

# **Wrenbury Marina, Cheshire East**

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

Report no. 0002





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Project Code: A0002

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## **WRENBURY MARINA, CHESHIRE**

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## **WRENBURY MARINA, CHESHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT: (A0002)**

#### **SUMMARY**

*Aeon Archaeology has undertaken an archaeological desk based assessment on behalf of Oligra Town Planning Services of a proposed 200-berth marina development located on the southern bank of the Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union canal, Wrenbury, Cheshire East. The assessment identified nineteen sites of archaeological and historic interest within, or in close proximity to, the proposed development area. The majority of these sites were hedgerow field boundaries of low historic interest, and no further assessment or mitigatory measures have been recommended for these features.*

*The assessment also identified the potential for adverse indirect impacts to the grade II\* Listed Building of the Wrenbury Church Bridge (feature 15), the Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union canal (feature 16), the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Wrenbury Wooden Lifting Bridge (feature 18), and the Wrenbury Conservation Area (feature 19), for which mitigatory measures have been proposed.*

*The potential for an indirect physical impact upon the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Wrenbury Wooden Lifting Bridge (feature 18) through an increase in the volume of traffic during the operational phase of the marina was identified. Recommendations have been made under guidance from English Heritage for the client to contact British Waterways and the Highways Agency to ascertain whether the monument will be fit for purpose.*

*The potential for buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area remains unknown, and a programme of further assessment in the form of an archaeologically supervised metal detector survey across the site has been recommended.*

#### **Acknowledgements**

The following people and organisations are thanked for their help in providing background material and advice for this archaeological desk-based assessment. Moya Watson at the Cheshire Historic Environment Record; the Cheshire Development Control archaeologist Mark Leah; the Cheshire Archives and Local Studies office; Jennie Stopford and Anna Boxer at English Heritage; and Elizabeth Rodgers at Cheshire East borough Council.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Aeon Archaeology has been asked by Oligra Town Planning Services to undertake an archaeological desk based assessment of a c.3.6ha area of land in advance of the proposed development of a 200 berth marina. The proposed development area is located on the southern bank of the Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union Canal, in fields to the immediate north of the village of Wrenbury, Cheshire East (centred on NGR SJ 592480) (Figure.1 and Figure.2).

The proposed scheme consists of the excavation of a new 200 berth marina with the construction of a toilet/ shower/ laundry block, car parking, offices, cafe, and access roads.

This archaeological desk based assessment is for the proposed development area and immediate land-take, although a 1km search area centred on the site was utilised for a search of the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), to provide a background historical narrative of the area.

## **2.0 SPECIFICATION AND PROJECT DESIGN**

A detailed brief has not been prepared for this project by Mark Leah, the Cheshire Development Control Archaeologist, but recommendation has been given for an archaeological desk based assessment of the proposed development area (Mark Leah email correspondence dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2012). The following report conforms to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, rev. 2007).

Aeon Archaeology's proposals for fulfilling the requirements of the desk based assessment were, briefly, as follows:

- a) to identify and record the cultural heritage of the area to be affected;
- b) to evaluate the importance of what was identified (both as a cultural landscape and as the individual items which make up that landscape); and
- c) to recommend ways in which damage to the cultural heritage can be avoided or minimised.

A full archaeological assessment usually comprises 6 phases:

- 1) Desk-top study
- 2) Field Search
- 3) Interim Draft Report
- 4) Detailed Field Evaluation
- 5) Final Draft Report
- 6) Final Report

This assessment has covered the work required under 1, 2 and 3. It is sometimes necessary to undertake a programme of field evaluation following the desktop assessment. This is because some sites cannot be assessed by desktop or field visit alone, and additional fieldwork is required. This typically takes the form of geophysical survey and/or trial excavation, though other options, including topographic survey or supervised metal detector is also possible. The present report makes recommendations for any field evaluation if required.

## **3.0 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES**

### **3.1 Desk-top Study**

This involved consultation of maps, computer records, aerial photographs, written records and reference works, which make up the Historic Environment Record (HER), located at The Forum, Chester, CH1 2HS. Tithe maps and Ordnance Survey maps were examined at the Cheshire archives. Information about Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments was obtained from English Heritage, and information on Conservation Areas was obtained from the Built Conservation Team at Cheshire East Council. Secondary sources were consulted to provide background information. Sites noted on the Cheshire HER are referred to by their HER number, a unique number given to each site, and are listed in Appendix 1. A full list of sources consulted is given in section 8.0 of the report.

### **3.2 Field Search**

This was undertaken on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2012, when the site was visited by an archaeologist. The conditions were fine for a field search, and the proposed development area was inspected for upstanding archaeological remains.

### **3.3 Report**

All available information was collated, and the features were then assessed and allocated to categories of international, national, regional/county, local and none/unknown importance as listed in Appendix 2. These are intended to give an idea of the importance of the feature and the level of response likely to be required; descriptions of the features and specific recommendations for further assessment or mitigatory measures, as appropriate, are given in the relevant sections of this report. The criteria used for allocating features to categories of importance are based on existing statutory designations and, for non-designated assets, the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria for Scheduling Ancient Monuments; these are set out in National Planning Policy Framework.

### **3.4 Definitions**

Definitions of Impact, evaluation methods and mitigation methods as used in the gazetteer (section 5 below) can be found in Appendix 2.

## **4.0 THE STUDY AREA**

### **4.1 Topographic Description**

The proposed development area is located on the southern bank of the Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union Canal, in fields to the immediate north of the village of Wrenbury, Cheshire East (centred on NGR **SJ 592480**) (Figure.1 and Figure.2) within the civil parish of Wrenbury cum Ffrith. The proposed development site is relatively large (c.3.6ha) and spans four separate, generally flat fields.

The study area is dominated by an enclosed fieldscape of mixed agriculture and pastoral farming. The bedrock geology comprises superficial deposits of glaciofluvial Devensian sand and gravel, which formed approximately 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the environment was dominated by ice-age conditions. This overlies the Wilkesley Halite Member, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 221 to 227 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was dominated by hot deserts. (British Geological Survey).

### **4.2 Statutory and non-statutory designations**

The proposed development area landscape has been studied as part of *Cheshire's Historic Landscape Characterisation*, and the proposed development area is included within an historic landscape character area as well as partially within the *Wrenbury Conservation Area*. The proposed development area is in proximity to the following sites/ areas:

- (i) Approximately 141.0m southeast of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (DCH1254) and grade II Listed Building (LB ref: 3380) of the Wrenbury Wooden Lifting Bridge;
- (ii) Approximately 11.0m southwest of the grade II\* Listed Building of the Wrenbury Church Bridge (LB ref: 3383);
- (iii) Approximately 148.0m north of the grade II Listed Building of the Cottage in the Churchyard of St. Margaret (LB ref: 2694);
- (iv) Approximately 150.0m north of the grade II\* Listed Building of St. Margaret's Church (LB ref: 3382);

- (v) Approximately 202.0m north of the grade II Listed Building of the railings, gates, and gate-piers to the churchyard of St. Margaret's Church (LB ref: 2688);
- (vi) Approximately 240.0m northwest of the grade II Listed Building of Hawk House (LB ref: 3378);<sup>4</sup>
- (vii) Approximately 240.0m northeast of the grade II Listed Building of Elm House (LB ref: 2685);
- (viii) Within the *Ancient Fieldscapes* Historic Landscape Character Area (HCH 7374).
- (ix) Partially within the Wrenbury Conservation Area (353/0/0).

The list of non-designated sites recorded within the Historic Environment Record is shown on figure. 1 and listed in Appendix 1. Listed Buildings and events recorded at the Cheshire HER are shown on figure.2.

## 5.0 THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The following sections describe the known archaeological record within the general area of the proposed development. Sites are identified by their HER number which is the number by which they are identified in the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), or by their Scheduled Ancient Monument reference, or Listed Building reference numbers if applicable. The purpose of this section is to place the study area into its wider geographical and archaeological context. This helps identify the importance of sites and landscapes within the study area, and also provides an indication of the nature and potential for the survival of buried archaeology – that is sites that survive underground, but are not recognisable from surface indications alone.

### 5.1 Prehistoric and Roman Period

Evidence for the prehistoric period in and around the village of Wrenbury is sparse, although a mound located approximately 730.0m to the southeast of the proposed development site has been identified as a possible Bronze Age burial mound (HER 352), although others have suggested that the mound is of a natural origin (Waggott. T.P. 1964). In addition to this a Bronze Age axe hammer (HER 351) was discovered approximately 585.0m east of the proposed development area during ploughing in fields in 1933.

Lying approximately 770.0m northeast of the site is the line of the Roman road between Middlewich and Whitchurch (1189/1/11). The road exists today as an earthwork at the edge of the field and rising approximately 3ft above the general ground level, with considerable numbers of cobbles with some broken red sandstone lying in a slight ditch. The ditch is associated with a shallow ridge which runs diagonally across the corner of the field. Trial excavations carried out in 1963 by K.E. Jermy and pupils from Richard Fairclough Secondary School identified a band of stone approximately 4-12 inches beneath the surface, which spanned a width of approximately 45ft, lying above a relict ground surface. The ridge was interpreted as an agger (Roman road embankment) with most of its upper layers ploughed out. The line of the road becomes indistinguishable within fields approximately 770.0m to the northeast of the proposed development area, however a projected route would have the road continuing through the western side of the village.

A watching brief was carried out during the construction of residential properties on land formerly occupied by Church Farm and adjacent to the west side of St Margaret's Parish Church, Wrenbury in 1995. The remains of a timber structure and pebble surface were

observed (event ECH3570, report R2071) associated with several sherds of late Roman pottery. They were on the east side of the redevelopment site, close to the ancient boundary of St Margaret's churchyard and approximately 144.0m southwest of the southern boundary of the proposed development area, on land formerly occupied by Church Farm. In addition to this, traces of a later structure, probably medieval, overlay the Romano-British remains.

## 5.2 Early Medieval, Medieval and Post-Medieval Periods

Wrenbury is first mentioned in the Domesday Book, a late 11<sup>th</sup> century document, as *Wareneberie* when it was held by 'Carle, a free man' and there 'was land for two ploughs' (Harris, B.E. 1987). The village name is thought to derive from the amalgamation of the Old English word *Wrenna* meaning *Wren*, and the word *burgh* meaning a fortified place or stronghold (Dodgson, J. 1970). This could suggest the presence of an old fortification which was inhabited by Wrens, although no such fortification is known.

Wrenbury was included within the lands donated to the Cistercian Combermere Abbey in approximately 1180, not long after the foundation of the abbey in 1133 by Hugh Malbank, second Baron of Nantwich. The Abbey was endowed with 22,000 acres including part of Nantwich as well as the church at Acton (Leonard, J. 1990).

The Acton parish tithe map of 1843 (figure 4.) depicts the proposed development area rather similarly to how it exists today. The Chester and Ellesmere canal is depicted towards the north of the site, and the proposed development area is shown as enclosed fields. The eastern most field is however split in two by a field boundary running from north to south, across what is now the centre of the field. Towards the northern part of the area a small field (no. 376) is depicted which no longer exists. To the immediate east of the proposed development area, the tithe map depicts fields (no's. 379-383) which are clearly Medieval strip fields, and the fields within the development area, although larger, retain a similar elongation orientated north and south and are reminiscent of a Medieval field system. The removal of field boundaries to create larger fields generally took place as part of a scheme of land improvements by the estates from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The tithe map depicts the village of Westbury much as it exists today, with the Church of St. Margaret, parsonage, and the grade II Listed Building (ref: DCH3380) and Scheduled Ancient Monument (DCH 1254) of the Wrenbury wooden lifting bridge and the grade II\* Listed Building of Wrenbury Church Bridge (ref: DCH3383) all depicted. Both bridges were constructed by Thomas Telford in c.1790 and are single-span timber bridges, formed from wooden planks laid between timber beams and hinged at their northern ends (CHER).

