

LAND AT HALSNEAD PARK, KNOWSLEY, MERSEYSIDE



Archaeological Desk- Based Assessment



Oxford Archaeology North

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Sinclair Knight Merz to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of an area of land being considered for future redevelopment at Halsnead Park, Knowsley, Merseyside (centred on NGR SJ 792 900). The study area is currently designated as adopted Green Belt, and includes a large area of agricultural land, pockets of isolated woodland, a caravan park, a lake, a recreation ground, a cemetery and a former garden centre.

The desk-based assessment, undertaken in January 2006, covered a radius of 0.5km from the centre of the study area, and included a visit to the Merseyside Record Office and consultation of the Merseyside Sites and Monument Record and OA North's library. In addition, a rapid visual inspection of the site was undertaken. Six sites with Statutory Designation were identified: Sites **02**, **05**, **06**, **19**, **20** and **21** are all Grade II Listed Buildings or structures.

The majority of the proposed development site is situated in Halsnead Park, which formed part of the Halsnead Estate first mentioned in the twelfth century. The former manor house of Halsnead Hall (Site **01**), which was demolished in 1932 and is now the site of a caravan park, was probably built in the late seventeenth century although it is possible that an earlier manor house existed on the site. The walls of the Hall's orchard garden (Site **33**) survive largely intact and are considered to be of some cultural heritage value. It is also considered likely that the foundations of Halsnead Hall survive largely intact as buried archaeological remains. The remainder of the Park consists of agricultural land and woodland and is thought to hold considerable archaeological potential. Previously unknown prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval archaeological sites discovered during excavations in advance of construction of the A5300, suggests further buried remains dating from these periods may exist in the vicinity.

The assessed significance of the sites identified within the proposed development area, and the likely impact that any future development will have on them, has contributed to the preliminary recommendations for future action. These include, where practical, preservation *in situ* of the Listed Buildings (Sites **05**, **06**, **19**, **20** and **21**) and consideration of the visual impact of the development, the walls of the orchard garden (Site **33**) and the perimeter wall of the Park (Site **34**). Many of these sites are associated with Halsnead Park and help to define its historic character. Conservation and integration of these sites into any future planning proposals would help to maintain a sense of continuity at Halsnead Park and make best use of the site's historic assets.

Elsewhere, it is recommended that a geophysical survey followed by a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching be undertaken. In addition, those sites with a Statutory Designation will also need to be considered in terms of indirect impact; it is recommended that English Heritage be consulted in these cases.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Rowena Ekermawi of Sinclair Knight Merz for commissioning the work. Thanks are also due to Mark Hart at the Merseyside Sites and Monuments Record, the staff of the Merseyside County Record Office in Liverpool and Nick Herepath, the regional Portable Antiquities Scheme Liaison Officer, for their help and information.

The desk-based assessment was undertaken by Tony Lee, with the drawings produced by Christina Clarke. The project was managed by Emily Mercer, who also edited the report, together with Alan Lupton.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA North) was commissioned by Sinclair Knight Merz to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Halsnead Park, Knowsley, Merseyside (Fig 1; centred on NGR SJ 472 900). The client is currently undertaking an assessment of the site, of which this report will form part, for the purposes of redevelopment to provide employment and housing land to 2021.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment, undertaken in January 2006, comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in Liverpool, the Merseyside County Record Office in Liverpool, and the archives and library held at OA North. In addition to this, a site inspection was carried out, in order to relate the landscape and surroundings to the results of the desk-based assessment. This report sets out the results of the desk-based assessment in the form of a short document, outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential and significance, and an assessment of the impact of the proposed development. The significance criteria detailed in PPG 16 (DoE 1990) was employed during the assessment.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North in response to a request by Sinclair Knight Merz, for an archaeological desk-based assessment. 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 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 The study area focused on an area within a 0.5km radius of the proposed development site covering the site itself and its immediate surroundings. Relevant information from the wider area was summarised in order to place the results of the assessment into an archaeological and historical context. All known archaeological sites with the study area and its environs have been included in the Site Gazetteer (*Section 4*). The results were analysed using the set of criteria used to assess the national importance of an ancient monument (DoE 1991). In order to undertake the desk-based assessment, several sources of information were consulted.
- 2.2.2 ***Merseyside Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)***: the Merseyside SMR is a Geographical Information System (GIS) of all archaeological sites in Merseyside, and is maintained by the Merseyside Archaeological Service in Liverpool Museum, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside. It was consulted to establish the sites of archaeological interest already known within the study area, and the extent and character of these. For each entry, a short note was obtained, which was added to the Gazetteer of Sites (*Section 4*) and marked on Figure 2.
- 2.2.3 ***Merseyside Record Office (MRO)***: the MRO, which is situated in Liverpool Central Library, was visited to consult primary documents, and to consult maps and secondary published sources relating to the study area. The 1842 Tithe Map covering the study area was not available at the time of this assessment; references to this map in the Site Gazetteer (*Section 4*) refer to SMR site sources.
- 2.2.4 ***Portable Antiquities Scheme***: Nick Herepath, the regional Finds Liaison Officer, was consulted regarding any finds reported from within the study area.
- 2.2.5 ***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 VISUAL INSPECTION

- 2.3.1 Following the desk-based assessment, a basic visual inspection of the site was undertaken to relate the existing landscape to research findings and to verify any areas of recent land use. The survey was undertaken on 19th January 2006.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the MRO on completion of the project, and a paper copy will be sent to the Merseyside SMR.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The site is situated to the south of Whiston (NGR SJ 472 900), and is bounded by the M62 motorway to the south, Windy Arbor Road and residential development to the west, Lickers Lane to the north, and Fox's Bank Lane to the east. Junction 6 of the M62 is adjacent to the south-west corner of the site (Fig 1).
- 3.1.2 The dominant topographical element in the area is the Alt-Ditton valley, which runs southward in a broad, flat-bottomed shallow valley. The river cuts through a low lying, gently undulating landscape that rises to approximately 35m within the study area.
- 3.1.3 The underlying geology is well known for the extensive coal measures, which are buried beneath a thick layer of glacial drift, in the form of boulder clay with intermittent bands of sand (Geological Survey of Great Britain Sheet 97 (Runcorn), 1:50000 Drift Edition, 1977).

