

HUNTINGTON INTAKE FISH SCREENS, HUNTINGTON, CHESTER



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED
ASSESSMENT AND WATCHING
BRIEF
CP10128
13/02/2013**



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This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by NP Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

NP Archaeology Ltd (now Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd) were commissioned by United Utilities to undertake a programme of archaeological work on the site of proposed groundworks for Huntington Intake Fish Screens, Huntington Water Treatment Works (WTW), Chester (SJ 414 634), in the form of an archaeological desk-based assessment, watching brief and geoarchaeological assessment. The work was required due to the close proximity of the site to Heronbridge Roman Settlement, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and the possibility for remains to survive relating to medieval fish traps in the River Dee.

The desk-based assessment involved the consultation of the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER), a database of known sites of historical or archaeological interest, within a 1km radius of the site of the proposed groundworks. The HER also includes information on Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, as well as non-designated sites, and details of previous schemes of archaeological work which may have taken place within the area. Aerial photographs housed at the HER were also consulted. Cheshire Archives and Chester Library were also visited primarily for information from historical mapping which show the development of the topography of the area during the 19th and 20th centuries. Unpublished and published material was also assessed for any information on features identified through the HER or historical mapping.

The desk-based assessment has revealed that significant archaeological remains relating to the Roman settlement of Heronbridge survive on the west bank of the River Dee, along with evidence that the river itself was utilised for the possible transportation of goods from river onto road for the Roman fortress in Chester.

The site of the Roman settlement was then seemingly partly utilised for a mass grave believed to relate to the 7th century Battle of Chester between King Aethelfrith of Northumbria and the forces of Gwynedd and Powys. The area around the groundworks site was settled from at least the medieval period as suggested by references to the villages of Eccleston and Huntington in the Domesday Book. It is possible that the land on which the Water Treatment Works would be constructed in the 20th century, along with the associated Intake and Pumping Station, may have been part of ancient field systems as suggested by Historic Landscape Characterisation, and by the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks noted on aerial photographs, although these could have been much later in origin.

Despite the proximity of features associated with the defence of the City of Chester during the Second World War, there are no apparent related heritage assets located close to the site of the groundworks, and it has been considered that some of the land and water's edge within close proximity to the site of the Intake will have been

severely affected by the construction of the Water Treatment Works in the 1960s, and possibly by the construction of the Chester Bypass (A55) in the 1970s.

Consideration has been given to the affect of the groundworks on known heritage assets such as Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Conservation Areas and non-designated HER sites. It was noted during a site visit that due to the presence of the A55 and the modern road bridge to the east and the south, and the change in ground level to the east and north, the 'setting' of identified heritage assets are unlikely to be affected by the proposed groundworks.

The watching brief and metal detector survey were undertaken over 25 days due to the proximity of the development to the Scheduled site of Heronbridge Roman Settlement and the possibility of the preservation of Medieval fish traps and other artefacts along the river bank. However, no archaeologically significant deposits or objects were encountered. It seems likely that the river bank in this area was significantly disturbed during the original building works associated with the water treatment works.

The results of the geoarchaeological assessment are the subject of a separate report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NP Archaeology Ltd (now Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd) would like to thank Sarah Allen of United Utilities for commissioning the project. NP Archaeology Ltd would also like to thank Moya Watson and Rob Edwards, Cheshire Historic Environment Record; Mike Morris, Chester City Archaeologist, and staff at Chester Reference Library and Cheshire Archives in Chester. NP Archaeology would also like to thank the GCA and Doherty's staff who worked on the Huntington Intake Fishscreens during the watching brief.

The archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken by Fiona Wooler. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Ben Moore and Charles Rickaby. The report was written by Fiona Wooler and Ben Moore.

The project was managed by Frank Giocco, Technical Director for NP Archaeology Ltd, who also edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 NP Archaeology Ltd (now Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd) were commissioned by United Utilities to undertake a programme of archaeological work on land near Huntington Water Treatment Works (WTW), Huntington, Chester (SJ 414 634) in the form of a desk-based assessment, archaeological watching brief and geoarchaeological assessment. The client has been advised by Mark Morris, City Archaeological Chester City Council, that due to the site's proximity to the Scheduled site of Heronbridge Roman Settlement, located on the opposite side of the River Dee, and references to a series of fish traps in the river in the medieval period, that it was possible for archaeological remains to survive on the site.
- 1.2 No formal brief has been issued for the programme of archaeological works, however NP Archaeology Ltd have submitted a Project Design outlining the various stages of the work¹.
- 1.3 The desk-based assessment involved the collation of information derived from several sources as outlined below, in order to assess the potential for archaeological remains to survive on the site, and the significance of any such remains which may be affected by the proposed works.
- 1.4 The watching brief involved a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during operations carried out for non archaeological reasons. The observation involved the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified during all groundworks². A second archaeologist was present during the groundworks to undertake an ongoing metal detector survey. This ran concurrently with the overall watching brief.
- 1.5 This report relates to the archaeological desk-based assessment and the watching brief; the geoarchaeological assessment is the subject of a separate report (O'Meara 2013).

¹ Giocco, F, 2012

² IfA 2008

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 The desk-based assessment involved two stages, an assessment of information gathered from several sources as outlined below, and a site visit to assess the present nature of the site and potential for archaeological remains to survive in the location of the proposed groundworks.
- 2.1.2 The watching brief was undertaken during ground works associated with the construction of fish screens at Huntington Water Treatment Works (centred on SJ 414634).
- 2.1.3 These stages of the archaeological works follow the Project Design submitted by NP Archaeology Ltd to Mark Morris, City Archaeologist Chester City Council³.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 The desk-based assessment involved the consultation of historical documentation and sources which provide information on the history of the area to identify sites already recognised as being of historical or archaeological importance, and assess the potential for previously unrecorded sites. The assessment of historical documentation involved the consultation of the following archives:

- *Cheshire Historic Environment Record*: the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Cheshire was consulted for information on sites of archaeological and/or historical interest within a 1km radius of the proposed groundwork. The HER contains information on Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, and non-designated sites, as well as details of previous archaeological work within the locality. Aerial photographs housed within the collection were also consulted for any information on potential archaeological features within close proximity to the site.
- *Chester Reference Library*: the local studies section of Chester Library was consulted primarily to obtain information from historical mapping for the development of the route through the 19th and 20th centuries. Published and unpublished material was also consulted relevant to the Huntington area.
- *Cheshire Archives and Local Studies*: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies in Chester were also consulted for any historical mapping

³ Giocco, F, 2012

which could not be obtained at Chester Library, and for information from relevant journals and publications not already consulted.

- *On-Line Sources:* on-line sources such as the National Monuments Record and Cheshire Archives website⁴ were also consulted in order to enhance the material derived from the HER, Chester Reference Library and Cheshire Archives.

2.2.2 The desk-based assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*⁵.

2.3 SITE VISIT

2.3.1 A visual inspection of the site was undertaken in order to note any surface features of potential archaeological interest and areas of potential significant disturbance. The principal aim of the inspection was to identify previously unrecorded sites and record information on the location, extent, character and condition of any such sites, including any surface artefact scatters.

2.3.2 The visual inspection also allowed for the opportunity to note any hazards and constraints to undertaking further archaeological work on site, including the positions of live services, Tree Preservation Orders and Public Footpaths.

2.4 WATCHING BRIEF

2.4.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

2.4.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- to determine the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital, as applicable, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;

⁴ http://archives.cheshire.gov.uk/local_studies.aspx - Accessed 27/01/2012

⁵ IfA 2011

- to produce a site archive in accordance with the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations⁶.
- 2.4.3 During the groundworks, the attendant archaeologists used a metal detector to scan the spoil as it was removed from the two coffer dams.
- 2.4.4 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*⁷.