**Table 1. The tithe apportionment of 1843**

Plot	Landowner	Occupier	Plot Name	Land Use	A/R/P
373	Viscount Combermere	Reverend Gilbert Vaudrey	Gravel Piece	Pasture	2/2/35
374	Viscount Combermere	John Stant	Gravel Field	Pasture	4/1/34
375	Samuel Sproston	Mrs Lea		Pasture	3/1/36
376	Samuel Sproston	Mrs Lea		Pasture	1/1/12
377	John Cross Starkey	Joseph Thomas	Churchyard Croft and part of Rush Meadow	Pasture	10/3/5
378	Viscount Combermere	Reverend Gilbert Vaudrey	Barn Field	Pasture	3/2/14



As can be seen from the 1843 tithe apportionment, the proposed development fields were owned and tenanted by several different people. The most notable of these was Viscount Combermere, otherwise known as Sir Stapleton Cotton or 'The Cheshire Hero'. After the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the village of Wrenbury and surrounding land was granted to George Cotton, Dean of Chester, whose family remained as prominent and important landowners for centuries. Sir Stapleton Cotton was born in Cheshire in 1773 and educated at Audlem Grammar School, after which he became a second Lieutenant in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Royal Welsh Fusiliers in 1790. He was made 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Combermere in 1814 in recognition of his brilliant generalship in battle, and was elevated to Viscount Combermere in 1830 (Cheshire Record Office. SF/920COT/1).

Viscount Combermere served in many campaigns and by all accounts was a splendidly dressed and dashing figure, with the Spaniards referring to him as the 'Golden Lion'. He commanded the sieges of Salamanca in Spain and Bhurtpore in India, and in celebration of these victories built two public houses in Wrenbury, which he named after the campaigns. Viscount Combermere was also notable for his civil capabilities which were apparent during his Governorship of Barbados (1817-1820) and later as Governor General of India, where the Great Mogul named him Champion of the State and Sword of the Emperor. He was later made Constable of the Tower of London in 1852 and a Field Marshal in 1855. He died in 1865, was buried at St. Margaret's Church in Wrenbury, and was sufficiently popular for the sum of £6000 to be raised by public subscription for the erection of a commemorative statue on horseback in Chester.

The tithe map apportionment of 1843 shows that two of the fields owned by Viscount Combermere were tenanted by the Reverend Gilbert Vaudrey. He was Deacon of St. Margaret's Church, Wrenbury and ordained at Chester in 1803 after having graduated from Brasenose College at the University of Oxford. Vaudrey presented an elaborate two-tier brass chandelier to the church in 1839 which still hangs within the chancel (CP/WREN/P. 1988).

The 1843 tithe apportionment lists field 377 as being owned by John Cross Starkey, who was of a powerful family whose seat was at Wrenbury Hall. In about the year 1300 the hall was held by the Vernon family of Wrenbury, from whom a moiety of it passed by marriage from the Vernons to the Oultons and the Starkeys (Kelly's Directory. 1892). The Cottons of Combermere and the Starkeys of Wrenbury Hall have been referred to in the past as Wrenbury's rival dynasties, with both influential families opposing one another for around four hundred years. In life the two land-owning families were involved in bitter disputes over their rights and access to the pews and chancel of St. Margaret's Church. These disputes were so heated that an arbitrator was brought in 1748 to settle the conflicts, in which he allotted the south side of the church to the Cottons and the north side to the Starkeys, both for their memorials and their burials within the vaults.

The church of St. Margaret dominates the hamlet of Wrenbury, with the original church dating back to at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when it was subordinate to the mother church at Acton, and was the property of Combermere Abbey (Leonard.J. 1990). The present church is late perpendicular, and was erected c.1500 and built with red sandstone sourced from the Bickerton Hills. The tower has a south-east stair turret, and gargoyles drain rain water from the roofs of the tower and aisles. The nave has five arcades and is covered by a 16<sup>th</sup> century oak tie-beam roof. The most notable features of the church are the musicians' gallery dating from 1791, the three-decker Georgian pulpit, and assembly of 18<sup>th</sup> century box pews. Some of the pew doors are decorated with the coats of arms of local families, including those of the Cotton and Starkey families.

The tithe apportionment lists that two of the fields (no's. 375 and 376) within the proposed development area were owned by Samuel Sproston, whose family resided at Sproston Wood.

The Sproston family are recorded as having settled in Wrenbury at the time of Queen Elizabeth (Ormerod.G.1888). He is attributed to having made a donation of land to St. Margaret's Church and constructed the village school-room through his patronage. He lived to be ninety years old and was one of the last Sproston's to live at Sproston Wood, when the family left Wrenbury before 1881 and moved towards Birmingham and Warwickshire.

The tithe apportionment of 1843 names fields 373 and 374 of the proposed development area as 'gravel piece' and 'gravel field'. This is quite likely related to the underlying superficial geological deposits being of gravel, as shown by the British Geological Survey for Wrenbury (see 4.1). Indeed, evidence for possible quarrying or perhaps gravel extraction was found during the field investigation (see 5.6) in the field no's 377 and 383 as depicted on the tithe map. Field no. 378 located towards the east of the proposed development area is named as 'barn field' and may relate to the presence of an agricultural building once having stood there. There are no buildings depicted within the development area on the tithe map (figure. 4), however it was quite usual for the cartographers to not depict agricultural or superficial structures.

By the production of the first edition county series Ordnance Survey map in 1875 (figure 5.) the proposed development area is depicted more like it exists today. Field 376 (tithe map) had been amalgamated into the larger field to the south, and the northern part of field 377 (tithe map) had been sub-divided through the construction of a field boundary, which still exists today as a field drain (see 5.6). This drain was almost certainly dug to reduce the water logging in this area in proximity to the Shropshire Union canal. The first edition Ordnance Survey map depicts the western most field of the development area (field no's. 373 and 374) as having had the north-south field boundary removed, but the field had been divided in two by a field boundary running from east to west.

The second edition county series Ordnance Survey map of 1910 (figure. 6) depicts the proposed development area exactly the same as the first edition map, with the eastern most field still divided in two by an east-west field boundary.

## 5.4 Aerial Photographs

A range of aerial photographs of the proposed development area were examined at the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). This included a high level photograph taken by the Royal Air Force in 1947, as well as Ordnance Survey photographs from 1970-71, 1985, and 1992-93. Recent aerial coverage of the proposed development area from 2012 was also inspected. No new archaeological sites were observed on the photographs.

## 5.6 Site Gazetteer

The field walkover discovered nineteen sites of archaeological and historic interest within, or in close proximity to the proposed development area, as listed below. Each entry contains an assessment of importance, ranked from International through to National, Regional/County, Local, and None. If it is not possible to assess the importance of the site from the visible remains, then it is ranked Unknown. Identified sites were also assigned a level of impact ranked from high through to medium, and low. Levels of impact can be considered as both adverse or beneficial, and can be direct (physically impacting upon a site) or indirect (visually or indirectly physically impacting upon a site). Where it is expected that a site will be impacted upon by the proposed works then mitigation recommendations are provided. All archaeological/historical sites identified are depicted on figure.3.

<b>1. Hedgerow (plate 1)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59116 47905	Impact: None	
A hedgerow runs from northwest to southeast and borders the southern limit of the proposed		

development area. It measures approximately 3.0m in height and is made up mostly of hawthorn and reinforced with a wooden stock fence. The field boundary is depicted on the 1843 tithe map although the hedgerow itself was planted approximately 15 years ago by the landowners. This feature will not be impacted upon by the proposed development as access to the site will be gained by an existing gate. This field boundary provides a visual screen between the proposed development area and the Wrenbury Conservation Area and it is recommended that it is retained in-situ (see feature 19).
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> Retain in-situ

<b>2. Hedgerow (plate 2)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59225 47939	Impact: High adverse direct	
A hedgerow runs from southwest to northeast borders the eastern limit of the western most field of the proposed development area. It measures approximately 3.0m in height and is made up mostly of hawthorn. The field boundary is depicted on the 1843 tithe map and although the actual age of the hedge is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts. This feature will require total removal as part of the proposed development.		
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None		
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> None- recorded as part of the desk based assessment.		

<b>3. Hedgerow (plate 3)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59207 48019	Impact: Medium adverse direct	
A hedgerow runs from east to west and borders the northern limit of the proposed development area. It measures approximately 1.5m in height and is made up mostly of hawthorn interspersed with saplings and reinforced by a wooden stock fence. The field boundary is depicted on the 1843 tithe map and although the actual age of the hedge is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts. This feature will likely require partial removal by the proposed development.		
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None		
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> None- recorded as part of the desk based assessment.		

<b>4. Hedgerow (plate 4)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59293 47980	Impact: High adverse direct	
A hedgerow runs north to south across the centre of the proposed development area. It measures approximately 2.0m in height and is made up mostly of hawthorn and reinforced with a wooden stock fence. The field boundary is depicted on the 1843 tithe map and although the actual age of the hedge is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts. This feature will require total removal by the proposed development.		
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None		
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> None- recorded as part of the desk based assessment.		

<b>5. Possible quarry site (plate 5)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59270 47870	Impact: None	

A shallow hollow in the field at this point may be indicative of an area of localised quarrying or gravel extraction. The feature lies outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted upon.
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> None

<b>6. Hedgerow (plate 6)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59371 47959	Impact: Medium adverse direct	
A hedgerow runs from north to south across the proposed development area marking the eastern limit of the field. It measures approximately 1.5m in height and is made up mostly of hawthorn with occasional mature deciduous trees. The field boundary is depicted on the 1843 tithe map and although the actual age of the hedge is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts. This feature will require partial removal by the proposed development.		
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None		
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> None- recorded as part of the desk based assessment.		

<b>7. Bank (plate 7)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59372 48031	Impact: High adverse direct	
A wide bank measuring approximately 8.0m in width runs from east to west across the northern part of the field. The bank is almost certainly part of the flood defences of the Shropshire Union canal and is most probably of 19 <sup>th</sup> century date. This feature will require total removal by the proposed development.		
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None		
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> None- recorded as part of the desk based assessment.		

<b>8. Drainage ditch (plate 8)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59367 48047	Impact: High adverse direct	
A drainage ditch runs from east to west across the northern part of the field and measures approximately 2.0m in width. The drainage ditch is first depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1875 and is most likely of mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century date. The ditch was almost certainly excavated to alleviate some of the water logging in the northern part of the field caused by the proximity to the Shropshire Union canal. This feature will require total removal by the proposed development.		
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None		
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> None- recorded as part of the desk based assessment.		

<b>9. Hedgerow (plate 9)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59415 48001	Impact: Medium adverse direct	
A hedgerow runs from east to west across the proposed development area marking the northern limit of the field. It measures approximately 1.5m in height and is made up mostly of hawthorn. The field boundary is depicted on the 1843 tithe map and although the actual age of the hedge is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts. This feature will require partial removal by the proposed development.		
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None		
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> None- recorded as part of the desk based assessment.		

10. Mound (plate 10)	Category: Unknown	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59418 48007	Impact: None	
A mound measuring approximately 20.0m by 10.0m is located towards the east of the proposed development area, orientated east to west. It measures approximately 1.0m in height and is heavily overgrown and has been utilised as a rabbit warren. The mound is not depicted on the tithe or early edition Ordnance Survey maps and its provenience is unknown. There does not appear to be any structural element to the feature and it may be upcast material from an unknown excavation close by, although an archaeological origin cannot be ruled out. This feature is currently being utilised as a badger’s set and will be avoided by the proposed development.		
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None		
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> Avoidance		

<b>11. Hedgerow (plate 11)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59436 48032	Impact: Medium adverse direct	
A hedgerow runs from north to south and marks the eastern limit of the proposed development area. It measures approximately 1.5m in height and is made up mostly of hawthorn. The field boundary is depicted on the 1843 tithe map and although the actual age of the hedge is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts. This feature will require partial removal by the proposed development.		
<b><i>Recommendations for further assessment:</i></b> None		
<b><i>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</i></b> None- recorded as part of the desk based assessment.		

