

Lower House to Adlington Pipeline Cheshire



Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology North

October 2008

United Utilities

Issue No: 2008-9/691

OAN Job No: L9649

NGR: SJ 865 785 - SJ 910 807

Document Title: LOWER HOUSE TO ADLINGTON PIPELINE, CHESHIRE

Document Type: Archaeological Watching Brief

Client Name: United Utilities

Issue Number: 2008-9/691

OA Job Number: L9649

Site Code: AD07

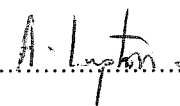
National Grid Reference: SJ 865 785 – SJ 910 807

Prepared by: Caroline Bulcock
Position: Assistant Supervisor
Date: October 2008

Checked by: Alison Plummer
Position: Project Manager
Date: October 2008

Signed.....

Approved by: Alan Lupton
Position: Project Manager
Date: October 2008

Signed.....

Oxford Archaeology North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1GF
t: (0044) 01524 541000

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd (2008)

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeological Unit Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	1
SUMMARY	2
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Circumstances of the Project	4
2. METHODOLOGY	5
2.1 Project Design.....	5
2.2 Watching Brief.....	5
2.3 Archive	5
3. BACKGROUND	6
3.1 Location, Topography and Geology	6
3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background	6
4. WATCHING BRIEF	10
4.1 Introduction	10
4.2 Results	10
5. DISCUSSION	13
5.1 Synthesis.....	13
5.2 Impact and Recommendations.....	13
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY	14
6.1 Cartographic Sources	14
6.2 Secondary Sources.....	14
7. ILLUSTRATIONS.....	16
7.1 List of Figures.....	16
7.2 List of Plates	16
APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN	17
APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	17
APPENDIX 3: ARCHIVE INDEX.....	24

SUMMARY

United Utilities proposed to construct two adjoining water transfer pipelines between Lower House and Adlington, Mottram St Andrew, Cheshire (Fig. 1; NGR SJ 865 785 to SJ 900 808) and between Adlington Waste Water Treatment Plant and Adlington Sewage Works, Cheshire (Fig 1; NGR SJ 900 808 to SJ 910 807).

An archaeological desk-based assessment (Oxford Archaeology North 2006) identified a number of sites that were likely to be directly affected by the proposed pipeline, chiefly parish boundaries and former field boundaries. It was therefore recommended by Cheshire County Council Historic Environment Services (CCCHES) that a permanent presence archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the topsoil strip of the pipeline easement and any other associated groundworks in order to record these and any other significant archaeological remains encountered. A project design (*Appendix 1*), devised to meet the verbal brief of CCCHES, was subsequently submitted and, upon approval of this, OA North was commissioned by United Utilities to undertake the recommended work.

The watching brief programme was undertaken during May and June 2007 with all groundworks carried out during this time being subject to permanent archaeological monitoring in accordance with the approved project design. In total, five areas were observed being machine stripped for the creation of delivery zones along the pipeline route, none of which revealed any archaeological features or deposits. Following the adoption of a directional drilling strategy for the construction of the pipeline, rather than a continuous strip, six pits were excavated under archaeological supervision. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during these works and verbal communication with CCCHES brought an end to the archaeological watching brief at this point. No further archaeological work is recommended.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank United Utilities for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to the staff of GCA for their assistance during the watching brief.

