

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land Adjacent to
Bromborough Court Moat, Pool Lane, Bromborough, Wirral.
NGR SJ 344 840**

M. Adams

Produced for Parklodge Developments Limited

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**National Museums Liverpool,
Liverpool Museum Field Archaeology Unit,
Dock Traffic Office,
Albert Dock,
Liverpool
L3 4AX
Tel: 0151 478 4260
Fax: 0151 478 4040**

Non-Technical Summary

This report describes the results of a watching brief conducted during groundworks for the construction of a new hotel on land adjacent to Bromborough Court Moat, Pool Lane, Bromborough, Wirral, Merseyside. Bromborough Court is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Number 17955) composed of the moat and two fishponds, one of which is within the moated area and the other to the west of the moat.

Bromborough Court Moat is almost certainly the site of Bromborough Manor which was occupied from at least the 13th century when it was owned by the abbot of St. Werburgh's, Chester (now Chester Cathedral). A new brick built house was constructed in 1680 on the eastern side of the enclosure and may have replaced some or all of the earlier structures known to have occupied the site. The house was demolished in 1969 and the site partly built over.

A number of previous investigations have taken place on the site including trial trenching, watching briefs and geophysical surveys. However, little evidence has been found for archaeological deposits.

No significant archaeological deposits were found during this project other than surface scatters of 19th and 20th century pottery and a north south aligned feature interpreted as an 18th or early 19th century field boundary. The finds consisted of domestic pottery found in topsoil, probably the result of the casual dispersal of domestic refuse and is typical of assemblages found on former agricultural land within the Merseyside area.

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1. Introduction

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief conducted at land adjacent to the Bromborough Court Moat, Pool Lane, Bromborough, in June 2009. The site is situated to the north of Pool Lane which runs east from the A41 at NGR SJ 345 850 (Fig. 1). The northern site boundary is defined in by Bromborough Court Moat, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Number 17955). As a Scheduled Ancient Monument the site is legally protected from disturbance or damage. The eastern site boundary was defined by a fence line extending north from Pool Lane, the western boundary by a spur road to the adjacent VW dealership.

2. Background

The Scheduled Ancient Monument comprises the moat and two fishponds, one of which is within the moated area (Fig. 1). The other lies to the west of the moat which survives as a c. 10 m deep and 10 m wide ditch with a steep sided V-shaped profile. It is unusual in being a parallelogram in plan, rather than the more common square. The western arm of the moat runs on a north-south alignment, the northern arm runs broadly parallel to Bromborough Pool and the southern arm parallel to Pool Lane. The eastern arm appears to have been filled in.

Bromborough Court Moat is almost certainly the site of Bromborough Manor which was owned by the abbot of St. Werburgh's, Chester (now Chester Cathedral). The site is first referred to in 1284, when the Chronicle of St. Werburgh records that buildings on the site were burnt down. However, the site is likely to have earlier origins and it has been suggested that it is the location of a fortified court acting as the centre of a royal estate or *burgh* during the Anglo-Saxon period (Higham 1993). It is also seen by many (e.g. Harding 2002; Bu'Lock 1972, 54) as a possible location for the battle of Brunanburh in 937 AD though there are several other locations across northern England with equal claim to being the site of the battle (Edwards 1998).

Although there is no record of a licence to crenellate, Ormerod (1882) cites a charter of Earl Randle of Chester which suggests that it was fortified to secure the courts; the location is in an excellent defensive position. A full record of the buildings on site exists for 1604 and includes a hall, lower chamber, sealed chamber with glazed windows, bakehouse, kitchen, dayhouse and buttery. These elements would all be consistent with a medieval layout. The documents also include an inventory of the furniture. A new brick built house was constructed in 1680 on the eastern side of the enclosure and may have replaced some or all of these structures. The house was demolished in 1969 and the site partly built over.

A number of investigations have taken place on the site including trial trenching and a resistivity survey (Freke 1978, Jones 1978, David 1978 and Philpott 1989, Adams 2004, Adams & Ahmad 2004, Jones & Adams 2007) along with various small interventions undertaken by local amateur archaeologists between the 1940's and the 1960's (MSMR site file). A watching brief conducted during the insertion of a sewer outside the western edge of the moat (Philpott 1989) found little evidence for *in situ* archaeological deposits other than a thin layer of material likely to result from periodic cleaning of the moat. The most recent work consisted of a watching brief

during the excavation of geotechnical trial pits, an archaeological evaluation for the present development (Adams 2004, Adams & Ahmad 2004) and a watching brief conducted during the construction of the adjacent car showrooms. These projects found very little evidence for *in situ* archaeological deposits apart from a possible gully at the east end of the present site and a possible ditch west of the fishpond.

Despite this apparent lack of archaeological deposits in the area the close proximity of the site to an archaeologically sensitive area suggested that the site retained some potential for archaeological deposits. It was consequently recommended that the site was monitored as an Archaeological Watching Brief

2. Methodology

The following is a summary of the methodology which is described in detail in the Project Brief and the Project Design (Appendices A & B).

All site monitoring was undertaken by M. Adams and H. Jones.

The watching brief was conducted in a single phase the initial stripping and preparation of the ground on the site, when all excavation was undertaken with a mechanical excavator operated under archaeological supervision.

Finds were collected from across the site and processed and recorded in accordance with NMLFAU guidelines.

Because the area covered by the watching brief was contiguous with the area to the west monitored in 2007, the archive for this project has been integrated with the earlier project under the same accession number. The same sequence of trench and context numbers has also been used.

3. Results

The excavation consisted of a single open area (Fig. 2) numbered LV. The whole site was sealed by a layer of mid-dark greyish brown topsoil c. 0.2-0.4 m thick. This contained extensive evidence of modern dumping, particularly along the southern site boundary. Consequently although mid-late 19th century material was present in this layer, much of it is likely to have been deposited. At the western end of the site there was evidence of modern dumping consisting of a layer of topsoil and modern (i.e. late 20th century) material up to 0.30 m thick.

The topsoil was excavated to the upper surface of Boulder Clay which contained isolated lenses of sands and gravel. Features cut into the Boulder Clay were cleaned and excavated by hand.

Context 22 was the fill of a shallow modern pit containing 20th century glass situated against the southern site boundary (Fig. 2).