3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Prehistoric Period:** the greatest density of Mesolithic sites in the lowland north-west comes from the Alt-Ditton valley, focused on the Alt River and Ditton Brook, situated to the west and south-west of the study area. The attraction of the area for hunter-gatherers probably rests on a combination of factors. These included its proximity to the tidal Mersey and the route that the valley affords from the Mersey into the interior, and subsequently to the estuary and coast at Altmouth (Cowell and Philpott 2000, 165). Finds of struck flint dating to the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods were discovered 4km to the south of the study area suggesting continuity of exploitation of the area (*ibid*). Little other evidence of Neolithic or Bronze Age activity is known from the area, although a Neolithic axe was discovered near Dragons Lane in Whiston, 1km to the north of the study area (Knowles 1982).
- 3.2.2 Evidence of Iron Age activity for historic Lancashire is poorer than other parts of the country (Haselgrove 1996, 61) and this can be said for much of North West England. This may be in part due to a lack of proper investigation, however, and one important site has recently been discovered 5km south of the study area. A high status Iron Age occupation site, surrounded by a double-ditched enclosure, was partially excavated in advance of the construction of the A5300 (Cowell and Philpott 2000, 66). No prehistoric sites are known from the study area. Despite these recent findings, there are no known prehistoric sites within the study area.
- 3.2.3 **Romano-British Period:** both finds and documentary evidence testify that the region saw some intermittent military activity and probable non-military contact with the Roman world before the permanent occupation of the area in the later AD 70s (*op cit*, 176). The A5300 project provided valuable new

evidence of Romano-British rural settlement within the region. As well as finding evidence for the reoccupation of the Iron Age enclosure in the second century AD, a large-scale rural settlement was discovered, 600m south of the study area. The site produced unexpected evidence of a connection with the XX Legion in its involvement in tile and pottery production which, by virtue of a rare tile stamp, could be closely dated to AD 167 (*op cit*, 94). The stamp suggests that the manufacture was undertaken by civilian contractors exploiting the site on behalf of the Legion, raising interesting questions over the organisation of tile manufacture in the latter half of the second century. The regional findspots of the stamped tile indicate that the tile was destined for Chester, and that this was presumably short-term production in response to a sudden demand for the reroofing of buildings (*op cit*, 213). The sites discovered demonstrate a considerably greater settlement density than had generally been predicted for the lowland North West of England, and further chance finds from the vicinity show that this emerging pattern can be detected across a wider area. However, no Romano-British sites are known from within the study area.

- 3.2.4 **Early Medieval Period:** following the demise of the Roman infrastructure in the fifth century AD Britain once more reverted to a tribal system based on small warrior-led kingdoms (Cowell and Lewis 2002, 123). The fifth and sixth centuries saw the growth of the powerful kingdom of Northumbria, with the area being incorporated by Aethelfrith after the Battle of Chester in 615. In 678 peace was declared between Northumbria and Mercia when the southern boundary of Northumbria was fixed on the Mersey (*op cit*, 126). Kenyon (1991) suggests that place-names ending in '-tun', representing a farmstead or settlement, originated in the late seventh and eighth centuries, a time which saw economic revival in the countryside. In the Knowsley area, the only place with this suffix mentioned in the Domesday survey is Huyton, although this is an incomplete source for the existence of settlements in Lancashire. For example, the other major township names of Whiston and Cronton were not covered in Domesday (Cowell and Lewis 2002, 126). Archaeological evidence for this period is scarce in the region and no sites are known from the study area.
- 3.2.5 **Later Medieval Period:** from the eleventh century, South Lancashire was divided into six districts known as 'Hundreds' or 'Wapentakes' of King Edward's manor of West Derby (Farrer and Brownbill 1907). The earliest references to Whiston identify the township as Quitstan (1245); Wystan, Quystan (1278); Whystan, Whytstan, Whyghstan (1292); Quistan (1346); eventually reaching its present spelling of Whiston around 1355 (Knowsley Borough Council 1997).
- 3.2.6 A widespread feature of the archaeology of Merseyside in the medieval period is the moated site (Lewis 2000). The main period of their creation was between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries, and their origins were almost certainly defensive, although later in the medieval period other factors, such as status markers, probably had an influence in their construction (Cowell and Lewis 2002, 151). The nearest known example of a moated site to the study area comes from Rainhill Hall Farm, 600m to the east. The earliest

documentary reference to a house on the site was in 1323 when Henry de Par was arrested for breaking into the original hall and stealing goods (English Heritage 1992). A short distance to the south-east of the moated site, in woodland known as 'The Rough', is an extensive complex of twelve largely waterlogged and interconnected fishponds.

- 3.2.7 Halsnead appears to have been run as a separate manor or estate from the rest of Whiston and one possible reason for this is that Halsnead was formerly part of a royal hunting forest (Knowles 1982). The place name 'Halsnead' first appeared in the twelfth century as 'Grewinton Halfsnede', the 'snede' being the Old English term for 'small piece' (*op cit*, 17). Halsnead was again mentioned in 1246, when William Assolfi, his sons and others, were convicted of having dispossessed Siward de Derwent and Cecily his wife of an acre belonging to the fourth part of Halsnead (Farrer and Brownbill 1907, 351).
- 3.2.8 **Post-medieval Period:** Over the centuries, Whiston had many changes in land ownership; the Lords of Whiston and Halsnead were the heads of very influential, powerful families including: Gernet; Dacre; Travers; Bold; Ogle; Case; Le Norreys; Pemberton; and latterly the Willis family whose descendants owned the Halsnead estate continuously from 1684 until 1929, when it was sold by auction. The Halsnead Estate came into the possession of the Willis family in 1684 when it was purchased by Thomas Willis, a Liverpool merchant (*op cit*, 156). It is not known whether the Hall was in existence by this time but it is probable that Willis built or rebuilt a house on the site of Halsnead Hall (Site **01**) soon after he purchased the Estate (*op cit*, 156). The building was known as 'Red Hall' due to its use of local red sandstone, and was so named on Yates' 1787 map of Lancashire (Fig 3). The name was changed to Halsnead before 1817, however, in which year Matthew Gregson referred to 'Richard Willis, Esq., of Halsnead Hall, Whiston, formerly called the Red Hall' (*op cit*, 156). In 1789, Richard Willis altered the front of the house according to designs by the celebrated architect Sir John Soane (Plate 5). Around the house were shrubberies, wilderness walks, kitchen gardens, greenhouses, a walled orchard, many carriage roads and a lake (Knowsley Borough Council 1997) (Fig 4). The Halsnead Estate and other lands owned by the Willis family were sold in lots by auction at the Hare and Hounds, Tarbock, in 1929 (*ibid*). The sale included Halsnead Hall, Princes House Farm (Site **04**), Sandfield House (Site **05**), twelve dairy and potato farms, eighty cottages and various small holdings (*ibid*). In recent years, part of the park was converted into a static caravan park.
- 3.2.9 Little is known about the house known as Old Halsnead (Site **02**), other than that some of the Willis family occupied it in the nineteenth century and that it is believed that there was once a date stone in the house showing 1637 (Knowles 1982, 158). It has been speculated that if Thomas Willis was responsible for the building of the first house on the site of Halsnead Hall, then the previous lords of the manor may have resided at Old Halsnead (*op cit*, 157).
- 3.2.10 The origins of Halsnead Park are uncertain. Early eighteenth century leases refer to enclosed fields occupying at least the western and south-western area of the present park; this suggests that this area of the park, at least, was not

emparked until about the mid-eighteenth century (Cowell and Lewis 2002, 161), although Harris (1955, 156) mentions there was a park there in 1684 (without giving references), when the estate came in to the hands of the Willis family. It remains unclear whether Old Halsnead was associated with farmland or a much earlier, undocumented medieval park (Cowell and Lewis 2002, 161).

