



Site Compound, A556 Improvements, Over Tabley, Cheshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology North

December 2006

**Atkins Heritage, on behalf of AE
Yates**

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out for Atkins Heritage, on behalf of AE Yates, by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) during the construction of a site compound required during improvement works around Junction 19 of the M6 motorway. The compound is situated to the south of Over Tabley, Cheshire (NGR centred SJ 7387 7978), and on the north-west side of Junction 19, and measured approximately 50m x 60m.

The site lies to the west of the A556 which overlies the projected Roman road running towards Chester and is therefore within an area of archaeological potential. Consequently, Cheshire County Council's Planning Archaeologist requested that a watching brief be maintained during topsoil stripping. The work was carried out over two days, during 6th and 7th November 2006.

The topsoil was stripped down to a depth of approximately 0.3m. Only one feature was located in the south-west corner of the stripped area. A red-brick wall footing, 2, with light grey friable coarse sand mortar was revealed lying north-east/south-west. It consisted of two courses for the majority of its exposed length, and measured approximately 2.3m in length and 0.26m in width. It appeared to be of a relatively recent date, probably twentieth century. The underlying natural geology was only exposed during the subsequent excavation of a service trench running north-west/south-east across the central area of the compound. This was excavated to an average depth of 0.7m. A modern field drain was noted within the excavated service trench. No features of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the works. A number of artefact fragments were recovered from the topsoil, and therefore considered unstratified. These consisted of pottery and glass of post-medieval date (from the mid eighteenth century onwards), with two pieces of burnt shale. These are likely to represent general domestic/midden waste.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OA North would like to thank Gareth Talbot of Atkins Heritage for commissioning the project, on behalf of AE Yates. Thanks are also due to AE Yates for their logistical help on site.

The watching brief was undertaken by Andy Bates, and the report written by Kelly Clapperton. The finds were assessed by Chris Howard-Davis. The drawings were produced by Karl Taylor. The project was managed by Emily Mercer, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Atkins Heritage, on behalf of AE Yates, to undertake a watching brief during the construction of a site compound to the south of Over Tabley, Cheshire (NGR SJ 7387 7978; Fig 1). The compound will be required for use during improvements to Junction 19 of the M6 motorway. Two undesignated archaeological sites exist within the vicinity of the extent of the site, consisting of a nineteenth century decoy pond to the north-west of the Junction 19 roundabout, and the site of a medieval chapel that was once positioned on Over Tabley High Street. However, the site is also of high archaeological potential due to the A556 immediately to the east of the site which is thought to be the course of the Manchester to Chester Roman road. Consequently, the Cheshire County Council Planning Archaeologist requested that any groundworks during construction be carried out under archaeological supervision due to the potential for disturbance to any archaeological remains or deposits. The work took place on 6th to 7th November 2006. This report sets out the results of the watching brief in the form of a short document.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The site is located to the south of Over Tabley (Fig 1) and in the north of the Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain in the County of Cheshire. It is positioned immediately to the west of the A556 and north-west of Junction 19 of the M6 motorway.

1.2.2 The Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain extends from the Mersey Valley in the north, to the Shropshire Hills, and from the Welsh Hills in the west to the Pennines in the east (Countryside Commission 2006). It is characterised by gently rolling low lying farmland, intercepted by sandstone ridges, the most prominent being the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge to the west (*ibid*). The Plain was formed by Triassic sandstones and marls overlain by substantial glacial deposits, namely boulder clay with local deposits of sand and gravel. Discrete glacial hollows have encouraged the development of shallow meres that are occasionally peat filled (*ibid*)

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 **Prehistoric Period:** there is a paucity of prehistoric activity within the Over Tabley area, with only one Bronze Age shafthole axe (HER 1225) being recovered in the eighteenth century, which is now lost (Leah *et al* 1997). In northern Cheshire generally, prehistoric activity is focused around marginal areas that fringe the wetlands, wherein numerous small lithic scatters have been recovered (*ibid*); at Tatton Mere, to the north of Over Tabley, a Mesolithic hunting camp was excavated. Stray finds dating to the Bronze Age are common across the Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain, although

settlement tends to be focused upon the sandstone ridges (*ibid*). Evidence for Iron Age activity is equally rare, although small hillforts have been identified on the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge, and palaeoenvironmental evidence indicates an increase in farming and land clearance from the Iron Age through to the Romano-British period (*ibid*).