Context 24 was a firm, mid-grey brown silty clay containing very occasional rounded pebbles. It filled a north-south aligned gully (Context 25) with a shallow, 'U'-shaped profile (Plate 1) which was up to 0.75 m wide narrowing to the south, 0.28 m deep and c. 5.5-6 m long. No finds were retrieved from the fill.

Context 26 was situated in the north-western corner of the site and was a layer of firm, dark-grey to black humic clayey silty sand containing occasional rounded pebbles. This deposit was left *in situ* so it was not possible to establish its thickness.

It was sealed by context 29, a 0.05-0.1 m thick layer of redeposited Boulder Clay (Context 29) which in its turn was sealed by a layer of topsoil c. 0.2-0.3 m thick which was sealed by modern dumping 0.3 m thick.

Context 27 was a firm, mid-grey silty sand filling a linear gully (Context 38) with a U-shaped profile c. 0.13-0.07 m wide and 0.08 m deep. This feature was 14.5 m long.

4. Finds

Surface scatters of modern ceramics were present. Seven sherds of modern china were found across the site plus one sherd of darkware which is probably 19th century in date. In accordance with NMLFAU guidelines, none of these items were retained as all were late Post-Medieval or modern.

5. Conclusions

No significant archaeological deposits were observed, in most areas topsoil or demolition debris overlay naturally deposited clays.

As far as can be determined, all of the excavated deposits were relatively recent in date. Gully 25 corresponds with the gully located in the trial trenches in 2004 (Adams & Ahmad 2004) and may relate to a post-medieval field boundary, though none of the available 19th century mapping shows a boundary at this point. Gully 28 appears to be the base of a truncated land drain.

The layer of redeposited Boulder Clay (Context 29) in the north-west corner of the site may correspond with the layer of material interpreted as resulting from the cleaning of the moat encountered on the western side of the moat described in Philpott (1989).

The absence of any evidence for the remains of structural features is not unexpected given that the trenches were all located outside of the moated area, which is the most likely location for any buildings. The total absence of artefactual evidence relating to the medieval occupation of the site is consistent with the evidence from elsewhere at Bromborough Court and fits into an emerging pattern in Merseyside and Wirral where occupation sites appear to have little directly associated artefactual material.

6. Bibliography

Adams M. 2004 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Bromborough Court Moat, Wirral, Merseyside (Site 80)*. Unpublished Liverpool Museum Report for Chapelgate.

Adams M. & Ahmad C. 2004 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Bromborough Court Moat, Wirral, Merseyside (Site 80)*. Unpublished Liverpool Museum Report for Chapelgate.

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Jones K. 1978 Bromborough Manor Houses . *Journal of the Merseyside Archaeology Society* 2, 35-36 .

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Higham N. J. 1993 *The Origins of Cheshire*. Manchester University Press.

Jones H. & Adams M. 2007 *An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land Adjacent to Bromborough Court Moat, Pool Lane, Bromborough, Wirral. NGR SJ 344 840*. Unpublished NMLFAU Report for Hantall Developments

Ormerod 1882 *History of the County Palatine of Chester*.

Philpott R. 1989 *Note in MSMR*.

7. Figures

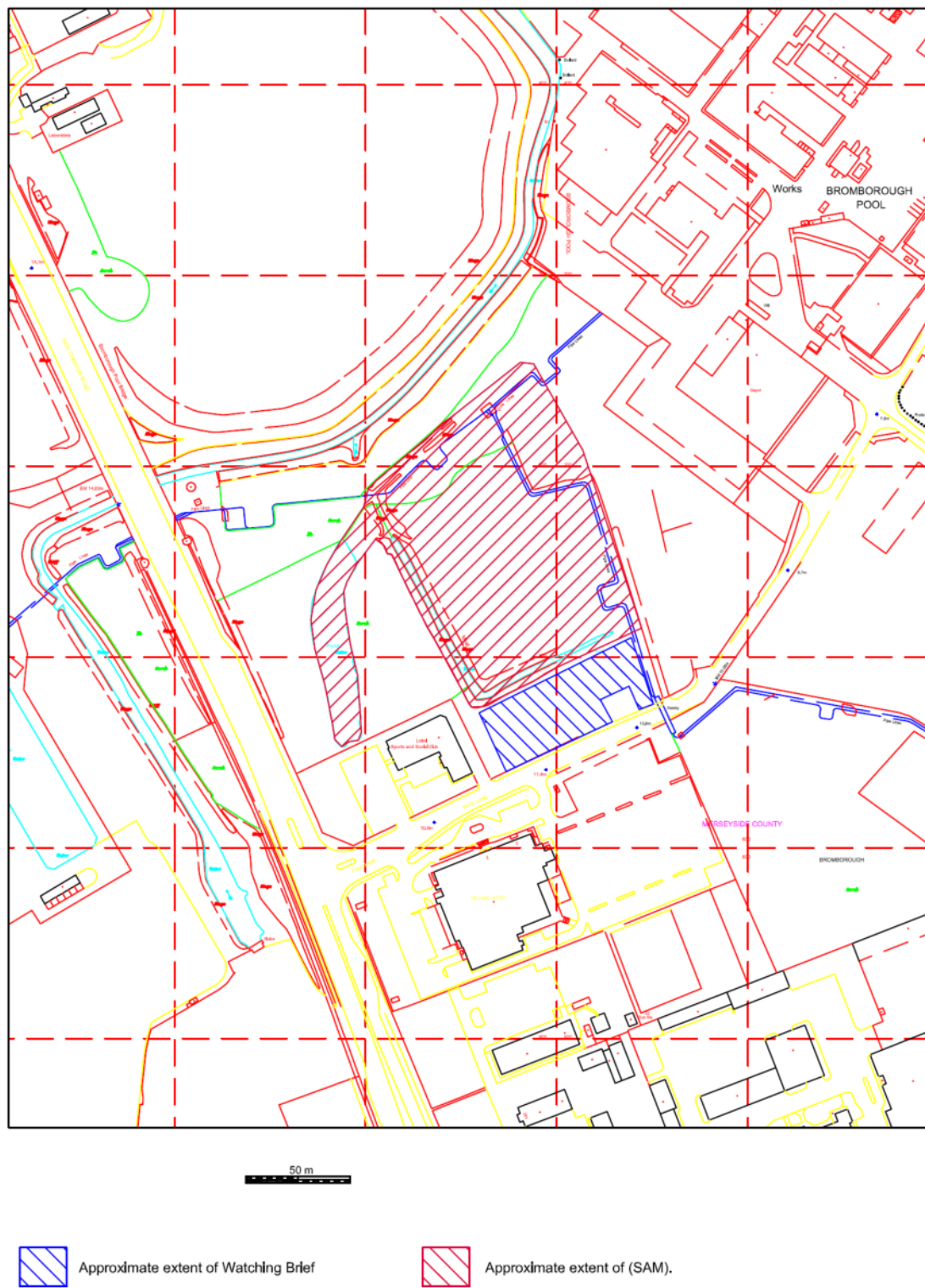


Fig. 1. Site location and extent of scheduled area.

