

Bradford Lane, Nether Alderley, CHESHIRE



Documentary Research, Walkover Survey and Watching Brief



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SUMMARY

Following a proposal by United Utilities to construct a new water main measuring 160m long and running adjacent to Bradford Lane (NGR SJ 86018 77110 to SJ 84951 76338), Nether Alderley, Cheshire, the Historic Environment Records Officer recommended a programme of archaeological work. This was to comprise documentary research and a walkover survey of an area around the proposed development, in order to assess the likely impact on any remains of archaeological significance. This was undertaken in May 2007.

The route of the proposed pipeline crosses through mainly agricultural land, which would have once been in the Stanley Estate. The only medieval feature identified through the documentary research was the site of an iron bloomery (Site **07**) and the Stanley Estate has four Listed Buildings (Sites **01-04**), within the study area, which are post-medieval in date. Indeed, for the most part, the study area may be characterised as a post-medieval and Industrial Period, agricultural landscape, with such features as field boundaries (Sites **12, 15, 18** and **20**), marl pits (Sites **10, 17** and **19**), a drainage system (Site **11**) and the site of a water/feeding hollow (Site **16**). Mining and quarrying have had a major influence on the surrounding landscape, but there has been no recorded evidence of mining within the study area itself. However, there are remains of sandstone quarries (Sites **06, 08** and **21**) and associated tracks and roads (Sites **05, 13** and **14**), all of which, date to the Industrial Period. In addition, the final feature identified and confirmed was that of a disused Industrial period hollow-way/lane previously known as Cow Lane (Site **09**).

In total, 21 sites of archaeological interest were identified through the documentary research and walkover survey. Of these, 17 were identified through the documentary research, whilst 16 (Sites **01-06, 08-11, 13-15, 18, 20** and **21**) were enhanced by the walkover survey. Of the seventeen sites identified by the documentary research, four are Listed Buildings (Sites **01-04**), and five are recorded in the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER; Sites **05-09**). A further four sites (Sites **12, 16, 17** and **19**), were identified during the course of the walkover survey.

Of the 21 sites identified within the study area, four (**12, 13, 14** and **18**) were considered likely to be affected by the development works. Following consultation with the Historic Environment Records Officer regarding the recommendations of the documentary research and walkover survey, a watching brief was carried out (in June 2007), in order to investigate sites **13, 14** and **18** and fully record any archaeological remains uncovered during the topsoil strip of the easement. Site **12** had already been removed prior to the commencement of the watching brief. The earthwork remains of field boundary walls were observed (Site **18**) in Field 3 and the nature of the boundaries between the fields on site was noted. No evidence was observed for the Sites **13** and **14**, and very little else of archaeological interest was encountered.

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank United Utilities for commissioning and supporting the project. In addition, thanks are also due to Robert Edwards at the Cheshire County Historic Environment Record (CCHER) for his help and information. Thanks are also due to Jamie Lund the National Trust archaeologist and Nigel Dibben from the Derbyshire Caving Club (DCC) who provided information about the area.

Christina Robinson undertook the documentary research and the walkover survey. Phillipa Haworth and Kathryn Levey carried out the watching brief. Christina Robinson and Kathryn Levey compiled the report, and Christina produced the drawings. Alison Plummer managed the project, and edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Following a proposal by United Utilities to construct a new water main measuring 160m and running along and adjacent to Bradford Lane (NGR SJ 86018 77110 to SJ 84951 76338) and Hocker Lane (NGR SJ 84834 76480 to SJ 85037 76214) the Historic Environment Records Officer at Cheshire County Council Environmental Planning Service recommended a programme of archaeological work be carried out prior to the development. This was to comprise documentary research, a walkover survey and a watching brief of the proposed route.
- 1.1.2 This report sets out the results of all three elements in the form of a short document.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 OA North submitted a project design (*Appendix 2*) in response to a brief (*Appendix 1*) issued by the Historic Environment Records Officer at Cheshire County Council Environmental Planning Services. 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 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

2.2.1 A study area of 1km either side of the proposed pipeline route was examined. The documentary research comprised an examination of published and unpublished sources and maps. Any sites of any interest within the study area were collated into a gazetteer (*Section 5*).

2.2.2 ***Historic Environment Record (HER)***: this is a list of all of the known sites of archaeological interest within the county, which is maintained by Cheshire County Council. It is the primary source of information for an assessment of this kind and comprises a description and location of all sites, together with appropriate references to any primary or secondary sources. Details of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings are also contained within it.

2.2.3 ***Oxford Archaeology North***: OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

2.3 WALKOVER SURVEY

2.3.1 Following the documentary research, a level I-type survey (English Heritage 2007) was undertaken to relate the existing landscape to research findings. This encompassed a 100m area along either side of the pipeline, thus producing a 200m wide corridor, which was walked in a systematic fashion. Archaeological features identified within the landscape were recorded using the relevant OA North *pro forma*, and the features located using differential GPS survey, which can achieve an accuracy of +/- 5m with respect to the OS national grid.

2.4 WATCHING BRIEF

2.4.1 This programme of field observation accurately recorded the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits exposed during the course of the topsoil strip within the easement. The work comprised 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 during observation.

- 2.4.2 All groundworks on the site were conducted under constant archaeological supervision and comprised stripping of topsoil and subsoil to a maximum depth of 0.4m. These works were enacted by a 360° mechanical excavator using a 2m flat ditching bucket. All exposed soil horizons were examined and described and spoil heaps were carefully checked for any unstratified finds.
- 2.4.3 A daily record of the nature, extent and depths of groundworks was maintained throughout the duration of the project. All archaeological features were recorded on OA North's *pro-forma* sheets, using a system based on that of the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A monochrome and colour slide photographic record was maintained throughout and, where appropriate, scaled plans and sections were produced to locate the presence of archaeological features as accurately as possible.

2.5 ARCHIVE

- 2.5.1 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 county records office in Chester on completion of the project.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The development area is situated along, and adjacent to, Bradford Lane (NGR SJ 86018 77110 to SJ 84951 76338) and Hocker Lane (NGR SJ 84834 76480 to SJ 85037 76214). The north-east end of the development area lies approximately 1km north-west of Alderley Edge, whilst the south-east end is approximately 1km west of Nether Alderley. The area is situated within the Cheshire plain, which stretches from Congelton in the south, westwards to Knutsford, and from Sandbach on the eastern edge of the Cheshire low lands, north to Wilmslow, and finally to Macclesfield, Bollington and the Pennine margin in the east (Timberlake and Prag 2005).
- 3.1.2 The solid geology is of Permian and Triassic sandstone, which dominates this area (BGS 2007). The sandstone has regular outcrops, which have been exploited throughout the centuries through mining and quarrying. The sandstone outcrops are rich in minerals, such as copper, lead, silver, nickel and cobalt ores, whilst the overlying soils mainly consist of glacial sands and gravels (*ibid*) with patches of clay. In the surrounding areas of Alderley Edge are some of the largest surviving wetlands in Cheshire (Timberlake and Prag 2005).