2.5 REPORTING

- 2.5.1 A copy of the report will be deposited with the Cheshire Historic Environment Record, The Forum, Chester, where viewing will be made available upon request.
- 2.5.2 NP Archaeology Ltd and the Cheshire Historic Environment Record support the **Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by NP Archaeology Ltd, as a part of this national project (Ref: nparchae1-118495).

⁶ Brown, D, 2011

⁷ IfA 2008

3 SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1 Huntington Water Treatment Works are located approximately two kilometres to the south of the City of Chester, on the east side of the River Dee, at a height of approximately 20m above sea level. The site is defined to its south side by the A55 trunk road, by the River Dee to the west, and by the modern settlement of Huntington to the east (Figure 1).
- 3.2 The proposed groundworks are located on the east bank of the River Dee at the site of a Pumping Station associated with the water treatment works, at Huntington Intake (Figure 2).
- 3.3 The Countryside Commission places this area of Cheshire in a character area known as the '*Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain*'. This area extends from the broad Mersey Valley in the north, to the Shropshire Hills in the south. To the west, it is bounded by the hills of the Welsh borders, and to the north-east are the Pennine foothills. Much of the plain is gently rolling, with only gentle changes in elevations between 20m and 50m. A series of small sandstone ridges, while only reaching elevations of between 150m and 230m, are very prominent features within this open landscape. Throughout, the predominant land use is the production of grass for grazing, silage and hay⁸.
- 3.4 The Plain is formed from Triassic sandstones and marls but these are overlain by glacial deposits, largely consisting of boulder clay, with local deposits of silt, peat, sand and gravels. Glacial activity has affected the whole Plain by rounding off the hard outcrops of sandstone, creating meltwater channels and lake beds and depositing a variety of materials from boulder clay to marls, sands and gravels. These deposits have, in places, caused the formation of a number of shallow meres, some peat-filled, and mosses. Numerous field ponds have originated as sand and marl pits for agricultural improvement⁹.
- 3.5 The material excavated from the coffer dams during the watching brief consisted of river borne silts and debris. The underlying geology was not reached during this excavation.

⁸ Countryside Commission 1998, Page 145

⁹ *Ibid*, Pages 148-149

4 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The desk-based assessment involved the consultation of the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER), a database of known sites of historical or archaeological interest which is maintained by Cheshire Shared Services housed at The Forum in Chester. As well as containing information on known archaeological sites in Cheshire, the HER also includes details of the sites of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, and other non-designated sites, as well as information on previous schemes of archaeological work, and provides access to digitised aerial photographs dating from the 20th century.
- 4.1.2 Chester Reference Library and Cheshire Archives were visited primarily for information from historical mapping, but also for any references to the site or surrounding area contained within published and unpublished sources, in particular in archaeological journals.
- 4.1.3 The information derived from the HER and from historical mapping and published and unpublished sources has been combined to provide a brief narrative of the history in Section 4.4 below of the area around the site of the Huntington Intake Fish Screens, and to assess the archaeological potential of the site based on this information.

4.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

- 4.2.1 **HER Sites:** there are a total of 91 sites which are recorded in the County Historic Environment Record database, within a 1km radius of the site of the groundwork; a full list of these entries is provided in Appendix 1. Sites which are relevant to the location of the groundworks will be referred to in Section 4.4 below.
- 4.2.2 **Scheduled Ancient Monuments:** there are three Scheduled Ancient Monument sites located within a 1km radius of the proposed development area; these are listed below. Scheduled Monuments are sites which are of national significance and are subject to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Although no Scheduled Ancient Monuments exist within the area of the proposed groundworks, the effect of the development on the setting of these important sites will be considered in the Conclusion (Section 6) below:
- *Huntington Hall Moated Site:* the moated site at Huntington Hall comprises a large slightly irregularly shaped moat 10m wide by 2m deep, surrounding a rectangular island 165m east to west, and 110m

north to south, internally subdivided into four enclosures. Most moats, such as the example at Huntington Hall, were constructed between 1250 and 1350AD and are generally seen as the prestigious residences of the Lords of the Manor (SM No. 1012112).

- *Motte and Associated Earthworks of Old Rectory, Eccleston:* the monument is a motte and associated earthworks strategically situated on a local high point overlooking the River Dee. The monument includes an oval earthen motte, or mound, mutilated on its eastern side, and partly surrounded by a ditch and bank with other earthen banks to the south and south-west. The Scheduled Monument description notes that this particular site is one of a group of early post-Conquest mottes and motte and bailey castles which formed a defensive system, the aim of which was to curb Welsh raids on the rich farming areas of Cheshire (SM No. 1011118).
- *Heronbridge Roman Site:* although designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, the HER presently does not hold any further information on this site with regards to its Scheduled status (SM No. 1006774).

4.2.3 **Listed Buildings:** there are a total of 32 listed buildings located within a 1km radius of the groundworks site at of Huntington Intake Fish Screens. The majority of these listed buildings are located within the village of Eccleston which is situated approximately 1km to the south-west, on the opposite side of the A55 by-pass, and as a consequence will not be affected visually by the proposed works (see Figure 1). To the east of the site are two listed buildings at Huntington Hall, both farm buildings of late 18th century date (HER No's DCH5749 and DCH5976). To the north of the site, on the north side of the Water Treatment Works at Huntington, is a listed barn of early 18th century date (DCH6221) and Meadowhouse Farmhouse, an early 18th century dwelling (DCH6306). The possible effect of the groundworks on the setting of these listed buildings will be considered in the Conclusion (Section 6) below.

4.2.4 **Conservation Areas:** the site of the groundworks is not located within a Conservation Area. The nearest Conservation Area is to the south, and includes much of the village of Eccleston.

4.2.5 **Registered Parks and Gardens:** the site of the proposed groundworks is not located within the boundary of a registered park and garden. The nearest such site lies to the west, and on the west side of the River Dee, and relates to Eaton Hall which has 17th to 20th century formal gardens and landscape park associated with a country house (DCH1481).

4.2.6 **Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation:** the landscape of Cheshire has been studied as part of this project, which aimed to improve our

understanding and appreciation of Cheshire's historic landscape by interpreting how past communities have contributed to its form and appearance. Information from this project, provided by Cheshire Shared Services, indicates that the area around the site of the proposed groundworks has been characterised as 20th century industry, as a result of the existence of the Intake, Pumping Station, and the Water Treatment Works to the north-east, which were constructed in the late 1960's. The land immediately to the north, however, is characterised as 'Ancient Field Systems', which are defined as field systems which are believed to have originated prior to c.1600AD¹⁰.

4.2.7 *Previous Archaeological Work*: a 1km radius HER search centred on the Pumping Station at Huntington Water Treatment Works, revealed that there have been several phases of archaeological work that have been undertaken within that boundary, most of which relates to the Roman site of Heronbridge, on the west side of the River Dee, and which will be referred to below in Section 4.4; however, there are other schemes of work which will briefly be noted here as they may provide information on the characteristics of potential archaeological remains:

- *Geophysical Survey at Hayward's Castle Field, Handbridge*: in 2007 the University of Chester undertook a geophysical survey of a field adjacent to the Duke's Drive, located to the west of the River Dee, and to the north-east of the site of the proposed groundworks. Both gradiometer and electrical resistance surveys were undertaken; the gradiometer results showed little of archaeological interest and the resistivity revealed features likely to have related to medieval or post-medieval agriculture (HER Event Ref: ECH4468).
- *Proposed Rising Water Main Replacement Scheme in Eccleston, Chester - Summary Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief during Initial Trial Trenching*: Earthworks Archaeological Services conducted a watching brief in 2008 during the excavation of six trial trenches in Eccleston and along Eaton Road, close to the line of the Roman road. The trenches were required to assess the condition of the existing main. The watching brief demonstrated that there was little of archaeological interest surviving in the majority of the trenches, although an earlier road surface may have been revealed in Trench 4, but the lack of finds did not allow for dating (HER Event Ref: ECH4605).
- *Jubilee Wood, Eccleston: Historic Landscape Assessment*: an assessment was undertaken by Professor Nick Higham in 2011 of a 23ha area to

