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Shurlach Lane Crematorium, Davenham, Cheshire. August 2013

Archaeological Metal Detector Survey
Project Code: A0022
Report no. 0018

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Shurlach Lane Crematorium, Davenham, Cheshire. August 2013

Report no. 0018 v1.0

Archaeological Metal Detector Survey

Aeon Archaeology
17 Cecil Street
Chester
CH3 5DP

Project Code: A0022
Date: 8/08/2013
Client: Stride Treglown Tektus
Written by: Richard Cooke BA MA MIfA
richard.cooke@aeonarchaeology.co.uk

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1.0 Non Technical Summary

1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Stride Treglown Tektus to undertake an archaeologically supervised metal detector survey on a large plot of land off Shurlach Lane, Davenham, Cheshire. The survey recovered a large number of .303 bullets as well as earlier .577, .450 bullets and musket/pistol balls. These can be attributed to a historic target range located in the field to the immediate southwest.

Once the large number of bullets is discounted then the overall quantity of artefacts was relatively low, with the majority dating to the post-medieval and modern periods. However, a small number of medieval artefacts were found including part of a beehive thimble, lead weights, lead spindle whorls, and a degraded piece of medieval ceramic. The low quantity and portability of these artefacts suggests that they were lost or broken by casual agricultural labourers seasonally working the fields, and there is no evidence that the site was ever occupied in history.

Several coins dating from the Victorian, George V, and George VI periods were located as well as several copper alloy buttons, a copper alloy rosary crucifix, iron O rings, horse brass fragments, and lead bag seals. These are indicative of the post-medieval and modern agricultural industry prior to the influx of agricultural mechanisation post World War 2.

The quantity and form of the artefacts recovered is what would be expected from agricultural land in proximity to a firing range, and there is no evidence from the material archive that the site was ever inhabited. Therefore, no further recommendations for assessment or mitigatory measures have been proposed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archaeologically supervised metal detector survey would not have been possible without the voluntary assistance of the Mold Historical Search Society, including Colin Sharratt, Richard Smith, Heath Vickers, Michael Trow, Trevor Brown, Robert Steele, and Jane Brown who are thanked for their dedicated efforts. Thanks is also given to John Cooke for his help in recording artefacts on site, and to Anna Harmon for cleaning and cataloguing the artefacts. Acknowledgement is also given to the landowner Michael Vernon for arranging access on to his land, and to Mark Leah, the Development Control Archaeologist at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service.

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2.0 Introduction, Aims and Project Design

2.0 INTRODUCTION, AIMS AND PROJECT DESIGN

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Stride Treglown Tektus to carry out an archaeologically supervised metal detector survey as a condition of a full planning application (ref: **12/05365/FUL**) as part of the construction of a new crematorium located on the corner of Shurlach Road, Shurlach Lane, Davenham, Cheshire (NGR SJ 67160 71890). The application site comprises a large parcel of agricultural land, approximately 2.8 hectares in area and positioned close to the junction with Shurlach Lane and the A556, although the application site itself is set back from the A556 by 32.0 metres and the proposal would retain a small field adjacent to the A556 (figure 1).

The site is located within the Open Countryside at Davenham, opposite to an open area of land known as the River Dane Valley. The site does not lie within any other locally or nationally designated areas for landscape. There are no buildings on the application site although there are isolated dwellings nearby and the built up area of Gadbrook Park lies less than 500.0 metres to the northeast and the village of Davenham sits to the southwest, just less than 1.0km away.

A mitigation brief was not prepared for this work by the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service, but an archaeological condition had been placed upon the approved planning application which stated that:

'No development shall take place within the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme, unless otherwise first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority' (**Planning application 12/05365/FUL condition no. 24**).

Reference was made during the survey to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2001, rev. 2008).

The supervised metal detector survey consisted of the following:

- A metal detector survey of the entire field using twenty metre-square transect zones.
- The recording of all discovered artefacts using Aeon Archaeology proformas.
- The locating of all discovered artefacts using a Satmap Active 10 GPS with an error margin of 1.0m.
- A written and photographic record of all archaeological artefacts.
- Preparation of a full archive report.
- Deposition of all discovered artefacts with the Cheshire West and Chester Museums Service.

The aim of the works was to evaluate and characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains to provide sufficient data on the historical development of the site, so as to provide the prospective developer and the Local Planning Authority with material information relevant to the development of the site.

