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**A desk-based
archaeological
assessment of the route
corridor for a proposed
A51 Littleton bypass**

K J Matthews

Commissioned by
Veryards Ltd



***Chester
City Council***

1995

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Introduction to the project

The A51 trunk road links Chester with eastern England and is one of the main routes of entry to and exit from the city. Always busy, it is today generally congested with heavy traffic. The section between Vicarscross and Tarvin is particularly busy, causing inconvenience to local residents, who have been campaigning for a bypass for some years.

The Highways Agency engaged Veryards Ltd to undertake initial investigations into a possible bypass scheme. As no line has yet been proposed, the approach adopted has been to investigate the likely impact of such a scheme on a corridor of land a little over 5 km long and on average 1 km wide. It runs from the junction of the A51 with the A55 Chester southerly bypass at Vicarscross to the A51 Tarvin bypass. At its western end is the historic village of Littleton and the Chester suburb of Vicarscross, while at its eastern is the historic market town of Tarvin.

Chester Archaeological Service submitted a tender to Veryards based on a Brief for Archaeological Desk Study prepared by the company. It was subsequently engaged to undertake the study, the results of which follow.

The route corridor passes through parts of eight civil parishes: Littleton, Christleton, Cotton Edmunds, Guilden Sutton, Barrow, Hockenhull, Tarvin and a small part of Great Boughton (less than 2 ha) which is not considered. Because of the separate histories of individual townships, each will be dealt with in turn; synthesis of the information will be found in the Discussion section. The general archaeology of each township will also be discussed, as it is impossible to study the route corridor in isolation, but the Gazetteer will refer only to those sites and findspots within or immediately adjacent to the corridor which would be affected by the construction of the bypass.

Please note that the name Vicarscross has been used to refer to the settlement around the A51, following current practice by the Ordnance Survey. Vicar's Cross Golf Course retains an older form of the name, which has also been used to refer to the early medieval wayside cross which gave its name to the area.

The following abbreviations have been used: CDAS, Chester District Archaeological Statement; CRO, County Record Office; CSMR, County Sites and Monuments Record; DoE, Department of the Environment; GMR, Grosvenor Museum Records; OPCS, Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. All other references are in standard Harvard format and will be found listed in the Bibliography.

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Background to the site

Geology and soils

The underlying bedrock in western Cheshire generally is a Permo-Triassic Bunter sandstone formation known as the Chester Pebble Beds, a rock containing pebbles whose origin is thought to have been in Brittany. They are taken to be the earliest of the Triassic rocks in the local sequence. They have gently-dipping, well-developed strata and are thought to have formed in a dune environment subject to periodic torrential flooding, the likely source of the pebbles (Hebblethwaite 1987, 11).

In the region the bedrock is typically overlain by drift deposits, frequently boulder clay (or till). It has a fine-grained clay matrix containing some erratic stones. Its formation is thought to have been the result of processes operating during the retreat of glacial ice (Hebblethwaite 1987, 22).

The main soil-types to have formed from the drift deposits along the line of the route corridor are typical argillic stagnogleys of the Salop and Rufford series; they are part of the most widespread type in Cheshire, covering some 33.1% of the county (Furness 1978, 121). They are fine-textured and form ideal grassland soils, which has been a major contributory factor to the development of the dairying industry in the county since the fifteenth century. Surface wetness is a limiting factor in their exploitation, but in more favourable areas some market gardening can take place (Furness 1978, 123); historically, they have also been used for arable farming when improved by marling. Typical features in landscapes with this soil are hedgerows with stunted oak trees (Furness 1978, 117).

To the south-west of Tarvin, the soils are typical brown sands, which have formed directly from the sandstone bedrock, which is not covered by drift at this point. They are found over about 15.4% of the county (Furness 1978, 72; 82). The soils are coarse-grained and easily worked and are under both arable and grassland, the principal crops being barley, potatoes and wheat, although market gardening also occurs. (Furness 1978, 73). These soils are frequently associated with areas of early settlement, as at Tarvin.

The bottom of the Gowy valley is characterised by alluvial soils deposited by the river during occasional floods. Most of the soils of this type are clayey and fine loamy alluvial gleys, frequently containing lenses and beds of peat; they account for about 2.3% of the county's soils (Furness 1978, 151; 155). The unit is fine-grained and liable to flooding, so it is entirely under permanent grass, often exploited as meadowland (Furness 1978, 157). Surface wetness is a limiting factor in its use.

Topography

The route corridor occupies land which slopes down gently from its western end into the valley of the River Gowy, which it crosses at Stamford Bridge. It then rises again towards Tarvin, which occupies the summit of a low hill. To the north of Littleton the land rises slightly towards Hoole and Upton Heaths, while to the south it remains virtually level. North of Stamford Bridge, Great Barrow sits on the southern end of a ridge of higher ground, with Little Barrow at its northern end. To the south-west of Tarvin the land rises towards Hockenhull.

There are no dramatic breaks in the landforms, the only hill of any note being Barrow Hill, and even this is relatively low. The valley of the River Gowy is more in the nature of a broad floodplain; indeed, to the north of Stamford Bridge, the river ran through marshes which became flooded at high tide until probably the later Middle Ages. The valley continues the north-north-west to

south-south-east alignment of the lower Mersey Estuary and is parallel with the Dee Estuary, a feature believed to have been caused by the direction of ice flow during the last major glaciation.

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Archaeological data

Background

The prehistory of Cheshire is poorly known in contrast with many other regions of Britain, although recent interest in the period is beginning to synthesise the data. Surface finds of all periods from the Upper Palaeolithic (before c 11,000 BC) onwards have been reported for many years, but very few settlement or other sites have been located. The soil types of Cheshire rarely produce crop marks and a very large proportion of fields is under pasture, so it is probable that large numbers of sites remain undetected. In addition, the proximity of Manchester and Liverpool airports means that their flightpaths prevent unrestricted aerial survey of large parts of the county.

Because of this lack of known sites and the relative scarcity of artefacts, the pattern of early settlement in Cheshire is completely unknown. Recent fieldwork has begun to shed light on later mesolithic settlement, with scatters of fifth to seventh millennium BC date from the Dee valley and rock-shelter sites in west-facing rock outcrops adding substantially to our knowledge.

Following the introduction of farming towards the end of the fifth millennium BC, large ritual monuments began to be constructed, perhaps to legitimise claims to areas of land. In some areas, such as Farndon in the Dee Valley and Sutton Weaver, south of Runcorn, evidence is beginning to accumulate for concentrations of such monuments whose date range runs from the neolithic to the later Bronze Age (fifth to second millennia BC).

Environmental evidence from pollen cores shows that major woodland clearance began late in the second millennium BC, possibly for cereal cultivation. The hilltop enclosures of the Mid-Cheshire Ridge are evidence that western Cheshire had already been partitioned into estates in the first millennium BC. It is also probable that by the later Iron Age (*ie* the first century AD) a network of small farmsteads and some larger settlements had long been established within a substantially cleared landscape. However, the region seems to have been peripheral to the main social and technological developments in British prehistory, and remained a backwater.

The Roman period (AD c 60-400) is relatively well known at the military establishment of *Deva* at Chester and the civilian settlement which was associated with it and which may eventually have overshadowed it. This may be contrasted with an almost total lack of knowledge about the countryside. A few rural settlements and Romanised farmhouses (or villas) have been identified, but there must have been many more farms and industrial communities servicing the garrisons and urban populations than have so far been identified. Of particular significance is the area around Chester, which must have formed the *prata legionis* ('meadows of the legion'), an area exploited by the military for its agricultural and natural resources.

Re-evaluation of the considerable amount of data which exists for Chester District is beginning to highlight areas of possible Romano-British rural settlement, and a general pattern can be suggested. The most common form of settlement was probably the farmstead, situated in oval or sub-rectangular enclosures. Some of the wealthier landowners (among them retired legionary soldiers) lived in more pretentious villa-type dwellings, and in a few places nucleated settlements grew up. As in the prehistoric period, the regions seems to have remained peripheral and generally did not enjoy many of the material benefits of Roman rule.

Post-Roman British and early Saxon settlement patterns are more obscure: to a large extent this is because little durable material culture was produced at the time, which has meant that there have been few finds made, even in large-scale excavations. Placename evidence suggests that there was considerable continuity of population from the Roman period, with a strong Christian tradition. The same evidence, together with historical sources, suggests that domination by the Angles of Mercia did not begin until the seventh century AD. At the end of the Saxon period, Domesday Book gives us a snapshot of

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settlement patterns and land tenure in 1066 and 1086. This shows that the pattern of multi-township parishes, which is still the main rural settlement type in Cheshire, had in all probability been established by the middle of the eleventh century.

Medieval settlement patterns are relatively well understood, with a wealth of landscape detail surviving until recent times. Much of this consists of traces of medieval agriculture, preserved under later pasture and visible on aerial photographs taken in the 1940s as well as on early maps and other documents. In addition, some villages also have traces of early properties - known as tofts and crofts - which have subsequently been abandoned and which survive as low earthworks. Many of the later Halls are on or close by the sites of medieval manors, and mill sites, which are recorded from Domesday Book onwards, can frequently be identified on the ground. The network of minor roads and lanes which connect settlements both with each other and with their fields was largely established by this time.

The later Middle Ages and early post-medieval period saw the growth of the landed gentry as a class and the demise of the feudal system of land tenure. These two processes encouraged the formation of large estates based on agricultural production, which from the fifteenth century on was moving towards dominance by the dairy industry in Cheshire. The new gentry required large and impressive fashionable houses - generally referred to as Halls - in managed parkland, many of which survive.

Intensification of agriculture coupled with improvements in farming techniques in the eighteenth century in particular brought about radical transformations of the landscape. Together with the transport revolution during the nineteenth century and tremendous population growth in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, these factors have led to many settlements expanding beyond their historic cores whilst others have been depopulated as people have moved into towns. A prominent feature of the nineteenth century in western Cheshire was the rebuilding of entire villages on model estate lines by wealthy landlords: the growth of the Eaton Estate under the Marquesses and Dukes of Westminster in particular brought about huge changes in the area. However, in the decade following the First World War there were enormous changes in land-ownership patterns all over England - the largest since the transfer of ecclesiastical estates into lay hands at the Dissolution in the ~~1540s~~ - and many of the large estates were broken up.

In the late twentieth century a return to villages has been seen, with commuting by car becoming a common feature of work patterns. These villages often contain post-Second World War council estates and, increasingly, estates of houses built by large national developers around cul-de-sacs radiating from a spine road. These have often changed the traditional focus of the settlements as well as the character of both the villages and their communities.

Littleton summary

The township of Littleton stretches along the A51, the main road through it. However, the early focus of the village lay some 350 metres to the south, at the junction of the north-south Harc Lane from Christleton to Hoole with the east-west Pearl Lane from Great Boughton to Stamford Heath. The modern Chester suburb of Vicarscross, which runs alongside the A51, is an entirely twentieth-century creation.

The main Roman road east from the fortress at Chester towards Manchester (and ultimately York to the east and Hadrian's Wall to the north) runs through the township, its line approximating to the present A51 (Margary 1973, 300; CDAS 77.2.1). During the construction of the A55 Chester southerly bypass in 1990 the road surface, consisting of cobbles set in a slight hollow, was observed at the point where the deep cutting for the junction was made (Morris 1992, 13).

Other Romano-British material consists of the find-spots of a lead weight weighing 8 *unciae* (Roman ounces) (CSMR 1929/0/1; CDAS 77.2.2), a sherd from a Dressel 20 type globular amphora (CSMR 1929/0/2; CDAS 77.2.3) and a dupondius (a bronze coin of low value) of the emperor Vespasian, dated AD 77-8 (Lloyd-Morgan 1981, 65; CSMR 1929/0/3; CDAS 77.2.4).

Finds of Romano-British lead weights are relatively common in western Cheshire; although it is impossible to be certain why this should be the case, it may reflect the economic importance of the lead industry to the region. Lead was mined at Halkyn Mountain (near Flint, Clwyd), and at a number of sites within the fortress at Chester evidence has been found for the reprocessing of lead. It is possible that lead weights were widely available to the local population for a variety of uses, both domestic and commercial; on the other hand, it is possible that small-scale manufacturing of lead objects took place in the countryside.

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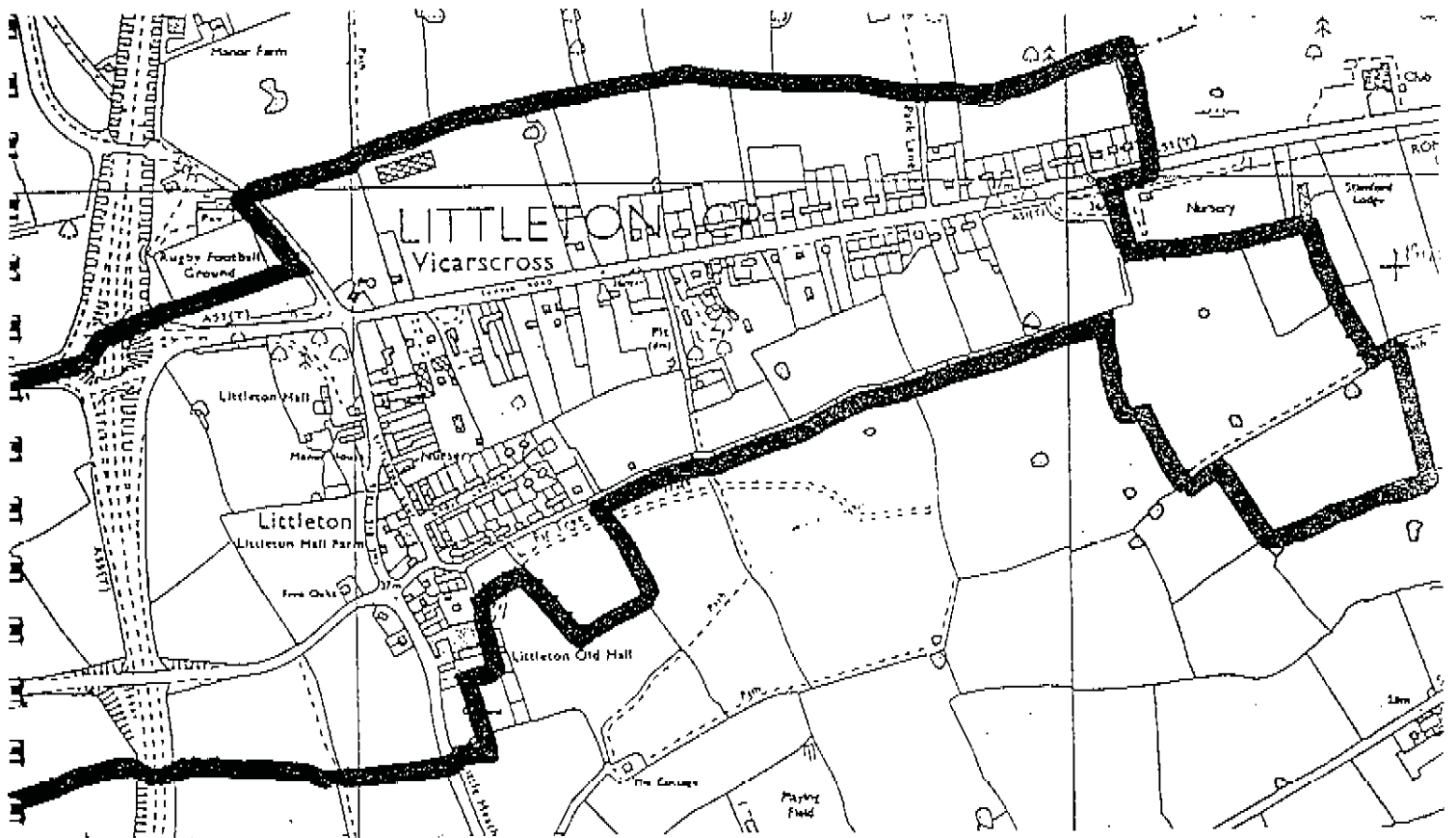


Figure 2: Littleton (1:10,000)

The archaeological significance of single finds of potsherds is equally difficult to assess. While it is likely that some discarded pottery might have made its way onto the fields in farmyard manure, it is clear that pottery was not widely used on rural sites and that one sherd might be the only surface indication of a Romano-British farmstead (Matthews 1994, 58). Dressel 20 amphorae were manufactured in Spain for the transport of olive oil; they are one of the most frequently-found and widely-distributed types, being especially common in the western provinces. From the late first century AD to the early third century they are the dominant type in Britain (Peacock & Williams 1986, 136).

Single coins found without associations with contemporary features are even more difficult to place in context as coins are highly portable and easily lost, so that how coins come to be archaeological objects is rarely possible to ascertain. However, the close association of the coin with the lead weight and amphora sherd lends support to the hypothesis that a Romano-British site awaits discovery in the village.

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The placename Vicarscross refers to a medieval wayside or boundary cross which stood hereabouts (CDAS 77.3.1). There are references to its destruction by iconoclasts in 1614, a period when most of the region's medieval and Saxon crosses were destroyed, although in 1923 it was still possible to see parts of it "in a field on the left-hand side of the road from Chester to Tarvin." (Brownbill 1923, 100). It has been thought to be of Saxon type (Thacker 1987, 276).

The present A51 is in origin a turnpike road (CDAS 77.5.1), constructed to replace the more southerly route towards London which ran through the centre of Christleton. Its surface was observed during the construction of the Chester southerly bypass in 1990 and found to consist of a layer of cobbles on a dump of clay about 500 mm thick (Morris 1992, 13). To the east the turnpike road appears to diverge slightly from the line of its Roman precursor, in a more northerly direction.

A number of post-1800 sites exist in the township, the most important being a disused quarry (CDAS 77.6.3). The site of the second mile post on the Chester-Northwich turnpike (CDAS 77.6.4), has been lost to the A55 southerly bypass, but several guide-posts and boundary stones survive. Much of the housing stock in the township is also of twentieth-century date, although Littleton Hall, a small stucco house in flat parkland designed by Benjamin Gummow, was erected in 1806 (de Figueiredo & Treuherz 1988, 250). It has been much altered in the twentieth century. Earlier maps call it Littleton House and Littleton-hill in contrast to the former Littleton Hall, further south. In 1994 the discovery of a brick-lined well fifteen feet (4.6 m) deep in the garden of 3 Littleton Hall was reported to Chester Archaeological Service (file note by S W Ward, 29 September 1994; CDAS 77.6.5). It was probably of post-medieval date, perhaps eighteenth- or nineteenth-century.

Littleton contains only one Listed Building, a former seventeenth-century corn barn, now converted into housing and known as 1 and 2 Hunters Court (DoE 1984b, 26; CSMR 1931//; CDAS 77.7.1). This was the site of Littleton Hall, recorded as still extant in 1724 (Raines 1845, 127) but lost by 1845. This may have been on or close to the site of the medieval manor house, known as *the Whytehall* in 1565, when it had already been demolished (Dodgson 1972, 113).

Guilden Sutton summary

The township of Guilden Sutton forms a rough parallelogram, with the village occupying a roughly central position. The eastern part of the township runs into the marshes of the River Gowy. There are several routes which the village has developed around: a north-south line from Mickle Trafford towards Littleton, and although the southern part has been lost to Vicar's Cross Golf Course, the line is continued by footpaths. Sutton Lane runs east-west from Hoolc to join the north-south road; it extends eastwards into the fields overlooking the River Gowy. A second east-west route, Bellevue Lane, runs from the hamlet of Piper's Ash into the southern end of the village, crossing the main north-south lane and again running towards the Gowy, which it crosses at Oxen Bridge before continuing on to Great Barrow. This lane was originally known as Oxen Lane (Dodgson 1972, 127). Wicker Lane runs south-east from the centre of the village towards Stamford Heath.

The earliest find from the township is a polished stone axe of neolithic date (*ie c* 4350-2500 BC) (CSMR 1926//; CDAS 57.1.1). Its source is the Group VI axe factory at Great Langdale, Cumbria. The distribution of Great Langdale products is very widespread, so the relative remoteness of the source tells us little about this find. It was found in Piper's Ash, slightly east of the line of the modern Chester southerly bypass.

There is a bronze coin of the emperor Licinius (308-324) from the village (CSMR 1927//; CDAS 57.2.1), while a possible road runs along the boundary between the township and Mickle Trafford, to the north (CDAS 57.2.2). It is notably straight for most of its course and for much of its length it is followed by a tree-lined green lane. A low mound, closely resembling the *agger* associated with engineered Roman roads, was observed to run along the green lane during a site visit by the writer on 25 January 1995, strongly suggesting that it is indeed of Roman origin. The line established here can be projected westwards to join the Chester to Wilderspool road at a point in Newton Hollows where

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there is a sudden change of alignment suggestive of a junction. A Romano-British potsherd was found in 1994 in a ploughed field adjacent to this road (CDAS 57.2.3). The difficulties involved in placing interpretations upon single finds have already been stated under the summary for Littleton; here the find-spots of the coin and potsherd are 750 m apart, and it would be dangerous to assume a connection between the two.

A lead spindle-whorl of medieval type was found in a field to the east of the village (Lloyd-Morgan 1982; CSMR 1910/ / ; CDAS 57.4.1). These weights were commonly used for spinning using a distaff and are evidence for the production of homespun cloth in rural areas in the past. They are relatively common as finds; its find-spot is unlikely to indicate habitation in this field and it was probably taken out in manure.

There are several post-1800 sites including three wells, three boundary stones, a disused gravel pit, two mile posts, two Methodist chapels and Oxen Bridge, which carries a track across the River Gowy (CDAS 57.6.1-12). Vicar's Cross Golf Course is also mainly in Guilden Sutton (CDAS 57.6.13). It was formed in the 1930s, but when the Second World War broke out, the land was ploughed and the course not re-established until 1946 (Tigwell 1985, 134). None of these sites is of great archaeological significance.

There are three Listed Buildings: Hill Farm farmhouse, of late seventeenth-century date (CSMR 1911/1/ ; CDAS 57.7.1), St John the Baptist's church, sixteenth century (CSMR 1928/ / ; CDAS 57.7.2), and a sundial in the churchyard, dated 1596 (CSMR 1928/1/2; CDAS 57.7.3). Hill Farm stands beside Wicker Lane in the centre of the village and has been altered in the eighteenth and twentieth centuries. It is a brick-built L-shaped structure of two storeys with an inglenook fireplace in the kitchen (DoE 1984a, 6). The main fabric of the church dates from the early nineteenth century (after the collapse of the earlier chancel in high winds in 1802), but there is some sixteenth-century work. It is a brick structure consisting of a nave and chancel with a porch on the south side and a bellcote. In the churchyard is a sandstone column bearing a copper sundial dated 1596 (DoE 1984a, 5).

Christleton summary

The medieval ecclesiastical parish of Christleton was roughly rectangular, but the townships of Littleton, Rowton, Cotton Edmunds and Cotton Abbots occupy the north-western, south-western, eastern and south-eastern parts of the parish respectively. The village centre lies towards the western edge of the township at the junction of several roads. One leads east-west through the village, running from Chester to Birch Heath (and originally on to Cotton Edmunds Hall (Matthews 1991, 11)), while the other runs north-south from Littleton to Rowton. An important early route was diverted by the construction of the canal in the eighteenth century: branching from the east-west route through the village just west of Christleton Bridge, it ran on a more southerly course joining Plough Lane south of Birch Heath. This was the main route towards London during the Middle Ages and until the construction of the Chester-Tarvin turnpike (now the A51) in the eighteenth century.

Five finds of Romano-British material in Christleton lie close to this latter route. An *as* of Trajan (Emperor 98-117) was found close to Christleton Bridge (CSMR 2334/ /). A bronze coin of Constantine I (306-337) (GMR 347; CSMR 1935/ /) and a lead weight weighing 2 *unciae* (Roman ounces) (CSMR 1935/0/ 2) were found near Rowton Bridge in 1958 (Thompson 1959, 80). Close by was a bronze brooch of the 'dolphin' type (GMR 973). Closer to the junction of Plough Lane and Rake Lane was a lead weight of 4 *unciae*, actually weighing 106.21 g (GMR 760; CSMR 1912/ /). The warnings already given under Littleton about single discoveries of coins, lead weights and so on also apply here, although the group found near Rowton Bridge is relatively closely associated and probably derive from contemporary occupation nearby. It is interesting to note that this putative occupation is almost two kilometres from the Roman road (Margary 1973 route 7a) which crosses the north-eastern corner of the township, heading for the river crossing at Stamford Bridge, where there is also evidence for occupation. A bronze bell (CDAS 28.2.6) from the Christleton side of the River Gowy is probably to be associated with the material on the east bank, in Barrow.

