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Crewe

Cheshire

Archaeological Assessment



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1. INTRODUCTION

The following paper by Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) (formerly Lancaster University Archaeological Unit) outlines the archaeological potential of the proposed Basford West Development at Crewe and examines the archaeological impact of the development on the identified resource. The archaeological work comprised a desk-based assessment and field walk-over of the site, which was undertaken during February 2002, and was in accordance with the requirements of the Cheshire County Council's Planning Department and *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (DoE 1990)*.

This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document; it outlines the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, and an interim assessment of the impact of the proposed development.

2. EXTANT POLICY, LEGISLATION AND RELEVANT AGENCIES

2.1 Planning and Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG 16)

PPG16 published in 1990 provides guidance on the treatment of the below-ground archaeological resource within the planning process. It lays emphasis on the consultation of the Sites and Monuments Records for all planning applications and the need to implement archaeological assessments and evaluations on sites of archaeological potential in order to inform the planing process. It outlines that: *where planning authorities decide that the physical preservation in situ of archaeological remains is not justified in the circumstances of the case and that development resulting in the destruction of the archaeological resource should proceed, it would be entirely responsible for the planning authority to satisfy itself before granting planning permission that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains.*

Paragraph 25 states that where planning authorities decide that physical preservation *in situ* is not justified, and that development should proceed, it is reasonable for the authority to satisfy itself that the developer has made appropriate provision for the excavation and recording of the remains before development commences.

2.2 Planning and Policy Guidance Note 15 (PPG 15)

Some four years after the publication of PPG 16, it was complemented by a full statement of Government policies for the identification and protection of historic buildings, conservation areas, and other elements of the historic environment was released (PPG 15). In addition to normal development controls, the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest. In some cases, there is a close link between controls over listed buildings and conservation areas and development control decisions, and in such cases PPG 15 states that development and conservation issues will generally need to be considered together.

2.3 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Whilst PPG 16 and PPG 15 offer guidance during the planning process, by 1994 some 13,000 nationally important cases enjoyed statutory protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979. Under this Act, sites of archaeological and historic significance may be designated as scheduled monuments, whereby the case for preservation of the remains is fully considered given any proposals for development or other work which might damage the monument. Some historic buildings are designated scheduled ancient monuments. Additionally, Section 1 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 imposed on the Secretary of State for National heritage a duty to compile or approve lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Once a building is listed, section 7 of the Act provides that consent is normally required for its demolition, in whole or in part, and for any works of alteration or extension which would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest. It is presently a criminal offence to carry out such works without consent, which should be sought from the local planning authority.

3. METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH

3.1 Additional Information Sources

Several archives were visited in order to consult a variety of documentary sources pertaining to the study area:

Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record (CSMR): the Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record, a database of archaeological sites within the county and maintained by Cheshire County Council in Chester, was accessed. A record including grid reference and description was obtained for the various sites within the defined area and from just outside. The study area is currently a greenfield site and therefore it was appropriate to consult the available aerial photographs also held at the CSMR office. Copies of reports of the archaeological work undertaken in advance of the proposed A500 Basford-Hough-Shavington Bypass (Adams 2000; Dodd 2001) were also obtained, as these provided detailed archaeological evidence for an area to the south of the present study area.

Cheshire County Record Office (Chester): the County Record Office in Chester was visited primarily to consult documents specific to the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including any Tithe Maps and Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, were also examined. Particular emphasis was placed upon early cartographic evidence, which has the potential to inform medieval and post-medieval occupation and land use of the area. A search was made for any relevant historical documentation, particularly regarding the use of the area, drawing on the knowledge of the archivists. Several secondary sources and archaeological or historical journals were also consulted, and the results of this have been incorporated into the historical background.

Crewe Local Reference Collection: several pertinent secondary sources and copies of primary published documents were available in Crewe library, and these were consulted at this location.

Oxford Archaeology North Archives and Library: the archives and library of OAN in Lancaster contains unpublished reports of archaeological investigations conducted in Cheshire, and relevant historical background material.

3.2 Methodology

Walk-Over Survey: a walk-over survey was undertaken within the study area which extends over an area of 1.5sqkm. This rapid survey represented the minimum standard for an exploratory survey and served to identify and record the existence, location and extent of previously unrecorded sites. The survey was undertaken in systematic fashion, walking 30m wide transects and locating any sites with Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques. A brief written description and photographic record were also undertaken.

Archive: a full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Cheshire Record Office, Chester; an additional copy will be sent to the Cheshire County SMR, with a summary being sent to the National Monuments Record on completion of the overall project.

Environmental Assessment: potential impacts on the archaeological resources from the proposed development have then been identified and their magnitude determined. The magnitude (scale) of an impact is often difficult to define and generally terms such as substantial, moderate, slight and negligible are adopted.

Definitions are described in Table 1 below, with respect to archaeological impacts:

Table 1: Scale of Impact

Scale of Impact	Description
Substantial	Disturbance to over 75% of the known or estimated area of archaeological remains
Moderate	Disturbance to between 25% and 75% of the known or estimated area of the archaeological remains
Slight	Disturbance up to 25% of the known or estimated area of the archaeological remains
Negligible	None of the remains would be physically disturbed

The importance (sensitivity) of any identified receptor is scaled depending on its relative importance according to the following table:

Table 2: Importance of Receptor

Importance	Area
International	European Community
National	UK
Regional	North West England
County	Cheshire
Borough	Crewe
Local	Neighbourhood

Assessment of Significance: significance is then calculated by combining the scale of impact and importance or sensitivity through a matrix table as shown below.

Table 3: Significance Matrix

Resource Value (Importance)	Scale of Impact Upon Receptor			
	Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
National	Major	Major	Intermediate	Minor
Regional	Major	Intermediate	Intermediate	Minor
County	Major	Intermediate	Minor	Minor
Borough	Intermediate	Intermediate	Minor	Minor
Local	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor

The significance of an impact is also scaled as follows:

Major beneficial (positive) effect
Intermediate beneficial (positive) effect

Minor beneficial (positive) effect
 Neutral effect
 Minor adverse (negative) effect
 Intermediate adverse (negative) effect
 Major adverse (negative) effect

It is also sometimes of value to attribute a level of confidence by which the predicted impact has been assessed. The criteria for these definitions are set out in the table below.

Table 4: Confidence Level

Confidence Level	Description
High	The predicted impact is either certain, i.e. a direct impact, or believed to be very likely to occur, based on reliable information or previous experience
Low	The predicted impact and its level are best estimates, generally derived from first principles of relevant theory and the experience of the assessor. More information may be needed to improve the level of confidence.

This data is then used to produce a significance table (see Section 5.2), with a level of confidence being assigned to each impact.

4. BASELINE POSITION

4.1

BACKGROUND

Topography and Geology: the study area lies near Basford, 3km to the south of Crewe in Cheshire (centred on SJ 708 532). The site is situated within the Cheshire Plain, which extends from the broad Mersey Valley in the north, to the Shropshire Hills in the south. To the west, the Cheshire Plain is bounded by the hills of the Welsh borders, and to the north-east are the Pennine foothills (Countryside Commission 1998, 145). Much of the Plain is gently undulating, with only slight changes in elevation between 20m and 50m Ordnance Datum (OD). The predominant land use is the production of grass for grazing, silage or hay, although the farming is more mixed in the southern parts, and meres and mosses are widespread local features (*ibid*). Those within proximity to the study area include Oakhanger Moss and White Moss to the north-east, Wybunbury Moss to the south, and Baddiley Mere to the south-east (Leah *et al* 1997, 15).

The solid geology of the Cheshire Plain is formed from Triassic sandstones and marls, but these are overlain by glacial deposits, largely consisting of boulder clay, with local deposits of silt, peat, sand and gravels (Countryside Commission 1998, 149; OS Soil Survey 1983).

Historical Background: this historical background is compiled from secondary sources, and is intended only as a summary of the history of the general area.