3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this historical and archaeological background is principally compiled from secondary sources and is intended to provide an historic context for the walkover survey and watching brief.

Period	Date Range
Palaeolithic	30,000 – 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	10,000 – 3,500 BC
Neolithic	3,500 – 2,200 BC
Bronze Age	2,200 – 700 BC
Iron Age	700 BC – AD 43
Romano-British	AD 43 – AD 410
Early Medieval	AD 410 – AD 1066
Late Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1540
Post-medieval	AD 1540 – c1750
Industrial Period	cAD1750 – 1901
Modern	Post-1901

Table 1: British archaeological periods and date ranges

- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** the early evidence for man in the Alderley Edge comprises Mesolithic settlement and mining of copper and other ores during the Early Bronze Age (Timberlake and Prag 2005). In total, there have been 13 sites within Alderley Edge that have produced Mesolithic flint scatters. These sites are situated on the tops of prominent outcrops, such as Castle Rock (main site) (*ibid*). It is thought that these sites were being used by a community of

seasonal hunter gathers of an undetermined size, likely to be on route between the coast and Pennine uplands (*ibid*).

- 3.2.3 Copper mining is evident in the form of pit-workings and is mainly contained within the Brynlow and Engine Vein area. The best examples of these pit-workings have long since gone, due to later mining activities. These pits were noted by Dawkins in 1874, and located in, and on the sides of, these pits at Brynlow were grooved hammer stones. The most impressive find that has helped confirm the date of these Early Bronze Age mines is the oak shovel which was found by Dr J D Sainter in 1875 (Timberlake and Prag 2005). There are no confirmed sites of prehistoric date present within the study area.
- 3.2.4 **Romano-British:** there is little evidence of any permanent Roman presence in the Alderley Edge area. However, at Engine Vein there is evidence of the Romans having an interest in the metal deposits as early as the first century AD (Timberlake and Prag 2005). These metals ores are thought to be used by the Romans well into the third and fourth centuries AD (*ibid*). The major find, which confirms Roman presence in this period, is the hoard of 4th century AD coins found in the top of Pot Shaft (*ibid*). There are no confirmed sites of Romano-British date present within the study area.
- 3.2.5 **Medieval:** it is believed that mining continued into the medieval period but there has been no solid evidence to date such sites. The only other site which appears to have medieval origins is the iron bloomery (Site 07) near Bradford Cottage. Fourteenth century pottery was also found at this location (Timberlake and Prag 2005), but the site will be unaffected by the proposed route of the pipeline.
- 3.2.6 **Post-medieval:** the exploitation of the natural resources on the Edge continued into this period, mainly with copper and lead mining, and there are also numerous sandstone quarries in the area.
- 3.2.7 The agricultural land in the area did not undergo a great deal of change in this period, and has remained as pastoral land. The changes that have occurred are commonly represented by the removal of field boundaries, a process that began in the nineteenth century and continued into the twentieth century. The remains of these former boundaries can be seen as earthwork banks. Other agricultural features that have appeared in the area include marl pits. Marl extraction has been a process of fertilising the land since the medieval period, but increased greatly during the eighteenth century (Williamson 2003).
- 3.2.8 The Stanley family first became associated with the Alderley area in the fifteenth century when Sir John Stanley married Elizabeth de Weever of Weever and Alderley. Thomas Stanley (Sir John Stanley's great-grandson) was the first Stanley to make Alderley his main residence, in the late fifteenth century, and re-built the halls at both Weever and Alderley (<http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/fulltext/hs1864/alderley.htm>, accessed 08.05.07). Sir Thomas Stanley's grandson, also Sir Thomas Stanley, was responsible for the purchase of the manor of Nether Alderley in the late sixteenth century. Further improvements weren't made until 1779 when the 1st Lord J T Stanley enclosed Alderley Edge (http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/alderley_edge_

walks_leaflet_orange.pdf, accessed 08.05.07). It was this Lord Stanley that commissioned the building of sites **02-04** and the 2nd Lord Stanley who had site **01** built. The estate was finally dismantled in 1938 when it was sold (Timberlake and Prag 2005).

- 3.2.9 The documentary research has identified 17 sites within the study area, including quarries (Sites **06, 08** and **21**) and associated track ways (Sites **13** and **14**), a cobbled quarry road (Site **05**), an iron bloomery (Site **07**), field boundaries (Sites **15, 18** and **20**), a possible marl pit (Site **10**), a former lane (Cow Lane; Site **09**), a drainage system (Site **11**) and four listed buildings (Sites **01-04**).

3.3 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 3.3.1 *Crossley Estate Map 1787*: this estate map, produced by the surveyor William Crossley, post-dates the enclosure of 1779 and depicts a complex pattern of small irregular fields, most of which, are still in existence today with the occasional boundary removed. Bradford House Farm is depicted, but none of the other buildings are clearly defined due to the poor quality of the map reproduction. Certainly none of the four listed buildings (Sites **01-04**) appear on this map, as none of these were built until the nineteenth century.

- 3.3.2 *First Edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey (1871-72; Fig 3)*: this shows little change in the arrangement to the field systems in the area, but a few boundaries have been removed, whilst some have been added. There are also additional quarries and track ways that are still visible today. All of the listed buildings (Sites **01-04**) have been added by this point, whilst the other buildings, such as Hayman's farm are more clearly defined.

- 3.3.3 *Second Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey (1909, Fig 4)*: the map appears to offer little additional detail to that already supplied by the earlier mapping. Certainly Bradford Lane Farm is now a distinct set of buildings and features, which includes a well. Additionally, Beechtree Lodge and its associated buildings (**01-03**) has been annotated as such, rather than its previous nomenclature, *Beechtree Cottage*. Similar comments may also be made regarding Bradford House, and the suite of buildings at Bradford Lodge (**04**)

3.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

- 3.4.1 Previous archaeological works have taken place within the area of the Alderley Edge Landscape Project, but none have been undertaken within the area of study.

4. WALKOVER SURVEY

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The walkover survey aimed to determine both the survival of above ground remains of sites recorded during the documentary research, and also to identify previously unrecorded sites along the proposed pipeline route.
- 4.1.2 All of the fields within, and adjacent to, the pipeline route were walked systematically. The ground conditions were good, in the main part, for identifying sites through walkover. The vast majority of fields explored were under pasture and had a covering of short grass, although several fields were wooded, comprising both deciduous and coniferous trees.

