

SITE ADJACENT TO CHESTER ROAD, WARRINGTON, Cheshire

Archaeological Desk- Based Assessment



Oxford Archaeology North

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Sinclair Knight Merz

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SUMMARY

Following a request by Sinclair Knight Merz, Oxford Archaeology North undertook an archaeological assessment of a site adjacent to Chester Road, Warrington, Cheshire (SJ 6035 8685), which is located to the south of Warrington town centre, and situated on the west bank of a diversion of the River Mersey. The site is being assessed prior to a proposed development. The work involved a desk-based assessment and was undertaken in May 2004.

The desk-based assessment involved the examination of a 1km study area centred on the site, including all pertinent documents and cartographic sources held in the County Record Offices in Chester and Preston, and the consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) of Cheshire County Council based in Chester. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information.

The desk-based assessment located two Scheduled Monuments from within the study area; SM 108 Bank Quay Transporter Bridge, and SM 110 Wilderspool Roman Site, but no listed buildings. Thirty-six sites were also located from the SMR. These included prehistoric flint tools (Sites **1, 2, 4**), a Bronze Age barrow with a cremation urn (Site **6**), the Roman settlements at Warrington and Wilderspool (Sites **10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17**), early medieval logboats (Sites **18, 19, 20, 21**), and various post-medieval industrial sites such as the Chemical Works (Site **25**) and sites connected with the railway (Sites **29, 30**). Cartographic sources analysed showed the site remained undeveloped until the Grand Junction Railway and the Mersey river diversion impacted on the area in the late nineteenth century.

There are no recorded SMR sites located within the actual proposed development site, and so none will be directly impacted. However, the potential for archaeological remains on the site appears to be fairly high, with the exploitation of the surrounding land seen from archaeological finds possibly leading to remains from the prehistoric through to the post-medieval period being present on site. Early medieval remains (Sites **18, 19, 20, 21**) found in close proximity to the site itself have been located at depths of up to 3m. Therefore, this suggests that there is likely to be a relatively deep archaeological stratigraphy on the site.

Due to the fact that the development site lies within close proximity of the known and scheduled (SM 110) Roman sites, it is recommended that an evaluation be carried out prior to any groundworks. This would allow the presence, extent, nature and depth of archaeological remains to be established from which an informed assessment can be made regarding the impact of proposed development on below surface archaeological remains.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to offer thanks to Steve Whittall of Sinclair Knight Merz for commissioning the project.

Oxford Archaeology North would also like to extend thanks to Jill Collens, archaeologist for the Cheshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record, and to all the staff at the County Record Offices in Chester and Preston for their help.

The desk-based assessment was undertaken by Hannah Gajos, who also compiled this report. The drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Emily Mercer, who also edited the report together with Alan Lupton.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) (hereafter 'the client') have requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an archaeological desk-based assessment regarding a proposed development to land adjacent to Chester Road, Warrington, Cheshire (SJ 6035 8685). This document is for use in an Environmental Impact Assessment of the area.
- 1.1.2 The site lies to the south of Warrington town centre, and close to the Roman site of Wilderspool, which is a comprehensive Roman settlement (Scheduled Monument 110) with domestic and industrial elements, and an area of extreme archaeological importance. Following approval of the project design OA North was commissioned by the client to undertake the required archaeological desk-based assessment of the development area.
- 1.1.3 The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in Chester, the Cheshire County Record Office in Chester (CRO(C)), the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston (LRO(P)), and the archives and library held at OA North.
- 1.1.4 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document which outlines the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development, and recommendations for further work.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North in response to a request from the client for an archaeological desk-based assessment of the study area. Subsequently, OA North was commissioned to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project design. The study area consisted of a 1km radius centered on the proposed development site. The principal sources of information were the Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record, historic maps and secondary sources.
- 2.2.2 ***Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)***: the SMR is a database of archaeological sites within the County. The Cheshire SMR, in Chester, was accessed. A brief record including grid reference and description was obtained for the various sites found to be within the study area. Each record was studied and information concerning the general area was gathered.
- 2.2.3 ***County Record Office (Chester)***: the County Record Office in Chester (CRO(C)) was visited to consult documents specific to the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including Ordnance Survey maps and Tithe maps were examined. A search was made for any relevant historical documentation, particularly regarding the use of the area, drawing on the knowledge of the archivists. Several relevant secondary sources were also consulted.
- 2.2.4 ***County Record Office (Preston)***: the County Record Office in Preston (LRO(P)) was visited to consult Ordnance Survey maps and Tithe maps of areas which were originally designated as being part of Lancashire. These areas included the development site, and areas within the study area that were located to the south of the development site.
- 2.2.5 ***Oxford Archaeology North (OA North)***: various publications and unpublished reports on excavations and other work in the region are held within the OA North library.

2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage guidelines (1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Cheshire Record Office, Chester.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The town of Warrington lies within the Mersey Valley, an area to the south of the Lancashire Coal Measures, and to the north of the Cheshire Plain. The character of the landscape has been highly influenced by the urban and industrial developments lining the banks of the Mersey. The valley has a dense communications network, with motorways, roads, bridges and canals producing a large number of bridge crossings, highlighting the large-scale highly visible industrial developments situated at the river crossings of Warrington, Runcorn and Widnes (Countryside Commission 1998).
- 3.1.2 The site itself lies to the south of Warrington town centre, close to an oxbow in the River Mersey (SJ 6035 8685). It is bordered on the east and south sides by the river, with the main west coast railway line lying immediately to the west (Fig 1). It is located on the south-western edge of the urban sprawl, close to the low-land marshy areas.
- 3.1.3 The area is defined by a low-lying topography, with much lying beneath 20m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The area is underlain by estuarine and river alluvium up to a depth of 3m, with wind-blown sands interlying. The higher grounds consist of glacial boulder clay, with pockets of gravel and sand. The underlying geology of the area is comprised of Triassic sandstone (*ibid*).

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this section presents an outline review of the history of the proposed development site on land adjacent to Chester Road, and its environs. An survey of the historical record was undertaken as part of the desk-based assessment in order that the site could be understood in its wider historical context, but only the information directly pertinent to the impact area and the scope of the work is presented here. All SMR sites within the nearby area were considered where appropriate, and are cited using the site number allocated to them in the Gazetteer (*Appendix 2*).
- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric period:** relatively numerous prehistoric remains have been found in and around the Mersey Valley, but fewer sites are known in the vicinity of Warrington. However, evidence of activity around the site is suggestive of settlement at times within the prehistoric period. A prehistoric flint scraper (Site **01**) was found near Warrington Docks, with another possible prehistoric scraper (Site **02**) found near Arpley. Grealey (1976) suggests that the flints found may date to the Neolithic, when there was considerable activity in and around the Cheshire Plain, although there is no firm evidence for this. Prehistoric timber piling was also found near the Warrington Docks entrance (Site **03**), and suggests that it was probably being exploited perhaps using the timber piling to forage deeper into the marsh (Grealey 1976).
- 3.2.3 Two Bronze Age barrows are known in the area; one of which contained a decorated cremation urn (Site **06**; Hall 1826), and a second (Site **07**) was reused as the mound for a windmill (May 1903). A Bronze Age palstave (Site **05**) was

also discovered in Latchford. To the east of the study area lies Iron Age settlement site at Loushers Lane. Excavations revealed a series of enclosures and timber-framed buildings, including an early round-house. The site continued into the Roman period, when fulling and dying took place (Higham 1993).

- 3.2.4 Several human skulls were found during construction work on the new river diversion across Arpley Meadows in 1893 (Site **36**). One skull was preserved. Although the exact date of the remains are unknown, it was described as a 'human skull of Celtic type' and was possibly of an Iron Age or Romano-British origin. It was preserved in the possession of a Mr May. The Warrington Museum acquired the bulk of Mr May's collection on his death, but the skull was not located (Madeley 1894).
- 3.2.5 **Roman period:** the Roman period is well represented in this area. A comprehensive Roman settlement lies at Wilderspool (Sites **10**, **12**, **15**, **16** and **17**) to the east of the site, on the south bank of an earlier channel of the Mersey. This major settlement was dictated by the meeting of roads from Middlewich, Chester, and possibly Manchester. The precise location of the settlement was determined by the presence of a patch of well-drained sand, in a peat bog area, which provided a dry approach to the river-crossing. Large scale industrial activity with kilns and furnaces, hypocausted building, ditched complexes and timber-framed structures (Higham 1993). The settlement is not thought to have had any military function, although a short lived fort on the north bank at Warrington seems likely. Two excavated areas of occupation are considered to have formed part of a single settlement c10ha in size, predominantly industrial in character, and in production for much of the second century AD (Crosby 1996).
- 3.2.6 The main Roman road north from Wilderspool (Sites **08** and **11**) appears to have run east to ford the Mersey at Latchford; thereafter, it turned north, and parts of the road have been traced beyond Bridge Street (Margary 1957). Evidence for Roman activity, consisting of structural remains and domestic and industrial waste, exists in and around the modern town centre of Warrington, and represents the earliest reliable evidence for human activity in central Warrington (LUAU 2000). Further sites showing residential activity with structural remains and domestic waste pits include the settlement sites at Greenall Whitley Brewery (Site **13**) and Wilderspool House (Site **14**) (Strickland 1995; Gifford and Partners 1991, 1992, 2001; LUAU 2000, 2001)
- 3.2.7 **Early Medieval period:** the Domesday survey demonstrates the existence of a manor and church in 1086, which almost certainly had Anglo-Saxon antecedents on the same site. Warrington is known to have become the head of a hundred sometime before the Norman Conquest. Despite the historical evidence for the importance of Warrington, few archaeological finds or features of clear pre-Conquest date are known (Grealey 1976). The only archaeological evidence for early medieval activity consists of four logboats (Sites **18**, **19**, **20**, **21**) recovered from the Mersey between 1893 and 1931 (Dunlop 1930). These boats were found within the alluvium of the area, up to a depth of 3m, while works took place in the area. (*ibid*). The fact that the four vessels were found close together suggests that the proposed development site and the surrounding