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Two earthwork enclosures have been identified on Stamford Heath (CSMR 1913// and 1914//; CDAS 28.2.8 and 28.2.9) and were surveyed by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments for England in 1985 (Ainsworth *et al.* 1990). They are of slightly different form. The westernmost is aligned on the Roman road, measures 110 by 83 metres (with an area of 0.91 ha) and is of a playing card shape, typically associated with Roman military works (Ainsworth *et al.* 1990, 84) and has a possible entrance close to the centre of the eastern (short) side. The feature is also overlain by ridge-and-furrow of supposedly medieval character, which may bear out a tentatively Roman date, although the surveyors urged caution in dating it. The easternmost, in contrast, has much narrower banks and ditches and possesses angular corners; it measures 120 by 85 metres and encloses 1.02 ha. It is overlain by narrow ridge-and-furrow, of a type generally assumed to be late (Williams 1988, 21), which is in turn cut by a marl pit. The surveyors proposed that this was a medieval 'heathland enclosure', a class of earthwork monument or industrial site of obscure function but common on the downlands of lowland England (Ainsworth *et al.* 1990, 82).

These enclosures, particularly the westernmost, are similar to a group discovered at Upton Heath (CDAS 113.2.4-8), to the north-west, and it is logical to suggest a common origin for all of them. Recent fieldwork at Upton Heath (in December 1994 and August 1995) has not yet provided positive dating evidence for one of these enclosures, and although the initial study (Matthews *et al.* 1995, 23) cast doubt on their interpretation as Roman practice camps recent aerial photography in the exceptionally dry summer of 1995 has revealed further examples at Upton, Picton and Hoole which are certainly morphologically Roman. It may therefore be best to regard these two earthworks as the southernmost so far identified of the group.

The churchyard once contained a cross (CSMR 1938/1/2; CDAS 28.3.1), believed to have been Saxon in date (Thacker 1987, 276). This is confirmation of an early date for the church, which stands in a circular churchyard (CDAS 28.3.2), a type which is thought to be early and probably pre-Saxon (Thacker 1987, 240).

The well which supplied the Abbey of St Werburgh's, Chester, with water along an aqueduct constructed from wooden pipes is located on the western edge of the township (CSMR 3007/3/14; CDAS 28.4.2). A recent watching-brief on the site of a new park-and-ride car park adjacent to the site failed to reveal any traces of the aqueduct, however (*pers. comm.* S Ward). Also close to this site was an area used as a rubbish dump for the City of Chester during the eighteenth century (CDAS 28.5.1). One other potentially medieval site is a mound believed to have been the base of a windmill (CSMR 1937/1/ ; CDAS 28.4.1).

A bronze penny of Henry III has been found to the south of Plough Lane (GMR 972; CDAS 28.4.3). This was probably lost accidentally in plough-soil, perhaps having been taken out in manure, as there is no evidence for medieval habitation in this area.

Close to the western boundary of the township, and to the south of the A41 Street Way, was the city dump of eighteenth-century Chester (CDAS 28.5.1). A variety of finds of this date, including pottery and clay tobacco pipes, has been made here. Close by, to the north of the Abbot's Well Hotel, a bronze medallion of the Bluecoat School has been found (GMR 882; CDAS 28.6.28). It was presented to one James Thomas Stockton, who was Thackeray Scholar at the school from 1892 to 1895 according to the inscription on it.

There was a smithy in the village (CDAS 28.6.20), at the junction of Plough Lane and Rowton Bridge Road, although it no longer functions. The property immediately to the north had an ice-house (CDAS 28.6.29); it is not known whether or not it still exists. There is also a Methodist Chapel on Little Heath Road (CDAS 28.6.27); Stamford Bridge (and its disused precursors) are in both Christleton and Barrow (CDAS 7.4.12; 7.5.10; 28.6.7). Other post-1800 sites in the township include two mile posts, twelve boundary stones, a number of them on the township boundary, four guide posts and two wells. Perhaps the most significant of these sites is a concrete bunker dating from the Second World War, now used by Vicar's Cross nursery (CDAS 28.6.30). Although such sites are not rare, they are nevertheless very vulnerable to destruction without record and local examples have rarely been surveyed in any way.

There are thirty-one Listed Buildings in Christleton (CDAS 28.7.1-31). None is in or close to the proposed route corridor.

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Cotton Edmunds summary

The township of Cotton Edmunds is an irregular shape. Situated away from major roads, it has no concentrations of settlement and is dominated by farms. Plough Lane, the main route to London from Chester during the Middle Ages runs across the centre of the township, crossing the River Gowy at Hockenhuill Platts, by the so-called 'Roman' bridges. One other lane runs north from Plough Lane, passing Cotton Hall, towards Stamford Bridge. A disused track, now a footpath, connects Cotton Hall with Stamfordhollows Farm, to the north-west. In the northern corner of the township is Stamford Mill.

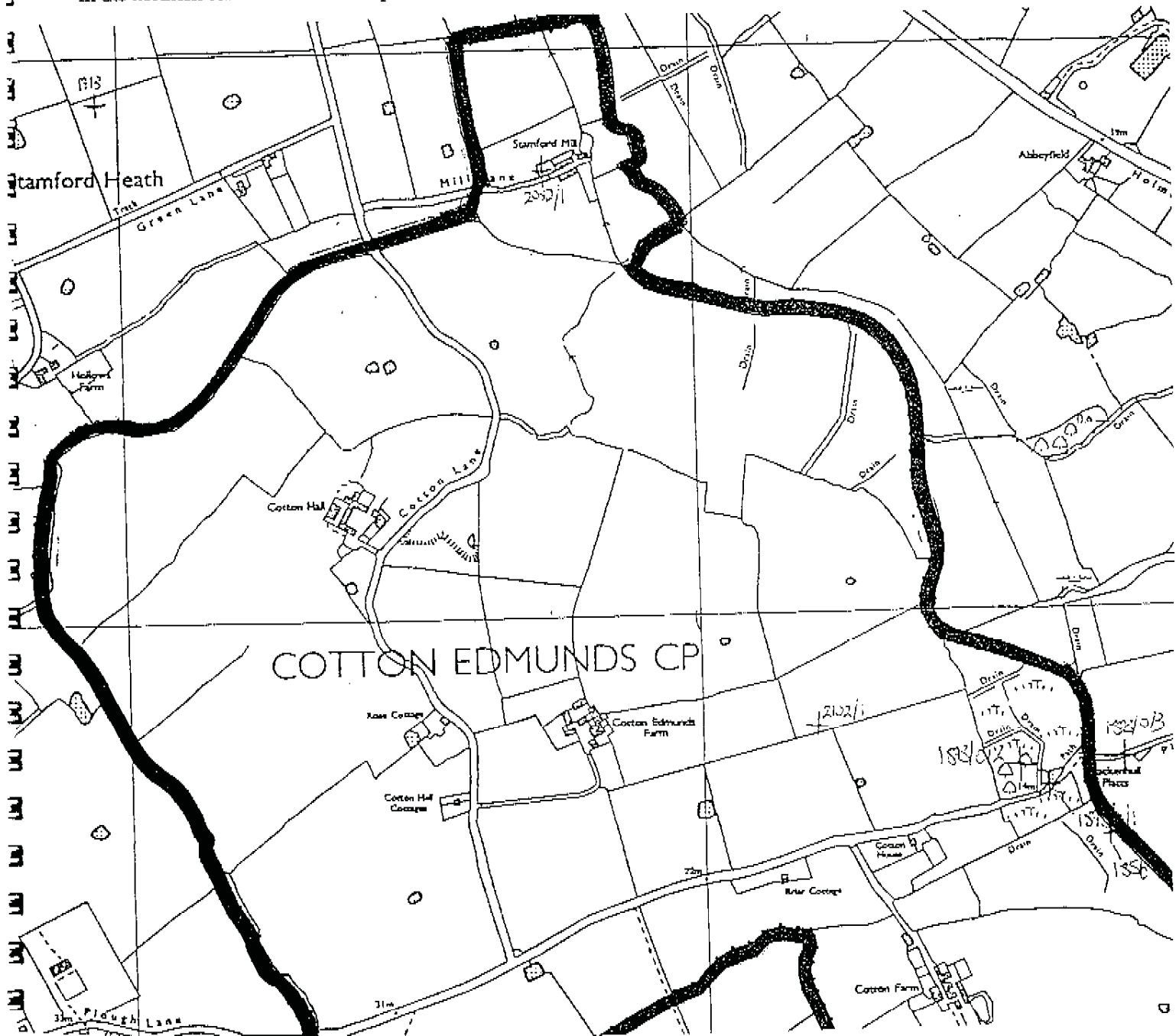


Figure 5: Cotton Edmunds township (1:10,000)

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The archaeology of the township is obscure. Stamford Mill is first attested in 1188×91, and is the earliest site so far identified in Cotton Edmunds (CSMR 2032/1/; CDAS 38.4.1). The present building has been reduced from two storeys to one, which is now the kitchen of the mill house (Norris 1966, 69). There are said to be date-stones of 1610 and 1790 under the rendering. The wheel, which was removed about 1900 together with the machinery, was enclosed and undershot.

About 500 metres west of Hockenhull Platts is a ditched earthwork enclosure, which has been thought to be of manorial origin (CSMR 2102/1/; CDAS 38.4.2). It may be an enclosure of the type found on Stamford Heath in Christleton, in which case it could be Roman, but it has not been identified as such by recent aerial surveys.

The only Listed Building in the township is the westernmost of the three so-called 'Roman Bridges' (CSMR 1893/0/1; CDAS 38.7.1): the attribution of any antiquity to the Roman period is commonly found in popular antiquarianism. It is a humpbacked packhorse bridge over one of the channels of the River Gowy and probably dates from the later eighteenth century (DoE 1985, 15).

A number of more recent sites include a sand pit, two wells, two boundary stones and a hydraulic ram on the River Gowy (CDAS 38.6.1-6). None of these is of any great archaeological significance.

Barrow summary

There are several settlement foci at Barrow: Great Barrow, Little Barrow, Long Green, Hollowmoor Heath and Broomhill. Great Barrow is the dominant settlement and the location of the church. Its form is basically an agglomerate type, based on a series of rows, of which the primary appears to be the lane from the Manor House to the church. Secondary development along the east-west road towards Barrow Mill has masked the probable original village form.

The main route through the township is that which runs north-south, linking the main road at Stamford Bridge with that between Bridge Trafford and Dunham-on-the-Hill. Both Great and Little Barrow are situated along this road. Another lane runs from just north of Great Barrow via Hollowmoor Heath to Tarvin. A track runs east-west from Barrow Mill through Great Barrow down to the River Gowy, which appears to be of early origin. On Barrow Hill another lane branches north from this one; it is known as Ferma Lane, meaning "ferny lane" and gives access to what may have been an area of early agriculture.

The southern part of the parish has produced a few prehistoric artefacts, including some mesolithic scrapers which form an outlier of the notable concentration in Ashton and Mouldsworth (Leach 1942, 57; CSMR 1854/0/13; CDAS 7.1.1). There is also a dolerite neolithic axe from Park Hall (Webster 1952, 109; GMR 151; CSMR 1903//; CDAS 7.1.2) and a spindlewhorl and loomweight from Stamford Bridge (Williams 1981, 57; GMR 525; GMR 424; CSMR 2038//; CDAS 7.1.3). A bronze terret ring from Stamford Bridge (GMR 832; CSMR 2052/0/1 which wrongly lists it as being from Christleton; CDAS 7.1.4) may be Late Iron Age rather than Romano-British in date, as its decoration is of 'Celtic' type (Robinson & Lloyd-Morgan 1985, 95).

The Roman road from Chester to Manchester (Margary 1973, 300; CDAS 7.2.1) is largely followed by the southern boundary of the parish. East of Stamford Bridge the A51 Tarvin Road diverges from this line to the south; this may have been a road-junction in the Roman period, with a poorly-known route running south-east towards Nantwich.

There is a relatively large number of finds of Roman date in the south-western part of the parish (Robinson & Lloyd-Morgan 1981, 61; GMR 726; CSMR 1904//; CDAS 7.2.2; Robinson 1981, 61; GMR 729; CSMR 1905/0/1; CDAS 7.2.3; GMR 937; CSMR 1905/0/2; CDAS 7.2.4; GMR 920; CSMR 2039//; CDAS 7.2.6; GMR 936; CSMR 2331/0/1; CDAS 7.2.7; CSMR 2331/0; CDAS 7.2.8; GMR 1992.0; CSMR 2331/0//; CDAS 7.2.10). The material is varied and consists of pottery (including Black-Burnished ware and samian), coins of Vespasian and Caracalla (Emperors 69-79 and 211-217), a Polden Hill type fibula of late second- or third-century date, a lever-type lock bolt, a handle from a bronze globular jug and bronze knob from a helmet brow.

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Most of these finds cluster around the modern village, but there are some from the vicinity of Stamford Bridge and the Roman road (including a bronze bell in Christleton, on the west side of the river). This density of finds is unusual and suggests a settlement of some size, probably a village rather than a single farmstead. It may have had two foci, one around the river crossing and one where the medieval village grew up.

Other Roman finds from the parish, at Hollingsgreen and to the north-east of Barrow Lodge, consist of a lead weight of four *unciae*, weighing 110.46 g (GMR 466; CSMR 1990// ; CDAS 7.2.5) and a coin of Hadrian, issued in AD 118 (CSMR 2392// ; CDAS 7.2.9). As they were reported as stray finds, it is impossible to know whether they are from sites of human occupation or losses for other reasons.

It is of interest to note that the churchyard is oval in shape (CSMR 1880/1/2; CDAS 7.3.1); this form has been associated with sub-Roman Christianity, and it is possible that a church was founded in Barrow in the sub-Roman, if not actually the late Roman, period. The modern village could therefore be the direct descendant of the Roman, with no break in occupation. The dedication, to St Bartholomew, is unusual and again potentially early; a carved cross which formerly stood in the churchyard was also possibly of Saxon date (Laing & Laing 1985, 24; CDAS 7.3.2). The present church is largely of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century construction; it was first attested in the fourteenth century as a free chapel (CSMR 1880/1/1; CDAS 7.4.1).

In the medieval period the township was divided between two manors, Great and Little Barrow, the division being first recorded in the thirteenth century. A park was established in the south-eastern part of the parish by 1253 (CDAS 7.4.7). It was called '*Hugh Despencer's park in his manor of Barewe*' in 1297; this contained the manor house of Great Barrow. Park Hall perhaps occupies the original focus of the estate. A hall is recorded at Little Barrow from 1325 (CDAS 4.7.3).

The two mills recorded in Domesday Book are probably those at Swinfordmill, first mentioned by name in the early thirteenth century (CSMR 1908/1/ ; CDAS 7.4.18), and Barrow Mill, first mentioned in the mid-twelfth century (CSMR 1907/1/ ; CDAS 7.4.17). A hamlet known as Milton is mentioned in 1353 (CDAS 4.7.5), but its location is not known for certain. Dodgson (1971, 263) conjectured that it lay around Barrow Mill, probably correctly, although earthworks north of Milton Brook Bridge may be the remains of the hamlet (CDAS 7.4.15).

Stray finds of medieval date include a long cross penny of Henry III (GMR 703; CSMR 1906// ; CDAS 7.4.8), a penny of Edward I, issued 1280×1 (GMR 886; CDAS 7.4.9) and a penny of another Edward, probably Edward III, issued by the London mint (GMR 821; Lloyd-Morgan 1986, 97; CDAS 7.4.10). As with all stray finds, it is impossible to know how they reached the places they were found, although it is likely that many were distributed onto arable land in manure. There is a notable cluster to the west of Milton Brook Bridge, which may be associated with the earthworks there. A group of four fourteenth-century bronze counting-house tokens inscribed *AVE MARIAE GRASI PLENA* (GMR 916; CDAS 7.4.19) is less likely to have been lost accidentally in this way, unless they were all in a bag or purse; it is perhaps more likely that they were deliberately deposited, although the reason behind their deposition is not known.

During the post-medieval and modern periods Barrow has remained relatively isolated: the Chester-Nantwich turnpike road clips the south-western corner of the parish (CDAS 7.5.9), with a side-gate at Stamford Bridge (CDAS 7.5.10), but no other major route crosses it. Two railway lines cut through the parish: one (from Chester to Warrington, built in 1850) crosses the north-western corner of the parish (CDAS 7.6.1), and the other (Chester Northgate to Mouldsworth, built 1874) runs west-east across it (CDAS 7.6.2). On the latter line was a station (Barrow for Tarvin) in Little Barrow, which closed in 1953 (CDAS 7.6.3). Two stray finds of post-medieval coins have been reported from the village, both coincidentally of Elizabeth I: one was issued 1558×60 (GMR 888; CDAS 7.5.4) while the other was issued 1591×4 (GMR 889; CDAS 7.5.5).

Like many of the ancient churches in Cheshire, St Bartholomew's was extensively remodelled in the nineteenth century. In addition, a United Methodist church was built in Little Barrow (CDAS 7.6.15).

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Barrowmore Hall (CDAS 7.6.15), built between 1879 and 1881, was designed by John Douglas. In 1920 it became a Sanatorium and village settlement for the East Lancashire Tuberculosis Colony, but the Sanatorium building was completely destroyed by a bomb on 29 November 1940. It took three years to rebuild the Sanatorium. The premises were acquired by the newly-established National Health Service in 1947, and closed as a hospital in the 1980s. Some of the buildings of the village settlement have been converted to small business use while others are residential.

Tarvin summary

Tarvin is one of the largest townships in Chester District, measuring over six kilometres from east to west and over three north to south. It is roughly diamond-shaped, with a projection to the east. Much of the northern edge of the township follows the Roman road from Chester to Manchester, while the south-western roughly follows the line of another, from Stamford Bridge to Nantwich.

It is an archaeologically-rich township, with sites and finds ranging from prehistory to the twentieth century. A number of flint artefacts have been found, principally to the east of the village (GMR 153; CSMR 1865//; CDAS 105.1.1; CSMR 1866//; CDAS 105.1.2), although a Neolithic (c 4350-2500 BC) scraper was found in the village centre during the 1930s (GMR 152; Williams 1986b, 90; CSMR 1895//; CDAS 105.1.4). An Early Bronze Age (c 2500-1250 BC) bead was found close to this find-spot (CSMR 1896//; CDAS 105.1.5), although it was suspected that it might have been imported in gravel from Gresford, Clwyd. There is also the lower part of a rotary quern whose lower face had been reused as a whetstone, believed to be of prehistoric date, from a field to the north of Grove House (Robinson 1982, 74; GMR 793; CSMR 1894//; CDAS 105.1.3).

As already indicated, two Roman roads run through the township. The better-known of the two is the Chester to Manchester road (Margary 1973, 7a; Waddelove 1986, 206; CSMR 844/1/15; 844/1/16; CDAS 105.2.1), which is followed by the parish boundary from Stamford Bridge to just west of the mill stream. It continues on the same alignment to leave the township at the point where it crosses Salters Brook. A number of metallised areas have been observed in this area (Waddelove 1986, 207; Waddelove & Waddelove 1986, 74; GMR 150; CSMR 844/1/18; GMR 377; CSMR 844/1/19).

W Thompson Watkin (1886, 63) suggested that a road ought to have run from Stamford Bridge to Nantwich, and traces have been found close to its junction with the Chester-Manchester road east of Stamford Bridge (Waddelove 1986, 270; Waddelove & Waddelove 1986, 74; CSMR 1915/1//; CDAS 105.2.2). The modern road from Stamford Bridge to Holme-Street Hall approximates to its line, after which it is roughly represented by the township boundary and field boundaries. As it enters Duddon it merges with Platts Lane before meeting the A51.

A subrectangular cropmark discovered from the air in 1994 (CSMR 2443//; CDAS 105.2.4) is of a type which has been found elsewhere in the region to be of Romano-British date (Manley 1991, 99; Nevell 1989, 31). Its short axis is approximately parallel to the Stamford Bridge to Nantwich road. One stray find of Roman date has been reported from the village, a coin of Constantine I as Caesar (306-7) (CDAS 105.2.3): this was found about 700 m from the probable farmstead and may have been taken out into fields in manure.

As at Littleton, Christleton and Barrow, there was formerly a wayside cross at Tarvin destroyed by iconoclasts in 1614 (Brownbill 1923, 100; CDAS 105.3.1); it may have been Saxon in date, rather than medieval (Thacker 1987, 276).

Tarvin Mill is first attested in the late thirteenth century (Dodgson 1971, 283; CSMR 1898/1//; CDAS 105.4.1). The present building is post-medieval, but the wheel and machinery were removed around 1950 (Norris 1966, 70). There is also said to have been a hermitage in Tarvin during the fourteenth century (CSMR 1899/4//; CDAS 105.4.2).

During the construction of Tarvin bypass in 1983-4, some medieval pottery was recovered (CSMR 2042//; CDAS 105.4.3). It seems to have been material distributed in former ploughsoils through the practice of manuring from kitchen middens and is unlikely to derive from an otherwise forgotten area of occupation.

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The material included a thirteenth-century dish or bowl in a pink/white fabric similar to that manufactured at Brereton Park, a few kilometres away and a fourteenth-century Ewloe-type jug or bottle (Rutter 1986, 87). There was also a large collection of post-medieval (seventeenth to nineteenth centuries) pottery, predominantly tablewares.

A small collection of clay pipes was found in the garden of 1 Meadow Close, including a previously unknown stamp. They date from c 1660 and have close parallels in pipes from Rainford (Davey 1977, 53; CDAS 105.5.4). A lead spindle-whorl from the village, originally thought to have been of Roman date (Webster 1952, 111), is now believed to be post-medieval (CSMR 1897/0/1; CDAS 105.5.1). A coin of Charles I was found to the north-west of the village (CDAS 105.5.3).

A bypass was constructed to the north-west of the village earlier in the twentieth century (CDAS 105.6.1). Tarvin has grown enormously during the twentieth century, especially since the mid-1950s, with the construction of new housing estates to the south-east of the historic core.

There are thirty Listed Buildings in Tarvin (CDAS 105.7.1-27). Of these, seven relate to the church, churchyard and memorials within it. Only two lie within the study area, however: Holme Bank, a late eighteenth-century house beside the 1983-4 bypass (CDAS 105.7.10), and Holme Street Hall, an early seventeenth-century farmhouse west of the junction between the A51 and A54 (CDAS 105.7.30).

Hockenhull summary

Hockenhull is a small township, roughly diamond-shaped and crossed by only one road, Platts Lane. This was the medieval main road from Chester to London but is now merely a green lane. Hockenhull Lane, which originally ran south-west from the centre of Tarvin towards Hockenhull Platts, where Platt Lane crosses the River Gowy, is now partly a footpath; its north-eastern part is the drive to Hockenhull Hall. The eastern boundary of the township follows Brownheath Lane. There are only two dwellings in the township, Hockenhull Hall and Hockenhull House: the former is now a turkey farm.

Two flint artefacts were found to the north of Hockenhull Hall, but their whereabouts is now unknown (CSMR 1890//; CDAS 63.1.1). There does not seem to be a record of what date or type these flints were, although they are said to have had secondary working.

The Roman road from Stamford Bridge to Nantwich (CDAS 63.2.1), described above under Tarvin, runs along the north-eastern boundary of the township.

In the 1980s a low ditched rectangular mound was observed from the air in low sunlight; there was an adjacent ring ditch (Williams 1986a, 16; CSMR 1856//; CDAS 63.4.1). These sites may be associated with a mill which formerly stood at Hockenhull Platts but which was pulled down about 1950 (Norris 1966, 65; CSMR 1892/1//; CDAS 63.5.2).

It has been suspected that Hockenhull Hall was moated in the Middle Ages, as it was described in 1347 as a 'Peele' or fortified house (Dodgson 1971, 275; CSMR 1891/1//; CDAS 63.4.2). There is now no trace of earthworks, however.

A coin of Edward IV has been found in a field between Hockenhull Lane and Broomheath Lane (CDAS 63.4.3).

There is a ha-ha at Hockenhull Hall, dating from the eighteenth century (CSMR 1891/2//; CDAS 63.5.1). Ha-has are sunken boundaries, designed to keep animals either in or out of parkland and gardens without presenting an intrusive visual barrier to people in the Hall. The Hall itself is Listed, Grade II*. It was originally built in the late seventeenth century, but was completely remodelled around 1715 and consists of a brick-built two-storey house with nine bays. Little survives of the original interior (GMR 308; DoE 1985, 20; de Figueiredo & Treuherz 1988, 242; CDAS 63.7.1).

