



Planning, Transport
and Environment

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Scheme Title A 41 No man's Heath & Macclesfield Bypass.	Details Archaeological Impact assessment
Road Number A41	Date
Contractor AC Archaeology	
County Cheshire	
OS Reference	
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A41 NO MAN'S HEATH AND MACEFEN BYPASS :
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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**A41 NO MAN'S HEATH AND MACEFEN BYPASS :
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1. EXISTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Within the study area defined on Fig. 00 there are 19 locations where there is evidence for the existence, or possible existence of sites of archaeological interest.

1.1 PREHISTORIC & ROMAN

Site 1. Findspot of sherds of Roman pottery and prehistoric flint flake from A41 road widening adjacent to Tushingham School.

Site 2. Findspot of Roman military bronze 'diploma', dating to the second century AD.

1.2 MEDIEVAL

Site 3. A documentary reference (dated 1473) indicates the presence of a Medieval village, since deserted, at Tushingham Cum Grindley. The site is thought to lie near St Chad's Church.

Site 4. The Domesday Book (1086) refers to a Medieval village, since deserted, at Bickley. The site is thought to lie within the Km square SJ 5247.

Site 5. A documentary reference (dated 1300) indicates the presence of a Medieval village, since deserted, at Wyvercot. The place name is now lost, but the site is thought to lie within the Km square SJ 5147.

Site 6. A documentary reference (dated 1170) indicates the presence of a Medieval village at Wyvercot. The place name is now lost, but the site may lie within the Km square SJ 5147.

Site 7. Site of the Medieval mill at Macefen, first mentioned as '*le myll mor*' in 1487.

Site 8. The isolated building of St. Chad's chapel, commonly known as 'Old Chad', was rebuilt in 1689-91. A deed of 1349 refers to Chapel field and Chapel meadow, indicating that a Medieval chapel formerly stood on this spot.

1.3 POST-MEDIEVAL

Site 9. An iron milepost, dated 1898 is located opposite St. Chad's church on the verge of the present A41.

Site 10. Bickley Hall Farmhouse, originally built in the seventeenth century still retains early elements, but altered in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Listed Building.

Site 11. Eighteenth century farmhouse. Listed Building.

Site 12. Seventeenth century cottage. Listed Building.

Site 13. Seventeenth century cottage. Listed Building.

Site 14. Seventeenth century cottage. Listed Building.

Site 15. The site of a small plot, containing a building is shown on the 1838 Tushingham cum Grindley Tithe Map. The Tithe Apportionment describes this as "House, Smiths shop and garden". The field to the east is recorded as Smithy Field.

1.4 UNDATED - AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Site 16. An extensive zone of cropmarks has been recorded to the north of Home Farm, towards Millmoor Farm. This includes linear, possible field, boundaries and a series of large pits. Field names recorded for this area in the 1837 Macefen Tithe Apportionment include Little Brine Pit Field, Big Brine Pit Field and Marl Field.

Site 17. A single linear cropmark is probably a former Medieval or Post-Medieval field boundary. This is not shown on the 1842 Bickley Tithe (skeleton outline only) map.

Site 18. A group of earthworks including linear banks and possible small platforms / enclosures is recorded north of No Man's Heath.

Site 19. Several linear cropmarks probably represent former Medieval or Post-Medieval field boundaries, some of which are shown on the 1838 Hampton Tithe map.

2. IMPACTS OF CONSTRUCTION

The following statements of potential impacts relate to the defined construction road corridor. Ancilliary areas which may have effects on archaeological deposits, such as contractors' compounds, off-site drainage works, and agricultural accommodation works etc have not been defined and therefore are not considered at this stage.

2.1 IDENTIFIED SITES

Five of the sites identified in the study area fall within the proposed construction corridor; sites 9, 15, 16, 17, 19.

Site 9. The location of the milepost appears to fall within the southern limit of the corridor and may be disturbed by construction vehicle movements, earthmoving and verge landscaping.

Site 15. Surviving deposits associated with the post-Medieval structures recorded at this point are likely to be removed by earthmoving operations, or disturbed by compaction caused by the movement of construction vehicles associated with the new Barhill Farm access.