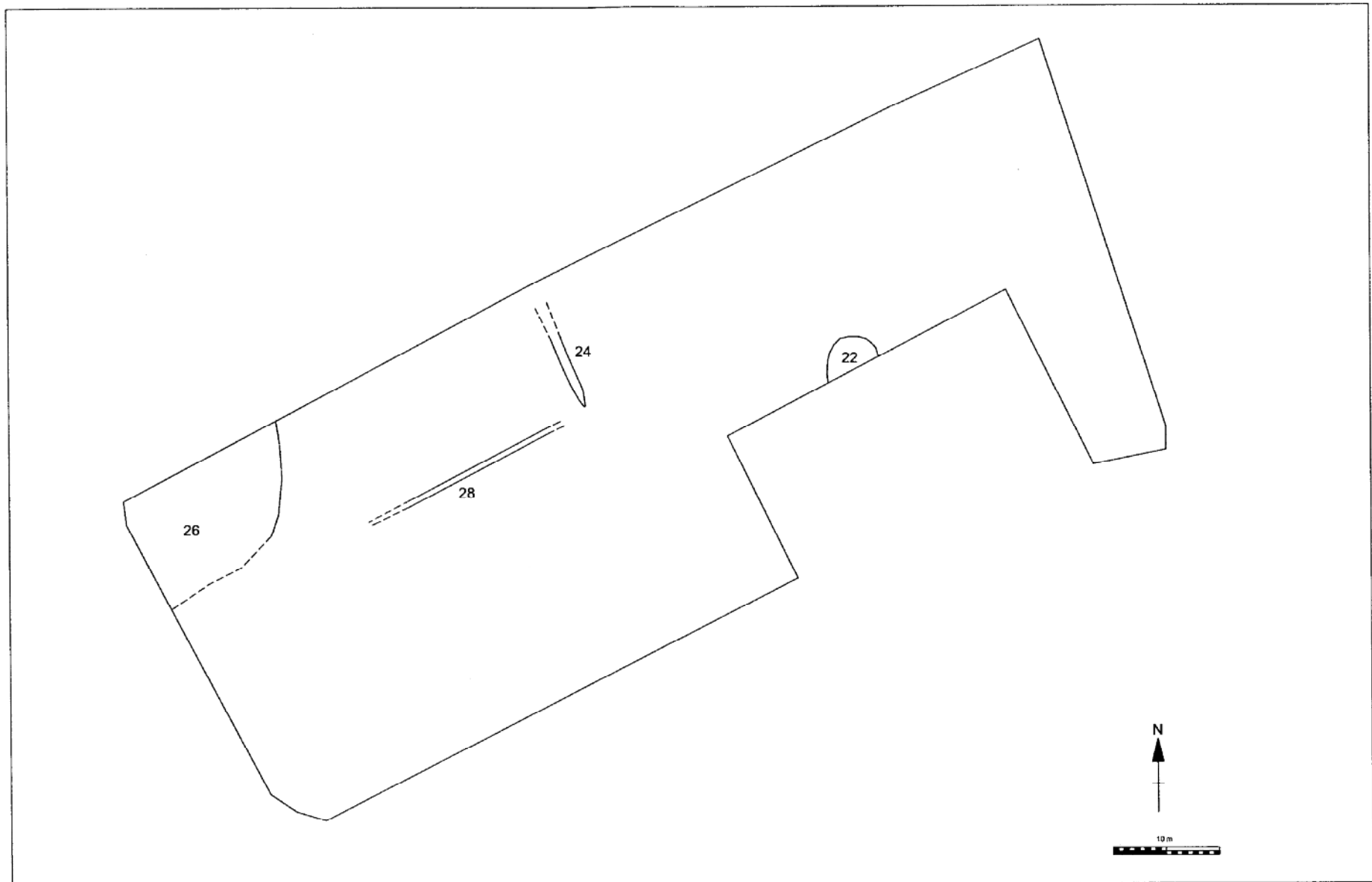


Fig. 2. Location of features discussed in the text relative to site boundaries.

8. Plates



Plate 1. Gully fill 24 prior to excavation. View looking north.



Plate 2. Section across gully fill 24. View looking north.

Appendix A: Project Brief

**BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
INVESTIGATION**

**LAND @ POOL LANE, ADJACENT TO
'BROMBOROUGH COURT HOUSE'
SCHEDULED MONUMENT 13428
BROMBOROUGH**

**WIRRAL, MERSEYSIDE
SJ 344 840**

Prepared by Merseyside Archaeological Service
on behalf of Wirral Council re

Enquiries to be addressed to:

Merseyside Archaeological Officer
Merseyside Archaeological Service

DTO, Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AX

Tel: 0151 478 4258

1 June 2009

A1. Introduction

- 1.1 The application relates to area of known archaeological importance. The application site lies (hereafter 'Site') lies adjacent to Bromborough Court House moated site Scheduled Monument (reference 13428 - moat and fishponds) also recorded on the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER) with associated information¹
- 1.2 Planning permission has been obtained (2009/5156 - Erection of 3 storey hotel with associated infrastructure parking and landscaping) and a specific archaeological condition attached (No. 7) requiring investigation. In addition, conditions 4 & 13 respectively designed to protect the integrity of the Scheduled Monument (SM) and avoid doubt as to managing construction adjacent to the SM.
- 1.3 This brief has been prepared by the Merseyside Archaeological Officer and is for **an archaeological watching brief**.
- 1.4 This brief is not intended to serve as a full specification of works, which must be provided in a Project Design to be submitted to, and subject to the approval of the Merseyside Archaeological Officer (hereafter AO, on behalf of Wirral Council).