¹⁰ Edwards, R, 2007, Page 63

the north and east of the village of Eccleston prior to the proposed planting of trees to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, to identify features of archaeological interest which may be affected by the scheme. This report makes reference to the historical form of the River Dee in this part of Cheshire, and the fact that the river may have changed from flowing closer to the steep bank west of Heronbridge to its present position. It was noted: *'this steep bank has clearly been caused by the river flowing along the western edge of its wider channel, rather than the eastern as now. The river has therefore cut a broad channel through the landscape, several times wider than its breadth today'*. A result of this historical movement of the course of the river is noted to be the presence of a series of lateral drainage channels which carry water away from the surrounding farmland which have been truncated, giving the landscape a 'rippled effect', particularly east of Eaton Road [on the west bank of the River Dee, opposite the site of the modern Pumping Station, modern satellite photography appears to show this] (HER Event Ref: ECH5247).

4.2.8 **Aerial Photographs:** digitised aerial photography dating from the 1940s and the 1970s were examined at the Cheshire Historic Environment Record for any information on land use and features of potential archaeological interest in and around the site of the proposed groundworks:

- *National Survey 1945-1948, RAF Vertical Photographs:* in the 1940s the area in and around the site of the proposed groundworks appears to have been agricultural in character, with prominent ridge and furrow clearly visible. In some of the fields around the site of the modern Pumping Station there are apparent field ponds or marl pits visible on this photography, although none were present in close proximity to the site.
- *County Survey 1971-1973, Vertical Photographs:* by this date construction work had either been completed or was still ongoing of the Water Treatment Works at Huntington and the Pumping Station, with a road linking the two. No other archaeological features were noted in close proximity to the site.

4.3 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

4.3.1 A selection of cartographic (map) sources was consulted at Cheshire Archives and Local Studies and Chester Reference Library, ranging from the middle of the 19th century up to the late 20th century. Earlier mapping was consulted online on the Cheshire Archives and Local Studies website¹¹. It

¹¹ http://archives.cheshire.gov.uk/local_studies.aspx

must be noted that each map reproduced within this report (from the middle of the 19th century onwards) only represents a 'snap shot' of a particular year, and there are some large gaps between the publication of the maps in which features may have come and gone without being recorded on cartographic sources. Some of the figures referred to below are reproduced in Appendix 2 of this report.

- 4.3.2 *Saxton's Map of Cheshire 1577 (not reproduced here)*: this map was consulted online, and although it is at a small-scale, and does not show the topography of the land around Huntington in any detail, it does have two vignettes of significant properties representing Huntington Hall on the east side of the River Dee, and another property at Eccleston, indicating that there was settlement in the area in the 16th century.
- 4.3.3 *Burdett's Map of Cheshire 1777 (not reproduced here)*: Burdett's map provides more detail in the form of the course of rivers and roads, as well as the locations of settlements, although it was still published at a small scale. The course of the River Dee is clearly visible orientated north to south, with a settlement shown at Eccleston on the west side of the river, and a small group of buildings shown at Huntington on the east side, on either side of the road from Chester to Aldford. No further detail is given with regards to the site of the Huntington Intake Fish Screens.
- 4.3.4 *Greenwood's Map of Cheshire 1819 (not reproduced here)*: Greenwood's map was also published at a small-scale; however it does provide more information on the extent of the settlements, and on the road systems and courses of major and minor rivers. Although they are not annotated, this map appears to show the locations of Huntington Hall, The Grange and Huntington Old Hall. A group of unlabelled buildings also appear to be shown to the north of the present site of the Waste Water Treatment Works at Huntington, possibly representing the modern site of Meadowhouse Farm, where the house and a barn are Grade II listed as being early 18th century in date (HER No's DCH6221 and DCH6306).
- 4.3.5 Cheshire Archives and Local Studies Website provides a comprehensive range of Tithe Maps dating from the middle of the 19th century. The present study site at Huntington, however, is the one area which was not covered by this useful mapping, therefore details of land ownership, occupancy and state of cultivation, is not available from this source.
- 4.3.6 *First Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1875 (not reproduced here)*: there was not hard copy of this mapping available to view at Cheshire Archives and Local Studies; however it is included on the online mapping. This map, which was the earliest consulted to show the topography of the land around

the site of the Huntington Intake Fish Screens, shows that the site was part of field systems at this date on the east bank of the River Dee.

- 4.3.7 **Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1899 (6" to 1 mile scale) (Figure 3):** as with the earlier First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping, the site of the groundworks is still shown as part of field systems on the east bank of the River Dee. A contour line to the east shows a change in ground level in this area, and set close to this dashed line is a rectangular feature although it is not labelled and its function or purpose is unclear. The fields around the area are shown to contain small bodies of water, possibly former marl pits or purpose-built watering holes. On the west bank of the river the location of 'Urns and Causeway Found' is clearly marked as well as the curving line of an 'Entrenchment'.
- 4.3.8 **Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1913 (6" to 1 mile scale) (Figure 4):** this mapping shows no changes in the land around the immediate vicinity of the groundworks site, apart from the presence of a 'boat house' located just to the south of the site, and the disappearance of the rectangular feature noted on the Second Edition mapping although the contour line appears to still follow the line of its former location.
- 4.3.9 **Ordnance Survey Map 1968 (6" to 1 mile scale) (Figure 5):** by this date the Water Treatment Works and Pumping Station have been constructed at Huntington (these are not shown on an Ordnance Survey map of 1961), although the Chester bypass (the present A55) was not in existence. The location of the proposed groundworks were open land on the south side of the access track to the Pumping Station, and on the bank of the river, there was an apparent track to the river and site boundary around the Pumping Station.

4.4 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 4.4.1 The following historical context draws on the information derived from the HER, cartographic sources, and previous archaeological work and is augmented by further information derived from published and unpublished sources that provide documentary evidence for activity in and around the site of the proposed groundworks.
- 4.4.2 **Place Name Evidence:** the place name Huntington probably means 'hunting-hill, hill where hunting was done' from 'hunting' and 'dūn', although the first element may have been 'hunta' meaning 'a huntsman', perhaps as a personal name with *-ing*. In 1831, Huntington Hall was Little Huntington and the Hall Farm was Huntington Hall, the later being a moated site, probably 'the

grange of the abbot of Chester at Huntinton'. Huntington Lane was the main road from Chester to Aldford which was maintained by the City¹².

4.4.3 **Prehistoric Period (up to 43AD):** at present there are no sites within a 1km radius of the proposed groundworks at Huntington Intake Fish Screens which relate to this period in history, although this does not mean that the land in the area, and along the river banks, was not utilised; rather, there is, as yet, no recorded archaeological evidence.

4.4.4 There are some earthworks close to the church in Eccleston, which is recorded in the HER as 'motte and associated earthworks' (HER No. 1965/4) and is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument, also referred to as 'motte', of medieval date. The HER entry does, however, refer to this site possibly as having been a Bronze Age burial mound; writing in the second half of the 19th century, Ormerod noted: '*Below the church, in one of the glebe fields, was formerly a tumulus (adjoining a bath), the site of which is now planted with trees. It stood on the Roman road which ran from Chester. The tumulus was opened by the Rev. Charles Mytton then rector, about half a century ago, and a great quantity of human bones, and some say coins, were discovered*'¹³. As the site has not been excavated archaeologically, it is not possible at present to suggest that this site dates to the prehistoric period.