area may have been a focus for early medieval activity, possibly associated with a wharf or area where boats were beached (LUAU, 2001).

- 3.2.8 **Medieval period:** the medieval period is not well represented in the study area, although the town of Warrington itself expanded, with the Barony of Warrington being created in the early twelfth century. The early lords of Warrington established themselves at Mote Hill, c1km east of the modern town centre suggesting that a twelfth century motte and bailey castle stood there. To the west of Mote Hill and the church, the plan of a small, linear settlement has been identified in the modern street pattern, laid out to the north and south of Church Street, with a single back lane to the north; although undated, the historical context suggests that this may have been a planned settlement established in the early twelfth century, although the character of the settlement may initially have been more rural than urban. It is thought that the inhabitants of the settlement began to build industrial sites in the twelfth century, with Walton Mill, a water mill (Site **24**) first recorded in 1154 (Grealey 1976).
- 3.2.9 By the early fourteenth century, Warrington was one of the most important towns in Lancashire, and, in the lay subsidy of 1334, was assessed at a similar level to Wigan, Lancaster, Preston, and Liverpool. Excavations carried out in areas such as Friar's Green (Site **22**) show the extent of the residential and industrial development of the town, with ditches, mosaic floor tiles, and medieval pottery (LUAU 2001). However, it appears that the proposed development site was not inhabited during this time. Site **23** mentions a ford in the Walton area, although its exact location is not known (SMR).
- 3.2.10 **Post-medieval period:** the town continued to act as a market centre for the surrounding agricultural hinterland and, around 1800, its Wednesday market was noted for its fish, cattle, and sheep (May 1896). However, industry was becoming an increasingly important part of Warrington's economy, particularly from the late seventeenth century. Industries included chemical works (Site **25**) (Ashmore 1982), while Yates's map of 1786 shows a glass and copper works (Site **35**) in the area of Bank Quay, and Hall's map of 1826 shows tanning pits (Site **26**). This was mainly due to improvements in the Mersey navigation, with the river being made navigable from Liverpool to Warrington in 1690, and from Warrington to Manchester in 1720, and the position of the town on the best route across the Mersey and north into Lancashire. The Wilderspool Causeway (Site **31**) was built in 1624 enabling the river crossing to continue despite the erosion of the banks and tides. In 1848, the causeway was raised, and produced evidence to show that the causeway had been raised previously on more than one occasion (May 1896).
- 3.2.11 Bank Quay was constructed in 1690, and allowed the town's manufacturers easy access to waterborne transport. Although there is evidence for a great variety of manufacturing, the most significant industries have been identified as textile making, particularly linen and coarse textiles such as sailcloth, and metal working. Copper smelting was important for much of the eighteenth century, with wire-working and the manufacture of files and other tools becoming significant before 1800. By 1825, sugar refining and copper working had largely ceased, but iron foundries and soap works were increasingly important, and supplemented the remaining established industries (Ashmore 1982). Also on this site was the Crosfield and Sons Chemical Works (Site **1**), which was a

large soap producer. It was Joseph Crosfield who built the Transporter Bridge at this spot from 1913-15 (Site **28**). This construction shows the extent to which Warrington's rail importance had grown, as the bridge was the world's first transporter bridge designed primarily for rail traffic. Further evidence of the importance of rail to Warrington can be seen in the Bank Quay Station (Site **29**), which linked the industrial towns of the region, and the Grand Junction Station (Site **30**), which linked Warrington with the main London line (Norton 1984).

- 3.2.12 The proposed development site remained in agricultural use during the nineteenth century, and into the twentieth century. In 1837 the Grand Junction Railway was constructed, and in 1893 the River Mersey diversion was also built, impacting on the wetlands of the river bank, and producing findspots such as the Roman remains at Arpley Meadows (Site **36**) (Madeley 1894). These bounded the development site, with the river diversion to the east and south, and the west coast mainline to the west. This greatly enhanced the communications potential of the site, and brought trade to the area (Ashmore 1982).

4. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The assessment results for the study area, comprising a 1km radius around the proposed development site, are based on primary documents, most notably maps, and on published secondary sources. The results are drawn from the Cheshire SMR, the Cheshire and Lancashire Record Offices which provide both secondary and cartographic sources, and from previous archaeological investigations. A full list of the sites identified by the assessment is provided in the Gazetteer (*Appendix 2*), and is shown in Figure 2.

4.2 SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD (SMR)

- 4.2.1 **SMR database:** there are 34 SMR sites within the study area (Fig 2). The detailed results of the assessment are shown in the Site Gazetteer (*Appendix 2*), and an outline of the results is presented in Table 1, below. Two Scheduled Monuments (SM) are located within the study area: SM 110, Wilderspool Roman Site, and SM 108, Bank Quay Transporter Bridge.

| Period | No. of sites | Sites |
|----------------|--------------|---|
| Prehistoric | 6 | Warrington Docks Flint (01), Arpley Flint (02), Warrington Docks Timber Piling (03), Wilderspool Flint (04), Palstave (05), Bronze Age Barrow (06) |
| Roman | 10 | Roman Road (08), Roman Coin (09), Wilderspool Roman settlement site (10), King Street Roman Road (11), Wilderspool Brewery Roman settlement site (12), Greenhall Whitley Brewery Roman settlement site (13), Wilderspool House Roman settlement site (14), Roman Wilderspool settlement site (15), Morrison's Supermarket Roman settlement site (16), Millbank Roman settlement site (17) |
| Early Medieval | 4 | Warrington Logboat 1 (18), Warrington Logboat 2 (19), Warrington Logboat 5 (20), Warrington Logboat 7 (21) |
| Medieval | 3 | Friars Green/Bridge Street (22), Warrington Ford (23), Walton Mill (24) |
| Post-medieval | 12 | Crosfield and Sons Chemical Works (25), Friars Green Old Tannery (26), Ship Inn (27), Windmill (07), Bank Quay Transporter Bridge (28), Bank Quay Station (29), Grand Junction Railway (30), Wilderspool Causeway (31), Greenhall Whitley Brewery post-medieval settlement site (32), Timber Yard (33), Malt Kiln (34), Glass and Copper Works (35) |
| Unknown | 1 | Arpley Meadows Human Remains (36) |

Table 1: Number of SMR sites by period in the study area

4.3 CHESHIRE COUNTY RECORD OFFICE (CHESTER)

- 4.3.1 The Cheshire County Record Office at Chester (CRO(C)) was consulted to collate maps for a regression analysis of the study area. Information from secondary sources and archaeological or historical journals has been incorporated into the historical background (*Section 3.2*).