The central and easternmost of the three 'Roman Bridges' already noted under Cotton Edmunds are in Hockenhull (CSMR 1893/0/2; CDAS 63.7.2; 1893/0/3; CDAS 63.7.3). The central bridge crosses the River Gowy proper (its western part is therefore also in Cotton Edmunds) and it is linked to the easternmost bridge by means of a stone-revetted causeway (DoE 1985, 20). The channel crossed by the eastern bridge is now completely silted.

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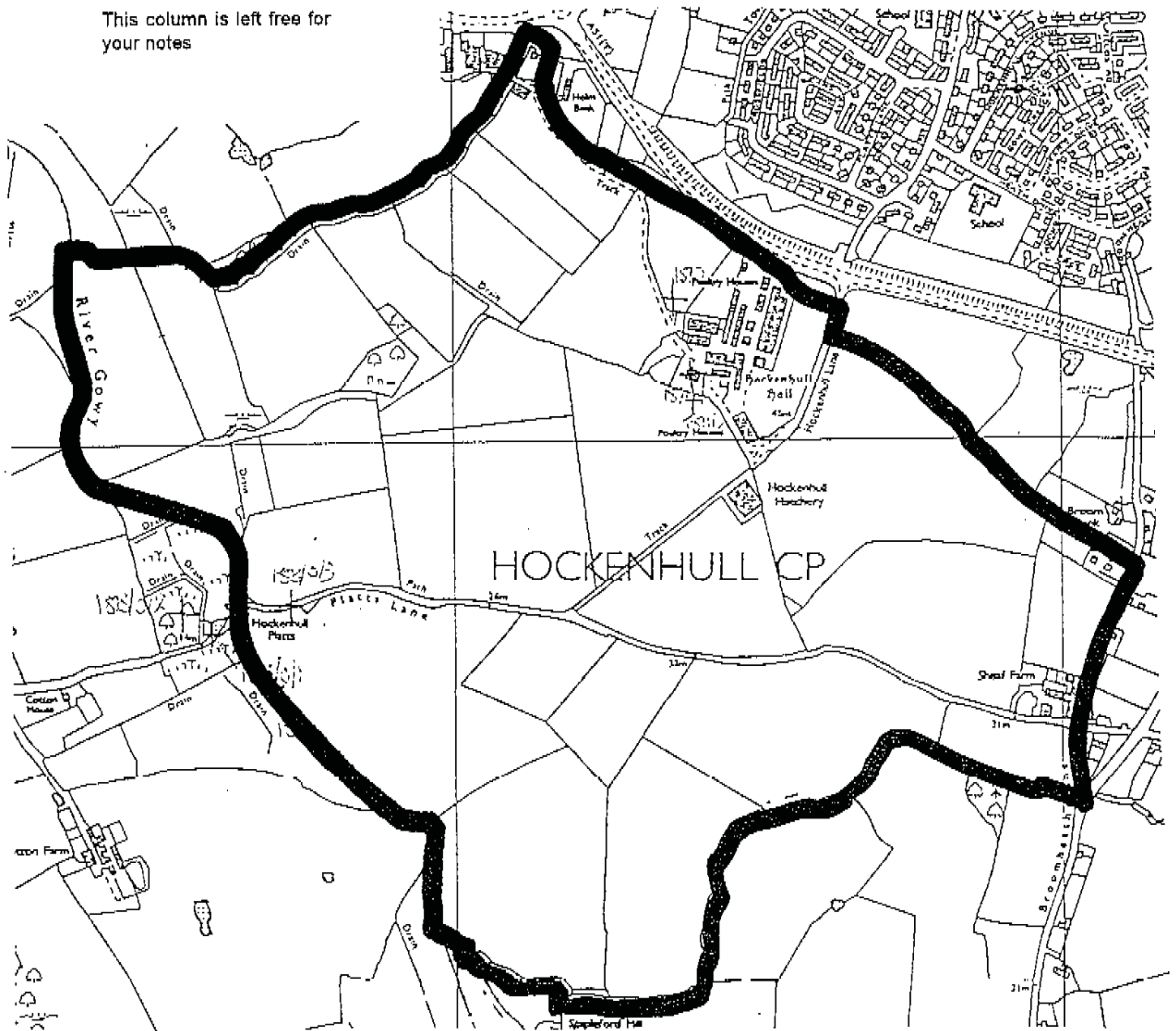


Figure 8: Hockenhull (1:10,000)

Aerial photographs

Cheshire County Council holds a number of aerial photographs relevant to the route corridor. The best of them are part of a series taken in the winter of 1946-7 by the RAF. They are near-vertical monochrome, printed up at a scale of approximately six inches to the mile (1:10560). Because of the scale and the time of year at which the photographs were taken, earthwork sites show up particularly well in the long shadows and they are an excellent source of information about the patterns of ridge-and-furrow surviving at that date. They are less useful for the location of cropmark sites, however. Unfortunately the County Council's holdings lack those photographs relevant to the central part of the route corridor, around Stamford Bridge (reference CPE/UK 2028-2035). However, the area to the west of Tarvin is relatively well-covered, as is Littleton. The more recent sets (a monochrome series from 1971 and colour series from

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1983 and 1992) have tended to show less detail as they were taken during summer months, although occasionally they show detail not recorded on the 1947 set, such as parch-marks.

Considerable detail is visible in the Vicarscross area on the 1947 photograph (CPE/UK 2029), both in Littleton and Guilden Sutton. The main features in Littleton are traces of mostly straight ridge-and-furrow, running parallel with Fir Tree Lane to the south of Tarvin Road and at right angles to Tarvin Road to its north. Towards the eastern end of the north side of Vicarscross there is some sinuous ridge-and-furrow. In Guilden Sutton there is both straight and sinuous ridge-and-furrow, with no evident patterning in the distribution of types. Also visible on the 1971 monochrome photograph is some sinuous ridge-and-furrow to the south of Vicarscross Nursery (HSL UK 71 111 Run 17 0097).

Only one other photograph examined has any detail, CPE/UK 4035, taken in January 1947. To the south-west of Abbey Field Farm on Holme Street, Tarvin, there is an area of straight narrow ridge-and-furrow of a type thought to be associated with post-medieval ploughing techniques. To the south of this, and east of Hockenhull Hall, there is a subrectangular earthwork with an oval feature at its centre and extensions from the south-western corner and the northern side. No interpretation of this earthwork can be suggested on present evidence. It is not visible on any of the later photographs of the area.

It should be noted that the summer of 1995 has been exceptionally good for the production of cropmarks. An ongoing programme of flying by Dr Jill Collens for Cheshire County Council and Dr Rob Philpott for Liverpool Museum identified a large number of new sites during 1995, perhaps as many as forty or so. A significant proportion of these new sites consist of subrectangular enclosures to the east of Chester, forming a band running from Picton in the north to Stamford Heath in the south. Although the details of these new sites have not yet been plotted onto maps – and it may be many months before they are – it is likely that one new site in Guilden Sutton is within the route corridor and two others are immediately adjacent to it (*pers. comm.* J Collens 22 August 1995).

Historical summary

The following historical summary is based primarily on printed sources, largely those quoted by the nineteenth-century county historians, most notably George Ormerod (1785-1873) and his reviser, Thomas Helsby. These older historians were concerned mainly with the lives of the great and wealthy – their intended audience – and consequently spend much time discussing the descent of the lords of the manor. It is not the purpose of an archaeological study to enter into lengthy accounts of manorial history, although an outline sketch is of interest and may be relevant to changes in the fortunes of the township.

Littleton

The name Littleton is a contraction of Little Christleton, which gives a clue to the settlement's likely origin as an outlying hamlet of Christleton proper (otherwise known as Church Christleton, as this is where the parish church is located). It is not mentioned in Domesday Book, presumably because of its dependant status, although Ormerod (1882, ii 783) conjectures that it was at one time a separate mesne manor.

In 1325×6 the Chamberleyn family is first mentioned in connection with properties in the township. The brothers Robert and John le Chamberleyn and their parents Robert senior and Beatrice were parties to a fine relating to tenements in Littleton. The elder Robert died before 1333×4 as his widow Beatrice sued the chaplain Richard Mossok for her dower on a messuage and a carucate of land.

A family named Wynwhik (possibly the Lancashire family) held a small property in Littleton, but the first record we have of them is from the Fine by which they transferred their interest to the Troutbecks in 1433×4. The moiety consisted of only four messuages, three tofts, a garden and 30 acres located in Littleton, Woodchurch, Ledsham and Chester. The subsequent history of this small property is complex and Ormerod (1882, ii 784) was unable to locate it.

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Guilden Sutton

Guilden Sutton is one of the few single-township parishes in Cheshire. It is mentioned twice in Domesday Book as *Sudtone* (Morgan 1978, B5; 2,29). The first of these references places it among the estates of the Bishop of Chester (Lichfield before 1075), and is clearly the later mesne manor. The second reference places it in the lands of Toki in 1066; he also had land in Picton, and it is possible that it adjoined his part of *Sudtone*, in which case it can be suggested that this second reference is to the northern part of the township of Hoole, outside the liberty of Chester (the part within it being held by the Bishop and in St John's parish).

The Bishop's land at *Sudtone* was assessed for tax on one hide (120 acres) of arable land, valued at 40s in 1066. The arable was sufficient for three plough-teams, although only two were present, one in demesne. There were also six acres of meadow, perhaps in the lower-lying land beside the River Gowy. By 1086, though, the value had dropped to 20s.

The paramount lordship of the manor remained vested in the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, but from an early date the Bruen family was the main landowner. Robert Brun, son of William, is first mentioned c 1209 when he granted lands to Adam de Dutton (Ormerod 1882, ii 806). He died in 1362×3 when an *inquisitio post mortem* records that he possessed nine scilions (arable strips) of land. His son Geoffrey donated land to St Werburgh's at Chester (Lysons & Lysons 1810, 787). The descent of the mesne manor is obscure, but it seems to have been subdivided between coheirs at different dates. In 1815, when Ormerod was writing, the manerial estate was claimed to be that in the ownership of the Reverend Warburton (Ormerod 1882, ii 807).

Christleton

In Domesday Book, *Cristetone* is described as having seven taxable hides of arable land; in the Midlands, a hide was reckoned as being 120 acres, so Christleton may have had some 840 acres of arable. Fourteen plough teams cultivated it. Having been worth £6 in 1066, its value had declined to £3 by the time of the survey in 1086. The manor is described as being two leagues in length and one in width (Morgan 1978, 2,6). A league was a distance of roughly one and a half miles (2.4 km), so Domesday Book's measurements accord well with the size of the later medieval parish (which included the townships of Littleton, Rowton, Cotton Abbots and Cotton Edmunds as well as Christleton).

In 1066 it had been held by Eadwine, Earl of Mercia (1065-1070). Unsurprisingly, he was a major landowner with important estates at Weaverham, Eastham, Upton-by-Chester, Frodsham, Malpas, Macclesfield, Bettisfield (Clwyd) and Nantwich, with minor estates at Eaton, Hadlow, Adlington, Iscroyd (Clwyd), Worthenbury (Clwyd), Tilston, Aldford and Alpraham. It is likely that pre-conquest comital estates had originally been Mercian royal estates, and their possession was an important source of revenue.

In 1086 the manor is recorded as being in possession of Robert Fitz Hugh, son of Earl Hugh I of Chester and a relative of King William I. It formed part of the Norman barony of Malpas (or *Deppenbech*), and Ormerod (1882, ii 778) conjectured that it was second in importance as a manor only to Malpas itself. However, Robert is recorded as having donated the *capella* (chapel) of Christleton to St Werburgh's at Chester, together with its lands. His daughter Letitia subsequently expanded the grant.

However, the manor seems to have remained in lay hands, passing before 1283 to the Birmingham family, which also acquired the manor of Tilstone Fearnall, also a former part of the Malpas Barony. Throughout the Middle Ages small portions of the original estate were sold off ("alienated"). The Abbey of St Werburgh at Chester remained a major landowner in Christleton (as well as Cotton Abbots), and the springs which fed the aqueduct of the Abbey were located here (Ormerod 1882, ii 778).

During the Civil War, Christleton was attacked by Parliamentary troops as part of the siege of Chester, which had remained loyal to the King; although the Parliamentarians did not capture the village, the Royalists failed to occupy it (Dore 1966, 47). The village is said to have been almost completely destroyed

by fire during the War, although whether this was a consequence of the Battle which took place at Rowton Moor in September 1645 or the result of some minor skirmish is not clear (Ormerod 1882, ii 780).

Christleton Parish was subdivided by the creation of Chester Rural District and Tarvin Rural District by the Public Health Act of 1872. The former contained Christleton and Littleton civil parishes (as the townships were now termed), while the latter contained Rowton, Cotton Abbots and Cotton Edmunds. Rowton was transferred to Chester Rural District in 1936 (Green & Lander 1979, 194; 198). All five civil parishes became part of Chester District in 1974 as a result of the Local Government Act (1972) (Harris 1979, 96).

A recent parish history of Christleton (Latham 1979, 72) includes an analysis of the changing pattern of agriculture between 1845 and 1974. The acreage of the parish has decreased by 11.3% (from 2695 to 2391 acres), and although there has been an increase of 15.3% in the acreage of pasture (1661 to 1915 acres), there has been a dramatic decline in the amount of arable of 54% (1034 to 476 acres). In 1845 arable accounted for 38% of all farmland, but by 1974 it comprised only 16%. At the same time the number of miles of hedgerow decreased from 163 to 60.

Cotton Edmunds

Cotton Edmunds was first known as *Parva Kotes*, c 1200 (Dodgson 1972, 112), presumably to distinguish it from Cotton Abbots. The earliest mention of a manorial proprietor at Cotton Edmunds is of William de Coton (or Coten), who appears in a recognisance of 1305×6 (Ormerod 1882, ii 785). His descendant Edmund de Coton (who seems to have been alive in 1344 (Dodgson 1972, 112)) gave his name to the township. The manor remained in the same family until 1505×6, when the male line failed and subsequently passed through a sister to the Venables family, Barons of Kinderton. It passed through the regular descent of the Barony to the Vernons, who then sold it to Thomas Brock. It was sold in the nineteenth century to the Duke of Westminster.

Barrow

Barrow is first recorded in the Charter of King Eadgar I to St Werburgh's, Chester (Kettle 1980, 132). The charter is dated 958, which places it in Eadgar's reign as King of Mercia (957-9), before he became King of England in October 959 after the death of his brother Eadwig. This suggests that Barrow was a Mercian royal vill. However, by 1066 it was in the hands of Thored (Morgan 1978, 9,5), a close associate of the Bishop of Lichfield, who also held the manor of Ashton immediately to the east. Although Nick Higham (1993, 149) has conjectured that Barrow was originally part of Tarvin parish (or estate), this is unlikely in view of its evident status as a Mercian royal estate as late as 958 and the likely early origins of its own church. Its close ecclesiastical connections with Tarvin could derive from the probable organisation of the pre-conquest Rushton Hundred into two minster parishes at Tarvin and Bunbury. However, it is not known how St Werburgh's interests in the estate had lapsed by 1066.

Barrow was assessed for tax on three hides (180 acres) of arable land in Domesday Book (Morgan 1978, 9,5); it had sufficient for eight ploughteams, although only two are recorded, one of which was in demesne. As well as two mills, the township had one acre of meadow and woodland one league long and half a league wide. Its value in 1066 was 30s, although when acquired in the winter of 1070-1 it was waste. This term has been thought to mean that it produced no revenue for its owner (Sawyer & Thacker 1987, 336), but by 1086 it has recovered its original value.

The owner of Barrow in 1086 was William Fitz Niel, Constable of Chester and second Baron of Halton. He was a major landowner, with thirty estates in Cheshire

According to Lysons & Lysons (1810, 499) Ranulph, Earl of Chester, gave the manor to his nephew, William d'Aubigny, Earl of Arundel (probably the fourth of that name, 1221-1224). When his son Hugh d'Aubigny's lands were partitioned in May 1243, Barrow passed to Nichola, wife of Roger de Somery. Ormerod (1882, ii 339) knows nothing of this, and states that Ranulph III (Earl of Chester 1188-1232) granted free warren to Thomas Despenser; as the text of the charter has survived, this seems the most plausible version of events. Little

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Barrow was subject to a separate descent from Great Barrow, although Hugh le Despenser obtained it in 1323×4. There was some confusion over the tenancy of the manor in 1332-4 which resulted in the manor being acquired by the Crown. In the following year both manors were granted to Sir Roger Swynerton. The manors passed by marriage to the Savage family, which already held lands in the parish. In 1721, upon the failure of the male line of the Savages, the manor became vested in Lady Penelope Barry, who married James, second Earl of Cholmondley. The Cholmondleys continued to be the main landowners in the parish until the late nineteenth century (White 1860, 223).

Tarvin

Tarvin is one of the dominant parishes of the early Rushton Hundred, with a huge arable provision for twenty-two ploughteams. It was held by the Bishop of Chester (prior to 1075, the Bishop of Lichfield) in both 1066 and 1086, and is listed second after his estate at Farndon (Morgan 1978, B4). Six hides (720 acres) of arable were assessed for tax, and its value fell from £8 in 1066 to £4/10 in 1086, following a period of waste c 1070. Two hides of the land were sublet to a William (perhaps William Fitz Niel, who also held Barrow).

The manor remained in the hands of the Bishop throughout the Middle Ages (Ormerod 1882, ii 306). In 1550 Richard, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, granted the manor to Sir John Savage, who obtained a charter to hold a market in the town, and its descent thereafter follows that of Barrow. Open fields are known to have existed in Tarvin, although, typically for Cheshire, they do not follow the ideal Midland Champion three-field system: at Tarvin fourteen such fields are recorded (Sylvester 1980, 55).

A grammar school was founded in 1600 (Batty 1990, 212). By the middle of the nineteenth century the school had become neglected, and was renovated largely at the expense of Reverend T S Bowstead in 1845; however, these works were not sufficient, and in 1858 it was rebuilt by public subscription (White 1860, 281). It is now the church hall and two cottages (DoE 1985, 33).

It was garrisoned by the Parliamentarian army during the Civil War, and was the base for Sir William Brereton from which he was able to attack Becston and Farndon as well as send out troops for the decisive battle – so far as Chester was concerned – at Rowton Moor (Dore 1966, 45). Skirmishes between its defenders and Royalist forces from Chester took place in 1643 and 1644. By August 1644 it had been captured by the Royalists, but following another skirmish in September it was recaptured for Parliament. An attack on Christleton was unsuccessful, but the village was abandoned by its Royalist defenders (Dore 1966, 47). Tarvin and Nantwich were the only two Cheshire garrisons not to be abandoned by Parliament when Charles I arrived at Chester in 1645 (White 1860, 280; Ormerod 1882, ii 309). Both sides appear to have used Tarvin as a fortress or prison during their respective periods of occupation (Dore 1966, 68).

A fire on 31 April 1752 destroyed many of the timber-framed buildings which stood in the centre of Tarvin (Batty 1990, 211); as a result, many of the older buildings in the town are of eighteenth-century type, although some sixteenth-century properties have survived on the east side of Church Street (DoE 1985, 32).

Hockenhull

Hockenhull was part of the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry's manor of Tarvin, but was from an early date sublet to a family which took the local name of Hockenhull (Ormerod 1882, ii 314). They were also ancestors of the lords of the manor of Huxley. The descent remained in the same family until 1713, when the Hall was sold to Hugh Wishaw of Chester (Lysons & Lysons 1810, 797): he was responsible for the remodelling of the Hall (DoE 1985, 20). His son sold it to the Member of Parliament John Walsh in 1761 who then sold it to Thomas Brock in 1771. The listing description (DoE 1985, 20) states that the Hall had been divided into a house and two flats, but by 1990 it had been purchased and occupied by the British United Turkey Company (Batty 1990, 212).

Population data

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Littleton

The first record of Littleton's population comes from the first national census of 1801, when it was recorded as 24 (Green & Lander 1979, 212). By 1811 it had almost doubled to 44, an annual increase of 83.3%. After this, though, it remained relatively stable until 1861, when it was recorded as 66, falling to 58 in 1871. It then almost doubled again in a decade, rising to 106 in 1881 (Green & Lander 1979, 220), an annual growth rate of 82.8%. The next major growth was early in the twentieth century, rising from 151 in 1901 to 276 in 1911, an identical increase of 82.8% annually. This was the period at which the Vicarscross area began to be developed as a major residential area.

During the twentieth century the population has continued to rise steadily, neither of the World Wars having a great effect on the rate of growth. There was some slowing during the 1960s, followed by a 0.3% drop during the 1980s, rather lower than for Chester District overall (OPCS 1994, 20).

Guilden Sutton

Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis* of 1724 records twenty families in Guilden Sutton (Raines 1845, 133), implying a population of around ninety people. By the time of the first national census in 1801, this had increased to 158 (Green & Lander 1979, 233), an annual change of 10.1%. The population then dropped to 120 in 1811 and climbed to 132 by 1831. It then rose rapidly to 180 in 1841 and 221 in 1851, annual increases of 36.4% and 10% respectively.

Between 1871 and 1881 the population fell from 234 to 187, but climbed to 269 in 1891, 347 in 1901 and 397 in 1911, an overall increase of 15.7% over thirty years. During the later part of the twentieth century Guilden Sutton exchanged land with neighbouring parishes making an assessment of population change very difficult; however, there is little doubt that it continued to grow throughout the century until the 1980s when, in common with western Cheshire generally, the population fell by 10.0% *per annum* to 1500 in 1991 (OPCS 1994, 22).

Christleton

Christleton parish (including all its dependent townships) contained 100 families plus two dissenting families in 1724 (Raines 1845, 126). This implies a population of around 460. In 1801, it was recorded as 857 (Green & Lander 1979, 212), an annual increase of 11.5%; the proportion of the parish's population living in Christleton township at that time was 76%. Between 1801 and 1811 the population of the township fell from 651 to 560, rose again to 701 in 1821 then fell over the next twenty years to 625. By 1851 it had jumped to 719, an annual increase of 15%.

It had fallen again to 698 in 1861, but continued to rise after that to 902 in 1891. After some minor fluctuations in the early twentieth century, the population continued to grow from 1921, the greatest increase occurring in the decade 1951 to 1961, of 56.1%. This was the period when new housing estates were being constructed to the south of the historic core of the village. However, by the 1980s the population was once again in decline, falling from 2171 in 1981 to 2074 in 1991, a decrease of 4.5% (OPCS 1994, 20).

Cotton Edmunds

The population of Cotton Edmunds has always been low as there has never been a nucleated settlement in the township. It is first recorded in 1801 as 73 (Green & Lander 1979, 212) and although it had grown to 85 by 1821 (an annual increase of 35%), it fell consistently to 48 by 1881 (a decrease of 5.1% *per annum*). It increased to 59 by 1891 and remained around 60 until the Second World War. Since then it has remained lower than 40, dropping to a low of 24 in 1981, although the 1980s saw it increase again to 32, an annual rise of 33.3% (OPCS 1994, 20).

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Barrow

Bishop Gastrell recorded fourteen families and two dissenter families at Barrow in 1724 (Raines 1845, 124). This implies a population of well under a hundred, perhaps around 75. By the first national census of 1801, it had risen to 501, an enormous annual increase of 75.7%. This type of increase is not common in Cheshire, except in the cotton-producing districts in the east of the county, but is more typical of Lancashire (Phillips & Smith 1994, 135). It is not at all clear why it should have occurred in Barrow.

This dramatic population increase did not continue into the nineteenth century: from 1801 to 1901 the population had an annual growth rate of 4.5%, reaching 727 at the turn of the twentieth century. The most rapid growth was at the start of the century, the population rising to 678 by 1831, an annual increase of 11.8%. It then fell slightly to 623 in 1861 after which it continued to rise until 1891, when it reached 734. Another period of depopulation followed to 1921, with a low of 677, after which it rose to 1065 in 1951: this is an annual increase of 19.1%. This latter period of growth coincides with the building of new housing stock in the village in the mid-twentieth century. During the 1970s and 80s it was once again in decline, although the rate was the same as that recorded for Chester District as a whole, 1.2% annually (OPCS 1994, 20).