3.2.11 The township of Whiston is historically linked with coal mining, the first reference to which appeared in 1521 when Lord Derby granted a lease of mines in Whiston (National Coal Board 1974); this represents the earliest known coal mining in historic Lancashire. The coalfield was a decisive factor in the whole industrial expansion in the area, and the opening of the Liverpool to Manchester railway in 1830 increased trade to the inland region (Ashmore 1982). Many shafts were sunk in the Whiston area, including those at Carr Colliery in the 1760s, Whiston Colliery in 1802, Halsnead Colliery in 1802 (Site **16**), and the largest and most productive of all at Cronton Colliery (Site **07**) in 1914 (Knowsley Borough Council 1997). The Willis family leased the southern part of Halsnead Park to the Hulton Colliery Company for Cronton Colliery in 1913, and for the next 71 years the area was given over to coal extraction. Other industries and employment opportunities in the area during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries included brickworking, quarrying, pottery, pipemaking, toolmaking, nailmaking, shoemaking and road maintenance (Knowles 1982).

3.3 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 3.3.1 The earliest maps to show the study area in any detail is the Ordnance Survey Map of 1850. Prior to this, Yates' county map of 1787 shows only the major settlements and buildings in the area. The 1842 Tithe Map for Whiston was unavailable for study at the MRO or Whiston Local Library at the time of this assessment.
- 3.3.2 *Yates' 1787 Map of Lancashire* (Fig 3): Thomas Willis Esq. was identified on this map as the major landowner in the area. Halsnead Hall (Site **01**) was identified by its original name of 'Red Hall', and a building on the site of Old Halsnead (Site **02**) was identified as 'Horselet'. There are several other unidentified buildings, shown on the approximate site of existing buildings (Sites **04**, **06** and **20**).
- 3.3.3 *Ordnance Survey 1850 first edition 1:10560* (Fig 4): the extent of Halsnead Park was identified as a shaded area with Halsnead Hall (Site **01**), outbuildings and a walled garden (Site **33**) shown in the centre of the Park. A channel of water shown immediately to the west of the Hall may represent a moat or the remains of a moat or fish pond. Also identified were Prince's House (Site **04**), Carr House (Site **06**), Sandfield Cottage and possible moat or fish pond (Site **05**), Snape Gate Barn (Site **19**), Fairchilds Farm (Site **20**), Coal Pit (Site **26**) and Ruin (Site **12**).
- 3.3.4 *Ordnance Survey 1892 first edition 1:2500* (Fig 5): this shows a slight alteration to the layout of the outbuildings of Halsnead Hall to the north of the

walled garden. An ice house (Site 27) was situated on the south side of Prince's Farm, the nearby coal pit (Site 26) identified on the previous map was no longer shown and a boat house (Site 28) was situated on the north side of Big Water Lake. Four lodges had been built to serve Halsnead Park (Sites 22, 29, 30 and 31). Further divisions within the park had taken place with several linear and rectilinear field boundaries evident.

- 3.3.5 **Ordnance Survey 1907 second edition 1:2500** (Fig 6): there appeared to have been a partial infilling of the northern end of the ditch, pond or moat south-west of Sandfield Cottage (Site 05). The avenue leading to Prince's House (Site 04) and Halsnead Hall (Site 01) from the north-west lodge (Site 31) had lost much of its tree lining. Further field boundaries had been created within the Park.
- 3.3.6 **Ordnance Survey 1927 1:2500** (Fig 7): five small rectangular structures (Site 32) of uncertain function had been built to the east and north-east of Halsnead Hall. Further partition of land within Halsnead Park had taken place. Cronton Colliery (Site 07) and railway branch line (Site 03) were shown for the first time.
- 3.3.7 **Ordnance Survey 1937 1:2500** (Fig 8): Halsnead Hall (Site 01) had been demolished by this time and only some of the outbuildings remained. Further land divisions had been created and several nurseries were evident in the eastern part of Halsnead Park.
- 3.3.8 **Ordnance Survey 1974:** the construction of the M62 motorway had bisected Halsnead Park with Junction 6 covering a large part of the south-western corner. A recreation ground and garden centre had been created in the north-west corner of the Park.
- 3.3.9 **Ordnance Survey 2005:** the site of Halsnead Hall (Site 01) was now occupied by a caravan park, and a cemetery had been created in the north-east corner of Halsnead Park.

3.4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

- 3.4.1 It was established that no relevant aerial photographs were held at the Merseyside SMR.

3.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

- 3.5.1 During the construction of the A5300 road corridor in 1993, a number of archaeological evaluations were undertaken, 600m-4km south of the study area (Cowell and Philpott 2002). These produced evidence of prehistoric, Romano-British and later medieval activity, details of which have been summarised in the historical background (*Section 3.2*, above). An archaeological desk-based assessment of the Cronton Colliery site immediately to the south was undertaken in 2003 (OA North). Sites of cultural heritage interest identified as a result of this have been included in the gazetteer (*Section 4*).

3.6 VISUAL INSPECTION

- 3.6.1 The visual inspection found only one area of recent large-scale land disturbance. Near the south-western corner of the site (Fig 2) an area approximately 1.5ha in size had been covered by a 1m thick layer of modern demolition debris and waste subsoil (Fig 2). Within the caravan park, the walls of the former orchard garden (Site **33**) belonging to Halsnead Hall were found to be largely intact (Plates 1 and 2). It was unclear as to the state of the former well located in the centre of the garden as the area was covered by bushes (Plate 3). An outbuilding situated adjacent to the entrance to the orchard garden appeared to also be a surviving remnant of the Halsnead Hall complex (Plate 4).

4. GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number	01
Site name	Halsnead Hall
NGR	SJ 4727 8999
Site type	Manor House
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	478905
Sources	Twycross 1847; Harris 1955; OA North 2003
Description	The grand manor house of Red Hall, which became known as Halsnead Hall, was designed in 1789 by the famous architect Sir John Soane (1753-1837) and was a substantial redesign of an existing structure. Halsnead Hall and Park was sold in 1929 by the then head of the Willis family, Major Charles Rodolph D'Anyers Willis of Mildenhall, Suffolk. The building was demolished in 1932.
Assessment	The site of the manor house lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected.

Site number	02
Site name	Old Halsnead
NGR	SJ 4749 8955
Site type	Manor House
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	47891
Statutory Designation	Listed Building (Grade II)
Sources	Harris 1955; OA North 2003; Yates 1787; OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description	The present building has been dated to 1680. Constructed of stuccoed stone, the building has a stone roof with centre chimney, and is of two storeys. A two storey gabled porch has a round arched entrance with keystone and impost; and a three-light window above; and an armorial crest on the gable. A five-light window is situated on each floor, to the right of the porch, and there are five-light windows on each to the left of the porch, all with chamfered stone mullions and beaded panes (mostly non-opening). A building on the site is identified as 'Horselet' on Yates' map of 1787.
Assessment	The site lies to the south of the proposed development and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	03
Site name	Cronton Colliery railway branch line
NGR	SJ 4660 8958
Site type	Dismantled railway line
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	OA North 2003; Knowsley Borough Council 1997
Description	An deep cutting marks the line of the former Cronton Colliery railway branch line. The railway line was an extension to the Halsnead Colliery branch line and was probably built in 1914.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development boundary and is likely to be affected.

Site number	04
Site name	Prince's House Farm
NGR	SJ 4702 9030
Site type	Farm
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	47901

Sources	Yates' 1787; OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description	Part of the Halsnead Estate, which was sold by lots in auction in 1929. Cartographic evidence suggests a building has existed on the site before 1788.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected.

Site number	05
Site name	Sandfield Cottage
NGR	SJ 4770 9050
Site type	Cottage
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	47902
Statutory Designation	Listed Building (Grade II)
Sources	OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description	The cottage was part of the Halsnead Estate, which was sold by lots in auction in 1929. Cartographic evidence suggests the cottage was built between 1787-1850. A channel of water to the south-west of the house may represent a moat.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected.

Site number	06
Site name	Carr House
NGR	SJ 4645 8980
Site type	House
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	46892
Statutory Designation	Listed Building (Grade II)
Sources	Blinkhorn 1974
Description	A mid-seventeenth century farmhouse situated at the southern end of Windy Arbor Road. On the front of the house is a block which bears the date 1660 and the initials GPA, thought to represent George Pemberton and his wife Anne. Close to the house is a large outbuilding, possibly representing an earlier dwelling
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and may be affected

Site number	07
Site name	Cronton Colliery
NGR	SJ 4756 8928
Site type	Colliery
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	478906
Sources	Snow 1982; OA North 2003; Knowsley Borough Council 1997
Description	A colliery was established in 1913 by the Huyton Colliery Company. The coal winding shaft was sunk in 1914 and completed in 1916 to a depth of 520 yards. Three shafts were sunk in total. Electric winding engines, installed in 1920-21 were still in use when the Colliery closed in 1984. The site was demolished and levelled some time later.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and may be affected.

Site number	08
Site name	Holland's House
NGR	SJ 4635 8985
Site type	Site of a dwelling
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	46897
Sources	OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description	Holland's House was shown on the first edition OS map of 1850. The building has now been demolished.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	09
Site name	Farm 50m west of Windy Arbor Bridge
NGR	SJ 4623 8972
Site type	Farm
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	46898
Sources	Tithe map 1842
Description	Messuage, outbuilding, garden and croft recorded on the tithe map. The site is now occupied by an industrial estate.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	10
Site name	Windy Arbor Brow, east side
NGR	SJ 4636 8979
Site type	Farm
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	468910
Sources	OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description	A farm building situated on Windy Arbor Brow was identified on the first edition OS map of 1850.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	11
Site name	Cottage, Windy Arbor, west side
NGR	SJ 4631 8980
Site type	Cottage
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	468911
Sources	Tithe map 1842
Description	A cottage recorded on the tithe map is situated near Windy Arbor Road Industrial Estate.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	12
Site name	100m south-west of Prince's House
NGR	SJ 4693 9020
Site type	Folly
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	46906
Sources	OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description	A structure identified as 'ruin' on the first edition OS map of 1850. No structural remains were identified during the visual inspection.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected.

Site number	13
Site name	Houghton's Hey Colliery
NGR	SJ 4633 9029
Site type	Colliery
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	46907
Sources	OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description	Houghton's Hey Colliery was identified on the first edition OS map of 1850.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number 14
Site name Coal Pit
NGR SJ 4634 9033
Site type Coal mine
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 46908
Sources OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description A coal pit identified on the first edition OS map of 1850.
Assessment The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number 15
Site name Hig Hey Colliery
NGR SJ 4645 9037
Site type Colliery
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 469011
Sources OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description A colliery identified on the first edition OS map of 1850.
Assessment The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number 16
Site name Halsnead Colliery
NGR SJ 4656 9009
Site type Colliery
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 46904
Sources Knowles 1982; OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description A colliery identified on the first edition OS map of 1850.
Assessment The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number 17
Site name Boundary Bank, Halsnead Park
NGR SJ 4697 9003
Site type Boundary bank
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 469019
Sources OS 1937
Description Cartographic evidence suggests a date between 1927-37 for the feature.
Assessment The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected.

Site number 18
Site name Halsnead Colliery Branch Line
NGR SJ 4623 9022
Site type Railway
Period Post-medieval
SMR No 469020
Sources Knowles 1982; OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description A branch line was built in 1833 from the Liverpool-Manchester main line to serve Halsnead Colliery.
Assessment The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number 19
Site name Snape Gate Barn
NGR SJ 4779 8982
Site type Converted barn

Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	47892
Statutory Designation	Listed Building (Grade II)
Sources	Yates 1787; OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560; visual inspection
Description	The site is now a residential dwelling. A building shown on Yates' Map of 1787 on the opposite side of the road and identified as 'Snape Gate' most likely refers to the associated cottage.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and may be affected.