- 1.3.2 **Roman Period:** Roman activity is well documented within the major towns of Cheshire, although their impact seems to be minimal on the rural population. Evidence suggests that the local country population lived very much as they did in the Iron Age (*ibid*). Nevertheless, the construction of roads such as Watling Street, the main road linking London with northern Wales, would have certainly made the Roman presence felt. The projected line of a Roman road running to Chester is shown on modern Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping passing immediately to the east of the site, along the route of the A556. This is not currently recorded on the Cheshire County Historic Environment Record (HER), and there are no known remains associated with it in the vicinity of the development site. Nevertheless, there is potential for remains to be encountered associated with the road or roadside structures.
- 1.3.3 **Medieval Period:** place-name evidence suggests an early origin for the nearby village of Tabley, being Old English for Taebba's wood. During the later thirteenth century Sir Nicholas Leicester (Leicester), a minor nobleman, is known to have married Margaret de Dutton, acquiring the township of Tabley. His ancestor John de Leicester constructed what is now known as the Tabley Old Hall around 1380. Although Tabley Old Hall had a chapel, *Tabley Chappell* or *The Chappell in the Street* (HER 1229/1) was erected c 1440 for the convenience of the Leicester Family and their neighbours, the Daniels. It was built between their two houses and was situated in the High Street of Over Tabley. As a result, the first chapel at Tabley Old Hall fell into decay. However, Tabley Chappell was taken down in 1677 following its replacement by a chapel built in 1675 on the island near Tabley Old Hall (Richards 1947).
- 1.3.4 **Post-Medieval Period:** Tabley Old Hall was inhabited by the Leycesters until the later eighteenth century, when a new Tabley House was constructed between 1761 and 1769 by Peter Leicester, which also included extensive landscaping of the surrounding parks. The earlier hall was left to ruin and finally collapsed in 1927, being undermined by brine extraction. The chapel constructed in 1675 was moved during the first half of the twentieth century, also as a result of brine pumping. It is thought that a low mound identified during the Wetlands Survey (Leah *et al* 1997) may relate to the original site. Other earthworks observed during the survey most likely relate to the eighteenth century garden landscaping. No doubt as part of the later parkland landscape, the nineteenth century Tableypipe Wood duck decoy pond is known c 500m to the north-west of the development site (HER 2458) Duck decoys were built to trap wildfowl using nets over a narrow stretch of water, with artificial decoys built originally in the eighteenth century with radiating arms called pipes into which ducks would be enticed (Dodgson 1997).
- 1.3.5 No known archaeological sites have been recorded for the area of the compound. The first edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1881 shows that the site was being used for agricultural purposes (Atkins 2006).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 2*) was submitted by OA North in response to a request from Atkins Heritage, on behalf of AE Yates, and in accordance with a brief provided by the client (*Appendix 1*). The project design was adhered to in full and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 A permanent archaeological presence was maintained during the stripping of topsoil and excavation of a service trench within the outlined site compound area, measuring 50m x 60m approximately. Excavation was carried out by a 32 ton 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket under the constant observation of an archaeologist.
- 2.2.2 Recording was by means of OA North's standard context recording system, with trench records and supporting registers and indices. A full photographic record in colour transparency and monochrome formats was undertaken, together with digital photographs for illustrative purposes.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 2*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Cheshire Record Office on completion of the project.

3. RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify any potential archaeological features or deposits revealed during the groundworks for the site compound, and record their presence or absence, character and extent, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality. The position of the watching brief excavations is plotted on Figure 2. A list detailing all of the contexts identified during the watching brief has been provided in *Appendix 3*, with a summary of the finds in *Appendix 4*.

3.2 FIELDWORK

3.2.1 The topsoil, **1**, comprised a dark grey fine sandy-silt-clay, which was stripped down to a depth of approximately 0.3m across the compound area (Plate 1). Only one feature was revealed, which consisted of a red-brick wall footing, **2**, with light-grey friable coarse sand mortar. This was positioned within the south-west corner of the outlined compound area (Fig 2, Plate 2). It measured approximately 2.3m in length and 0.26m in width and is thought to be modern and possibly of twentieth century date.

3.2.2 The underlying natural geology, **3**, was recorded at a depth of 0.7m during the excavation of a service trench which ran north-west/south-east across the compound area (Fig 2, Plate 3). It was a mid orange-grey coarse sandy-clay. A modern field drain was noted within the trench, but the trench was backfilled before it could be accurately recorded. No features of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the watching brief.

3.3 FINDS

3.3.1 In all, 20 fragments of artefacts were recovered, along with two fragments of burnt shale (*Appendix 4*). All were from the topsoil, and can thus be regarded as effectively unstratified. There were 11 fragments of pottery, ranging in date from the late eighteenth to the twentieth century. The earliest fragment, a featureless fragment of white salt-glazed stoneware, could possibly date to as early as the mid eighteenth century, but the fragment lacks any diagnostic features which might allow dating to be refined. The range of fabric and forms suggests a domestic context, with tablewares (including a creamware teacup), and a small fragment of a black-glazed chamber pot rim.