Tarvin

A Diocesan survey of 1563 recorded 315 families in the parish of Tarvin, thought to represent a population of about 1590 (Clark & Hosking 1993, 15). The Hearth Taxes of 1664 and 1674 record 104 and 73 ratepayers respectively; the populations of the households will have amounted to about 440 and 310, but this does not take into account the many poorer families. Bishop Gastrell recorded 312 families and four papist families in the parish in 1724, a total almost identical with the survey of 164 years earlier (Raines 1845, 143). In 1801 the population of the parish was recorded as 2683, an increase in the order of 0.9% (Green & Lander 1979, 234).

In 1801 768 people lived in Tarvin township, some 28.6% of the population of the parish. This perhaps suggests a population size similar to that recorded in the Hearth Tax returns. Apart from a slight decrease in 1831, there was a consistent increase in population from 1801 to 1851, when it reached 1181, and annual rate of increase of 27.2%. The population then remained stable for a century, the next major increase occurring after the Second World War, when a population of 1505 was recorded in 1951. It fell again to 1400 in 1961, but in the next decade it grew to 2705, a huge annual increase of 93.2%, and to 2889 in 1981, an annual increase of 6.8% (OPCS 1994, 22). This was a period of major house-building in the town. However, during the 1980s the population was again in decline, falling

Hockenhull

Like Cotton Edmunds, Hockenhull's population has always been small as there are only individual homes in the township and no centres of settlement. In 1801 it was recorded as 41 (Green & Lander 1979, 234), falling to 22 by 1851. Since then it has only exceeded thirty twice, in 1861 when it reached 36 and in 1931, when it was 31 (Green & Lander 1979, 217). Between 1981 and 1991 the population fell from 20 to 12 (an annual decrease of 40% (OPCS 1994, 22)), which is obviously connected with the acquisition of the Hall by a factory farm.

Placename evidence

Placenames often preserve information about the history of an area which is not found explicitly in documentary or archaeological sources. For instance, the language and form of a name can give clues about the origins of a settlement and the form which it took, whilst field names can indicate past discoveries of buried treasure or suggest former land use and topography.

The Tithe Awards made for parishes in England during the earlier nineteenth century are a major source of field-names and frequently included the earliest accurately-surveyed large-scale maps of a locality. They give details not only of field-names but also of land use, building function, tenancy and ownership as well as of value for the commuting of tithes to monetary payments.

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Littleton

Littleton (or, more properly, Little Christleton) is first mentioned as *Parva Cristentona* (literally, "little Christleton") in the 1120s, being contracted to *Litelton* by 1435 (Dodgson 1972, 113). The longer form has not been recorded in colloquial use since the sixteenth century. There are also references to *Great* (or *Magna*) *Littleton* during the sixteenth century, which Dodgson (1972, 113) considers to be references to a manorial division of the township.

Minor names

Vicarscross is first noted as a hamlet of Littleton on Bryant's map of 1831, although the *Viccars Crosse* is mentioned in 1614 as the target of recent iconoclast violence. The name is self-explanatory.

Littleton Hall is first recorded as Littleton Hill on Swire and Hutchings' map, published in 1828. It is subsequently shown as Vicar's Cross House on the first edition Ordnance Survey one-inch map, published in 1842 (Dodgson 1972, 113 wrongly states that it was called Littleton House), and was recorded as Littleton-hill on the 1883 edition of the six-inch map.

The Old Hall, which stood at the southern end of the village, was first recorded in Bishop Gastrell's *Notitia Cestriensis* in 1724, but was probably the site of the *Whytehall* recorded as no longer existing in 1565 (Dodgson 1972, 113). Both names are self-explanatory, although why the earlier house should have been known for its whiteness is now impossible to ascertain.

Pearl Lane is not recorded before 1831 and its easterly continuation, Fir Tree Lane, is not recorded until the 1970s. Again, these names are self-explanatory.

Field names

The field names are recorded in the Littleton Tithe Apportionment, awarded in 1847, and can be located with reference to the Tithe Map (Cheshire CRO EDT 246/1 and /2).

No.	Name	Land use	Owner 1847	Tenant 1847
2	House field	Pasture	Thomas Dixon	William Lucas
3	Middle field	Pasture	Thomas Dixon	Samuel Diming
4	Chester field	Pasture	Thomas Dixon	William Lucas
5	Chester field	Pasture	William Sellars	In hand
6	Pearl field	Arable	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
7	Littleton field	Arable	William Sellars	In hand
8	Little Humphreys field	Arable	John Taylor	In hand
9	Large Humphreys field	Arable	John Taylor	In hand
10	Far Big field	Clover	May Mawdesley	Samuel Bentley
11	Little White field	Arable	May Mawdsley	Samuel Bentley
12	Near Big field	Arable	May Mawdsley	Samuel Bentley
13	Far House field	Pasture	Thomas Dixon	In hand
16	Tan yard field	Pasture	Gorst family	James Taverner
20	White House Croft	Arable	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
21	Big Loons	Clover	John Taylor	In hand
22	Ash Meadow	Arable	Gorst family	In hand
23	Fittons field	Pasture	John Taylor	In hand
24	House field	Arable	May Mawdesley	Samuel Bentley
25	Near White field	Arable	May Mawdesley	Samuel Bentley
26	White field	Arable	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
27	Pearl field	Pasture	May Mawdesley	Samuel Bentley
28	Wall field	Arable	May Anne Jones	William Palin
29	Pearl field	Pasture	Ince Townshend	Miles Gerrard
30	Big Pearl Croft	Pasture	William Sellars	Samuel Fairbrother
31	Pearl Croft	Pasture	William Sellars	In hand
32	Pearl Croft	Arable	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe

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34	Common field	Pasture	Guardians of the Littleton Poor	Hugh Briscoe
36	Large Cross field	Pasture	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
37	Little Dennis field	Pasture	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
38	Little Cross field	Pasture	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
39	Big Dennis field	Pasture	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
40	Rabbit field	Pasture	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
41	Lower Hales Hay	Pasture	George Greaves	Thomas Dodd
42	Gorse field	Pasture	Gorst family	In hand
43	Founders Hey	Pasture	Gorst family	In hand
44	Top Hales Hay	Pasture	George Greaves	Thomas Dodd
45	Clovers field	Pasture	George Greaves	Thomas Dodd
46	Morgans field	Pasture	George Greaves	Thomas Dodd
47	Marl field	Pasture	George Greaves	Thomas Dodd
48	Big Green Yard	Arable	George Greaves	Thomas Dodd
49	Barn Croft	Arable	George Greaves	Thomas Dodd
50	Square Croft	Clover	George Greaves	Thomas Dodd
51	Big Croft	Pasture	George Greaves	Thomas Dodd
52	Gorse field	Arable	George Greaves	Thomas Dodd
53	Little Green Yard	Pasture	George Greaves	Thomas Dodd
54	Stack Yard	Arable	George Greaves	Thomas Dodd
56	Goose Croft	Clover	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
57	Long Croft	Pasture	May Mawdesley	Samuel Bentley
58	Six Butts	Arable	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
59	Long Looms	Arable	Gorst family	James Taverner
60	Stack Yard Croft	Pasture	May Mawdesley	Samuel Bentley

These names are a fairly typical group. Many of the names do not require explanation (Chester field, Littleton field and so on). A number include the names of former owners or tenants (Big and Little Humphreys fields, Fittons field, Big and Little Dennis fields and Morgans field), while others refer to local flora and fauna (Ash Meadow, Rabbit field, Gorse field and Goose croft). Some mention buildings (House field, White House Croft), others mention less specific structures (Wall field, Little and Large Cross field, Tan Yard field and Barn Croft). Marl field presumably refers to rich deposits of marl extracted here.

Three of the names refer to ridge-and-furrow cultivation or, more specifically, to the cultivation of strips in open fields. Big Looms and Long Looms describe the characteristics of the strips, while six butts refers to the number of strips incorporated into the later field.

Some of the terms used for field need further explanation. Field itself is of Old English origin, from *fēld*, meaning 'open land'; a croft is a 'small parcel of enclosed arable', particularly one adjoining a dwelling; a hey or hay, from Old English *hæg*, is a hedged enclosure (*hæg* is a dialect form of *hege* or *haga*, 'hedge'). Although these are all terms found in Old English, their use in nineteenth-century field names cannot be taken as evidence for the antiquity of fields. By and large, names with hay/hey tend to be late in Cheshire, and are frequently found on areas of heathland enclosed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; in Littleton, Founders Hey is on Stamford Heath. Croft, on the other hand, tends to refer to piecemeal enclosure of the open fields, a process which began in the later Middle Ages. Field is a little less specific, but occasionally refers to the older open field names, particularly when similar names with field are repeated over a wide area (as with Pearl field and Cross field in Littleton).

Guilden Sutton

The township is first attested in Domesday Book in 1086 as *Sudtone*, an Anglo-Norman spelling of Old English **Suðtun*, meaning 'southern farm enclosure' (Dodgson 1972, 127). Although Dodgson suggests that it was regarded as southern in relation to Willaston Hundred, such names are generally more restricted in their geographical references and probably earlier in date than the creation of the hundredal system. It is more likely that it was the southern farm on an estate of more limited extent, which it is tempting to regard as one combining Plemstall and Guilden Sutton parishes together with the townships of Bridge Trafford and Wimbolds Trafford: this may originally have been known as Trafford.

The affix *Guilden* is first attested c 1200, and derives from Old English *gylden*, 'golden', which probably means 'wealthy' in this context. Alternative names for the township during the Middle Ages are *Suttona juxta Cestriam* ('Sutton-by-Chester') and *Sutton iuxta Hole* ('Sutton-by-Hoole') in order to distinguish it from Great and Little Sutton, to the north of Chester.

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Minor names

Oxen Bridge and the lost Oxen Lane are not recorded as names in their own right before 1831, when they were shown on Bryant's map of Cheshire (Dodgson 1972, 127). However, Oxen field-names are attested from 1665, and a form *Oxen Dunce Croft* appears to link the name with *Dunnescroft*, a 'curcate between Sutton and Stamford Bridge' mentioned in 1190×1211. This last name means 'Dunn's enclosure'; Dunn is an Old English name. Oxen Bridge means exactly what it appears to mean – 'bridge for oxen' – and was presumably on a drove road between Guilden Sutton and Barrow.

Wicker Lane and Wicker House are also first found in the nineteenth century, although Wicker Meadow is found in 1665 and *Witeker* in 1190×1211; Dodgson (1972, 128) derives the name from Old English *hwit*, 'white', and Old Norse *kjarr*, 'marsh, moss', although it is equally possible to see an Old English **hwitæcer*, 'white field'.

The Hoole, a house which formerly stood to the north of Vicar's Cross Golf Course, is first attested c 1350 as *Hole*, 'hollow' (Dodgson 1972, 128).

Field names

The field names are recorded in the Guilden Sutton Tithe Apportionment, awarded in 1848, and can be located with reference to the Tithe Map (Cheshire CRO EDT 180/1 and /2).

No.	Name	Land use	Owner 1848	Tenant 1848
9	Stanley's Heath field		R Amery's trustees	John Evans
10	Chamberlain's Croft		R Amery's trustees	John Evans
11	Denson's field		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
12	Widens fields		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
13	Amerys Heath		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
13a	Bottom Rushey field		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
14	Top Rushey field		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
15	Heath field		Ince Townshend	Peter Hughes
16	Heath field		Mayor and citizens of Chester	Sarah Miller
17	Hare Lane field		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
18	Heath field		Ince Townshend	Peter Hughes
20	Seven Butts		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
21	White Head field		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
22	Hare lane field		Trustees of Sarah Chivas Haddock	John Boff
23	New field		Robert Smith	In hand
24	Hare lane field		Mayor and citizens of Chester	Sarah Miller
25	Hare lane field		Mayor and citizens of Chester	Sarah Miller
26	Vicars Cross field		Ince Townshend	In hand
27	Vicars Cross field		Ince Townshend	In hand
28	Hambletons Croft		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
29	Hovel field		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
29a	Little Croft		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
30	Little Griffings		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
31	Short Breach		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
31a	Hoval (<i>sic</i>) Croft		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
32	Barn field		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
32a	Croft		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
34	Backside		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
35	House field		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
36	Backside		Rowland Warburton	Joseph Brock
40	Croft		Charles Potts	John Parsonage
41	Big Hickmore Heys		R Amery's trustees	William Roberts
42	Little Hickmore Heys		R Amery's trustees	William Roberts

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45	Little Griftings	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
46	The Park	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
47	The Staeks	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
48	Dawfield	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
49	Big Daw field	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
124	The Picker	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
125	Wilson's Meadow	Sarah Mainwaring's trustees	William Wilson
150	Wheat field	R Amery's trustees	William Roberts
151	Mock field	R Amery's trustees	William Roberts
152	Grass Croft	Backford Church	Thomas Hughes
153	Long Wicker	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
154	Round Wicker	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
155	Pear Tree Croft	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
156	Hoole field	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
157	The Byatts	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
158	Gorsey Croft	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
160	Long Loons	R Amery's trustees	William Roberts
161	Big Soakersedge	Rowland Warburton	Richard Bentley
162	Little Soakersedge	Rowland Warburton	Richard Bentley
164	Little Daw field	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter
165	Coat Croft	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter
166	Big Daw field	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter
167	Part of Backside	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter
168	Suttons Pott Meadow	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
169	Further Croft	Glebe	Peter Hughes
170	Sandfarloons	Richard Perryn	James Okell
171	Sandfarloons	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter
172	Hoole field	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter
173	Hoole field	R Amery's trustees	William Roberts
174	Hoole field	Robert Smith	In hand
175	Marled Wicker	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
177	Part in Wicker Meadow	Robert Smith	Thomas Hughes
178	Part in Wicker Meadow	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
179	Part in Wicker Meadow	Rowland Warburton	Robert Bentley
180	Part in Wicker Meadow	R Amery's trustees	William Roberts
181	Part in Wicker Meadow	Rowland Warburton	Robert Bentley
182	Part in Little Meadow	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter
183	Part in Little Meadow	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter
185	Far Wicker	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
186	Hugh's Wicker	Rowland Warburton	William Roberts
187	Wicker Croft	Thomas Hughes	In hand
188	Suttons Pott	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter

As with the field-names of Littleton, these form an unexceptional group and the same comments apply. It is of interest to note that there are several names incorporating the element Heath to the western end of the parish. The name Vicars Cross Field is carried across from Littleton, raising the suspicion that the open field was shared between townships or, more likely, that one or other of the townships has encroached on land which formerly belonged to the other.

A precursor of the house Polruan was presumably the hovel of Hovel field and Hoval Croft. Griftings is a variant of *graftings*, 'the splicing of shoots into tree-stumps' Dodgson (1972, 128). This may point to coppicing in this area at an early date. Dodgson leaves many of the more obscure names unexplained. Hickmore Heys incorporates the element Hcy, which has already been discussed under Littleton, where it was stated that it was often used for areas enclosed at a late date. This does not seem to be the case here as the fields are close to the historic core of the village, and they may be a genuinely early (*ie* medieval) enclosure. The element Hickmore is less easily explained: -more is evidently Old English *mor*, 'moor, barren wasteland', but the first part is unexplained.

Daw Field probably contains Middle English *daw(e)*, 'jackdaw'; The Picker is a variant of Middle English *pichel*, 'a small enclosure, a croft'. Wicker Meadow shares the name of Wicker Lane; although it is tempting to suggest that the name is of Middle English origin, *wiker*, 'osier', given its proximity to the River Gowy, where these plants still grow, the early form *Whiteker* is against it (above). Hoole Field lent its name to a house, which has already been discussed. The Byatts is said by Dodgson to resemble the traditional name of the brine-

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spring at Nantwich, *the old Biat*, which was the object of a well-dressing ritual and which derives from a Middle English *bi, eat*, 'profit, acquisition'; it is interesting to observe that well-dressing is also said to occur in Guilden Sutton. The field name has now been transferred to a house.

Soakersedge is not explained by Dodgson. It may be analysed as deriving from an Old English **sucereseæg*, 'marsh grass growing by a soaking brook'; although it is not on noticeably marshy ground today, the area has been drained and may formerly have been less hospitable. The Hoole, 'hollow', is nearby. Dodgson (1972, 128) derives Suttons Pott from Old English *spot*, 'small piece of land', but it may refer to the former stream (now a drain) which ran along the parish boundary, in which case a derivation from Old English *pot*, 'pot', or Middle English *potte*, 'a deep hole or pit' would be possible.

Christleton

The placename Christleton is first attested in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it is given as *Cristetone*, and Anglo-Norman spelling of an Old English name, **Cristentun*, "farm enclosure of the Christians" (Dodgson 1972, 107). This is a typical Old English township name, with its reference to a habitation form prefixed by a defining element. The type has been thought to refer to early estate organisation, with specialised farrus supplying rent by way of food renders to an estate centre located elsewhere. It is most common in areas where existing estates are likely to have been taken over as complete units by new Anglo-Saxon landowners (Kenyon 1991, 106). Their formation had certainly begun in the seventh century, and they appear to be a generally early type (Higham 1992, 200). They are commonest in areas where there is good evidence for a cleared landscape in the early Saxon period.

In the case of Christleton, though, the defining element is unusual. It has been suggested that a community of British Christians existed here during the sixth and seventh centuries, when the first Anglian settlers arrived; being pagan they might have remarked on the existence of the community in a similar way to their incorporation of the Old Welsh **egles* ("church") into the name of Eccleston (Laing & Laing 1985, 30). Both Christleton and Eccleston have oval churchyards, a form generally thought to be indicative of sub-Roman Christian churches.

In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, Christleton was also known as *Hamcristleton*, 'home Christleton', distinguishing it as the main manorial centre on which the other hamlets were dependent. Another contemporary form was *Magna* (or *Great*) *Cristleton*. *Kirkcristleton* is also found from the thirteenth to seventeenth centuries, and refers to the church situated in the dominant settlement of the parish.

Minor names

Stamford Heath, to the north-east of the village, has the same name as the river-crossing at Stamford Bridge, a mill in Cotton Edmunds and the hamlet in Barrow. Discussion of the place-name will be found under Barrow.

Between the village and Stamford Heath is an area formerly known as Birch Heath. This name is first recorded in 1794, when part of it was enclosed by Act of Parliament (Dodgson 1972, 109). As a name it is self-explanatory. Birch Heath Lane is first recorded on Bryant's map of 1831, and there are no authorities for the name Green Lane before it was recorded by the Ordnance Survey in the 1870s. Mill Lane was known as Stamford Mill Road in the 1794 Enclose Award: it originally led from Christleton to Stamford Mill, although much of its course is now covered by footpaths and a stretch is part of Birch Heath Lane.

Field names

The field names are recorded in the Christleton Tithe Apportionment, awarded in 1847, and can be located with reference to the Tithe Map (Cheshire CRO P 28/15 EDT 107/1 and /2).

No.	Name	Land use	Owner 1847	Tenant 1847
27	Hamlett's Hay	Pasture	Thomas Hodson	George Gunnery
28	Richardson's Croft and Hockenhull Hay	Pasture	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe

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29	Little Heath Croft	Pasture	James Dixon	Thomas Dixon
30	Little Heath Croft	Pasture	Barbara Price	James Woolley
31	Long Loons	Wheat	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
32	Pear Tree Meadow	Pasture	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
33	Partridge Croft	Pasture	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
34	Isles Moor	Pasture	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
35	Isles Moor	Wheat	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
36	Long Croft	T	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
37	Big Long Loons	Pasture	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
38	Doctor's field	Y	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
39	Little Long Loons	Pasture	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
40	Meadow	Y	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
41	Round-a-bout field	Wheat	John Brock Hood	William Rowe
42	Pit field	Hay	John Brock Hood	William Rowe
43	White field	Hay	John Brock Hood	William Rowe
44	Square field	Hay	John Brock Hood	William Rowe
45	Long Croft	Wheat & Oats	John Brock Hood	William Rowe
46	Barner's Hays	Arable	John Brock Hood	John Higginson
47	Marl field	Pasture	Robert Smith	Himself
48	Isles Moor	Arable	Robert Smith	Himself
49	Long Loons	Arable	Robert Smith	Himself
50	Long Loons	Pasture	Charles Vothers	James Tavan
60	Big Town field	Pasture	Ince Townshend	Richard Wright
61	Little Town field	Wheat	Ince Townshend	William Williams
62	Far Long Intake	Potatoes	Ince Townshend	George Glanville
63	The Rake	Potatoes	Ince Townshend	George Parsonage
64	Bath field	Potatoes	Ince Townshend	George Parsonage
65	Whelans Meadow	Potatoes	Ince Townshend	George Parsonage
66	Big Town field sides	Pasture	Ince Townshend	William Williams
67	Birch Heath Croft	Pasture	Ince Townshend	George Parsonage
68	Little Town field sides	T	Ince Townshend	William Williams
69	Town field	Hay	Benjamin Perkins	Himself
70	Big Town field	Hay	Benjamin Perkins	Himself
71	Little Town field	Hay	Benjamin Perkins	Himself
73	Oak Tree field	Arable & Hay	Mr & Mrs Jones	William Palin
74	Lanc End field	T	Mr & Mrs Jones	William Palin
75	New Croft	Hay	Mr & Mrs Jones	William Palin
76	Birch Heath	Waste	Rev T Lloyd	
78	Higher Common Piece	Wheat	Thomas Hodson	George Gurney
80	Nearmost Common field	Arable		John Brock Hood
Joseph Mayers				
81	Farmost Common field	Arable	John Brock Hood	Joseph Mayers
83	Lower Common Piece	Hay	Thomas Hodson	Thomas Johnson
84	Birch Heath Croft	-	Barbara Price	Joseph Rowe
85	Well field	Arable	Joseph Rowe	Himself
86	Well field	Y	Thomas Hodson	George Gurney
87	Well field	Pasture	Thomas Hodson	George Gurney
88	Clover field	Oats	John Brock Hood	William Rowe
89	Third field	Hay	John Brock Hood	William Rowe
90	Clover field	Y	John Brock Hood	William Rowe
91	Barn field	Pasture	John Brock Hood	William Rowe
93	House Lot	Hay	John Brock Hood	William Rowe
94	Shipping Lot	Pasture	John Brock Hood	William Rowe
95	Big Lot	Arable & Hay	John Brock Hood	William Rowe
96	Common Piece	Pasture	Charles Vothers	Himself
97	Common field Lot	Hay	Benjamin Brassey	John Jones
98	Common field Lot	Arable	Benjamin Brassey	John Jones
99	Common Piece	Pasture	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
100	Common field	Arable	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter
101	Hallows field	Arable	William Roberts	Himself
102	Hallows field	Hay	T & W Kinscy	Themselves
103	Deans Croft	Wheat	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
104	Meadow	Hay	James Dixon	Hugh Briscoe
105	New Garden	Arable	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter
107	House field	Arable	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter
108	Thistly field	Arable	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter

No.	Name	Land use	Owner 1844	Tenant 1844	
109	Big field	Pasture	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter	This column is left free for your notes
110	Sutton Spott	Hay	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter	
112	Rough Meadow	Hay	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter	
114	Little Meadow	Hay	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter	
115	Town acres	Pasture	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter	
116	Six acres	Pasture	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter	
117	Bridge field	Pasture	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter	
118	Big Meadow	Pasture	Rowland Warburton	John Baxter	
119	Bridge Meadow	Hay	Corporation of Chester	Thomas Dodd	
120	Mill Meadow	Hay	John Brock Hood	John Higginson	
121	Meadow	Hay	John Brock Hood	John Higginson	
122	Meadow field	Arable	John Brock Hood	John Higginson	
123	Bridge field	Arable	John Brock Hood	John Higginson	
124	Allotment	Arable	Corporation of Chester	Robert Finch	
125	Long Common field	Pasture	Ince Townshend	Robert Finch	
126	Mill field	Pasture	John Brock Hood	John Higginson	
127	Mill Meadow	Hay	Ince Townshend	George Parsonage	
128	Croft	Arable	Benjamin Brassey	John Jones	
129	Croft	Arable	Benjamin Brassey	John Jones	
130	Marl Croft	Pasture	Benjamin Brassey	John Jones	
132	Land Hole Piece	Pasture	Benjamin Brassey	John Jones	
133	Lower Common Piece	Hay	Thomas Hodson	Thomas Walker	
134	Big Common field	Wheat	Ince Townshend	Robert Finch	
135	Big Common field	Wheat	Ince Townshend	Robert Finch	
136	Mr Townshend's Field	Hay	Ince Townshend	George Parsonage	
138	Near Common field	Y	Ince Townshend	George Parsonage	
139	Near Common field	Oats	Ince Townshend	George Parsonage	
140	Mr Townshend's field	Wheat	Ince Townshend	George Parsonage	
141	Kitchen's field	Arable & Hay	John Brock Hood	John Higginson	
143	Well field	Hay	John Brock Hood	John Higginson	
144	Mill field	Pasture	John Brock Hood	John Higginson	

Again, these field names are not exceptional. The Rake and Far Long Intake both refer to farming practices, the former being a drove-road and the latter an area of enclosed heathland; in this instance, the Intake is surprisingly close to the village centre and the Townfield (a common name for one of the open fields) is beyond it. Deans Croft and Hallows Field perhaps refer to properties owned by the monks of Poulton Abbey and said to have been in Littleton: the curious contortions of the township boundaries in this area give rise to a suspicion that there have been changes since the Middle Ages.