<b>12. Hedgerow (plate 12)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59372 48061	Impact: High adverse direct	
<p>A hedgerow runs from east to west and marks the northern limit of the proposed development area. It measures approximately 2.0m in height and is made up mostly of reeds and brambles. The field boundary is depicted on the 1843 tithe map and although the actual age of the hedge is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts. This feature will require total removal by the proposed development. The removal of this hedgerow will have an indirect impact upon the setting of the Wrenbury Church Brdige Listed Building (feature 15), and as much of the hedgerow should be retained as is possible.</p>		
<b><i>Recommendations for further assessment:</i></b> None		
<b><i>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</i></b> Retain as much as possible.		

<b>13. Trackway (plate 13)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59441 48011	Impact: None	
<p>A trackway measuring approximately 1.0m in width runs from north to south and marks the eastern limit of the proposed development area. The trackway is first depicted on the 1843 tithe map and links the grade II* Listed Building of Wrenbury Church Bridge (ref: 1357482), constructed by Thomas Telford in c.1790, with the village of Wrenbury. The trackway may well be contemporary with the bridge construction in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, although it is possible that it follows the line of an earlier trackway through the fields. The trackway is integral to the setting of the Listed Building of the Wrenbury Church Bridge and should be avoided and retained in-situ.</p>		
<b><i>Recommendations for further assessment:</i></b> None		
<b><i>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</i></b> Avoidance, retain in-situ.		



<b>14. Possible quarry site (plate 14)</b>	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 49452 48010	Impact: None	
A shallow hollow in the field at this point may be indicative of an area of localised quarrying or gravel extraction. The feature lies outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted upon.		
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None		
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> None		

<b>15. Wrenbury Church Bridge Grade II* Listed Building (plates 15 and 16)</b>	Category: Regional/ County	LB ref: DCH3383
SJ 59432 48069	Impact: Medium adverse indirect	
<p>The grade II* Listed Building of the Wrenbury Church Bridge was constructed by Thomas Telford in c.1790 as part of the canalisation of the Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union canal. The bridge was intended to carry foot passengers and small carts, and would have linked the village of Wrenbury and St. Margaret's Church with the farms and fields to the north of the canal, as well as providing access between both banks of the canal. It is a single-span timber bridge, formed from wooden planks laid between timber beams and hinged at the northern end so it can be raised to allow the passage of canal boats. The bridge is outside of the proposed development area and thus there will be no direct physical impact upon the structure. However, the opening up of the southern bank of the canal to create the marina will have a medium adverse indirect impact upon the setting of the bridge by impacting upon the historical intimacy and linearity of the bridge's relationship to this stretch of the canal. Furthermore, the views southwest, although not historically significant, will be impacted upon through the removal of the hedgerow (feature 12). The bridge should be avoided and the trackway (feature 13) should be retained in-situ to preserve the historic transport link. Where possible, the entrance/exit into the marina from the canal should be limited to the minimum size practically possible and the hedge-line (feature 12) retained as far as possible.</p>		
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None		
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> Avoidance, retain trackway (feature 13), limit size of marina boat entrance/ exit, and retain as much of hedgerow (feature 12) as possible.		

<b>16. Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union canal and towpath (plate 17)</b>	Category: Regional/ County	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59366 48072	Impact: Low adverse direct, low adverse indirect.	
<p>The Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union canal runs for 46 miles from Llantysilio Bridge, near Llangollen, to Hurleston Junction, where it joins the Shropshire Union main line. The canal was originally planned to be part of the Ellesmere canal, which was supposed to link the rivers Mersey, Dee and Severn by running from Netherpool (Ellesmere Port) to Shrewsbury. The idea was launched in Ellesmere in 1791 and it was planned to serve the iron, coal and limestone industries around Wrexham, Ruabon, Llanymynech. The canal never reached Shrewsbury and the main line via Wrexham was not built, and thus the canal was extended to Horseshoe Falls, west of Llangollen and a section from Whitchurch linked it to the Birmingham and Liverpool Junction Canal at Harleston Junction.</p>		
<p>The proposed development will have a direct physical impact upon the canal and towpath that runs alongside, by opening the canal into the proposed marina. However, the actual overall length of the canal to be effected is so low that it is expected that the direct physical impact upon the canal will be low adverse.</p>		
<p>The proposed impact will have a further indirect impact upon the canal through the loss of a part of its intimate setting and linear form through the construction of the open space to be utilised as the marina. However, the actual overall length of the canal that will be effected is</p>		

so low that the indirect impact of the development is expected to be low adverse.
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> None

17. Hedgerow (plate 18)	Category: Local	Ref: Unassigned
SJ 59119 47975	Impact: Low adverse direct	
<p>A hedgerow runs from northeast to southwest and marks the western limit of the proposed development area. It measures approximately 3.0m in height and is made up primarily of hawthorn, and is fortified by a wooden stock fence. The field boundary is depicted on the 1843 tithe map and although the actual age of the hedge is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts. This feature will require partial removal by the proposed development.</p>		
<b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> None		
<b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> None- recorded as part of the desk based assessment. Retain as much of the hedgerow as possible.		

<b>18. Wrenbury Wooden Lifting Bridge Grade II Listed Building, Scheduled Ancient Monument (plate 19)</b>	Category: National	LB ref: DCH3380 SAM: DCH1254
SJ 59432 48069	Impact: Unknown	
<p>The grade II Listed Building and Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Wrenbury Wooden Lifting Bridge was constructed by Thomas Telford in c.1790 as part of the canalisation of the Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union canal. The bridge is still in use today to carry vehicular traffic into Wrenbury from Broxton, and Chester to the northwest. It is a single-span timber bridge, formed from wooden planks laid between timber beams and hinged at the northern end so it can be raised to allow the passage of canal boats. The bridge was refurbished approximately ten years ago when a mechanical lifting hinge was added, and the bridge strengthened, thus lifting the former bridge weight restrictions.</p>		
<p>The bridge is outside of the proposed development area and thus there will be no direct physical impact upon the structure. However, the proposed development may have an indirect physical impact through the increased volumes of vehicular traffic utilising the bridge during the operational phase. Although, it is the intention of the client to erect brown tourist signs to direct the majority of traffic to the site from the east side of the village. The bridge will not be utilised during the construction phase as all heavy plant will be directed eastwards into and out of the village. The views of English Heritage have been sought, and it has been recommended that the client contacts British Waterways and the Highways Agency to ascertain whether the bridge will be fit for purpose.</p>		
<p>The views westward towards the proposed development area are obstructed by the current buildings in Wrenbury and thus there will be no impact upon the significant historic views.</p>		
<p><b>Recommendations for further assessment:</b> Client to contact British Waterways and the Highways Department.</p>		
<p><b>Recommendations for mitigatory measures:</b> Dependent upon further assessment.</p>		

<b>19. The Wrenbury Conservation Area (plates 20-22)</b>	Category: Regional/ County	Ref: 10 (Wrenbury)
SJ 59325 47794	Impact: Low adverse direct, Low adverse indirect	
The Wrenbury Conservation Area was designated by the former Cheshire County Council on 27 <sup>th</sup> September 1973. The area was designated as it was a ‘small village in an attractive landscape setting’, and for its architectural and historic interest. The Conservation Area is		

primarily focused along the main village street and includes the Church of St. Margaret, the cottage in the churchyard of St. Margaret, the railings, gates and gate-piers in the churchyard of St. Margaret, Elm House, Hawk House, and the Wrenbury Wooden Lifting Bridge Listed Buildings. The latter of which is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The southeast edge of the proposed development area lies partially within the designated conservation area boundary.

The proposed development is expected to have a low adverse direct impact upon the conservation area, as part of the proposed car park for the marina lies within the designated area. However, the actual physical area to be lost is relatively low. Moreover, the land that will be lost does not house any buildings and was included within the Conservation Area as it was part of the setting in which the village buildings of architectural and historic interest lay.

The proposed development is expected to have a low adverse indirect impact upon the conservation area. There will be some adverse impact through the change in historic landuse from an enclosed fieldscape to car parking for the marina. Furthermore, the change of historic landuse from enclosed fieldscape to marina will impact upon the views northwards out of the designated area in proximity of the churchyard, as well as southwards looking into the designated area. It is recommended that the hedgerow (feature 1) be retained and access into the proposed car park be through the existing farmer's gate. Furthermore, it is expected that the impact upon the significant historic views northwards from the area in and around St. Margaret's Church from the proposed marina lake could be negated somewhat by the planting of a new hedgeline around the perimeter of the lake.

***Recommendations for further assessment:*** None

***Recommendations for mitigatory measures:*** Retain hedgerow (feature 1) and provide access to the marina car park via the existing farmer's gate. Cultivate a new hedgerow around the southern perimeter of the proposed marina lake.

## 6.0 IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.1 General recommendations

#### 6.1.1 Direct impact (see table 2)

The proposed marina development is expected to have a direct adverse physical impact upon twelve sites of archaeological and historic significance. Of these, ten sites are of *local* importance and two sites are of *regional/ county* importance.

The proposed works are expected to have a *low adverse direct* impact upon three sites (features 16, 19 and 17) the first two being of regional/ county and the last being of local importance respectively. There is expected to be a *medium adverse direct* impact upon four sites (features 3, 6, 9 and 11) which are all of local importance, and a *high adverse direct* impact upon four sites (features 2, 4, 7, 8 and 12) which are all of local importance.

There will be an *unknown* impact upon the Scheduled Ancient Monument and grade II Listed Building of the Wrenbury Wooden Lifting Bridge (feature 18).

#### 6.1.2 Indirect impact

The proposed scheme is expected to have an indirect impact upon three sites of archaeological and historic interest. It is expected that there will be a *low adverse indirect* impact upon the Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union canal (feature 16) and the Wrenbury Conservation Area (feature 19), and a *medium adverse indirect* impact upon the Wrenbury Church Bridge



grade II\* Listed Building (feature 15). All three features are considered to be of regional/county importance.

## 6.2 Site Specific Recommendations

Although it is expected that the proposed marina development will impact directly upon thirteen sites of archaeological interest, the majority are hedgerows and are deemed to be of *local* importance. As such no further assessment or mitigation is recommended for sites 2 to 9, 11, 14, 16, and 17. Where sites of local importance are to be removed or truncated no further mitigation methods have been recommended, as the descriptions of the features in this desk-based assessment should be seen as being commensurate with a basic record.

The identity of the mound (feature 10) could not be ascertained during the desk-based assessment, however the area is currently being utilised as a badger set and should be avoided.

It is expected that the proposed development will have a medium adverse indirect impact upon the grade II\* Listed Building of the Wrenbury Church Bridge (feature 15) and as such it is recommended that the hedgerow (feature 12) and trackway (feature 13) be retained to minimise the impact upon the setting of the monument. In the case of the former, it is recommended that the boat entrance into the marina be limited to the smallest size practical and as much of the hedgerow be retained as is possible.

The proposed development is expected to have a low adverse direct and indirect impact upon the Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union canal, however the impacts are deemed to be of such a low level that no further assessment or mitigation is recommended.

The expected indirect physical impact of the proposed development upon the Scheduled Ancient Monument and grade II Listed Building of the Wrenbury Wooden Lifting Bridge (feature 18) is currently unknown. There exists the possibility that indirect physical damage may be caused through the increased volumes of traffic utilising the monument to cross the River Weaver to access the proposed marina. This potential impact will be limited to the operational phase, as heavy plant will be directed eastwards out of the village during the construction phase and will not utilise the bridge. Moreover, it is the intention of the client to erect brown tourist signs to direct the majority of vehicular traffic to the site from the east during the operational phase, thus reducing the potential increase in traffic utilising the bridge for access to the site. The advice of English Heritage has been sought regarding the monument, and it is therefore recommended that the client contacts British Waterways and the Highways Agency to ascertain the suitability of the bridge.