The principal archaeological interest at the site derives from the fact that the large field to the east had produced a number of metal-detector finds, dating to the Roman and early medieval periods. These finds were made during casual detecting and were then reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. It was entirely possible that this spread of material is indicative of activity alongside the Dane and may extend into the field currently being considered for development.

An Archaeological Project Design (appendix I) was written by Aeon Archaeology and submitted to Stride Treglown Tektus and the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service in June 2013. This formed the basis of a method statement submitted for the work. The archaeologically supervised metal detector survey was undertaken in accordance with this Project Design.

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006), and in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance: Excavation* (IFA 1995 revised Oct 2008). Five stages are specified:

- Phase 1: project planning
- Phase 2: fieldwork
- Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design
- Phase 4: analysis and report preparation
- Phase 5: dissemination

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. The purpose of this phase is to carry out the analysis identified in phase 3 (the assessment of potential phase), to amalgamate the results of the specialist studies with the detailed site narrative and provide both specific and overall interpretations. The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) so that it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving the material and documentary records from the project.

3.0 Methods and Techniques

3.0 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

3.1 Supervised Metal Detector Survey

A project coordinator, who is a member of a metal detecting club affiliated to the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) North West region, was nominated to coordinate the metal detector survey prior to the commencement of work. They were responsible for maintaining a central register of nominated detector users, checking insurance cover and site access, briefing nominated detector users and ensuring that they adhered to the principles set out in the project design and the written agreement waiver form. All metal detector users nominated by the project coordinator were members of clubs affiliated with the NCMD North West region.

The whole of the proposed development site was divided into transect zones of 20.0m square which were surveyed by a detectorist. Only one detectorist worked in any given zone so as to avoid electronic 'noise' between detectors which could obscure results.

All artefacts located via the metal detectors were hand excavated with care by the detectorist and subsequently placed in a finds bag and secured in place using a nail within the excavated hole. All artefacts were then recorded on Aeon Archaeology proformas by the attending archaeologist, recording its material, form, and probable time period. All finds were then plotted using a handheld Active 10 GPS with a spatial error margin of 10.0m.

The working hours and access times to the site were agreed in advance between the archaeological contractor, the project coordinator, and all metal detector users prior to the commencement of work. No detecting occurred outside of these hours nor without the supervision of the archaeological contractor.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the fieldwork phase but no alterations to the recovery methodology were made.

3.2 Finds Methodology

All finds were collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Finds numbers were attributed and they were bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts were cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology.

3.3 Storage and curation

The finds are currently the property of the landowner but it is strongly recommended that these are donated to a museum for long term storage. Acceptance of this report by the client is taken as agreement to this transfer of ownership to the Cheshire West and Chester Museums Service.

The finds have been prepared for deposition according to the Museum and Gallery's established guidelines. A full inventory of the archive will be created to aid accession.

3.4 Specialist analysis

There were no artefacts recovered that warranted specialist conservation or analysis, and as such no specialists were utilised for the production of this report.

3.5 Report and dissemination

This report will be placed in the public domain by submitting it to the Cheshire Historic Environment Record within 6 months of completion unless the client specifically requests the report to remain confidential for a longer period.

Plate 01: Metal detectorist at Shurlach Lane, Davenham.

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4.0 Archaeological Background

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Davenham is recorded in the Domesday Book as Devenham. Its name means "hamlet on the River Dane". The site of the Norman Shipbrook Castle by the river Dane is indicated by the name of Castle Hill, between Shipbrook Bridge, and Shipbrook Hill Farm, but no traces now remain. The parish church of Davenham is one of only a few mentioned in the Domesday Survey and therefore its history predates 1086. However very little is known of the church's history during the medieval and early modern periods.

The large field to the east had produced a number of metal-detector finds, dating to the Roman and early medieval periods. These finds were made during casual detecting and were then reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. It seems entirely possible that this spread of material is indicative of activity alongside the Dane and may extend into the field currently being considered.

The proposed development site is clearly depicted on the Davenham parish tithe map for the township of Shipbrook dated c.1840. It is depicted much as it exists today as an enclosed field, however the A556 road had not been constructed by this point in time and the area to the north is shown as also being enclosed agricultural land. The tithe apportionment details that the land was owned by John Hosken Harper and tenanted by John Holland. The former owned over three quarters of all of the land in the township and resided at Davenham Hall with his wife Annie Hosken Harper and their three children (Bostock, 2009). The tithe apportionment also details that the field was named Hunger Hill and Horse Pasture and was clearly utilised for the grazing of horses.