4.4 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.4.1 ***Yates' Map of Lancashire, 1786*** (Fig 3): this map shows the area to the north of the River Mersey, incorporating Warrington town, and the study area, although somewhat stylised. The site itself appears to be unenclosed and undeveloped, but this may be due to Yates' omission rather than fact. A glass and copper factory (Site 35) close to the area of Bank Quay is marked on the map, and a mill is shown to the north-east of the study area, showing the industrial use of the River Mersey in the area.
- 4.4.2 ***Greenwood's Map of Lancashire, 1818*** (Fig 4): this map is again rather stylised and shows the site to be unenclosed and undeveloped. However, there are no field enclosures shown elsewhere on the map suggesting an omission of detail rather than fact. The vast majority of the study area seems to be the same as recorded on Yates' map in 1786, with the exception of Bank Quay which is marked in the former location of the glass and copper factory, and development to the north-east of the site, showing a bridge crossing over the River Mersey, and several buildings. Numerous buildings have also been added in the Bank Quay area, and it is probable that this is the Crosfield and Sons Chemical Works (Site 1). The mill shown on Yates' map of 1786 is marked here, and is annotated as Mersey Mill. It is clear that the banks of the river to the north of the development site are being utilised for industrial purposes. No details are shown to the south of the Mersey as the map is concerned only with Lancashire, with the area to the south of the river being Cheshire.
- 4.4.3 ***Hall's Map of the Town of Warrington, 1826***: this map shows the town of Warrington, and the northern half of the study area. Only a small area of the site itself can be seen, but the area is clearly undeveloped, although there are now details of field boundaries. A note relating to the rest of the site states 'now all enclosed' which is likely referring to the Enclosure Act, which may have been enforced after Greenwood's map of 1818 had been drawn. The note suggesting that the area surrounding the development site was currently in agricultural use at this time.
- 4.4.4 ***Hennet's Map of Lancashire, 1829*** (Fig 5): five roads not previously seen on earlier maps are shown stretching across the area, most probably to serve the enclosed fields. It is likely that these roads follow the route of earlier tracks, suggesting that the area has been used for agricultural purposes for some time. The eastern most road appears to have some buildings located close to the banks of the Mersey. The site at Bank Quay does not appear to have grown any further. Further buildings have been added to the development to the north-east of the study area, with a road following the east bank of the river.
- 4.4.5 ***CRO(C) D4625/12 Tithe Map of the Parish of Warrington, 1872***: this map showed several enclosed fields for the area. The apportionment shows that all

enclosed fields were laid to meadow, and were owned by private landowners or the London and North Western Railway.

- 4.4.6 ***Ordnance Survey Lancashire 1849 – First Edition 6” Sheet 16.1*** (Fig 6): the site can be seen to be a rural enclosed landscape. The fields are all enclosed, with a network of roads covering the area surrounding the site which are similar to those seen on Hennet’s map of 1829. Several of the fields which have been enclosed appear to be laid out in a strip system or are irregular in shape, possibly denoting former medieval field systems. The area to the south of the site is annotated as ‘*subject to flooding*’, which is probably the reason why no building work has been carried out in this vicinity.
- 4.4.7 ***Ordnance Survey Lancashire 1893 – Second Edition 25” Sheet 15.4***: the site itself is not covered by this map, with the area to the west being shown. However, Bank Quay and Bank Quay Railway Station are shown, with the Grand Junction Railway running north/south to the west of the site. The area to the south of Bank Quay is enclosed but no further development has taken place. The whole area is annotated as ‘*Liable to Floods*’.
- 4.4.8 ***Ordnance Survey Cheshire 1895 – Second Edition 25” Sheet 16.7***: the development site itself is not covered by this map, as it is classed as Lancashire. However, part of the south-west of the town of Warrington is shown, with Site 34, a malt kiln, located on the east bank of the Mersey. The land to the west of site is shown to be enclosed agricultural land with no standing structures, with the exception of Bank Quay, which is shown on the banks of the Mersey.
- 4.4.9 ***Ordnance Survey Lancashire 1907 – Third Edition 25” Sheet 16.1***: the north of the site is shown on this edition, and is occupied by arable land. The new river diversion can be seen to the east of the site, with several buildings lining the banks. There are no further buildings which can be identified on the site. Much of the area still appears to be marshy and undeveloped.
- 4.4.10 ***Ordnance Survey Lancashire 1907 – Third Edition 25” Sheet 15.4***: this edition shows the western edge of the site, and also shows Bank Quay to have increased dramatically in size, with the rail links also increasing. The site itself is shown as very marshy, but with no visible development other than the railways.
- 4.4.11 ***Ordnance Survey Cheshire 1993***: this edition shows the development area as it stands today, showing warehouses on the site, with the west coast mainline railway bounding the site to the west, and the River Mersey diversion bounding the site to the east and south. Further warehouses bound the site to the north.

4.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

- 4.5.1 Several archaeological interventions have occurred on the southern fringe of Warrington town centre, which, although not located within the study area, are of importance to the characterisation of the site. The medieval Friary Church at Warrington (SJ 6063 8797) was excavated by OA North in their former guise as Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) in 2000, prior to the construction of a Public House. An excavation was also conducted in 2000 by LUAU at the corner of Friars Gate and Barbauld Street revealed three pits and two extensive deposits, which together produced 353 sherds of Romano-British

pottery. As a result of this recent fieldwork, it now seems highly probable that a Roman settlement existed close to the present town centre in the second century AD (LUAU 2001). The excavation revealed the north wall foundation of the church nave, at least 1.0m below ground level. Part of the foundation had been reused when a candle factory was built, probably in the mid to late eighteenth century. Internal column plinths were also found within the nave, again sealed by 1.0m of overburden. Further north, the remains of the west and north foundations of the north transept were revealed. The north-west corner of the transept had survived beneath a shallow modern cellar, and was sealed by 1.6m of modern overburden. The partial or complete remains of 105 human burials were discovered during the excavations; one of the deeper burials had survived beneath the floor of the eighteenth century candle factory (LUAU 2000).

- 4.5.2 The tax office site south of Friars Lane was also investigated showing extensive demolition deposits of the early seventeenth century, and a very large late sixteenth to early seventeenth century pit were observed. A cover of post-medieval and modern deposits 1m - 2m deep was also seen with significant archaeological remains below the later layers, which may relate to the friary's cloister. Excavations were also conducted in advance of road widening near Bridge Foot which revealed the cellar of a tannery, considered to have occupied the site since at least the late seventeenth century, and a wide ditch (Heawood 2002).
- 4.5.3 In 2001 LUAU excavated four evaluation trenches within a car park in the angle between St Austins Lane and Barbauld Street (SJ 6059 8793). Several eighteenth to nineteenth century drains were revealed, but no significant archaeological remains were found. Residual Romano-British pottery was recovered from a ditch during archaeological excavation to the north of the site, and two finds of pottery, a silver coin, and a bronze coin have also been discovered in the area (LUAU 2001).
- 4.5.4 Giffords and Partners have carried out a number of excavations within the study area in Wilderspool, Warrington. An evaluation was carried out at the Greenhall Whitley Brewery site in 1991 (Sites **13** and **32**), revealing structural foundations for a Roman building overlain by a ninth century structure. Evidence of Roman iron-working waste and locally produced and imported pottery was recovered from a number of pits (Gifford and Partners 1991).
- 4.5.5 An evaluation in Wilderspool House (Site **14**) revealed a series of postholes with associated Roman pottery, and showed the Roman remains to survive from a depth of 1m below ground (Gifford and Partners 1992).
- 4.5.6 Excavations in the Wilderspool Scheduled Monument site (Sites **15-16**) in 1992 and 1993 (Site **15**) produced Roman finds and deposits, including post-holes and beam-slots, and a piece of worked flint (Site **04**). During the excavations for the Morrisons Supermarket (Site **16**), timber-framed buildings and associated hearths dating to the late second and early third century were revealed, with further residual finds dating to the first and fourth centuries. A workshop was also revealed with large fireplaces and smithing slag. It is generally accepted that these excavations revealed a greater extent of occupation within the scheduled site than was previously thought (Gifford and Partners 1993, Strickland 1995).

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 5.1.1 Although there are no known archaeological sites which will be directly impacted upon, the potential for prehistoric remains on the actual site is high. The flints found from the surrounding area along with the timber piling suggest that the marsh land on which the site stood may have been exploited for hunting and fishing purposes from early periods. Grealey (1976) suggests that the flints (Sites **01**, **02** and **04**) found may date to the Neolithic, when there was considerable activity in and around the Cheshire Plain. Likewise, the discovery of the Bronze Age barrows and a cremation burial point to a degree of activity in the area at this time, and suggest that the exploitation of the marshland during this period could lead to archaeological remains being present on site.
- 5.1.2 There is also potential for Iron Age activity across the site. There was evidence for settlement to the south-east of the study area at Loushers Lane, albeit ephemeral (Higham 1993), and therefore the discovery of a previously undiscovered native settlement from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods in the area cannot be ruled out (Strickland 1995). There is also the potential for Iron Age and Romano-British remains relating to the exploitation of the marshland. With an extensive area of Roman activity, associated in the main with the significant and scheduled settlement of Wilderspool, there is potential for other unknown Roman remains to be encountered across the site.
- 5.1.3 The early medieval logboats are proof positive that the marshland was being exploited at this time, and may also suggest the existence of a salt industry, with the boats themselves bearing a great deal of resemblance to those found at Nantwich (Crump 1939). Consequently, the potential for discovery of further log boats, or evidence relating to similar activities in this period is fairly high, as the development site lies within the former marshy areas around the river bank.
- 5.1.4 During the later medieval period it appears as though much of the area remained as undeveloped marshland until the nineteenth century suggesting a fairly low potential for archaeological remains. Similarly, the potential for previously unrecorded post-medieval remains is also fairly low as the cartographic evidence suggests that the majority of the post-medieval activity in the area was associated with the development of industry, which focused in and around the town of Warrington.