The proposed marina development is expected to have a low adverse direct and a low adverse indirect impact upon the Wrenbury Conservation Area (feature 19). The direct physical impact of the marina car park upon the designated area amounts to a physical loss of part of the Conservation Area, however due to the actual land take being relatively low, no further assessment or mitigation measures are recommended. The adverse indirect impact of the marina upon the designated area is also limited to a relatively small area that shall lose its agricultural historic landuse. The indirect visual impact out of the Conservation Area towards the development site is limited to breaks in the hedgeline, gaps between houses, and within the churchyard of St. Margaret's, and is thus deemed to be of low impact. Furthermore, although the views towards the Conservation Area will be lost when viewing south from the development area, the land is currently enclosed fields and, aside from the trackway (feature 13), mostly inaccessible. However, to help mitigate the indirect visual and non-visual impacts of the development upon the Conservation Area it is recommended that the hedgerow (feature 1) be retained in its entirety, the access to the site is granted through the existing farmer's gate

in the hedgerow (feature 1), and the visual impact of the marina lake is softened through the planting and cultivation of a new hedge-line around the southern boundary of the lake.

The archaeological desk-based assessment has identified standing archaeological remains, and provided recommendations for further assessment or mitigatory measures where appropriate. The report has not however, fully ascertained the probability of unknown buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area. Despite the lack of identifiable important archaeological remains within the proposed development area, the proximity of the Romano-British remains encountered during the construction of the residential area in 1995 (report R2071) in addition to the proximity of the Roman road (to the north increases the likelihood of buried remains being present. Moreover, chance discoveries such as the perforated Bronze Age axe-hammer (HER 351) and the possible burial mound (HER 352) suggests the presence of prehistoric activity in the localised landscape. The tithe map apportionment of 1843 names two of the fields within the proposed development area as 'gravel piece' and 'gravel field' and it may be the case that the area has been exploited for local gravel extraction and thus partially disturbed. Furthermore, the presence of gravel substrata may have made the site unsuitable for occupation. However, to help ascertain the potential risk of the proposed development to the archaeological resource it is recommended that an archaeologically supervised metal detector survey is undertaken across the site, with discovered artefacts being mapped to provide a better assessment of the potential for buried archaeological remains and their distribution.

Table 2: Archaeological features					
Number	Name	Category	Impact	Further Assessment	Mitigation Recommendations
1	Hedgerow	Local	None	None	Retain in-situ
2	Hedgerow	Local	High adverse direct	None	None- recorded during assessment
3	Hedgerow	Local	Medium adverse direct	None	None- recorded during assessment
4	Hedgerow	Local	High adverse direct	None	None- recorded during assessment
5	Possible Quarry Site	Local	None	None	None
6	Hedgerow	Local	Medium adverse direct	None	None- recorded during assessment
7	Bank	Local	High adverse direct	None	None- recorded during assessment
8	Drainage ditch	Local	High adverse direct	None	None- recorded during assessment
9	Hedgerow	Local	Medium adverse direct	None	None- recorded during assessment
10	Mound	Unknown	None	None	Avoidance
11	Hedgerow	Local	Medium adverse direct	None	None- recorded during assessment
12	Hedgerow	Local	High adverse direct	None	None- recorded during assessment, retain as much as possible.
13	Trackway	Local	None	None	Avoidance, retain in-situ
14	Possible Quarry Site	Local	None	None	None
15	Wrenbury Church Bridge Listed Building	Regional/ County	Medium adverse indirect	None	Avoidance, retain trackway (feature 13), limit size of marina boat entrance, retain as much of

						hedgerow (feature 12) as possible
16	Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union canal	Regional/ County		Low adverse direct, low adverse indirect	None	None
17	Hedgerow	Local		Low adverse direct	None	None- recorded during assessment
18	Wrenbury Wooden Lifting Bridge Listed Building	National		Unknown	Client to contact British Waterways and Highways Department	Dependent upon further assessment
19	The Wrenbury Conservation Area	Regional/ County		Low adverse direct, low adverse indirect	None	Retain hedgerow (feature 1), retain access through existing farmer's gate, plant a new hedgerow around the southern boundary of the marina lake.

## 7.0 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of field notes, historic maps and photographs taken on the field visit. It is currently held by Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0002**.

## 8.0 SOURCES

### *OS Maps*

1<sup>st</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1875  
2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1910

OS 1:10 000 Series sheet SJ 54 SE and SJ 64 SW

### *Aerial Photographs*

Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)

### *RAF Aerial Photographs*

1947 RAF 25m

### *OS Aerial Photographs*

Ordnance Survey 1970-71

Ordnance Survey 1985

Ordnance Survey 1992-93

Google Maps: 2012

### *Manuscript Sources*

Cheshire Archives and Local Studies, Chester

Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), Chester

Tithe Map and Apportionment of the Parish of Acton 1843

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Cheshire Record Office. D436/1. A Survey of Dodcutt cum Wilkesley, Smeaton Wood and Wrenbury.

Cheshire Record Office. D6859/1. A Survey Book of the Lordship of Dodcutt cum Wilksley.

Cheshire Record Office. LD2 P/WREN. Parish Church of St. Margaret, Wrenbury.

Cheshire Record Office. SF/920COT/1. Cotton Family of Combermere.

Earthworks Archaeology report no. R068. Churchyard Side Cottage, Wrenbury.

Earthworks Archaeology report no. R2071. Church Farm Excavation.

Mark Leah email correspondence to David Taylor dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

Waggott.T.P. 1964. Ordnance Survey record card.

**APPENDIX 1- Sites within 1km of the proposed development area as listed on the Cheshire HER**



## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
1189/1/0	Roman Road - Middlewich to Whitchurch (Margary no. 700)	Monument

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	MIDDLEWICH, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE EAST
Civil Parish	NANTWICH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic Township/Parish/County	NETHER PEOVER, GREAT BUDWORTH, CHESHIRE
Historic Township/Parish/County	WOOLSTANWOOD, NANTWICH, CHESHIRE
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 6679 6076	Linear	Line joining two or more 8 figure references. Applies to road routes, waterways or boundaries (Monuments).
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### Short Summary

Section of Roman Road

### Summary

The Roman road between Nantwich-Middlewich-Peover (Margary no. 700) has been traced by aerial photography from Wrenbury to Swanley Hall, Rookery Hall, to pass 1.5 miles to the W of Nantwich. It can be detected on the ground as a slight ridge across the fields from Leighton Hall to Bradfield Green, and as a line of hedgerows near Park Hall and at Occlestone Green.

### Monument Type and Date

ROAD (Road-major, AD 1ST CENTURY to AD 5TH CENTURY - 43 AD to 409 AD)

Evidence SUB SURFACE DEPOSIT

ROAD TRANSPORT SITE (Road route, AD 1ST CENTURY to AD 5TH CENTURY - 43 AD to 409 AD)

Status and other references	Date Assigned	Date Revoked
Historic Environment Record - 1189/1/0	16/01/1987	
SHINE Candidate (No)		

### Description

Roman road from Nantwich-Middlewich-Peover. Margary road no.700. Course has been traced by aerial photography from Wrenbury to Swanley Hall, Rookery Hall, to pass 1.5 miles to the W of Nantwich. Margary first traced the road at Wood Farm, Worleston to the W of Crewe, then it occurs as a slight ridge across the fields from Leighton Hall to Bradfield Green. It is marked by hedgerows near Park Hall & at Occlestone Green. Sutton Lane continues the line up to Middlewich, where it would cross the northern road 70a (King Street 436/1). Beyond this from Byley to Bradshaw House in Lower Peover, the direction of the road follows the same alignment as that before Middlewich, for a further 3 miles (1).

### Sources

(1) Margary, I. D.. 1973. Roman Roads in Britain. /304-305

### Associated Finds

Find Type	Period	Material
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## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
1189/1/11	Roman Road - Whitchurch - Nantwich - Middlewich (Margery route 70	Monument

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, ACTON, CHESHIRE
Township/Parish/County	
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 5963 4882	Central Point	Central Point of a large site. In the absence of a polygon consult the record (Monuments & Designations).
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### Short Summary

Excavation of Roman Road

### Summary

Part of the Roman road from Whitchurch to Nantwich (Margery route 700), a possible agger. There is a rise at the edge of the field 3ft above the general level of the ground nearby and a considerable amount of cobbles with some broken red sandstone in a slight ditch. This is associated with a slight ridge running diagonally across the corner of the field. Probing revealed a band of stone below the surface at depth of between 4 and 12 inches, across a width of 45ft. An excavation across the agger involved cutting a trench 2ft 9 inches wide. An excavation across the course of the Roman road from Whitchurch to Nantwich. A trench was cut across a ridge visible in a field by a team that included pupils from Richard Fairclough Secondary School, Warrington. A compacted layer of gravel overlay an older ground surface with topsoil above was found. The ridge was interpreted as an agger (Roman road embankment) with most of its upper layers ploughed out.

### Monument Type and Date

ROAD (Road-major, AD 1ST CENTURY to AD 5TH CENTURY - 43 AD to 409 AD)

Evidence	EARTHWORK
Evidence	SUB SURFACE DEPOSIT

Status and other references	Date Assigned	Date Revoked
Historic Environment Record - 1189/1/11	16/09/1998	
SHINE (Yes)	22/03/2012	
SHINE Candidate (Yes)		
SMR/HER Reference (Old) - 1189/1/10	16/09/1998	15/02/2008

### Description

Part of the Roman road from Whitchurch to Nantwich (Margery route 700), a possible agger. There is a rise at the edge of the field 3ft above the general level of the ground nearby and a considerable amount of cobbles with some broken red sandstone in a slight ditch. Between SJ59654884 and SJ 59634879 is a slight ridge running diagonally across the corner of the field. Probing revealed a band of stone below the surface at depth of between 4 and 12 inches, across a width of 45ft. An excavation across the agger involved cutting a trench 2ft 9 inches wide. The team comprised amateurs from the Warrington area, including pupils from Richard Fairclough Secondary Modern School. The natural consisted of red clay which was topped by a weathered layer of yellow sand, between 1 and 9 inches thick. Above this was a thin dark layer which was interpreted as a buried turf line. Above this was a compacted layer of gravel containing broken sandstone and sand. This layer was 58ft wide and from 2 to 7 inches thick. This stony layer was covered by 9 inches of topsoil. The section was interpreted as an agger from which the upper layers including the road surface in the central area, had been removed by the plough (1).

### Sources

(1) Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian Society. Transactions of the Lancashire & Cheshire Antiquarian



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Cheshire Shared Services

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## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

Society. 77/23-26 Jermy K 1967

- (2) Harris, B.E. (ed). 1987. A History of the County of Chester: Volume I: Physique, Prehistory, Roman, Anglo Saxon, and Domesday: 1 (Victoria County History). 1/221 Petch D F 1987
- (3) Margary, I. D.. 1973. Roman Roads in Britain. Route 700 p.303

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### Associated Finds

Find Type	Period	Material
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## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
2469	Church Farm, Wrenbury	Monument

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, ACTON, CHESHIRE
Township/Parish/County	
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 5934 4779	8 Figure Ref	Known to within 10m of actual position (Monuments & Designations).
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### Short Summary

Possible Roman Site

### Summary

A watching brief during building works on land adjacent to the west side of St Margaret's Parish Church, Wrenbury. The remains of a timber structure and pebble surface were observed associated with several sherds of late Roman pottery. This suggests the presence of a Roman site in the centre of the village.

### Monument Type and Date

POST HOLE? (AD 1ST CENTURY to AD 5TH CENTURY - 43 AD? to 409 AD)

STONE AREA (AD 1ST CENTURY to AD 5TH CENTURY - 43 AD? to 409 AD)

Evidence FIND

Evidence SUB SURFACE DEPOSIT

STRUCTURE (AD 1ST CENTURY to AD 5TH CENTURY - 43 AD? to 409 AD)

### Status and other references

Historic Environment Record - 2469

SHINE Candidate (Possible)

Date Assigned

21/08/1996

Date Revoked

### Description

A watching brief was carried out during the construction of residential properties on land formerly occupied by Church Farm and adjacent to the west side of St Margaret's Parish Church, Wrenbury. The remains of a timber structure and pebble surface were observed associated with several sherds of late Roman pottery. They were on the east side of the redevelopment site, close to the ancient boundary of St Margaret's churchyard. Suggests the presence of a Roman site in the centre of the village (1)

### Sources

- (1) Earthworks Archaeological Services. 1995. Church Farm Wrenbury, Cheshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief.. R2071. R2071

### Associated Finds

Find Type	Period	Material
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## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
351	Bronze Age axe hammer	Find Spot

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic Township/Parish/County	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, ACTON, CHESHIRE
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 5998 4774	8 Figure Ref	Known to within 10m of actual position (Monuments & Designations).
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### Short Summary

Bronze Age axe hammer

### Summary

Perforated stone axe hammer found when ploughing in 1933.