4.4.5 **Roman (c.43-409AD):** there are a number of sites recorded in the HER which relate to the Roman period, although these are largely located on the west side of the River Dee:

- *Watling Street (HER No's. 1700/1/0 and 1700/1/16):* Watling Street is the name given to the Roman road which links Chester with Wroxeter and Caerleon, presumed to be Flavian (1st century AD) in date at the latest. Excavations on a section of the road which was to be affected by the construction of the bypass in the 1970s showed that the road was constructed of a surface of gravel and small cobbles set in clay and laid directly on the natural clay¹⁴.
- *Eccleston Coin Hoard (HER No. 1961):* the HER records that a hoard of 43 Roman silver denarii were found '*in or around Eccleston*', although there is reference to these having been found at '*Heron Bridge...in 1855*'.
- *Possible Roman Building (HER No. 1971):* a rectangular building was found to the west of Watling Street during archaeological excavations prior to the construction of the new Chester by-pass in the 1970s. The

¹² Dodgson, J.M 1972, Page 117

¹³ Ormerod, G 1882, Page 829

¹⁴ See also Petch, D.F, 1975

excavation revealed that the foundations of this building were located at an average depth of 30cm although this varied considerably due to the ridge and furrow system present in the field. Traces of the first course level survived on two short sections of the foundation and these indicated that the wall had been faced with roughly-hewn rectangular blocks of sandstone and that the core had been formed of sandstone rubble and pebbles set in clay. The overall dimensions of the structure were 29.20m east to west, by 11.40m north to south, forming a near perfect rectangle. There were no signs of any internal features, structural or otherwise, and any floor surfaces that might have existed had been totally removed by ploughing and the ridge and furrow system. The only pottery from the site which did not come from contaminated contexts were four very abraded sherds of Romano-British coarse ware from the foundation material. A resulting report of this excavation noted that the overlying spreads of 18th and 19th century pottery, the total absence of medieval finds, the position of the building relative to the Roman road, and the type of wall construction, indicated that this may have been a Roman building, possibly constructed in the 2nd or 3rd century AD¹⁵.

- *Heronbridge Roman Site (HER No. 1972 and various suffixes)*: Roman settlement site on either side of Watling Street at Heronbridge, 2.5km south of the Roman fortress at Chester. Excavations from 1929 to 1960 revealed that the settlement extended c.300m on the east side of Watling Street and at least 60m on the west side. The southerly extent of the settlement has not yet been determined; it may have extended as far as the rectangular building recorded as HER No. 1971, which is now destroyed by the line of the by-pass. The HER entry records that there was evidence revealed for industrial activity in the late 1st and early 2nd century. It is believed the site may have been a civil settlement where supplies arriving by river could be docked before transport by road¹⁶. Evidence for a possible quay or dock in the area of a vertical rock face was found in excavations in 2003 and 2004, with possible evidence for pits for mooring posts cut into the rock¹⁷. Three rock cut graves and fragments of a monumental tomb were also revealed.

4.4.6 The HER also contains information on the findspots of metal objects including coins of Roman date within a 1km radius of the groundworks site, largely found by metal detector. These finds have included a Roman lead

¹⁵ Mason, D 1976, Pages 24-29 (HER file)

¹⁶ Harris, B. E (Editor) 1987, Page 189

¹⁷ <http://www.chesterarchaeolsoc.org.uk/heronbridge.html> - Accessed 30/1/2012

weight found on the opposite bank of the River Dee to the groundworks site, recorded in the HER as immediately opposite (HER No. 1959); two small Roman brooches found just to the north of the site (HER No. 2778), and a Roman silver denarius dated 46BC which was found in a field to the north of the Pumping Station (HER No. 6966). As already noted, these finds were recovered due to their discovery by metal detector, and therefore they do not necessarily provide evidence for activity in the areas of retrieval.

4.4.7 *Early Medieval (c.410-1066AD)*: there is some evidence that there may have been a settlement in the area around the modern settlement of Eccleston during this period. Writing with regard to the village, Professor Higham noted that although it stands largely as an estate village of the 18th and 19th century, it has been a settlement for over 1000 years, being first documented in the Domesday Book. The place name, however, suggests that the site is considerably older deriving from the Latin *ecclesia* via primitive Welsh, and is thought to indicate the presence of a church on the site taken over by the Anglo-Saxons¹⁸. The HER entry for St Mary's Churchyard at Eccleston refers to the curvilinear boundary, and to the former presence of a possible pre-Norman cross on the site, possibly both indicative of early medieval origins (HER No. 1965/1/2).

4.4.8 It would appear that there was activity on the Heronbridge Roman Site following its abandonment possibly in the mid-4th century. The most obvious feature on the site, still visible today, is a grass-grown mound which encloses a crescent-shaped area of around 14 acres between the Roman road and the river. Excavation has shown this to be a defensive earthwork, possibly retained by a drystone revetment at the front, accompanied by a deep ditch. This earthwork overlies ruined buildings of the Roman settlement, indicating it is post-Roman in date. Excavations in the 1930s had revealed evidence for a 'battle cemetery', cut into the ruins of the Roman buildings. Recent archaeological work reopened and extended the location of this earlier work to reveal further inhumations of males, orientated west-east and laid side by side. Two of the skeletons were fully excavated and removed for analysis and radiocarbon dating. Both of the individuals had clearly sustained fatal head injuries, and the results of subsequent tests revealed that they had died as a result of several sword blows to the head. Carbon 14 dating of the remains indicated that the bones dated to around AD530-620 and AD595-645, and consequently may have related to the Battle of Chester c.AD613 when Aethelrith of Northumbria defeated forces of Gwynedd and Powys. This recent archaeological work has also revealed evidence that the ditch of this earthwork was utilised for flax-retting (soaking the flax stems at an early stage in the process of linen manufacture)

¹⁸ Higham, Prof. N.J 2011 and Bu'lock, J.D, 1972, Page 8

some time after it became obsolete. Carbon 14 dating of the flax seeds provided a date range of between AD680-730 and AD770-890. These dates relate to the secondary usage of the ditch as an improvised flax-retting tank after it became obsolete as a defensive work. As this activity seems to have been underway as early as the middle of the 8th century, or possibly even earlier, it implies that the ditch, and therefore the earthwork fort to which it belonged, was built in the 7th century. It has been noted, therefore, that there is a strong possibility that the earthwork was constructed by the Northumbrian forces following Aethelfrith's victory at the battle of Chester c.AD613¹⁹.

- 4.4.9 A small collection of silver in the form of an ingot and bar, along with a pierced stone spindle whorl of black stone was found by metal detector in the 'vicinity of Eccleston'; the HER mapping plots the site as being from a field on the west side of Eaton Road (west side of the River Dee), but less than 500m to the west of the groundworks site. These finds have been compared to similar examples found in a late Saxon hoard on Chester Esplanade. The collection has been dated to the late 9th or 10th century AD (HER No. 2922).
- 4.4.10 **Medieval (c.1066-1540AD):** located to the east of the site of the groundworks at Huntington Water Treatment Works is the site of Huntington Hall, which is noted in the HER as probably to be identified with '*the grange of the Abbot of Chester at Huntington*', which is referred to in 1348. A 'grange' was an area of monastic land that lay outside the Abbey's main land holdings (HER No. 1944/1/1). The Domesday Book records that there was a settlement at Huntington, or '*Hunditone*' held by St Werburgh's Church in the City of Chester, and mentions '*a meadowland, a small boat and a net*'²⁰.
- 4.4.11 There appears to have been a settlement in the vicinity of the modern village of Eccleston since at least the medieval period, although it has already been noted that the church site may have much earlier origins. The settlement was mentioned in Domesday as '*Eclestone*' and was recorded as having '*ploughland, a meadow, a boat and net*'. It is referred to in documents in 1285 as '*Eccleston*'²¹. The Church of St Mary is mentioned in a grant of Edward III (1344): '*Hugh de Venables of Kynderton, grants to Ralph, Matthew and Hugh, respectively parsons of the churches of Davenham, Brereton and Eccleston, the manor and advowson of the church of Eccleston*'. The HER entry for this site notes that the earlier church was taken down in 1807; the present church