Site 16. It is uncertain as to whether surviving deposits associated with the cropmarks extend into the construction corridor. Earthmoving to create a cutting on

the south side of the valley and compaction by vehicles following topsoil stripping for the embankment on the north side may disturb or remove any potential deposits.

Site 17. The construction of a cutting to the north of Bickley Lane will remove the probable former field boundary during earthmoving.

Site 19. The construction of a cutting to the north of No Man's Heath will remove the probable former field boundaries during earthmoving.

2.2 FURTHER POTENTIAL

The nature of land-use in the area and the lack of previous systematic archaeological survey is likely to indicate that the presently identified sites understate the archaeological potential of the area. Further sites may lie within the construction corridor, but cannot currently be defined.

3. IMPACTS OF OPERATION

There are no identifiable impacts of operation on the archaeological resource of the area.

4. SECONDARY IMPACTS

Subject to the mitigation measures proposed in Section 5, there are several identifiable secondary impacts of the road construction;

4.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION GAIN

Further site investigations in advance of construction will enable consideration of the option to preserve deposits in situ. This will lead to an enhancement of the archaeological database by minimally invasive survey and, thereby, allow positive management policies for this scheme and any future planning-controlled developments in the area.

The systematic recovery and analysis of archaeological data from sites on which there is a direct impact during the construction phase of the road scheme can allow an important gain of information by preservation by record.

All archaeological data recovered and analysed from the scheme will allow a positive education gain, at local community and county level, through a better understanding of the historic landscape of the area, and possibly by the addition of finds to local or county museum collections.

5. MITIGATION MEASURES

5.1 GENERAL

In response to the known and potential archaeological interests along the route two stages of mitigation measures should be adopted. Both stages are in general accordance with prevailing archaeological policies;

5.1.1 General policy and advice for best practice in the management of archaeological remains under development plan and control systems has been set out in the Department of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16 November 1990), relevant extracts of which follow;

A6. Archaeological remains should be seen as a finite, and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction. Appropriate management is therefore essential to ensure that they survive in good condition. In particular, care must be taken to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed. They can contain irreplaceable information about our past and the potential for an increase in future knowledge. They are part of our sense of national identity and valuable both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and tourism.

A13. If physical preservation in situ is not feasible, an archaeological excavation for the purposes of 'preservation by record', may be an acceptable alternative. From the archaeological point of view this should be regarded as a second best option. ...

5.1.2 Chester Rural Area Local Plan, Written Statement 1985 (as adopted)

A3 Where a site of archaeological interest is believed to exist the Council at their discretion will require the developer to allow an archaeological excavation or other agreed examination of the site before development begins.

5.2 STAGE 2 PRE-CONSTRUCTION PRELIMINARY SITE INVESTIGATIONS

Prior to the commencement of construction a strategy should be devised for the further investigation of known archaeological sites and areas of further potential. The overall aim of this work should be to establish, as far as possible and with the least destructive means, the nature, date, extent and state of preservation of all deposits likely to be affected within the road corridor and ancilliary work areas.

The techniques used to carry out this investigation will vary according to the land use, soils and geological conditions, but should include geophysical survey (including magnetic susceptibility analysis), fieldwalking to collect displaced surface artefacts, and the excavation of manually- and mechanically-excavated trial pits and trenches.

The assessment of the results of these investigations should form the basis of Stage 3 responses.

5.3 STAGE 3 CONSTRUCTION PHASE RESPONSES

5.3.1 Preservation in situ

Where deposits revealed during the Phase 2 investigations are deemed to be of high (County or National) importance, methods for the preservation should be reviewed in the context of the construction proposals, other environmental considerations, engineering constraints and the construction programme. Local re-routeing of the road may not be possible or desirable. Preservation by burying under earth embankments may generally be seen as an acceptable form of preservation except where topsoil stripping and subsoil disturbance are necessary preparatory works.

5.3.2 Preservation by record

All sites defined by the Stage 2 investigations which cannot be preserved in situ should be excavated and recorded in advance of construction by professionally qualified approved archaeological contractors. All other sites so defined which are of local importance should be excavated in advance where possible, or immediately following topsoil removal during construction. All other areas where topsoil or subsoil disturbance will occur should be monitored to record localised deposits which have not been located during Stage 2.