The proposed development site is again clearly shown on the first edition 25" Ordnance Survey map of c.1875 and the third edition 25" Ordnance Survey map of c.1910 where it is shown as an enclosed field with no apparent structures or features of note within the development site. However, in the field to the immediate southwest a 'target' is depicted on the first edition map which is later shown as 'old target' on the third edition map. This clearly relates to the field having been utilised as a firing range.

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5.0 Quantification of Results

5.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

5.1 Artefacts

Musket/Pistol balls	5
.303 Bullets	87
.450 Bullets	4
.577 Bullets	14
Post Medieval coins	15
Cu alloy artefacts	22
Lead artefacts	29
Iron artefacts	5
Ceramic	1
Total	**182**

5.2 Assessment of the material archive

Forty-eight percent of all of the artefacts recovered during the metal detector survey were .303 (7.7mm calibre) bullets which were utilised as the standard British military cartridge from 1889 until the 1950s. In addition to these, four .450 bullets were located as well as fourteen .577 bullets, the latter of which date to the mid to late Victorian period. The bullets were concentrated towards the southern part of the field, and although .303 bullets were still being found towards the centre of the field, the frequency of their discovery had reduced.

The first edition 25" Ordnance Survey map of c.1875 depicts a 'target' located in the field to the immediate southwest of the proposed development area, which is again shown on the third edition 25" Ordnance Survey map of c.1910 as 'old target'. This target appears to have been utilised as a firing range from at least the mid Victorian until the First World War period, with the bullets that missed the target landing in the proposed development field. The survey also uncovered five musket/pistol balls which may indicate that the field to the southwest had been utilised for target practice as far back as the 18th-19th century (plate 2).

The oldest artefacts recovered from the site were part of a copper alloy beehive thimble (find no. 59), a lead weight (find no. 26), two lead spindle whorls (find nos. 33 and 62), a piece of degraded pottery (find no. 43), and two lead conical weights (find nos. 71 and 79) all believed to be from the medieval period (plate 3). In addition a fragment of lead most likely from window glass flashing (find no. 63) could date to the medieval period. All of these artefacts, with the exception of the window flashing, are associated with trade or crafts and the low frequency and portability of these finds are indicative of the type of artefacts associated with the general labour force working in the fields as opposed to a fixed occupation site.

The periods most commonly represented within the material archive are the post-medieval and modern periods, which in addition to the bullets, account for eighty-four percent of all of the artefacts recovered. Fifteen of these artefacts (10%) are copper alloy coins constituting seven pennies, seven half-pennies, and one farthing (plate 4). Eight of the coins are corroded to such a degree that they cannot be read, and one coin (find no. 69) belongs to the George VI era but the date cannot be read. Of the remaining six coins, one dates to the Victorian period of 1896 (find no. 94), three to the George

V period of 1916, 1918, and 1919 (find nos: 99, 75 and 102 respectively), and two to the George VI period of 1939 and 1942 (find nos: 78 and 86 respectively). The coins were concentrated towards the centre of the proposed development field and it may be the case that some of them were dropped by marksmen responsible for the .303 bullets discovered at the southern end of the field.

The post-medieval and modern periods are particularly well represented in terms of artefacts associated with the agricultural trade (plate 5). These include four lead bag seals (find nos. 38, 54, 55, and 76), of which the three former are imprinted with 'manure' labels. There were also two iron O rings found (find nos. 23 and 41), and three pieces of corroded horse brass (find nos. 87, 88, and 93). In addition to these finds, eight copper alloy buttons were also located (plate 6). These most likely belonged to agricultural workers although two of the buttons (find nos. 42 and 44) are from a single garment and bear the inscription 'standard colour-treble gilt' with the drawing of a crown. These two buttons are of a traditional type seen on British military uniform throughout the 19th century, although were also utilised on civilian dress. It is possible therefore that these two buttons were dropped by a soldier utilising the target range.

Twenty-six (14%) of the artefacts recovered are from an unknown time period. All of these finds, with the exception of the possible window glass flashing (find no. 63), are unidentifiable pieces of lead or copper alloy.

The frequency of finds deteriorated in a 50.0m band at the northern edge of the proposed development site. Within this zone only three artefacts were found, a .450 bullet (find no. 65), a piece of copper alloy (find no. 101), and a George V penny dating to 1919 (find no. 102). The reason for this reduction in artefacts can almost certainly be attributed to modern disturbance that occurred during the construction of the A556 road. Moreover, it was observed that within this 50.0m band that a layer of clay and soil had been deposited across the site, most likely as a result of upcast material from the road build. To the immediate south of this zone a gothic style copper alloy rosary crucifix was found (find no. 100) which due to the lack of corrosion is almost certainly of modern date.