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Periods (up to 3000 BC): the earliest evidence for human occupation in Cheshire dates to the Mesolithic period, although most of the evidence for such activity is confined to the Pennine fringes in the eastern part of the county; however, a site at Tatton Park (Leah *et al* 1997, 100) was found on examination to have an assemblage of 900 Mesolithic flints, from an area of only 9m x 6m and has

been interpreted as a chipping floor of a temporary camp (Higham 1993, 15). This area also contains some remains of large-scale Neolithic monuments, such as the Bridestones chambered long cairn near Congleton, although these have been associated with activity focused on the White Peak in Derbyshire (Higham 1993). Some evidence for activity closer to the study area during the Mesolithic period, however, is attested from surface finds. Such artefacts include a flint trimming flake retrieved from SJ 7369 5332, an unworked flint blade of early prehistoric date from SJ 7536 5326, and a black chert trimming flake of Mesolithic date found at SJ 7530 5333 (Leah *et al* 1997, 127), although there is little direct evidence for the nature of any activity during this period.

Neolithic and Bronze Age Periods (3000 - 600 BC): the Neolithic period is generally associated with the beginnings of agriculture and settled communities, and whilst few sites of this date have yet been identified in Cheshire, indications of clearance and vegetational changes have been identified in the pollen record (Leah *et al* 1997). Supporting evidence for Neolithic activity is confined to surface finds, most of which consist of isolated flint tools found during fieldwalking; the occasional examples of stratified deposits which have been excavated have been found fortuitously on excavations of later sites (Higham 1993). A particularly fine example of such a tool was a flint dagger recorded as a surface find from the Basford area (Longley 1987, 79). This tool was notched at the base of the blade, which was bifacially flaked out of grey flint, and reflected the form of early metal blades of later Beaker associations. Several single-struck flints were also recovered from the vicinity of Weston Hall (SJ 7232 5201) during the North West Wetlands Survey of Cheshire in 1997 (Leah *et al* 1997), and a group of five worked flints, including a double-ended scraper, a core, and an unretouched flake of late prehistoric date, have been retrieved from SJ 7228 5225 (*op cit*, 128).

The Early Bronze Age shows a similar pattern with most of the evidence for settlement being confined to funerary monuments on the Pennine fringes. Increasing pressure on the available agricultural land later in the Bronze Age may have been the cause of the construction of defensive earthworks in upland areas such as the mid-Cheshire Ridge, although the associated agricultural settlements remain elusive (Adams 2000, 3).

Iron Age Period (600 BC - AD43): the study area is situated within the area believed to have been occupied by the Cornovii (Webster 1975), and it has been suggested that the various Iron Age enclosures along the mid-Cheshire ridge may be a northwards extension of the Iron Age hillforts above the North Shropshire Plain (Leah *et al* 1997, 152). This activity may in part correspond with the palaeoenvironmental record, which shows a general intensification in landscape use across much of the county during the Iron Age (*ibid*); however, with the exception of these enclosures the evidence for settlement during this period is for the most part limited to chance finds. These include the bog body from Lindow Moss, which has provided invaluable information (Stead *et al* 1986; Turner and Scaife 1995). Whilst there is, as yet, little direct evidence for salt production or for any associated settlements from this period, the brine springs of south Cheshire are known to have been the focus of a well-established Iron Age salt industry (Morris 1985), and the production of a characteristic type of Iron Age pottery (VCP (Very Coarse Pottery)) has been linked to the salt trade.

Romano-British Period (AD43 - 410): the Roman period is well represented within Cheshire, although until recently most research has concentrated upon urban and military sites, with few investigations of rural settlements having been undertaken. Analysis of aerial photographs in recent years has identified numerous small enclosures thought to represent rural settlements, and the few that have been excavated have all dated to the Roman period (Nevell 1991).

The evolution of the Cheshire salt industry, which is focused in the central and southern parts of the county and appears to have been developed by the Roman administration, is of particular interest. The prosperity of Middlewich, for instance, was probably based entirely upon the salt trade (Higham 1993), and extensive evidence of Roman salt production spanning the first to fourth centuries has been excavated there (Bestwick 1975). The discovery of five Roman lead salt-pans at Northwich in August 1864 suggested that salt was being manufactured outside the area of the fort (Penney and Shotter 1996). Similarly, Watkin (1886) reported a brine kiln and briquetage some three miles from Middlewich, presumed to be of a Roman date, and the discovery of briquetage from Railway Farm, Moston (Price 1994), again indicates that the Roman salt industry extended into rural locations some distance from known centres of Roman settlement. Recent finds of salt pan fragments from the Shavington area (Penney and Shotter 1996), moreover, not only suggest that rural sites may have played a role in this trade, but are also consistent with the existence of Roman salt production in the immediate vicinity.

The precise location of the nearest section of Roman road to the study area is uncertain, although O'Dwyer (1935, 22) noted that it ran between Crewe Green and Weston, a line some 3km to the east of the study area. This road ran due south from the Roman fort at Middlewich, situated some 12km to the north of the study area. Margary (1957, 36) also identified a well-established Roman road that proceeded from Middlewich on a south-westward alignment. Definite remains of this road occur at Wood Farm, Worleston, some 4km to the north-east of the study area (*ibid*).

Further indications of Roman activity in the area have been provided by the retrieval of Roman pottery as surface finds near Crewe and Weston halls (*Section 4.5.3*).

Early Medieval Period (AD410 - 1066): there is little information available pertaining to the early medieval period; only six Cheshire places are mentioned in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, the chief source of the general history of the period (Sylvester 1971, 24). Indeed, studies of rural archaeology of this period are bedevilled by the same problems of site visibility as the earlier periods (Adams 2000, 4). The only excavated rural site which may belong to this period is Tatton (Higham 1993). Most of the evidence for post-Roman settlement in this area is based upon studies of place-names, which, in general terms, suggest a mixture of native British and Saxon speakers (Gelling 1992, 62), whilst the suffix of *-ton* in Shavington and Weston suggests that they were probably in existence by the end of the eighth century (Sylvester 1971, 24). There are numerous other settlements in the area that also bear the suffix '*-ton*', such as Chorlton, Walgherton, Willaston, Wistaston, and Alvaston (Fig 1). The Basford Tithe Map of 1839 (CRO/EDT 41/2), moreover, shows that the majority of older field names in Shavington are of likely Anglo-Saxon origin; the names of those fields that lie within the study area are reproduced in *Appendix 2*, although it is unfortunate that names are not ascribed to the fields shown on the Shavington Commutation map of c1839 (CRO/EDT 353/2).

Medieval Period (AD1066 – 1485): in general terms, the rural landscape of Cheshire during the medieval period would have been occupied by a series of small nucleated villages surrounded by open fields (Sylvester 1971). However, the devastation caused by the march of William I's armies during the mid-winter of 1069-70 seems to have left much of east Cheshire deserted, and even by 1086, the population there was very sparse and few fields were cultivated (*op cit*, 33). Whilst there were small scattered settlements in south Cheshire between the Weaver and the Dee, the situation during the late eleventh century further east is uncertain; Haworth and Comber (1952, 107) claim that Shavington was waste land by the time of the Domesday book (1086) (Morgan 1978). An agricultural economy will have been established during the latter part of this period, however, and in Wybunbury, for instance, a three field system of ploughing was followed in the thirteenth century (*ibid*). This type of system does not, however, appear to be typical in Cheshire, which seems to have evolved an irregular system in which fields were of different sizes, and were rarely three in number. More usual were the one- or two-field townships (Sylvester and Nulty 1958, 28).

Three salt towns (*wyches*) are mentioned in the Domesday Book: Nantwich, Northwich, and Middlewich. Refining was practised on a considerable scale, for the Earl of Chester alone had eight salt houses in Nantwich, and there were many more (Freeman *et al* 1966, 39).

During this period, the study area was divided between the townships of Basford and Shavington. These lay within the parish of Wybunbury, which formed part of a group of large Cheshire parishes associated with important ecclesiastical centres (Thacker 1987, 246), which probably also had an administrative function. The church at Wybunbury was almost certainly a Minster, probably under the patronage of St Chad (*op cit*, 271). Wybunbury appears in the Domesday Book as *Wimeberie* (Morgan 1978); the name is of Old English origin meaning '*Wigbeorn's stronghold or Manor House*' (Dodgson 1971, 81).