3.3.2 There were eight fragments of glass (seven vessel, one window); the vessel glass is all recent, and includes opaque white heat-resistant glass (Pyrex), placing it in the second half of the twentieth century at the earliest. The window glass is a small greenish pane-edge fragment, possibly cylinder blown, which might suggest an eighteenth century date, although its excellent condition seems to challenge this. There was one small fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem, which cannot be dated with any precision.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The area of the site compound revealed no features of archaeological significance during the topsoil strip under permanent archaeological presence. However, the relatively shallow depth of the excavation to 0.3m meant that the underlying subsoil was not reached, where any stratified archaeological features are normally encountered. Despite the natural geology, **3**, having been revealed during the excavation of the service trench, the limited width of the trench inhibited suitable archaeological observation, although a modern drain was noted.
- 4.1.2 The short section of brick wall, **2**, revealed during the fieldwork is likely to date to the twentieth century and there was no obvious function or association observed from the limited excavation. Indeed, the location of the site compound to the south of Over Tabley village suggests that it was possibly outwith areas of earlier development and probably used only for agricultural purposes only.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Atkins Heritage, 2006 *Site Compound: A556 Improvements, Over Tabley, Cheshire. Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief*, unpubl doc

Countryside Commission, 2006 *Countryside Character, Volume 5: West Midlands, 61/62*, Cheltenham

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English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edn, London

Leah, MD, Wells, CE, Appleby, C and Huckerby, E, 1997 *The Wetlands of Cheshire: North-West Wetlands Survey 4*, Lancaster

Richards, R, 1947 *Old Cheshire Churches*, Moreton

6. ILLUSTRATIONS

6.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

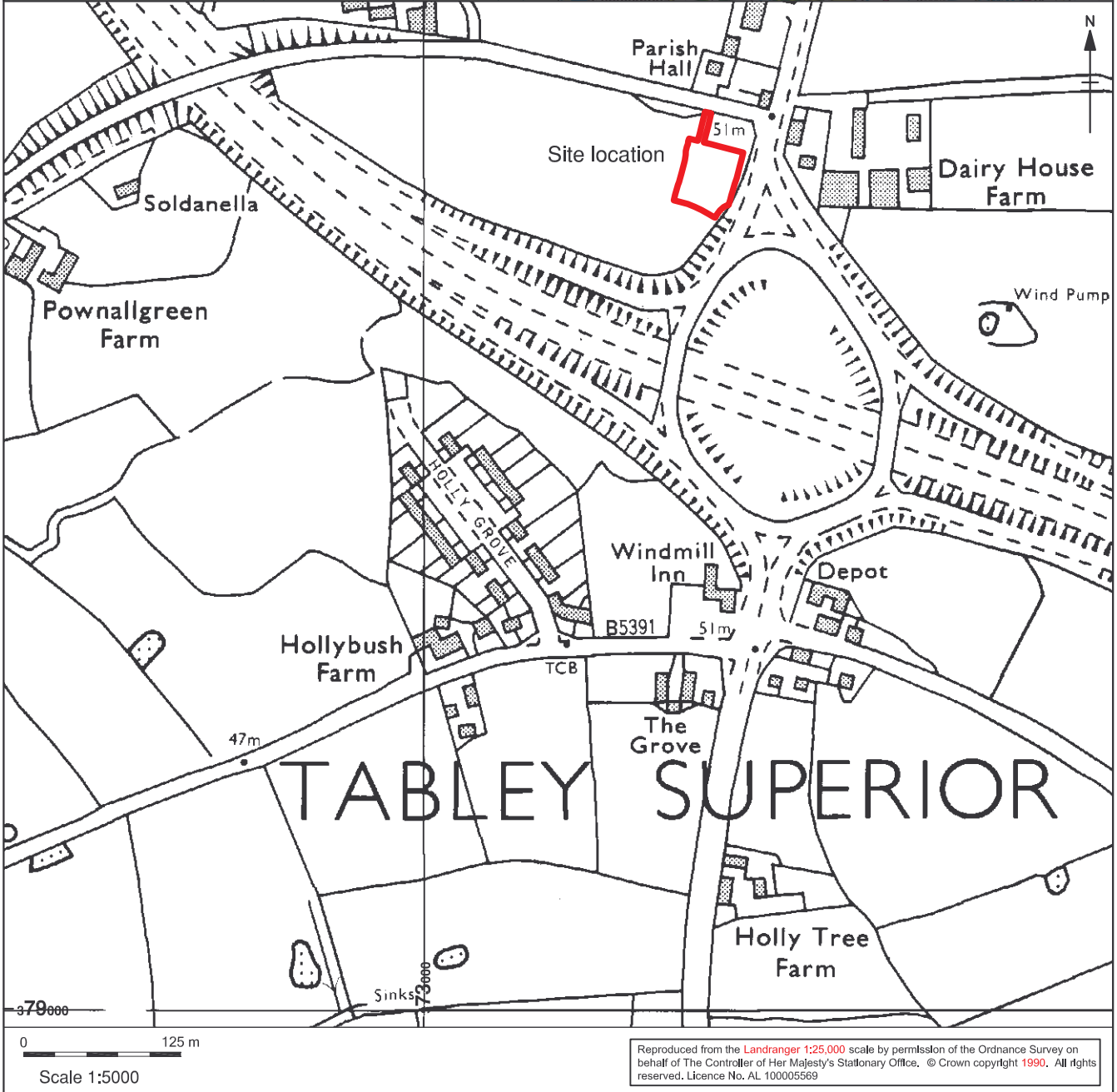
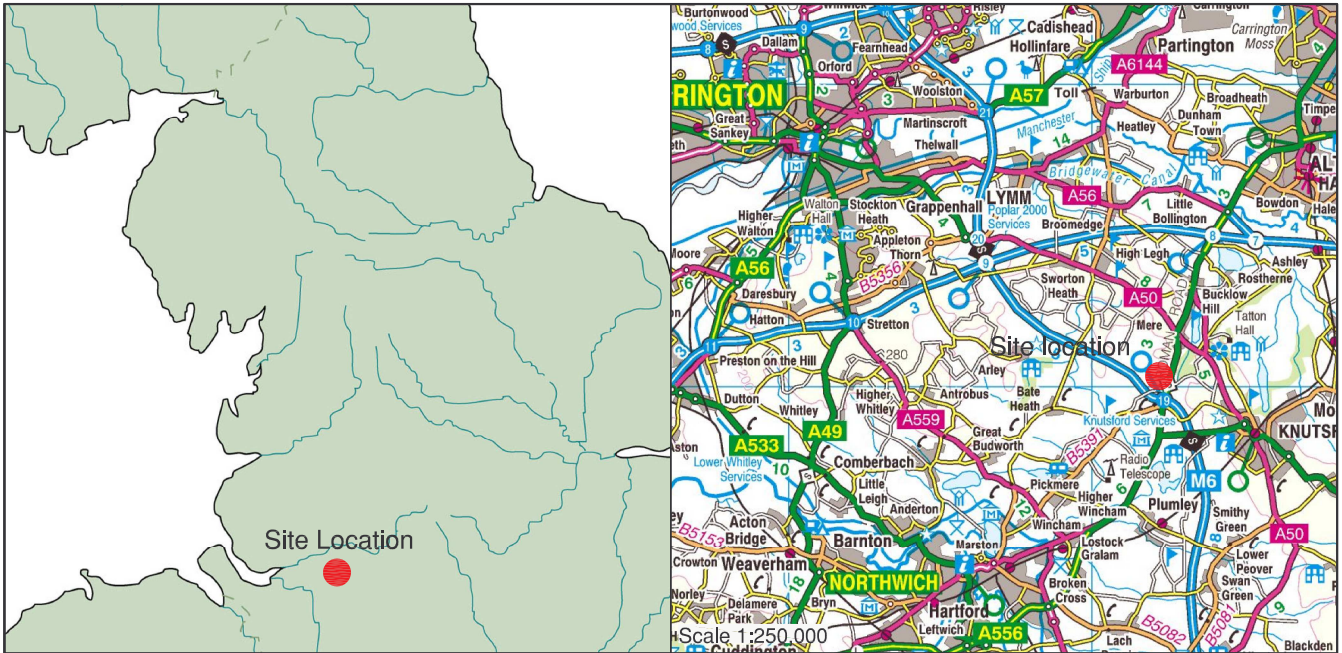
Figure 2: Plan of stripped area, showing the location of the service trench and brick footing, 2