Plate 02: Bullets found during the metal detector survey (numbers refer to small find numbers, see report section 5.3). Scale 5cm.

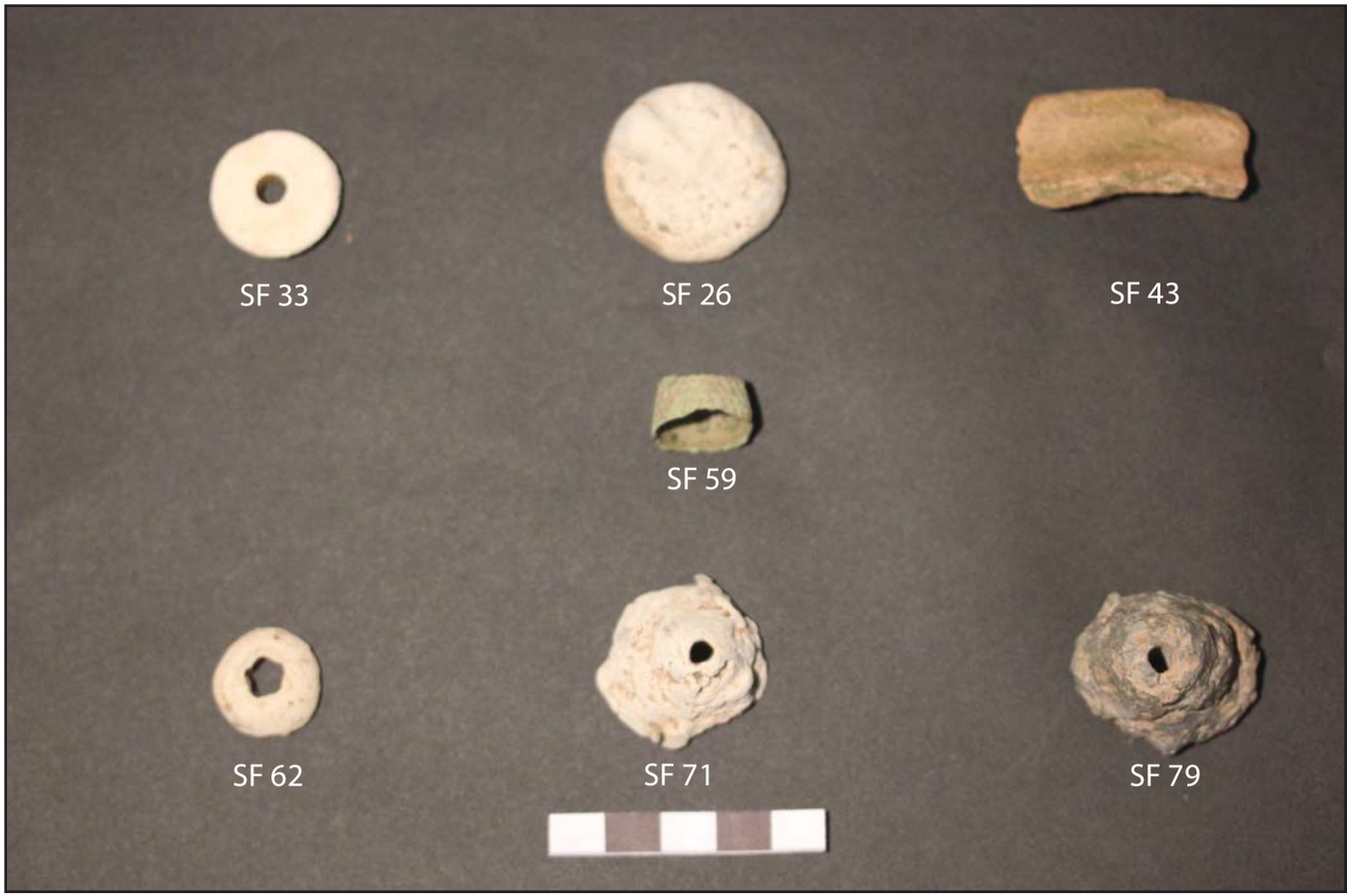

Plate 03: Medieval artefacts found during the metal detector survey (numbers refer to small find numbers, see report section 5.3). Scale 5cm.

Plate 04: Post-Medieval coins found during the metal detector survey (numbers refer to small find numbers, see report section 5.3). Scale 5cm.