4.2 RESULTS

- 4.2.1 The walkover survey investigated the sites identified by the documentary research, of which, 16 were located (Sites **01-06, 08-11, 13-15, 18, 20** and **21**). The walkover survey identified a further four sites of archaeological significance (Sites **12, 16, 17** and **19**).
- 4.2.2 **Stanley Estate-Related Buildings:** in total, there are four buildings that relate to the Stanley Estate. Beech Tree Lodge (Site **02**) was built c 1815 for the 1st Lord Stanley, and originally comprised two gamekeepers' cottages, but these have subsequently been converted into a single dwelling. At the rear of this lodge, there is a former pigcote, shippon and earth closet (Site **03**), again dating from the same period, which are now used as a study and storage space. In addition, there is an early nineteenth century farmhouse and cottage (**04**), and, finally, a mid-nineteenth century (1867) kennel compound and kennel house (**01**), which have been converted into a garden and shed respectively.
- 4.2.3 **Quarries and Quarry-Related Features:** three quarries were observed (Sites **06, 08** and **21**), which appear to date from the Industrial Period (post-1750) and are clearly for sandstone extraction. Three track ways/roads are associated with these quarries. Site **05** is the cobbled road surface along Bradford Lane Quarry road from which tracks **13** and **14** lead from, and towards, Site **08**.
- 4.2.4 **Agricultural Features:** the majority of identified sites were agrarian in nature and date from the Industrial Period. The most common feature represented within the study area are the remains of field boundaries, of which there are four (Sites **12, 15, 18** and **20**). The remaining features comprise three marl pits (Sites **10, 17** and **19**), a drainage system (Site **11**) in Finlow Hill Wood, and a water/feeding hollow (Site **16**).
- 4.2.5 **Miscellaneous Sites:** Cow Lane (Site **09**) is located across the top of Finlow Hill Wood, nearly adjacent to Macclesfield road. The site survives as two parallel banks with a hollow-way in-between.

5. GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number	01
Site name	Former kennel house and walls of kennel compound behind Beech Tree Lodge
NGR	385146 376195
Site type	Out-buildings
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	58312
Statutory Designation	Grade II
Sources	HER; Ordnance Survey 1882
Description	Formerly kennels and kennel house, now a garden and a shed, which were built in 1867 for the 2nd Lord Stanley. Present on 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1882
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	02
Site name	Beech Tree Lodge
NGR	385103 376144
Site type	House
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	415388
Statutory Designation	Grade II
Sources	HER; Ordnance Survey 1882
Description	Formerly two gamekeepers cottages now a house: c 1815 for Sir J T Stanley with some twentieth century alterations. Present on 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1882
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	03
Site name	Out-building to the rear of Beech Tree Lodge
NGR	385113 376170
Site type	Out-building
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	58311
Statutory Designation	Grade II
Sources	HER; Ordnance Survey 1882
Description	Formerly a pigcote, shippin and earth closet, now a study and storage. Built c 1815 for Sir J T Stanley. Present on 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1882.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	04
Site name	Bradford Lodge and Bradford Lodge Nursery
NGR	385802 376998
Site type	House
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	58273
Statutory Designation	Grade II
Sources	HER; Ordnance Survey 1882; Walkover survey
Description	Farmhouse and cottage: c 1820 for Sir J T Stanley with late nineteenth century alterations. Present on 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1882.

Assessment	The site lies close to the proposed development area and may be affected.
Site number	05
Site name	Bradford Lane Quarry road
NGR	Central point 385408 376701
Site type	Cobbled quarry road
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	1446/26/2
Statutory Designation	
Sources	HER; 1787 Crossley estate map; Ordnance Survey 1882; Walkover survey
Description	Bradford Lane Quarry road. This is a cobbled road with stone sets for most of its length. Most probably dates from the use of the quarry in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The area of cobbling extends as far as the turn to Hayman's Farm. The length of road and its state of preservation is quite good.
Assessment	A limited section of the site lies partially within the proposed development area will be affected.
Site number	06
Site name	Bradford Lodge Farm Quarry
NGR	385534 376838
Site type	Quarry
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	1446/26/3
Statutory Designation	
Sources	HER
Description	Bradford Lodge Farm Quarry. An old stone quarry behind the Wizard Caravan Park. There is an eighteenth century graffiti date carved on one of the walls of the quarry. Probably dates to the same period.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected .
Site number	07
Site name	Iron Bloomery site near Bradford cottage
NGR	385010 376730
Site type	Iron Bloomery, iron working site and slag heap
Period	Medieval to Industrial Period
HER No	1454
Statutory Designation	
Sources	HER
Description	According to the Alderley Edge Landscape Project, this is a site of mounds of bloomery slag mixed with dark earth and charcoal lying beneath the turf on the side of the stream close to Bradford Cottage. Discontinuous remnants of the mounds can be seen along the side of the stream for 90m or more. At one point, a hollow in the edge of the field may mark the location of a collapsed void underground, such as a small shaft furnace. Roeder and Graves (1905) looked at the site after the up-rooting of a tree. It is their opinion that this site is an iron bloomery suggesting that the ore had been brought in from the north Staffordshire for this purpose. The slag looks like iron blooms and there is no suggestion that this may be derived from local lead or copper smelting. The site is most probably a medieval or early post-medieval bloomery, which was still being used in the Industrial Period.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	08
Site name	Hayman's Farm Quarry
NGR	385690 376500
Site type	Quarry
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	1446/26/1
Statutory Designation	
Sources	HER; Ordnance Survey 1882
Description	Hayman's Farm Quarry. This is a large and deep flooded sandstone quarry, surrounded by woodland. The quarry was in use at the end of the nineteenth century and use continued into the twentieth century. A number of iron work bolts and pins secured into the ground can be seen at the western end probably used to secure cranes for lifting stone from the quarry. Present on 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1882.
Assessment	The site lies partially within the proposed development area will be affected.