Caroline Bulcock undertook the watching brief and wrote the report. Mark Tidmarsh produced the drawings and Christine Howard-Davies analysed the finds. Alison Plummer managed the project and edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 United Utilities proposed to construct two adjoining water transfer pipelines between Lower House and Adlington, Mottram St Andrew, Cheshire (Fig 1; NGR SJ 865 785 to SJ 900 808) and between Adlington Waste Water Treatment Plant and Adlington Sewage Works, Cheshire (Fig 1; NGR SJ 900 808 to SJ 910 807). Following the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment (OA North 2006) it was recommended by Cheshire County Council Historic Environment Services (CCCHES) that a permanent presence archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the topsoil strip of the pipeline easement and any other associated groundworks. A project design (*Appendix 1*), devised to meet the verbal brief of CCCHES, was subsequently submitted and, upon approval of this, OA North was commissioned by United Utilities to undertake the recommended work.
- 1.1.2 This report presents the results of the watching brief programme, undertaken during May and June 2007.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 OA North submitted a project design (*Appendix 1*) in response to a verbal brief issued by CCCHES. The project design was adhered to in full and the work carried out was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 Two distinct types of groundworks were applicable to the watching brief programme. Firstly, were the areas subjected to topsoil stripping for the creation of delivery zones (Plate 1), of which there were five in total. These were located at various points, adjacent to the road, along the route of the pipeline (Fig 2). Secondly, were the discrete pits excavated at intervals along the length of the pipeline as part of the directional drilling programme adopted for its construction (Plate 2). In total, six of these pits were excavated under archaeological supervision towards the north-eastern end of the pipeline (Fig 2) before a verbal communication with the County Archaeologist for Cheshire brought the programme to an end.
- 2.2.2 For the duration of the watching brief programme all applicable groundworks were carried out under constant archaeological supervision. The field observation involved the systematic examination of any exposed subsoil horizons in order to identify and accurately record the precise location, extent and character of any surviving archaeological features, deposits and/or artefacts that may have been revealed.
- 2.2.3 A full written record of the nature, extent and depths of all relevant groundworks was maintained throughout the watching brief programme. All archaeological contexts were recorded on OA North *pro-forma* sheets, which are based on the system used by the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. Monochrome, colour slide and digital photographic records were also produced during the watching brief. No scaled plans or section drawings were necessary, due to an absence of archaeological features, but measured sketch plans were produced to illustrate the location and dimensions of each area excavated and measured sketch section drawings of the directional drilling pits were produced where appropriate.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and conforming to current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the County Record Office in Chester.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The proposed pipeline is located approximately 5km east of Wilmslow, Cheshire (Fig 1), and passes through 5.5km of rural land, predominantly comprised open arable field systems.
- 3.1.2 Situated on the north-eastern periphery of the Cheshire Plain, the immediate topography is gently undulating. The Pennine foothills rise towards the north-east and the prominent sandstone ridge of Alderley Edge dominates the landscape to the south-west. Several watercourses, mostly tributaries of the River Mersey, flow south-east/north-west across the pipeline route.
- 3.1.3 The solid underlying geology principally consists of Triassic sandstones (Countryside Commission 1998). This is almost completely overlain by glacial deposits of till, sands and gravels, which form typical brown earths, sandy gley soils and stagnohumic deposits (Ordnance Survey 1978).

3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Prehistoric Period:** the earliest known evidence of human activity in the general vicinity dates to the Mesolithic period, from around the eighth to the mid-fifth millennium BC. At this time the predominant mode of subsistence was based on hunting and gathering and populations were consequently less sedentary than in later periods. As a result of this, archaeological sites of this period tend to be represented by isolated flint scatters, probably indicative of temporary, seasonal, hunting bases. Extant sites of this nature have been found sporadically across the Pennines and adjacent areas (Jacobi 1978) but are mostly confined to upland areas, largely a result of subsequent intensive land use in lower-lying areas. The nearest known Mesolithic site to the pipeline route is at Alderley Edge, 1km to the south-west (*ibid*).
- 3.2.2 Although human populations were becoming less mobile during the Neolithic period, archaeological remains of this date are similarly scarce in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline. Whilst some activity is known to have taken place on Alderley Edge, most Neolithic evidence comes from stray finds, the nearest of which to the pipeline route is a polished flint axe fragment found near the lodge of Adlington Hall in 1994 (SMR 1617).
- 3.2.3 Evidence for Bronze Age activity in the region is slightly more abundant than for earlier periods and tends to be less ephemeral. A number of burial mounds of this date survive on and around the Pennine fringe, the nearest to the proposed pipeline being approximately 5km to the south-east (English Heritage 2001). The closest settlement evidence, in the form of roundhouses, hearths and ditches, was excavated 6km to the north-west at Manchester Airport, in advance of the construction of its second runway (UMAU 2001). Some of the earliest copper mining remains in the country have been found at Alderley Edge and are Bronze Age in date (English Heritage 2001). These

include open pit workings and numerous associated hammerstones, used for the extraction of the mineral. One such hammerstone has been found close to the proposed pipeline, adjacent to Wilmslow Road (SMR 2408).