¹⁹ <http://www.chesterarchaeolsoc.org.uk/heronbridge.html> - Accessed 30/1/2012 and HER No. 1972/1/0

²⁰ CFWI 1990, Page 132 and Scholes, R, 2000, Page 93

²¹ Scholes, R, 2000, Page 66

- dates to 1899 and stands c.120m west of the medieval and later churches (HER NO. 1965/1/1).
- 4.4.12 Located just to the east of the church at Eccleston is the site of a supposed medieval motte, a form of fortified castle which was introduced into Britain by the Normans (HER No. 1965/4). It has already been noted above that there is no archaeological evidence for the exact date for this monument, and it has been variously referred to as a Bronze Age burial mound or a medieval motte (see 4.4.4 above). Previously the site had been scheduled as a 'barrow'; however, a survey by the RCHME in 1986 proved inconclusive and the scheduling was revised in 1963 as the site being a 'Motte'.
- 4.4.13 **Post-Medieval (c.1540-1900AD):** the HER contains several entries relating to the post medieval period within a 1km radius of the site of the proposed groundworks at the Huntington Intake Fish Screens on the east bank of the River Dee. A single-span stone bridge leading into the moated site of Huntington Hall is believed to date to this period, although an exact date is not known (HER No. 1944/1/3). Huntington Hall itself is noted in the HER to have been described in the 17th century as '*a very neat house of timber*', although all traces of the ancient manor house have disappeared. The present house of 'Old Hall', located to the south of the moated area, dates to the late 18th or early 19th century (HER No. 1944/1/1).
- 4.4.14 The Manor House on Church Road in Eccleston is recorded as dating to the post medieval period, with a date stone of '1632' with later additions (HER No. 1965/2). The Rectory and attached Coach House, also in the village of Eccleston, also has a 17th century core (HER No. 1965/3). Located to the south of Eccleston is the site of the 17th century Classical style mansion of Eaton Hall with its associated gardens and deer park. The HER mapping indicates that the north to south orientated line of woodland to the west side of the 'Roman Road' (on the west side of the River Dee) relates to the gardens and designed landscape of Eaton Hall (HER No. 1969/3/0).
- 4.4.15 There has been some suggestion that the earthworks present on the site of Heronbridge Roman Settlement on the west bank of the River Dee was utilised during the Civil War. Excavations by Chester Archaeological Society in 2003 revealed the area on the west side of the site to have been disturbed by a complex of 17th century excavations and constructions, suggested to have most probably belonged to the extensive siegeworks constructed around Chester during this period (HER No. 1972/0/4).
- 4.4.16 Located just outside the 1km radius search area centred on the site of the groundworks at Huntington Water Treatment Works is the site of part of Chester's Second World War Ground Defences. This system is noted in the HER to have been a coherent and distinctive defensive system which

comprised defended points sited in proximity to several of the main roads into the city, of which at least six defence posts and two sprigot mortar emplacements survive (HER No. 4079/1). A small, square flat-topped pillbox dating to the Second World War survives at Heronbridge, believed to have been constructed to cover the minor road from Eccleston (HER No. 4079/1/4). Another feature related to the Second World War was the construction of Saighton Army Camp, located to the north-east of the Huntington Water Treatment Works, on the east side of the A55. This camp was constructed in the 1930s and at its peak accommodated approximately 200 soldiers²². There are no archaeological remains related to this defensive system recorded in close proximity to the site of the groundworks at Huntington Water Treatment Works.

4.4.17 In the late 1960s plans for using the River Dee to provide water from Trymeryn and Bala for use in Liverpool was completed, and a major Intake and Water Treatment Works was built at Huntington. From here water is piped across the county to Liverpool and Merseyside²³. Cartographic sources show that the Water Treatment Works and Pumping Station, the site of the groundworks, was erected at some point between 1961 and 1968.

²² CFWI 1990, Page 133

²³ *Ibid*

5 SITE VISIT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 The site of the proposed groundworks at Huntington Water Treatment Works was visited in order to assess if there were any apparent remains of archaeological interest within the site boundary, and to assess any restrictions to potential future archaeological work.

5.2 SITE VISIT

5.2.1 The site was noted to be located to the west of the Pumping Station, with an Intake already present projecting into the River Dee from its east bank (Plate 1). It was clear that the whole of the area for the groundworks has already been disturbed by the construction of the Intake, Pumping Station and associated landscaping.

5.2.2 During the site visit observations were made as to whether known heritage assets (HER sites, Listed Buildings etc) within close proximity to the site of the groundworks would be affected with regard to their 'setting'. It was noted that the village of Eccleston to the south could not be viewed due to the presence of the modern road bridge for the A55 (Plate 2). To the west, although the fields on the west bank of the River Dee were visible, the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Heronbridge Roman Settlement was not clearly in the line of sight from the Intake. Due to the Pumping Station and Intake being constructed on a slope leading down to the east edge of the River Dee, and the presence of the A55 road, any heritage assets located to the north and east could not be viewed from the site, and therefore their settings not be affected by the proposed groundworks.



Plate 1: View looking north from the present Intake area of the Pumping Station



Plate 2: View looking south from the site of the Intake showing the modern road bridge for the A55



Plate 3: View looking west from the Intake at Huntington Water Treatment Works



Plate 4: View looking east showing the change in ground level which partly conceals the site of the Pumping Station and Intake from the east and north

6 WATCHING BRIEF

6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was maintained over 25 days between the 16th of April and the 24th of May 2012. The watching brief was undertaken during all groundworks associated with the construction and excavation of two coffer dams relating to the Huntington Intake Fish Screens.

6.2 WATCHING BRIEF

6.2.1 The excavation of material from within the southern of the two coffer dams began under archaeological supervision on the 16th April. The containing walls of the two dams had previously been piled into the east bank of the river and subsequently filled with water. The dam was pumped continually in an attempt to keep the interior as dry as possible during excavation.

6.2.2 The material was excavated by a 21 tonne mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket and emptied into a series of dump trucks which transported the material to an area of spoil further east.

6.2.3 Due to the coffer dam leaking continually, the surface of the material exposed during excavation was often submerged in water. This made the identification of artefacts and features difficult. However, nothing of archaeological significance was uncovered. Some wooden posts were recovered during excavation but these proved to be modern fencing, the remains of which could still be observed on either side of the development area.

6.2.4 The interior of the dam was excavated to a depth of 5m from the top of the piled walls. No variations in the material removed were noted at any level. It consisted of grey, waterlogged silt and waterborne debris. No solid surface was reached within the dam which would have enabled the archaeologists to enter. No finds or features were observed during the excavation. On the 1st of May, stone and gravels were laid in the base of the dam in preparation for concreting but material continued to be excavated from the corners of the dam until 8th May.

6.2.5 The excavation of the northern coffer dam began on the 9th May and proceeded in a similar manner to the southern dam. The interior was often submerged in water despite continuous pumping and no archaeological features or artefacts were observed during excavations. The material removed was identical to that in the southern coffer dam and the dam was excavated to the same depth of 5m below the top of the piled walls. The last spoil was removed from the dam on the 24th May.

6.2.6 All the material removed from both dams was systematically metal detected. A 21 tonne mechanical excavator spread the spoil thinly over a manageable area to allow a more accurate and detailed survey. Many modern objects ranging from drinks cans to batteries were detected along with a large number of fragments of reinforced concrete. Only one object discovered had any archaeological significance: a small 19th century metal mirror.