A2. Aim of the Work

- 2.1 Archaeological work is required in accordance with PPG 16 Archaeology and Planning (1009, DoE) and Wirral Unitary Development Plan policies CH 24 Development Affecting Scheduled Remains and CH 25 Development Affecting Non- Scheduled Remains. A 'watching brief' is the term used for formal archaeological work conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (i.e. building construction). The purpose of a watching brief is to:
 - allow, within the resources available, the recording of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of construction works,
 - to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the archaeologist carrying out the work to signal to all parties, before the destruction of material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated in the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

¹ (Refs: 3484-001,-012,-015: site of Court House (medieval onwards), 3484-002: ring artefact (medieval), 3484-003: flint artefact (prehistoric), 3484-004: moated site (medieval), 3484-009 & -10: outer & inner moat fishponds (medieval/post-med.), 3484-011: ridge & furrow field earthworks (unknown date), Pewter mug (early 19th century), 3484-014:site of farmhouse (11th Century), 3484-022 & 023.

A3. Appendices for reference with Brief

Client to supply copy of plans & any digital information, as appropriate.

- I. Site plan 1734-108-B 'Site Block and Landscaping Plan' as annotated with Site construction set-up plan.
- II. 'Site Set up Statement', Marshalls (Building Contractors) Ltd. Dated 6.5.09.
- III. 'Aboriginal Implication Study', D.T Elston for Client. Dated 10.5.07.
- IV. Previous recent archaeological investigations. (*See section 6 of this Brief*). Reports available for viewing in M'sde Historic Environment Record or from author.
- V. Planning decision notice: Wirral web page link (as available @ 1.6.09)
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning/RegisterEntry.asp?AppNum=20095156&wanted=Decision+Notice>

A4. Site Location & Description

- 4.1 The Site is land just off the A41 New Chester Road, south east of Bromborough Pool Village. Sited at, Pool Lane, Bromborough, Wirral, CH62 4UE. NGR SJ 344 840.
- 4.2 Currently overgrown with low level shrubs and trees.
- 4.3 AO last visited the Site area on 29.11.07.

A5. Archaeological Planning Background

- 5.1 A previous application, 2007/6579, was approved but not implemented.
- 5.2 English Heritage gave advice with regard to the previously approved application 2007/6579 in order to advise on location of SM moat area. Advice included actions that would negate the need for scheduled monument consent. These have been defined by the AO in relation to current 2009/5156 (letter to Wirral Council 24.3.09).
 - Any proposed tree removal/ scrub clearance and management – requires a method statement for removal for any near/at moat edge. There should be not be any grubbing up and no burning on the SM area.
 - Application needs to state how construction will be managed to avoid damage within the SM area.
 - Boundary - English Heritage advice on previously approved application was for site boundary marked by driven posts and chains as this has the least impact on any below ground remains. Any ground levelling beside the moated site should be built up rather than being levelled down.
- 5.3 Subsequent advice included the requirement for archaeological watching brief at the Site (25.4.09).

A6. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 6.1 The application lies adjacent to one of Wirral's most enigmatic and important archaeological sites, Bromborough moated ancient monument: the site of an 11th century manor of St Werburg's Abbey (Chester), as well as a possible earlier prominent Saxon administrative site and subsequent location of manor houses until demolition of the hall complex in 1969 (eastern side of the moated area).
- 6.2 Of the 10,000 archaeological records recorded in the Merseyside Historic Environment Record only 38 are currently designated as Scheduled Monuments (SM); 9 of which are in Wirral and include Bromborough Court House moated site and fishponds. The special importance of these SM sites requires utmost consideration of their sustainable management and presentation. This includes consideration of their setting within the landscape and ensuring that any development that affects setting does not remove the special importance of the site or damage the possibility for achieving a better management of and public enjoyment of the site. SMs are protected by legislation (1979 Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Areas Act) and it is a criminal offence to cause damage to them.
- 6.3 The following reports need to be consulted for summary of historical background and previous work at the Site:
- 'An Archaeological Watching Brief At Bromborough Court Moat, Wirral'. Adams, M, NML Field Archaeology Unit, February 2004 (*received in MAS 2004*) produced for Chapelgate Ltd,
 - 'An Archaeological Evaluation at Bromborough Court Moat, Bromborough, Merseyside. Final Report'. (Accession no. Liv.2004.14) Adams, M & Ahmad C. NML Field Archaeology Unit, May 2004 (*received in MAS April 2006*)
 - Results from the archaeological evaluation (May 04, trial trenching) work suggests the presence of some archaeological features, whose origin and date is unclear: namely a gully feature and some organic deposits (possibly associated with the pond's history (including a medieval piece of pottery).
 - The results from the archaeological watching brief presence (to monitor geotechnical test pits) discovered a pit in one location (date uncertain, suggested of some antiquity).

Most recent work (2007, in advance of VW garage construction) adjacent to the Site:

- 'An Archaeological Evaluation at Bromborough Court Moat, Bromborough, Merseyside'. Adams, M & Jones, H. NML Field Archaeology Unit, November 2007 (*received in MAS Jan 2008*). Produced for Hantall Developments.

A7. Scope and Methods

The following requirements are defined: they relate to assisting the Client progress compliance specific conditions 6, 4 & 13.

7.1 Watching Brief during set-up and landscaping

The Archaeological Contractor will monitor the implementation of the following:

Condition 4 (any tree clearance & landscaping along moat edge or ditch) – the Client has submitted the following Method Statement: - any trees within this zone (SM) *mechanically cut to ground level with all arisings removed from site. There will be no burning on site. Once cut to ground level, the land will be dressed with topsoil and sowed with meadow grass. The advice of the Arboricultural Consultant is that trees should not be chemically poisoned as this will lead to Health & Safety issues, and because any die back in the root structure of these trees will lead to subsidence and consequent damage to the Ancient Scheduled Monument.* (Edmund Kirby, letter to Wirral Council 6.5.09).

Condition 13 (management of construction adjacent to the SM area) – the Client's contractors Marshalls (Building contractors) Ltd have compiled a 'Site Set up Statement'. See Appendix II, designed to ensure protection of moat during construction works.