Site number	09
Site name	Cow Lane
NGR	385910 377180
Site type	Hollow-way/lane
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	2939
Statutory Designation	
Sources	HER; 1787 Crossley estate map; Walkover survey
Description	The continuation of Cow Lane, formerly Brynlow Lane in 1775. Though overgrown, the area of stone metalling, boundary banks and ditches on either side can be clearly seen within the woodland and heath between the two grid references given. Apart from agricultural traffic, the road seems to have become redundant by 1787 when Artists Lane was extended up to the Wizard Inn. The banks are 1.5m wide and are 6m apart with 50m of it being in the study area. Appears on the 1787 Crossley estate map.
Assessment	The site lies close to the proposed development area but is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	10
Site name	Finlow Hill wood
NGR	386124 377135
Site type	Marl pits
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	
Statutory Designation	
Sources	Ordnance Survey 1882; Walkover survey.
Description	A collection of six pits/ponds with interconnecting drainage ditches within Finlow Hill Wood. The largest pit is 26m long and 11m wide. The interconnecting ditches are approximately 1m wide and 0.5m deep.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	11
Site name	Finlow Hill Wood
NGR	385861 377157
Site type	Drainage system?
Period	Post-medieval?
HER No	
Statutory	

Designation	
Sources	Alderley Edge Landscape Survey Project (Timberlake and Prag 2005); Walkover survey
Description	A number of linear drainage ditches running off Cow Lane, measuring up to 1m in width and running in a north-east/south-west direction. The ditches average 1m wide and 0.2m-0.5m deep.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	12
Site name	Near Bradford Lodge Farm
NGR	385776 376965, 385802 376879
Site type	Field boundary
Period	Modern
HER No	
Statutory Designation	
Sources	Modern Ordnance Survey and Walkover survey
Description	Modern field boundary removed, slight bank earthwork present and two fence posts.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and will be affected, although as it is a modern boundary it is not significant.

Site number	13
Site name	Near Bradford House Farm
NGR	385560 376787 – 385618 376598
Site type	Track
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	
Statutory Designation	
Sources	Ordnance Survey map 1882; Walkover survey
Description	A track is shown on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1882. This survives as an earthwork.
Assessment	Part of the site is crossed by the proposed development area and will be affected.

Site number	14
Site name	Near Bradford House Farm
NGR	385615 376623 - 385449 376632
Site type	Track
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	
Statutory Designation	
Sources	Ordnance Survey map 1882; Walkover survey
Description	A track is shown on the Ordnance Survey map 1882. This survives as an earthwork 4m wide.
Assessment	Part of the site is crossed by the proposed development area and will be affected.

Site number	15
Site name	Near Hayman Farm
NGR	385516 376443 - 385400 376326
Site type	Field boundary
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	
Statutory Designation	

Sources 1787 Crossley Estate map; Walkover survey
Description Field boundary present on the 1787 Crossley Estate map. This survives as an earthwork bank running north-east/south-west.
Assessment The site lies outside of the proposed development area and will not be affected.

Site number 16
Site name Near Bradford House Farm
NGR 385483 376476
Site type Watering/feeding hollow
Period Post-medieval/Industrial Period
HER No
Statutory Designation
Sources Walkover survey
Description Circular hollow with stone-covered trough with running water, and also an out-lying bank to the south-west in an 's' shape. The circular hollow is 5m in diameter.
Assessment The site lies outside of the proposed development area and will not be affected.

Site number 17
Site name Near Bradford House Farm
NGR 385317 376415
Site type Pond/marl pit
Period Post-medieval/Industrial Period
HER No
Statutory Designation
Sources Modern Ordnance Survey; Walkover survey.
Description Pond or marl pit measuring 14m in diameter.
Assessment The site lies outside of the proposed development area and will not be affected.

Site number 18
Site name Near Bradford House Farm
NGR 385229 376536 - 385226 376380
Site type Field boundary/ possible parish boundary
Period Industrial Period
HER No
Statutory Designation
Sources 1787 Crossley Estate map; 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1882; Walkover survey
Description North/south aligned linear earthwork that survives to a height of 1.5m and 4m in width.
Assessment Part of the site is crossed by the proposed development area and will be affected.

Site number 19
Site name Near Bradford Lane Farm
NGR 385135 376496
Site type Marl pit?
Period Post-medieval/Industrial Period
HER No
Statutory Designation
Sources Walkover survey
Description Large irregular hollow with drainage ditch running out of it. The hollow is 45m long and 14m wide, the ditch is aligned south-east/north-west.
Assessment The site lies outside of the proposed development area and will not be affected.

Site number	20
Site name	Near Beech Tree Lodge
NGR	385225 376370 - 385218 376324
Site type	Field boundary/ possible parish boundary
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	
Statutory Designation	
Sources	1787 Crossley Estate map; 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1882; Walkover survey
Description	Continuation of Site 18 (field boundary) in to woodland area.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed development area and will not be affected

Site number	21
Site name	Near Hayman's Quarry
NGR	385551 376459
Site type	Quarry
Period	Industrial Period
HER No	
Statutory Designation	
Sources	2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1882; Walkover survey
Description	Shown on the OS mapping as patch of woodland, but on inspection revealed to be another quarry site. It measures 43m in length and 30m wide.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed development area and will not be affected

6. WATCHING BRIEF

6.1 RESULTS

6.1.1 **Introduction:** the watching brief comprised the monitoring of a topsoil strip to a depth of 0.4m, within the pipeline easement, which was 10m wide and ran north-east/south-west alongside Bradford Lane. The results of this watching brief are presented on a field by field basis within the table below.

Field Number	Location	Description
Field 1	Immediately east of Hocker Lane.	The easement was aligned north-east/south-west. Removal of the topsoil, 001 , to 0.25m in depth revealed a light brown, sandy-clay subsoil (002). No archaeological features were revealed.
Field 2	East of Field 1 and south-east of Bradford Lane Farm.	The easement continued north-east/ south-west. Removal of the topsoil, 001 , to 0.30m in depth revealed subsoil 002 . No archaeological features were revealed.
Field 3	East of Field 2 and south of Bradford House farm.	The easement continued north-east/south-west. Removal of the topsoil, 001 , to 0.35m in depth revealed subsoil 002 . Site 18 , the linear earthwork field boundary, was observed during the topsoil strip. Very little of the nature of the boundary could be recorded due to limited depth of the strip. The boundary between Field 3 and 4 was a small tree-lined stream. A hardcore layer had been put across this boundary prior to topsoil removal. No other archaeological features were revealed.
Field 4	North-east of Field 3 and south of the Wizard Caravan Park.	The easement turns slightly more to the north in this field and cuts across Site 13 and Site 14 . Topsoil, 001 , was stripped to a depth of 0.38m down to a orange-brown, sandy-clay natural (003). No archaeological features were revealed. Site 14 and Site 13 were not visible below the topsoil or in the section and could not be recorded in any further detail. The field boundary between Fields 4 and 5 was a shallow ditch 2.51m wide and 0.4m deep. On either side of the easement this boundary was a tree-lined ditch.
Field 5	North-east of Field 4.	The easement continued north-east/south-west. Removal of the topsoil, 001 , to a depth of 0.25m revealed natural (003). No archaeological features were observed.
Field 6	North-east of Field 5 and south of Bradford Lodge Farm.	The easement continues north-east/south-west. Removal of the topsoil, 001 , to 0.25m revealed natural (003). The modern field boundary which divides Fields 5 and 6 (Site 12) in the documentary research had been removed before the easement was stripped. No archaeological features were observed.

