the commencement of the project.

- 6.2 All finds will be treated in accordance with OA North standard practice, which follows current IFA guidelines and will be deposited, along with a copy of the report and of the original site records, with Lancaster City Museum.

## 7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1 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). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.
- 7.2 The client would be asked to determine the nature of any utility services to the properties and site prior to any fieldwork being carried out.
- 7.3 OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

## 8. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 8.1 The final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.
- 8.2 Any proposed variations to the project design will be agreed with LCAS in co-ordination with the Client. OA North will arrange a preliminary meeting, if required, and LCAS will be informed of the commencement of the project in writing.

## 9. WORK PROGRAMME

- 9.1 The following programme is proposed:
- 9.2 **Watching Brief:** the duration of the watching brief will be dependent upon the progress of the contractor, but is currently expected to last one day.
- 9.3 **Archive/Report:** the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be submitted within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork and the archive deposited within six months. If desired, an interim statement could be produced within ten days of completion of the fieldwork.

## 10. STAFFING

- 10.1 The project will be managed by **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

- 10.2 The watching brief will be undertaken by an OA North Supervisor, suitably experienced in fieldwork techniques. Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing at this stage exactly who will be undertaking this element of the project.
- 10.3 The archaeological work will be monitored by LCAS, which will be arranged accordingly.



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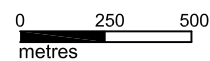
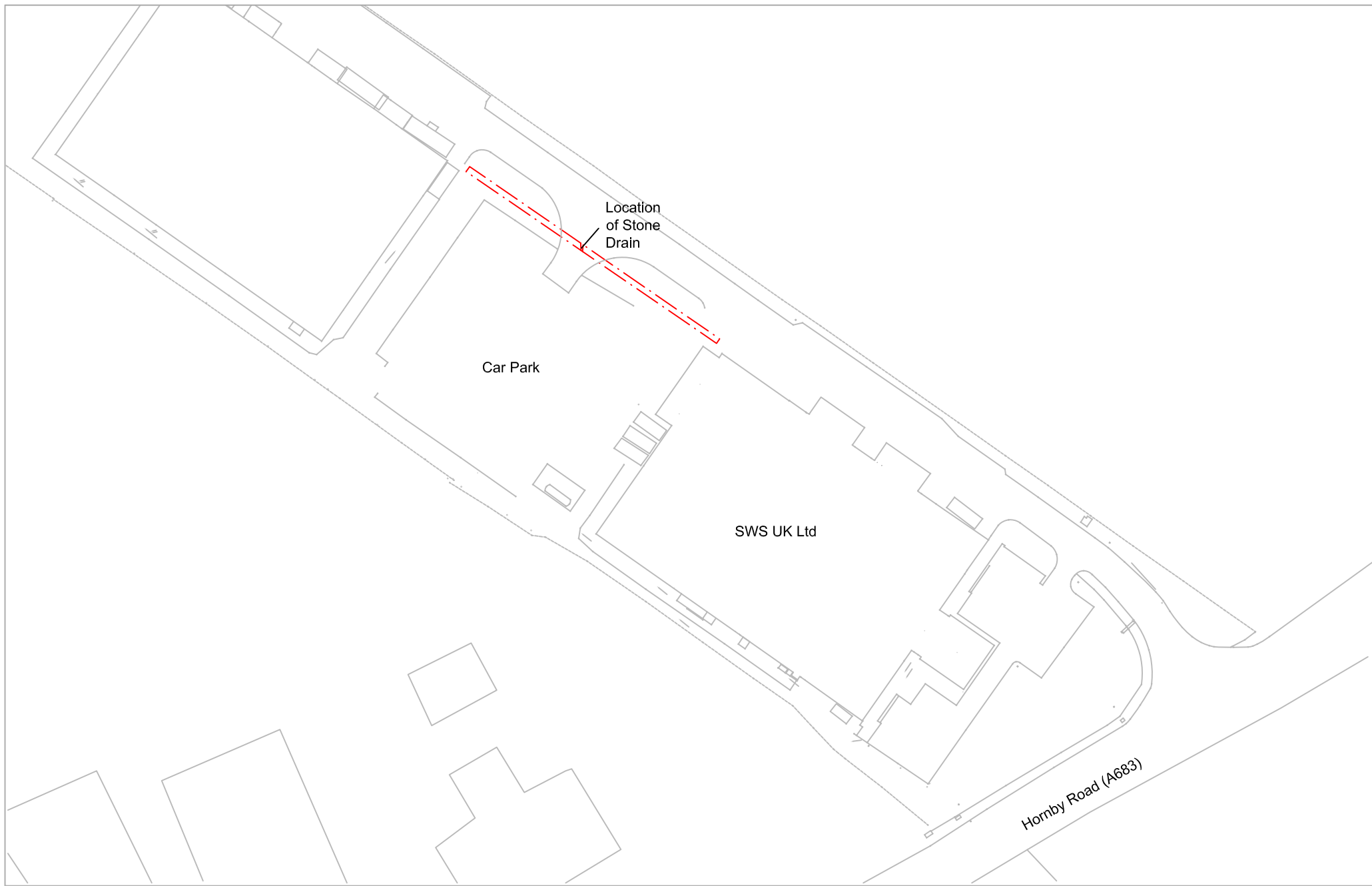


Figure 1: Location Map



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Scale 1:1000 at A4



Figure 2: Location of Watching Brief Trench Showing Stone Drain



Plate 1: Excavated drainage trench



Plate 2: Stone drain within drainage trench



Plate 3: General working of trench under excavation