- 3.2.4 No Iron Age sites are known in the vicinity of the pipeline. The archaeological record implies that the focus for activity of this period within Cheshire may have lay on the central ridge of the county, primarily at Castle Ditch, 35km to the south-east (Higham 1993, 24). Much of Cheshire is thought to have been under the control of the Cornovii tribe by the second half of the first millennium BC and, while the boundaries of the Iron Age tribal areas are rarely known with any accuracy, the proposed pipeline may have been in a peripheral zone between the lands of the Cornovii and the Brigantes, whose territory included much of historic Lancashire and Yorkshire.
- 3.2.5 **Roman:** the permanent Roman occupation of Cheshire is thought to have been completed after two large-scale campaigns in the AD70s, the first directed at the Brigantes and the second intended to stamp out the last traces of Welsh resistance (Crosby 1996, 20). A spectacular find dating to the Roman period was made in 1984 on Lindow Moss, 4km north-west of the pipeline. The body of a male, dated to the first century AD, and the scattered fragments of a second body, dated to the second century AD, were found well preserved in peat (Crosby 1996)
- 3.2.6 Although no Roman evidence is known in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline, a number of Roman finds have been made on Alderley Edge, and the recent discovery of a hoard of coins in the backfill of a mineshaft appears to confirm that mining was being carried out here during this period (Nevell 1996).
- 3.2.7 The A523 London Road, which is situated 1km east of the pipeline, has been attributed to the Roman period and has been seen as linking the Roman fort at Chesterton in Staffordshire with either Manchester itself or the Manchester to Buxton road (Philpott 1995). It is also believed a Roman road ran 1km west, between Alderley Edge and Cheadle (Arrowsmith 1997).
- 3.2.8 **Early Medieval:** 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. The sixth and seventh centuries saw the growth of the powerful kingdom of Northumbria, with parts of Cheshire (possibly as far as the Mersey) being incorporated by Aethelfrith after the Battle of Chester in AD 616 (Crosby 1996, 27). Improvements in agricultural practices saw the population expand and settle in areas that had hitherto been unfavoured due to the soil conditions (Cheshire County Council, forthcoming).
- 3.2.9 Place-name and Domesday evidence suggests the vicinity of the pipeline was heavily wooded in the late Anglo-Saxon period, and Old English place-name elements such as '-leah' (woodland clearing) or 'wode' are common (Higham 1993, 173). Archaeological evidence for this period is scarce in the region and no nearby sites are known.

- 3.2.10 **Late Medieval:** in 1086 the large, pre-conquest ‘Hanestan’ hundred in eastern Cheshire focused on two estates, Macclesfield and Adlington, which had belonged to Earl Edwin. Adlington was named in Domesday as ‘*Eduuinture*’, which meant ‘Eadwulf’s Farm’ (Philpott 1995). Higham, in a discussion of the hundred, suggests that the Domesday estate of Adlington consisted of a group of manorial tenancies, intermingled with extensive Comital woodlands (1993, 172).
- 3.2.11 The township of Adlington, which belonged to the large medieval parish of Prestbury, was dominated by the medieval and later manorial site of Adlington Hall, at the centre of the large estates held by the Legh family in eastern Cheshire (Philpot 1995). The post-medieval frontage of the Hall conceals a magnificent late medieval great hall, built by Thomas and Catherine Legh in 1505 (Crosby 1996, 46).
- 3.2.12 A substantial part of the township of Adlington appears to have been used as parkland since the fifteenth century, after a licence to empark was granted to Robert Legh in 1462 (*ibid*). The medieval deer park was 175 acres in extent and lay to the south of Adlington Hall. In addition to the Hall, the surrounding park and garden contain numerous post-medieval buildings and structures, some of which are situated within the study area.
- 3.2.13 Several buildings that had their origins in the later medieval period, as manorial halls or residences of wealthy freeholders, are located close to the proposed pipeline. These included Mottram Old Hall, 200m to the south, and the later fifteenth century Manor House known as Willot Hall.
- 3.2.14 Other nearby medieval sites include the putative site of a chapel and the sites of two water mills (SMR. 2624/1, 2625/1). Under a custom known as *Mill Soke*, it was the right of a manorial lord to oblige his tenants to have their corn ground at his mill, who then paid a proportion of grain for this service (UMAU 2001).
- 3.2.15 **Post-Medieval:** in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries a number of medieval halls in the region were remodelled or replaced, as part of a wider process known as the ‘Great Rebuilding’ (*ibid*). In the seventeenth century, this process was also having an effect further down the social scale, resulting in the building of new ‘yeoman houses’ by some of the tenant farmers, several of which survive in the vicinity of the proposed pipeline.
- 3.2.16 The beginnings of the East Cheshire silk industry can be traced to the local manufacture of silk buttons and weaving of silk and lace around Stockport and Macclesfield in the seventeenth century (*ibid*). Mineral extraction was also taking place at this time, including coal mining around Macclesfield (Davies 1961, 90), and, by the end of the seventeenth century, metallic ore extraction was taking place again on Alderley Edge (Carlton 1979, 46). Copper was the staple product of the mines of the Alderley district, which included Mottram St Andrew, but lead, cobalt, nickel and vanadium minerals or concentrates were also produced (Warrington 1981).

3.2.17 Although much of the surrounding area was transformed by industrialisation in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Ashmore 1982), the vicinity of the pipeline route has remained rural. The present landscape, with large fields and hedgerow trees with occasional small copses, is largely the result of reorganisation of landscape holdings in the second half of the nineteenth century.

4. WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The route of the proposed pipeline was divided into fields to enable the more accurate location of the observed groundworks and facilitate future reference. These fields correspond with those depicted on the most recent Ordnance survey map of the area (Ordnance Survey 2005) through which the proposed route passes, and were numbered south-west to north-east along the pipeline (Fig 2). Due to the adoption of a directional drilling strategy, and the fact that the watching brief was terminated after the excavation of six of the drilling pits, not all fields along the pipeline contained groundworks that required archaeological supervision. The table below presents the results of the watching brief programme by field number, including both the delivery areas subjected to topsoil stripping and the observed directional drilling pits. In the case of the latter, each pit has been numbered according to the field in which it was located and, where two or more were excavated within the boundaries of one field, an alpha-numeric system has been adopted with ascending letters accompany the number to distinguish them.

4.1.2 The location of stripped areas and directional drilling pits included in the watching brief programme and described in the table below can be seen in Figure 2.

4.2 RESULTS

Field	Location	Groundworks Undertaken	Description of Results
Field 6	Wilmslow Old Road	Topsoil strip of Delivery Area H	31m x 28m area strip. Topsoil (<i>106</i>) was completely removed by machine to reveal subsoil (<i>107</i>) below. Pottery, glass and clay pipe fragments were recovered from the topsoil but no extant archaeological features or deposits were observed.
Field 12	Mill Lane	Topsoil strip of Delivery Area F	52m x 30m max area strip. Topsoil (<i>125</i>) was completely removed to reveal subsoil (<i>126</i>). No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered from either the topsoil or the subsoil.
Field 17	Mill Lane	Topsoil strip of Delivery Area E	28m x 24m area strip with a 5.5m x 14.5m extension. Topsoil (<i>104</i>) was mostly removed. This sealed, at a depth of 0.35-0.40m, the natural horizon (<i>105</i>). The stripped area was devoid of archaeological features and deposits, although some pottery, glass and clay pipe fragments were recovered from the topsoil.
Field 20	Wilmslow Road (opposite Field 21)	Topsoil strip of Delivery Area C	35m x 45m max area strip. Topsoil (<i>108</i>) largely removed revealing natural horizon (<i>109</i>). No archaeological features or deposits were observed

			but a relatively high density of pottery, clay pipe and glass fragments were collected from the topsoil, particularly from the north-eastern part of the field, adjacent to Wilmslow Road.
Field 21	Wilmslow Road (opposite Field 20)	Topsoil strip of Delivery Area B	39m x 30m area strip. Topsoil (<i>I01</i>) varied in depth between 0.25 towards the north-eastern end of the area, and 0.35m in the south-west, adjacent to Wilmslow Road. This deposit was mostly removed by machine to reveal the underlying subsoil (<i>I02</i>). This deposit appeared to peter out towards the slightly higher north-eastern side of the area, where the machining revealed the natural horizon (<i>I03</i>). No archaeological features or deposits were observed, although a relatively high density of pottery, clay pipe and glass fragments were recovered from the topsoil. As was the case in Field 20, these finds were noted to be particularly concentrated along the line of the present road.
Field 23	North-east of Bullshead Farm, Wilmslow Road.	Directional drilling: Pit 23	Pit measuring 4.4m x 3.5m excavated to depth of 2.5m. Topsoil (<i>I22</i>) sealed a subsoil (<i>I23</i>) at a depth of 0.30m below the ground surface. The removal of the subsoil revealed natural deposits (<i>I24</i>), which consisted of a homogenous gravel deposit sealed by a sequence of alluvial sands. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed.
Field 24	North-west of Dandy Farm, Wilmslow Road.	Directional drilling: Pit 24A	Pit measuring 4.4m x 3.5m and excavated to a depth of 3.5m. Topsoil (<i>I19</i>) and subsoil (<i>I20</i>) were similar to those seen in Pit 23. Due to unsafe trench edges, it was not possible to accurately measure the depths of these deposits, but they appeared to be similar to those in Pit 24B. The natural deposits (<i>I21</i>) also mirrored those described for Pit 23. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed.
Field 24	North-west of Dandy Farm, Wilmslow Road.	Directional drilling: Pit 24B	Pit measuring 4.4m x 3.5m and excavated to a depth of 1.8m. Removal of topsoil (<i>I19</i>) and subsoil (<i>I20</i>) revealed natural deposits (<i>I21</i>), which were similar to those seen in Pit 23. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed.
Field 26	North of Dandy Farm, Wilmslow Road.	Directional drilling: Pit 26	Pit measuring 4.4m x 3.5m. The topsoil (<i>I13</i>), subsoil (<i>I14</i>) and natural deposits (<i>I15</i>) were similar in colour, texture and consistency to those described for Pit 23. Unsafe trench edges and collapse caused by flooding meant accurate depth measurements could not be taken, but the overall depth is known to be 2.1m. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed.
Field 27	North/north-east of Dandy Farm, Wilmslow Road.	Directional drilling: Pit 27	Pit measuring 4.4m x 3.5m. Again the topsoil (<i>I16</i>), subsoil (<i>I17</i>) and natural deposits (<i>I18</i>) were identical to those seen in Pit 23. Unsafe trench edges meant accurate depth measurements

			could not be taken, but the overall depth is known to be 2.5m. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed.
Field 28	South of aircraft factory.	Directional drilling: Pit 28	Pit measuring 4.4m x 3.5m. The topsoil (<i>110</i>), subsoil (<i>111</i>) and natural deposits (<i>112</i>) were similar in colour, texture and consistency to those described for Pit 23. Unsafe trench edges meant accurate depth measurements could not be taken, but the overall depth is known to be 2.1m. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed.