Plate 05: Post-Medieval agricultural artefacts found during the metal detector survey (numbers refer to small find numbers, see report section 5.3). Scale 5cm.

Plate 06: Post-Medieval buttons found during the metal detector survey (numbers refer to small find numbers, see report section 5.3). Scale 5cm.

5.3 Gazetteer of finds

No.	Artefact	Material	Period	NGR
1	303. Bullet	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67185 71823
2	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67182 71826
3	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67183 71828
4	Musket/pistol ball	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67200 71836
5	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67213 71839
6	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67209 71823
7	303. Bullet	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67213 71830
8	Piece of Cu alloy	Cu alloy	Unknown	SJ 67240 71832
9	Button	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67250 71836
10	Piece of Cu alloy	Cu alloy	Unknown	SJ 67243 71847
11	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67267 71839
12	303. Bullet	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67241 71842
13	303. Bullet	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67229 71830
14	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67224 71834
15	Piece of Cu alloy	Cu alloy	Unknown	SJ 67219 71834
16	Musket/pistol ball	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67245 71848
17	303. Bullet	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67221 71833
18	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67211 71831
19	303. Bullet	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67173 71829
20	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67167 71824
21	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67160 71826
22	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67157 71825
23	O ring	Iron	Modern	SJ 67155 71802
24	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67195 71833
25	Piece of iron	Iron	Modern	SJ 67224 71845
26	Weight	Lead	Medieval	SJ 67242 71832
27	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67255 71858
28	Piece of Cu alloy	Cu alloy	Unknown	SJ 67212 71841
29	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67200 71827

30	Musket/pistol ball	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67180 71845
31	Button	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67176 71833
32	Clasp	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67186 71839
33	Spindle whorl	Lead	Medieval	SJ 67200 71853
34	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67221 71852
35	Washer	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67243 71857
36	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67253 71870
37	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67265 71867
38	Bag seal	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67229 71858
39	Musket/pistol ball	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67200 71859
40	Corroded penny	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67146 71837
41	O ring	Iron	Modern	SJ 67243 71868
42	Button	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67185 71864
43	Degraded Medieval pottery	Ceramic	Medieval	SJ 67185 71868
44	Button	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67172 71864
45	Knife handle	Iron	Post-Medieval	SJ 67189 71876
46	Button	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67231 71882
47	Musket/pistol ball	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67157 71859
48	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67189 71877
49	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67209 71885
50	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67207 71865
51	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67201 71844
52	Coroded half penny	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67245 71908
53	Coroded farthing	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67220 71920
54	Bag seal	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67209 71898
55	Bag seal	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67133 71901
56	Coroded half penny	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67236 71907
57	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67207 71907
58	Piece of iron	Iron	Modern	SJ 67167 71905
59	Beehive thimble	Cu alloy	Medieval	SJ 67174 71906
60	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67193 71906
61	Model soldiers base	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67239 71912
62	Spindle whorl	Lead	Medieval	SJ 67188 71912
63	Window glass flashing	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67225 71923

64	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67214 71920
65	450. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67132 71905
66	450. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67130 71903
67	Coroded half penny	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67199 71955
68	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67213 71931
69	Coroded George VI half penny	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67221 71934
70	Piece of Cu alloy	Cu alloy	Unknown	SJ 67176 71932
71	Conical weight	Lead	Medieval	SJ 67204 71943
72	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67137 71924
73	Coroded half penny	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67 232 71946
74	Coroded one penny	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67230 71945
75	George V penny 1918	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67173 71927
76	Bag seal	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67218 71950
77	Button	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67222 71969
78	George VI penny 1939	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67191 71948
79	Conical weight	Lead	Medieval	SJ 67170 71950
80	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67164 71942
81	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67179 71950
82	Button	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67231 71963
83	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67234 71960
84	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67231 71956
85	577. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67158 72021
86	George VI half penny 1942	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67182 71961
87	Horse brass fragment	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67150 71951
88	Horse brass fragment	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67151 71956
89	303. Bullet	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67173 71955
90	450. Bullet	Lead	Post-Medieval	SJ 67173 71959
91	Button	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67219 71960
92	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67132 71947
93	Horse brass fragment	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67145 71947
94	Victoria penny 1896	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67180 71947
95	Coroded penny	Cu alloy	Post-Medieval	SJ 67206 71988
96	Piece of lead	Lead	Unknown	SJ 67164 71973
97	Pipe	Cu alloy	Post Medieval	SJ 67186 71982