5.2 IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.2.1 The evidence presented suggests that there is a reasonably high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits on the site. Archaeological remains have been found immediately adjacent to the site at up to depths of 3m, and there has been little development in the area until recent years. Consequently, it is possible that a considerable depth of archaeological deposits remain on the site. However, it is uncertain as to what extent the present structures on the site, shown on OS maps of 1993, have impacted upon any surviving remains.

- 5.2.2 The development site also lies within close proximity of the known and Scheduled Roman sites, and has a high potential for the survival of both prehistoric and early medieval remains. It is therefore recommended that an evaluation be carried out prior to any groundworks. This would allow an assessment to be made regarding the proposed development on below surface archaeological remains.

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

February 2004

**Oxford
Archaeology
North**

**SITE ADJACENT TO CHESTER ROAD,
WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

PROJECT DESIGN

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request from Sinclair Knight Merz for an archaeological desk-based assessment of land adjacent to Chester Road, Warrington, Cheshire in advance of a proposed development.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) (hereafter the client) have requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an archaeological desk-based assessment of a site adjacent to Chester Road, Warrington (SJ 6035 8685), prior to a proposed development.
- 1.1.2 The site is bordered on the east and south sides by the River Mersey, to the south of Warrington town centre. Relatively numerous prehistoric remains have been found in and around the Mersey Valley, but no significant sites are known in the vicinity of central Warrington. The largest known Roman settlement in the Warrington area lies at Wilderspool to the south of the site, on the south bank of an earlier channel of the Mersey. Here, two excavated areas of occupation are considered to have formed part of a single settlement c10ha in size, predominantly industrial in character, and in production for much of the second century AD. The main road north from Wilderspool appears to have run east to ford the Mersey at Latchford; thereafter, it turned north, and parts of the road have been traced beyond Bridge Street.
- 1.1.3 However, evidence for Roman activity also exists north of the Mersey, in and around the modern town centre, and represents the earliest reliable evidence for human activity in central Warrington. Residual Romano-British pottery was recovered from a ditch during archaeological excavation north of the site, and two finds of pottery, a silver coin, and a bronze coin have also been discovered in the area. More importantly, an excavation conducted in 2000 by the OA North, in its former guise as Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU), at the corner of Friars Gate and Barbauld Street revealed three pits and two extensive deposits, which together produced 353 sherds of Romano-British pottery. As a result of this recent fieldwork, it now seems highly probable that a Roman settlement existed close to the present town centre in the second century AD.
- 1.1.4 The Domesday survey demonstrates the existence of a manor and church in 1086, which almost certainly had Anglo-Saxon antecedents on the same site. Warrington is known to have become the head of a hundred sometime before the Norman Conquest. Despite the historical evidence for the importance of Warrington, no archaeological finds or features of clear pre-Conquest date are known, either around St Elphin's Church, or in the vicinity of the later medieval town, where the town centre stands today. The only archaeological evidence for early medieval activity consists of three logboats recovered from the Mersey in 1908 and 1941. The fact that the three vessels were found close together suggests that this spot may have been a focus for late Saxon activity, possibly associated with a wharf or area where boats were beached.
- 1.1.5 The Barony of Warrington was created in the early twelfth century. The early lords of Warrington established themselves at Mote Hill, adjacent to the parish church, and c 1km east of the modern town centre; nineteenth century excavations suggest that a twelfth century motte and bailey castle stood there, and several writers have suggested that this may represent the reuse of the earlier pre-Norman estate centre. To the west of Mote Hill and the church, the plan of a small, linear settlement has been identified in the modern street pattern, laid out to the north and south of Church Street, with a single back lane to the north; although undated, the historical context suggests that this may have been a planned settlement established by the new lord of Warrington in the early twelfth century. The character of the settlement may initially have been more rural than urban.
- 1.1.6 The right to hold a weekly market was granted in 1254, and an annual fair in 1255, although mention was not made of where these were held. In 1277 a charter was obtained for a Friday market, and for a yearly fair of eight days duration. A further charter of 1285 transferred the weekly market to Wednesday, and the annual fair from November to July. The lord took a close interest in the town, and in c 1300 forced the burgesses to give up their right to hold their own court, thus removing one of the defining characteristics of a borough; the town remained under the authority of the lords of the manor for over 500 years. By the early fourteenth century, Warrington was one of the most important towns in Lancashire, and, in the lay subsidy of 1334, was assessed at a similar level to Wigan, Lancaster, Preston, and Liverpool.

- 1.1.7 One indication of a shifted settlement focus in the later thirteenth century is the construction of a bridge across the Mersey at Bridgefoot, at least 1km south-west of Mote Hill, but much closer to the modern town centre; the bridge was standing by 1286, and would have carried one of the principal routes to the North. The establishment of a house of Augustinian Friars on a plot of land fronting onto the road leading north from the bridge is further confirmation that this area was becoming the commercial core, particularly as the friars were partially dependent on begging for alms, and sought sites with good access to the centres of towns.
- 1.1.8 The post-medieval and modern town remained largely within the medieval town limits until the mid nineteenth century, with the exception of limited expansion to the north on the western side of Horsemarket Street. The town continued to act as a market centre for the surrounding agricultural hinterland and, around 1800, its Wednesday market was noted for its fish, cattle, and sheep. However, industry was becoming an increasingly important part of Warrington's economy, particularly from the late seventeenth century, due to improvements in the Mersey navigation, with the river being made navigable from Liverpool to Warrington in 1690, and from Warrington to Manchester in 1720, and the position of the town on the best route across the Mersey and north into Lancashire.
- 1.1.9 Bank Quay was constructed in 1690, and allowed the town's manufacturers easy access to waterborne transport. Although there is evidence for a great variety of manufacturing, the most significant industries have been identified as textile making, particularly linen and coarse textiles such as sailcloth, and metal working. Copper smelting was important for much of the eighteenth century, with wire-working and the manufacture of files and other tools becoming significant before 1800. By 1825, sugar refining and copper working had largely ceased, but iron foundries and soap works were increasingly important, and supplemented the remaining established industries.
- 1.1.10 Several archaeological interventions have occurred on the southern fringe of the town centre. The Friary Church was excavated by OA North as LUAU in 2000, prior to the construction of a Wetherspoon Ale House. The choir, nave, and transept of the friary church have been the subject of several investigations since 1886. The excavation revealed the north wall foundation of the church nave, at least 1.0m below ground level. Part of the foundation had been reused when a candle factory was built, probably in the mid to late eighteenth century. Internal column plinths were also found within the nave, again sealed by 1.0m of overburden. Further north, the remains of the west and north foundations of the north transept were revealed. The north-west corner of the transept had survived beneath a shallow modern cellar, and was sealed by 1.6m of modern overburden. The partial or complete remains of 105 human burials were discovered during the excavations; one of the deeper burials had survived beneath the floor of the eighteenth century candle factory.
- 1.1.11 In the early 1980s and mid 1990s the tax office site south of Friars Lane was investigated. Extensive demolition deposits of the early seventeenth century, and a very large late sixteenth to early seventeenth century pit were observed. A cover of post-medieval and modern deposits 1m - 2m deep was also seen with significant archaeological remains below the later layers, which may relate to the friary's cloister.
- 1.1.12 Excavations were conducted in advance of road widening near Bridge Foot which revealed the cellar of a tannery, considered to have occupied the site since at least the late seventeenth century, and a wide ditch.
- 1.1.13 In 2001 OA North, as LUAU, excavated four evaluation trenches within a car park in the angle between St Austins Lane and Barbauld Street. Several eighteenth to nineteenth century drains were revealed, but no significant archaeological remains were found.
- 1.2 **OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH**
- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of the assessment and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 23 years. Evaluations and assessment have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency.