The Domesday Book often provides a starting point for the study of this period, and some villages within the study area are described in it. Indeed, Basford is first mentioned in the Domesday Book, where it appears as *Berchesford* (Morgan 1978). The first element may originate from a Norse personal name (Thacker 1987, 259), although Dodgson (1971, 49) suggests that the origin may be Old English (*Beorcol*) or Norse (*Borker, Barkr*). Various spellings appeared throughout the Middle Ages, including *Barkesford* (1260), *Barxeford* (1296), *Barsford* (1466) (Adams 2000).

During the fourteenth century, the manor of Basford was brought to the Bromleys, and in about 1563 John Bromley sold the reversion of the manor to Thomas Clutton (White 1860, 385). Basford Hall was the seat of the Bromleys, and afterwards of Sir Robert Cholmondeley. It was a timbered mansion, surrounded by a moat, and was destroyed by fire about 1700 (*ibid*).

Shavington is also mentioned in the Domesday Book, where it is thought to appear under the name of *Santune* (Haworth and Comber 1952, 107), although Sir Peter Leycester (1673) considered that *Calvintone* may have been Shavington. Later variants of the name include *Shawynton* (1260), *Schavyngton* (1298), and *Shenton* (1514) (Dodgson 1971, 70). The name originates from the Old English personal name *Scaefa*, hence '*farm called after Scaefa*' (*ibid*). It was part of a large agricultural area in the early medieval period, and was regarded as waste in 1087 (*ibid*). The Manor was the seat of the Woolnoth family from the time of Henry III (1216-72), and it is likely that the Woolnoths succeeded to the lordship of Shavington from a family

which bore the name of Shavington (Nulty 1959, 10). The male line ended in 1637, and it is believed that the last of the Woolnoths became a charge on the parish (Haworth and Comber 1952, 107).

Post-Medieval Period (AD1485 – 1901): the Tudor and Stuart period may be regarded as the heyday of the small manor house, and nowhere were they more important than in Cheshire, ‘the seedpot of gentility’ (Sylvester 1971, 43). The great bulk of the population drew at least part of their income from the land during this period (Phillips and Smith 1994, 25), and the area is likely to have retained its rural character until well into the nineteenth century (Adams 2000, 4); villages such as Weston and Basford have probably remained largely unaltered in their general layout since the end of the Middle Ages. The major change to the landscape prior to the Industrial Revolution would have been the enclosure of the medieval open field system, and by the early nineteenth century, only vestiges of the former open arable fields of the county survived (Sylvester and Nulty 1958, 28); the fields within the study area are shown as enclosed on the nineteenth century maps available in the Cheshire County Record Office (CRO/DDB/Q/2; CRO/EBT 41/2; CRO/EBT 353/2), and whilst field boundaries are not shown on Burdett's map of 1777 (CRO/PMR/16D; Fig 1), it is unlikely that an open field system of agriculture was practised at that time.

The process of enclosing, that is fencing off an individual's land from that of his neighbours, had begun in the medieval centuries. Parliamentary Enclosure in Cheshire began around 1765, although this had minimal impact until the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries (Phillips and Smith 1994). In all, some 45 Acts initiated the enclosure of over 25,000 acres of Delemere Forest and 1300 acres on higher ground at Congleton and Macclesfield (*op cit*, 158).

An example of the agriculture practised on a late eighteenth century Cheshire farm is provided by Fussell (1955), who cites Ralph Basford's tenancy of Stowford Farm, Weston. The farm comprised 120 acres, of which 15-20 acres was dedicated to the cultivation of wheat, 20-25 acres to oats and barley, 15-20 acres to hay, 10-15 acres were left fallow and 30-40 acres were grazed. The livestock on the farm included a herd of 20 cows and pigs (*op cit*, 66). Whilst there is no direct reference as to how Ralph Basford fertilised his land, the practice of marling, which was introduced during the Roman period, continued in Cheshire throughout the medieval period (*ibid*). Commercial peat production, which began in the late nineteenth century in Cheshire and agricultural improvements (Leah *et al* 1997, 215), effected changes to the wetlands in the region, although there are no mosses within the study area.

Development of the area from the mid-nineteenth century onwards was dominated by the expansion of the railway industry, centred on the town of Crewe (*Section 3.2.26*). This expansion included the construction of the Basford Hall Sorting Sidings (Site 9) across the eastern edge of the study area, which resulted in the modification of some field boundaries.

Basford: in 1666, the Holfords, an illegitimate line of the Cholmondeley's were described as manorial lords of Basford (Elrington 1987). The manor was subsequently sold to Joseph Crewe, whose son, John Crewe, then sold it to Sir Thomas Broughton in 1758.

In 1831, the population of Basford was 86, which had decreased by one to 85 by 1841, when it comprised 13 houses (Bagshaw 1850, 401). By 1851, the settlement

had contracted further, and then comprised 12 houses and 69 inhabitants, of whom 41 were males and 28 females (White 1860, 385). At the beginning of the twentieth century, Kelly and Co's *Directory of Cheshire* (1902) described Basford as a small township comprising 671 acres with a rateable value of £6,165. Sir Delves Louis Broughton was the Lord of the Manor and chief landowner, and the population in 1901 was 69. At this time, Basford Hall was occupied as a farmhouse.

Shavington: Shavington Hall was built by the Turner family in 1661, on the site of the old manor which had belonged to the Woolnoths. The Hall was eventually sold to William Thomasson in 1865. Since then, it has changed hands several times, and was leased to the Earl of Shrewsbury as a hunting lodge for many years (Nulty 1959, 13). Opposite to the Hall stands Shavington Lodge, although this is of a much later date (Haworth and Comber 1952, 107). It is of note as the first house in the village to have electric light, produced by an oil-engine-driven dynamo (*ibid*).

The most detailed of the pre-Ordnance Survey maps of Cheshire is perhaps that made by Burdett in 1777 (CRO/PM 12/16D), although that of Bryant in 1831 is also very detailed. The latter shows that a hamlet known as Woodnett's Green was situated almost exactly on the site of Crewe Station. This is the only cartographic representation of this hamlet, which may have derived its name from the Shavington family of Woolnoth (Nulty 1959, 31). The area around Gresty is also shown to comprise fields, which were subsequently absorbed into Crewe, and the railway sorting sidings have destroyed the physical features of much of that area.

At the Census of 1841, Shavington was recorded to comprise 82 houses and 441 inhabitants, which had increased only slightly at the 1851 Census to 88 houses and 453 inhabitants. By 1895, however, the population had expanded to 800 (Porter 1896), and almost 90% were described as 'labourers'.

Crewe: the settlement is listed in the Domesday Book as *Crev*, and Richard of Vernon is recorded as owner of the lands (Scholes 2000, 54). In 1288, the settlement was known as *Cruue*, derived from the Welsh *Cryw*, denoting a ford or stepping stones (*ibid*). The earliest cartographic representation of the settlement is provided by Burdett's map of Cheshire in 1777 (Fig 1), which depicts Crewe as a small village situated to the north of Crewe Hall (SJ 7320/5400). In essence, the hall is a fine example of a Jacobean house, built for Sir Randolph Crewe between 1615 and 1639. It was extended in the late eighteenth century, modernised in 1837, and greatly remodelled after a fire in 1866 (Scholes 2000). The remodelling was undertaken by EM Barry, son of Sir Charles Barry, designer of the Houses of Parliament.

The rise of a formal retail market in Crewe began in 1842, when four railway lines converged there and the Grand Junction Company established its engine sheds and repair shops (Phillips and Smith 1994, 164). With the opening of Crewe Works in 1843, Crewe became a boom town. Farmers in Shavington found that men were leaving the land in increasing numbers to find work in Crewe (Nulty 1959, 44), and the evidence obtained from the trade directories (*Section 3.2.22*) indicates that Basford is likely to have experienced a similar phenomenon. By 1848, some 520 company and 300 private houses had been built in Crewe as well as shops (*op cit*, 194). The company also provided a church, schooling, sanitation, and a water supply (Chaloner 1950, 46 *et seq*).