98	Punch	Cu alloy	Post Medieval	SJ 67213 71998
99	George V half penny 1916	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67174 71987
100	Crucifix	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67174 71985
101	Piece of Cu alloy	Cu alloy	Unknown	SJ 67170 72030
102	George V penny 1919	Cu alloy	Modern	SJ 67153 72039
103	303. Bullets x 80	Cu alloy	Modern	Unstratified

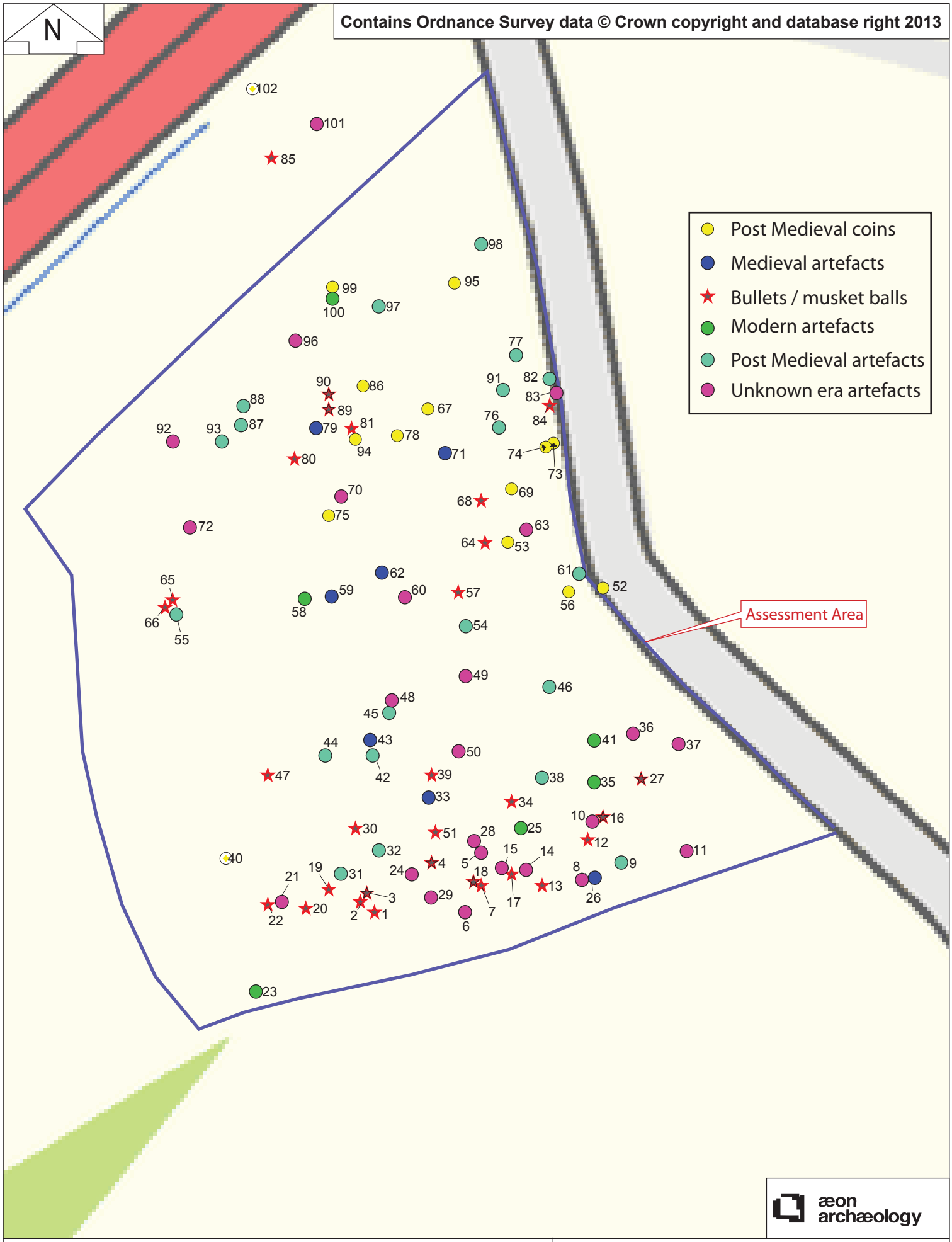

Figure 1: Location of artefacts discovered during the metal detector survey (numbers refer to small finds numbers as listed in section 5.3 of the report). Scale 1:1,250 at A4.