Site number	20
Site name	Barn at Fairchilds Farm
NGR	SJ 4797 9026
Site type	Barn
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	47903
Statutory Designation	Listed Building (Grade II)
Sources	Yates 1787; OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description	The barn probably dates to the eighteenth century, and is likely to be associated with a building identified on Yates' map (1787) in this location named 'Deanes Estate'. The building was identified as 'Fairchilds Farm' on the first edition OS map of 1850.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	21
Site name	Gate Piers to the north-east Lodge to Halsnead Park
NGR	SJ 4790 9020
Site type	Gate
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	47905
Statutory Designation	Listed Building (Grade II)
Sources	SMR record; visual inspection
Description	Four rusticated gated piers, square, with cornice and ball, two of the piers being beside the lodge (Site 22), the others being on the roadside.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and may be affected.

Site number	22
Site name	North-east Lodge to Halsnead Park
NGR	SJ 4790 9019
Site type	Lodge
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Statutory Designation	Listed Building (Grade II)
Sources	OS 1892 first edition 1:2500
Description	Halsnead Hall was demolished in 1932. The lodge survives however, and is a Grade II Listed dwelling. Cartographic evidence suggests the Lodge was built between 1850-1892.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and may be affected.

Site number	23
Site name	Lickers Lane Sandstone Quarry
NGR	SJ 4728 9063
Site type	Quarry
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	47908
Sources	OS 1850 first edition 1:10560

Description	A sandstone quarry is shown on the first edition OS map. The site is now occupied by a residential estate.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	24
Site name	Two cottages on Chapel Bridge Lane
NGR	SJ 4612 8948
Site type	Buildings
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	46893
Sources	OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560; Tithe map 1849
Description	Two cottages, a beer shop, outbuildings and gardens were shown on the tithe map and first edition OS map of 1850. The buildings were destroyed by the M62 link road and the more recent industrial estate.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	25
Site name	Site of Ridgate Chapel
NGR	SJ 460 894 (exact location uncertain)
Site type	Chapel
Period	Medieval
SMR No	46899
Sources	Farrer and Brownbill 1907; Tithe map 1849
Description	Documents dating to 1362-64 mention a chapel at Ridgate, within Tarbock. The location of the chapel is presumed from the fields 'Chapel Croft' and 'Priest Hey' named in the Tithe Award.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.

Site number	26
Site name	Coal Pit South of Prince's House
NGR	SJ 4702 9023
Site type	Coal mine
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	47909
Sources	OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560
Description	A coal pit was shown on the first edition OS map of 1850, but is absent from later mapping.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected.

Site number	27
Site name	Ice House south of Prince's House
NGR	SJ 4702 9022
Site type	Ice House
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	OS 1892 first edition 1:2500
Description	An ice house was shown on the first edition OS map of 1892.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected.

Site number	28
Site name	Boat House on Big Water, Halsnead Park
NGR	SJ 4670 8989
Site type	Boat house
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-

Sources	OS 1892 first edition 1:2500
Description	A boat house on Big Water was shown on the first edition OS map of 1892.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected.
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Site number	29
Site name	South-east Lodge to Halsnead Park
NGR	SJ 4770 8960
Site type	Lodge
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	OS 1892 first edition 1:2500
Description	This lodge was shown on the first edition 1:2500 OS map but was not identified on the first edition 1:10,560 map, dating it to between 1850-1892.
Assessment	The site lies outside the proposed development area and is unlikely to be affected.
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Site number	30
Site name	South-west Lodge to Halsnead Park
NGR	SJ 4647 8976
Site type	Lodge
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	OS 1892 first edition 1:2500
Description	This lodge was shown on the first edition 1:2500 OS map but was not identified on the first edition 1:10,560 map, dating it to between 1850-1892.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and may be affected.
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Site number	31
Site name	North-west Lodge to Halsnead Park
NGR	SJ 4682 9035
Site type	Lodge
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	OS 1892 first edition 1:2500
Description	This lodge was shown on the first edition 1:2500 OS map but was not identified on the first edition 1:10,560 map, dating it to between 1850-1892.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and may be affected.
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Site number	32
Site name	Buildings east and north-east of Halsnead Hall
NGR	SJ 4737 9000
Site type	Buildings/structures
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	OS 1927
Description	A group of five small rectangular structures were recorded on the 1927 OS map. The buildings had apparently been demolished some time later as they did not appear on the 1937 OS map.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected.
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Site number	33
Site name	Halsnead Hall walled orchard garden, well and outbuilding
NGR	SJ 4712 9000
Site type	Walled garden
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-

Sources	OS 1850 first edition 1:10,560; visual inspection
Description	The walls of the orchard garden survive largely intact and the remains of a probably contemporary outbuilding adjacent to the main entrance of the garden was observed during the visual inspection.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected

Site number	34
Site name	Halsnead Park perimeter wall
NGR	SJ 4730 9050 (northern limit), SJ 4760 8880 (southern limit)
Site type	Park perimeter wall
Period	Post-medieval
SMR No	-
Sources	Visual inspection
Description	The perimeter wall of Halsnead Park survives largely intact along Lickers Lane, Fox's Bank Lane and Cronton Road.
Assessment	Much of the wall lies within the proposed development area and is likely to be affected

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REMAINS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 In total, 34 sites of cultural heritage interest were identified within the study area (Fig 2), of which eighteen lie within the development interest boundary (Sites **01, 03, 04, 05, 06, 12, 17, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33** and **34**). Of these 34 sites, seven have Statutory Designation: Sites **02, 05, 06, 19, 20, 21** and **22** are Grade II Listed Buildings. Of the remaining sites, 19 were included in the Merseyside SMR (Sites **01, 04, 05, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25** and **26**), seven sites was identified from cartographic and documentary sources (Site **03, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31** and **32**) and two sites were identified by the visual inspection (Sites **33** and **34**). The detailed results of the assessment are shown in the Site Gazetteer (*Section 4*).

5.1.2 The types of sites identified are summarised by period in the table below:

Period	No of sites	Sites
Medieval	1	Site of Ridgate Chapel (Site 25)
Post-medieval	33	Buildings (Sites 02, 04, 05, 06, 10, 11, 19, 20, 22, 29, 30 and 31); sites of buildings and other structures (Sites 01, 08, 09, 12, 24, 27, 28 and 32); orchard garden, well and outbuilding (Site 33); park perimeter wall (Site 34); collieries, coal pits and associated sites (Sites 03, 07, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 26); quarry (Site 23); gates (Site 21); boundary bank (Site 17)

Table 1: Number of sites by period

5.2 CRITERIA

5.2.1 **Statutory Designated sites:** these comprise the seven Grade II Listed Buildings (Sites **02, 05, 06, 19, 20, 21** and **22**). Listed Buildings are those considered to be of special architectural or historic interest, and are classified in grades to show their relative importance; Grade II buildings are of special interest of regional importance. The lists are compiled on the merits of the building by reference to national criteria recommended by English Heritage.