Table 2: Watching Brief Results

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1 The documentary research identified 17 sites, of which, 16 were enhanced by the walkover survey. Nine of these were already recorded in the HER, whilst the walkover survey identified a further four sites within the 200m study area. No additional sites were observed during the course of the watching brief.
- 7.1.2 There are no recorded Scheduled Monuments or other sites with Statutory Designations within the study area, although four of the gazetteer sites (Sites **01-04**) are Grade II Listed Buildings.
- 7.1.3 Table 3 below summarises the sites by period. Sites were present dating from the medieval to the Industrial Period.

Period	No of sites	Sites
Prehistoric	0	-
Romano-British	0	-
Medieval	1	Iron bloomery, iron workings and slag heap (Site 07)
Post-medieval	4	A drainage system (Site 11), a watering/ feeding hollow (Site 16) and a pair of marl pits/ponds (Sites 17 and 19).
Industrial Period	15	Buildings (Sites 01-04), Bradford Lane (Site 05), Cow Lane (Site 09), quarries (Sites 06, 08 and 21) and associated track ways (Sites 13 and 14), a marl pit/pond (Site 10) and field boundaries (Sites 15, 18 and 20)
Modern	1	Field Boundary (Site 12)

Table 3: Number of sites by period

- 7.1.4 There are no confirmed Romano-British or prehistoric sites within the study area, but the potential for finds and/or features relating these dates is a distinct possibility due to the discovery at Alderley Edge mines of both Romano-British and prehistoric activity. In light of this, an iron bloomery, (Site **07**), dating to the medieval period, is the earliest identified feature.
- 7.1.5 There are also several post-medieval sites, including a drainage system (Site **11**), a watering/feeding hollow (Site **16**), and a pair of marl pits or ponds (Sites **17** and **19**).
- 7.1.6 The majority of identified features date to the Industrial Period including Bradford Lane and Cow Lane, and agrarian sites, such as removed field boundaries (Sites **15, 18** and **20**), and a marl pit/pond (Site **10**). Although, there is plenty of evidence for mining and quarrying in the surrounding landscape, no mining appears to have taken place within the study area. However, quarrying for sandstone has taken place at three separate sites (Sites **06, 08** and **21**) with two tracks (Sites **13** and **14**), leading to Site **08**. A field boundary dating to the twentieth century is the latest feature.

7.1.7 The documentary research, walkover survey and watching brief strongly suggests that human activity within the study area has been largely agricultural and pastoral in nature.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 PRIMARY AND CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Crossley Estate map, 1787 *The Archaeology Of Alderley Edge*

Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" to 1 mile, 1871-72

Ordnance Survey Second Edition 25" to 1 mile, 1909

8.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

British Geological Survey 2007, www.bgs.ac.uk/magazine/geology/home.html

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

English Heritage, 2007 *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A guide to good recording practice*, London

Roeder, C and Graves, F S, 1905. Recent Archaeological Discoveries at Alderley Edge. *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*. Vol. 23, pp. 17-29

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www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/fulltext/hs1864/alderley.htm accessed 08.05.07

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/alderley_edge_walks_leaflet_orange.pdf

9. ILLUSTRATIONS

9.1 LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Gazetteer sites plan

Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" to 1 mile, 1871-72

Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey Second Edition 25" to 1 mile, 1909

9.2 LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Part of sandstone quarry (Site **06**)

Plate 2: Cow Lane (Site **09**) showing two upstanding banks

Plate 3: Field boundary (Site **18**)