4.2.1 All of the groundworks included in the watching brief programme revealed that the fairly homogenous topsoil usually sealed a subsoil, which in turn overlay a predominantly sandy sterile deposit treated as natural. The sections of the deeper directional drilling pits revealed that, at least in the north-eastern end of the Lower House to Adlington branch of the pipeline in the vicinity of the River Dean, this sand was actually the uppermost of a series of successive alluvial deposits (Plate 3), which sealed more homogenous gravels approximately 1.2m below the ground surface.

4.2.2 No extant archaeological features or deposits were observed during any of the groundworks undertaken. The topsoil of some of the stripped areas yielded relatively high densities of pottery, glass and clay pipe fragments, most notably from the parts of Fields 20 and 21 that are adjacent to Wilmslow Road. These all proved to be post-medieval in date and of no particular archaeological significance. Other stripped areas, however, contained very few unstratified finds or none at all, as was also the case with all of the directional drilling pits.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 SYNTHESIS

5.1.1 Very limited archaeological evidence was revealed in those parts of the proposed pipeline that were included in the watching brief programme. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and all artefactual evidence was retrieved from unstratified deposits and topsoils. This is most likely to be a direct result of the nature of the groundworks undertaken rather than evidence for a complete lack of archaeological features. In the delivery areas, for example, only the topsoil was stripped and this usually revealed only the horizon of the subsoil rather than that of the natural (Plate 4). As it is probable that most archaeological features, such as the parish boundaries identified in the desk-based assessment, would be cut into the natural and sealed by the subsoil, it is entirely possible that these features are extant but remained masked during the groundworks. While the directional drilling pits were excavated to a much greater depth, the chance of revealing features or deposits of archaeological importance was very much reduced by their limited area in plan and the wide spacing between them.

5.2 IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 The watching brief programme recorded no archaeological features or deposits and no further work is therefore recommended.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

6.1 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Ordnance Survey, 1978 *Soils of Northern England*, 1:250,000

Ordnance Survey, 2005 *Sheet 268, Wilmslow, Macclesfield and Congleton*, 1:25,000

6.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

Arrowsmith, P 1997 *Stockport, A History*, Manchester

Ashmore, O, 1982 *The Industrial Archaeology of North West England*, Manchester

Carlton, CJ, 1979 *The Alderley Edge Mines*, Altrincham

Cheshire County Council, (forthcoming) *Cheshire's Historic Landscape Characterisation, Volume 1, Overview*

Countryside Commission, 1998 *Countryside Character, Volume 2: North West – The Character of England's Natural and Man-Made Landscape*, Cheltenham

Crosby, A, 1996 *A History of Cheshire*, Chichester

Davies CS (ed), 1961 *A History of Macclesfield*, Manchester

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

English Heritage, 2001 *Record of Scheduled Monuments*, unpublished report

Higham, NJ, 1993, *The Origins of Cheshire*, Manchester

Jacobi, RM, 1978 Northern England in the 8th Millennium BC: an essay, *The Early Post-Glacial Settlement of Northern Europe*, 295-332, London

Nevell, M, 1996 'The Pot Shaft' Roman Coin Hoard, *Archaeology North West*, **10**, 96-98

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), 2006 *Adlington to Lower House Pipeline, Mottram St. Andrew, Cheshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, unpublished report

Philpott, RA, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, 1995 *An Archaeological Assessment for a Proposed Sand and Gravel Quarry at Adlington Estate, Adlington, Cheshire*, unpublished report

University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMA), 2001 *Mersey Bollin Catchment Rapid Archaeological Survey*, unpublished report

Warrington, G, 1981 The Copper Mines on Alderley Edge and Mottram St Andrew, Cheshire, *Journal of the Chester Archaeological Society*, **64**, 47-73

7. ILLUSTRATIONS

7.1 LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Delivery Areas and Directional Drilling Pits subject to the Watching Brief

7.2 LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: (Field 17) Area topsoil strip to create Delivery Area E

Plate 2: (Field 24) Excavation of directional drilling pit 24A

Plate 3: (Field 23) Section of directional drilling pit 23A showing deep alluvial deposit sealed by subsoil and topsoil