5.2.2 **Undesignated sites:** there are a number of different methodologies used to assess the archaeological significance of undesignated sites; that to be used here is the ‘Secretary of State’s criteria for scheduling ancient monuments’ which is included as Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990). The undesignated sites previously listed (*Section 4*, above) were each considered using the criteria, with the results below.

5.2.3 **Period:** perhaps the most significant of the sites for their period is Cronton Colliery (Site **07**), the largest site of coal extraction in the area during the twentieth century and a major source of employment for the local community

during this time. The remainder of the undesignated sites are likely to be no more than of local importance for their period.

- 5.2.4 **Rarity:** none of the sites are particularly rare, although the orchard garden walls (Site **33**) may be considered locally significant in this respect.
- 5.2.5 **Documentation:** cartographic and documentary records enhances the significance of Halsnead Hall, demolished in 1932 (Site **01**). The origins of the Hall, and indeed Halsnead Park, are uncertain, and it may be that medieval documentary evidence could enhance their significance still further, if it could be proved they possessed medieval origins.
- 5.2.6 Many of the former buildings and structures associated with Halsnead Hall are only known through their identification by cartographic sources (Sites **12, 26, 27, 28** and **32**).
- 5.2.7 **Group Value:** all of the post-medieval sites associated with Halsnead Park and Halsnead Hall (Site **01**) together help give the park its historic significance (Sites **01, 02, 04, 12, 17, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33** and **34**). The numerous collieries, coal pits, and railway branch lines (Sites **03, 07, 13, 14, 15, 16** and **26**) together highlight the extent and importance of the coal industry in the area during the post-medieval period.
- 5.2.8 **Survival/Condition:** any hitherto unknown buried archaeological remains are thought likely to survive in good condition across most of the site due to the lack of post-medieval development. It is unclear at present as to what impact the caravan site has had on the remains of Halsnead Hall (Site **01**).
- 5.2.9 **Fragility/Vulnerability:** many of the outbuildings associated with Prince's Farm (Site **04**) are in a very dilapidated condition. The Listed Buildings (Sites **02, 05, 06, 19, 20, 21** and **22**) may be vulnerable to impact on their visual setting. None of the other known sites are considered particularly fragile or vulnerable.
- 5.2.10 **Diversity:** none of the sites are particularly diverse although the southern part of Halsnead Park was originally valued for its woodland and wilderness walks and later for its extensive coal deposits.
- 5.2.11 **Potential:** there is the potential for buried remains on the site to enhance existing knowledge about the origins of Halsnead Park, in particular the date of the earliest building on the site of Halsnead Hall (Site **01**).

5.3 SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.3.1 The statutory designated sites (Sites **02, 05, 06, 19, 20, 21** and **22**) are considered to be of special architectural or historic importance and possess regional significance. In addition, despite Halsnead Hall having been demolished, the remains may also be considered to be of regional significance.
- 5.3.2 Twenty of the 27 undesignated gazetteer sites have been considered significant according to their criteria, from which their local, regional or national

significance can be assessed (see *Table 2* below). The remaining sites have been assessed as either being of low archaeological significance or lying outside the development area and therefore not considered to be under any threat from the proposed development.

Sites	Significance
Grade II Listed Buildings (Sites 02, 05, 06, 19, 20, 21 and 22), and Halsnead Hall remains (Site 01)	Regional
Sites associated with post-medieval Halsnead Hall and Park (Sites 04, 12, 17, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34)	Local
Sites associated with the post-medieval coal mining industry (Sites 03, 07, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 26)	Local/Regional

Table 2: Gazetteer sites of local, regional, or national significance

6. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 IMPACT

- 6.1.1 The precise development proposals showing the extent of groundworks are in their very early stages and are yet to be finalised. It is assumed, however, that if the purpose of the development is to provide employment and housing land then the majority of the identified sites within the development interest boundary will be adversely affected, principally through landscaping, levelling or excavation for foundations. The most significant of the known sites likely to be affected include the Statutory Designated Listed Buildings (Sites **05**, **06**, **21** and **22**), the site of Halsnead Hall (Site **01**), the remains of the walled orchard garden (Site **33**), Halsnead Park perimeter wall (Site **34**) and Prince's Farm (Site **04**).
- 6.1.2 The discovery of prehistoric, Romano-British and later medieval archaeological sites during the construction of the A5300 road project proved the potential for hitherto unknown archaeological resource in the Alt-Ditton valley. Within the proposed development area, this potential is further enhanced by the lack of post-medieval development due to the existence of Halsnead Park, thereby preserving any potential archaeological remains.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 The extent and scope of any archaeological response would be dependent upon the groundworks required for redevelopment, and would be finalised once development proposals are known. It is, however, possible at this stage to make some provisional recommendations.
- 6.2.2 A building survey of the surviving remnants of Halsnead Hall orchard garden and outbuilding (Site **33**) should be undertaken, and consideration should be given to the possibility of preserving some of these remains and incorporating them into the redevelopment plans. The orchard garden walls are a highly visible cultural asset that could be used to provide the community with a sense of place and a tangible link with the past. In the same way, the successful integration of other existing sites associated within Halsnead Park, including the lodges (Sites **22**, **29**, **30** and **31**), gates (Site **21**) and perimeter wall (Site **34**) is likely to increase the heritage value of these sites, give the development area a sense of history and enhance community appeal.
- 6.2.3 In consideration of the archaeological potential of the site it is recommended that a site-wide programme of evaluation is undertaken, in order to assess the unknown archaeological resource. This should consist of an extensive geophysical survey with trenching of at least 5% of the site, with some of these trenches targeted upon anomalies or features identified by the geophysical survey as well as the sites of former buildings or features identified by this assessment (Sites **01**, **12**, **17**, **26**, **27** and **32**). It is thought that there is likely to be substantial building foundation remains of Halsnead Hall

(Site **01**) surviving as below ground archaeological resource; these remains are likely to contain valuable evidence which may help to ascertain the date of the earliest manor house on the site. It should be noted that in the event of significant remains being encountered during the course of the proposed investigation, archaeological mitigation may be required, the nature of which would be dependent on the evaluation results.

6.2.4 It is recommended that English Heritage is consulted in the early stages regarding any direct or indirect impacts to the Statutory Designated Listed Buildings (Sites **02, 05, 06, 19, 20, 21** and **22**) which are situated within, or in the vicinity of, the proposed development site.