Cotton Edmunds

Cotton Edmunds is first recorded c 1200 as *Parua Kotes* ("the little cottages"), probably in contrast to Cotton Abbots (then known as *Chota Ordrici*, "Ordric's Cottages"). The suffix Edmunds is manorial in origin, and refers to Edmund de Coton, lord in 1344 (Dodgson 1972, 112; Ormerod 1882, ii 785).

Minor names

Cotton Hall is first mentioned in 1547 as the Hall of Cotton.

Field names

The field names are recorded in the Cotton Edmunds Tithe Apportionment, awarded in 1844, and can be located with reference to the Tithe Map (Cheshire CRO EDT 127/1 and /2). The former detached part of Cotton Abbots, in which Stamford Mill is located, and which is now part of Cotton Edmunds, is recorded here: its field reference numbers are prefixed A (Cheshire CRO EDT 126/1 and /2).

No.	Name	Land use	Owner 1844	Tenant 1844
A27	Clover field	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Joseph Rowe
A28	Meadow	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Joseph Rowe
A29	Little Meadow	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Joseph Rowe

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A31	Barn field	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Joseph Rowe
A35	Mill field	-	Marquis of Westminster	Joseph Rowe
36	Rough Meadow	Hay	Marquis of Westminster	Joseph Rowe
37	New Meadow	Hay	Marquis of Westminster	Peter Williams
38	Rough Meadow	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
39	Wakemans well field	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
40	Broad ends	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
41	How grass field	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
42	Pump Croft	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
45	Croft or garden	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
47	Barn Croft	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
48	Partington's field	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
49	Fox holes	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
50	Crankrum's field	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
51	Crankrum's field	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
52	Hestag	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
53	Little Wandry field	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
54	Big Wandry field	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
64	Gorsey Croft	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Peter Williams
65	Barn field	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Peter Williams
67	Flax Yards	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Peter Williams
68	Well field	Oats	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
69	Well field	Fallow	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
70	Quillet in Sellers Meadow	Hay	Charles Gorst	John Williams
71	Quillet in Sellers Meadow	Hay	Marquis of Westminster	John Williams
72	Quillet in Sellers Meadow	Hay	Charles Gorst	John Williams
73	Big Meadow	Hay	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
74	Wakeman's Meadow	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
75	Pit field	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
76	Coppice land	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
77	Hall Moor	Hay	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
78	Well field	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
79	Deans field	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
80	The flats	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Mary Keay
96	Long Croft	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Ann Dodd
97	Pit field	Pasture	Marquis of Westminster	Ann Dodd
98	The Moor and Spa Croft	Oats	Marquis of Westminster	Ann Dodd
99	Dove and spa Meadow	Hay	Marquis of Westminster	Ann Dodd
100	Cockshutt Meadow	Hay	Marquis of Westminster	Ann Dodd
101	Cockshutt field	Arable	Marquis of Westminster	Ann Dodd

The observations made on the field names of the parishes already covered also apply here. One or two names are worthy of comment: How grass field contains and Old English *hol*, 'lying in a hollow', Wandry field is earlier attested as *the Waynerope feld* (Dodgson 1972, 113), deriving from **wægn-rap*, 'cart-rope', suggesting that the name means something like 'field measured with a cart-rope'. Cockshutt Meadow and field contain Old English *cacc-scyte*, 'place where woodcocks shoot or dart'.

Barrow

Barrow is first attested as *Barue* in a thirteenth-century copy of the Charter of Eadgar (King of Mercia 957-9) to St Werburgh's, Chester, dated 958 (Dodgson 1971, 261). This is clearly an Old English *bearu*, 'wood'. Topographical elements of this type enjoyed a long period of use for the formation of new placenames, so their occurrence tells us little about the date or form of the early settlement.

Minor names

Milton Brook as such is not attested until 1831, when it is marked on Bryant's map of Cheshire. However, a hamlet called *Mulneton iuxta Barwe* is mentioned in the fourteenth century (Dodgson 1971, 263), which may have been located at Barrow Mill or close to Milton Brook Bridge.

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Stamford Bridge lies on the boundary between Barrow and Christleton but the present hamlet is almost entirely within Barrow. It was first recorded between 1190 and 1211 as *pons de Stanford*, and forms with *Stan-* rather than *Stam-* dominate until the sixteenth century. These make it clear that the Old English form of the name was **Stanford*, 'stony ford', or **Stanenford*, 'stone-paved ford' (Dodgson 1972, 109), a clear reference to the Roman road crossing of the River Gowy at this point. The fact that the crossing-point was a ford at the time the name was coined need not imply that the Roman crossing was also via a ford rather than a bridge: on a road of this importance we might expect to find a bridge, even for the crossing of a relatively minor river such as the Gowy.

Barrowmore Gorse is one of a group of names with the element Barrowmore, first attested in 1610 as *the Greate Moore* and *the Little Moore*, names indicative of heathland (Dodgson 1971, 264). These are clearly related to Hollowmoor Heath, recorded in 1390 as *Horymore* and deriving from an Old English *horigmor*, 'dirty marsh', and attest to early waste in this part of the township.

Park Farm and Park Hall are first mentioned in 1253 as *parcum de Barwe*, 'Barrow Park' (Dodgson 1971, 263). It was known in 1297 as 'Hugh Despencer's park in his manor of Barewe'.

Tarvin

The name first occurs in Domesday Book in 1086, where it is spelled *Terve*: a number of other twelfth- and thirteenth-century forms also lack the final *-n*. However, forms with *-n* have always dominated. Dodgson (1971, 281) recognises that it is essentially the name of the River Gowy (*see below*); the meaning of the name is therefore '(estate) on the River Gowy'. The river forms the western boundary of the township and medieval ecclesiastical parish.

Minor names

Holme (Street, Bank) is first mentioned in 1298 as Great Holme (Dodgson 1971, 282); a road called *Holmestrete* is mentioned in 1396, a hamlet in 1671 and a Hall in 1658. The name derives from Old English *holm* – a borrowing from Old Norse *holmr* – meaning 'small island' or 'piece of drier ground amid marshes', probably a reference to the valley of the River Gowy.

Field names

The field names are recorded in the Tarvin Tithe Apportionment, awarded in 1838, and can be located with reference to the Tithe Map (Cheshire CRO EDT 180/1 and /2).

No.	Name	Land use	Owner 1838	Tenant 1838
171	Croft	Arable	Thomas Hope	Thomas Hope
173	Crab tree flatt	Arable	Hugh Colley	Hugh Colley
179	Mount	Pasture	Hugh Colley	Hugh Colley
182	Ox wood	-	James Woodyer	James Woodyer
183	Ox wood	-	James Woodyer	James Woodyer
184	Smooth wood	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
185	Long Croft	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
186	Rush Croft	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
187	Smooth wood	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
188	Far Hatch	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
189	Near Hatch	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
190	Kitchen Croft	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
192	Stony acre	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
193	Barn Croft and pit	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
194	Cow gutter field	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
195	Holms	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
196	Bromleys Croft	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
197	Meadow	Pasture	William Topham	William Topham
198	Meadow	Pasture	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
199	Meadow	Pasture	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
200	Holms	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
201	Holms	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
202	Holms	Arable	William Topham	William Topham
203	Holms Meadow	Pasture	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas

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204	Meadow	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
205	Meadow	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
206	Meadow	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
207	Chester field	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
209	Holms field	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
210	Holms field	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
211	Big field	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
212	Meadow	Pasture	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
213	Meadow	Pasture	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
214	Meadow	Pasture	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
215	Big Wrights field	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
217	Little Wrights field	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
218	Top street field	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
219	Lower street field	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
220	Wet field	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
221	Lower Wet field	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
222	House field	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
226	Barn Croft	Arable	William Rowe	Peter Nicholas
232	Holm Street field	Arable	Robert Littler	Robert Littler
233	Woodsough	Arable	Louisa Panton	Richard Cotton
234	Woodsough	Arable	Dean and Chapter of Lichfield	Margaret Chatterton
235	Woodsough	Arable	Sir John Littler	Richard Littler
237	Town field Croft	Arable	William Dutton	William Dutton
238	Town field Croft	Arable	A Howell & E Garnett	Charles Pigott
239	Croft	Arable	Thomas Platt	George Platt
241	Hopes Croft	Arable	Dean and Chapter of Lichfield	Margaret Chatterton
243	Croft	Arable	Mary Huxley	Thomas Broster
244	Croft	Arable	Thomas Platt	George Platt
245	Shoulder of Mutton	Arable	Sir John Littler	Richard Littler
254	Woodsough	Arable	Hugh Goodwin	Thomas Large
257	Croft	Arable	Hugh Goodwin	Thomas Large
258	Hockenhull Hall field	Arable	Louisa Panton	Thomas Leach
259	Long Croft	Arable	R J Bullock	R J Bullock

Once more, the field names are a fairly typical group. Ox Wood points to the former existence of woodland towards the township boundary; the various names in Holms contain the late Old English *holm*, 'water-meadow'; the two Street fields refer to the Roman road from Stamford Bridge to Nantwich, here known as Holme Street; Wet field is self-explanatory, although it should be noted that even here it was possible to grow arable crops in the early nineteenth century. Woodsough derives from Old English **wudusoh*, 'bog by a wood'.

Hockenhull

Hockenhull is first mentioned in 1208×26 as *Hokenull*, a regular Middle English spelling of an Old English name, **Hoccanhyll*, 'Hocca's hill' (Dodgson 1971, 274). This is not a particularly interesting form, which probably refers to a hill rather than an early settlement. The combination of a personal name with a descriptive element is the commonest form of Old English placename, which for minor names like this are often of topographical rather than habitative origin.

Minor names

Hockenhull Platts are mentioned as *le Plat* in 1288 (Dodgson 1971, 274); *plat* simply means 'bridge'. It is worth noting that all the forms before 1831 are singular (*viz.* Hockenhull Platt etc.); as the present bridges date from the late eighteenth century (*above*), it may be suggested that they replaced a single bridge over a River Gowy which had not yet been canalised into separate channels at this point.

Broomheath (Lane) is first recorded in 1453 as *Bromehey*, 'broom enclosure' (Dodgson 1971, 275). The location of the enclosure (which was probably nothing more than a newly-enclosed field) is not known.

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Field names

The field names are recorded in the Tarvin Tithe Apportionment, awarded in 1838, and can be located with reference to the Tithe Map (Cheshire CRO EDT 180/1 and /2).

No.	Name	Land use	Owner 1838	Tenant 1838
2	Outlet		William Rowe	Nicholas Edwards
3	The acres		William Rowe	Nicholas Edwards
4	Croft		William Rowe	Nicholas Edwards
5	Middle field and Well Croft		William Rowe	Nicholas Edwards
6	Further fields		William Rowe	Nicholas Edwards
7	Little Brucklin fields		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
8	Big Brucklin fields		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
9	Horsepasture Moor		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
10	Big Meadow		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
11	Reed Meadow		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
12	Reed Meadow Bank		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
13	Burnels field		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
14	Little Burnels field		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
15	Pig stead		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
16	Nursery		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
17	Platt field		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
18	Dove house field		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
19	Broad Hay		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
20	Wells fields		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
22	Little Hills		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
23	Big Mills		William Rowe	Hugh Rowe
24	Edward Knight's fields		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
25	Barnfields		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
27	Near Cook Lane		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
28	Further Cook Lane		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
29	Cow Hay		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
30	Gorsty Croft		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
31	Paddocks		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
32	Mill fields		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
33	Minshull's horse pasture		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
34	Billing's Moors		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
35	Rough		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
36	Two Meadows		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
37	Billing's Meadow		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
38	Old House field		William Rowe	Edward Taylor
39	Clover fields		William Rowe	Edward Taylor

The same comments made for the other townships also apply to the field-names for Hockenhull.

River Gowy

The River Gowy has a slightly problematical name. It was first attested as the *aqua de Tervin* ('water of Tarvin') in 1209 (Dodgson 1970, 26) and the form *Gowy* does not appear until 1577. The older name derives from Latin *terminus*, 'boundary', via Welsh *terfyn*. This suggests that the Gowy, in 1066 the boundary between Willaston and Ruloe/Rushton Hundreds, was also a boundary at a much earlier date, when Old or Middle Welsh was still a current language in the region, although exactly when remains open to debate (Bu'Lock 1972, 24; Higham 1993, 43).

As a form, Gowy remains unexplained, although it has been connected with the Wye (Dodgson 1970, 26). This name is attested in Old Welsh as *Guoy* (*Historia Brittonum* 77 in Mommsen 1893, 215), but is itself of unclear derivation (Jackson 1953, 452). A recent explanation sees Wye as deriving from a Celtic word meaning "moving one" or "conveyor" (Room 1988, 404), which is convincing for the Wye but less so for the Gowy, not a notably fast-moving river.

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Cartographic evidence

Emmanuel Bowen's Map (1753)

Early maps of Cheshire rarely show any detail beyond the locations of townships, occasionally showing parish churches, major rivers and hundred boundaries. Bowen's map is unusual (although not unique) in showing major roads. The map is rather distorted, the relation between villages being wrong on occasion (for instance the relative positions of Duddon and Clotton, south-east of Tarvin, are transposed, although they lie along a road). It is interesting to note that the road between Chester and Tarvin does not follow the present A51 Tarvin Road, but passes to the south of 'Cristleton', passes through Brown Heath and 'Hocknill' on to Clotton. Tarvin is reached by a side road.

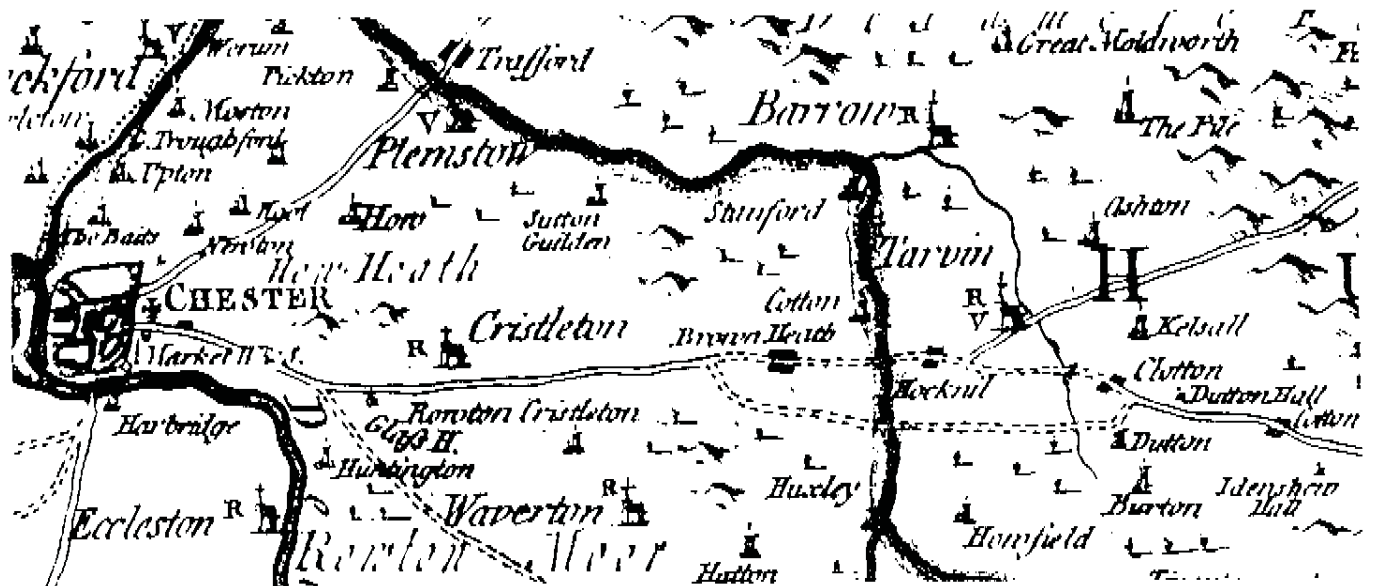


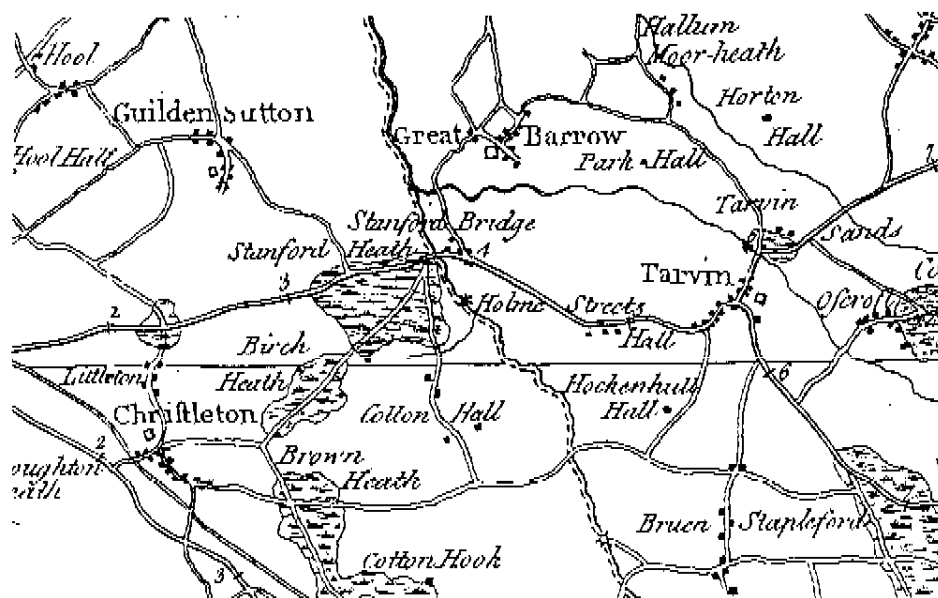
Figure 16: Bowen's map (not to scale)

Burdett's map (1777)

The earliest map to depict Cheshire in any detail was that published by Peter Burdett at Liverpool in 1777. It shows the county at a scale of one inch to the mile (1:63360) but it is clear that although the main triangulation was accurate, the survey was patchy and lacking in reliable detail, particularly in its depiction of minor roads (Harley & Laxton 1974, 18). However, as a cartographic source it contains much useful information about the general road layout, locations (but not extents) of heath and commons, churches and so on. In western Cheshire, Burdett's longitudes are about ten miles too far east (Harley & Laxton 1974, 16).

Littleton is shown as a small group of houses south of the Chester to Northwich turnpike; at the crossroads by the Vicar's Cross, he marks an area of heathland. Stamford Heath begins just past the third mile-post and extends as far as Stamford Bridge. It is marked as far south as a building which is perhaps Stamfordhollows Farm. Birch Heath, to the south-west is also extensive and almost meets Stamford Heath.

The hamlet at Stamford Heath is shown as approximately the same size as the modern settlement. Stamford Mill is wrongly shown on the east side of the River Gowy, but not named. Holme Street Hall is named, as are several other buildings forming the hamlet and Hockenhull Hall is the only building shown in the township. Tarvin is marked as an extensive group of buildings, with the church at the eastern end of the town. There is little else on the map worthy of comment.



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Figure 17: Burdett's map (1:63360)

Swire and Hutchings' Map (1828)

Although at a smaller scale than Burdett's Map, Swire and Hutchings' shows a huge improvement in cartographic techniques over his. Not only are the major routes surveyed accurately, but also the minor roads; individual buildings are shown as are precisely-delineated areas of parkland. Many more minor names are shown for the first time, and the ecclesiastical parish boundaries are shown, although township boundaries are not.

Littleton Hill (now Littleton Hall) is shown surrounded by a small area of parkland; the Vicars Cross appears to be marked to the east of Hare Lane, at the junction with Tarvin Road. On Stamford Heath, just past the third milestone on the Chester to Northwich turnpike, a Toll-Booth is marked opposite the end of Wicker Lane. Nothing is currently visible of the structure.

Old Crow on Holme Street is marked, as are Stamford Mill and Holme Street Hall. Tarvin is labelled 'Tarvin cum Oscroft', the latter element being the name of a hamlet to the east of the village. Hockenhull is also shown as a hamlet separate from Hockenhull Hall.

The Ordnance Survey

The first edition Ordnance Survey one-inch map covering this area was published in 1842. As a government-sponsored survey it was the most accurate survey yet published, although different areas were shown with differing detail. In the area of the proposed bypass corridor, for instance, township boundaries are not shown, although on many other sheets they are. The depiction of field boundaries is haphazard: some are shown, although the criteria for determining which are shown and which are not are unknown.

Littleton Hill is called Vicars Cross House and its parkland has grown considerably since Swire and Hutchings' map. More detail is shown in Littleton, including an attempt to mark property boundaries within the village, although at a scale of 1:63360 this does not work entirely happily. Another addition is the depiction of a Toll Gate at the Tarvin Road end of Hare Lane. Tarvin Road is also labelled a Roman road.

The Toll Booth shown by Swire and Hutchings opposite the end of Wicker Lane is marked by the Ordnance Survey as a Toll Gate, perhaps implying a rather less substantial structure. Stamford Mill and Stamford Bridge are both spelled 'Stanford'. The line of the Roman road continuing the alignment of Tarvin Road is marked.

South-east of Old Crow a new house, Holme Bank, is shown set in parkland. Tarvin appears to have grown significantly, and a new suburb, Tarvin Sands, has developed to the north-east of the village.

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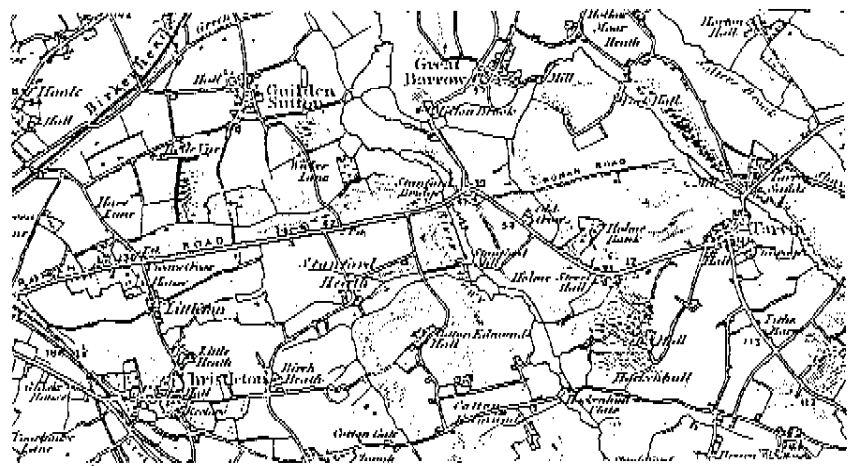


Fig 18: The first edition Ordnance Survey 1" map (1:63360)

The first edition 1:10560 map, surveyed between 1869 and 1874 and published in 1883, restores the name Littleton-hill to the house of 1806 now known as Littleton Hall. It also marks the Vicar's Cross for the first time, placing it at SJ 4409 6692. Although still shown on the 1938 edition, it has not appeared since the Second World War. The Toll Gates are also absent from the 1883 map, following the demise of the Turnpike trusts in the 1870s and the shift of control for trunk roads onto local government.

Landscape evidence

The foregoing assembled evidence permits some limited analysis of the human landscape. This is the most intangible form of archaeological evidence, yet it can reveal hitherto unsuspected and ancient features not otherwise recorded. It forms a slightly higher and more generalised level of analysis and interpretation than that already offered, of material remains, documentary sources and placenames.

The most obvious feature usually visible on aerial photographs of western Cheshire is the distribution of different types of ridge-and-furrow. Those types thought to be earliest – with broad and sinuous or curving ridges – are found in more limited areas than those with straight and narrow ridges, generally but not always close to the historic settlement cores. There are few examples of this type in the route corridor. Placenames can help with the identification of early areas of arable farming, however.