Plate 4: (Field 12) Delivery Area strip F showing revealed subsoil

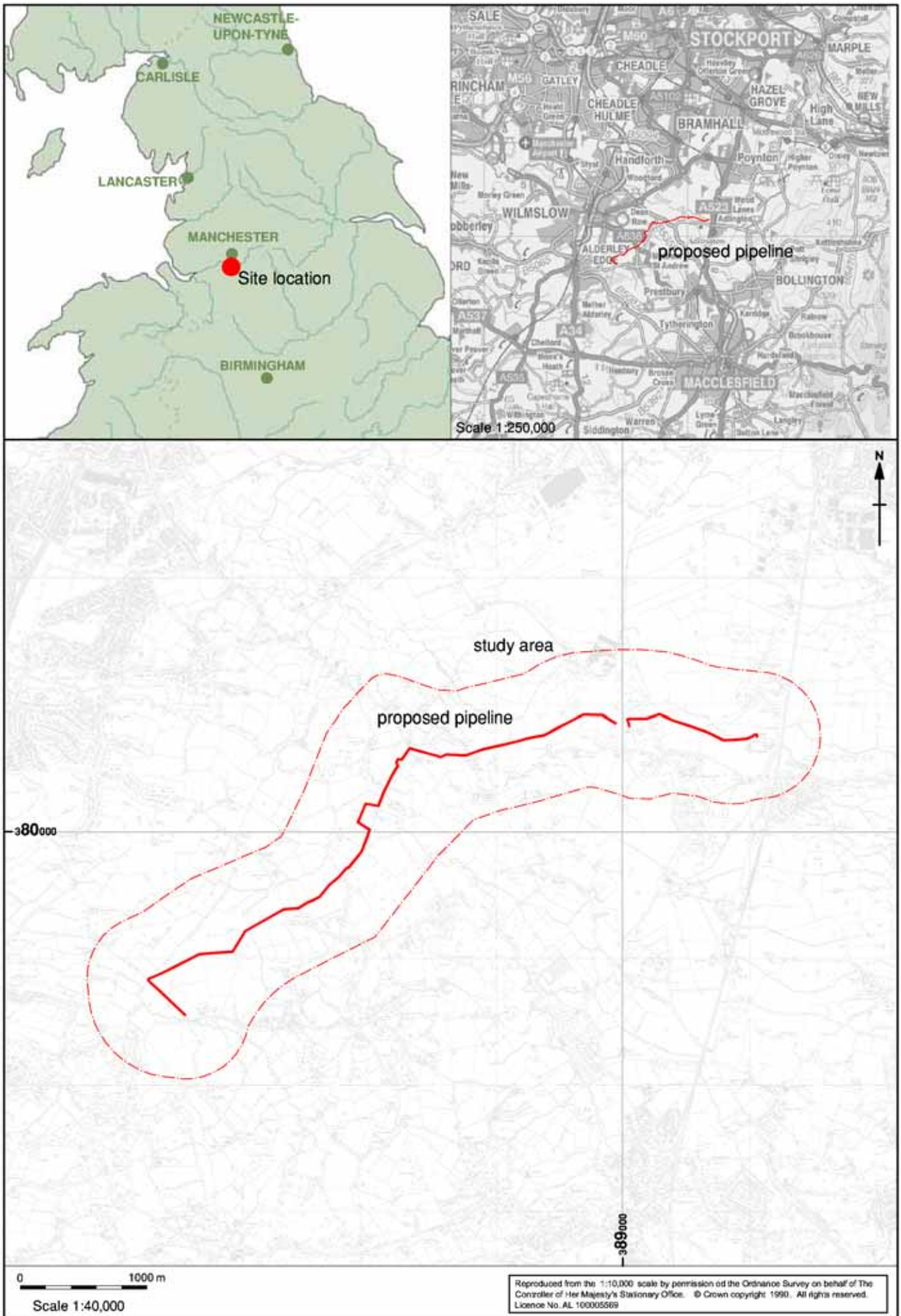


Figure 1: Site Location

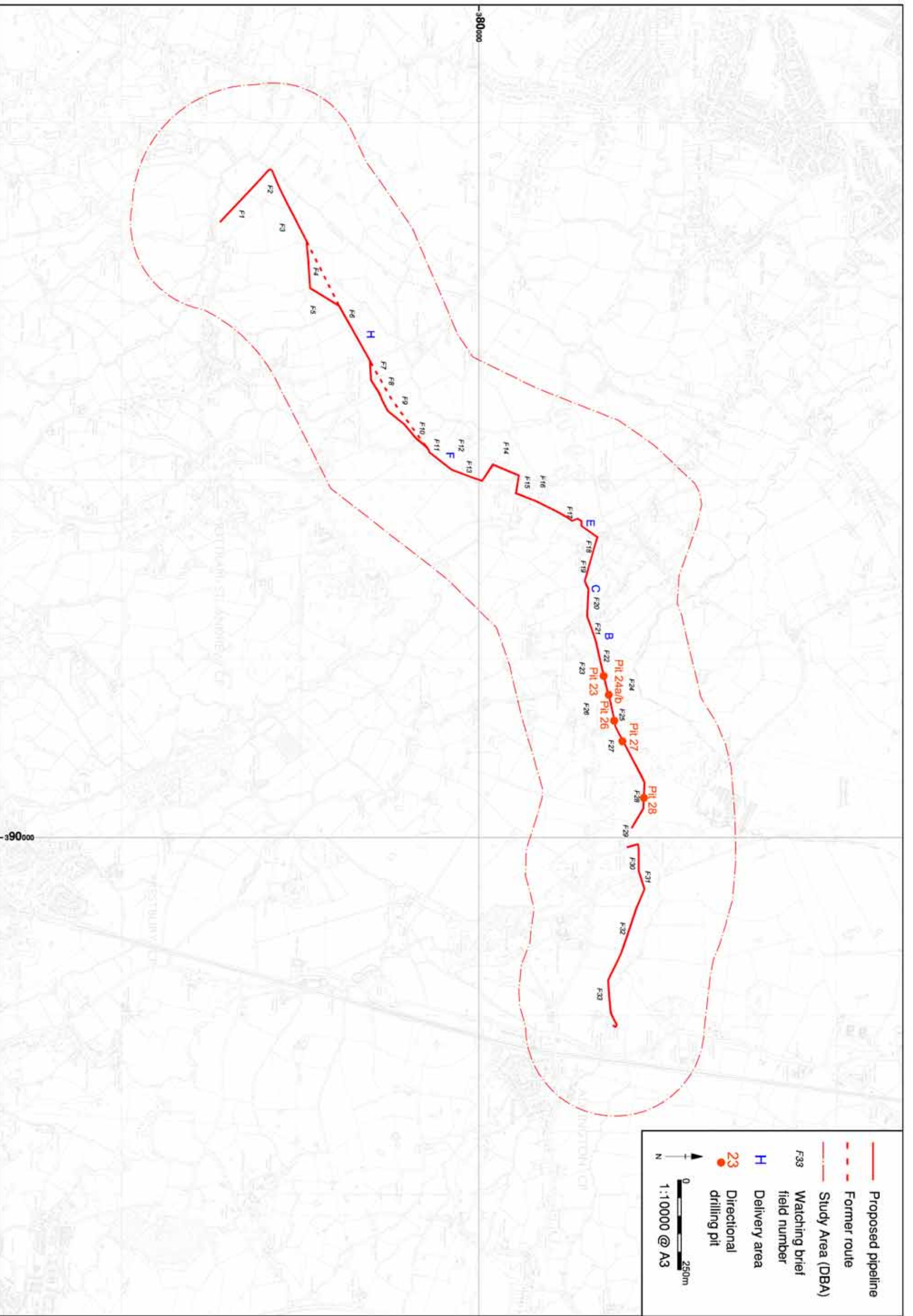


Figure 2: Delivery Areas and Directional Drilling Pits subject to the Watching Brief



Plate 1: (Field 17) Area topsoil strip to create Delivery Zone E



Plate 2: (Field 24) Excavation of directional drilling pit 24A



Plate 3: (Field 23) Section of directional drilling pit 23A showing deep alluvial deposit sealed by subsoil and topsoil



Plate 4: (Field 12) Delivery Area F strip showing revealed subsoil

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

**ADLINGTON TO
LOWERHOUSE
PIPELINE,
CHESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford Archaeology North

May 2006

United Utilities

Job No. L9649

NGR: SJ 900 808 to SJ 865 785

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 *This project design has been compiled for United Utilities with reference to the requirements of a letter issued by the Archaeological Officer (Development Control) Cheshire County Council (CCC) and the recommendations presented in the 2006 desk-based Assessment report (OA North 2006). Section 2 deals with OA North's methodology, and Section 3 with the report and archive. Section 4 addresses other issues raised in the brief, including details of staff to be involved, and project costs are presented in Section 5.*
- 1.2 OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.
- 1.3 The following programme has been designed to identify and record any previously unknown archaeological deposits discovered during construction and record sections through a number of parish boundaries.
- 1.4 **Watching Brief:** to undertake a permanent presence watching brief during topsoil stripping activities along the route of the pipeline. This should take place within areas where the pipeline easement runs through open ground.
- 1.5 **Report and Archive:** an interim report may be issued should there be any further mitigation work necessary. The final report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

2. METHOD STATEMENT

- 2.1 **Watching Brief:** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the course of the proposed topsoil strip within areas of open country. The parish boundaries to be recorded by section during the watching brief will include Sites numbers **21, 22, 23 24** and **26** (OA North 2005). This work will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 2.2 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan provided by the Client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.

- 2.3 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced.
- 2.4 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified by the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (ie. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 2.5 It is assumed that OA North will have the authority to stop the works for a sufficient time period to enable the recording of important deposits. It may also be necessary to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified or a high density of archaeology is discovered, but this would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and the Archaeological Officer and will require a variation to costing. Also, should evidence of burials be identified, the 1857 Burial Act would apply and a Department of Constitutional Affairs Licence would be sought. This would involve all work ceasing until the proper authorities were happy for burials to be removed. In normal circumstances, field recording will also include a continual process of analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of the data, in order to establish the necessity for any further more detailed recording that may prove essential.
- 2.6 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc.), as well as to all Health and Safety regulations. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Unit Managers.

3 **REPORT AND ARCHIVE**

- 3.1 **Report:** two copies of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further copy submitted to the Cheshire SMR. The final report will include:
- 1 a concise, non-technical summary of the project results;
 - 2 an introduction to the circumstances of the project and the aims and objectives of the study;
 - 3 a summary of the methodology and an indication of any departure from the agreed project design;
 - 4 a copy of the agreed project design;

- 5 an outline of past and present land-use;
 - 6 a summary of the archaeological/historical background;
 - 7 an assessment of the likely archaeological implications of the proposed development;
 - 9 appropriate figures and plates.
 - 10 a full list of references to and bibliography of primary and secondary sources consulted and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted.
- 3.2 The report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on CD-ROM.
- 3.3 **Proposals:** recommendations for any further evaluation of the identified archaeological resource will be presented.
- 3.4 **Confidentiality:** the assessment report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and this project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.
- 3.5 **Archive:** the results of Section 2 will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.
- 3.6 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Service format, both as a printed document and on CD ROM (as appropriate). A synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and the report) will be deposited with the Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record office. OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic, and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and, where

appropriate the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with the County Museums Service. In this instance, the record archive will be sent to the County Record Office.

- 3.7 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database *Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.

4. OUTLINE RESOURCES

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

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Field	Category	Maximum Depth (m)	Description
101	21	Topsoil	0.35	Dark brown soft silty-sand with 10% small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions
102	21	Subsoil	0.10	Mid reddish-brown soft silty sand with 10-15% small-medium sub-rounded stone inclusions
103	21	Natural	-	Soft alluvial sand mottled mid brown to light yellow with 5% small-medium sub-angular stone inclusions.
104	17	Topsoil	0.40	As 101
105	17	Natural	-	As 103
106	6	Topsoil	0.30	As 101
107	6	Subsoil	-	As 102
108	20	Topsoil	0.30	As 101
109	20	Natural	-	Mid yellow soft sand with lenses of pinkish-yellow firm clay and 5% small-medium angular stones and shale
110	28	Topsoil	0.28	As 101
111	28	Subsoil	0.26	Dark reddish-brown soft silty-sand with 5% small rounded stone inclusions
112	28	Natural	See desc.	0.90m of banded alluvial sands ranging from yellows and reddish browns to dark grey, sealing dark grey gravel excavated to depth of 0.66m
113	26	Topsoil	0.30	As 101
114	26	Subsoil	0.25	As 102
115	26	Natural	See desc.	Alluvial sands sealing gravel layer similar to 112 . Overall excavated depth 1.55m
116	27	Topsoil	0.30	As 101

117	27	Subsoil	0.30	As 102
118	27	Natural	-	Alluvial sands sealing gravel layer similar to 112 . Overall excavated depth 1.90m
119	24	Topsoil	0.30	As 101
120	24	Subsoil	0.20	As 102
121	24	Natural	-	Alluvial sands sealing gravel layer similar to 112 . Overall excavated depth 1.30m
122	23	Topsoil	0.30	As 101
123	23	Subsoil	0.30	As 102
124	23	Natural	-	Alluvial sands sealing gravel layer similar to 112 . Overall excavated depth 1.80m
125	12	Topsoil	0.28	As 101
126	12	Subsoil	-	As 102

APPENDIX 3: ARCHIVE INDEX

Record group	Contents	Comments	Box/File Number
	Introduction Project Design		1
A	Report Final Report		1
B	Primary Fieldwork Records Watching Brief Records Context Records		1
C	Primary Drawings Developers Plans Annotated Maps		1
D	Finds Compendium Box and Bag Lists Object Record Sheet Specialist Reports		1
E	Environmental Records	N/A	
F	Photographic Record Photographic Indices Monochrome Colour Slides Digital		1
G	Electronic Media	N/A	