Site No	Type	Period	Impact	Recommendations
01	Site of manor house	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Evaluation
02	Manor house (Grade II Listed Building)	Post-medieval	May be indirectly affected	Contact English Heritage for further advice regarding Statutory Designation
04	Prince's House Farm	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Buildings recording and evaluation
05	Cottage (Grade II Listed Building)	Post-medieval	May be affected	Preservation <i>in situ</i> . Contact English Heritage for further advice regarding Statutory Designation
06	Carr House (Grade II Listed Building)	Post-medieval	May be affected	Preservation <i>in situ</i> . Contact English Heritage for further advice regarding Statutory Designation
12	Ruin	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Evaluation
17	Boundary bank	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Topographic survey
19	Barn (Grade II Listed Building)	Post-medieval	May be affected	Preservation <i>in situ</i> . Contact English Heritage for further advice regarding Statutory Designation
21	Gates (Grade II Listed)	Post-medieval	May be affected	Preservation <i>in situ</i> . Contact English Heritage for further advice regarding Statutory Designation

22	Lodge (Grade II Listed Building)	Post-medieval	May be affected	Preservation <i>in situ</i> . Contact English Heritage for further advice regarding Statutory Designation
26	Relict coal pit	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Watching brief
27	Site of an ice house	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Evaluation
28	Boat House	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Evaluation
30	Lodge	Post-medieval	May be affected	Preservation in situ
31	Lodge	Post-medieval	May be affected	Preservation <i>in situ</i>
32	Site of buildings	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Evaluation
33	Orchard garden and outbuildings	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Preservation in situ if possible, buildings recording
34	Park perimeter wall	Post-medieval	Likely to be affected	Preservation in situ if possible, photographic record of setting

Table 3: Summary of recommendations

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ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites

Figure 3: Extract from Yates' 1787 Map of Lancashire

Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1850, 1:10,560

Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1892, 1:2500

Figure 6: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1907, 1:2500

Figure 7: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1927, 1:2500

Figure 8: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1937, 1:2500

PLATES

Plate 1: The orchard garden wall (Site **33**), looking north

Plate 2: The north side of the entrance to the orchard garden (Site **33**), looking north-west

Plate 3: The site of the well in the centre of the orchard garden (Site **33**), looking south

Plate 4: The outbuilding abutting the orchard garden wall (Site **33**), looking north

Plate 5: Halsnead Hall (Site **01**) from a photograph taken in 1928

Plate 6: Prince's House Farm (Site **04**) from a photograph taken in the 1920s

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Sinclair Knight Merz (hereafter the 'client') has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an archaeological desk-based assessment of an area of land at Halsnead Park, Knowsley, Merseyside (NGR SD 2848 7822). The site is positioned to the south of Whiston, in an area currently designated as adopted Green Belt, and is bounded by the M62 to the south, with Junction 6 located on the south-west corner. The client is currently undertaking an assessment of the site, which is mainly agricultural land, for the purposes of redevelopment to provide employment and housing land to 2021. Therefore, information regarding the archaeological potential is required. Situated within the middle of the area is a caravan park, with a cemetery in the north-east corner and recreation land and garden centre in the north-west corner.

1.1.2 The study area lies within a former medieval park estate, known as Halsnead Park, which once contained two manor halls. Much of this was later given over to the Cronton Colliery, situated to the south of the M62. However, there is potential for prehistoric activity in the area, of which evidence was found in close proximity to the site to the south of Junction 6 of the M62, due to the fact that medieval park estates have usually seen little development or agricultural activity thereby preserving any potential archaeological remains (OA North 2003).

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North has considerable experience of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 24 years. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations 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 (1994).

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The assessment aims to evaluate the known archaeological resource and potential for further archaeological deposits that may be impacted by any proposed development. To this end, the following programme has been designed to provide information as to whether further investigation may be required prior to the development taking place. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 **Desk-based assessment:** to provide a desk-based assessment of the site to identify the archaeological potential prior to any development and provide a context for any remains that may be located during trenching (in accordance with the IFA standards (1999a)).

2.3 **Visual Inspection Survey:** to undertake a site inspection to relate the desk-based assessment findings, and identify areas available for evaluation or any areas of disturbance.

2.4 **Report and Archive:** a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks, unless a report submission deadline is agreed with the client at the time of commission. An archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2 (1991)).

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 3.1.1 **Introduction:** a desk-based assessment is usually undertaken as the first stage of a programme of archaeological recording, prior to further intrusive investigation in the form of trenching. It is not intended to reduce the requirement for evaluation, excavation or preservation of known or presumed archaeological deposits, but it will provide an appraisal of archaeological constraints and a guide to any requirement for further archaeological work.
- 3.1.2 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The level of such work will be dictated by the time scale of the project. The results will be analysed using the set of criteria used to assess the national importance of an ancient monument (DoE 1990). This aids in the presentation of the significance or otherwise of the site, and assessment during the planning process.
- 3.1.3 **Documentary and Cartographic Material:** this work will include consultation of the Merseyside Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in Liverpool, as well as the Merseyside County Records Office in Liverpool Central Library. A review of all known and available resources of information relating to the site of the proposed development, and the study area consisting of 0.5km radius centred on the site. The aim of this is to give consideration not only to the application site, but also its setting in terms of historical and archaeological contexts. These include;
- ? published and unpublished documentary sources
 - ? data held in local and national archaeological databases
 - ? printed and manuscript maps
 - ? place and field-name evidence
 - ? evidence for township, ecclesiastical and other ancient boundaries
 - ? other photographic/illustrative evidence
- 3.1.4 **Merseyside SMR:** the SMR is a database of known archaeological sites within the County. It also holds an extensive library of published materials for consultation.
- 3.1.5 **County Record Office, Liverpool:** the office holds the main source of primary documentation, both maps and documents, for the site and its surrounding area.
- 3.1.6 **Map regression analysis:** a cartographic analysis will be undertaken to:
- ? to aid investigation of the post-medieval occupation and land-use of the area and its development through to its modern-day or most recent use. This provides one method of highlighting areas of potential archaeological interest,
 - ? locate areas where any recent developments on site, of which there is no longer any evidence, may have impeded or disturbed below-ground archaeological remains.
- 3.1.7 Particular emphasis will be on the early cartographic evidence and will include estate maps, tithe maps, and Ordnance Survey maps through to present mapping where possible.
- 3.1.8 **Visual Inspection:** following the desk-based assessment the site will be visited in order to relate the existing topography and land use to research findings, and assess evidence not available through documentary sources. It will also provide an understanding for areas of impact by the proposed redevelopment or areas of disturbance.
- 3.1.9 A visual inspection of the site will be undertaken to;
- ? relate the existing landscape to any research findings and note any features of potential archaeological interest.
 - ? identify any areas of potentially significant disturbance to surviving archaeological remains.