- 1.2.2 OA North has particular experience of Warrington through its major excavation at Friarsgate and its research and assessment at Golden Square to the north of the proposed development site. In addition, OA North has undertaken numerous desk-based assessments in Cheshire and the other counties of Northern England.
- 1.2.3 OA North is an **Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.
2. OBJECTIVES
- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to provide an accurate archaeological assessment of the designated area within its broader context, and is in accordance with a brief for an archaeological assessment provided by the Planning Archaeologist of Cheshire County Council. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:
- 2.2 **Desk-Based Assessment:** this will involve a desk-based assessment of the study, pulling together all available information relating to any information on the archaeology of the development area and its immediate vicinity.
- 2.3 **Report and Archive:** a written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will present the desk-based study, and would make recommendations for further work.
3. METHODS STATEMENT
- 3.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
- 3.1.1 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The level of such work will be dictated by the time scale of the project.
- 3.1.2 **Documentary and Cartographic Material:** this work will comprise a rapid desk-based assessment of the existing resource. It will include an appraisal of the Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record, as well as appropriate sections of County histories, early maps, and such primary documentation (tithe and estate plans etc.) as may be reasonably available. Particular emphasis will be upon the early cartographic evidence which has the potential to inform the post-medieval occupation and land-use of the area. Any photographic material lodged in the County Sites and Monuments Record or County Record Office will also be studied. Published and unpublished documentary sources will also be examined and assessed. The study will examine place and field name evidence for the site and its environs. This work will involve visits and or correspondence searches of the following repositories: Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record, County Records Office, Lancaster University Library and the OA North research archive.
- 3.1.3 **Aerial Photography:** a brief survey of the extant air photographic cover will be undertaken. Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record will be consulted for aerial photography and the study will entail liaison with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments (England) (NMR), although, within the timescale available, it is unlikely that prints will be forthcoming from this body for inclusion in this report.
- 3.1.4 **Physical Environment:** a rapid desk-based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical and palaeoenvironmental information will be undertaken. It will be based on published geological mapping and any local geological surveys in the possession of the county council or the client. This will not only set the archaeological features in context but also serves to provide predictive data, that will increase the efficiency of the field inspection.
- 3.2 REPORT/ARCHIVE
- 3.2.1 **Archive:** the results will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects, second edition, 1991*) and the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. All artefacts and ecofacts recovered will be packed and stored in the appropriate material and conditions. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository

is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.

- 3.2.2 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files (as appropriate). The paper archive will be deposited with the Record Office within six months of the end of the fieldwork. The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and an appropriate registered museum prior to the work taking place. The material archive will be deposited within six months of the completion of the fieldwork following agreement with the client.
- 3.2.3 **Report:** a report of the findings will be compiled following completion of the fieldwork. This report will examine and describe the archaeology and, if appropriate, the palaeoenvironment of the site. The report will also seek to establish the significance of the results. It will consist of a typescript, containing non-technical summary statement, an account of the circumstances of the project, methods used, a description of the results, and an interpretation of these, together with a statement as to their significance, as well as a bibliography and a copy of this project design. A table will be included summarising per trench the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds. This report will also be illustrated with line drawings, including plans of the location of the site and test-pits, plans and sections of features and finds if necessary, and, if suitable, photographs.
- 3.2.4 Copies of the report will be submitted to the Client and the Planning Archaeologist at Cheshire County Council within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. The final report will include;
- a concise non-technical summary of the results
 - a summary of the methodology
 - a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design
 - a summary of past and present land use, and historical background
 - a summary description of the archaeological features and deposits
 - an interpretation of the results and their potential archaeological significance and the likely archaeological implications of the proposed development
 - a location plan, excavation plan and sections at an appropriate scale
 - monochrome and colour photographs where appropriate
 - recommendations for any further mitigation works will be detailed in a separate section of the report and particulars of the final deposition of the project archive will also be made
 - a full bibliography of sources consulted and a list of additional sources identified but not consulted
 - an index to the project archive.
- 3.2.5 **Confidentiality:** the final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.
- 4 WORK TIMETABLE
- 4.1 OA North could commence the archaeological programme of works within a week of receipt of written notification from the client.
- 4.2 **Desk-based assessment:** three days will be required for this element.
- 4.3 **Archive/Report:** the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be submitted within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork and the archive deposited within six months.

5 STAFFING

- 5.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc AIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 5.2 The desk-based assessment will be supervised either an OA North project officer or supervisor experienced in this type of project. Due to scheduling requirements it is not possible to provide these details at the present time. All OA North project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.

6 INSURANCE

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

APPENDIX 2: GAZETTEER OF SITES

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 01 |
| Site name | Findspot at Warrington Docks |
| SMR No. | 477/0/1 |
| NGR | SJ 6070 8640 |
| Site Type | Findspot |
| Period | Prehistoric |
| Source | Grealey 1976 |
| Comment | A triangular flint scraper was found near Warrington docks entrance. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |
| Site No | 02 |
| Site name | Prehistoric findspot in the Arpley area |
| SMR No. | 478 |
| NGR | SJ 6000 8700 |
| Site Type | Findspot |
| Period | Prehistoric |
| Source | Grealey 1976 |
| Comment | A flint flake, possibly a scraper, was found in the Arpley area. |
| Assessment | As the exact location of the findspot is not known, there is potential for remains to be encountered on this site. |
| Site No | 03 |
| Site name | Warrington Docks |
| SMR No. | 477/1 |
| NGR | SJ 6070 7640 |
| Site Type | Docks |
| Period | Prehistoric |
| Source | Grealey 1976 |
| Comment | Prehistoric timber piling was found in the area near the Warrington Docks entrance. They consisted of many piles set into two irregular lines 1m apart and interspersed with rows of stakes crossed in a herringbone fashion. Associated oyster shells, sticks and sedges were located in horizontal layers within the structure. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |
| Site No | 04 |
| Site name | Wilderspool Flint |
| SMR No. | 435/0/7 |
| NGR | SJ 6125 8660 |
| Period | Prehistoric |
| Source | Gifford and Partners 1992 |
| Comment | This was a piece of prehistoric worked flint found within the Wilderspool Scheduled site (SM 110) and within Site 15 . |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed works and there will be no adverse affects. |
| Site No | 05 |
| Site name | Bronze Age Palstave from Latchford |
| SMR No. | 480 |
| NGR | SJ 6100 8700 |
| Site Type | Findspot |

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|-------------------|---|
| Period | Bronze Age |
| Source | SMR |
| Comment | This is the findspot of a loopless palstave found at Latchford. No record of this findspot could be found in secondary sources |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 06 |
| Site name | Bronze Age Barrow in Warrington |
| SMR No. | 484 |
| NGR | SJ 6103 8638 |
| Site Type | Barrow |
| Period | Bronze Age |
| Source | May 1903 |
| Comment | A windmill was located on the artificial mound of the Bronze Age barrow which is located c70 yards to the west of the Wilderspool excavations, near to the findspot of an altar. A burial urn of red pottery with a narrow neck, and decoration on the collar with an internal rim bevel, containing cremated human bones was recovered from within the mound. There are fragments of further Bronze Age pottery from the surrounding areas . |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 07 |
| Site name | Windmill in Warrington District |
| SMR No. | 485 |
| NGR | SJ 6103 8638 |
| Site Type | Windmill |
| Period | Post-medieval |
| Source | May 1903 |
| Comment | A windmill at Nether Walton is mentioned in 1627, and is shown as a small square building on the first edition OS map. It is shown as part of a group of buildings which belonged to Thompson Watkin. The windmill was destroyed in 1893 and remains of the foundations were visible below the south fence of the garden belonging to Alderman W Bolton. The windmill may have occupied the site of a barrow (Site 06). |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 08 |
| Site name | Roman Road-Chester to Wilderspool |
| SMR No. | 2417/1/0 |
| NGR | SJ 6093 8657 |
| Site Type | Road |
| Period | Roman |
| Source | Margary 1957 |
| Comment | This road has been traced north-east from Chester to connect with the northern road through Warrington (route 70b) at the Roman settlement of Wilderspool. Traces of it were found at the junction of Birkenhead Road and Parkside Road in Chester. It is thought to run via Brook Lane to Hoole Bank. It then follows the road to Bridge Trafford, where the agger can be seen running alongside the road at a few points. It is likely that the road linked with the legionary fortress at Wilderspool and the river crossing there. While there are convincing road lines as far as Bridge Trafford, and from Preston on the Hill to Wilderspool, the intervening terrain is not suitable for straight alignments, and as such the road has not been identified. |
| Assessment | As the exact location of the road is not known, there is potential for remains to be encountered on this site. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 09 |
| Site name | Roman Coin from Warrington |
| SMR No. | 631 |
| NGR | SJ 6060 8780 |
| Site Type | Findspot |
| Period | Roman |
| Source | Grealey 1976 |
| Comment | This is the findspot of a silver coin found in 1885. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Site No | 10 |
| Site name | Wilderspool Roman Site |
| SMR No. | 435/1 |
| NGR | SJ 6110 8640 |
| Site Type | Settlement site |
| Period | Roman |
| Source | Strickland 1995 |
| Comment | This site has been identified as a walled Roman town, with the wall being built of outer facing stones and a rubble infill, with a berg and outer ditch. These defences enclosed three acres on four sides, although only the west side has been fully excavated. On the west and east sides were buttresses which have been interpreted as ballistaria. On the north-west angle there was an angle tower and causeway, with a possible gate. At the south-west angle where the Roman road entered the settlement, there were traces of the pillars of a gateway. A possible third gate was located in the western rampart. These defences may suggest a military occupation to this settlement. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Site No | 11 |
| Site name | King Street Roman Road |
| SMR No. | 436/1/0 |
| NGR | SJ 76 (Dispersed) |
| Site Type | Roman road |
| Period | Roman |
| Source | Margary 1957 |
| Comment | This road has been traced from Warrington to Sandbach for 18 miles, and is road number 70a. To the west of Sandbach it can be seen as a ridge almost parallel with and east of the present road. It is uncertain what the actual course is to the south east, though from its general direction it is probable that the road was designed to reach Chesterton, near Newcastle under Lyme, and may have done so by the present road from Sandbach to Rode Heath, near Alsager, which follows high ground and is very direct. The road runs north-west from Elworth through Middlewich, but is covered by canal works and industrial development. From here it runs straight for four miles to Broken Cross near Over Street on the east side of Northwich. It then continues north-west through Wincham to join the present road south of Great Budworth. This road then runs directly on to the Roman settlement at Wilderspool. |
| Assessment | As the exact location of the road is not known, there is potential for remains to be encountered on this site. |