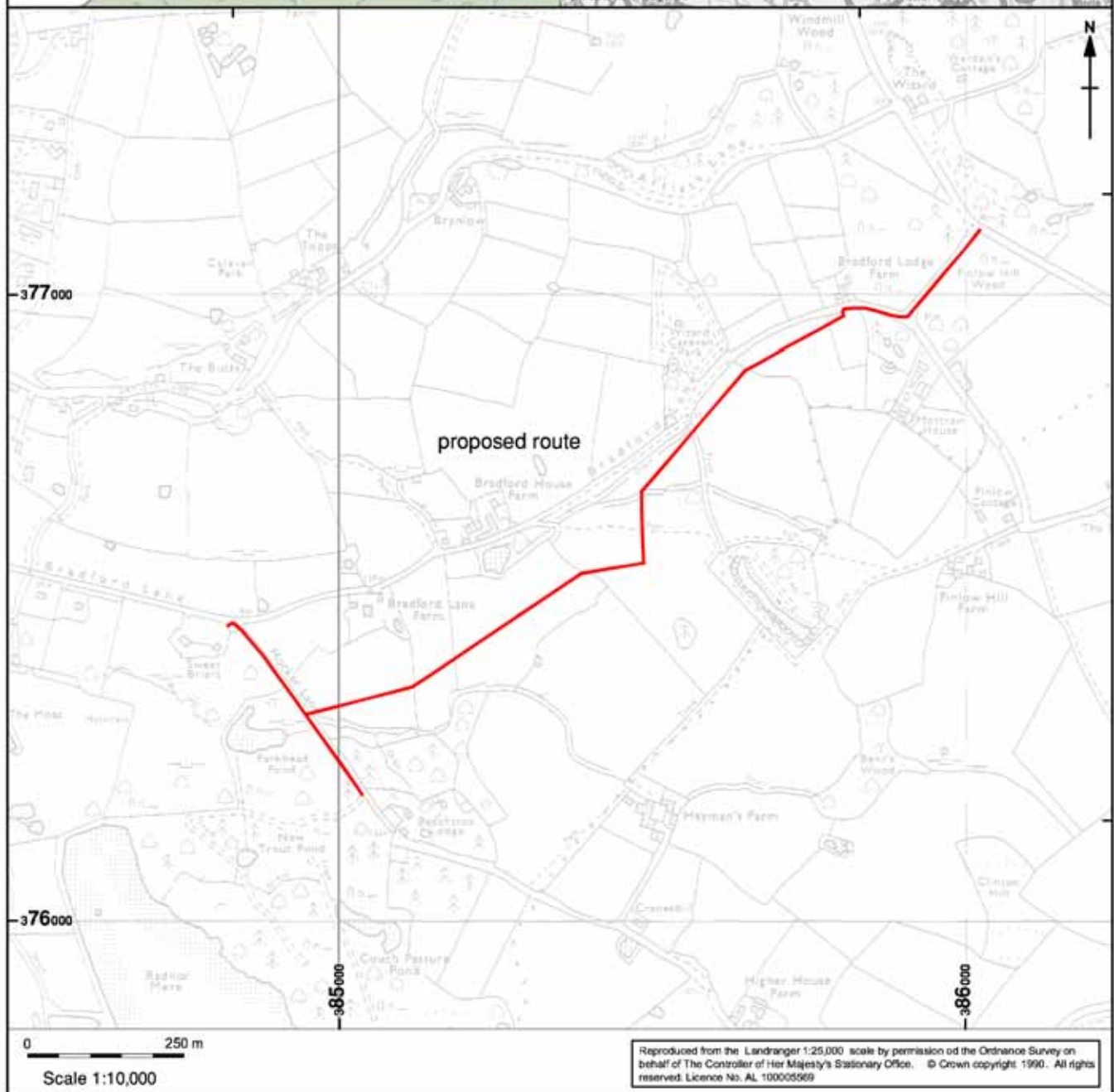
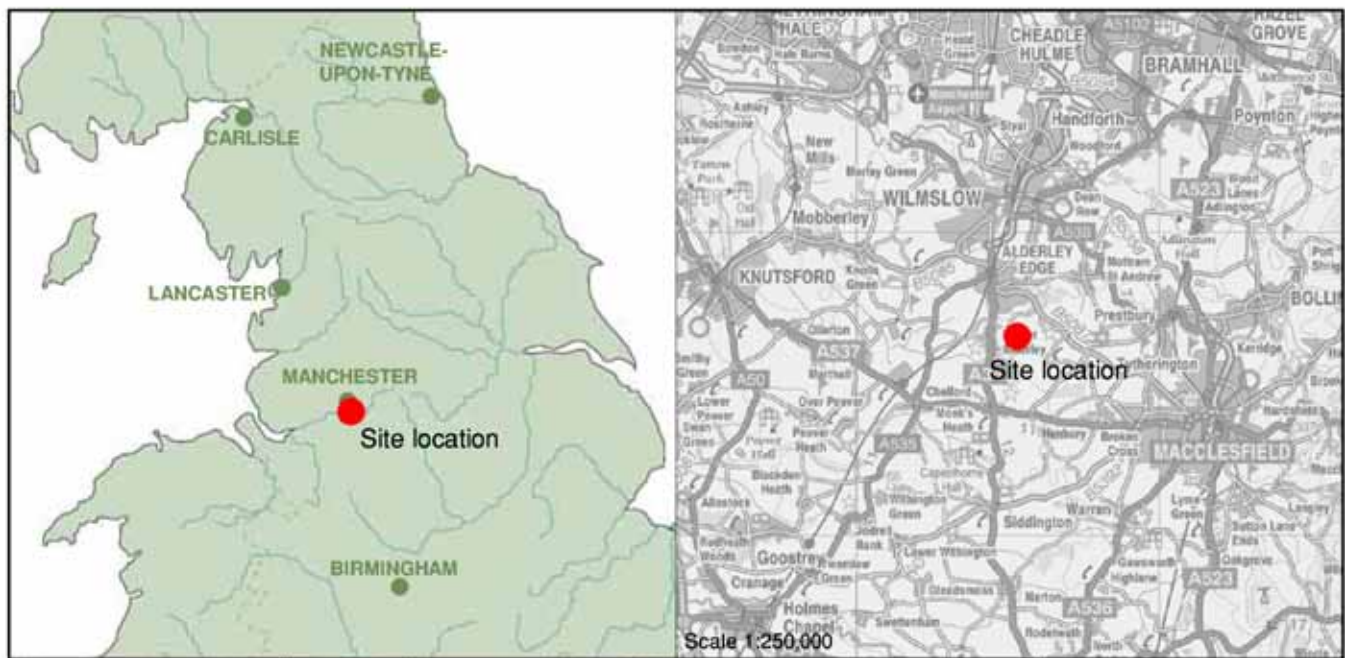