6.3 FINDS

6.3.1 Apart from the mirror mentioned above, recovered from the spoil from the northern coffer dam, other finds were limited to sherds of 20th century pottery and brick. Modern metal detecting finds were discarded on site.



Plate 5: Southern coffer dam looking north



Plate 6: Excavation of northern coffer dam looking north



Plate 7: Metal detecting spoil from northern coffer dam

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The present scheme of archaeological works is required due to the proximity of the groundworks at Huntington Water Treatment Works to the Scheduled site of Heronbridge Roman Settlement on the west bank of the River Dee, and documentary references to a series of fish traps in the river in the Domesday Book, although the exact location of these medieval fish traps in relation to the site of the groundworks is not known. It is possible, however, that significant archaeological remains could survive on the site.
- 7.2 The desk-based assessment has revealed that significant archaeological remains relating to the Roman settlement of Heronbridge survive on the west bank of the River Dee, along with evidence that the river itself was utilised for the possible transportation of goods from river onto road for the Roman fortress in Chester.
- 7.3 The site of the Roman settlement was then seemingly partly utilised for a mass grave believed to relate to the 7th century Battle of Chester between King Aethelfrith of Northumbria and the forces of Gwynedd and Powys in c.AD613, although the exact location of the battle itself is unclear. The area around the groundworks site was settled from at least the medieval period as suggested by references to the villages of Eccleston and Huntington, both of which are noted to have had a meadow, boat and net, indicating that the River Dee was utilised during this period, although the exact location of any potential fish traps in or along the banks of the river is not known. It is possible that the land on which the Water Treatment Works would be constructed in the 20th century, along with the associated Intake and Pumping Station, may have been part of ancient field systems as suggested by Historic Landscape Characterisation, and by the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks noted on aerial photographs, although these could have been much later in origin.
- 7.4 Despite the proximity of features associated with the defence of the City of Chester during the Second World War, there are no apparent related heritage assets located close to the site of the groundworks, and it has been considered that some of the land and water's edge within close proximity to the site of the Intake will have been severely affected by the construction of the Water Treatment Works in the 1960s, and possibly by the construction of the Chester Bypass (A55) in the 1970s.
- 7.5 Consideration has been given to the affect of the groundworks on known heritage assets such as Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Conservation Areas and non-designated HER sites. From the south, for example from the area around Eccleston, the site of the groundworks can

not be viewed due to the presence of the A55 and the road bridge over the River Dee. The Scheduled site of Heronbridge Roman Settlement on the west bank can also not be clearly seen from the site of the groundworks due to it being located slightly further north and the presence of tree cover along the west bank of the river. Heritage assets located to the north and east, for example Meadowhouse Farmhouse and the site of Huntington Hall are not visible due to the change in ground level, and in the case of Huntington Hall, the course of the A55 bypass.

- 7.6 The watching brief and metal detector survey were undertaken over 25 days due to the proximity of the development to the Scheduled site of Heronbridge Roman Settlement and the possibility of the preservation of Medieval fish traps and other artefacts along the river bank. However, no archaeologically significant deposits or objects were encountered. It seems likely that the river bank in this area was significantly disturbed during the original building works associated with the water treatment works. In fact, a coffer dam had been utilised during this process meaning that any *in-situ* material would have been dug out during this period. The finds that were discovered during the metal detector survey suggest that the material removed during the development dated to the 19th century at the earliest.

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Maps

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1899, 6" to 1 mile scale, Sheet 46NE

Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1913, 6" to 1 mile scale, Sheet 46NE

Ordnance Survey Map 1968, 6" to 1 mile scale, Sheet SJ46SW,

APPENDIX 1: HER SITES

The following table lists all the HER sites identified within a 1km radius of the proposed groundworks site at Huntington Intake Fish Screens:

HER No.	Site Name	Brief Description	NGR	General Period
1700/1/10	Watling Street	Watling Street is the name given to the Roman road that links Chester with Wroxeter and Caerleon. It is not to be confused with the Watling Street which runs from the SE coast through London then onto <i>Verulamium</i> (St Albans) and <i>Viroconium</i> (Wroxeter). The route of the road can be followed to its crossing point of the Dee at Aldford and then onto Malpas where it disappears from the landscape	SJ 4355 5821 (Linear)	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1700/1/16	Watling Street (Margery Route 6a)	Excavation on the line of Watling Street Roman road at Eccleston, where it was due to be destroyed by roadworks for Chester Bypass. A surface of gravel and small cobbles set in clay and laid directly on natural clay. Metalling sealed Roman pottery showed the road was probably constructed in the late Flavian period. There was no evidence that the road was placed on an agger, earthwork previously identified as such having no connection with road. No sign of a kerb. The width of the road probably exceeded 15ft	SJ 4115 6307	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1944/1/1	Huntington Hall Moated Site	Manor of Huntington and Cheaveley belonged to St Werburg's Abbey throughout the medieval period. Probably to be identified with ' <i>the grange of the Abbot of Chester at Huntington</i> ' referred to in 1348	SJ 4197 6347	Medieval (1066AD to 1539AD)
1944/1/2	Huntington Hall Moated Site	Large, irregular shaped moat 10m wide and 2m deep surrounding a rectangular	SJ 4190 6341	Medieval (1066AD to 1539AD)

HER No.	Site Name	Brief Description	NGR	General Period
		island which is divided internally into four enclosures		
1944/1/3	Huntington Hall Moated Site	Bridge over Huntington Hall Moat. Single span with segmental arch. No dateable features but its proximity to the probable site of the Hall suggests that it may be the original entrance	SJ 4204 6347	Post Medieval (1540AD to 1900AD)
1944/1/4	Huntington Hall Moated Site	Three water-filled fishponds lie in the west enclosure of the moated platform, complete with dams and outlet channels	SJ 4190 6345	Medieval (1066AD to 1539AD)
1956	Un-named Findspot from Huntington Parish	Findspot of a Roman coin, denarius of Hadrian AD134-8	SJ 4150 6330	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1957	Un-named Findspot from Huntington	Scottish 20p piece of Charles I, 1637. Found in the riverbank or bed of the River Dee above Heronbridge	SJ 4140 6350	Post Medieval (17 th century)
1959	Roman Find from Claverton	7 <i>unciae</i> Roman lead weight, found deep in river bank (a <i>unciae</i> is a Roman unit of measuring weight. It is one 12 th of the <i>libra</i> (the Roman pound) and is roughly equivalent to one ounce	SJ 4133 6342	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1960/0/2	Roman Coin from Claverton	Silver denarius of Faustina I (wife of Antoninus Pius). She died in 141AD and coins like this were issued in her memory	SJ 4055 6387	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1961	Eccleston Coin Hoard	Hoard of 43 Roman silver <i>denarii</i> were founding or near Eccleston in the 19 th century. A list published in 1921, however, gives the findspot as 'Heron..bridge..in 1855'. Present location of hoard is unknown	SJ 4100 6300	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1965/0/1	Un-Named Findspot in Eccleston Parish	An elaborately decorated fragment of a large cistern-like vessel with a single handle, recovered from the River Dee, below the west bank. Of a type in use locally during the second half of the 16 th century into the 17 th century	SJ 4150 6270	Post Medieval (1540AD to 1900AD)
1965/0/2	Un-Named	Long cross penny of Henry III	SJ 4155 6275	Medieval (1066AD