A new station was erected in 1867 to replace the original structure of 1846, and about 50 acres of land along the line from Shavington to Crewe, including some within the

study area, were bought for increased accommodation for goods traffic (Nulty 1959, 47). Continued expansion, based largely on the railway industry, led to the designation of Crewe as a borough in 1877 (Scholes 2000, 55). Diversification from the railway industry was achieved in the twentieth century with the arrival of Rolls Royce Aero Engines in 1938 and after the Second World War, Rolls Royce based its automobile engineering division at Crewe (*ibid*).

As part of post-war redevelopment, programmes of substantial regeneration were enacted. By 1969, Crewe was scheduled to take overspill from Manchester (Phillips and Smith 1994, 339), and the possibility of the agglomeration of Northwich, Winsford and Crewe to form 'Weaver City' was considered (*op cit*, 340).

4.2 Existing Baseline

4.2.1 **Introduction:** the assessment results are based on primary documents, notably maps and surveys, as well as finds and excavation results; these are presented according to the archive in which they were consulted.

4.2.2 **Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record (CSMR):** there was a total of 26 CSMR records within the vicinity of the study area (Fig 5), although none were located within the proposed development area. It should be stressed, however, that this bias is a reflection of the foci of previous studies, and the concentration of sites to the south of the study area does not equate to an absence of potential sites within the development area.

The CSMR site closest to the study area (Site 17) was of Bronze Age date. A cluster of other surface finds located to the south-east of the study area (Sites 18, 19, 20, 21) provide further evidence of prehistoric activity, highlighting a potential for the existence of similar material to exist within the study area.

A suite of Roman find spots (Sites 3, 4, 5, 23, 24), situated c1km to the south of the study area, included three separate lead salt pans, a coin, and a brooch. Other Roman material, including coins and brooches (Sites 25, 26, 27) have been found near Weston, to the east of the study area.

Aerial Photographs: held within the CSMR is an extensive collection of aerial photographs covering the study area. The earliest are black and white oblique photographs dating from the 1930s, followed by colour obliques from the 1970s and the most recent survey was carried out in the last few years, comprising colour verticals. These clearly show ridge and furrow marks across several of the fields within the study area.

4.2.3 **Cheshire County Record Office (CCRO):** the Cheshire County Record Office (CRO) at Chester was consulted to inspect maps for a regression analysis of the study area. A wealth of cartographic material for the area was available, including county maps dating from the sixteenth century onwards. Cartographic evidence from other sources is also included in this section.

Saxton 1577: this is the earliest map of Cheshire, and the villages and towns are shown by a set of symbols, which appear to have been used rather randomly and with no key. Little additional detail is shown, apart from the position of the roads, and this map is therefore of little relevance to the present study.

Speed 1610: this map also shows the location of towns and villages in Cheshire, but again lacks detail.

Burdett 1777 (CRO/PM 12/16D) (Fig 1): this is a map of the settlements of the county of Cheshire, showing their relative locations and distinguishing some as more prominent than others. It also depicts areas of woodland and heath, and gives an impression of the density of occupation. This map clearly shows Shavington-cum-Gresty, Basford, and Weston, together with Crewe, Basford, and Weston Halls. It also shows the position of the roads and tracks in the area, but does not depict the field boundaries.

Map of the Estates of Sir John Delves Broughton, 1815 (CRO/DDB/Q/2): this is an early map which shows the study area, with the field boundaries prior to the construction of the railway to the east of the study area. Apart from the disturbance caused by the construction of the railway, the field boundaries are very similar to those shown on the Basford Tithe Map of 1839 (CRO/EDT 41/2).

Bryant 1831, Map of Cheshire: as with Burdett's map of 1777, Bryant's map shows the relative locations of the settlements in Cheshire, and the position of the roads in the area. It is of note that the main thoroughfare through Shavington led not to what is now Crewe, but to Weston and Basford. Shavington Lane, which is the present Crewe Road, is shown to be no more than a track, which led originally to what was probably the early manor house of Gresty – Brook House Farm (Nulty 1959). Basford Hall and Shavington Hall are both shown, but the field boundaries within the study area are not depicted on the map.

Basford Tithe Map, 1839 (CRO/EDT 41/2) (Fig 2): this map provides a detailed survey of the environs of the eastern part of the study area, showing the land holdings in the township of Basford. It has a north arrow and the scale is noted in chains. It shows roads and, more usefully, field names which correspond to those in the Apportionment (CRO/EDT 41/1). The majority of field names originate in personal names, perhaps denoting ownership, natural topographical features, or agricultural usage; the names of those fields which lie within the study area are listed in *Appendix 2*.

Tithe Commutation Map, c1839 – Township of Shavington (CRO/EDT 353/2) (Fig 3): this map also provides a detailed survey of the much of the study area, showing the land holdings in the township of Shavington. As with the Basford Tithe Map, it shows the position of the roads and field numbers which correspond to those in the Apportionment (CRO/EDT 353/1).

Ordnance Survey 1876 – 1st Edition 6":1mile (Fig 4): comparison of this map with the current Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map (Fig 5) shows the gradual amalgamation of fields through the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, although only six boundaries appear to have been removed, with a reduction in the number of fields within the study area from 30 to 22.

Ordnance Survey 1938 – 6":1mile: this map, surveyed in 1938, shows that several fields have been joined together but there are no marked changes.

Discussion: the sequence of maps shows a stable pattern of field outlines which have not changed dramatically, seemingly, from c1839 to the present day. The changes that may be seen from a comparison of the various maps show that, in general terms, there was a tendency for the expansion of fields through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A similar stable picture is presented with respect to the position of the

roads, which have remained the same from the eighteenth century with only minor alterations being apparent. The expansion of housing development may be traced around the periphery of the study area, particularly along the eastern side of Crewe Road. Gresty Green, to the north of the study area, is also shown to have expanded, and there appears to have been some enlargement of Spring Bank in the northern part of the study area.

Published Sources: the County Record Office also holds complete runs of relevant journals, which were consulted. The information from these sources has been incorporated into the historical background (*Section 3.2*).

4.2.4 **Local Studies Collection, Crewe Library, and OAN's Archives and Library, Lancaster:** several secondary sources were consulted from these collections, including the volumes of the *English Place Name Society* (Smith 1956), *Shavington: The Story of a South Cheshire Village* (Nulty 1959), and *Shavington-cum-Gresty* (Cheshire County Council 1997). The information from these sources has been incorporated into the historical background (*Section 3.2*).

4.2.5 **Archaeological Interventions:** very little detailed archaeological fieldwork seems to have been undertaken within the study area, although several sites are known to lie in the vicinity; these are listed in *Appendix 1*.

During 1986, the Secretary of State for the Environment was required to compile lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest for the guidance of local planning authorities. This report concluded that 'the parish of Basford was included in the resurvey but no listable buildings were found' (DoE 1986). There are no scheduled monuments within the study area.

The most comprehensive archaeological survey in the area was probably that undertaken as part of the English Heritage funded North West Wetlands Survey (Leah *et al* 1997). This project comprised a programme of desk-based assessment, fieldwalking, palynological survey, and aerial photography. Amongst the artefacts retrieved from the fieldwalking was a group of Roman pottery, discovered close to the source of the Basford Brook and near to Weston Hall (SJ 7389/5032). This included a badly abraded piece of the footring of a highly-fired Samian dish, dated to *c* AD100-20, and two sherds of very abraded coarseware pottery, which were possibly the products of the Wilderspool kilns and of second century date (*op cit*, 168). Another fragment of Roman pottery, dated to the late first to early second centuries, was also found near Crewe Hall (SJ 7371/5341) (*ibid*).

In 1998, Earthworks Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of the A500 Basford-Hough-Shavington bypass (Dodd 2001). The work comprised fieldwalking, a metal detection scan, and geophysical survey, followed by trial excavation. Several sites were identified as a result of this, including a probable field boundary ditch, and evidence for medieval and post-medieval agricultural practices represented by the scars of ridge and furrow ploughing. A large collection of clay tobacco pipes was discovered north of Blakelow Farm.