3.1.10 **Access:** liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through the client for the purposes of the site visit.

3.2 REPORT

3.2.1 One bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client within eight weeks of completion. The report will include;

- ? a site location plan related to the national grid
- ? a front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR
- ? a concise, non-technical summary of the results
- ? the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken
- ? description of the methodology, including the sources consulted
- ? a summary of the historical background of the study area
- ? an interpretation of the results and their significance, using the ‘Secretary of State’s criteria for scheduling ancient monuments’ included as Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990)
- ? appropriate plans showing the location and position of sites located
- ? a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the proposed development
- ? monochrome and colour photographs as appropriate
- ? a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design
- ? the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted
- ? an index to the project archive

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

3.3 ARCHIVE

3.3.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with Appendix 3 of the current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991) and UKIC (1990). This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the County Record Office.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

4.1 **Desk-based assessment:** approximately five days will be required for this element.

4.2 **Visual Inspection:** approximately one day will be required to complete this element, which would be undertaken at the same time as the desk-based assessment.

4.3 **Report and Archive:** the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be available within eight weeks of completion, and the archive deposited within six months.

4.4 OA North would require a formal written agreement 5 days to one week before commencement in order to schedule the work as above.

5. STAFFING

- 5.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc AIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 5.2 The desk-based assessment will be undertaken by **Tony Lee** (OA North supervisor) who is very experienced in such work and capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.

6. INSURANCE

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

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Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999a *Standard and guidance for archaeological Desk-Based Assessments*

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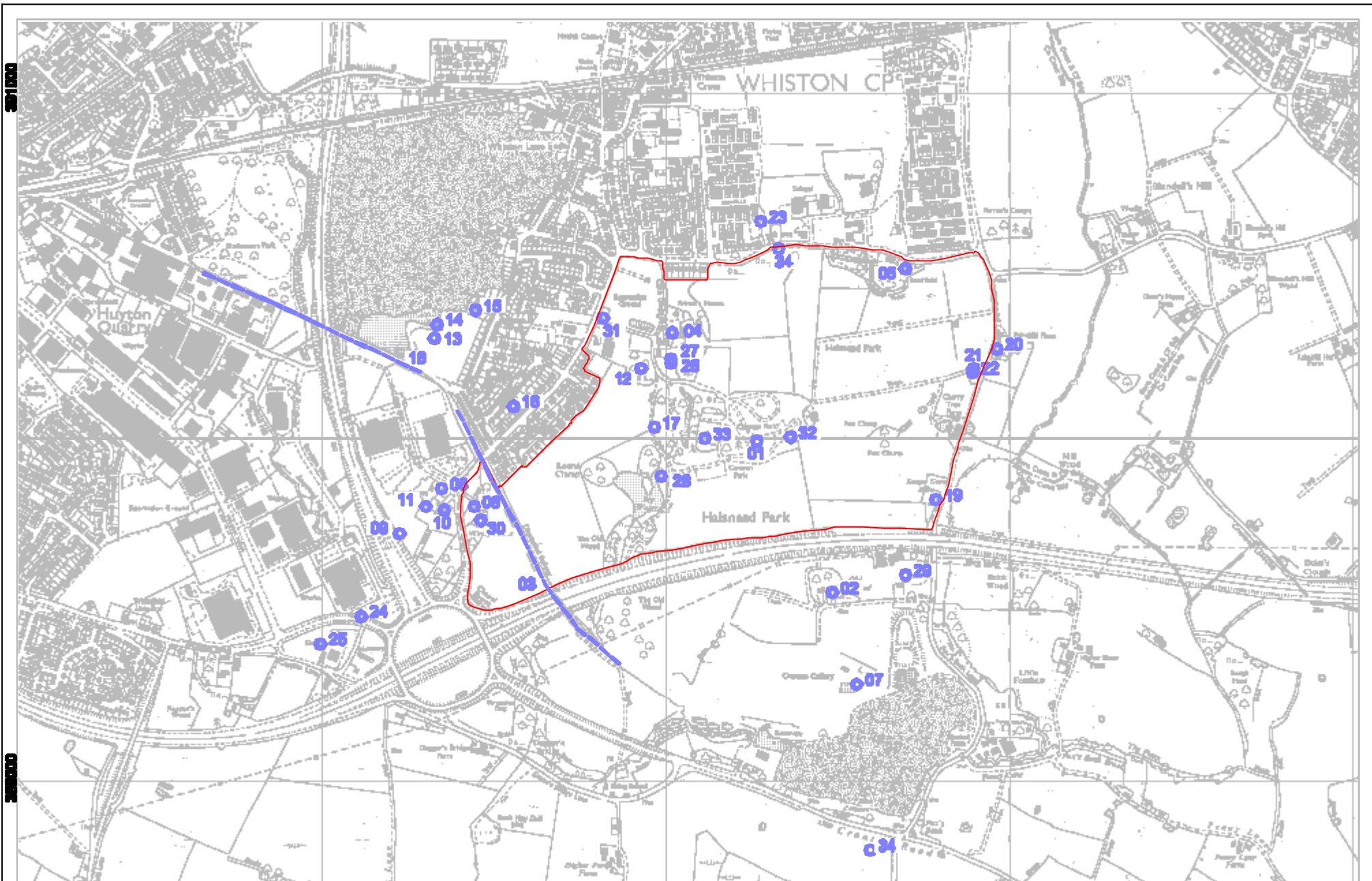


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0 250 500 metres



Figure 1: Location Map



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Key:
 ● 01 Gazetteer site
 — Site boundary

0 250m
 Scale 1:15000 at A4



Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites



Figure 3: Extract from Yates' 1787 Map of Lancashire




Key:
— Site boundary
 N


Not to scale



Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1850, 1:10,560



Key:
 Site boundary

N


Not to scale



Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1892, 1:2500



Key:
— Site boundary

Not to scale



Figure 6: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1907, 1:2500



Key:

 Site boundary

Not to scale



Figure 7: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1927, 1:2500



Plate 1: The orchard garden wall (Site 33), looking north



Plate 2: The north side of the entrance to the orchard garden (Site 33), looking north-west



Plate 3: The site of the well in the centre of the orchard garden (Site 33), looking south



Plate 4: The outbuilding abutting the orchard garden wall (Site 33), looking north



Plate 5: Halsnead Hall (Site **01**) from a photograph taken in 1928



Plate 6: Prince's House Farm (Site **04**) from a photograph taken in the 1920s



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