6.2 PLATES

Plate 1: View of area stripped during watching brief, looking south

Plate 2: View of brick footing 2, looking north

Plate 3: View along service trench, looking north-west



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Figure 1: Site Location

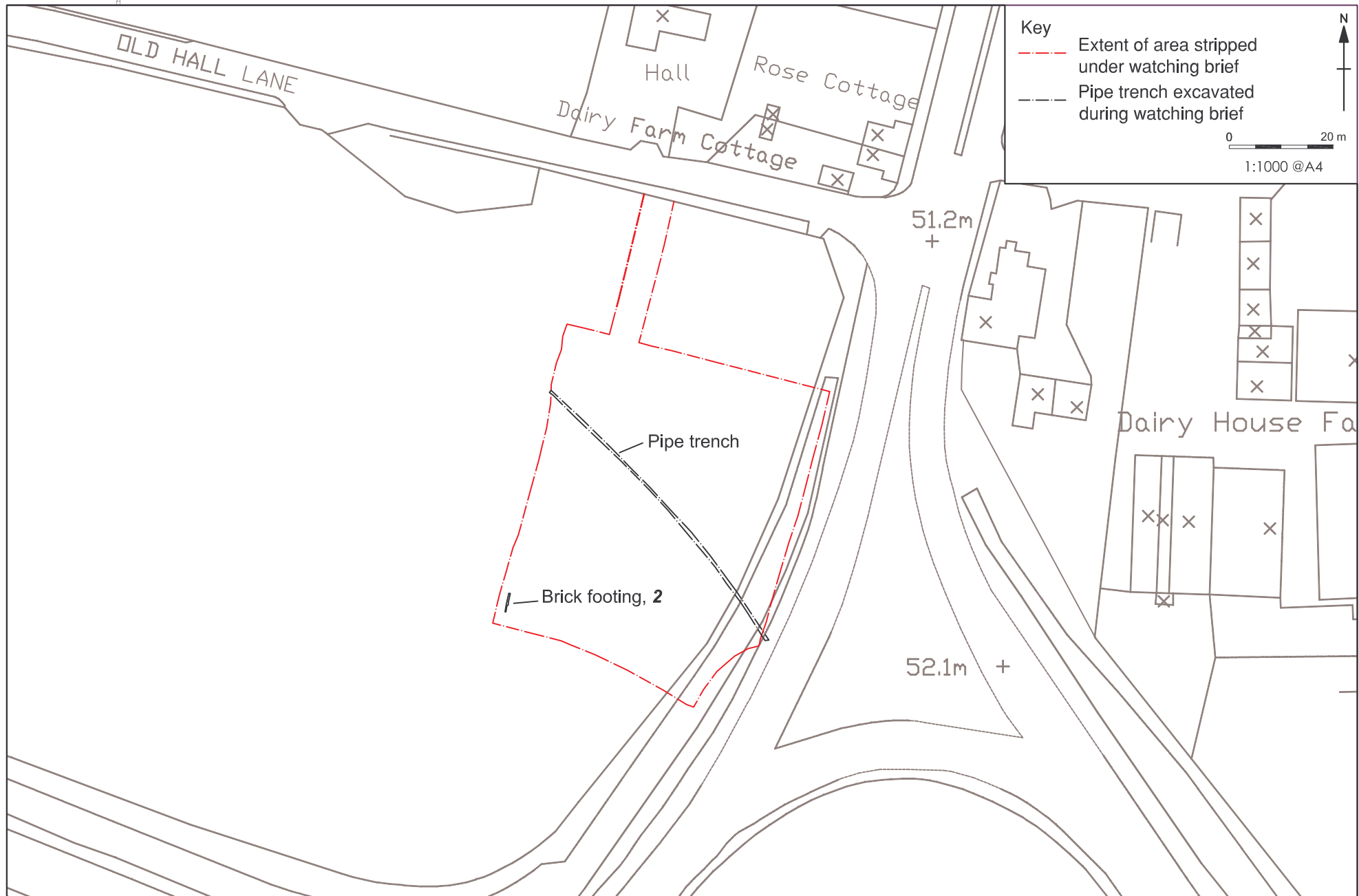


Figure 2: Plan of stripped area showing the location of the service trench and brick footing, 2



Plate 1: View of area stripped during watching brief, looking south



Plate 2: View of brick footing 2, looking north



Plate 3: View along service trench, looking north-west

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

Site Compound
A556 Improvements, Over Tabley,
Cheshire

**BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This brief sets out the background and general conditions to enable a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (Method Statement) to be prepared and submitted to Atkins Heritage for approval.
- 1.2 AE Yates are undertaking the construction of the site compound that is to be used during improvements works around Junction 19 of the M6 to the south of Over Tabley, Cheshire. Due to the potential for impacting below ground archaeological remains the statutory consultee, Mr. Mark Leah of Cheshire County Council has requested that a watching brief be undertaken on the topsoil stripping for the compound in order to mitigate any impacts. Atkins Heritage have been appointed to manage the archaeological issues of the scheme on behalf of AE Yates.

2. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 This brief is for a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (Watching Brief) for the site compound off the A556 at Over Tabley, Cheshire.
- 2.2 Oxford Archaeology North are asked to submit a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) by email to gareth.talbot@atkinsglobal.com

Atkins Heritage
3100 Century Way
Thorpe Park
Leeds
LS15 8ZB
Tel: 0113 306 6237
Fax: 0113 306 6002

- 2.3 Oxford Archaeology North are required to undertake the works in accordance with this Brief; any deviation from the Brief must be clearly stated in the WSI.
- 2.4 The WSI should include the following information as a minimum:
 - Aims and objectives
 - Recording methods and referencing systems to be adopted
 - Report writing and archiving methodology and programme

- Contain the elements as outlined in section 3.2.12 of the IFA guidelines “Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief” (Revised 2001).

2.5 In addition, the following information should be supplied:

- A daily rate for carrying out a watching brief
- A fixed cost or rate (if necessary) for production of a client report
- Details of company Health and Safety Policy and a risk assessment of the project
- Evidence of Company Insurance
- A named individual who will be responsible for the project, with CV and contact details
- Details of any external specialists and other third parties to be used in the commission
- Details of key site staff and specialists, including CVs

2.6 Atkins Heritage will liaise directly with Cheshire County Council in all matters concerning this project. Oxford Archaeology North will communicate directly with Atkins Heritage in all matters unless otherwise directed.

3. LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 The site is in the County of Cheshire, situated to the south of Over Tabley, off of Junction 19 of the M6. The site compound is located at NGR 7387 7978 (centrepoint) and the extents of the proposed topsoil strip is shown on Figure 1.

4. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

4.1 A search of the MAGIC website did not show any Scheduled Monuments, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Registered Historic Battlefields or Ancient Woodland within the site compound area.

4.2 The Cheshire HER did showed two undesignated archaeological assets within the area of the site compound: a 19th century decoy pond in Tableypipe Wood, c500m to the north-west of the J19 roundabout; and the site of a medieval chapel known as *Tabley Chappell* or *The Chappell in the Street* that used to stand on the High Street of Over Tabley.

- 4.3 Whilst not recorded on the HER, the projected line of the Roman road running towards Chester is recorded on the modern OS map, and although there are no remains associated with it recorded within the area of the site compound there is some potential for the survival of road and roadside structures in areas of undisturbed ground, in particular the area of the site compound.
- 4.4 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1881 shows the site being used for agricultural purposes, a use which it retains today as a pastureland.

5. AIMS

- 5.1 The aims of the watching brief are:
- To record the nature, extent, date, character, quality, significance and state of preservation of any archaeological remains affected by the groundworks.
 - To assess where appropriate the ecofactual and palaeoenvironmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.
 - Environmental sampling strategy to be outlined in the WSI and will fit in with current English Heritage guidelines.
 - To report on the results of the Watching Brief.

6. METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The Watching Brief is to be undertaken during all topsoil stripping for the site compound. The area to be stripped is not yet known, when known it will be communicated to Oxford Archaeology North by Atkins Heritage. Monitoring will be initially undertaken during the entirety of the topsoil strip.
- 6.2 All observation and recording must be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist, and in accordance with the *Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* and with appropriate English Heritage guidelines.
- 6.3 In the event of significant archaeological remains being discovered, for which the resources allocated are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and

proper standard, all groundworks with the potential to affect that archaeology should be halted and Atkins Heritage contacted. Works should not continue until a suitable mitigation strategy has been agreed between Atkins Heritage and Cheshire County Council.

- 6.4 Any discovered human remains should be left *in situ*, covered and protected and Atkins Heritage informed immediately. Atkins Heritage will inform the local Coroner as appropriate. Removal should only take place under appropriate Home Office licence, section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 and local environmental health regulations, and, if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 following confirmation from Atkins Heritage.
- 6.5 All finds of gold and silver should be removed to a safe place and reported to Atkins Heritage who will inform the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act of 1996 and the local FLO.
- 6.6 Consideration should be given to taking environmental samples from well stratified, datable deposits. Environmental sampling strategy to be outlined in the WSI and will fit in with current English Heritage guidelines.
- 6.7 Sections should be drawn at 1:20. Plans will be drawn at 1:50 and where necessary 1:20 (i.e. burials/deep stratigraphy). A site plan showing Watching Brief areas will be drawn up and tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 6.8 A full photographic record comprising black and white negative and colour slides will be made. If digital photographs form part of the final report, images need to be at least 300 dpi and be taken with an optical zoom camera.
- 6.9 All finds must be processed according to the *Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. All pottery and other finds should be marked with the site code and context number and, where possible, the Museum Accession number.

7. PROGRAMME AND SITE MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Initial groundworks in the form of the topsoil strip are anticipated to start 6th November 2006. Written notice of the start date of fieldwork will be given to Cheshire County Council by Atkins Heritage.
- 7.2 Fieldwork must be undertaken in accordance with all relevant current Health and Safety Legislation.
- 7.3 A Risk Assessment will be carried out prior to the commencement of works, a copy of which will be sent to Atkins Heritage, and by email to Harry Johnson the site manager: harry.johnson@atkinsglobal.com
- 7.4 As you will be entering a construction site a full site induction will be required before work begins, you will be advised of details prior to work commencing by AE Yates.
- 7.5 Appropriate PPE will be worn by the supervising archaeologist(s), which will be a minimum of hard hat, high visibility jacket and site boots, and this will be the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to supply and maintain.

8. REPORT AND ARCHIVE

- 8.1 Following the completion of fieldwork, a full report on the results of the Watching Brief should be prepared in accordance with standard IFA guidelines, and include plan and section drawings and photographs as appropriate.
- 8.2 A draft copy should be issued to Atkins Heritage for review. Once feedback has been received and revisions made, the report can be finalised. 6 hard copies and 1 CD copy should be sent to Atkins Heritage who will disseminate it to the relevant parties.
- 8.3 An OASIS form should be submitted to the Archaeology Data Service by the Oxford Archaeology North.
- 8.4 The site archive should be assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in English Heritage (1990) *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* and prepared in accordance to the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage*. Site archive will be deposited with Cheshire

Museums Service. An accession number will be obtained by the appointed contractor prior to work commencing.