Condition 6 – Watching Brief on Site strip/foundation ground works.

7.2 Watching Brief during ground works

- 7.2.1 At least one member of the archaeological Contractors staff must be present on site during the ground works.
- 7.2.2 These ground works must be carried out under constant archaeological observation unless, with consultation and agreement of the Archaeological Officer (AO), it is identified that a more targeted and timetabled archaeological presence would be more appropriate.
- 7.2.3 A written record of date, time and duration of archaeological Contractors' visits must be kept and the Contractor make arrangements with the Client for notification of entering and leaving the site.

7.3 Suspension of development works for archaeological recording

- 7.3.1 The Contractor may require suspension of works to record and sample archaeological evidence uncovered. Whilst it is recognised that the length of **stoppage time will be determined by the nature of archaeological deposits identified**, a *minimum of 2 hours to a maximum of 7 hours* stoppage will be allowed for recording (unless identified as less by the on-site archaeologist).
- 7.3.2 In the event that significant archaeological deposits are discovered and the Archaeological Contractor considers that these deposits are worthy of more detailed recording than achievable within 7 hours or are of possible national

importance, and therefore worthy of preservation in-situ, the Archaeological Contractor must immediately inform the Principal Contractor, the Client and the Merseyside Archaeological Officer.

- 7.3.3 The implications and consequences associated with excavating, conserving, and curation and/or preservation in situ of unforeseen deposits, features, objects or structures of national importance lie outside the remit of the agreed scope of works for this watching brief and would form the subject of a consultation between the Client, the Merseyside Archaeological Officer and English Heritage.

7.4 Recording

- 7.4.1 Any archaeological deposits uncovered should be recorded and located accurately on a site plan with accompanying recording sheets. Sheets should be supplemented as required by plan/section drawings (at scales 1:20 and 1:10 respectively) photographs (35mm, colour) and text descriptions.

7.5 Treatment of Finds

- 7.5.1 All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.
- 7.5.2 Any finds of human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected and the appropriate authorities informed. If removal is essential it can only take place under appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations, and if appropriate, in compliance with the 'Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.
- 7.5.3 All finds which may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1997 must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner. Where removal can not take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 7.5.4 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is agreed with the recipient museum's Archive Curator.

7.6 Environmental Sampling

- 7.6.1 In the event of samples being taken - Contractors are to adhere to the recommendations in the *Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, Number 2. Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological Evaluations, September 1995*. Internet version on line at <http://www.envarch.net/publications/papers/evaluations.html>
- 7.6.2 Environmental samples will be taken, where appropriate, from features to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described and analysed. Samples should be taken from the fills of features where organic materials may be preserved, such as pits, ditches and other deposits, especially if waterlogged.

7.7 Contingency

- 7.7.1 Contingency for the recording, conservation or specialist analysis of any discoveries of unexpected or exceptional importance will only be expended with the approval of the AO and Client (Sec10).

7.8 Post-fieldwork processing

- 7.8.1 According to standard procedure, field work will be followed by a period of post-excavation processing. This should involve the cataloguing and analysis of any finds, samples and the preparation of the archive for the site report and with the view to final deposition in the event of no further investigation being required (see sec. 9).

A8. Report

- 8.1 The report ought to:

Include

- digital trench location plans by CAD tied into the Ordnance Survey data,
- any section drawing(s) {at scale 1:10} showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale,
- a summary of artefacts by trench together with their interpretation,
- plans of actual features, deposits and, where appropriate, any which were extrapolated to indicate potential deposits {scale 1:20},
- any specialist assessments,
- a concise non-technical summary of the project results.

Assess

- the archaeological significance of the development site and any archaeological deposits encountered during evaluation,
- the evidence in its setting, regional context and also aim to highlight any research priorities where applicable.

- 8.2 Wherever appropriate, outline the options for achieving the preferred option of preservation in- situ of significant archaeological deposits.
- 8.3 There must be provision for circulation of a summary statement and interim report of watching brief results. This is in order to facilitate any required early decision on possible mitigation strategies. The report ought to be submitted to the AO, and Wirral Council, within an agreed time-scale.
- 8.4 One copy of the final report will be deposited with the Merseyside HER **no later than six months** after completion of the project. This will be a **digital and paper copy** of the report, including its relevant accompanying AutoCAD plans. CAD drawings are to be delivered in DXF; Databases in ASCII delimited text or MS Access; Text in ASCII text.
- 8.5 Contractors are encouraged to consult the **Archaeology Data Service**, in particular *Digital Archives from Excavation and Fieldwork Guide to Good Practice. Second Edition*. Available at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/goodguides/excavation>

A9. Archive

9.1 The archive consists of all written records and materials recovered, drawn and photographic records. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It should also contain site matrix, site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.

9.2 *Archaeological Archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007) sets out the recommended standards and should be used in conjunction with the appropriate current Standards. Archive will be prepared in line with the general specification MAP2 (Appendix 3).

9.3 Deposition

9.3.1 The integrity of the site archive should be maintained. All find and records should be properly curated by a single organisation, and be available for public consultation.

9.3.2 Arrange Arrangements for deposition of the full site archive ought to be made with National Museums Liverpool (Museums, Libraries and Archives registered repository approved in the region).

National Museums Liverpool (NML) 'Guidelines for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives to National Museums Liverpool' (revised 2006) will be consulted and followed as part of the archaeological Contractor's Project Design preparation. (For a copy contact: Archive Curator, Mrs E Stewart Tel: 0151 478 4443.

E-mail: liz.stewart@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

@ Address: Urban History Division, NML, DTO, Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AX.

9.3.3 The archive will be presented to the Archive Curator within 12 months of completion of the fieldwork, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the AO and Archive Curator.

9.3.4 Arrangements for the long-term storage of any artefacts ought to be agreed with the landowner, AO and NML before commencement of works. Where the landowner does not wish to transfer all, or part of the archive to NML, the AO and Archive Curator will advise on an alternative course of action.

A10. Requirements (inclu. responsibilities of Client & Archaeological Contractor)

10.1 Appointment of Archaeological Contractors

10.1.1 The professional archaeological Contractors invited to tender for the work must be able to demonstrate within a Project Design that they can provide staffing and expertise with the appropriate experience in dealing with archaeology of the type and nature required in this Brief.