Any programme of archaeological work must include the production of a permanent and durable archive of results, a subsequent assessment of the field data, and a publication of a detailed summary report(s) in an appropriate archaeological journal.

6. REFERENCES

Bickley Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1842

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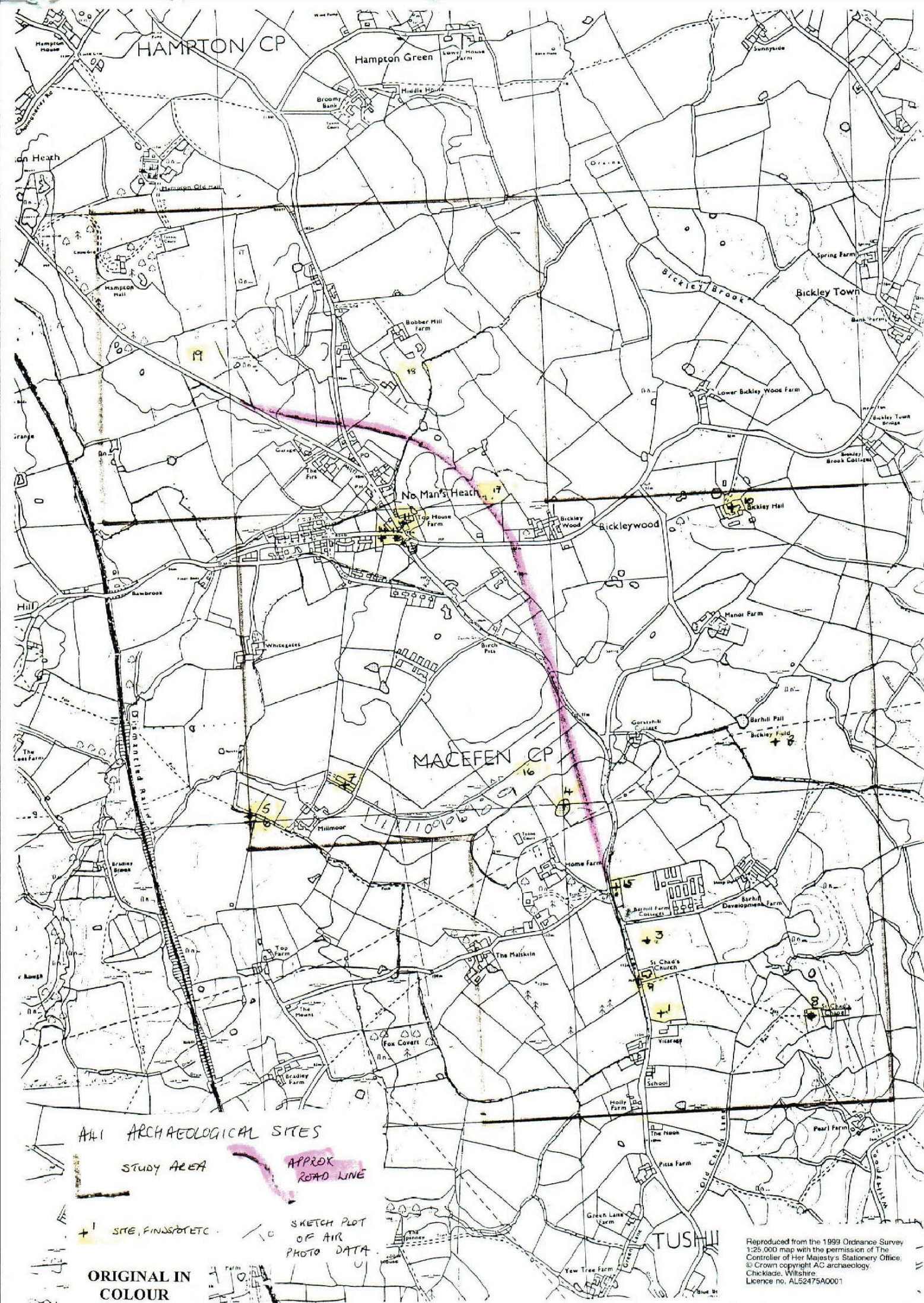
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Tushingham Cum Grindley Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1838



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