It is clear that the higher ground to the west of the River Gowy and Guilden Sutton remained largely heathland during the Middle Ages, although few of the field- and placenames in the route corridor demonstrate this. This seems to have been deliberately chosen by the Roman army for the building of 'practice camps', presumably because it was also open land in the Romano-British period.

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The field inspection

An initial field inspection took place on the afternoon of 31 July 1995. This was limited to examining the sites of the Stamford Heath enclosures, the river crossing at Stamford Bridge and an area to the south-east of Tarvin. A subsequent field inspection took place on 22 August and attempted to examine the remainder of the route corridor, although it was only possible to examine those places accessible from public footpaths and highways.

Parts of the Vicar's Cross were said to have been still visible in the 1920s (Brownbill 1923, 100), but there is no trace of them now. The field where it was located has not been developed for housing, and it is possible that parts of the cross survive half-buried or in hedgerows: because of the limitations of the field inspection it was not possible to gain access to the field to check it thoroughly.

A track follows the first 150 metres of the western end of the boundary between Littleton and Guilden Sutton: it is visible as a slight hollow continuing the line to the junction with Park Lane, beyond which it continues as a track for another 100 m. Where the track currently ends there is a stile, constructed from two upright sandstone slabs with peg-holes, probably of post-medieval date although now much altered. There is a third slab acting as a sill. The gives access to a track leading northwards past a house called Polruan to Bellevue Lane. The track runs between a hedgerow in a ditch to the west and a headland to the east. The headland forms the edge of a pasture containing broad ridge-and-furrow running approximately east-west.

In the field to the west there are traces of a grubbed-out field boundary, which passes through two conjoined marl pits and contains a former hedgerow oak. North of this and parallel with it was a linear cropmark showing as a dark green stripe in the parched grass of the meadow. There were slight hints of ridge-and-furrow earthworks running north-south beyond this cropmark. In the field immediately to the north was broad ridge-and-furrow running east-west.

Nothing of interest was visible in any of the remaining fields between this area and the golf course. North of the golf course the fields were arable and had recently been harvested. To the south of the houses in Vicarscross the only site of interest was a deep (about 20 m) former quarry.

Although the positions of the two enclosures on Stamford Heath were known, the author was unable to see any evidence for them on the ground, which is slightly undulating hereabouts. Both fields have been ploughed regularly in recent years, and it is possible that the earthworks, which were already very slight when surveyed ten years ago, have now been almost completely denuded. The fields had recently been mown.

In the fields to the east of Wicker Lane, there were traces of ridge-and-furrow running north-south which showed only as slight undulations in the ground surface beneath the hedgerow north of the boundary between Guilden Sutton and Christleton. A little further north was a hedgerow in a ditch, which probably indicates that it is following the line of an earlier boundary, and immediately north of this a subrectangular patch of green grass in parched pasture was probably an infilled former marl pit.

There is little visible of interest at Stamford Bridge. To the west of the present bridge there is a derelict petrol filling station, which has been the subject of a number of planning applications over the past decade, all of which have come to nothing. To its north are the remains of the earlier bridge, the span of which has been demolished, although the springs of the arch on both sides are still visible as are the parapets. To the north of the western abutment a linear patch of parched grass was visible.

East of the bridge the modern hamlet follows an earlier course of the Tarvin road, known as Lansdowne Road. None of the fields beside the Goway to the north and south contained any visible earthworks or parchmarks. The modern

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line of the A51 is raised on a causeway as it swings down towards the south-east where it rejoins its former line. There is no trace of the Roman road as it crosses the triangle of land between the A51, B 5132 and Lansdowne Road.

At Tarvin, Townfield Lane is a distinct hollow way; in one of the fields to its west were parchmarks which could not be deciphered from the ground. To the south of the roundabout between the A51 and A54 the subrectangular enclosure which was discovered as a cropmark in 1994 is still a low earthwork. Only two sides could be seen from publicly-accessible places, but it must be assumed that the remainder also survives.

The north-eastern boundary of Hockenhull follows an earthwork up to almost a metre high. Although uncommon in Cheshire, boundary banks of this type have been noted (Matthews & Davies 1993, 11) and in many instances elsewhere in England they are more than a thousand years old. This raises interesting questions about the antiquity of the division between Tarvin and what is assumed to be a dependant estate at Hockenhull.

AT Hockenhull Hall there are good examples of earlier nineteenth century brick farm buildings including barns. Although not listed and not of any great architectural merit, they nevertheless are good examples of their type.

Gazetteer of identified archaeological remains

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The following gazetteer includes all those monuments and find-spots of archaeological material inside the route corridor and within two hundred metres of its edges. The County Sites and Monuments Record number is quoted, as are Chester District Archaeological Statement's record number and the Grosvenor Museum Record number (where appropriate), together with a brief description of the site. Sites marked with an asterisk were first recorded as a result of this desk-based survey.

CDAS	CSMR	GMR	Description	NGR
Littleton				
77.2.1			Roman road	4362 6676 to 4504 6698
77.2.2	1929/0/1		Roman lead weight	439- 666-
77.2.3	1929/0/2		Amphora fragment	440- 666-
77.2.4	1929/0/3		Roman coin (dupondius of Vespasian)	4416 6667
77.3.1			Vicar's Cross (site of)	4409 6692
77.4.1			Littleton (historic core)	4411 6648
77.5.1			Turnpike road	4362 6676 to 4504 6699
77.5.2*			Former track	4387 6698 to 4480 6710
77.6.1*			Toll Gate	4396 6690
77.6.2*			Stile	4400 6703
77.6.3*			Disused quarry	4449 6683
77.7.1	1931//		Former corn barn	4411 6635
Guildden Sutton				
57.2.1	1927//		Roman coin (bronze of Licinius)	4488 6803
57.2.4*			Roman enclosure	4380 6747
57.2.5*			Roman enclosure	4400 6784
57.2.6*			Roman enclosure	4498 6800
57.4.1	1910//		Lead spindle-whorl	4519 6822
57.4.2*			Ridge-and-furrow	4405 6720
57.4.3*			Ridge-and-furrow	4390 6732
57.4.4*			Ridge-and-furrow ?	4565 6748
57.4.5*			Ancient boundary ?	4555 6759 to 4573 6761
57.5.1*			Former field boundary	4374 6710 to 4400 6716
57.5.2*			Linear cropmark	4374 6711 to 4400 6717
57.5.3*			Ridge-and-furrow	4389 6719
57.5.4*			Former marl pit	4554 6759
57.6.1			Boundary stone	4604 6765
57.6.2			Boundary stone	4533 6729
57.6.4			Gravel pit	4484 6770
57.6.6			Well	4489 6802
57.6.7			Well	4491 6812
57.6.11			Boundary stone	4359 6722
57.6.12			Mile post	4369 6712

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57.6.13			Vicar's Cross Golf Course	4520 6730
57.6.14			Stone	4379 6735
57.6.15			Stones	4383 6724

Christleton

28.2.6			Roman bronze bell	4664 6728
28.2.7			Roman road	4504 6698 to 4664 6730
28.2.8	1913//		Rectangular earthwork (Stamford Heath Enclosure 1)	4596 6691
28.2.9	1914//		Roman practice camp? (Stamford Heath Enclosure 2)	4545 6687
28.4.4*			Linear parch mark	4660 6734
28.5.2			Turnpike road	4504 6699 to 4663 6733
28.6.30			Concrete bunker	4526 6700
28.6.31*			Toll Gate	4576 6710

Cotton Edmunds

38.4.1	2032//		Stamford Mill	4674 6679
38.6.2			Well	4669 6632
38.6.3			Boundary stone	4684 6662
38.6.4			Hydraulic ram	4686 6663
38.6.6			Well	4676 6631

Barrow

7.1.4	2052/0/1	832	Bronze terret ring (Late Iron Age ?)	4661 6734
7.2.1			Roman road	4664 6730 to 4862 6776
7.2.2	1904//	726	Romano-British pottery and coin (of Trajan)	4723 6746
7.4.8	1906//	703	Henry III penny	4640 6790
7.4.12			Stamford Bridge (medieval site ?)	4663 6734
7.4.15			Earthworks (date conjectural)	4652 6794
7.5.9			Turnpike road	4663 6733 to 4702 6637
7.5.10			Side gate on Turnpike road	4678 6743
7.5.13*			Stamford Bridge (abutments only)	4663 6733
7.6.9			Milton Brook Bridge	4653 6792
7.6.10			Milestone	4681 6743

Tarvin

105.1.3	1894//	793	Prehistoric rotary quern	4857 6705
105.2.1	0844/1/15	377	Roman road	4687 6729 to 4978 6800
105.2.2	1915/1/		Roman road	4701 6734 to 5018 6521
105.2.3	1897/0/2	432	Roman coin (Constantine I)	4880 6652
105.2.4	2443//		Subrectangular enclosure (Romano-British farm ?)	4810 6655
105.4.3	2042//		Medieval pottery scatter	491- 662-
105.4.4*			Townfield Lane hollow way	4861 6686 to 4845 6652

105.5.1	1897/0/1		Lead spindle whorl (post-medieval)	4893 6657	This column is left free for your notes
105.5.2			Post-medieval pottery scatter	491- 662-	
105.6.1*			Parch marks	4840 6655	
105.7.30	1899/3/		Holme Street Hall	4799 6665	
Hockenhull					
63.1.1	1890//		Two flints (lost)	4837 6623	
63.2.1			Roman road	4808 6656 to 4911 2576	
63.3.1*			Boundary bank	4910 6579 to 4813 6658	
63.4.2			Moat at Hockenhull Hall ?	4839 6611	
63.4.3			Coin (penny of Edward IV)	477- 659-	
63.5.1	1891/2/		Ha-ha at Hockenhull Hall	4839 6608	
63.6.1*			Farm buildings	4846 6620	
63.6.2*			Earthworks	4795 6607	
63.7.1	1891/1/	308	Hockenhull Hall	4839 6611	

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Discussions

The noteworthy aspect of the identified archaeology is the quantity and diversity of Romano-British material along the route corridor: there are few other places in Cheshire where such a density of find-spots and known sites can be found. The range is enormous, from publicly-funded works such as the roads and possible practice camps through to individual farmsteads, perhaps occupied by tenant peasant farmers, and down to individual findspots whose meaning cannot be determined with any certainty, although there are hints of an agglomerated settlement between Stamford Bridge and Barrow. In a region where Romano-British rural settlement is barely understood through lack of evidence, the pattern which emerges in the route corridor is tantalisingly complex.

The most important point to be made about the route corridor is that it is mostly peripheral to the settlement foci of the medieval and later townships through which it passes. Moreover, because of the agriculturally unpromising nature of the soils in the corridor, it is likely that these settlement foci are on or close to the sites of even earlier settlements. The exceptions are the twentieth-century Chester suburb of Vicarscross at Littleton and the hamlet of Stamford Bridge in Barrow. What this means in practice, though, is that the land it passes through will have been peripheral for at least the last thousand years.

The medieval and later material is not of any great interest. Because the settlement foci which exist today are on or very close to those foci which have existed throughout the second millennium AD (and possibly, in the cases of Christleton, Barrow and Tarvin, for much of the first millennium AD as well), find-spots of material made away from areas of habitation are less likely to tell us about rural settlement patterns than those of an earlier date. Coin and pottery finds especially are probably the result of the spreading of material from kitchen middens onto arable land: at best, perhaps, they can show us which areas were under cultivation during the Middle Ages.

The post-medieval and modern archaeology of the route is very much linked to the A51. During the Middle Ages the old Roman road from Chester to Manchester had fallen out of use as a major highway, perhaps because of shifting settlement patterns, and an alternative route grew up to the south, crossing the River Gowy at Hockenhull Platts. However, during the eighteenth century, with improvements to roads made by Turnpike Trusts, a new road was constructed close to the Roman line. Various improvements have been made to this road, including the construction of a new bridge and causeway at Stamford Bridge in 1966, where the road now bypasses the once-busy hamlet.

The A51 Tarvin Road

As has been clear throughout this assessment, the present A51 more-or-less follows the Roman road from Chester to Manchester between Littleton and Stamford Bridge. As a route it is first attested in a Roman road-book known as the Antonine Itinerary, a compilation probably first put together towards the end of the third century AD. The road under discussion links two stages in what is conventionally known as *Iter II* (Route 2) for Britain, between *Condate* and *Deva leg. xx vici*, Northwich and Chester (Rivet & Smith 1979, 157). Archaeologically, the road is more difficult to date. Adrian Waddelove (1986) has suggested that this road belongs to a tertiary stage in the development of the road system in this area, after the construction of the fortress at Chester AD c 74, which is reasonable, although how soon after the foundation of the legionary fortress construction of the route began cannot be determined on present evidence.

The road was clearly of military importance, linking Chester with auxiliary forts at Northwich, Middlewich and Manchester during the 70s. Only Manchester survived the demilitarisation of the region in the later first century to remain a garrison until the later fourth century, and it must be suspected that the road

took on an increasingly important civilian and economic role from the early second century. Although the archaeological evidence has not revealed a major embankment (*agger*) along this stretch of the road, there are nevertheless traces of a low mound in places (Waddelove 1986, 207).

The later history of the road is unknown. Certainly by the end of the Middle Ages it was no longer in use, but there is currently no evidence to show when the southerly route via Hockenhull Platts became established. However, the frequent mentions of Stamford Bridge from the late twelfth to mid fifteenth centuries demonstrate that the road was still in use at that time. Indeed, the construction of a bridge over the River Gowy at an unknown date between the coining of the Old English name **Stanford* or **Stænenford* and c 1200, suggests that the part of the road west of Stamford Bridge remained important and was being maintained well into the medieval period. The parch mark observed to the north of the eighteenth-century Stamford Bridge was perhaps the line of the approach to the medieval bridge. We may suggest that the abandonment of the this part of the route occurred between the late fourteenth and late sixteenth centuries.

The part of the road east of Stamford Bridge probably fell out of use at an earlier date. The growth of Tarvin, probably during the Saxon period, may have encouraged traffic to use the more southerly Stamford Bridge to Nantwich road via Holme Street. The connection between Holme Street and Tarvin is obscure, though, as the present A54 clearly cuts through earlier field boundaries. There is a suggestion of an early curving route from Holme Street Hall running to the north of the modern road to join a track which still exists. This would have skirted the northern edge of the Townfield, one of the village's open fields, to converge with the present High Street close to Tarvin Hall.

The Chester to Northwich Turnpike was established in the later eighteenth century, close to the line of the old road west of Stamford Bridge. It is likely that the earlier route had survived as field boundaries or as a minor lane – as it still does to the east – to be followed by the Turnpike Trust's engineers. The laying-out of the new route between Holme Street Hall and Tarvin High Street perhaps belongs to this period.

The history of the route east from Chester provides a continuity through the last two millennia, and its shifts in line reflect the changing priorities of travellers and the growth and decline of settlements.

Settlement patterns

As already mentioned, the early settlement patterns of Cheshire are virtually unknown. The prehistoric occupation of the region is very poorly-attested and has attracted little attention in the past. The few finds of pre-Roman material are enough to show a human presence, but are insufficient to enable any reconstruction of how the landscape was being used. Only by the Iron Age in the first millennium BC is it possible to detect social territories, based around hilltop enclosures along the Mid-Cheshire Ridge. These enclosures are thought to have been the foci of territorial units rather than major settlements in their own right. Their distribution suggests that the River Gowy formed the western limit of their territories (Matthews 1994, 53).

The recently discovered enclosure at Tarvin roundabout (CDAS 105.2.4) is of a type which has been found to span the transition between the Late Iron Age and the Romano-British period (Nevell 1989, 33). Such enclosures seem to have been farmsteads of low to middling status; the use of durable material culture shows that their inhabitants had access to markets (perhaps at places such as Chester) but that they did not use large numbers of consumer goods. This does not necessarily imply poverty however, as it has been thought that wealth was expressed by the rural population of northern Britain in ways which did not entail conspicuous consumption of manufactured products.

Such farmsteads were probably a common form of rural settlement in parts of Roman Cheshire, particularly on the better soils, as are found at Tarvin and Christleton, although so far they have escaped detection in large numbers. However, the concentration of Romano-British material from the low-lying areas around Milton Brook, between Stamford Bridge and Barrow, suggests that the less easily-worked clay soils were also exploited at this time. The widespread nature of this scatter indicates a more substantial settlement than a

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simple farmstead, both in terms of diversity and distribution. It is probable that some form of village-like settlement existed on the north side of the stream. It is interesting to note that the main distribution of material is found to the east of the River Gowy: it has been suggested that the Gowy formed the eastern boundary of the *prata legionis* (legionary territory) of the garrison of Chester (Carrington *ed* 1994, 39). Settlement within the *prata legionis* would have been restricted and under military control, while outside the area civilian patterns of land ownership would have applied, allowing the growth of nucleated or agglomerated settlements.

A pattern of Romano-British settlement in the route corridor can therefore be suggested, albeit tentatively. The area was divided between land owned and controlled by the garrison of Chester, to the west of the River Gowy, while to its east it was in civilian control from the later first century onwards. The remains found west of the river consist largely of military earthworks, probably practice-camps erected by the legion during times of peace, although there are hints of settlement of some kind at Littleton, south of Christleton and at Birch Heath. Finds of Late Iron Age and Romano-British material from the vicinity of the river-crossing suggest that there was some sort of occupation here, perhaps an official post restricting access to the *prata legionis*.

The dominant settlement east of the Gowy was a village-like agglomeration which grew up to the south of the later village focus at Great Barrow. This may have acted as a local market for the farms of the area. Only one certain example of a farm has been located, at Tarvin roundabout, but others probably existed at Littleton, Birch Heath, Christleton, Guilden Sutton and Tarvin. Most of these possible sites are now villages, of which three (Christleton, Great Barrow and Tarvin) have very strong evidence for continuity of occupation through the sub-Roman period.

This may explain the exceptionally sparse nature of the evidence for Romano-British rural settlement in western Cheshire generally: if the medieval settlement foci are located on the sites of earlier settlements, then very little archaeological evidence for these earlier sites will have survived. This is particularly the case for sites lower down the social scale where the architecture remained based on timber framing and is consequently less easily recognised. Furthermore, the evident lack of interest in accumulating large quantities of durable material culture means that finds are also rare.

The later settlement pattern is relatively well understood. Landscape historians, such as Nick Higham, have begun to unravel the growth of the territorial units we can detect by the time of Domesday Book, the earliest document to give anything like a reasonable picture of rural settlement in the region. It is likely that medieval parishes which remained the basic units of local government until the late nineteenth century had been established by the early tenth century, so that a continuity of territorial organisation for a thousand years can be suggested. The fates of individual settlements may have changed enormously over that time, but the basic framework remained the same. There is a great deal of evidence to show the locations of medieval open fields to the north of Christleton, south of Guilden Sutton, west of Great Barrow and south-west of Tarvin. In addition the heathland, drove-roads, mills and so on are all so well attested that the pattern of occupation from the High Middle Ages on (from, say, the thirteenth century) is known with considerable certainty.

It is only in the twentieth century that this pattern has been disrupted significantly in the area under consideration. Vicarscross is an entirely twentieth-century creation: its location on the Tarvin Road was determined by the availability of cars during the early part of the century to the middle classes who wanted out-of-town houses and easy transport to the city centre, an ironic comment on the present bypass campaign. The slightly later growth of other settlements – Guilden Sutton, Christleton, Great Barrow and Tarvin – is also probably related to the increasing frequency of car ownership, this time among the less wealthy.

Assessment of archaeological potential

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The archaeological potential of the route corridor is relatively high. Apart from the two heathland enclosures on Stamford Heath (which will probably have been Scheduled as Ancient Monuments by the time of publication of this Assessment), there is the probable Romano-British settlement site close to Stamford Bridge and a probable Romano-British farmstead enclosure adjacent to the roundabout at the junction of the A51 and A54 Tarvin bypass. These are sites of supreme importance for a number of reasons.

The sites will be discussed using the CDAS numbers already assigned to them or, in the case of those first identified by this survey, by the numbers given in the Gazetteer above. The criteria used to assess potential are those adopted by the Department of the Environment (1990, Annexe 4) for Scheduling as part of the Monument Protection Programme currently being undertaken by English Heritage. The individual elements considered are: period, rarity, documentation, group value, survival/condition, fragility, diversity and potential. Chester District Archaeological Statement has already made a provisional grading of sites and find-spots using these criteria for the purposes of the Draft Local Plan. The grading is as follows:

- SAM/LB (Scheduled Ancient Monument/Listed Building). These are designated by the Secretary of State for the Environment and lists are published at regular intervals. The list of Scheduled Ancient Monuments is currently being revised under the Monument Protection Programme with a view to including a larger number and greater variety of sites than hitherto. The most recent Lists of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest were published in the 1980s, and are currently being revised and enlarged. The Draft Local Plan policy recommends that development proposals which would adversely affect the site or setting of a Scheduled Ancient Monument be refused.
- Grade A sites are defined as being of county or regional importance. They include sites recommended for upgrading to SAM status under the Monument Protection Programme. This category consists only of known sites, find-spots being excluded as the nature of the past activity which resulted in the deposition of material is usually undefined. The Draft Local Plan policy recommends that development proposals which would adversely affect the site or setting of a Grade A site be refused.
- Grade B sites are defined as being of district importance, immediately below Grade A status; concentrations of stray finds are also included in this category. The Draft Local Plan policy recommends that development proposals which would adversely affect the site or setting of a Grade B site be allowed if the applicant is able to demonstrate that the site or monument can be satisfactorily preserved either *in situ* or by record. Evaluation of Grade B sites prior to determination of a planning application is also recommended.
- Grade B* has been assigned to closely-spaced stray finds not recorded as a discrete scatter. They are treated as ordinary Grade B sites.
- Grade C sites are of local or parish importance and consist of sites excluded from English Heritage's Monument Protection Programme. They are frequently stray finds whose depositional context is unknown, place-names and sites of relatively recent date which are so common as

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to require little protection. The Draft Local Plan policy recommends that development proposals in close proximity to a Grade C site be allowed provided that the applicant makes adequate provision for an agreed programme of archaeological work to take place prior to or following determination, as appropriate.

The grading adopted by Chester District Archaeological Statement will be followed here, although it should be noted that the recommended planning responses are only draft proposals which have not yet been submitted to a Public Enquiry. However, the approach taken by the Draft Local Plan has met with the approval of Chester Archaeological Service's Advisory Group and is therefore currently the position being taken with regard to development proposals.

It should also be noted that the gradings are at best provisional and are not for public dissemination. Grade B sites, in particular, could be subject to either upgrading or downgrading following the acquisition of further information; similarly, some Grade C sites might be upgraded and many Grade A sites are likely to be recommended for Scheduling.

The remainder of this section will deal with the identified archaeological remains within and immediately adjacent to the proposed route corridor listed in the Gazetteer above.