Figure 1: Site Location

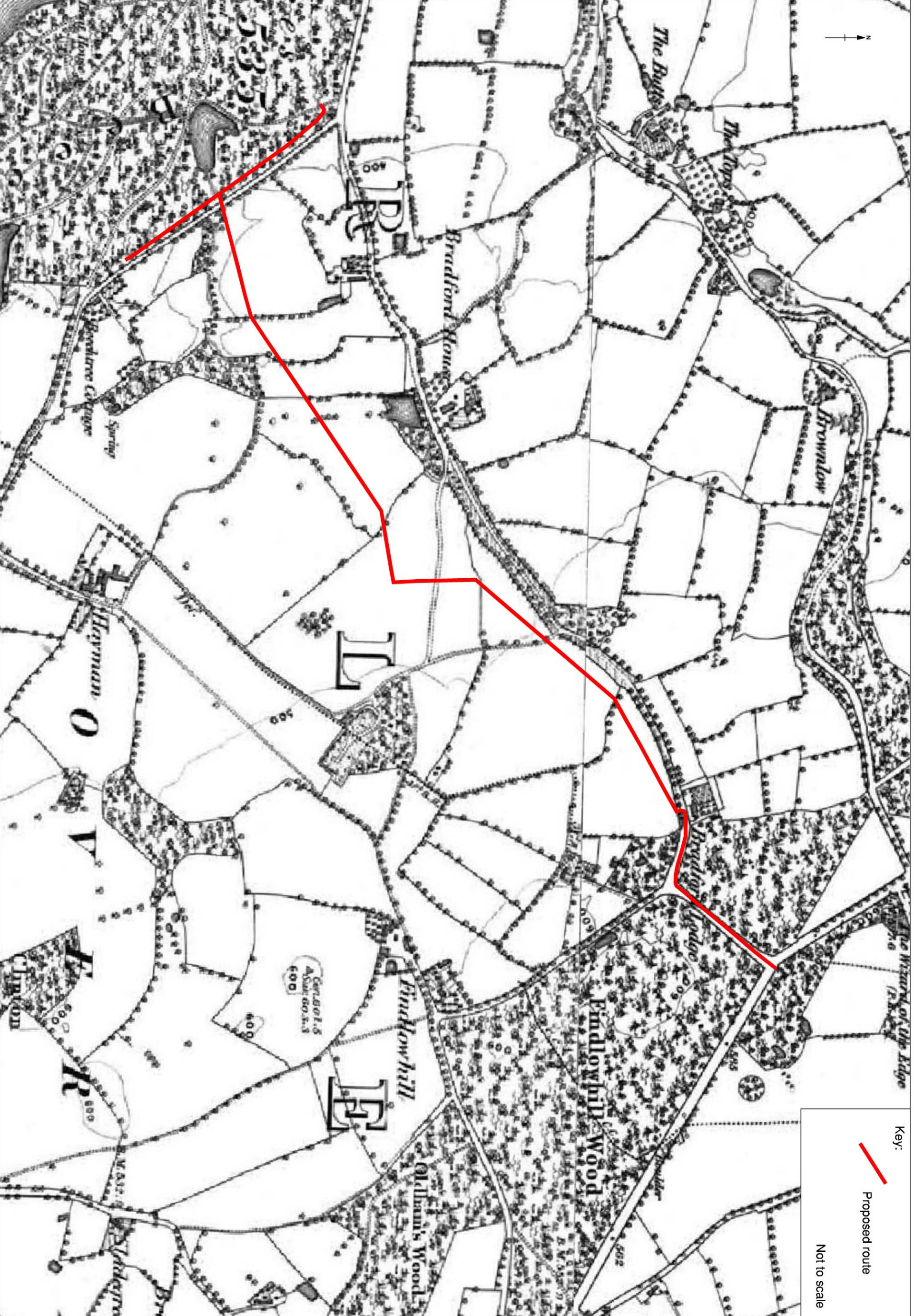


Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" to 1 mile map, 1871-72

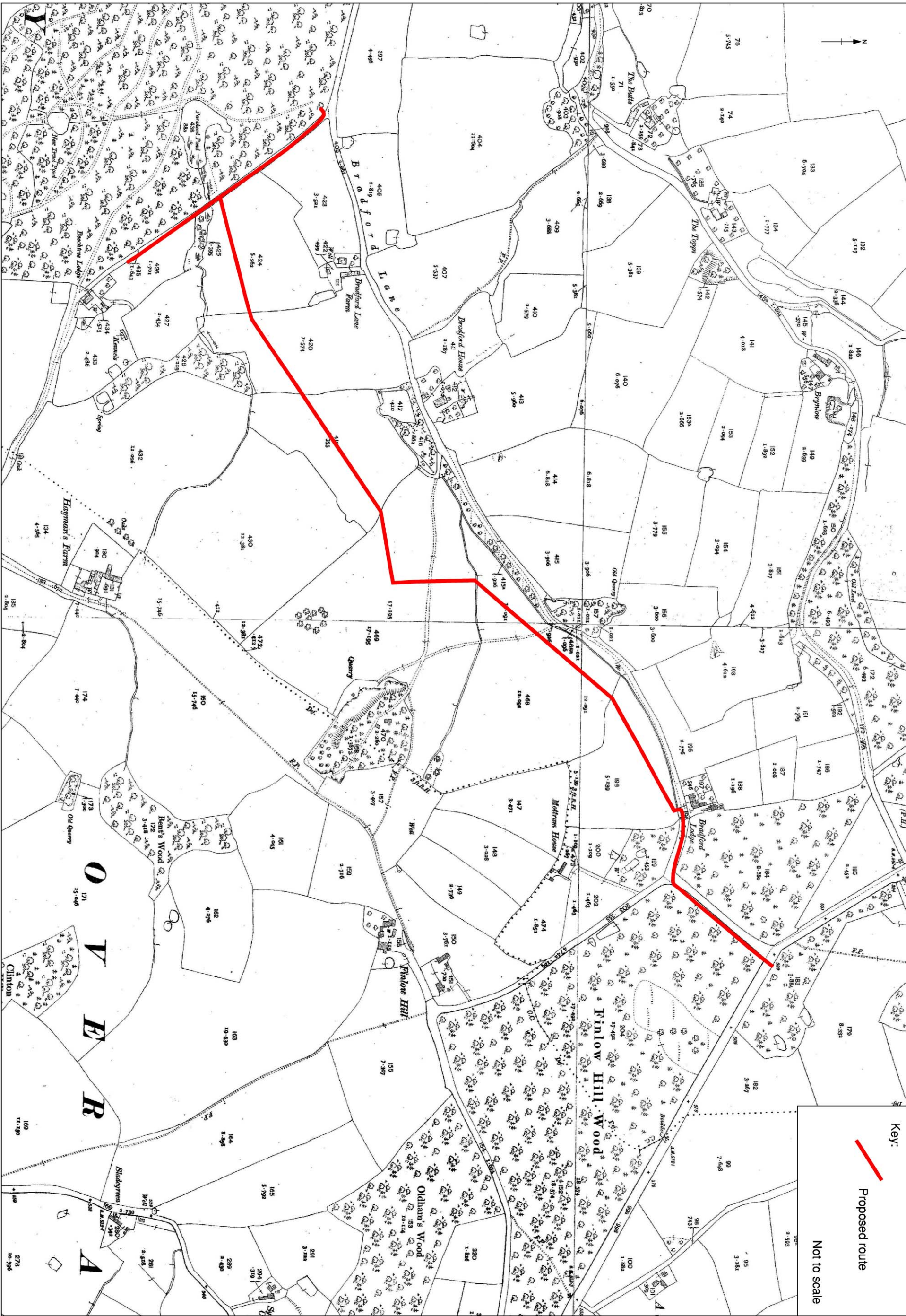


Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey Second Edition 25" to 1 mile map, 1909



Plate 1: Part of sandstone quarry (Site 06)



Plate 2: Cow Lane (Site 09) showing two upstanding banks.



Plate 3: Large bank that was a field boundary (Site 18).

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

alison plummer

From: EDWARDS, Robert (Environment) [Robert.J.Edwards@cheshire.gov.uk]
Sent: 07 February 2007 14:23
To: alison plummer
Subject: Bradford Lane Water Main

Dear Alison,

Given the high significance of the of the mining heritage at Alderley Edge and comments made previously by The National Trusts archaeologist Jamie Lund (see attached), I would recommend that a watching brief is undertaken during pipeline construction. A rapid walk over of the course of the pipeline prior to the commencement of earthmoving operations may afford the opportunity to identify and rapidly record any above ground archaeological remains.

The quarry 1446/26/3 is a six figure grid reference and there are a number of conflicting descriptions of its location. My best estimate is that it is actually located opposite Bradford House at SJ85257657, therefore being at no risk from the construction of the pipeline.

Best wishes

Rob

<<FW: Alderley Edge>>

Rob Edwards

Historic Environment Records Officer

Natural & Historic Environment Team

Environmental Planning, Cheshire County Council, Backford Hall, Backford, Chester Cheshire. CH1 6PZ.