### Monument Type and Date

FINDSPOT (Bronze Age - 2350 BC to 801 BC)

#Error

### Status and other references

Historic Environment Record - 351  
SHINE Candidate (Unlikely)  
SMR/HER Reference (Old) - 7/AR-006

### Date Assigned

13/10/1987

### Date Revoked

### Description

Perforated stone axe hammer found after ploughing in 1933 (1). Now at Wrenbury School(2).

### Sources

- (1) Ordnance Survey. various. OS Record Card. White J 1964 SJ54NE3
- (2) Manchester Museum Record Card. /411 Longley D 1978
- (3) Longley D. various. Longley Archive. /no.411

### Associated Finds

Find Type	Period	Material
FCH2003	AXE (Bronze Age to Iron Age - 2350 BC to 701 BC)	STONE



## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
352	Possible burial mound	Monument

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic Township/Parish/County	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, ACTON, CHESHIRE
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 5981 4731	8 Figure Ref	Known to within 10m of actual position (Monuments & Designations).
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### Short Summary

Possible burial mound

### Summary

A mound that has been variously suggested to be tumulus and a natural feature.

### Monument Type and Date

ENCLOSURE (Undated)

MOUND (Undated)

Evidence

EARTHWORK

### Status and other references

Historic Environment Record - 352  
SHINE Candidate (Possible)  
SMR/HER Reference (Old) - 7/AR-007

### Date Assigned

13/10/1987

### Date Revoked

### Description

Rev Norwood suggested mound to be tumulus. Waggott reports it is composed of sand with uneven sides and not an antiquity (1). Brown reports mound 35m by 3m with uneven top, associated with interesting enclosure (2).

### Sources

- (1) Ordnance Survey. various. OS Record Card. Waggott T P 23/10/64 SJ54NE4
- (2) Manchester Museum Record Card. /93 Brown R 1977
- (3) Longley D. various. Longley Archive. /no.93

### Associated Finds

Find Type	Period	Material
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## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
353/0/0	Wrenbury Village	Monument

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic Township/Parish/County	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, ACTON, CHESHIRE
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 5946 4775	Central Point	Central Point of a large site. In the absence of a polygon consult the record (Monuments & Designations).
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### Short Summary

Domesday settlement

### Summary

Wrenbury is mentioned in the Domesday Survey when it was held by Carle, a free man. The final element of the placename suggests a fortified place for which no evidence survives, as at Prestbury and Wybunbury. The present village centres on a triangular village green.

### Monument Type and Date

VILLAGE (AD 9TH CENTURY to AD 11TH CENTURY - 800 AD to 1099 AD)

VILLAGE GREEN (Green, AD 9TH CENTURY to AD 11TH CENTURY - 800 AD to 1099 AD)

Evidence	DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE
Evidence	SUB SURFACE DEPOSIT

Status and other references	Date Assigned	Date Revoked
Conservation Area		
Historic Environment Record - 353/0/0	13/10/1987	
SHINE Candidate (Possible)		

### Description

Wrenbury is mentioned in Domesday when it was held by Carle, a free man. There was land for two ploughs (1). The final element of the placename suggests a fortified place for which no evidence survives, as at Prestbury and Wybunbury (2). The present village centres on a triangular village green.

### Sources

- (1) Harris, B.E. (ed). 1987. A History of the County of Chester: Volume I: Physique, Prehistory, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Domesday: 1 (Victoria County History). 1/354 Sawyer P & Thacker A 1987
- (2) Dodgson J McN. 1970-2, 1981. The Place-Names of Cheshire. 3/119 (Y)
- (2) Dodgson J McN. 1970-2, 1981. The Place-Names of Cheshire. vol .III p.119

### Associated Finds

Find Type	Period	Material



## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
353/0/1	Elm House, Wrenbury Green	Building

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic Township/Parish/County	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, ACTON, CHESHIRE
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 5934 4773	8 Figure Ref	Known to within 10m of actual position (Monuments & Designations).
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### Short Summary

17th century timber framed house

### Summary

Grade II listed house. Built in the 17th century. Timber framed with rendered brick infill and a slate roof.

Wood was in plentiful supply as a building material in Britain until the 17th century. It was therefore the most practical material for house building. Timber framed buildings consist of a wooden framework (usually oak) that was infilled to create solid walls. Infill material used included wattle and daub, lath and plaster, brick and weather board. Brick nogging, (brick infill) was often used in the 17th and 18th centuries to replace earlier wattle and daub or lath and plaster infill as it was longer lasting..

### Monument Type and Date

HOUSE (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)
Evidence EXTANT BUILDING
TIMBER FRAMED BUILDING (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)
VILLAGE (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)

Status and other references	Date Assigned	Date Revoked
Conservation Area		
Historic Environment Record - 353/0/1	13/10/1987	
Listed Building (old) (II) - 2/91		
SHINE Candidate (Unlikely)		

### Description

House. C17. Timber framed with rendered brick infill and slate roof. Two storeys. Road front of 13 x 3 cells of uneven small framing with angle braces. Windows are modern casements. Massive ridge chimney stack to left of centre (1).

### Sources

- (1) Department for the Environment. 1971-2005. List of Buildings of Special Architectural & Historic Interest. N/A.

### Associated Finds

Find Type	Period	Material
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## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
353/1/1	Church of St Margaret	Building

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, ACTON, CHESHIRE
Township/Parish/County	
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 5937 4776	8 Figure Ref	Known to within 10m of actual position (Monuments & Designations).
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### Short Summary

Medieval Church

### Summary

Grade II\* listed church. Built to an early 16th century plan and remodelled from a 12th century chapel. The money was given for building by Richard Cholmondeley in 1488.

### Monument Type and Date

AISLE (2 of, Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)
CHANCEL (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)
CHURCH (Church building, Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)
Evidence EXTANT BUILDING
NAVE (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)
TOWER (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)
VILLAGE (Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD)

### Status and other references

Status and other references	Date Assigned	Date Revoked
Conservation Area		
Historic Environment Record - 353/1/1	13/10/1987	
Listed Building (II*) - 422447	12/01/1967	
Listed Building (old) (II) - 2/89		
SHINE Candidate (Unlikely)		
SMR/HER Reference (Old) - 7/AR-008		

### Description

St Margaret's Church, built to early C16 plan remodelled from C12 chapel (1). Perpendicular church, chancel rebuilt in 1806, south porch of 1795, and re- Gothicising in 1865. Short west tower, five bay nave with clerestorey. Arcades differ in detail, north side earlier. Money given for building by Richard Cholmondeley in 1488 (3). Full architectural description (3) & (4).

### Sources

- (1) Ordnance Survey. various. OS Record Card. Waggott T 1964 Sj54NE5
- (2) Richards R. 1947. Old Cheshire Churches. /369-72
- (3) Pevsner N & Hubbard E. 1971. The Buildings of England: Cheshire. /392





## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

(4) Department for the Environment. 1971-2005. List of Buildings of Special Architectural & Historic Interest.

### Associated Finds

Find Type	Period	Material
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## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
353/1/2	Cottage in St Margaret's Churchyard	Building

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, ACTON, CHESHIRE
Township/Parish/County	
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 5940 4776	8 Figure Ref	Known to within 10m of actual position (Monuments & Designations).
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### Short Summary

Cottage in St Margaret's Churchyard

### Summary

Grade II listed house. Built in the 17th century. Timber framed with brick infill. The earliest structure known to have occupied the site is an early 17th century school house which was later used as a Sunday school. There was also an adjacent school masters cottage. It seems that the surviving structure originated as the schoolmasters house. 2 small test pits were dug and revealed medieval, post medieval and modern finds and a fragment of possibly Roman tile.

### Monument Type and Date

BUILDING (Undated)

Evidence	EXTANT BUILDING
ALMSHOUSE (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)	
CHURCH (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)	
VILLAGE (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)	

### Status and other references

Conservation Area

Historic Environment Record - 353/1/2

Listed Building (II) - 422368

Listed Building (old) (II) - 2/82

SHINE Candidate (Unlikely)

Date Assigned

13/10/1987

19/05/1986

Date Revoked

### Description

Almshouse or house. C17. Timber framed with brick infill, asbestos tile roof. Single storey. Front of 9 x 2 cells of small framing. Door and two small windows. Gable stack (1). Assessment carried out in 1994 prior to the proposed development of Churchyardside cottage. Earliest structure known to have occupied the site is an early 17th century school house which was later used as a Sunday school. Also an adjacent school masters cottage. Seems certain that there was no hospital or almshouses in Wrenbury, and seems that the surviving structure originated as the schoolmasters house. 2 small test pits were dug and revealed medieval, post medieval and modern finds and a fragment of possibly Roman tile (2).

### Sources

- (1) Department for the Environment. 1971-2005. List of Buildings of Special Architectural & Historic Interest. N/A.
- (2) Earthworks Archaeological Services. 1994. Churchyardside Cottage, Wrenbury, Cheshire.. R2068.

### Associated Finds



zMon8figNoEvent

Cheshire Shared Services

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## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

Find Type

Period

Material

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## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
354/1	Wrenbury Wooden Lifting Bridge	Monument

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic Township/Parish/County	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, ACTON, CHESHIRE
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 5898 4807	8 Figure Ref	Known to within 10m of actual position (Monuments & Designations).
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### Short Summary

Road Bridge

### Summary

This grade II listed Wooden Lifting Bridge is also a Scheduled Monument. Built around 1790 by Thomas Telford, it carries the road over the Shropshire Union Canal (Llangollen Branch). The bridge is lifted by pressure on a chain operating a counterweight. Two others are also scheduled on this canal.

### Monument Type and Date

BRIDGE (AD 20TH CENTURY to AD 21st CENTURY - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)

Evidence STRUCTURE

CANAL TRANSPORT SITE (Canal route, AD 20TH CENTURY to AD 21st CENTURY - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)

COMMUNICATIONS (AD 20TH CENTURY to AD 21st CENTURY - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)

Status and other references	Date Assigned	Date Revoked
Conservation Area		
Historic Environment Record - 354/1	13/10/1987	
Listed Building (old) (II) - 2/87		
Scheduled Monument - 1004639	29/10/1975	
SHINE Candidate (Probable)		
SMR/HER Reference (Old) - 7/AR-201		

### Description

Wooden Lifting Bridge of c.1790 by Thomas Telford carries road over the Shropshire Union Canal (Llangollen Branch). Bridge lifted by pressure on a chain operating a counterweight. Two others scheduled on this canal (1). Fuller structural description. Two other examples in parish both listed (NGRs SJ 545 4810 & SJ 5845 4760) (2).

### Sources

- (1) Field Monument Warden Report. Snowdon C 1981 SAM 98
- (2) Department for the Environment. 1971-2005. List of Buildings of Special Architectural & Historic Interest. N/A.
- (3) Ordnance Survey. various. OS Record Card. 1981 SJ54NE8

### Associated Finds

Find Type	Period	Material
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## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
354/2	Wrenbury Wharf	Monument

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic Township/Parish/County	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, ACTON, CHESHIRE
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 5899 4807	8 Figure Ref	Known to within 10m of actual position (Monuments & Designations).
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### Short Summary

19th century wharf

### Summary

Immediately NE of the Wrenbury Lifting Bridge is Wrenbury Wharf, with a corn warehouse and a cornmill site. Shown on Bryant's Map of Cheshire, 1831.