Aeon Archaeology
Richard Cooke BA MA MIfA
17 Cecil Street, Boughton, Chester. Cheshire CH3 5DP
Tel: 01244 460070/ 07866925393
www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk

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6.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The earliest period represented in the material archive is the medieval period, although only a small number of artefacts can be firmly attributed to this era, including part of a beehive thimble, lead weights, lead spindle whorls, and a degraded piece of medieval ceramic. Moreover, these artefacts are all small and portable, and the low number of finds from this period suggests that these were items broken or lost by a casual labour force seasonally working the fields. There is no suggestion from any of the medieval artefacts discovered that the site was ever occupied or utilised for anything more than agricultural land.

The vast majority of the artefacts recovered date to the post-medieval and modern periods, with a large number being .303 bullets deposited as a result of a historic rifle range located in the field to the immediate southwest of the proposed development site. A number of coins dating to the Victorian, George V, and George VI periods were found which coincide with the type of bullets found spread across the site, and it is possible that these were dropped by people using the range. However the lack of any bullet cartridges being found does show that the standing position of the marksmen was not within the proposed development field and it is probable that the bullets were a result of missed targets from the field to the southwest.

The lack of any coins predating the 19th century can be attributed to the development site being located away from the nearby villages and not being extensively used for agriculture before this time, although some use in the medieval period has been shown. Moreover, the presence of a naturally occurring sandy-clay substrata has resulted in an acidic soil, the results of which can be seen in the heavy corrosion of the copper alloy artefacts and coins recovered from the site, and it is possible that this may have destroyed artefacts of an earlier date. Likewise, the lack of any coins post-dating the George V period can be attributed to the increased introduction of agricultural mechanisation after this point.

Once the large number of bullets is discounted then the overall quantity of artefacts recovered during the survey was relatively low. Furthermore, the majority of artefacts can be attributed to those naturally lost or broken in the course of undertaking agricultural work and there is no suggestion that the site was ever utilised for anything other than agriculture. Therefore the potential for the site to produce unknown buried archaeological remains is considered to be low and as such no further assessment or mitigatory measures are proposed.

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7.0 Sources

7.0 SOURCES

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Appendix I:
Archaeological Metal Detector Survey Project Design

PROJECT DESIGN FOR SUPERVISED METAL DETECTOR SURVEY

TENDER PROJECT CODE: T0025

SITE: New Crematorium, Corner of Shurlach Rd, Shurlach Lane, Davenham

NGR: SJ 67160 71890

PLANNING REF: 12/05365/FUL

DATE: 3rd June 2013

PREPARED FOR: Stride Treglown Tektus

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1. INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been asked by Stride Treglown Tektus to provide a cost and project design for carrying out a supervised metal detector survey as a condition of a planning application (ref: **12/05365/FUL**) as part of the construction of a new crematorium located on the corner of Shurlach Road, Shurlach Lane, Davenham, Cheshire (NGR **SJ** 67160 71890).

A mitigation brief has not been prepared for this work by the **Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service**, but an archaeological condition has been placed upon the approved planning application which states:

'No development shall take place within the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme, unless otherwise first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority' (**Planning application 12/05365/FUL condition no. 24**).

It is recommended that the content of this design be approved by the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service prior to the commencement of works.

Reference will be made to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (Institute for Archaeologists, 2001, rev. 2008).

2. STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

- The proposed development site does not contain any statutorily or non-statutorily protected sites, as listed on the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Davenham is recorded in the Domesday Book as Devenham. Its name means "hamlet on the River Dane". The site of the Norman Shipbrook Castle by the river Dane is indicated by the name of Castle Hill, between Shipbrook Bridge, and Shipbrook Hill Farm, but no traces now remain. The parish church of Davenham is one of only a few mentioned in the Domesday Survey and therefore its history predates 1086. However very little is known of the church's history during the medieval and early modern periods.

The large field to the east has produced a number of metal-detector finds, dating to the Roman and early medieval periods. These finds were made during casual detecting and were then reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme. It seems entirely possible that this spread of material is indicative of activity alongside the Dane and may extend into the field currently being considered.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

The **supervised metal detector survey** will consist of the following:

- A metal detector survey of the entire field using twenty metre-square 'zones'.

- The recording of all discovered artefacts using Aeon proformas.

- The locating of all discovered artefacts using a Satmap Active 10 GPS with an error margin of 1.0m.

- A written and photographic record of all archaeological artefacts, including specialist assessment and reports where required.

- Preparation of a full archive report.