In 2000, Liverpool Museum Field Archaeology Unit undertook a desk-based assessment of the area in advance of the A500 Basford-Hough-Shavington bypass (Adams 2000). This collated known information of the area from a range of primary, cartographic, and secondary sources, with a focus to the south of the current study area.

In 2001, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on a site to the south of Rope Lane (SJ 7050/5270) in advance of the A500 Basford-Hough-Shavington bypass. This work comprised geophysical and earthwork surveys, which identified four possible clamp kilns of probable post-medieval date (M Leah pers comm).

- 4.2.6 **Results of the Walk-over Survey:** the proposed development area was subject to a walk-over survey during February 2002. In total, 22 fields were examined and the results are summarised below in the order in which they were visited (Fig 6). None of the fields had been ploughed recently, thus reducing the potential for the retrieval of surface finds. Indeed, very few surface finds were produced during the field walk-over, and these were restricted to a few fragments of pottery of nineteenth- and twentieth-century date, which were of no archaeological significance.

Field 1: this comprised improved grassland. The foundations of a modern concrete building, presumably associated with livestock, were identified along the northern edge of the field, adjacent to Crewe Road. Situated some 20m to the south, a low bank crossed the field on an east/west alignment (Site 35). Further south, and close to the eastern boundary of the field, a circular depression (Site 37), some 4m in diameter, was noted (Plate 1). This contained water, and was of an unknown depth or function. Further south, two low, sub-circular mounds, each measuring approximately 8m across, were identified (Site 36). The purpose of the mounds is uncertain, although their dimensions may be consistent with the expected sizes of the bases of clamp kilns.

Field 2: this dipped to the east and comprised improved grassland. Evidence of ridge and furrow plough marks (Site 38) was identified within the field, aligned roughly north-east/south-west. The furrows were set approximately 4.5m apart.

Fields 3: this again dipped gently and uniformly to the east, becoming quite saturated at the foot of the slope, and is currently improved grassland. No archaeological features were identified.

Field 4: this again comprised improved grassland. A large, linear depression (Site 39), some 5m deep, crossed the northern edge of this field. This feature had gently sloping sides and an irregular base that contained a series of low mounds. In the north-west corner, a possible trackway, some 2.5m wide, was noted to provide access from the field into the base of the feature. The function and date of this feature remain uncertain, although it may have resulted from mineral extraction, such as clay.

Field 5: this again comprised improved grassland, and was noticeably wetter than the other fields. It dipped gently to the south, and had been rutted by tractor wheels. No archaeological features were identified within this field.

Field 6: this again comprised improved grassland, and was also saturated and rutted by tractor wheels. No archaeological features were identified.

Field 7: this comprised improved grassland, and a large pond (Site 40) was identified close to the eastern edge.

Field 8: this also comprised improved grassland. The field was dissected from east to west by the remnant of a hedge, which is likely to represent a former field boundary; the line and current extent of this boundary is marked on the OS 1:10,000 map. Indistinct traces of ridge and furrow marks were identified (Site 41) crossing the field from east to west, to the south of the remnant hedge.

Field 9: this dipped gently to the east, and comprised improved grassland. A large sub-square depression, measuring approximately 28m by 30m, was identified in the centre of the field, but no other archaeological features were noted.

Field 10: this comprised improved grassland, although ridge and furrow marks were identified across much of the field, and were aligned north-west/south-east (Site 42). The furrows were set approximately 4.5m apart. A possible hollow-way, some 12m wide, curved around the eastern edge of the ridge and furrow and, along the south-western edge of the field, a tree-lined trackway, or avenue (Plate 2), was noted (Site 43).

Field 11: this again comprised improved grassland. No archaeological features were identified.

Field 12: this comprised improved grassland. Traces of ridge and furrow marks, aligned north/south, were identified within the field, with the furrows set some 5m apart (Site 44). A second series of ridge and furrow marks was identified further south, although these were aligned south-east/north-west. Although there was no clearly visible link between the two series of ridge and furrow, it is possible that they were part of the same system. They appeared to be overlain by an embanked track, leading from Spring Bank Farm.

Field 13: this field dipped gently to the south-east and comprised improved grassland. A possible lynchet (Site 45) was identified, aligned east/west across the centre south of the field, leaving a slightly raised platform to the north. This feature tapered out towards the eastern edge of the field. In addition, a very low, seemingly rectangular, earthwork appeared to occupy an area close to the northern edge of the field, but it was impossible to define closely.

Field 14: this again comprised improved grassland. No archaeological features were identified.

Field 15: this comprised improved grassland, although ridge and furrow marks were identified (Site 46), aligned north/south, some 55m from the eastern boundary of the field. These were not as distinct as other ridge and furrow marks within the study area, but were nevertheless apparent. The furrows were set some 4.5m apart.

Field 16: this again comprised improved grassland. A large bowl-shaped depression (Site 47), measuring some 35m by 18m, was identified in the south-east corner of the field. Two areas of ridge and furrow marks were also identified, separated by a c12m wide headland that was situated some 50m east of the western edge of the field (Plate 3). To the west of this headland, the ridge and furrow marks (Site 49) were aligned north/south, whilst those to the east (Site 48) were aligned east/west. A second possible headland was identified along the northern edge of the field, bounding the northern extent of the second series of ridge and furrow marks. In both cases, the furrows were situated some 4.5m apart. Also against the northern edge of the field, a pile of concrete and brick formed a vegetation-covered mound, which was probably a demolished structure, and presumably of late post-medieval/modern date.

Field 17: this comprised improved grassland. A shallow, L-shaped depression (Site 50) in the south-east quadrant of the field had a depth of approximately 1.5m, and had very gently sloping sides, with an undulating base. It was aligned north-east/south-west, and measured approximately 42m long by 12m wide. The origin of this feature is uncertain, although it was almost certainly man-made. In the north-west corner of the field, a series of low, linear mounds appeared to be of recent origin.

Field 18: this comprised improved grassland. A large depression in the south-east corner could have represented an extraction pit. This contained some water, but was by no means full.

Field 19: this dipped slightly to the north and comprised improved grassland. A large, bowl-shaped depression, some 20m in diameter (Site 51), was identified in the central west part of the field. This had gently-sloping sides and a flat base, and may have been the result of quarrying for marl or clay. Traces of ridge and furrow were also identified (Site 52), but were restricted to the eastern part of the field. As with the other ridge and furrow marks identified within the study area, the furrows were set between 4.5m and 5m apart.

Field 20: this comprised improved grassland. Distinct ridge and furrow marks were identified, aligned north/south across the northern half of the field (Site 53). The distance between the furrows was approximately 5m. The southern edge of this ridge and furrow was bounded by a probable headland, aligned east/west across the entire field. The eastern extent of the ridge and furrow was marked by a particularly deep 'furrow', which may have been the remnant of a hollow-way, providing access to the fields. No evidence of any ridge and furrow to the east of this putative hollow-way was identified. Immediately to the south of the headland were two large trees, which may represent the line of a relict field boundary, although this could not be ascertained with confidence. Support for this postulation was, however, provided by a second series of ridge and furrow marks (Site 54), again aligned north/south, which was present across the entire southern part of the field.

Field 21: this dipped gently to the south and comprised improved grassland. The remnant of a hedge in the north-east corner of the field may have represented an old field boundary.

Field 22: this comprised improved grassland. Ridge and furrow (Site 54), aligned broadly north/south, were identified across the entire field, continuing the system seen in the southern part of the field across a later dividing boundary into the northern part of the original larger field. The distance between the furrows was again approximately 5m.

- 4.2.7 ***The Identified Archaeological Resource:*** the results of the assessment have shown that there is potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the study area; in particular, there is a relict agricultural landscape, that dates back in places to at least the medieval period, and there is also considerable documentary evidence for medieval settlement in the area. Despite an absence of definitive evidence for extant archaeological remains within the study area, a potential for archaeological sites exists on the basis of extrapolation from known sites in the region. The largest single piece of archaeological work conducted in the area is that undertaken during the North West Wetlands survey (Leah *et al* 1997), which included a detailed investigation of the wetlands between Crewe and the Shropshire border, and a group to the north-east, between Crewe and Alsager.