### Monument Type and Date

CANAL TRANSPORT SITE (Canal Route, AD 20TH CENTURY to AD 21st CENTURY - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)  
COMMUNICATIONS (AD 20TH CENTURY to AD 21st CENTURY - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)  
WAREHOUSE (AD 20TH CENTURY to AD 21st CENTURY - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)  
WATERMILL (AD 20TH CENTURY to AD 21st CENTURY - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)  
WHARF (AD 20TH CENTURY to AD 21st CENTURY - 1901 AD to 2050 AD)  
Evidence STRUCTURE

### Status and other references

Historic Environment Record - 354/2  
SHINE Candidate (Possible)  
SMR/HER Reference (Old) - 7/IA-017

### Date Assigned

05/02/1996

### Date Revoked

### Description

Immediately NE of Wrenbury Lifting Bridge is Wrenbury Wharf, with a corn warehouse and a cornmill site (1). Shown on Bryant (2).

### Sources

- (1) County Treasures Record. 7/IA.017 0 1984 (Y)
- (2) Bryant, A.. 1831. Map of the County Palatine of Chester.

### Associated Finds

Find Type	Period	Material
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## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
373	Spindle Whorl	Find Spot

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic Township/Parish/County	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, ACTON, CHESHIRE
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 5950 4820	6 Figure Ref	SW corner of an area 100m square in which actual position was located (Monuments).
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### Short Summary

Spindle Whorl

### Summary

Biconical lead spindle whorl with geometrical design in excellent condition. An example of a type widespread in Cheshire and elsewhere, and post medieval in date.

### Monument Type and Date

FINDSPOT (AD 20TH CENTURY to AD 16TH CENTURY - 1900 AD to 1540 AD)

Evidence	FIND
----------	------

### Status and other references

Historic Environment Record - 373  
SHINE Candidate (Unlikely)  
SMR/HER Reference (Old) - 7/AR-265

### Date Assigned

13/10/1987

### Date Revoked

### Description

Biconical lead spindle whorl with geometrical design in excellent condition. Given as Romano-British (1). An example of a type widespread in Cheshire and elsewhere, and post medieval in date (2).

### Sources

- (1) County Historic Environment Record. 1973-1985. Cheshire Archaeological Bulletin. 1-10. 7/66 Robinson D J 1981
- (2) Various. Various. Oral communication to the HER. Turner R C

### Associated Finds

Find Type	Period	Material
FCH537	UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)	METAL
FCH2004	SPINDLE WHORL (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)	LEAD



## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

HER Number	Site Name	Record Type
7140	17th century coin from Wrenbury	Find Spot

### Administrative Area

Civil Parish	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, CREWE AND NANTWICH, CHESHIRE EAST
Historic Township/Parish/County	WRENBURY CUM FRITH, ACTON, CHESHIRE
Ceremonial County	CHESHIRE

### National Grid Reference

SJ 5930 4760

### Short Summary

Charles II half crown

### Summary

Halfcrown of Charles II of 1677

### Monument Type and Date

FINDSPOT (AD 17TH CENTURY to AD 1ST CENTURY - 1677 AD to 0 AD)  
Evidence UNSTRATIFIED FIND

### Status and other references

Historic Environment Record - 7140  
Portable Antiquities Scheme Find ID - LVPL-569A84  
SHINE Candidate (No)

### Date Assigned

09/11/2012

### Date Revoked

### Description

Portable Antiquities Scheme find provenance information:  
Date found: 01 January 2007 (About)  
Methods of discovery: Metal detector

Halfcrown of Charles II of 1677

Date: from 1677 AD (Certain) to 0 AD (Certain)

Period: POST MEDIEVAL

Broad Period:

Method of manufacture: Cast

Thickness: 2 mm

Diameter: 32 mm

Weight: 14.2 grams

Completeness: Complete

General landuse: Cultivated land

Ruler: Charles II (Certain)

Denomination: half crown (Certain)

Obverse description: Bust of King facing right, robed wearing a laureate crown.

Obverse inscription: CAROLVS II DEI GRATIA

Reverse description: Four shields laid out in the shape of a cross, each having a different design inside. 1. a harp 2. 3 lions 3. 3 fleur de lis 4. possible plume Each shield has a crown on the top (the exterior edge). In between each shield are 2 interlinking Cs.

Reverse inscription: 1677 MAG BR FRA ET HIB REX

Die axis measurement: 0

Die axis certainty: 0



## Cheshire Historic Environment Record Monument Record

09/11/2012

### Sources

(1) Portable Antiquities Scheme. 2009. Portable Antiquities Data Import.

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### Associated Finds

Find Type	Period	Material
FCH5993	COIN (1) (AD 17TH CENTURY to AD 1ST CENTURY - 1677 AD to 0 AD)	BRONZE

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## APPENDIX 2: DEFINITIONS OF IMPORTANCE AND RECOMMENDATION

### 1. Definition of Categories of importance

The following categories were used to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

Significance	Description
International (Very High)	Archaeological sites or monuments of international importance, including World Heritage Sites. Structures and buildings inscribed as of universal importance as World Heritage Sites. Other buildings or structures of recognised international importance.
National (High)	Ancient monuments scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, or archaeological sites and remains of comparable quality, assessed with reference to the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria. Listed Buildings. Undesignated structures of national importance.
Regional/ County (Medium)	Conservation Areas Archaeological sites and remains which, while not of national importance, score well against most of the Secretary of State's criteria.
Local (Low)	Archaeological sites that score less well against the Secretary of State's criteria. Historic buildings on a 'local list'.
None	Areas in which investigative techniques have produced no or only minimal evidence for archaeological remains, or where previous large-scale disturbance or removal of deposits can be demonstrated.

### 2. Definition of Impact

The direct impact of the proposed development on each site was estimated. The impact is defined as follows:

Magnitude	Direct Impacts	Indirect Impacts
High Adverse	Complete removal of an archaeological site. Complete destruction of a designated building or structure.	Radical transformation of the setting of an archaeological monument. A fundamental change in the setting of a building.
Medium Adverse	Removal of a major part of an archaeological site and loss of research potential.  Extensive alteration (but not demolition) of a historic building or feature, resulting in an appreciable adverse change.	Partial transformation of the setting of an archaeological site (e.g. the introduction of significant noise or vibration levels to an archaeological monument leading to changes to amenity use, accessibility or appreciation of an archaeological site). Partial adverse transformation of the setting of a designated building.
Low Adverse	Removal of an archaeological site where a minor part of its total area	Minor change to the setting of an archaeological monument or historic

Magnitude	Direct Impacts	Indirect Impacts
	is removed but the site retains a significant future research potential. Change to a historic building or feature resulting in a small change in the resource and its historical context and setting.	building.
Negligible/ Neutral	No impact from changes in use, amenity or access. No change in the ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its historical context and setting.	No perceptible change in the setting of a building or feature.
Low Beneficial	Land use change resulting in improved conditions for the protection of archaeological remains or understanding/ appreciation of a historic building or place	Decrease in visual or noise intrusion on the setting of a building, archaeological site or monument. Improvement of the wider landscape setting of a building, archaeological site or monument.
Medium Beneficial	Land use change resulting in improved conditions for the protection of archaeological remains, or understanding/ appreciation of a historic building or place, including through interpretation measures (heritage trails, etc). Removal of harmful alterations to better reveal the significance of a building or structure, with no loss of significant fabric.	Significant reduction or removal of visual or noise intrusion on the setting of a building, archaeological site or monument; and Improvement of the wider landscape setting of a building, archaeological site or monument Improvement of the cultural heritage amenity, access or use of a building, archaeological site or monument.
High Beneficial	Arrest of physical damage or decay to a building or structure;	Exceptional enhancement of a building or archaeological site, its cultural heritage amenity and access or use

### 3. Definition of field evaluation techniques

Field evaluation is necessary to allow the reclassification of sites of unknown importance, and to allow the evaluation of areas of land where there are no visible features, but for which there is potential for sites to exist. Two principal techniques can be used for carrying out the evaluation: geophysical survey and trial trenching.

#### *Geophysical survey*

This technique involves the use of a magnetometer, which detects variation in the earth's magnetic field caused by the presence of iron in the soil. This is usually in the form of weakly magnetised iron oxides, which tend to be concentrated in the topsoil. Features cut into the subsoil and back-filled or silted with topsoil contain greater amounts of iron and can therefore be detected with the gradiometer. Strong readings can be produced by the presence of iron objects, and also hearths or kilns.

Other forms of geophysical survey are available, of which resistivity survey is the other most commonly used. However, for rapid coverage of large areas, the magnetometer is usually

considered the most cost-effective method. It is also possible to scan a large area very rapidly by walking with the magnetometer, and marking the location of any high or low readings, but not actually logging the readings for processing.

#### *Trial trenching*

Buried archaeological deposits cannot always be detected from the surface, even with geophysics, and trial trenching allows a representative sample of the development area to be investigated. Trenches of an appropriate size can also be excavated to evaluate category E sites. These trenches typically measure between 20m and 30m long by 2m wide. The turf and topsoil is removed by mechanical excavator, and the resulting surface cleaned by hand and examined for features. Anything noted is further examined, so that the nature of any remains can be understood, and mitigation measures can be recommended.

#### *Supervised Metal Detector Survey*

Some types of underlying substrata and bedrock can mask the results of investigation techniques such as geophysical survey. In such instances an archaeologically supervised metal detector survey can be undertaken. This involves the supervision of metal detectorists by a suitably qualified archaeologist and the spatial mapping of artefacts as they are discovered. This technique can give a geographical spread of metal finds and thus be indicative of 'hotspot' areas which may require further investigation.

### 4. Definition of Mitigatory Recommendations

None:

No impact so no requirement for mitigatory measures.

Detailed recording:

Requiring a photographic record, surveying and the production of a measure drawing prior to commencement of works.

Archaeological excavation may also be required depending on the particular feature and the extent and effect of the impact.

Basic recording:

Requiring a photographic record and full description prior to commencement of works.

Watching brief:

Requiring observation of particular identified features or areas during works in their vicinity. This may be supplemented by detailed or basic recording of exposed layers or structures. An archaeological watching brief is divided into four categories according to the IFA, 2001. *Institute for Archaeologists 2001 Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*:

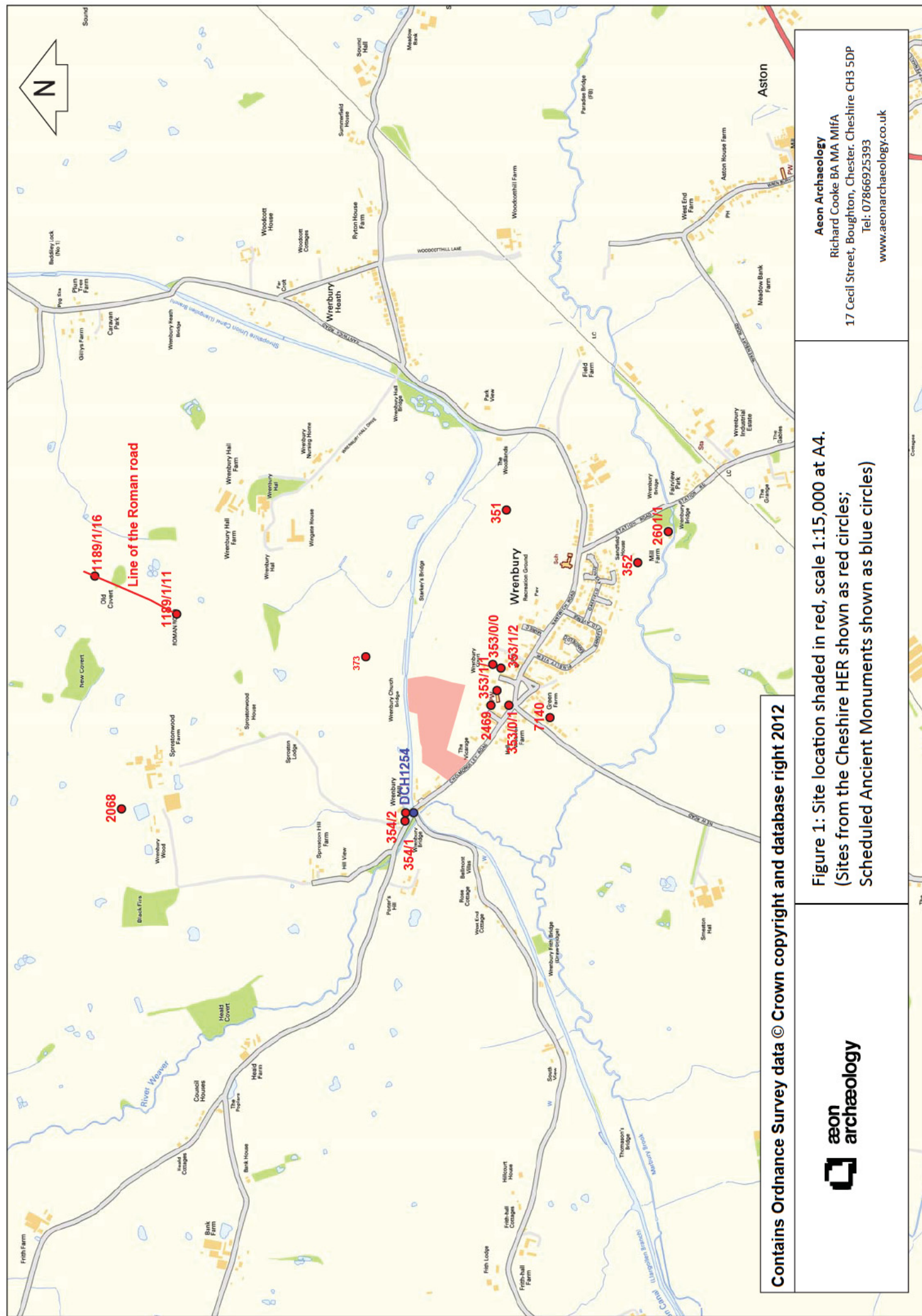
- comprehensive (present during all ground disturbance)
- intensive (present during sensitive ground disturbance)
- intermittent (viewing the trenches after machining)
- partial (as and when seems appropriate).

Avoidance:

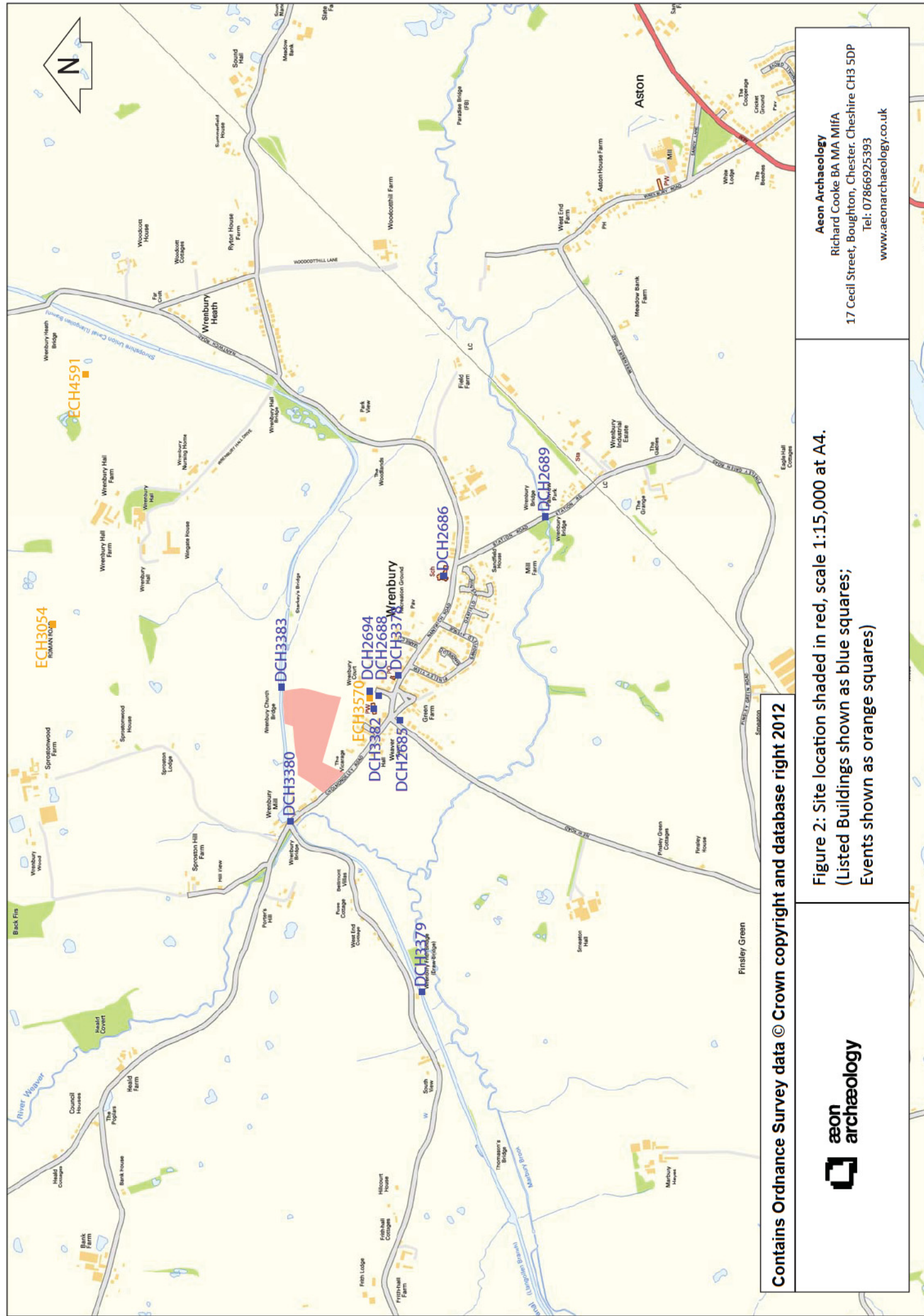
Features, which may be affected directly by the scheme, or during the construction, should be avoided. Occasionally a minor change to the proposed plan is recommended, but more usually it refers to the need for care to be taken during construction to avoid accidental damage to a feature. This is often best achieved by clearly marking features prior to the start of work.

Reinstatement:

The feature should be re-instated with archaeological advice and supervision.





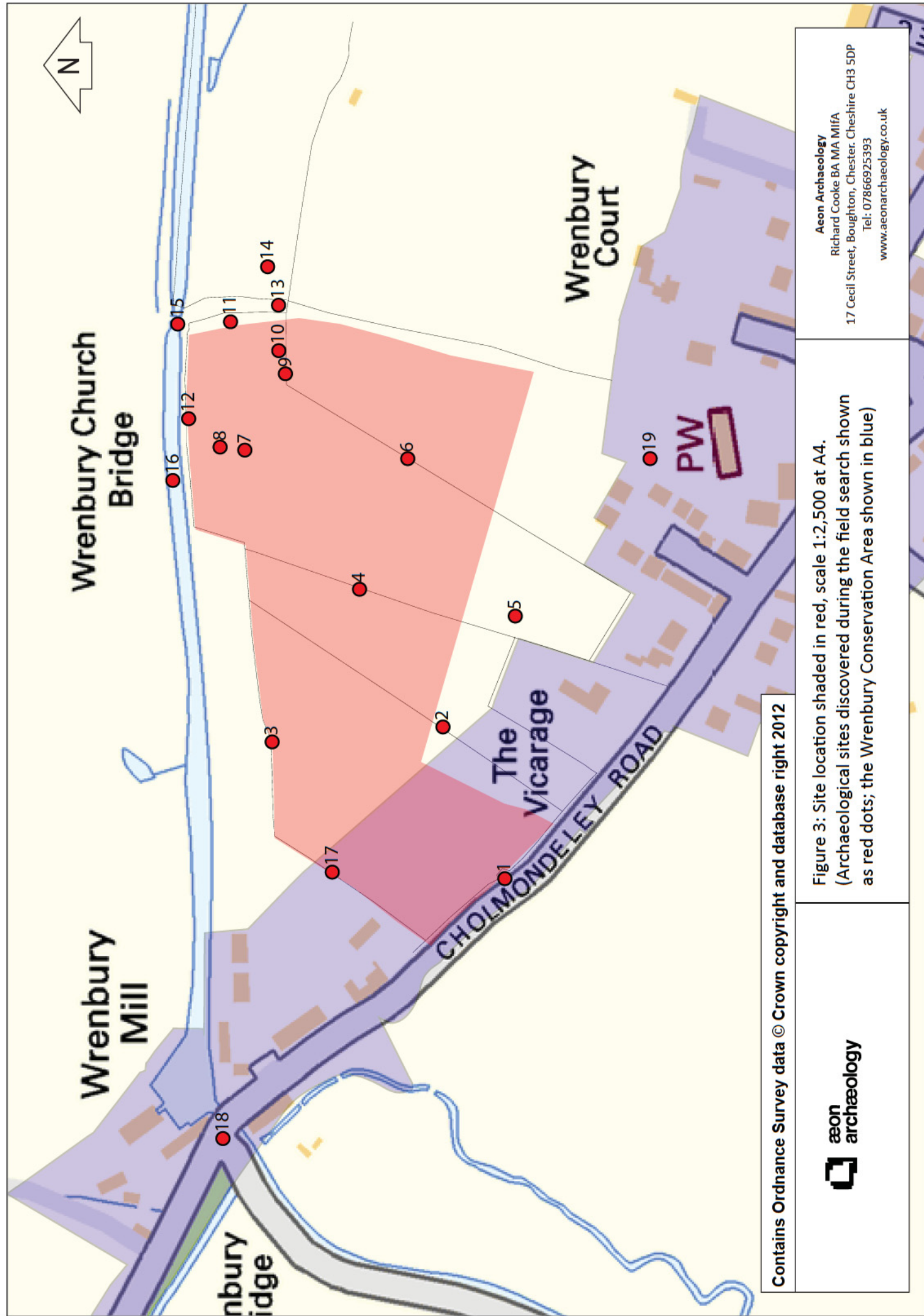


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Figure 2: Site location shaded in red, scale 1:15,000 at A4.  
(Listed Buildings shown as blue squares;  
Events shown as orange squares)

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Figure 3: Site location shaded in red, scale 1:2,500 at A4.  
(Archaeological sites discovered during the field search shown as red dots; the Wrenbury Conservation Area shown in blue)