8.5 The site archive should be microfilmed to RCHME standards and submitted to the National Archaeological Record.

8.6 If appropriate, results of the watching brief will be published in a suitable journal or publication.

9. REFERENCES

IFA. 2001. *Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.*

IFA. 2001. *Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*



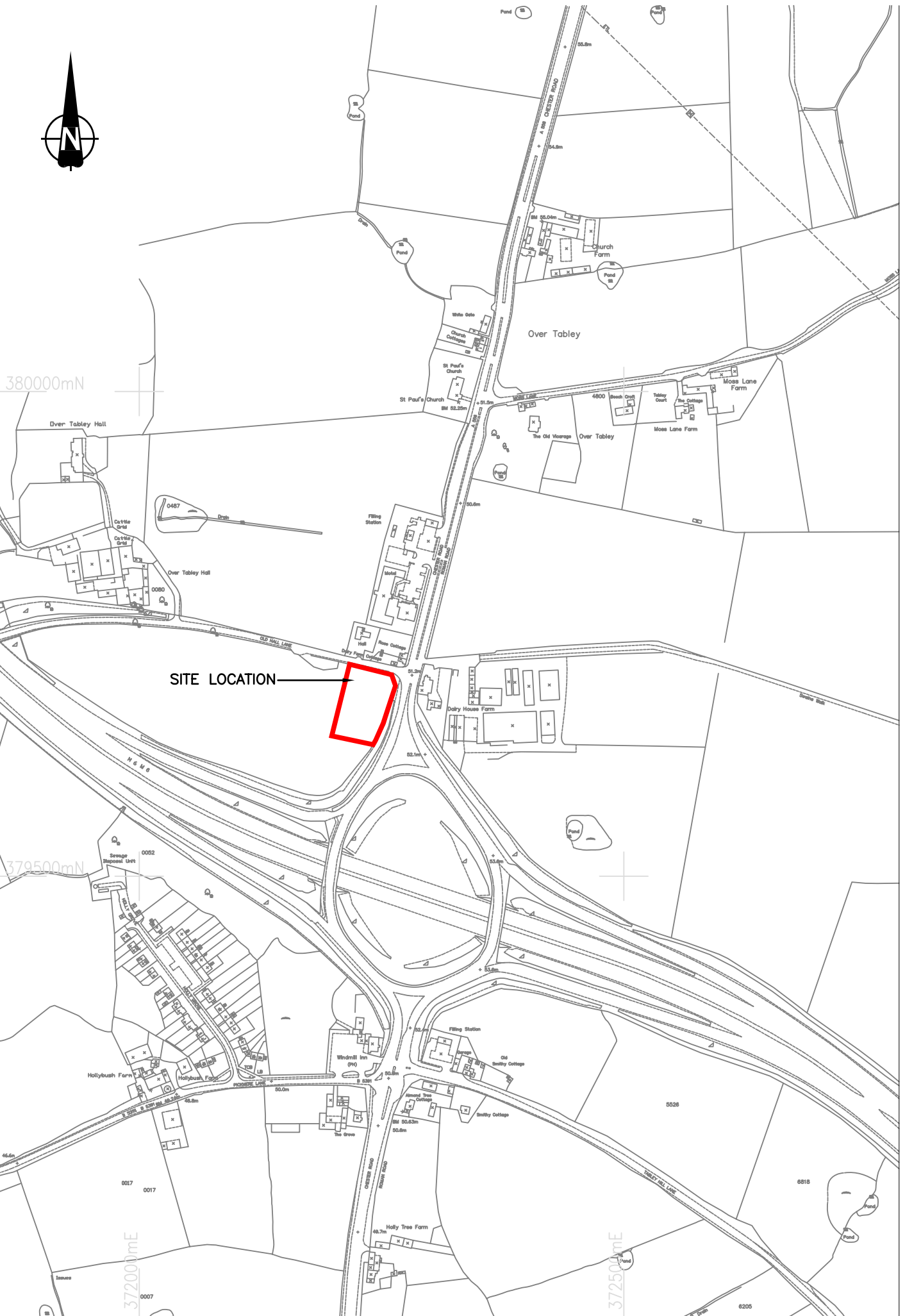
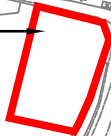
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379500mN