Littleton

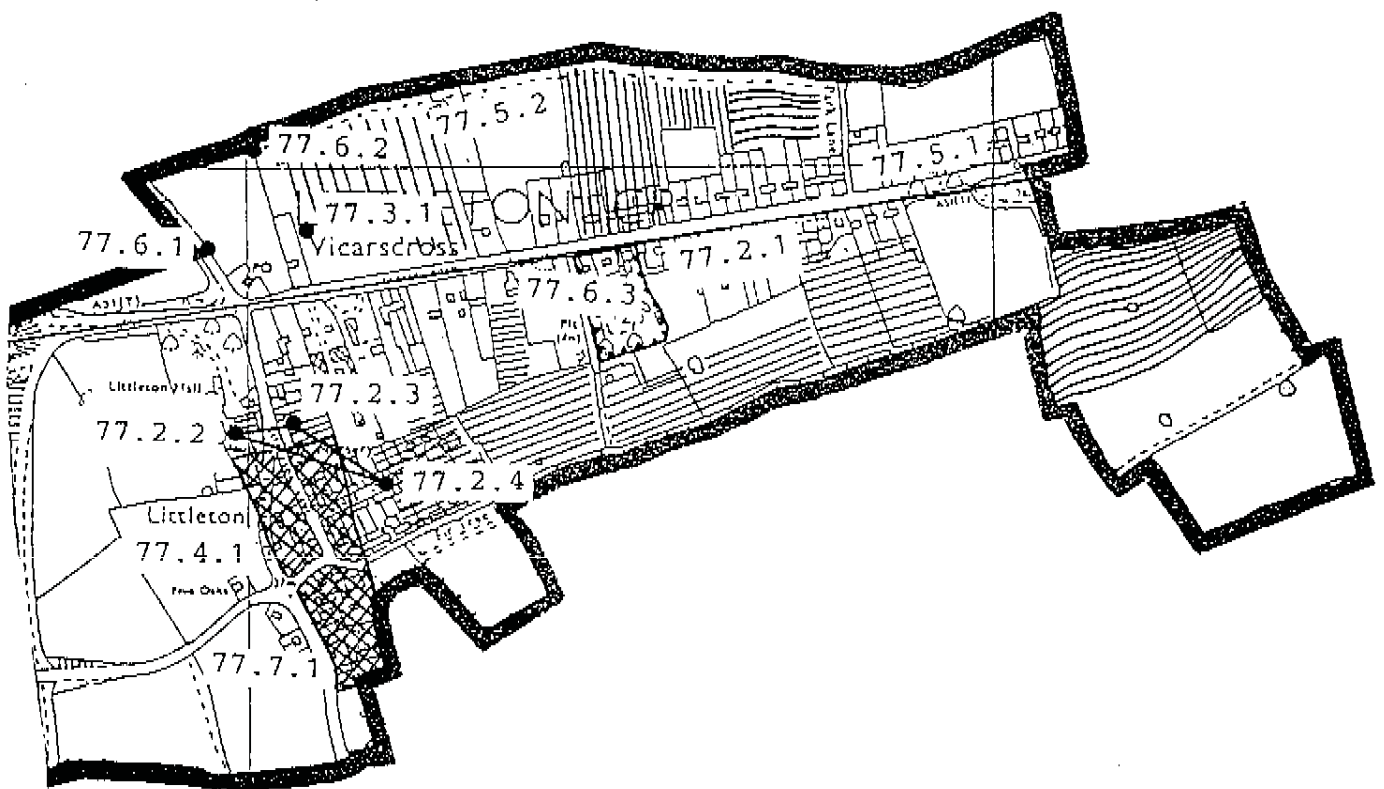


Figure 19: Littleton (1:10000)

77.2.1: Roman road Chester-Manchester (Grade B)

The Roman road in Littleton roughly coincides with the line of the present A51 Tarvin bypass as a result of which it is unlikely to be disturbed by the proposed scheme. It is of medium archaeological potential.

77.2.2: Roman lead weight (Grade B*)

The significance of single finds is difficult to assess; however, the relatively close association of this lead weight with an amphora fragment and coin (see below) suggests occupation in the area. The nature of this occupation is unknown and could only be determined by fieldwork. However, the archaeological potential of this area to the north of the historic core of the village is high.

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77.2.3: Roman amphora fragment (Grade B*)

See comments on 77.2.2 above.

77.2.4: Roman coin (Grade B*)

See comments on 77.2.2 above.

77.3.1: Vicar's Cross (Grade B)

Surviving Saxon crosses are rare in Cheshire; the present survey has not been able to determine whether or not anything survives of the cross base today, although it was reported to be visible in the 1920s. Given the lack of evidence about the structure, it has been assigned Grade B rather than Grade A as it is of medium archaeological potential.

77.4.1: Littleton historic core (Grade B)

The historic core of Littleton lay around the junction of Pearl Lane/Fir Tree Lane and Littleton Lane/Little Heath Road, an area which saw considerable redevelopment during the twentieth century and the construction of a bypass. The archaeological potential for recovering remains of the medieval and post-medieval village is high despite this redevelopment. It is interesting to note the close proximity of the presumed medieval village core to the undefined Roman site.

77.5.1: Chester to Northwich Turnpike road (Grade B)

The present A51 is the line established by the Chester to Northwich Turnpike Trust in the eighteenth century. However, continual resurfacings and the growth of Vicarscross have destroyed its original character. Few Turnpike roads have been examined archaeologically in the Chester area, although the surface was recorded during the construction of the A55 southerly bypass in 1990. Its archaeological potential is medium.

77.5.2: disused track (Grade C)

This is a relatively common form of rural site of little consequence beyond its implications for past local communications. It is of low archaeological potential.

77.6.1: toll gate (Grade C)

There is nothing visible on the ground of the former toll gate on Hare Lane. It is possible that only a flimsy structure was associated with it. It is of low archaeological potential.

77.6.2: stile (Grade C)

Although an interesting monument in its own right, it is of purely local interest. Its archaeological potential is low.

77.6.3: disused quarry (Grade B)

This former quarry is a good example of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century mineral extraction, with surviving works buildings. Industrial sites of this type in western Cheshire have not hitherto been examined archaeologically, and their potential is therefore medium despite their recent date.

77.7.1: former corn barn (LB II)

This seventeenth-century barn was converted into residences in the twentieth century, thus reducing its architectural integrity. Its architectural and historic interest is therefore medium.

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Guilden Sutton

57.2.1: Roman coin (Grade C)

The significance of single finds is difficult to assess and the lack of association of this coin with other remains of Roman date makes the likely context of the original loss of the coin unknowable. Its archaeological potential is low.

57.2.4: Roman military enclosure (Grade A)

The enclosure discovered by aerial photography during August 1995 to the south-west of Guilden Sutton is probably a Roman military site, of a class generally referred to as 'practice camps'. Recent work has shown that perhaps fifteen of these sites stretch from Picton to the north-east of Chester to Stamford Heath, in the present route corridor. There has been little archaeological investigation of such sites, and only one of the Chester examples has been sampled. The archaeological potential of such sites is high, and in some cases the monument will be scheduled under the Monument Protection Programme.

57.2.5: Roman military enclosure (Grade A)

See notes on 57.2.4 above.

57.2.6: Roman military enclosure (Grade A)

See notes on 57.2.4 above.

57.4.1: medieval spindle-whorl (Grade C)

Single finds of unassociated medieval and later material are unlikely to be informative about settlement patterns; at best they might indicate areas of cultivation. This find-spot is of low archaeological potential.

57.4.2: ridge-and-furrow earthworks (Grade C)

Although formerly widespread in Cheshire, ridge-and-furrow earthworks proved very vulnerable to late twentieth-century farming practices and new building, and a significant proportion of that which is visible on the 1947 aerial photographs has now vanished. Perhaps only 20% remains, much of which has been severely degraded by ploughing, rolling and turf removal. None has been Scheduled in Chester District. However, apart from the information its presence imparts about former agricultural practices, it is of low archaeological potential.

57.4.3: ridge-and-furrow earthworks (Grade C)

See comments on 57.4.2 above.

57.4.4: ridge-and-furrow traces? (Grade C)

See comments on 57.4.2 above.

57.4.5: ancient boundary? (Grade C)

Most post-medieval and modern field boundaries marked by hedges tend to be raised on banks or lie flush with the field surface. Examples in ditches are locally rare in the writer's experience and where they occur they often appear to be of relatively ancient date. In some instances, as here, they follow features associated with early forms of ridge-and-furrow and it may tentatively be suggested that this boundary is of medieval (or earlier) date. Its potential for yielding further archaeological information is low, however.

57.5.1: former field boundary (Grade C)

This hollow is marked on earlier twentieth-century maps as a field boundary, but it does not appear to have been of any great antiquity and was probably of post-medieval date. Its archaeological potential is low.

57.5.2: linear cropmark (Grade C)

This parch-mark ran parallel to the former field boundary 57.5.1 above. Although it is not possible to be certain about its origin, it is strongly suspected that it is the line of a mains service trench. Its archaeological potential is low.

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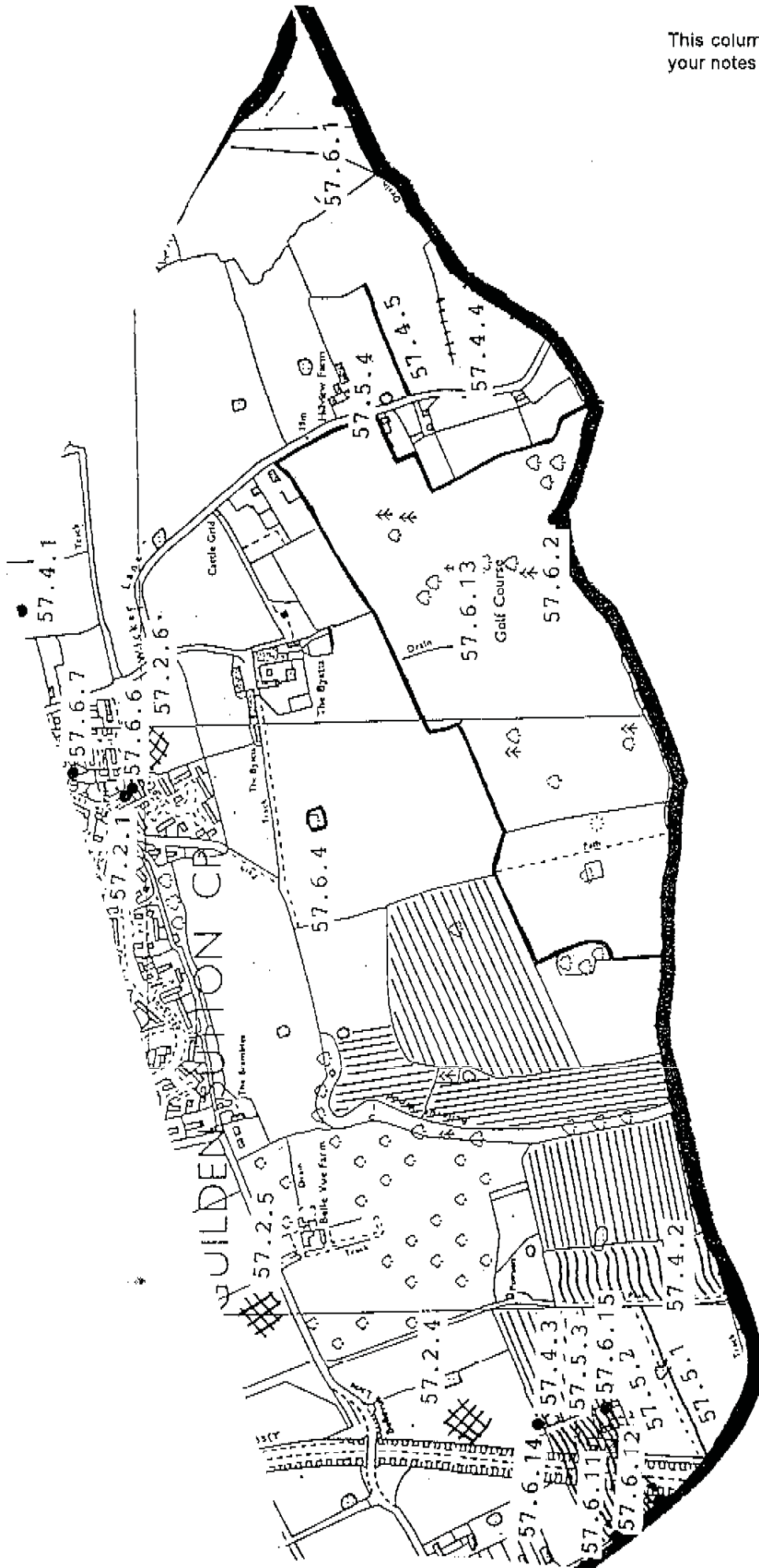


Figure 20: Guilden Sutton (1:10000)

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57.5.3: ridge-and-furrow earthworks (Grade C)

See comments on 57.4.2 above. This narrow form of ridge-and-furrow is thought to be later in date than those discussed above.

57.5.4: former marl pit (Grade C)

Cheshire contains some 60% of all known ponds in England; most are former marl pits, created from the thirteenth to nineteenth centuries. They are extremely common, but many are being filled in to help modern agriculture. Their archaeological potential is low.

57.6.1: boundary stone (Grade C)

Parish boundary stones are often of eighteenth- or nineteenth-century date; although the writer was unable to observe this example, it is likely to be of that type. Their archaeological potential is low.

57.6.2: boundary stone (Grade C)

See comments on 57.6.1 above.

57.6.4: gravel pit (Grade C)

This former gravel pit is an example of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century mineral extraction. Industrial sites of this type in western Cheshire have not hitherto been examined archaeologically, but its potential is low.

57.6.6: well (Grade C)

Wells were a common feature of settlements before the advent of piped water supplies during the late nineteenth and twentieth century. Examples of recent date are of low archaeological potential.

57.6.7: well (Grade C)

See comments on 57.6.6 above.

57.6.11: boundary stone (Grade C)

See comments on 57.6.1. above.

57.6.12: mile post (Grade C)

Mile posts and milestones were erected by the Turnpike Trusts as an aid to travellers. When local authorities took over upkeep of highways in the 1870s the system of signage was improved and this mile post is an example of early local authority signage. It has not been inspected, however, and its condition is not known.

57.6.13: Vicar's Cross Golf Course (Grade C)

Golf courses are important features in late twentieth-century rural landscapes and are socially interesting monuments. However, they are increasingly common and of no great archaeological significance.

57.6.14: stone (Grade C)

See comments on 57.6.1 above.

57.6.15: stones (Grade C)

See comments on 57.6.1 above.

Christleton

28.2.6: Roman bronze bell (Grade B*)

The significance of single finds is difficult to assess; however, the relatively close association of this bronze bell with the Roman river-crossing close to Stamford Bridge suggests occupation in the area. The nature of this occupation is unknown and could only be determined by fieldwork. However, the archaeological potential of this area is high.

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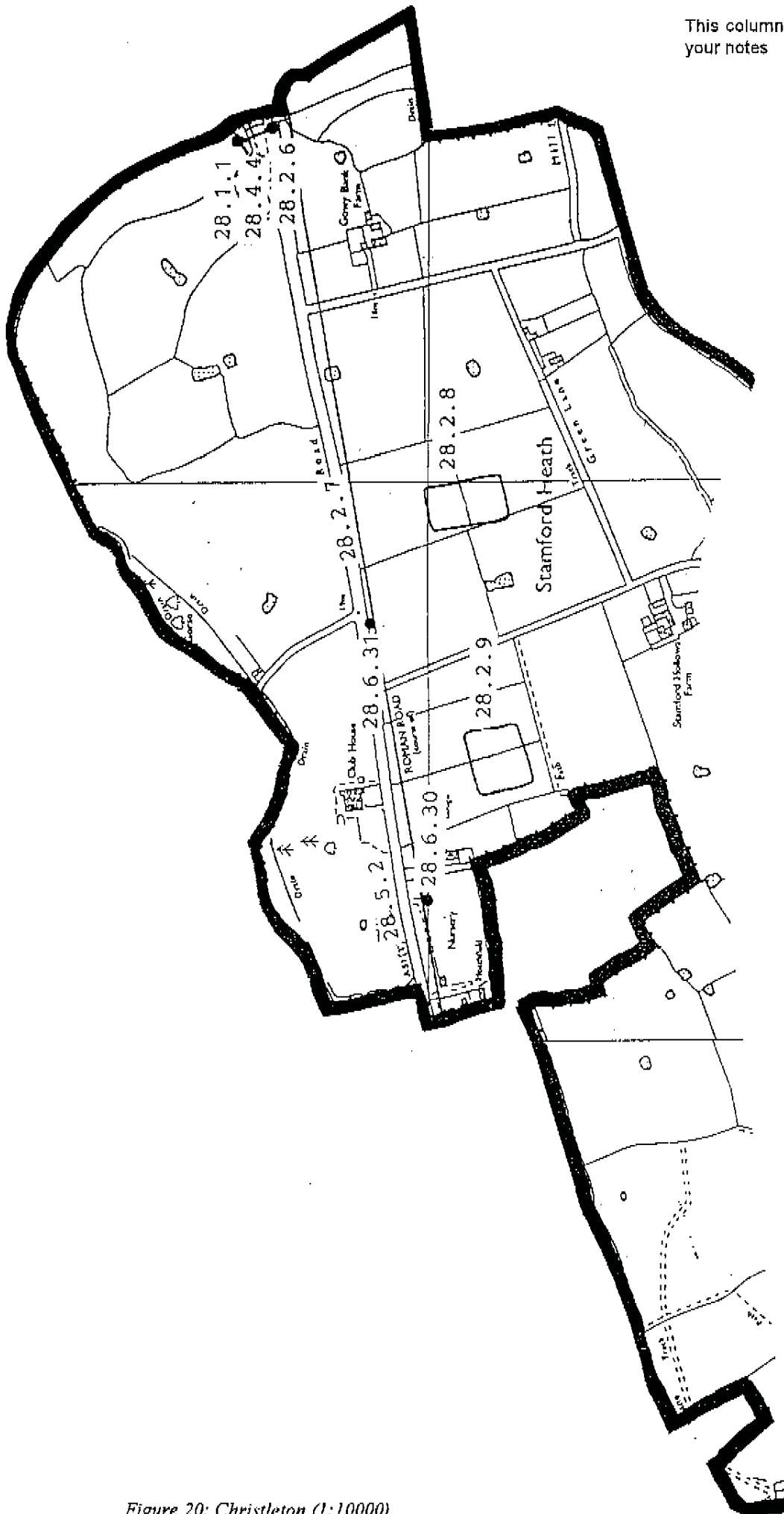


Figure 20: Christleton (1:10000)

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28.2.7: Roman road Chester-Manchester (Grade B)

As it passes from west to east through Christleton, the low *agger* (or embankment) of the Roman road becomes visible as the modern A51 gradually diverges from this line in a more northerly direction. It is likely that the road surfaces, make-up and associated side ditches survive reasonably well, so the monument is of medium archaeological potential.

28.2.8: Roman military enclosure (SAM)

The enclosures on Stamford Heath are probably Roman military sites, of a class generally referred to as 'practice camps'. Recent work has shown that perhaps fifteen of these sites stretch from Picton to the north-east of Chester to these sites in the route corridor. There has been little archaeological investigation of such sites, and only one of the Chester examples has been sampled. The archaeological potential of such sites is high, and the monument will be scheduled under the Monument Protection Programme.

28.2.9: Roman military enclosure (SAM)

See comments on 28.2.8 above.

28.4.4: line of medieval road? (Grade B/C)

A parch mark slightly north of the eighteenth-century Turnpike road as it approaches Stamford Bridge is perhaps the line of its medieval precursor, as the Roman river crossing lay a short distance to the south. Little is known about the construction of medieval roads, although it is known that in Cheshire they consumed quantities of timber for repair works (Hewitt 1929, 67). The archaeological potential of this parch mark – if the identification is correct – is therefore high. On the other hand, if the identification is wrong, its potential is low.

28.5.2: Chester to Northwich Turnpike road (Grade B)

See comments on 77.5.1 above.

28.6.30: concrete bunker (Grade B)

There has been a recent upsurge of interest in remains of the Second World War, many of which have lain unrecorded for more than half a century. Although they are usually of very substantial concrete construction, they are vulnerable to destruction without record. The potential of this site is therefore medium.

28.6.31: toll gate (Grade C)

See comments on 77.6.1 above.

Cotton Edmunds

38.4.1: Stamford Mill (Grade B)

A mill has been attested at Stamford since the High Middle Ages. Although the building is now a private residence, the mill forming its kitchen, associated leats and channels still exist. The archaeological potential of the site is medium to high.

38.6.2: well (Grade C)

See comments on 57.6.6 above.

38.6.3: boundary stone (Grade C)

See comments on 57.6.1 above.

38.6.4: hydraulic ram (Grade B)

This is marked on mid-twentieth century Ordnance Survey 1:10560 maps and its exact function is unclear. As it was not possible to gain access to the site during the field inspection, it is not known what its condition is. However, as an industrial monument its archaeological potential is medium.

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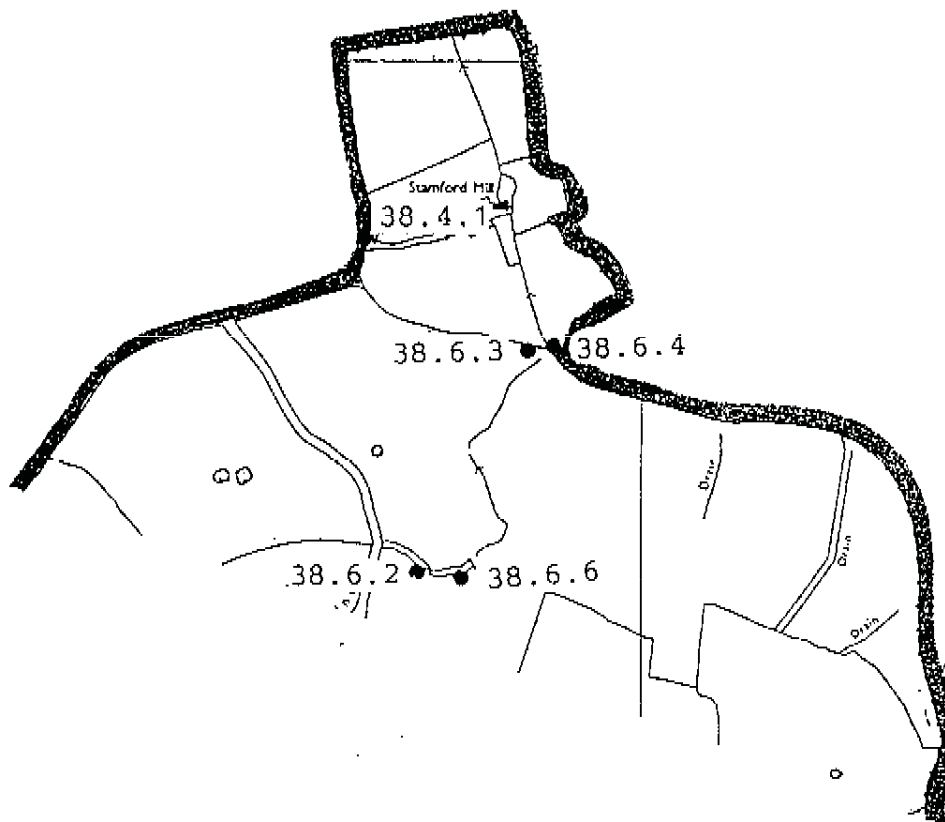


Figure 22: Cotton Edmunds (1:10000)

38.6.6: well (Grade C)
See comments on 57.6.6 above.

Barrow

7.1.4: Late Iron Age terret ring (Grade B*) 781.1

The significance of single finds is difficult to assess; however, the relatively close association of this terret ring of Late Iron Age or very early Romano-British date with the Roman river-crossing close to Stamford Bridge suggests occupation in the area. The nature of this occupation is unknown and could only be determined by fieldwork. However, the archaeological potential of this area is high.

more

7.2.1: Roman road Chester-Manchester (Grade A)

East of Stamford Bridge the Roman continues its earlier alignment from Great Boughton whereas the post-medieval and modern roads swing away to the south-east. The *agger* (embankment) of the road is visible as a low earthwork to the north-east of the hamlet of Stamford Bridge, and it is followed by hedgerows. It is likely that the road surfaces, make-up and associated side ditches survive reasonably well, so the monument is of high archaeological potential.

7.2.2: Romano-British pottery and coin (Grade B*)

The significance of scatters of material is easier to assess than that of single finds, and almost certainly points to former occupation of a site. The date-range of this material suggests occupation from the first until at least the mid-third centuries. The nature of this occupation is unknown and could only be determined by fieldwork. However, the archaeological potential of this area is high.

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7.4.8: Medieval coin (Grade B*/C)

As a single medieval coin, the significance of this find is difficult to assess. It has been assumed that it was brought onto arable fields in manure, so its archaeological potential is low. However, if the nearby earthworks (7.4.15) are also of medieval date and are the remains of the lost hamlet of Milton, then this coin gains an entirely different context which raises its significance to medium potential.

7.4.12: Stamford Bridge (medieval, site of) (Grade B)

There was a bridge at Stamford Bridge by c 1200, replacing an earlier ford. There are references to timber being used for its repair during the High Middle Ages, so it must be assumed that at least part of its superstructure was wooden. The archaeological potential of the site is medium.