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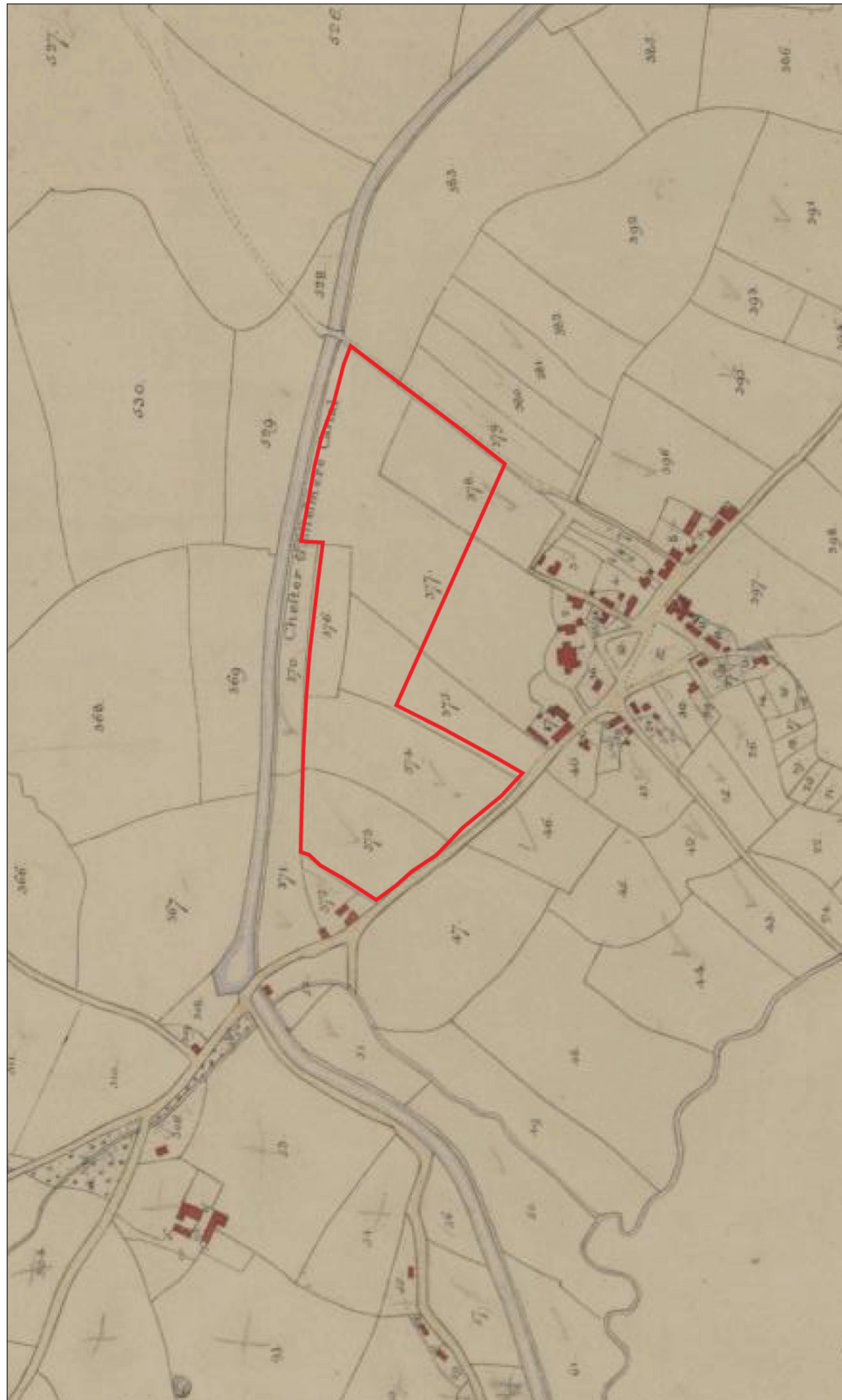


Figure 4: Acton tithe map of 1843. (Proposed development area outlined in red)



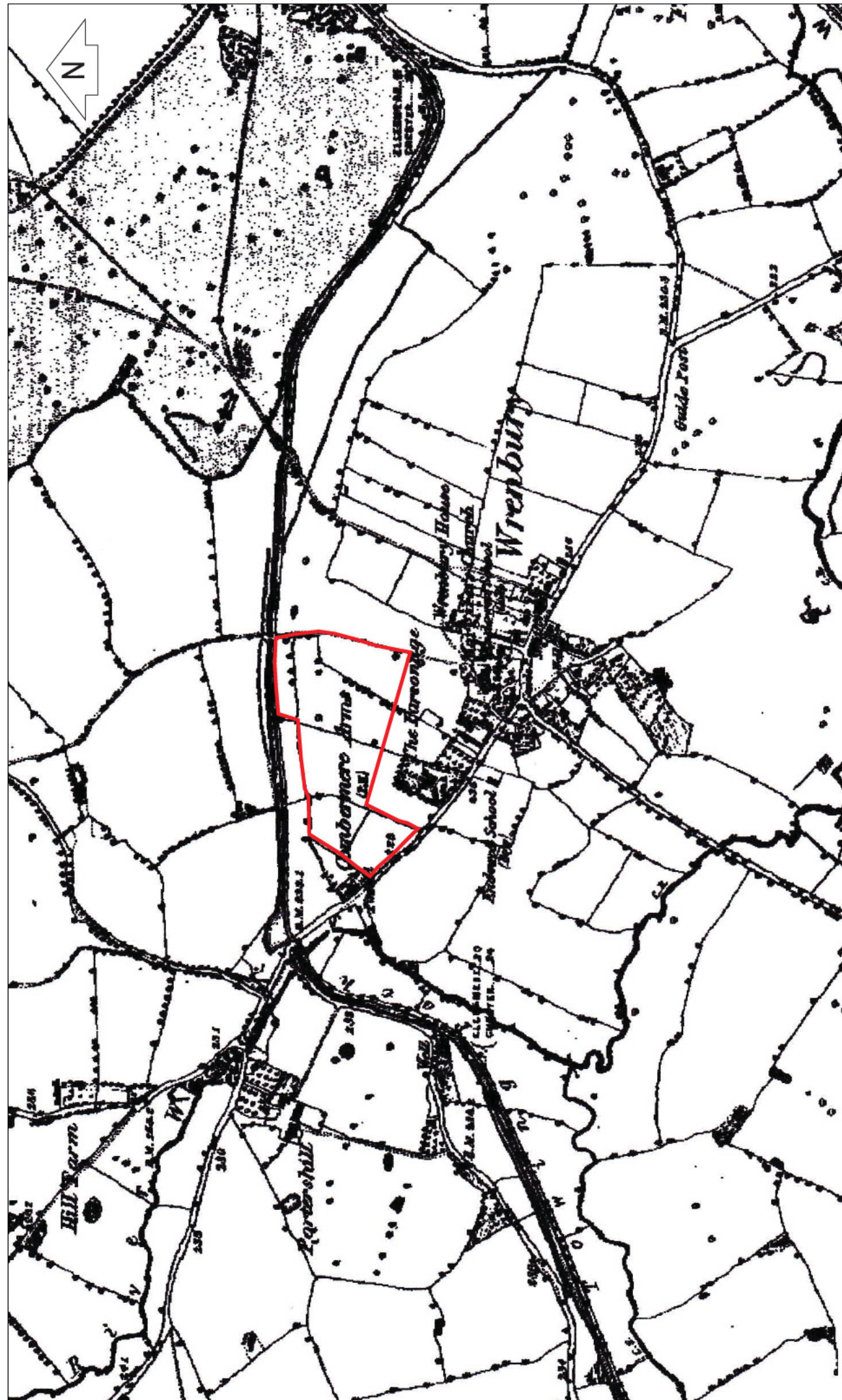


Figure 5: First Edition County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1875. (Proposed development area outlined in red)



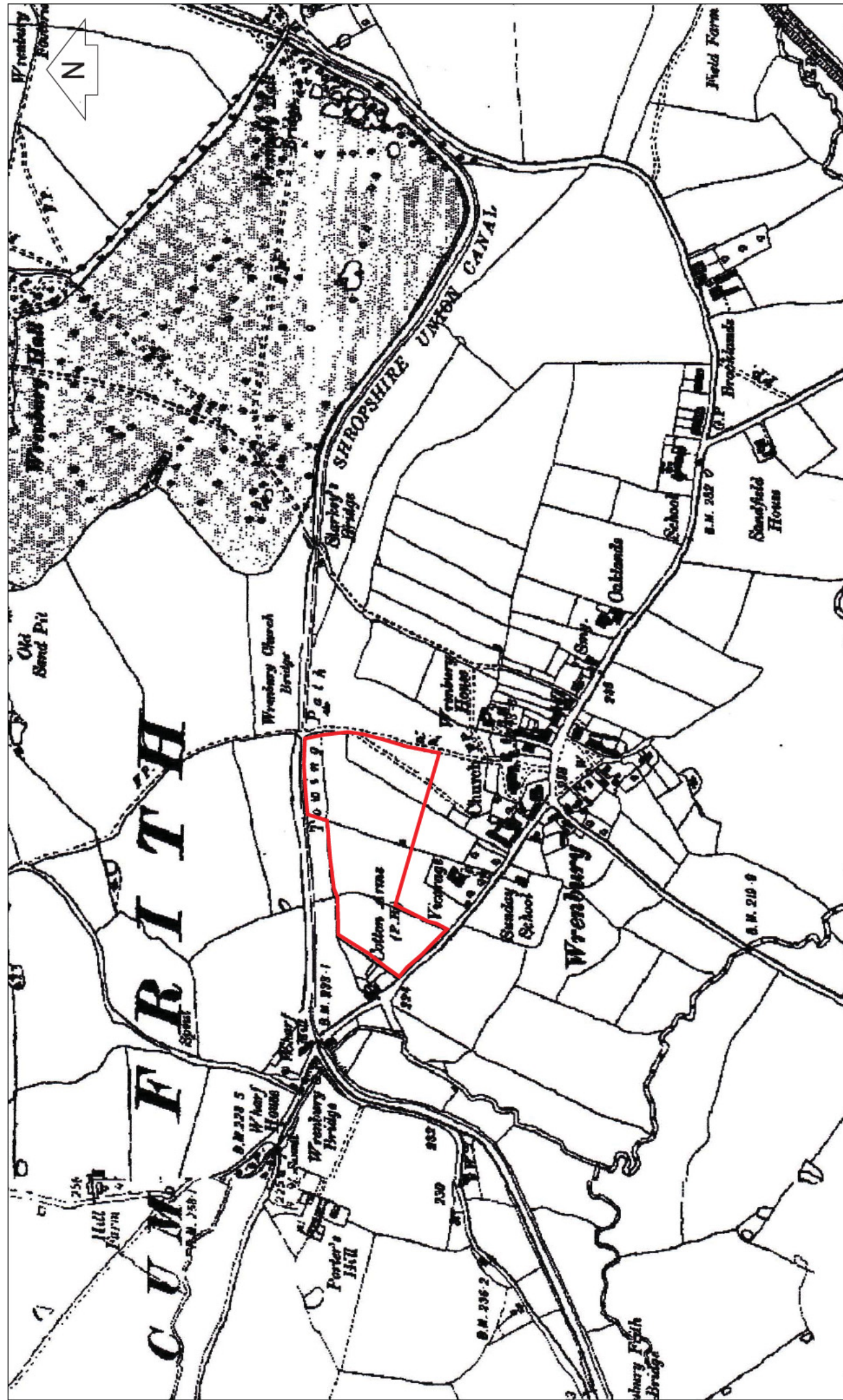


Figure 6: Second Edition County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1910. (Proposed development area outlined in red)





**Plate 01:** Hedgerow (feature 1) from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 02:** Hedgerow (feature 2) from the northwest. Scale 1.0m





**Plate 03:** Hedgerow (feature 3) from the south. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 04:** Hedgerow (feature 4) from the northwest. Scale 1.0m





**Plate 05:** Possible quarry site (feature 5) from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 06:** Hedgerow (feature 6) from the northwest. Scale 1.0m





**Plate 07:** Bank (feature 7) from the west. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 08:** Drainage ditch (feature 8) from the west. Scale 1.0m





**Plate 09:** Hedgerow (feature 9) from the north. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 10:** Mound (feature 10) from the north. Scale 1.0m





**Plate 11:** Hedgerow (feature 11) from the west. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 12:** Hedgerow (feature 12) from the south. Scale 1.0m





**Plate 13:** Trackway (feature 13) from the north. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 14:** Possible quarry site (feature 14) from the north. Scale 1.0m





**Plate 15:** Wrenbury Church Bridge grade II\* Listed Building (feature 15) from the south. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 16:** View from Wrenbury Church Bridge grade II\* Listed Building (feature 15) towards the proposed development area, from the northeast. Approximate proposed development area shaded in red.





**Plate 17:** Llangollen branch of the Shropshire Union canal (feature 16) from the east. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 18:** Hedgerow (feature 17) from the east. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 19:** View from Wrenbury Wooden Lifting Bridge Scheduled Ancient Monument and grade II Listed Building (feature 18) towards the proposed development area, from the northeast.



**Plate 20:** View from the proposed development area towards the Wrenbury Conservation Area (feature 19) from the north.





**Plate 21:** View from the Wrenbury Conservation Area (feature 19) towards the proposed development site, from the south. The hedgerow (feature 1) should be retained and access to the site should be via the existing farm gate.



**Plate 22:** View from the Wrenbury Conservation Area (feature 19) towards the proposed development area (shaded in red), from the southeast.