372000mE

372500mE

SITE LOCATION



APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 AE Yates are undertaking the construction of a compound (NGR SJ 7387 7978) to be used during improvements works to the M6 junction 19 with the A556 south of Over Tabley, Cheshire. Due to the potential for impacting on below ground archaeological remains, Mark Leah of Cheshire County Council has requested that a watching brief is undertaken of the topsoil stripping for the compound in order to mitigate any impacts. Atkins Heritage (hereafter the client) have been appointed to manage the archaeological issues of the scheme on behalf of AE Yates.
- 1.1.2 Examination of the Cheshire HER revealed two undesignated archaeological assets within the area of the site compound: a 19th century decoy pond in Tableypipe Wood, c500m to the north-west of the J19 roundabout; and the site of a medieval chapel known as *Tabley Chappell* or *The Chappell in the Street* that used to stand on the High Street of Over Tabley.
- 1.1.3 Whilst not recorded on the HER, the projected line of the Roman road running towards Chester is recorded on the modern OS map, and although there are no remains associated with it recorded within the area of the site compound there is some potential for the survival of road and roadside structures in areas of undisturbed ground, in particular the area of the site compound.
- 1.1.4 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1881 shows the site being used for agricultural purposes, a use which it retains today as a pastureland.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 OA North has undertaken a great number of small and large-scale projects during the past 27 years. Watching briefs have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. 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 to provide for accurate recording of any archaeological deposits that are disturbed by ground works for the proposed development.
- 2.2 ***Permanent Presence Watching Brief:*** a watching brief, during associated ground disturbance, will determine the nature, extent, date, character, quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains on the site affected by the groundworks. The watching brief will also assess, where appropriate, the ecofactual and palaeoenvironmental potential of archaeological deposits and features from within the site.
- 2.3 ***Report and Archive:*** a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. 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 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1.1 A programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the topsoil stripping activities in the course of the proposed development works. A 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 during observation.
- 3.1.2 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 provided by the Client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.1.3 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced.
- 3.1.4 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 (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).
- 3.1.5 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. 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 the Merseyside Archaeological Officer and will require a variation to costing.
- 3.1.6 **Environmental Sampling:** securely dated and stratified deposits will be sampled and assessed for their potential for palaeoenvironmental analysis. Environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 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). It may be necessary for OA North's environmental manager to attend site to discuss the sampling strategy, depending on the deposits, and request advice from English Heritage's Regional Science Advisor.
- 3.1.7 An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of suitable deposits by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis. This will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines.
- 3.1.8 The costs for any palaeoecological assessment, if suitable deposits are identified, would be in addition to those outlined at the end of this document.
- 3.1.9 **Faunal remains:** if there is found to be the potential for discovery of bones of fish and small mammals a sieving programme will be carried out. These will be assessed as appropriate by OA north's specialist in faunal remains, and subject to the results, there may be a requirement for more detailed analysis. A contingency has been included for the assessment of such faunal remains for analysis.
- 3.1.10 **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. Cheshire Archaeological Service 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.
- 3.1.11 **Treatment of finds:** all finds 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.
- 3.1.12 **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.

- 3.1.13 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.

3.2 ARCHIVE/REPORT

- 3.2.1 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.
- 3.2.2 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, and a further copy submitted to the County Archaeological Officer within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above
- 3.2.3 **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 PROJECT MONITORING

- 4.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken through the auspices of the County Archaeologist, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work.

5 WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The duration of the archaeological presence for the watching brief is as yet unknown, being dictated by the schedule of works.
- 5.2 The client report will be completed within eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

6 STAFFING

- 6.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 6.2 The watching brief will be supervised in the field by either an OA North project officer or supervisor experienced in this type of project. All OA North project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.
- 6.3 Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing at this stage exactly who will be undertaking the watching brief element of the project.

7 INSURANCE

- 7.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No	Description
<i>1</i>	Topsoil
<i>2</i>	Brick footing
<i>3</i>	Natural: glacial till

APPENDIX 4: FINDS SUMMARY

Cxt = context; OR = Object Record number; Cat = category; Qty = quantity

Cxt	OR	Material	Cat	No.	Description	Date
Topsoil	1001	Ceramic	Vessel	4	Fragments of a small creamware teacup.	Late eighteenth – early nineteenth century
Topsoil	1001	Ceramic	Vessel	2	Undiagnostic fragments of white-glazed ware.	Nineteenth century or later
Topsoil	1001	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Blue and white underglaze transfer-printed whiteware.	Nineteenth century or later
Topsoil	1001	Ceramic	Vessel	1	Undiagnostic fragment white salt-glazed stoneware.	Mid-late eighteenth century
Topsoil	1001	Ceramic	Vessel	3	Small fragments of black-glazed redware, includes a ?chamber pot rim.	Late eighteenth century or later
Topsoil	1001	Ceramic	Tobacco pipe	1	Stem fragment	Post-medieval
Topsoil	1001	Glass	Vessel	4	Colourless bottle	Twentieth century
Topsoil	1001	Glass	Vessel	1	Opaque white heat resistant glass. Pyrex?	Mid-twentieth century or later
Topsoil	1001	Glass	Vessel	2	Green bottle	Mid-twentieth century or later
Topsoil	1001	Glass	Window	1	Small pane-edge fragment, greenish.	Late eighteenth century or later
Topsoil	1001	Stone		2	Small fragments of burnt coal shale.	