10.1.2 Contractors will operate in line with professional guidelines and standards as stated in the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA):

- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (1994, revised edition Oct 08),*

- *Draft Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (adopted 12 month interim basis Oct 08),*
- *IFA Code of Conduct (1985, revised edition Oct 2008),*
- *IFA By-Law Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology (1990, revised edition Oct 2008).*

10.2 Pre- tender site visit

10.2.1 The Contractor must visit the Site before completing any Project Design as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. This visit must be noted, along with any other relevant site details, within the Project Design.

10.3 Project Design

10.3.1 The Project Design will cater for full post-excavation analysis, reporting and deposition of the site findings and:

- a) be supported by a research design, which sets out the site-specific objectives of the archaeological works,
- b) include details, including name, qualifications and experience of the Site director and all other key project personnel, including any specialist staff and sub-contractors, will be included in the Project Design. The ratio of on-site voluntary assistance must not exceed a ratio of more than 1:2 employed experienced staff,
- c) detail the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, and where appropriate, indicate clearly on plan their location and extent,
- d) provide a timetable for proposed works,
- e) include a detailed cost breakdown of the project elements,
- f) include a contingency (Sec 10.4).

10.4 Contingency

10.4.1 A contingency will be allowed to cater for unforeseen circumstances, such as bad weather/ discovery of dangerous deposits/ presence of significantly different deposits than expected etc. that may affect the archaeological resource and/or project objectives.

10.4.2 Contingency does not cater for provision of staff where this is the result of non-replacement of staff through dismissal or resignation.

10.4.3 The contingency must be shown as a day rate.

10.4.4 Contingency is evoked with the agreement of the AO and archaeological Consultant.

10.5 Checking of Project Designs

10.5.1 **It is particularly important that all Project Designs, or those which the Client wishes to consider, are forwarded to the AO for approval prior to the appointment of a Contractor. This is to check compliance with the Brief.**

10.5.2 Any changes the AO recommends to a preferred Project Design/s might have financial implications for the costing of the archaeological project. Subsequent to approval by the AO and appointment of an archaeological Contractor, changes to the Project Design will be discussed and agreed in writing by the AO, Client and archaeological Contractor (See Sec. 12.3).

10.6 Agreement

10.6.1 There must be a written archaeological agreement that satisfactorily implements the approved format and provides sufficient financial support for all aspects of the work including fieldwork, finds processing, conservation, specialist analysis, archiving, cataloguing, report work and long-term storage and curation.

10.6.2 The archaeological Contractor must confirm in writing to the AO that the written agreement (10.6.1) is in place with the Client prior to commencement of work.

10.6.3 The Client must provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination

10.6.4 Re-instatement of land resulting from disturbance due to artefact recovery, is to be the responsibility of the archaeological Contractor, unless the Client has given written instruction to the contrary.

10.7 Site Access: Health & Safety

10.7.1 The archaeological Contractor will be responsible for ensuring that all works are conducted in accordance with a defined Health and Safety Policy. Contractors must observe all current safe working practices, whether required by their own policy or those of the principal development contractor. (See *SCAUM Manual, Health & Safety in Field Archaeology, 1997*).

10.7.2 Before commencing work the Contractor **must** carry out a Risk Assessment and liaise with the Site owner, archaeological Consultants and the AO in ensuring that all potential risks are minimised. A copy of this must be given to the AO **before** commencement of site works.

10.7.3 The Client must provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination

10.7.4 Re-instatement of land resulting from disturbance due to artefact recovery, is to be the responsibility of the archaeological Contractor, unless the Client has given written instruction to the contrary.

A11. Monitoring

- 11.1 The work undertaken by the archaeological Contractor, will be monitored under the auspices of the Merseyside AO who is responsible for monitoring all archaeological work in Merseyside on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. Monitoring will not incur charges and includes reviewing site work, the progress of excavation reports, archive preparation and final deposition.
- 11.2 Monitoring of the progress of site works will be programmed into strategic stages of the project, at least at the commencement of the project, mid fieldwork, end of fieldwork and post-excavation stage. Visits will also be made at the discretion of the AO who may also nominate a representative to pay site visits.
- 11.3 Before the commencement of the project the Contractor must inform the AO, in writing, of the time-table of proposed works and ensure that the AO must be kept regularly informed about developments during Site and subsequent post-excavation work.
- 11.4 The AO will be given **at least one week's written** notice of commencement of archaeological fieldwork.

A12. Alterations to this Brief

- 12.1 This brief is valid for a month (from the date below. If not tendered within this period the Client will seek confirmation from the AO of its continued validity to the existing Site conditions. In addition the following apply:-
- 12.2 Prior to the formal appointment (aforementioned Sec. 10.6) of an archaeological Contractor, the Archaeological Officer reserves the right to alter this Brief if additional information comes to light that may have a bearing on the scope and methods of work currently required. (e.g. Site construction constraints, foundation details etc.).
- 12.3 After formal appointment, any alterations recommended by the Archaeological Officer which may affect the archaeological Contractor's agreed Project Design (whether this is before commencement, or during the project), will be made in consultation with the archaeological Contractor, Client and submitted to the Local Planning Authority. (This does not relate to the formal recommendations for further investigation (e.g. open area excavation) as a result of the findings of the project, for which the Archaeological Officer is responsible for advising on behalf of the local Planning Authority).

A13. Key Definitions

Archaeological Officer - Responsible for providing an archaeological curatorial planning service to Merseyside districts. Advises on the nature of the work required and monitors projects from implementation to completion.

Archive Curator - person within the recipient museum responsible for project archive deposition

Client - person/group/developer commissioning the archaeological work.

Contractor - archaeological Contractor tendering to carry out the archaeological work and as appointed by the Client.

Project Design - written document detailing the proposed work and as provided by a Contractor in line with the Written Brief provided by the Archaeological Officer.