5. METHOD STATEMENT

5.1 Supervised Metal Detector Survey

A project coordinator, who is a member of a metal detecting club affiliated to the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) North West region, will be nominated to coordinate the metal detector survey prior to the commencement of work. They will be responsible for maintaining a central register of nominated detector users, checking insurance cover and site access, briefing nominated detector users and ensuring that they adhere to the principles set out in this project design and the written agreement waiver form.

All metal detector users nominated by the project coordinator must be members of clubs affiliated with the NCMD North West region.

The whole of the proposed development site will be divided into 'zones' of 20.0m square which will be surveyed by a detectorist. Only one detectorist will work in any given zone so as to avoid electronic 'noise' between detectors which could obscure results.

All finds located via the metal detectors will be hand excavated with care by the detectorist and subsequently placed in a finds bag and secured in place using a nail within its excavated hole. All artefacts will then be recorded on Aeon proformas by the attending archaeologist, recording its material, form, and probable time period. All finds will also be plotted using a handheld Active 10 GPS with a spatial error margin of 10.0m.

The working hours and access times to the site will be agreed in advance between the archaeological contractor, the project coordinator, and all metal detector users prior to the commencement of work. No detecting will occur outside of these hours nor without the supervision of the archaeological contractor.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the fieldwork phase. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Cheshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service Archaeologist. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All finds will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

5.2 Unexpected Discoveries: Treasure Trove

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.

- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.

- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.

- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

6. FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

This design does not include a methodology or cost for examination of, conservation of, or archiving of finds discovered during the evaluation. The need for these will be identified in the post-fieldwork programme (if required), and a new design will be issued for approval by the Cheshire Archaeology Planning and Advisory Service Archaeologist.

7. SMALL FINDS

All finds are the property of the landowner but it is recommended that finds are donated to an appropriate museum for conservation and research. Furthermore, the client agrees to granting access to all finds recovered by Aeon Archaeology for analysis, study and publication as necessary.

All detectorists used for the purpose of the metal detector survey will be required to sign a written agreement waiving their rights to ownership of all finds. They will also be required to waive all rights to claim any reward under the Treasure Act 1996, in accordance of section 81 of the *Treasure Act Code of Practice.*

Initial identification of artefacts will be carried out by Aeon Archaeology, but additional conservation and analysis will be undertaken by a suitably qualified specialist, if required.

The cost for examination, conservation and archiving of finds discovered during the supervised metal detector survey are not included within this quote.

Aeon Archaeology accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred from delays as a result of unexpected archaeological finds.

8. REPORT PRODUCTION

Following completion of the supervised metal detector survey as outlined above, a report will be produced incorporating the following:

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Project Design
- Methodology
- Archaeological Background
- Description of the results of the supervised metal detector survey
- Specialist analysis of artefacts
- Summary and conclusions
- Bibliography of sources consulted
- Gazetteer of artefacts

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the regional curatorial archaeologist and to the client prior to production of the final report.

9. ARCHIVING

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled, and cross-referenced, and lodged in an appropriate place within six months of the completion of the project. The location is to be agreed with the Curatorial Archaeologist.

Bound copies of the report and an archive CD will be sent to the regional HER (HER, The Forum, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 2HS).

10. PERSONNEL

The work will be managed and undertaken by Richard Cooke, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology.

11. MONITORING

Monitoring visits can be arranged during the course of the project with the clients and with the appropriate Development Control archaeologist.

12. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

13. INSURANCE

Liability Insurance – Towergate Insurance Policy 000467

- Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence
- Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence
- Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 30/09/13

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Towergate Insurance Policy 2011025521290

- Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 30/09/13

The current insurance policy includes the use of volunteers.

14. SOURCES CONSULTED

Planning application ref: **12/05365/FUL**

Reproduction of Client Drawing **80345_P(0)001** and **80345_P(0)002**

Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Institute for Archaeologists, 2001, rev. 2008).

COST ESTIMATE

1. Metal Detectorists (5 users)	4 days	
2. Archaeological supervision	4 days	
3. Report, illustration and archiving	4 days	
TOTAL		

By commissioning Aeon Archaeology to undertake this work the client agrees to be invoiced directly at the end of each calendar month for works to date or once the project concludes, whichever occurs first. In addition, the client agrees to pay the invoice no more than 1 calendar month after issue from Aeon Archaeology.

SPECIALISTS AND CONTINGENCY COSTS

The following specialists will be used for the conservation and analysis of metal artefacts:

- Metal artefacts: Oxford Archaeology

The following contingency costs will apply if relevant:

- Cleaning, examination and drawing of finds £250/day
- Conservation of finds £250/day

Note: All figures are quoted exclusive of VAT, which will be added at the appropriate rate.