HER No.	Site Name	Brief Description	NGR	General Period
	Findspot in Eccleston Parish			to 1539AD)
1965/0/3	Un-Named Findspot in Eccleston Parish	Silver short cross penny of John, found on the bank of the River Dee	SJ 4157 6288	Medieval (1066AD to 1539AD)
1965/1/1	Church of St Mary	Church is mentioned in a grant of 17 Edward III (1344). The present church was built in 1899 c.120m to the SW of the medieval and later churches	SJ 4133 6274	Medieval (1066AD to 1539AD)
1965/1/2	Church of St Mary Churchyard	Possible Saxon religious site; curvilinear churchyard with large carved cross, now lost but possibly pre-Norman	SJ 4133 6274	Saxon (410AD? to 1065AD)
1965/2	Manor House	17 th century manor house, Church Road, Eccleston. 'THMH 1632' on stone	SJ 4137 6271	Post Medieval (1540AD to 1900AD)
1965/3	The Rectory and attached Coach House, Church Road	17 th century house and coach house on Church Road, Eccleston	SJ 4132 6255	Post Medieval (1540AD to 1900AD)
1965/4	Motte and associated Earthworks east of Old Rectory, Eccleston	Mound, variously suggested as a Bronze Age barrow or a medieval motte. Ormerod records that the tumulus stood on the Roman road which ran from Chester to the Iron Bridge over the Dee. It was opened ' <i>about half a century ago (c.1830) and a great quantity of human bones and some say coins were discovered</i> '	SJ 4143 6278	Medieval (1066AD to 1539AD)
1969/3/0	Eaton Hall Gardens and Deer Park	17 th century classical style mansion with formal gardens	SJ 3948 6195	Post Medieval (1540AD to 2050AD)
1971	Possible Roman Building	A rectangular building to the west of Watling Street, with dimensions of 29.2m by 11.4m. A few sherds of Roman coarse pottery were found in the foundation material	SJ 4113 6307	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1972	Heronbridge Roman Site	Roman settlement on either side of Watling Street at Heronbridge near Chester. The first excavations were carried out between 1929 and 1960. There is evidence for industrial activity in the late 1 st and early 2 nd century. The site was	SJ 4110 6365	Roman (43AD to 409AD)

HER No.	Site Name	Brief Description	NGR	General Period
		probably a civil settlement where supplies arriving by the river could be docked before transport by road. Recent excavations identified a small inlet off the river, the rock edges of which had been modified to create a dock. Three rock cut graves and fragments of a monumental tomb have also been found		
1972/0/1	Heronbridge Roman Site	Roman industrial features at Heronbridge civilian settlement. Excavations in 1930-31 on the east side of Watling Street Roman road revealed various stone buildings, one dating to around 100-160AD. To the north and south were four furnaces or corn drying kilns	SJ 4110 6377	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1972/0/10	Heronbridge Roman Site	Archaeological investigations for the Heronbridge research project by Chester Archaeological Society in 2002. In the area of Heronbridge Roman settlement between Eaton Road and the River Dee. Trench IV was placed across the post Roman rampart	SJ 4111 6384	Saxon to Post Medieval (410AD? to 1900AD?)
1972/0/11	Heronbridge	Trench V was placed across the post Roman rampart in the section where it had a pronounced dip, though to have been an entrance. The excavation revealed this area to have been disturbed by a complex of 17 th century excavations and constructions most probably belonging to the extensive siegeworks built around Chester during the Civil War. These works had destroyed the post Roman rampart	SJ 4108 6366	Post Medieval (Civil War, 1642AD to 1649AD)
1972/0/12	Heronbridge	Excavations in 2003. Trench VI was placed 20m behind the north arm of the post Roman rampart. Its principal purpose	SJ 4111 6380	Roman (43AD to 409AD)

HER No.	Site Name	Brief Description	NGR	General Period
		was to seek traces of structure contemporary with the fort. The only feature identified was a narrow ditch with Roman pottery in the fill, possibly a minor drainage gully		
1972/0/2	Heronbridge Roman Site	Excavations at Heronbridge 1947-8 and 1953-5 on the east side of Watling Street. Initial phase of timber and stone buildings from c.AD90-130, including corn drying complex and bronze-smith's workshop. Layout of site changed c.AD130-40 with construction of stone strip buildings, separated by side streets c.6m wide	SJ 4105 6390	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1972/0/3	Heronbridge Roman Site	Excavations at Heronbridge 1947-55 on west side of Watling Street. Within the northern angle of a side street two stone buildings, separated by a courtyard, were built in and occupied in the 3 rd century. A late 3 rd or 4 th century building with hypocausts also lay west of Watling Street. In 1959-60 excavations revealed timber strip buildings built c.AD90 and later in stone c.AD140	SJ 4100 6385	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1972/0/4	Heronbridge Roman Site	There is a rampart at Heronbridge with a ditch on the west side, lying between it and Watling Street. It is believed to be post Roman and various different functions and dates have been suggested for this earthwork. It could be the site where Aethelfrith, King of Northumbria, defeated the Britons at Chester AD613-16. It has also been suggested as a parliamentarian defence associated with the Civil War siege of Chester in 1644	SJ 4110 6365	Roman to Post Medieval (AD43? To 1649AD?)
1972/0/5	Roman Coin from	Coin from the sole reign of	SJ 4125 6362	Roman (43AD to

HER No.	Site Name	Brief Description	NGR	General Period
	Claverton	Gallienus which was AD260-268, found on the bank of the Dee at Heronbridge		409AD)
1972/0/6	Roman Coin from Claverton	Denarius of Septimius Severus, minted in Rome c.AD196-7	SJ 4126 6355	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1972/0/7	Heronbridge Roman Site	Archaeological work in 2002. Trench I was positioned in field where Roman settlement is overlain by a curvilinear earthwork of later date	SJ 4122 6367	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1972/0/8	Heronbridge Roman Site	Archaeological work in 2002. Trench II was positioned to test for the presence of any features closing off the side of the earthwork along the river. In field where Roman settlement is overlain by a curvilinear earthwork of later date. Aligned at right angles to the 18 th century (?) trackway which crosses the field	SJ 4119 6377	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1972/0/9	Heronbridge Roman Site	Archaeological work in 2002. Trench III was positioned to provide a north-south section across an ancient stream bed encountered in previous excavations. A deep infill of deposits marked the position of the silted-up mouth of the ancient watercourse. A ramped trackway and rock cut pits were found on the north side of the inlet. Pottery found in the make up of the trackway suggests a Hadrianic date for its construction. East of the trackway three rock cut graves were found, possibly ransacked in post Roman times	SJ 4113 6393	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
1972/1/0	Heronbridge Roman Site	Excavations in 1930-31 found human remains over a large area. Almost half had injuries to head probably inflicted by long swords. In absence of grave goods, dating not possible. Further archaeological work in 2004	SJ 4110 6377	Saxon (600AD? to 699AD ?)

HER No.	Site Name	Brief Description	NGR	General Period
		uncovered the original 1930's trenches and established the presence of a wider mass grave containing skeletons with fatal head injuries probably inflicted by swords. Radio-carbon dating gives an early 7 th century date for these burials which suggests that this may have been the site of the Battle of Chester which took place in AD616		
1972/2/0	Heronbridge Roman Site	Record of the discovery of a number of cremation urns in the 19 th century, present location of finds is unknown	SJ 4108 6345	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
2041	Medieval Coin from Claverton	Silver penny of Henry III, London mint	SJ 4080 6390	Medieval (1066AD to 1539AD)
2049	Roman Lead Weight	Roman 2 <i>unciae</i> weight	SJ 4150 6290	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
2055	Un-Named Findspot in Eccleston Parish	Penny of Edward I or early issue of Edward II, London mint	SJ 4130 6330	Medieval (1066AD to 1539AD)
2056/0/1	Post Medieval Coin from Claverton	James I sixpence, minted 1604-1619	SJ 4082 6335	Post Medieval (1540AD to 1900AD)
2056/0/2	Post Medieval Coin from Claverton	Six pence of Elizabeth I, third issue dated 1592	SJ 4080 6334	Post Medieval (1540AD to 1900AD)
2056/0/3	Post Medieval Findspot in Claverton	Lead alloy disc with 6 raised petals and dots on one side, the other side is plain. 17 th century token	SJ 4061 6347	Post Medieval (1540AD to 1900AD)
2057	17 th century coin from Claverton	Findspot of a Charles I Scottish silver 20p piece, minted between 1637-42	SJ 4157 6299	Post Medieval (1540AD to 1900AD)
2349	Roman Coin from Claverton	Bronze <i>as</i> of Antonine Emperor, possibly Verus 161-169AD. An <i>as</i> is a low value bronze coin	SJ 4060 6331	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
2539	Post Medieval Coin from Claverton	Silver 20 Scottish pence coin of James VI (before accession to the English throne). Dates to around 1601-1603	SJ 4041 6327	Post Medieval (1540AD to 1900AD)
2543	Medieval Coin from Claverton	Silver Henry III long cross penny found in a field near the River Dee. Minted in London between 1251-1272	SJ 4124 6349	Medieval (13 th century)
2549	Undated Findspot	Bronze upper portion of	SJ 4073 6370	Unknown