Contact: Tel: 0151 478 4258
e-mail: sarahjane.farr@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Ms S-J Farr,
Merseyside Archaeological Officer
Merseyside Archaeological Service
Dock Traffic Office
Albert Dock
Liverpool
L3 4AX

1 June 2009

Appendix B: Project Design

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Bromborough Court, Bromborough,
Wirral.
NGR SJ 344 840.
Project Design.**

Prepared for Parklodge Developments Limited,
34 Thornton Road,
Bebington, Wirral
CH63 5PT

By M. Adams

June 2009

National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit,
Dock Traffic Office,
Albert Dock,
Liverpool
L3 4AX
Tel: 0151 478 4337/4260
Fax: 0151 478 4098

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B1. Introduction

- 1.1 National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit (NMLFAU) have been commissioned by Parklodge Developments Limited, 34 Thornton Road, Bebington, Wirral CH63 5PT to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Bromborough Court, Chester Road, Bromborough, Wirral. The investigations are being undertaken in accordance with an archaeological condition on planning permission for the redevelopment of the site.
- 1.2 The methodology for the watching brief has been prepared by NMLFAU in accordance with a brief produced by Sarah Jane Farr, Merseyside Archaeological Officer (Appendix A). The project brief contains details of the planning background to the project which will not be reproduced in this Project Design.
- 1.3 This project design defines the areas to be investigated and the methodologies to be used. In more detail than is given in Appendix A.

B2. The Development Area

- 2.1 The site covers approximately 0.35 hectares and is located to the north of Pool Lane and to the east of the A41 Birkenhead to Chester Road at NGR SJ 344 840. The southern boundary is defined by Pool Lane, the western by a car dealership south-west of the moat. The northern boundary to the site is defined by the southern arm or Bromborough Court Moat, a scheduled Ancient Monument, the western boundary by a public footpath.

B3. Geology

- 3.1 The solid geology in this part of Merseyside consists of Pebble Beds and Upper Mottled Sandstone overlain by Boulder Clay (BGS Sheet 96 (Drift Edition)).

B4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 Bromborough Moat, A Scheduled Ancient Monument, is almost certainly the site of Bromborough Manor which was owned by the abbot of St. Werburgh's, Chester (now Chester Cathedral). The site is first referred to in 1284, when the Chronicle of St. Werburgh records that the buildings were burnt down. However, the site is likely to have earlier origins and it has been suggested that it is the location of a fortified court acting as the centre of a royal estate during the Anglo-Saxon period (Higham 1993) and also as a possible location for the battle of Brunanburh in 937 AD (Bu'Lock 1972, 54). Although there is no record of a licence to crenellate, Ormerod (1882) cites a charter of Earl Randle of Chester which suggests that it was fortified to secure the courts; the location is in an excellent defensive position. A full record of the buildings on site exists for 1604 and includes a hall, lower chamber, sealed chamber with glazed windows, bakehouse, kitchen, dayhouse and buttery. These elements would all be consistent with a medieval layout. The documents also include an inventory of the furniture. A new brick built house was constructed in 1680 on the eastern side of the enclosure and may have replaced some or all of these structures. The house was demolished in 1969 and the site partly built over.
- 4.2 The site has been the subject of numerous investigations including trial trenching and a resistivity survey (Freke 1978, Jones 1978, David 1978 and Philpott 1989, Adams 2004, Adams & Ahmad 2004). Various small interventions were undertaken by local amateur archaeologists from the 1940's to the 1960's (MSMR site file), though these found little evidence of in situ deposits within the moated enclosure. The trial trenches excavated in 1978 found no evidence for construction of the moat prior to the mid-18th century and the resistivity survey found no conclusive evidence for internal buildings within the enclosure. Consequently it was postulated that the moat was a post-medieval creation. However, the trial trench was of only limited extent and it is possible that the lack of medieval deposits was the result of cleaning or widening of the moat at that point. In addition since the resistivity survey was undertaken it has become apparent that the method does not work well on the Boulder Clays of Merseyside, Wirral and north Cheshire and that the absence of geophysical anomalies cannot be taken as evidence of the lack of archaeological deposits (e.g. Adams 1999 & 2002). A watching brief conducted during the insertion of a sewer outside the western edge of the moat (Philpott 1989) found little evidence for in situ archaeological deposits other than a thin layer of material likely to result from periodic

cleaning of the moat. Clearance of vegetation from the site in 1989 revealed traces of croft/garden boundaries as earthworks (Capstick 1989). There were no traces of building platforms, though a raised area slightly off centre from the moat was detected.

- 4.3 A watching brief during the excavation of trial pits and an archaeological evaluation for the present development (Adams 2004, Adams & Ahmad 2004) found very little evidence for in situ archaeological deposits apart from a possible gully at the east end of the site which lies within the area of the current watching brief.
- 4.4 The most recent archaeological fieldwork in the area was a watching brief conducted during construction of the car dealership to the west of the present site (Adams & Jones 2007). No significant archaeological deposits were found during this project other than surface scatters of 19th and 20th century pottery and a possible ditch west of the fishpond, no other archaeological deposits were present. The finds consisted of domestic pottery found in topsoil, probably the result of the casual dispersal of domestic refuse and is typical of assemblages found on former agricultural land within the Merseyside area.

B5. Areas of Archaeological Potential

- 5.1 Despite the largely negative results of the trial trenching all of the area covered by the proposed development is of some archaeological potential due to its proximity to the moated site.

B6. Aims and Objectives

- 6.1 The objective of the watching brief is, where possible, to identify and record the presence/absence, nature, extent, and date of any archaeological deposits or features which are disturbed or revealed during the construction of the proposed development. This involves monitoring the excavation of foundations and other groundworks within the watching brief area. This specification covers all ground remediation work within the watching brief area, until this has been agreed sufficient in consultation with the Archaeological Officer for Merseyside.

B7. Location of Watching Brief Areas

- 7.1 The area of the watching brief is the extent of the proposed development as detailed by the client and will be in operation during set-up and landscaping and during the site strip and foundation or other ground works as defined in the brief (Appendix A, Section 7).

B8. Methodology

- 8.1 All work shall be carried out in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and with the IFA Code of Conduct.
- 8.2 Monitoring will be undertaken in the locations specified and agreed with the MAS.
- 8.3 At least one archaeologist will be present on site as necessary and appropriate to monitor all excavation and/or soil disturbance. The archaeologist will monitor the area as groundworks proceed, and will, where possible and practicable, view any available trench sections after excavation is completed.
- 8.4 NMLFAU will record the date, time and duration of all visits and the nature and extent of the works being monitored.
- If archaeological features or deposits are identified the area should be rapidly cleaned. The archaeological sub-contractor will be allowed sufficient time, where required, to record any archaeological deposits identified. This stoppage time is outlined in the brief (Appendix A, Section 7.2) and in outline will be not less than 2 hours to a maximum of 7 hours with provision for further work in the event of exceptional discoveries.
- 8.5 **The Archaeological Officer at MAS will be notified by NMLFAU immediately significant/extensive archaeology is uncovered by the watching brief.**
- 8.6 Any archaeological deposits/features identified will be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to meet the aims and objectives of the investigation.