Prehistory: there are several prehistoric findspots within the general area (Section 3.2; Fig 5), suggesting some prehistoric activity. The character of the Mesolithic evidence was typically temporary working floors, or similar ephemeral remains, as typified by Tatton Park (Leah *et al* 1997, 100), and suggesting nomadic activity. However, a study of a basin mire close to Monnesley Mere (SJ 7500 5200) suggested several episodes of clearance throughout the prehistoric period (Leah *et al* 1997), and

the evident continued use or reuse of the place suggests more settled agricultural exploitation.

Roman: there are tantalising indications of Roman activity in the area, particularly those associated with the salt industry, which may be linked to rural settlements. Very little is known about either the salt industry or settlement in a rural context during this period, and any evidence for either would be of great archaeological significance. It is interesting to note the success gained by the metal detector surveys conducted in conjunction with Earthworks Archaeology during their 1998 investigation of the proposed route of the A300 Basford-Hough-Shavington bypass, a short distance to the south of the current study area (Dodd 2001). The surface finds from this programme of work included fragments of Roman lead salt pans (Sites 4 and 5).

Medieval: the study area has considerable evidence of medieval field systems. The remains of a relict field system identified in Fields 20 and 22 are of particular interest, as the ridge and furrow marks appeared to predate two of the field boundaries shown on the tithe map of c1839 (Fig 3). Similarly, the relict field system identified in Field 16 (Sites 48 and 49) may also represent medieval agricultural practice, as the ridge and furrow marks, which were separated by a possible headland, did not relate clearly to the present field boundaries. It is clear that, in the medieval period, common field farming was widespread in Cheshire, although evidence as to which crops were grown, how often fields were left fallow, and how crops were rotated is very scarce (Phillips and Smith 1994, 27). Whilst the results of the current survey have little potential to provide new information, it has highlighted the presence of field systems of probable medieval date, surviving as earthwork features.

Post-medieval: the transition from the medieval to post-medieval periods is not particularly clear in the region and it is unlikely that further work will shed any new light upon this. The many surface depressions and ponds identified within the study area, however, are of some interest. Whilst these features remain undated, and their precise nature uncharacterised, some are likely to be the result of mineral extraction. It is probable that any such extraction was focused on obtaining clay for ceramic building materials, or marl for fertiliser.

4.3 Year of Opening

There is no anticipated change to the condition or character of the identified resource by the year of opening (2008) as no alternative development is proposed on the site if this proposal does not go ahead.

4.4 Future Baseline

If the development were not to proceed, no changes to the condition or character of the identified resource are anticipated over the fifteen years after the year of opening (2023).

5 ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS

5.1 Potential Environmental Impacts

5.2 Archaeological deposits are a continually diminishing resource that can provide unambiguous evidence of past activity in an area. Any below-ground work undertaken within the study area may encounter archaeological deposits and features and, without the recording of such finds, there is a likelihood that crucial information

will be destroyed. Whilst little field investigation has been undertaken to date over the survey area, the evidence presented in the present study suggests that there is a reasonable potential for the survival of archaeological deposits. This may be particularly the case for evidence of Roman activity, which has been testified, but not fully characterised, by the chance discovery of finds within the vicinity. However, it is not possible to gauge the impact of any development without the implementation of further archaeological investigation, as the surface expression, nature, and significance of the deposits or features is unknown at this time.

5.3 Significance of Effects

Table 5: Significance of Effects

Feature/Nature of Impact	Importance	Impact	Significance of Effect	Confidence Level
Site 35 Field 1	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 36 Field 1	Borough	Substantial	Minor	Intermediate
Site 37 Field 1	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 38 Field 2	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 39 Field 4	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 40 Field 7	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 41 Field 8	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 42 Field 10	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 43 Field 10	Borough	Substantial	Minor	Intermediate
Site 44 Field 12	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 45 Field 13	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 46 Field 15	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 47 Field 16	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 48 Field 16	Borough	Substantial	Minor	Intermediate
Site 49 Field 16	Borough	Substantial	Minor	Intermediate
Site 50 Field 17	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 51 Field 19	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low

Site 52 Field 20	Local	Substantial	Minor	Low
Site 53 Field 20	Borough	Substantial	Minor	Intermediate
Site 54 Field 20	Borough	Substantial	Minor	Intermediate

5.3 Proposed Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

The archaeological assessment and field walk-over survey have highlighted a potential for archaeological remains within the study area. Evidence for prehistoric activity in the area has been provided to date largely through the retrieval of surface finds. The presence of sub-surface Roman material, however, has been located by metal detector, and the value of a supervised metal detector survey has been illustrated by the archaeological investigation undertaken in advance of the Basford-Hough-Shavington bypass (Dodd 2001), within a kilometre to the south of the study area. It is thus recommended that a similar approach is taken in advance of the development of Basford West.

Indications of probable medieval activity across the site is represented by evidence of relict field systems, which survives as surface features. Whilst the presence of the ridge and furrow, and possibly associated headlands, was noted during the walk-over, it is recommended that further work includes a topographic survey of a sample of these features. In particular, Fields 15, 16, and 20 contain good examples of these features (Sites 46, 48, 49, 53), and the noted indications that they predate the current field boundaries suggest that they may be of medieval origin.

The two low mounds identified within Field 1 (Site 36) have the potential to be brick clamp kilns as a fragment of burnt brick was identified by the field survey in the immediate vicinity of one of the mounds. These clearly merit further examination, as a surface inspection can offer little more than noting their presence. It is thus recommended that these features are subject to archaeological trenching, in order that their nature, extent, function, and date may be characterised.

Overall the archaeological resource is of local importance only; however, there are a number of sites of greater (borough) importance. These include the low mounds (putative clamp kilns) (Site 36), the formally designed tree lined avenue (Site 43), and areas of broad ridge and furrow, which area associated with headlands or pre-date present field boundaries and are potentially of medieval date (Sites 48, 49, 53 and 54).

6. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) (formerly Lancaster University Archaeological Unit), undertook a desk-based assessment and field walk-over survey, in February 2002, of a proposed development area (SJ 708 532) near Crewe, Cheshire. The aim of the work was to inform the archaeological component of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

The assessment examined primary records held within the Cheshire County Record Office, the Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record, and the Local Studies Collection

in Crewe library. It highlighted numerous indications of archaeological potential, from within the study area, as well as sites in close proximity. In particular, the potential for sub-surface evidence of prehistoric and Roman remains was identified.

The field walk-over survey examined the surface survival within the study area, and identified the remains of medieval/post-medieval field systems.

The field systems extend over much of the survey area, and will be impacted by the proposed development, however, much of the ridge and furrow cultivation is apparently of post-medieval date and is of only local archaeological importance.

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APPENDIX A: GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site Number 1
Site Name Basford Village
Site Type Possible medieval village
SMR Number 204
NGR SJ 718 522
Source CSMR; OS 1st edition (1876); current OS 1:10,000 map
Period Medieval
Comment Domesday Book records Basford as consisting of three manors at the time of Conquest (Morgan 1978).

Site Number 2
Site name Hall and Mill of Shaw
Site Type Possible medieval house and moat
SMR Number 219/1
NGR SJ 718 522
Source CSMR; Dodgson 1971
Period Medieval
Comment Site may comprise a moat, country house, watermill, manor, and deserted settlement. The Hall of Shaw may be the same as the moat indicated by Moatfield in Basford.

Site Number 3
Site name Shavington Salt Pan
Site Type Roman lead salt pan
SMR Number 2400/0/1
NGR SJ 707 517
Source CSMR; Penney and Shotter 1996
Period Roman
Comment Roman lead salt pan flattened and cut into eight pieces, although one piece is missing. Present dimensions are 1.285m by 1.165m. Bears cast low-relief inscription: VIVENTI ... COPI along one side. Comparable examples have been found in Nantwich and Northwich. Found in September 1993, c 0.5m below ground surface on farmland.