HER No.	Site Name	Brief Description	NGR	General Period
	in Claverton	scabbard slide or mount. An almost exact parallel was found in Chester at the Deanery field excavations in 1928		
2553	Un-Named Findspot from Huntington Parish	Bronze foot of tripod footed skillet or cauldron, 14 th -15 th century	SJ 4191 6266	Medieval (1066AD to 1539AD)
2777/0/1	Un-Named Findspot from Huntington	Roman coin (possible)	SJ 4210 6300	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
2777/0/2	Un-Named Findspot from Huntington	Findspot of a Roman coin, denarius of Hadrian found by metal detector in 1997	SJ 4210 6300	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
2778	Un-Named Findspot from Huntington	Two small Roman brooches found by metal detector in 1997	SJ 4150 6350	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
2779	Un-Named Findspot from Huntington	Small bronze bird of unknown date found by metal detector in 1997	SJ 4150 6350	Unknown
2780	Un-Named Findspot from Huntington	Roman coin, denarius of Caius Vibius Varus 44-39BC found by metal detector in 1997	SJ 4150 6380	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
2781	Un-Named Findspot from Huntington	Bronze scraper, suggested as possible fish de-scaler, found by metal detector in 1997	SJ 4150 6390	Unknown
2782	Un-Named Findspot from Huntington	Cusped disk of lead alloy of unknown date found by metal detector in 1997	SJ 4210 6300	Unknown
2783	Un-Named Findspot from Huntington	Forged coin of William III, 1697. Found by metal detector in 1997	SJ 4180 6370	Post Medieval (1540AD to 1900AD)
2922	Viking Silver from Eccleston	Viking or Anglo-Scandinavian silver ingot and silver bar, a pierced stone spindle whorl and a modern stainless steel pellet found by metal detecting in the area around Eccleston. Similar smaller ingots were found in a late Saxon hoard on Chester Esplanade	SJ 4100 6329	Early medieval (9 th -10 th century AD?)
4079/1	Chester's Second World War Ground Defences	A coherent and distinctive defensive system dating from the Second World War around the city of Chester. This comprises defended points sited in proximity to several of the main roads into the city, of	SJ 4336 6639 (central point of a large site)	Modern (Second World War 1939AD-1945AD)

HER No.	Site Name	Brief Description	NGR	General Period
		which at least 6 defence posts and two spigot mortar emplacements survive		
4079/1/4	Pillbox at Heronbridge	A small, square flat-topped pillbox at Heronbridge. It has a very low profile and seems to have open sides, rather than embrasures (small rectangular openings in walls that allowed soldiers in the pillbox to shoot at, or observe, the enemy). The pillbox covered a minor road from Eccleston, 2 miles from Chester City Centre	SJ 4093 6387	Modern (Second World War 1939AD-1945AD)
6966	Roman Republican Coin from Huntington	Silver denarius dated 46BC. Found by metal detector	SJ 4150 6370	Roman (1 st century BC)
6967	Roman Lead Die from Huntington	Roman lead die with indented 'spots'. Not a true die as only 2 opposite sides add up to 6. Found by metal detector	SJ 4160 6360	Roman (43AD? to 409AD)
6968	Post Medieval Tobacco Jar Lid Handle	Small cast lead figure, 18 th or 19 th century in date. Found by metal detector	SJ 4160 6360	Post Medieval (1700AD to 1899AD)
6969	Roman Lead Figurine from Huntington	Lead figurine found by metal detector	SJ 4130 6410	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
8430/19	Roman Coin near Heronbridge	A copper alloy radiate copy of Carausius (AD287-293), minted in London. Found by metal detector	SJ 4121 6427	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
8430/20	Roman Coin near Heronbridge, west of Eaton Road	A probable coin of Hadrian (AD117-138) found by metal detector	SJ 4096 6413	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
8430/4	Roman Coin, Woods near Heronbridge	A Sestertius from the rule of Hadrian (AD117-138)	SJ 4090 6420	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
8430/5	Roman Coin, near Eaton Road	A denarius of Nero (AD50-68)	SJ 4110 6410	Roman (43AD to 409AD)
MCH14668	Chester (known as)	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4077 6411	Roman (2 nd century)
MCH14671	Chester (known as)	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4069 6361	Roman (1 st century)
MCH14681	Chester (known as)	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4077 6367	Medieval (14 th century)
MCH14683	Chester (known as)	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4057 6383	Medieval (14 th century)
MCH14685	Shilling of James I	Dating to c.AD1606-1607. Found by metal detector	SJ 4070 6350	Post Medieval (17 th century)

HER No.	Site Name	Brief Description	NGR	General Period
MCH14687	Chester (known as)	Findspot of copper alloy brooch by metal detector	SJ 4120 6345	Roman (1 st to 3 rd century)
MCH14688	Chester (known as)	Findspot of button and loop fastener by metal detector	SJ 4110 6370	Roman (1 st to 2 nd century)
MCH14689	Chester (known as)	Findspot of unidentified object by metal detector	SJ 4110 6370	Roman (1 st to 3 rd century)
MCH14691	Chester (known as)	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4055 6389	Medieval (13 th century)
MCH14696	Chester (known as)	Findspot of slag? by metal detector	SJ 4090 6390	Medieval or Post Medieval (15 th to 19 th century?)
MCH14697	Chester (known as)	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4060 6373	Medieval (15 th century)
MCH14698	Broken Silver Halfpenny of Edward III	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4165 6316	Medieval (14 th century)
MCH14699	Chester (known as)	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4166 6316	Medieval (14 th century)
MCH14700	Chester (known as)	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4171 6318	Post Medieval (16 th century)
MCH14877	Cheshire (known as)	Findspot of copper alloy toy by metal detector	SJ 4070 6400	Post Medieval (16 th – 18 th century)
MCH14878	Chester (known as)	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4070 6390	Post Medieval (16 th century)
MCH14879	Chester (known as)	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4070 6390	Post Medieval (16 th century)
MCH14880	Chester (known as)	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4070 6390	Post Medieval (16 th century)
MCH14881	Chester (known as)	Findspot of coin by metal detector	SJ 4080 6390	Medieval (15 th -16 th century)
MCH15450	Chester (known as)	Findspot of toy by metal detector	SJ 4070 6400	Post Medieval (19 th -20 th century)
MCH15451	Chester (known as)	Findspot of weight, copper alloy, lead, by metal detector	SJ 4070 6400	Post Medieval (18 th -19 th century)
MCH15452	Chester (known as)	Findspot of weight by metal detector	SJ 4070 6400	Post Medieval (17 th -18 th century)
MCH15453	Chester (known as)	Findspot of weight by metal detector	SJ 4070 6400	Roman (1 st century AD)
MCH15454	Chester (known as)	Findspot of weight by metal detector	SJ 4070 6400	Roman (1 st century AD)

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES