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Site No | 12 |
| Site name | Wilderspool Roman Site – Brewery Site |
| SMR No. | 435/0/2 |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| NGR | SJ 6110 8650 |
| Site Type | Settlement Site |
| Period | Roman |
| Source | Grealey 1976 |
| Comment | Excavations on the Brewery site from 1895 to 1905 revealed three phases of occupation from the second century AD, characterised by timber structures associated with industrial activity. Further excavations in 1966-7 revealed further evidence of occupation, with timber aisled buildings and clay floored structures, pits and postholes and finds of slag, pottery, including samian, black burnished ware and local wares, iron and stone objects, brooches and a clay and glass figurine. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 13 |
| Site name | Greenall Whitley Brewery Site, Wilderspool 2 |
| SMR No. | 435/1 |
| NGR | SJ 611 866 |
| Site Type | Roman Settlement Site |
| Period | Roman |
| Source | Gifford and Partners 1991 |
| Comment | An evaluation was carried out in 1991 at the Greenhall Whitley Brewery site at Wilderspool. Evidence of a structural foundation for a Roman building was revealed. The foundation consisted of a single line of flat large sandstone blocks with smooth faces to the west. One block had a central square cut hole in it. One sherd of Roman coarse ware pottery was found. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Site No | 14 |
| Site name | Wilderspool House |
| SMR No. | 435/0/6 |
| NGR | SJ 6123 8658 |
| Site Type | Roman Settlement Site |
| Period | Roman |
| Source | Gifford and Partners 1992 |
| Comment | During the construction of an extension in Wilderspool House, post holes and Roman pottery were uncovered at 0.9m below the surface. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 15 |
| Site name | Wilderspool |
| SMR No. | 435/0/7 |
| NGR | SJ 6125 8660 |
| Site Type | Roman Settlement Site |
| Period | Roman |
| Source | Gifford and Partners 1992 |
| Comment | An evaluation within the Scheduled Wilderspool site (SM 110) in 1992 revealed Roman finds and deposits consisting of beam slots and post holes, some containing sandstone rubble. A piece of prehistoric worked flint (Site 04) was also found. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

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|------------------|--|
| Site No | 16 |
| Site name | Morrison's Supermarket, Wilderspool |
| SMR No. | 435/0/8 |
| NGR | SJ 6117 8648 |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Site Type | Roman Settlement Site |
| Period | Roman |
| Source | Gifford and Partners 1993; Strickland 1995 |
| Comment | Excavation within the Scheduled Wilderspool site (SM 110) revealed building plots relating to a succession of timber framed buildings with associated hearths dating from the first to fourth centuries. Evidence of residential and industrial activity were present, with evidence of ironworking. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 17 |
| Site name | Millbank, Greenhall's Avenue |
| SMR No. | 435/0/9 |
| NGR | SJ 6104 8643 |
| Site Type | Settlement Site |
| Period | Roman |
| Source | Gifford and Partners 2001 |
| Comment | A pit and an oven with associated Roman pottery and iron working waste were revealed during an evaluation at Millbank in 2001. Pottery consisted of locally produced orange and grey wares. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Site No | 18 |
| Site name | Warrington Logboat 1 |
| SMR No. | 500 |
| NGR | SJ 6014 8650 |
| Site Type | Logboat |
| Period | Early medieval |
| Source | Madeley 1894; Grealey 1976 |
| Comment | This logboat was dredged up in 1893 during work on a new course of the Mersey across Arpley Meadows. It lay close to the river bank, 18' under the surface. The boat measures 19'8½'' long by 2'9'' wide and 14'' deep. The notes with the boat record 'rough piles with brushwood behind seen at low water'. It was classified as a canoe. Radiocarbon date 760BP+/-60c.ad. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon.. |

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|-------------------|--|
| Site No | 19 |
| Site name | Warrington Logboat 2 |
| SMR No. | 501/0/1 |
| NGR | SJ 6066 8640 |
| Site Type | Logboat |
| Period | Early medieval |
| Source | Madeley 1894; Grealey 1976 |
| Comment | During the construction of the Manchester Ship canal and Walton Lock, an extensive system of piles and stakes were unearthed, along with a logboat, in 1894. The logboat was encountered 18' below the ground surface and was located with the lower ends of the piles, with sand washed clay and silt lying above it, more than 20 yards from the edge of the river. The boat measured 12'4'' long by 2'10'' wide and 15'' deep. Located within the sand, and higher within the matrix, was a perfectly preserved skull of a great wild ox. There were associated finds of water worn fragments of Roman tile and a stone anchor. There were also the remains of a hearth situated close by. The boat has been interpreted as a canoe, and has a radiocarbon date of 930 BP+/-50c.ad. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 20 |
| Site name | Warrington Logboat 5 |
| SMR No. | 501/0/2 |
| NGR | SJ 6070 8639 |
| Site Type | Logboat |
| Period | Early medieval |
| Source | Dunlop 1930 |
| Comment | This is a logboat which was dredged from the old river channel near its junction with the diversion at Arpley in 1929. It measures 11' long by 2' wide and 22" deep, although its has been damaged and may originally have been longer. The findspot is only a few yards to the east of the findspot of the Warrington logboat 2. It has been interpreted as a canoe. The radiocarbon date is 922 BP +/- 65c.a.d. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

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|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 21 |
| Site name | Warrington Logboat 7 |
| SMR No. | 504 |
| NGR | SJ 5985 8657 |
| Site Type | Logboat |
| Period | Early medieval |
| Source | Dunlop 1930; Grealey 1976 |
| Comment | This logboat was dragged from the Mersey to the west of the central pier of Walton Arches in 1931. The boat had previously been redeposited at this point two weeks earlier, as the area had been dredged at this time. It therefore probably came from the vicinity of the junction of the river diversion where two further logboats (Sites 19 and 20) had been found. It measured 13'6" long by 2' wide. It was made of oak and interpreted as a provisional canoe form. It radio-carbon dated to 860 BP +/- 60c.ad. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

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|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 22 |
| Site name | Friar's Green, Bridge Street |
| SMR No. | 438/11 |
| NGR | SJ 6060 8780 |
| Site Type | Settlement site |
| Period | Medieval |
| Source | LUAU 2000 |
| Comment | Excavations carried out at the Friar's Green/Bridge Street area in advance of a road widening. Stone steps were revealed as belonging to the cellar of a tannery which had occupied the site since at least the seventeenth century. The cellar was brick built with a stone floor which incorporated reused masonry blocks, perhaps from the nearby Friary. Situated against one side was a coke filled bunker, and drains were laid under the floor. The building was demolished in 1885. A ditch was revealed under the cellar and cutting the natural sands which contained deposits from the fifteenth century, including two mosaic floor tiles made locally for the Friary, and some medieval and Roman sherds of pottery. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

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|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Site No | 23 |
| Site name | Medieval Ford in Warrington |
| SMR No. | 476 |
| NGR | SJ 6020 8630 |
| Site Type | Ford |
| Period | Medieval |

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|-------------------|---|
| Source | SMR |
| Comment | This is a medieval ford site which is located in the Walton area to the south of the disused Runcorn and Latchford Canal. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 24 |
| Site name | Walton Mill |
| SMR No. | 475/1 |
| NGR | SJ 6030 8600 |
| Site Type | Mill |
| Period | Medieval |
| Source | Bott 1975 |
| Comment | Walton Mill in Lower Walton is the site of a medieval water mill. It appears to be one of the many mills belonging to the King which were sold by James I. No record of this mill could be found in secondary sources |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

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|-------------------|--|
| Site No | 25 |
| Site name | Crosfield and Sons Chemical Works |
| SMR No. | 4237/0/1 |
| NGR | SJ 597 877 |
| Site Type | Chemical Works |
| Period | Post-medieval/ Modern |
| Source | Ashmore 1982; Hall 1826 |
| Comment | This site was operating at Warrington Bank Quay during World War One, and produced glycerin. It was founded in 1814 by Joseph Crosfield on the site of an old iron foundry and wire works. It used coal from Haydock and Parr, soda from St Helens and salt from Cheshire to make the soap. In the 1880's it had 23 soap pans and eight frame rooms. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

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|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 26 |
| Site name | Friars Green Old Tannery |
| SMR No. | 4244/8/0 |
| NGR | SJ 60611 87903 |
| Site Type | Tannery |
| Period | Nineteenth century |
| Source | Hall 1826 |
| Comment | Old tanning pits marked on Hall's 1826 plan of Warrington, continuing to the present day as an industrial site. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

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|------------------|--|
| Site No | 27 |
| Site name | Ship Inn, Walton Inferior |
| SMR No. | 468 |
| NGR | SJ 6036 8594 |
| Site Type | Inn |
| Period | Post-medieval |
| Source | SMR |
| Comment | The Ship Inn in Walton Inferior was built in the eighteenth century, and is a two storey red brick building, with a slate roof. The building was formerly Grade III listed, but is now provisionally listed. |

Assessment The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon.

Site No 28
Site name Bank Quay Transporter Bridge
SMR No. 626/1/ SM 108
NGR SJ 5968 8761
Site Type Transporter Bridge
Period Post medieval
Source SMR
Comment The bridge was built for, and is owned by Joseph Crosfield and Sons Ltd, a chemical firm whose works occupy both sides of the River Mersey. The bridge was built from 1913-15, and is a cantilever type of lattice steel construction. Traction is by an electric motor, gears and wire ropes. The platform could carry one standard ton railway wagon, and connects with a siding from the main London/Glasgow railway. It is possibly the only transporter bridge in the world designed primarily for rail traffic. It ceased to be used regularly in the 1950's, and has been designated as Scheduled Monument 108.
Assessment The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon.

Site No 29
Site name Bank Quay Station, Grand Junction Railway
SMR No. 2521/1/2
NGR SJ 6000 8780
Site Type Railway Station
Period Post medieval
Source Ashmore 1982
Comment The original Bank Quay Station was built in 1837 when the Grand Junction Railway was opened. It was modernised in the late nineteenth century, and these modifications are still in use. It was connected to the Warrington and Stockport Railway in 1853, and the St Helen's railway in 1850, which connected it to the Birkenhead, Lancashire and Cheshire Junction Railway.
Assessment The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon.

Site No 30
Site name The Grand Junction Railway
SMR No. 2521/1/0
NGR SJ 6000 8780
Site Type Railway
Period Post medieval
Source Ashmore 1982
Comment The Grand Junction Railway was opened in 1837 as a line from Birmingham to Warrington. It changed hands several times, and expanded to encompass the Liverpool and Manchester railways, eventually becoming the North Western Railway.
Assessment The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon.

Site No 31
Site name Wilderspool Causeway
SMR No. 448/1/1
NGR SJ 6097 8715
Site Type Causeway
Period Post medieval/ Modern

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|-------------------|---|
| Source | May 1896 |
| Comment | Wilderspool Causeway was built in 1624 as repairs to the Warrington Bridge would have been useless unless there was a causeway made with arches, which ran from Wilderspool to the bridge. In 1848, the causeway was raised, and produced evidence to show that the causeway had been raised more than once. The causeway is now a modern road. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

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|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 32 |
| Site name | Greenall Whitley Brewery Site, Wilderspool 1 |
| SMR No. | 2853 |
| NGR | SJ 611 866 |
| Site Type | Post medieval Settlement Site |
| Period | Post medieval |
| Source | Gifford and Partners 1991 |
| Comment | An evaluation was carried out in 1991 at the Greenhall Whitley Brewery site at Wilderspool. Evidence of a nineteenth century sandstone revetment wall constructed along the line of the river bank. Small areas of cobbling were also revealed, possibly representing the metalling of Greenhalls Avenue. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

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|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 33 |
| Site name | Timber Yard, Wilderspool Causeway |
| SMR No. | 4253/5/0 |
| NGR | SJ 607 877 |
| Site Type | Timber Yard |
| Period | Post medieval |
| Source | Hall 1826 |
| Comment | This is a timber yard marked on Hall's Map of Warrington, 1826. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 34 |
| Site name | Malt Kiln |
| SMR No. | |
| NGR | SJ 620 850 |
| Period | Post-medieval |
| Source | Ordnance Survey First Edition 1895 |
| Comment | A malt kiln is located on the OS map of 1895 |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

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|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 35 |
| Site name | Bank Quay Glass and Copper Works |
| SMR No. | |
| NGR | SJ 597 877 |
| Period | Post-medieval |
| Source | Yates 1786 |
| Comment | A glass and copper works is marked on the area of Bank Quay on Yates Map of Lancashire 1786. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

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|-------------------|---|
| Site No | 36 |
| Site name | Arpley Meadows Burials |
| SMR No. | 450 |
| NGR | SJ 6021 8653 |
| Site Type | Burial |
| Period | Unknown |
| Source | Madeley 1894 |
| Comment | Several human skulls were found during construction work on the new river diversion across Arpley Meadows in 1893. One skull was preserved. It was described as a 'human skull of Celtic type' and was preserved in the possession of a Mr May. The Warrington Museum acquired the bulk of Mr May's collection on his death, but the skull was not located. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the study area but not within the area of the proposed development, and therefore will not be impacted upon. |

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location map

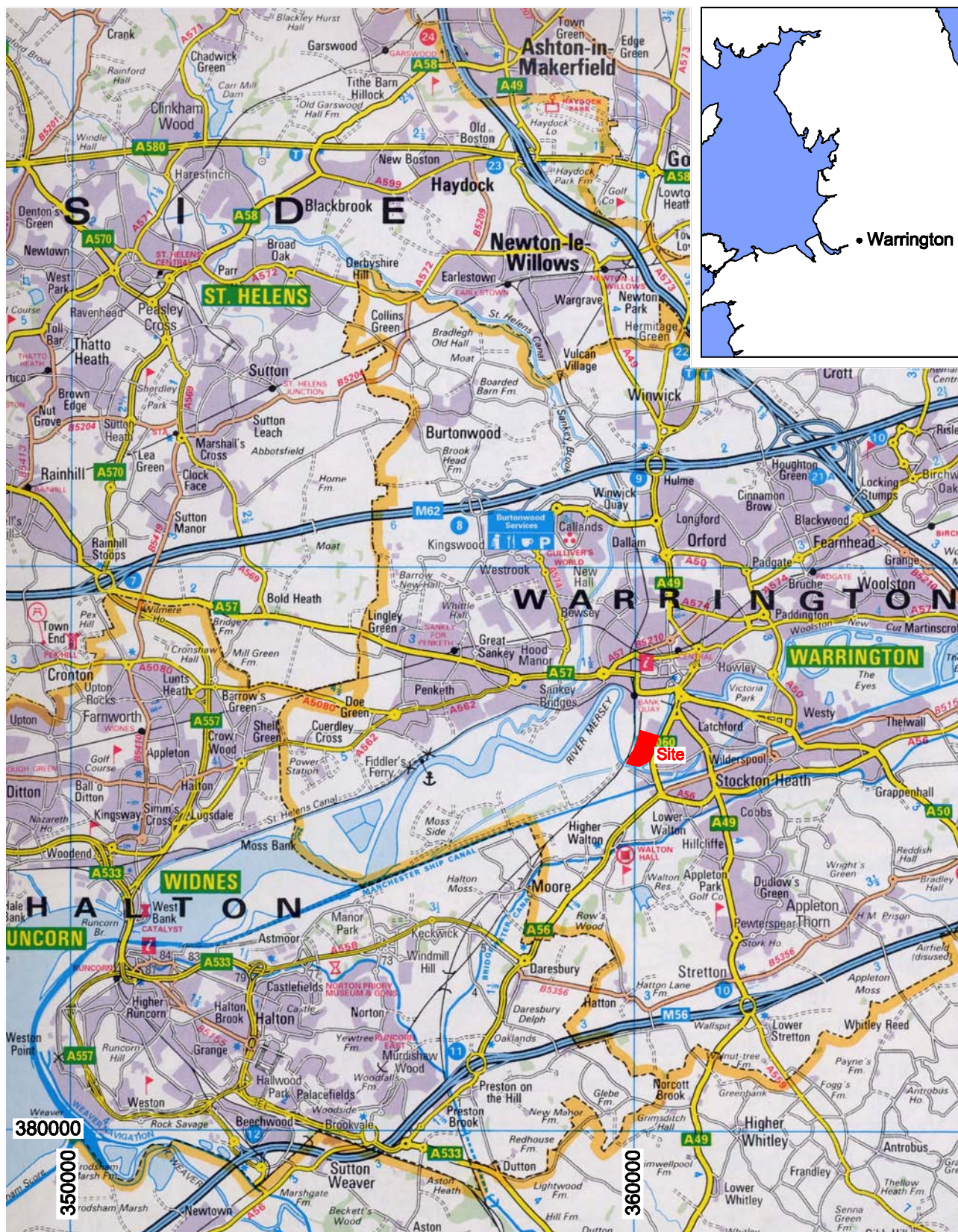
Figure 2: Detailed plan showing gazetteer sites

Figure 3: Yates' Map of Lancashire 1786

Figure 4: Greenwood's Map of Lancashire 1818

Figure 5: Hennet's Map of Lancashire 1829

Figure 6: Ordnance Survey Lancashire 1849, first edition 6" sheet 16.1

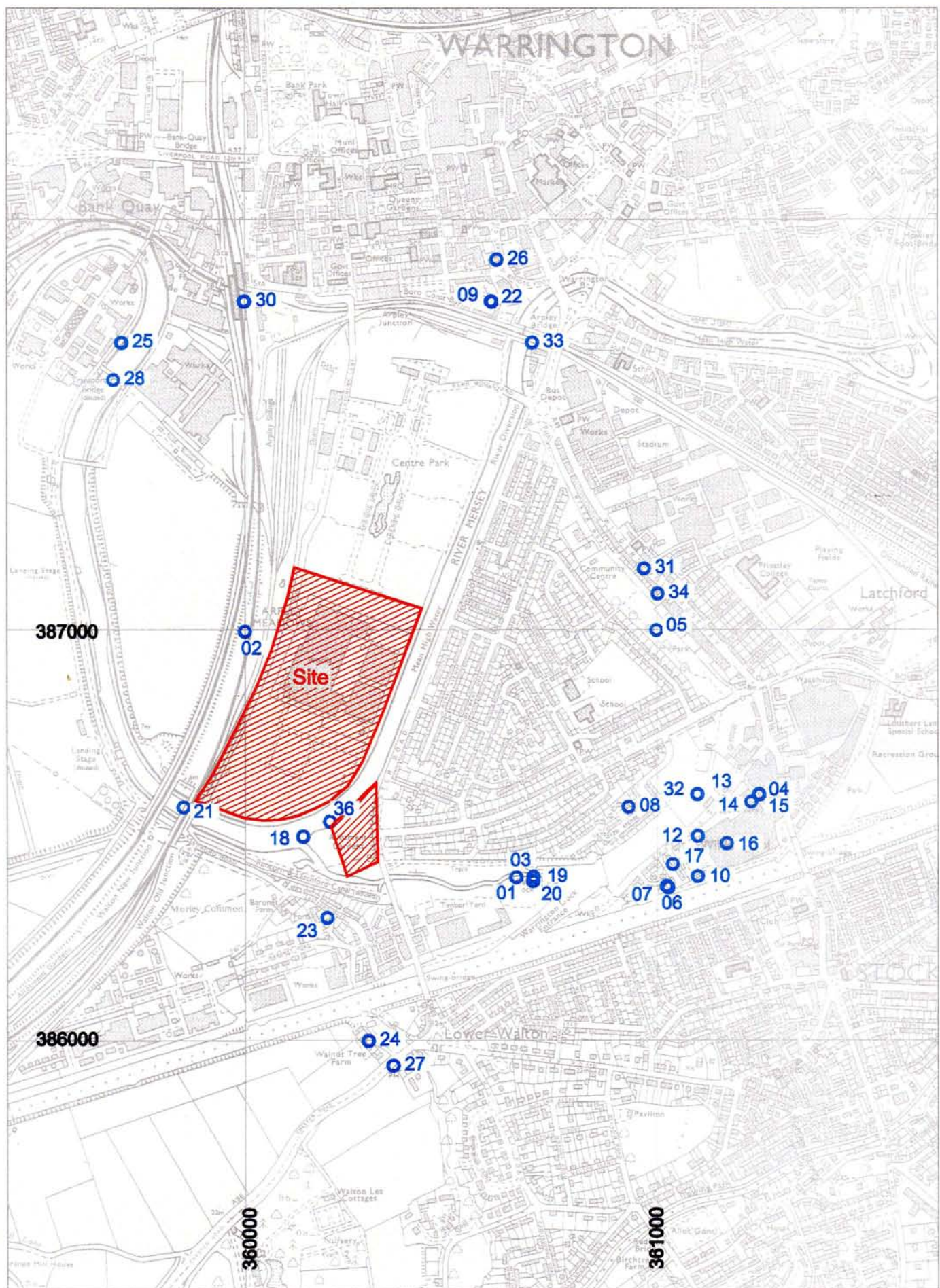


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0 5000
metres

Figure 1: Location map



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0 250m



Figure 2: Detailed location plan showing gazetted sites



Figure 3: Yates' map of Lancashire 1786



Figure 4: Greenwood's map of Lancashire 1818



Figure 5: Hennet's map of Lancashire 1829

Lancashire

Lon 2° 35'

Area of WARRINGTON 128 83, 3, 21 in Sheets 108, 109, 110, 115, 116.

2° 35'

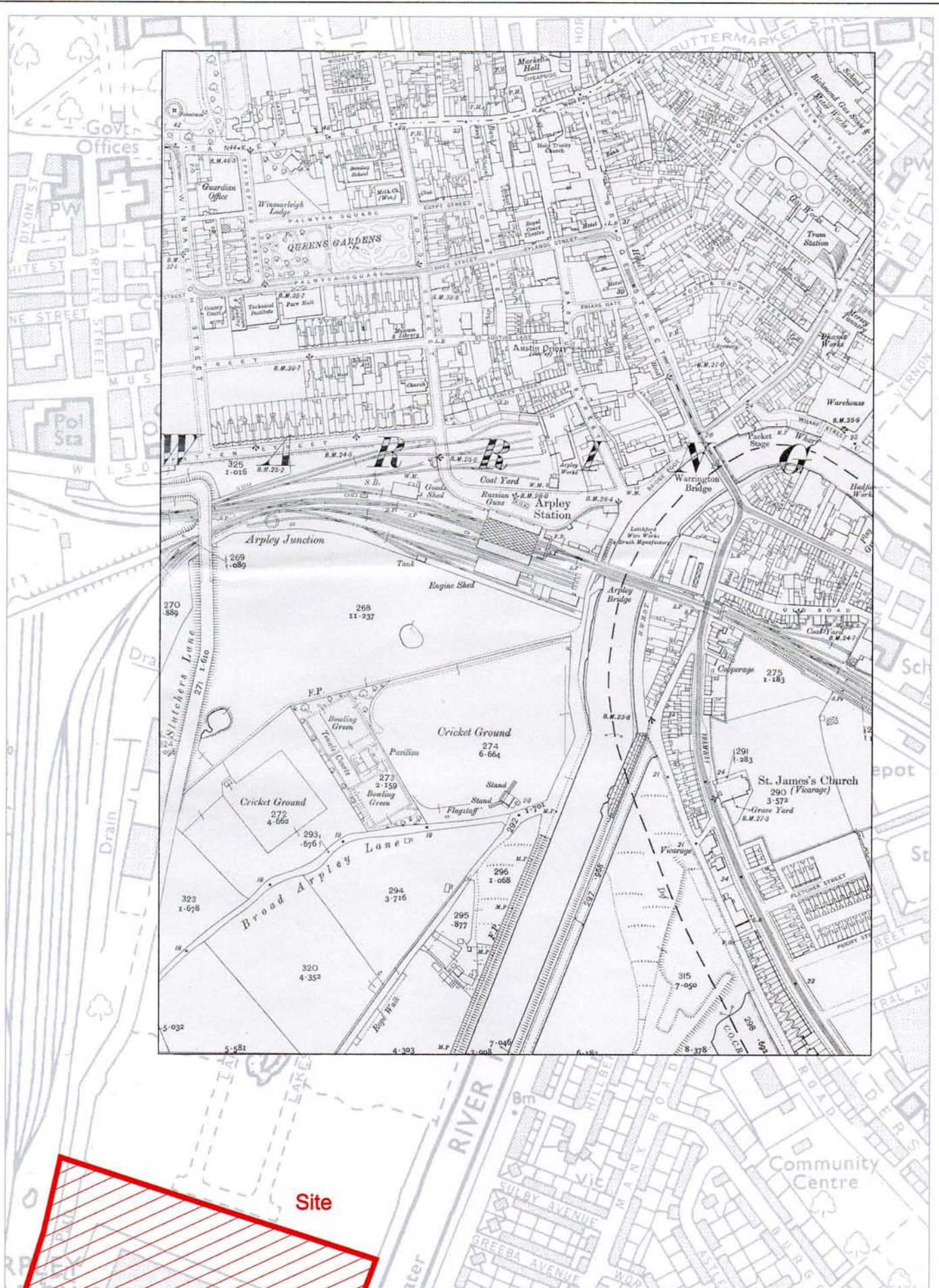


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0 200m



Figure 6: Ordnance Survey Lancashire 1849, first edition 6" sheet 16.1



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Scale 1:12,500 at A4

0 250m



Figure 7: Ordnance Survey Lancashire 1907, third edition, 25" sheet 16.1