Site Number 4
Site name Grove Farm
Site Type Roman lead salt pan
SMR Number 2400/0/2
NGR SJ 707 518
Source CSMR; Dodd 2001
Period Roman
Comment Roman lead salt pan found in July 1998, c 0.7m below ground surface. Shallow relief markings on outside of two opposite sides with suspension holes.

Site Number 5
Site name Shavington-cum-Gresty
Site Type Roman lead salt pan
SMR Number 2400/0/3
NGR SJ 707 518
Source CSMR; Dodd 2001
Period Roman
Comment Roman lead salt pan found in July 1998 by metal detector 0.5m below ground surface. Shallow relief markings on the outside of two opposite sides, including the name VIVENTIUS.

Site Number 6
Site name Sutch Farm
Site Type Medieval/post-medieval Flask
SMR Number 2449
NGR SJ 716 518
Source CSMR
Period Medieval/post-medieval
Comment Lead ampulla, 470mm long, of probable fifteenth to sixteenth century date. Bears a faint heraldic shield on one side, and a decorated zig-zag border and geometric flower motif. The ampulla is now in the City Museum, Stoke on Trent.

Site Number 7
Site name Wagon Shed south of Crewe Station
Site Type Wagon Shed
SMR Number 2521/1/41
NGR SJ 712 543
Source CSMR; OS 1:10,000 Map
Period Post-medieval
Comment Shed south of Crewe Station and west of steel works, presumably built for the Grand Junction Railway.

Site Number 8
Site name Crewe Carriage Shed
Site Type Carriage Shed
SMR Number 2521/1/42
NGR SJ 714 538
Source CSMR; OS 1:10,000 Map
Period Post-medieval
Comment Carriage Works south of Crewe Station and steel works, presumably built for the Grand Junction Railway.

Site Number 9
Site name Basford Hall Sorting Sidings
Site Type Railway Sidings
SMR Number 2521/1/43
NGR SJ 714 532
Source CSMR; OS 1:10,000 Map
Period Post-medieval
Comment Railway sidings, presumably built for the Grand Junction Railway, although these are not shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1876.

Site Number 10
Site name Basford Hall Bridge
Site Type Railway Bridge
SMR Number 2521/1/44
NGR SJ 719 522
Source CSMR; OS 1:10,000 Map
Period Post-medieval
Comment Railway bridge, presumably built to carry the Grand Junction Railway over Weston Lane.

Site Number 11
Site name Basford Hall Junction

Site Type Railway Junction
SMR Number 2521/1/45
NGR SJ 720 520
Source CSMR; OS 1:10,000 Map
Period Post-medieval
Comment Junction of railway sidings and main line south of Crewe Station.

Site Number 12
Site name Casey Bridge
Site Type Railway Bridge
SMR Number 2521/1/46
NGR SJ 721 519
Source CSMR; OS 1:10,000 Map
Period Post-medieval
Comment Bridge south of Basford Hall Junction, presumably built for the Grand Junction Railway.

Site Number 13
Site name Casey Embankment and Cutting
Site Type Railway Embankment and Cutting
SMR Number 2521/1/47
NGR SJ 721 527
Source CSMR; OS 1:10,000 Map
Period Post-medieval
Comment Embankment and cutting south of Casey Bridge, presumably built for the Grand Junction Railway.

Site Number 14
Site name Crewe Enginemen's Barracks
Site Type Enginemen's Barracks
SMR Number 2580
NGR SJ 709 543
Source CSMR; Ashmore 1982
Period Post-medieval
Comment LNWR Enginemen's barracks, Gresty Road, built in 1897 to accommodate train crews while waiting for their duties.

Site Number 15
Site name Shavington Mill
Site Type Watermill
SMR Number 2584/1
NGR SJ 703 520
Source CSMR
Period Post-medieval
Comment This three-storey brick building is now the local Social Club, and the site of the mill pond is now the bowling green.

Site Number 16
Site name North Western Mills
Site Type Watermill
SMR Number 2585/1
NGR SJ 707 538
Source CSMR
Period Post-medieval
Comment A modern mill which occupies the site of an old watermill.

Site Number 17
Site name Shavington-cum-Gresty
Site Type Bronze Age Axe
SMR Number 2630
NGR SJ 706 528
Source CSMR
Period Bronze Age
Comment Unlooped palastave with plain faces of late Bronze Age date. Found by metal detector. The site is just outside the study area.

Site Number 18
Site name Basford
Site Type Flint Scatter
SMR Number 2674/0/1
NGR SJ 722 522
Source Leah *et al* 1997
Period Prehistoric
Comment Five worked flints, including a double ended scraper, an unretouched flake, and a core.

Site Number 19
Site name Basford
Site Type Flint Scatter
SMR Number 2674/0/2
NGR SJ 723 520
Source Leah *et al* 1997
Period Prehistoric
Comment Several single-struck worked flints.

Site Number 20
Site name Basford
Site Type Flint Scatter
SMR Number 2674/0/3
NGR SJ 723 521
Source Leah *et al* 1997
Period Prehistoric
Comment Single worked flint and one sherd of medieval pottery.

Site Number 21
Site name Basford
Site Type Flint Scatter
SMR Number 2709
NGR SJ 723 516
Source Leah *et al* 1997
Period Prehistoric
Comment Worked flint.

Site Number 22
Site name Rope
Site Type Possible Saltworking Site
SMR Number 2773
NGR SJ 696 520
Source CSMR

Period Roman / post-medieval
Comment Wich House Field, named on Rope Township Tithe Map. Possible triangular-shaped man-made excavation in the middle of which is a boggy hole filled with undulating mounds and hollows. Beside the bog are two linear earth mounds and irregular undulations indicative of an earthwork site. The site was investigated by George Twigg, who concluded that it may be Roman in origin, given its proximity to the Roman salt pans discovered in Shavington.

Site Number 23
Site name Shavington-cum-Gresty
Site Type Roman Coin
SMR Number 2775/0/1
NGR SJ 709 515
Source CSMR
Period Roman
Comment Sestertius of Antoninus Pius (AD 145-61) minted in Rome.

Site Number 24
Site name Shavington-cum-Gresty
Site Type Roman Brooch
SMR Number 2775/0/4
NGR SJ 708 516
Source CSMR
Period Roman
Comment Corroded fragment of the head of a bronze bow brooch.

Site Number 25
Site name Weston
Site Type Roman Coin Hoard
SMR Number -
NGR SJ 728 524
Source Adams 2000
Period Roman
Comment A hoard of 12 denarii were discovered near Weston. These dated to AD134 - 8

Site Number 26
Site name Weston
Site Type Roman Brooches
SMR Number -
NGR SJ 704 499
Source Petch 1987
Period Roman
Comment Two Roman brooches.

Site Number 27
Site name Weston
Site Type Roman Coin
SMR Number -
NGR SJ 698 493
Source Petch 1987
Period Roman
Comment A denarius of Julia Domna.

Site Number 28

Site name Hollyhedge Farmhouse
Site Type Farmhouse
SMR Number -
NGR SJ 7333 5223
Source Adams 2000
Period Post-medieval
Comment A timber-framed building with rendered infill and a plain and fishscale tile roof, constructed in the late sixteenth/early seventeenth century.

Site Number 29
Site name Red Lion Farmhouse
Site Type Farmhouse
SMR Number -
NGR SJ 7336 5248
Source Adams 2000
Period Post-medieval
Comment A two-storey, former farmhouse, now used as a house, constructed in the seventeenth century.

Site Number 30
Site name 41, Main Road, Weston
Site Type House
SMR Number -
NGR SJ 7328 5224
Source Adams 2000
Period Post-medieval
Comment A two-storey, timber-framed house with brick infill and Flemish bond brick, constructed in the seventeenth century.

Site Number 31
Site name White Lion Inn, Weston
Site Type Public House
SMR Number -
NGR SJ 7328 5214
Source Adams 2000
Period Post-medieval
Comment A timber-framed building, dated to 1652, with rendered whitewashed infill and a plain tile roof.