01244 603667

01244 602921

robert.j.edwards@cheshire.gov.uk

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APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

**WATER MAIN AT
BRADFORD LANE,
NETHER
ALDERLEY,
CHESHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching
Brief and Walkover
Survey
Project Design**

Oxford Archaeology North

February 2007

United Utilities

Tender No. t2950

NGR: SJ centred on 855 767

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This project design has been compiled for United Utilities with reference to the requirements of a letter issued by the Historic Environment Records Officer (HERO) at Cheshire County Council (CCC). United Utilities have proposed the construction of a new water main running adjacent to Bradford Lane, Nether Alderley, Cheshire. The Cheshire HER has identified a number of post-medieval sites close to the route, which relate to quarrying activities. In addition, following consultation with the National Trust Archaeologist, the Derbyshire Caving Club has suggested that the route is very close to the Engine Vein mineral vein and that there is a likelihood that any excavations could find either shallow shafts or prospecting veins in the area.
- 1.2 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 to evaluate the archaeological resource of the proposed development area. The required stages to achieve this are as follows:
- 2.2 **Rapid Desk-Based Assessment:** in order to provide a brief historical background to the site a brief appraisal of the data held by the Sites and Monuments Record Office (SMR) will be undertaken, along with an historic map regression exercise;
- 2.3 **Walkover Survey:** this will be maintained along a 200m corridor centred on the pipeline easement;
- 2.4 **Watching Brief:** to undertake a permanent presence watching brief during topsoil stripping activities along the route of the pipeline. This should take place within areas where the pipeline easement runs through open ground.
- 2.5 **Report and Archive:** an interim report may be issued should there be any further mitigation work necessary. The final report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion. 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

- 3.1.1 **Rapid Desk-Based Assessment:** an examination will be undertaken of SMR data made available to the project in order to place the findings of the watching brief into a local and regional context.
- 3.1.2 **Walkover Survey:** following the rapid desk-based assessment a level I walkover survey (*Appendix 1*) will be undertaken to relate the existing landscape to research findings. This will encompass one-hundred metre corridor along either side of the pipeline, walked in a systematic fashion. Archaeological features identified within the landscape will be recorded using

the relevant OA North pro forma, and the features accurately positioned with the use of either a GPS, which can achieve accuracies of $\pm 0.1\text{m}$ with respect to the OS national grid, or by manual survey techniques which will tie in new features to features already shown on the relevant OS map. The archaeological sites identified will be presented in gazetteer format within the report.

- 3.1.3 A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously. This will utilise a 35mm camera for the production of both colour slides and monochrome contact prints. A photographic scale will appear in all images captured. The photographic index will describe and locate each area/feature photographed.
- 3.1.4 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features being identified during the walkover survey discussions will take place with the Archaeological Officer, 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.
- 3.1.5 **Watching Brief:** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the course of the proposed topsoil strip within areas of open country. This work will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, 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 during observation.
- 3.1.6 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.
- 3.1.7 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.
- 3.1.8 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).
- 3.1.9 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 Archaeological Officer and will require a variation to costing. Also, should evidence of burials be identified, the 1857 Burial Act would

apply and a Department of Constitutional Affairs Licence would be sought. This would involve all work ceasing until the proper authorities were happy for burials to be removed. In normal circumstances, field recording will also include a continual process of analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of the data, in order to establish the necessity for any further more detailed recording that may prove essential.

- 3.1.10 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc.), as well as to all Health and Safety regulations. 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 Unit Managers.

4 **REPORT AND ARCHIVE**

- 4.1 **Report:** two copies of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further copy submitted to the Cheshire SMR. The final report will include:

- 1 a concise, non-technical summary of the project results;
- 2 an introduction to the circumstances of the project and the aims and objectives of the study;
- 3 a summary of the methodology and an indication of any departure from the agreed project design;
- 4 a copy of the agreed project design;
- 5 an outline of past and present land-use;
- 6 a summary of the archaeological/historical background;
- 7 an assessment of the likely archaeological implications of the proposed development;
- 9 appropriate figures and plates.
- 10 a full list of references to and bibliography of primary and secondary sources consulted and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted.

- 4.2 The report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on CD-ROM.

- 4.3 **Proposals:** recommendations for any further evaluation of the identified archaeological resource will be presented.

- 4.4 **Confidentiality:** the assessment report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and this project design, 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.

- 4.5 **Archive:** the results of Section 2 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 project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data 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.

- 4.6 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Service format, both as a printed document and on CD ROM (as appropriate). A synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and the report) will be deposited with the Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record office. OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic, and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and, where appropriate the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with the County Museums Service. In this instance, the record archive will be sent to the County Record Office.
- 4.7 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database *Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.

5 WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The rapid desk-based assessment is expected to take in the region of one day to complete.
- 5.2 The walkover survey will take in the duration of two days to complete.
- 5.3 The duration of the watching brief will be dependent upon the progress of the contractor.
- 5.4 The client report will be completed within eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

6 OUTLINE RESOURCES

- 6.1 The project will be under the management of **Alison Plummer** BSc (Hons) (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 6.2 Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing exactly who will be carrying out the rapid desk-based assessment, walkover survey and watching brief, but all elements of the project are likely to be supervised by an OA North project supervisor experienced in this type of project. All OA North supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.
- 6.3 The project will be monitored by the Archaeological Officer (CCC), or his representative.

APPENDIX 1: LEVEL 1 SURVEY

The survey outlined is based on survey levels defined by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHM(E)) and are in accordance with stages of evaluation defined by the Association of County Archaeological Curators (ACAO 1993).

Level 1 Survey (Assessment)

This is a rapid level of survey (Site Inspection in project design) typically undertaken alongside a desk-top study as part of the site assessment (ACAO 1993, 14). It is an initial site inspection, which helps the local planning authority to consider fully the archaeological implications of a planning proposal and also serves as the basis for undertaking and planning further archaeological work on the site.

The Level 1 survey represents the minimum standard of record and is appropriate to exploratory survey aimed at the discovery of previously unrecorded sites. Its aim is to record the existence, location and extent of an archaeological site. The emphasis for the recording is on the written description, which should record type and period and would not normally exceed c. 50 words.

The location and extent of the sites is typically shown on 1:2,500 or 1:10,000 OS maps as requested by the client. The extent of a site is only defined for sites greater than 50m in size and smaller sites are shown with a cross.

There are two alternative techniques (Levels 1a and 1b), which provide different accuracy levels and have different applications:

Level 1a

The sites are located by manual distance measurement techniques (eg pacing) with respect to field boundaries and provide an accuracy of +- 10m (8 figure grid ref.). The loss of accuracy is offset by the slightly reduced costs; however, it is only appropriate for enclosed land, because of the paucity of usable topographic detail.

Level 1b

The sites are located using Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques, which uses electronic distance measurements along radio frequencies to satellites to enable a fix in Latitude and Longitude, which can be converted mathematically to Ordnance Survey National Grid. As long as differential GPS techniques are employed then it is possible to achieve accuracies of better than +- 1m. There is a slightly increased cost implication by comparison with Level 1a survey, but it can be undertaken in most terrains, even some woodland.