- 8.7 The areas of excavation/ground disturbance (even if they reveal no archaeological features) will be recorded on a suitable base map/development plan and the stratigraphy and depth of the excavation will be recorded.
- 8.8 A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all archaeological features. Hand drawn plans and sections of features will be produced at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections). Drawings will include spot heights relative to Ordnance Datum in metres, correct to two decimal places.
- 8.9 Digital and monochrome negative photographs will be taken at a minimum format of 35mm as required. In addition to records of archaeological features, a number of general site photographs will also be taken to give an overview of the site and the scope of the works taking place.
- 8.10 All non-modern artefacts will be retained. If appropriate all 'small finds' will be recorded three dimensionally. Bulk finds will be collected by context. Finds will be treated in accordance with the English Heritage guidance document 'A strategy for the care and investigation of finds' (1995) and stored in controlled conditions where appropriate. All artefacts will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines of the IFA. Conservation, if required, will be undertaken by approved conservators. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) guidelines will apply (UKIC 1998). All ferrous objects and a selection of non-ferrous objects (including all coins) will be x-rayed.
- 8.11 Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered an appropriate soil sampling strategy will be implemented in accordance with Centre for Archaeology Guidelines (English Heritage 2002).
- 8.12 Should human remains be discovered during the course of the excavations the remains will be covered and protected and left in situ in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in accordance with the appropriate Home Office and Environmental Health regulations and the Burial Act 1857 and Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981. In such an event the contractor will notify MAS immediately.
- 8.13 Any artefacts which are recovered that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1997 will be reported to H. M. Coroner. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 8.14 The intention of the watching brief is not to delay unduly the work of other contractors on site. NMLFAU will make every reasonable effort to complete archaeological excavation and recording works without impacting upon the programme of other site contractors.

B9. Reporting

- 9.1 Immediately after the completion of fieldwork the finds and samples will be processed (cleaned and marked) as appropriate. Each category of find or environmental material will be examined by a suitably qualified archaeologist or specialist. The integrity of the site archive should be curated and maintained.
- 9.2 An assessment report will be submitted as soon as possible after completion of fieldwork. The report will include the following:
- a non-technical summary
 - site location
 - archaeological and historical background
 - methodology
 - aims and objectives
 - results (to include full description, assessment of condition, quality and significance of the remains)
 - an appraisal of the results within their local, regional and national context
 - publication proposals if warranted
 - archive storage and curation
 - general and detailed plans showing the location of the stripped areas accurately positioned on an OS base map (to a known scale)

- detailed plans and sections as appropriate (to a known scale)
- a cross-referenced index of the project archive

One copy of the complete report will be submitted to the client as a draft.

Five bound copies, one unbound copy and a digital version of the report and illustrations will be required within one week of the receipt of the client's comments on the draft report. (Digital text to be in Microsoft Word format and illustrations in AutoCAD and/or PDF format).

9.5 NMLFAU will submit a copy of the report to the Archaeological Officer for MAS for deposition in the Merseyside SMR.

B10. Publication

10.1 Provision should be made for the publication of the results in an appropriate archaeological journal, if of regional or national significance.

10.2 A summary of findings will be submitted to the regional Council for British Archaeology group, CBA North West (c/o Dr. M. Nevell, UMAU, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL who will provide a pro-forma sheet).

B11. Archive Preparation and Deposition

11.1 The archive of finds and records generated during the fieldwork will be kept secure at all stages of the project. All records and materials produced will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. The archive will be produced to the standards outlined by English Heritage 1991, Appendix 3;

11.2 The archaeological sub-contractor has liaised with Liverpool Museum, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, to obtain agreement in principle to accept the archive for long term storage and curation. The sub-contractor shall be responsible for identifying any specific requirements or policies of the museum in respect of the archive (National Museums Liverpool (NML) Guidelines on the Deposition of Archaeological Archives), and for adhering to those requirements.

11.3 It is proposed to integrate the archive with previous projects conducted on and adjacent to the present site.

11.4 The deposition of the archive forms the final stage of the project. The archaeological sub-contractor shall provide copies of the communication with the recipient museum and written confirmation of the deposition of the archive. The archive will be presented to the Archive Curator within 12 months of completion of the fieldwork, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed.

B12. Monitoring

12.1 NMLFAU will liaise with the Merseyside Archaeological Service to inform them of the commencement of site works and to offer them the opportunity to visit and monitor the work in progress.

B13. Confidentiality and Publicity

13.1 The archaeological sub-contractor will not disseminate information or images associated with the project for publicity or information purposes without the prior written consent of the client.

B14. Copyright

14.1 Copyright in all reports and documentation/images produced as part of this project to reside with National Museums Liverpool who retain the right to be identified as the author/originator of the material. This applies to all archaeological aspects of the project.

14.3 The results of the archaeological work will be submitted to the clients and Merseyside Archaeological Service by NMLFAU and will ultimately be made available for public access.

B15. Resources and Timetable

15.1 All archaeological personnel involved in the project will be suitably qualified and experienced professionals.

15.2 The principal archaeologist on site will be Dr. M. Adams, Senior Project Officer NMLFAU. Additional NMLFAU staff may be appointed to the project as required.

15.3 The timetable for the work will be dependant upon the groundworks contractors programme.

B16. Insurances and Health and Safety

16.1 NMLFAU is covered by public and professional indemnity insurance.

16.2 NMLFAU has its own Health and Safety policy compiled using national guidelines and which conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation. A copy of the Health and Safety policy may be submitted to the client in advance of fieldwork.

16.3 NMLFAU will undertake a risk assessment detailing project specific Health and Safety requirements. The risk assessment shall be submitted to the client and MAS in advance of commencement of site work. Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological issues.

16.4 The archaeologist on site will familiarise themselves with, and comply with, the Health and Safety requirements of the principal contractor on site.

B17. References

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