Site Number 32
Site name Weston Hall
Site Type Country House
SMR Number -
NGR SJ 7322 5146
Source De Figueiredo and Treuherz 1988
Period Post-medieval
Comment A five-bay Restoration house of brick, dated to 1677, with massive, well-proportioned stone dressings.

Site Number 33
Site name Crewe Hall
Site Type County House
SMR Number 200/1/

NGR SJ 7330 5401
Source De Figueiredo and Treuherz 1988
Period Post-medieval
Comment An originally Jacobean house, much altered in the nineteenth century.

Site Number 34
Site name Crewe Hall
Site Type Lake
SMR Number 200/2/
NGR SJ 7330 5401
Source De Figueiredo and Treuherz 1988
Period Post-medieval
Comment An ornamental lake associated with Crewe Hall (Site 33).

Site Number 35
Site name Field 1
Site Type Earthwork
NGR SJ 7073 3534
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Undated
Comment A low bank aligned east/west, some 20m to the south of the northern boundary of Field 1. Likely to be associated with agricultural activity, possibly a lynchet.

Site Number 36
Site name Field 1
Site Type Earthwork
NGR SJ 7075 5338
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Undated
Comment Two low, sub-circular mounds, c8m in diameter, situated some 18m apart in the northern part of Field 1. A single fragment of burnt brick was retrieved from one of the platforms. Purpose unknown, but unlikely to be of natural origin.

Site Number 37
Site name Field 1
Site Type Surface Depression
NGR SJ 7075 5330
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Undated
Comment A water-filled circular depression, some 4m in diameter. Unknown depth or function.

Site Number 38
Site name Field 2
Site Type Relict Field System
NGR SJ 7088 5336
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Medieval/post-medieval
Comment A series of parallel ridges and furrows, aligned roughly east/west at intervals of c4.5m.

Site Number 39
Site name Field 4
Site Type Quarry pit
NGR SJ 7072 5323

Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Undated
Comment A large, linear depression, some 5m deep, situated against the northern edge of Field 4. The sides of the depression slope at approximately 45 degrees to an uneven floor that contains several low mounds. A possible trackway, some 2.5m wide, was identified in the north-west corner, which provided access to the bottom of the feature. Probably an extraction pit, possibly the result of quarrying for clay.

Site Number 40
Site name Field 7
Site Type Pond
NGR SJ 7074 5272
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Undated
Comment A large pond adjacent to the southern boundary of Field 7.

Site Number 41
Site name Field 8
Site Type Relict Field System
NGR SJ 7079 5294
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Medieval/post-medieval
Comment Faint traces of ridge and furrow aligned east/west across the southern part of Field 8. These were c4m in width ridge to ridge. They appeared to be bounded to the north by a relict hedge across the centre of the field.

Site Number 42
Site name Field 10
Site Type Relict Field System
NGR SJ 7098 5325
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Medieval/post-medieval
Comment Distinct ridge and furrow marks aligned north-west/south-east across the field at c5m intervals. Appeared to be associated with a possible hollow-way, some 12m wide, which curved around the eastern end of the ridge and furrows.

Site Number 43
Site name Field 10
Site Type Avenue
NGR SJ 7102 5327
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Medieval/post-medieval
Comment A tree-lined trackway, some 6m wide, aligned north-west/south-east. Northern end obliterated by small industrial unit.

Site Number 44
Site name Field 12
Site Type Relict Field System
NGR SJ 7105 5336
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Medieval/post-medieval
Comment Ridge and furrow marks aligned north/south across part of the field. A second area of ridge and furrow was identified towards the eastern part of the field, aligned south-east/north-west.

Site Number	45
Site name	Field 13
Site Type	Earthwork
NGR	SJ 7109 5349
Source	Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period	Medieval/post-medieval
Comment	A possible lynchet, aligned east/west across the central south part of the field.

Site Number	46
Site name	Field 15
Site Type	Relict Field System
NGR	SJ 7115 5309
Source	Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period	Medieval/post-medieval
Comment	Ridge and furrow aligned north/south across part of the field. Identified some 55m from the eastern edge of the field, across the western part of the field.

Site Number	47
Site name	Field 16
Site Type	Surface Depression
NGR	SJ 7123 5284
Source	Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period	Undated
Comment	A large bowl-shaped depression measuring some 35m by 18m, situated in the south-east corner of Field 16. Possibly an extraction pit.

Site Number	48
Site name	Field 16
Site Type	Relict Field System
NGR	SJ 7128 5293
Source	Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period	Medieval/post-medieval
Comment	An area of ridge and furrow, bounded along the western edge by a c12m wide possible headland, situated some 50m east of the western edge of Field 15. The ridge and furrow marks were aligned east/west. To the west of the headland, a second series of ridge and furrow marks were identified (Site 49).

Site Number	49
Site name	Field 16
Site Type	Relic Field System
NGR	SJ 7119 5297
Source	Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period	Medieval/post-medieval
Comment	An area of ridge and furrow aligned north/south across the western part of Field 16.

Site Number	50
Site name	Field 17
Site Type	Surface Depression
NGR	SJ 7131 5272
Source	Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period	Undated

Comment A shallow, L-shaped depression, c1.5m deep, with gently sloping sides, situated in the south-east quadrant of the field. Its function is unknown, but it is likely to be of natural origin.

Site Number 51
Site name Field 19
Site Type Surface Depression
NGR SJ 7098 5306
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Undated
Comment A large, bowl-shaped depression, some 20m in diameter, in the western part of the field. Possible extraction pit.

Site Number 52
Site name Field 19
Site Type Relict Field System
SMR Number -
NGR SJ 7108 5307
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Medieval/post-medieval
Comment An area of indistinct ridge and furrow aligned north/south across the eastern part of the field.

Site Number 53
Site name Field 20
Site Type Relict Field System
NGR SJ 7096 5291
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Medieval/post-medieval
Comment A series of features pertaining to a relict field system, including ridge and furrow aligned north/south across the northern part of the field, bounded to the south by a possible headland. Immediately to the south of the headland, two large trees may mark the position of a former boundary, with traces of more ridge and furrow further south (Site 54). The eastern extent of the northernmost ridge and furrow was bounded by a particularly deep 'furrow', which may be the remnants of a hollow-way, giving access to the fields.

Site Number 54
Site name Fields 20, 22
Site Type Relict Field System
NGR SJ 7089 5275
Source Fieldwalking, 02/02
Period Medieval/post-medieval
Comment An area of ridge and furrow, aligned north/south, which appeared to be a continuation of the ridge and furrow identified within Field 20 (Site 53).

APPENDIX B:**Table of Field Names Shown on the 1839 Basford Tithe Map and Schedule and the c1839 Shavington Commutation Map**

1839 Basford Tithe Map Name and Field No. Within the Study Area	1839 Basford Tithe Map Field Use
The 5 Shillings - 20	Arable
Gresty Meadow - 21	Arable
Little Penlington's Wood - 22	Arable
Dirty Meadow - 23	Arable
Penlington's Wood - 25	Pasture
Gresty Field - 26	Arable
Brook Field - 47	Arable

ILLUSTRATIONS

- Figure 1 Site Location Map
Figure 2 Excerpt from Burdett's Map of Cheshire, 1777
Figure 3 Basford Tithe Map, 1839
Figure 4 Shavington Tithe Commutation Map, 1839
Figure 5 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6":1 mile, Sheet 56 (1876)
Figure 6 Gazetteer Map showing the SMR sites in the vicinity
Figure 7 The Study Area, showing the results of the field survey

PLATES

- Plate 1 Site 37: Looking south across the water-filled depression in Field 1
Plate 2 Site 43: Looking north-west along the tree-lined avenue
Plate 3 Site 49: Medieval field system, showing a headland in the foreground, with ridge and furrow to the rear
Plate 4 Sites 51 and 52: Ridge and furrow in Field 19, also showing depression to rear



Plate 1: Site 37, looking south across the water filled depression in Field 1



Plate 2: Site 43, looking north-west along the tree-lined avenue



Plate 3: Site 49, Medieval field system, showing a headland in the foreground, with ridge and furrow to the rear

Plate 4: Sites 51 and 52, ridge and furrow in Field 19, with depression to rear