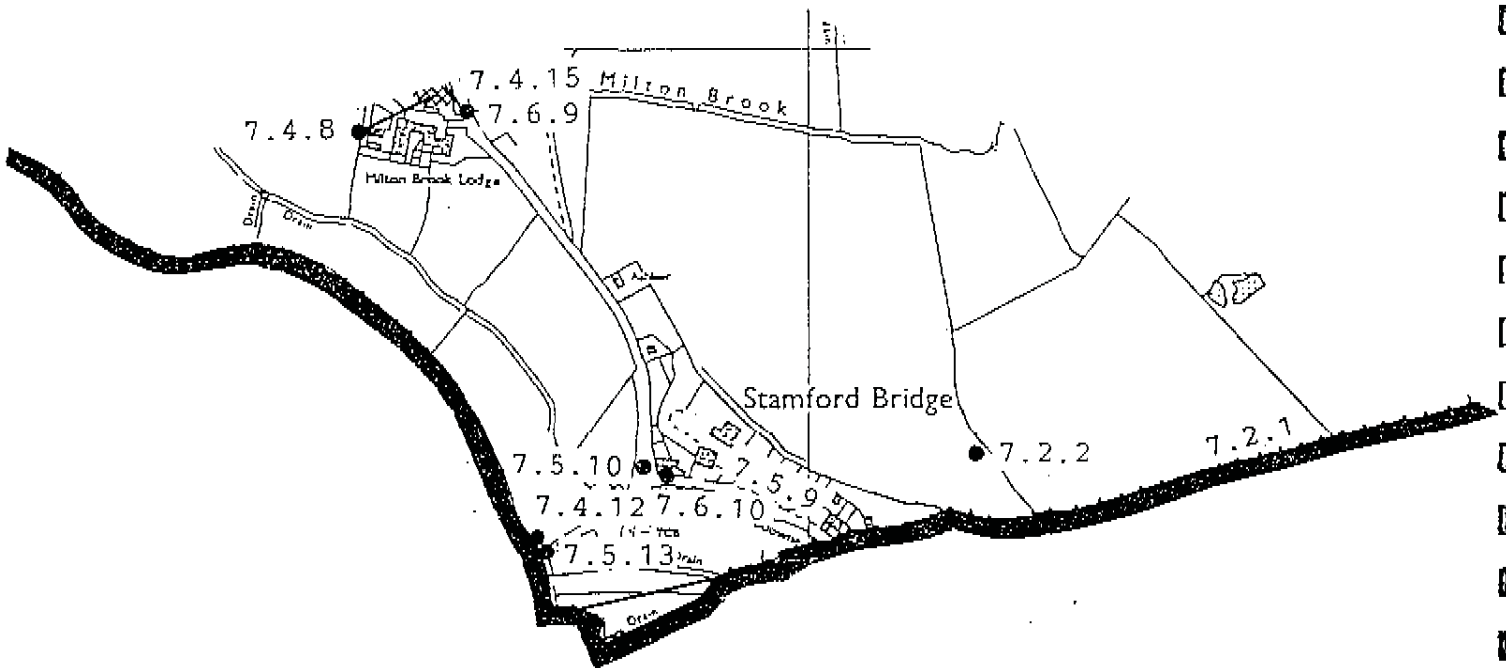


Figure 23: Barrow (1:10000)

7.4.15: earthworks (Grade B/C)

These earthworks, which appear to be tofts and crofts of an abandoned settlement, to the west of Milton Brook Bridge are conjectured to be of medieval date. If this is the case, they may be associated with the coin of Henry III (7.4.8) found nearby. Their archaeological potential is therefore medium to low.

7.5.9: Chester to Northwich Turnpike road (Grade B)

See comments on 7.5.1 above.

7.5.10: side gate on Turnpike road (Grade C)

See comments on 7.6.1 above.

7.5.13: Stamford Bridge (18th century, abutments) (Grade B)

The late eighteenth-century Stamford Bridge was demolished in 1966 after the construction of the new bridge to the south. Its abutments have survived however, together with the parapets of its approaches. It is of medium archaeological potential.

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7.6.9: Milton Brook Bridge (Grade C)

This bridge is of twentieth-century date. Its archaeological potential is low.

7.6.10: milestone (Grade C)

See comments on 57.6.12 above.

Tarvin

105.1.3: prehistoric rotary quern (Grade C)

Like most of the prehistoric material from Cheshire, this has no context whatsoever and was found by the side of a field where it had probably been moved by the farmer. The archaeological potential of the site is low.

105.2.1: Roman road Chester-Manchester (Grade A)

See comments on 7.2.1 above.

105.2.2: Roman road Stamford Bridge-Nantwich (Grade B)

The Roman road appears to run parallel with the present A51 Holme Street, although it has not been traced for any great distance beyond its junction with the Chester-Manchester road at Stamford Bridge. However, it appears to survive well in places, and its potential is medium.

105.2.3: Roman coin (Grade C)

See comments on 57.2.1 above.

105.2.4: subrectangular Romano-British enclosure (Grade A)

Although sites of this nature were probably relatively common in the Romano-British Cheshire landscape, they have eluded easy detection. Concerted programmes of aerial photography in the 1980s and 1990s have begun to reveal a small number of such sites, however. This example, which survives as an earthwork, is perhaps the best-preserved so far identified; in its original landscape setting it would probably have been associated with fields, evidence for which could well survive in the vicinity of the site. Its archaeological potential is very high, and it may be suggested for Scheduling under the Monument Protection Programme.

105.4.3: medieval pottery scatter (Grade C)

Although scatters of pre-medieval material frequently indicate areas of early settlement, those of medieval and later material generally do not. They are often evidence for the locations of manure dumps in arable fields. The archaeological potential of such sites is low.

105.4.4: Townfield Lane hollow way (Grade B)

This appears to be the main access from Tarvin into the village's townfields, one of the medieval arable open fields. As such it is an important monument and of medium archaeological potential.

105.5.1: post-medieval lead spindle-whorl (Grade C)

See comments on 57.4.1 above.

105.5.2: post-medieval pottery scatter (Grade C)

See comments on 105.4.3 above.

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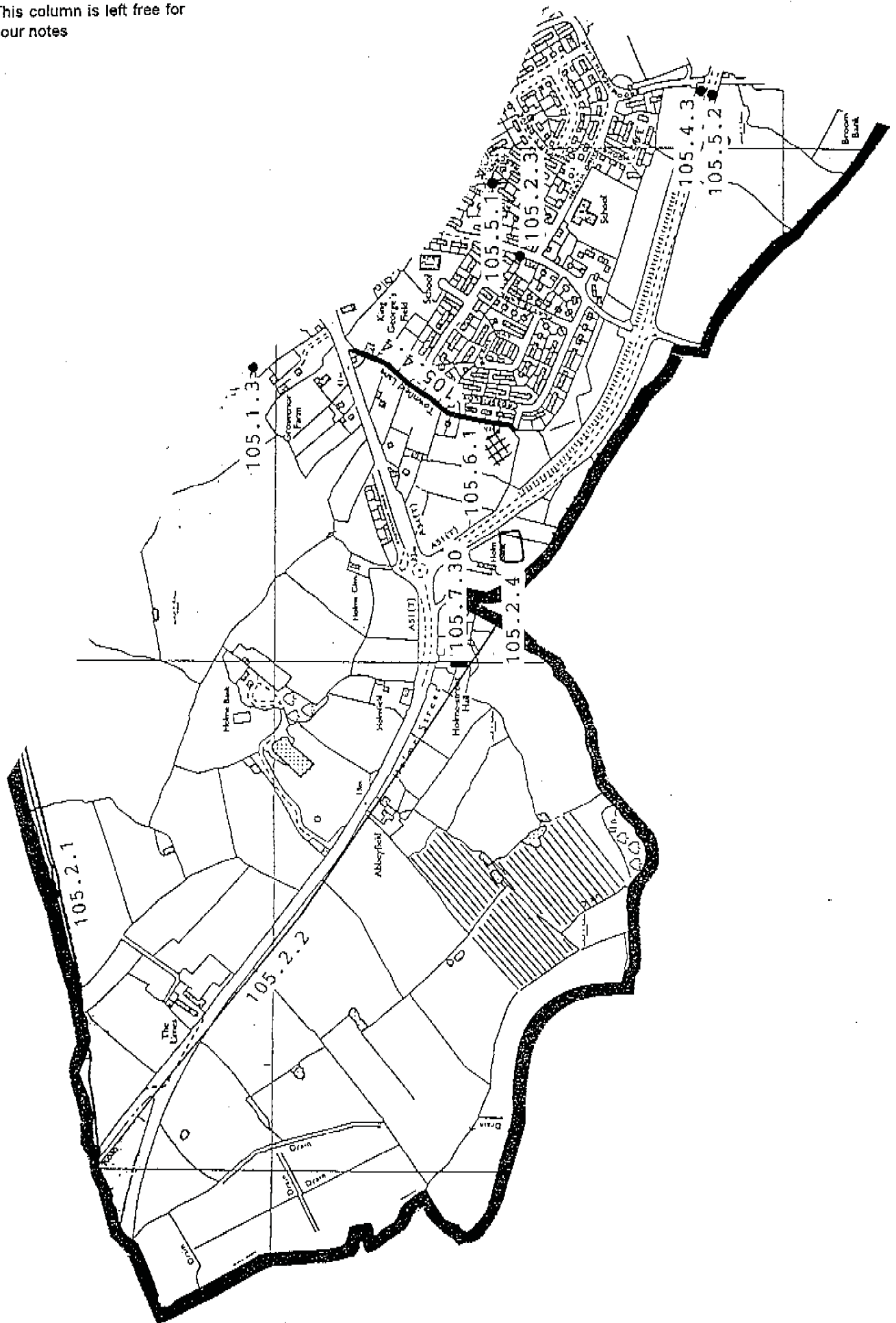


Figure 24: Tarvin (1:10000)

105.6.1: parch marks (Grade C)

It was not possible to make sense of these marks from ground level, although it is possible that they show the locations of service trenches of recent date. Their archaeological potential has been assessed as low, for lack of further evidence.

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105.7.30: Holme Street Hall (LB II)

This is a listed building of seventeenth-century date. Such buildings are not uncommon in western Cheshire, but add greatly to the character of the countryside.

Hockenhull

63.1.1: prehistoric flints (Grade C)

Like most of the prehistoric material from Cheshire, these have no context whatsoever. The archaeological potential of the site is low.

63.2.1: Roman road Stamford Bridge-Nantwich (Grade B)

See comments on 105.2.2 above.

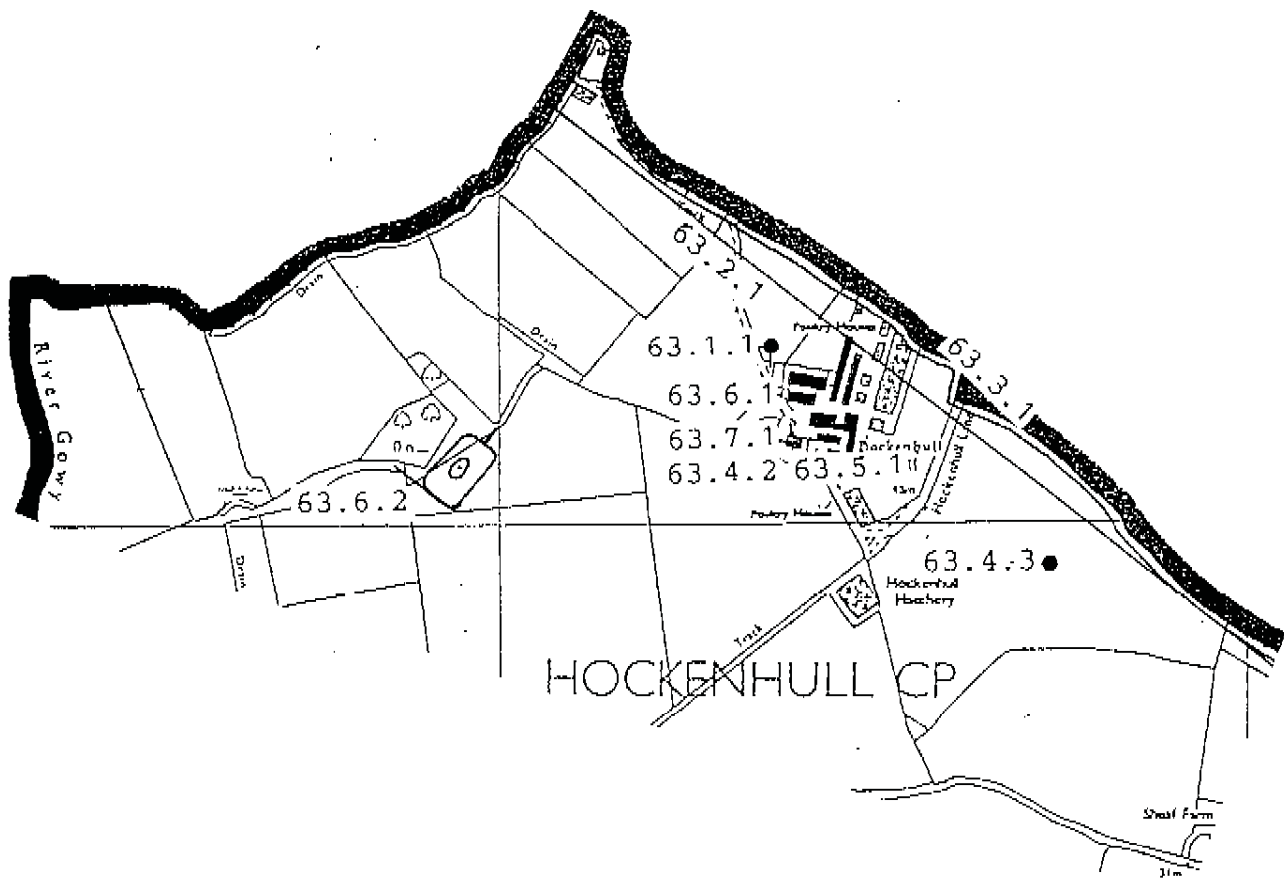


Figure 26: Hockenhull (1:10000)

63.7.1: boundary bank (Grade A)

Many banks running along the boundaries between townships formed from the Late Saxon period onwards. Some appear to have formed as lynchets, resulting from differing farming practices in the two townships, but others appear to have been deliberately constructed. The bank here does not resemble a lynchet, and it may have been an artificially-raised boundary. Such features are rare in Cheshire, and their archaeological potential is high.

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63.4.2: possible moat (Grade B/C)

It has been conjectured that Hockenhull Hall occupies the site of a medieval moated farmstead. In the writer's opinion this is unlikely, given the topography, so, the potential of the site is medium to low.

63.4.3: medieval coin (Grade C)

See comments on 57.4.1 above.

63.5.1: ha-ha (Grade B)

Ha-has are not uncommon features of eighteenth-century landscaped estates in the region. However, they vary in construction and degree of preservation, but it was not possible to examine this example during the field inspection so its condition is unknown. It is of medium archaeological potential.

63.6.1: nineteenth-century farm buildings (Grade B)

The farm buildings associated with Hockenhull Hall are of no great architectural merit, but they do form a good group of earlier nineteenth-century agricultural structures in an area where most such buildings are of rather later date. Their archaeological potential is medium.

63.6.2: earthworks (Grade B)

The 1947 aerial photograph shows a complex earthwork site consisting of a subrectangular enclosure, about 100 by 60 metres, the long axis aligned north-east to south-west, with an oval feature in the centre. From the middle of the north-eastern side a short length of ditch can be seen, while the south-western end is extended to the north-west by another ditch. Interpretation of this feature is not possible at this stage; although its form resembles Romano-British rural enclosures, the earthworks appear too well defined and give every indication of a more recent date.

63.7.1: Hockenhull Hall (LB II*)

Hockenhull Hall is a fine seventeenth-century building with early eighteenth-century alterations. However, the interior has not survived, so its Listing Status is of LB II*.

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Recommendations

The assessment of the route has identified 79 sites of archaeological and historical interest in and immediately adjacent to the route corridor of the proposed A51 Littleton bypass. They are not all of the same importance, however, and some attempt has been made in the previous section to grade the sites according to what is currently understood of their relative importance. It must be stressed that such grading can only ever be regarded as provisional and is subject to continuous revision in the light of increasing knowledge and changing research priorities.

Bearing in mind these provisos, the following recommendations can be made:

- 1 Ideally no identified site should be disturbed by the construction of the proposed route. This is an ideal which is unlikely to be achievable in practice.
- 2 No Scheduled Ancient Monument or Grade A site should be disturbed by the construction of the proposed route or any of its ancillary works. Should any Scheduled site be affected by the route, Scheduled Monument Consent will be required from English Heritage. If Consent is granted, a likely condition is that full excavation of the site will be necessary before construction work can begin. Should any Grade A site be affected by the route, full excavation of the site should be carried out before construction work begins.
- 3 If the preferred route options are likely to disturb a Grade B site, further work will be necessary to evaluate the condition, extent, character and/or importance of the site. This should take the form of an archaeological intervention, usually an evaluation excavation. It should be noted that such evaluation could raise the grading of the site.
- 4 Grade C sites which consist of upstanding remains should be recorded fully in an appropriate manner before disturbance by the construction of the route.
- 5 Find-spots of archaeological material of Grade C status should be subject to detailed watching-briefs during the construction of the bypass, should this occur.
- 6 Before construction begins, detailed fieldwalking of the route should be undertaken and any new sites identified from the programme subject to further evaluation and/or recording, where appropriate.
- 7 The remaining construction work should be subject to an archaeological watching-brief with adequate provision made for delays to construction so that appropriate archaeological recording can take place.

Detailed recommendations

Littleton

77.2.1: Roman road Chester-Manchester (Grade B)

If the proposed works are likely to affect any part of this route, it is recommended that evaluation of the exact course of the road be undertaken. This could combine geophysical techniques (eg soil resistivity survey) with limited trenching. Should such work show the road to be well preserved, a sample area should be subject to detailed excavation before destruction and the remainder recorded during a watching brief during construction.

Reasons

The exact course of the road is not known in detail: although observed to the west in 1990 and it survives as an earthwork to the east, the Turnpike road through Vicarscross renders its exact line invisible. The date of the road and any repairs to the surface could be established, and the type of construction techniques used would be elucidated.

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77.2.2: Roman lead weight (Grade B*)

77.2.3: Roman amphora fragment (Grade B*)

77.2.4: Roman coin (Grade B*)

These three find-spots are taken together as it is probable that all three are evidence for a single occupation site. Evaluation by trial-trenching would be necessary if any proposed route line were to pass through or close by any of these find-spots.

Reasons

As mere find-spots, there is currently no evidence by which to ascertain the character of the Romano-British occupation which deposited this material. It is essential that prior to destruction an assessment is made of the site in order to throw light on what that occupation might have been in order to decide on further treatment of the site.

77.3.1: Vicar's Cross (Grade B)

Before any work takes place which might affect this site, detailed survey of the area will be necessary to determine whether or not any remains of the cross or its base have survived. This might initially take the form of a rapid field inspection, although soil resistivity techniques could also be useful in locating the cross base exactly. If located, the cross base should be exposed for full recording; given the relative rarity of these monuments, it is likely that preservation *in situ* would be recommended for any surviving remains.

Reasons

Such crosses are now rare in Cheshire, having been the objects of iconoclast attention in the early seventeenth century. The location of the cross base could restore a significant monument in the landscape of Littleton to its original prominence.

77.4.1: Littleton historic core (Grade B)

The historic core of Littleton is perhaps unlikely to be affected by the scheme as such; however, if any secondary route improvements are proposed as part of the scheme, consideration should be given to evaluation of the area(s) affected.

Reasons

Little is known about the form of medieval settlements in Cheshire or the dates at which nucleation began. It is likely that early structures would have been relatively flimsy and their archaeological traces extremely vulnerable to destruction.

77.5.1: Chester to Northwich Turnpike road (Grade B)

If any proposed route will affect the line of the Turnpike road, limited evaluation by trial trench should be undertaken in order to determine the survival and quality of any remains of the original road surfaces and side ditches. It is considered unlikely at this stage that further archaeological intervention would be necessary, although a watching-brief should be maintained during construction of the route with a facility for suspending works temporarily to allow archaeological recording to take place.

Reasons

Although recorded immediately to the west, little is known about the form and construction of the eighteenth-century Turnpike road.

77.5.2: disused track (Grade C)

A rapid hachure survey of the line of this track at a scale of 1:1000, with levels tied in to Ordnance Datum, together with a photographic record would be an appropriate response to any threat to this monument.

Reasons

Such monuments are relatively common and of purely local importance. However, they are vulnerable to destruction without record.

77.6.1: toll gate (Grade C)

If this site is affected by the construction of the route, a detailed watching brief should be carried out in order to locate it precisely and ascertain its character.

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Reasons

Although shown on early maps of Cheshire, there is no information about the character of this gate and no indication of whether or not a booth was associated with it.

77.6.2: stile (Grade C)

This monument should be recorded photographically and by scale drawing at 1:20.

Reasons

Although picturesque and of slightly unusual form, this monument is not of any great significance.

77.6.3: disused quarry (Grade B)

If this site is likely to be affected, detailed archaeological recording should take place prior to construction. This should include a survey of the quarry at a scale of not less than 1:500, a complete photographic record of all buildings and associated machinery and a drawn record of all buildings and machinery. During construction a detailed watching brief with a facility for the temporary suspension of works for archaeological recording should be allowed.

Reasons

Although of relatively recent date, industrial sites of this type have not yet been subject to archaeological recording in western Cheshire. They are also vulnerable to destruction (often by filling) without record.

77.7.1: former corn barn (LB II)

The route should not be allowed to affect this building, which should be retained.

Reasons

This is the only Listed Building in Littleton and also the oldest standing structure in the village.

Guilden Sutton

57.2.1: Roman coin (Grade C)

A detailed watching-brief should be maintained in the vicinity of this find-spot so that the existence of any Romano-British site which might have been the origin of the coin can be recorded. If such a site is located, a temporary suspension of construction work should be allowed for further evaluation of the character of the site to be made. This could include sample excavation.

Reasons

Although there is currently no evidence to assess the presence or otherwise of Romano-British occupation which might have been the source of this coin, provision should be made to ensure that, if such occupation did exist, it is adequately recorded prior to destruction.

57.2.4: Roman military enclosure (Grade A)

The route should not be allowed to affect this monument. If a proposed route passes close to the site (within 100 metres), evaluation of the condition of the monument must be made. This should include geophysical survey (soil resistivity) to establish the extent of the site and limited trial trenching to establish its date and survival. If the route cannot be made to avoid the site altogether, full area excavation of the site and its immediate environs should be undertaken prior to construction.

Reasons

This is one of an extensive group of probable Roman military enclosures, thought to have been built as practice camps, which exists to the east and north-east of the fortress at Chester. They have not been subject to detailed archaeological examination, and more than half were only discovered in August 1995. They have significant group value.

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57.2.5: Roman military enclosure (Grade A)

The route should not be allowed to affect this monument. It is slightly less certain as part of the group of Roman military enclosures as less of it was visible from the air at the time of discovery than of other examples. However, what does exist strongly resembles the others. If any proposed route passes within 100 metres of the site, detailed evaluation and further work of the types recommended in 57.2.4 above should be undertaken.

Reasons

This is one of an extensive group of probable Roman military enclosures, thought to have been built as practice camps, which exists to the east and north-east of the fortress at Chester. They have not been subject to detailed archaeological examination, and more than half were only discovered in August 1995. They have significant group value.

57.2.6: Roman military enclosure (Grade A)

The route should not be allowed to affect this monument. It is slightly less certain as part of the group of Roman military enclosures as less of it was visible from the air at the time of discovery than of other examples. However, what does exist strongly resembles the others. If any proposed route passes within 100 metres of the site, detailed evaluation and further work of the types recommended in 57.2.4 above should be undertaken.

Reasons

This is one of an extensive group of probable Roman military enclosures, thought to have been built a practice camps, which exists to the east and north-east of the fortress at Chester. They have not been subject to detailed archaeological examination, and more than half were only discovered in August 1995. They have significant group value.

57.4.1: medieval spindle-whorl (Grade C)

A watching-brief should be maintained in this area during construction. It is thought unlikely that contemporary occupation will be found in the vicinity, although provision should be made for a temporary suspension of work to allow detailed archaeological recording should any such site be discovered.

Reasons

It is unlikely that this find derives from an occupation site; however, there is a possibility that an unrecorded medieval farmstead once stood nearby, which would need to be recorded archaeologically.

57.4.2: ridge-and-furrow earthworks (Grade C)

If any part of these earthworks will be affected by route construction, the whole field should be surveyed at a scale of not less than 1:500. Preservation of the earthworks would be a preferred option.

Reasons

Some 80% of ridge-and-furrow earthworks in Cheshire have been destroyed without adequate record since the late 1940s. Further destruction should be avoided if possible in order to retain them for their landscape character value; but if it is not possible to prevent destruction, their form should be recorded.

57.4.3: ridge-and-furrow earthworks (Grade C)

If any part of these earthworks will be affected by route construction, the whole field should be surveyed at a scale of not less than 1:500. Preservation of the earthworks would be a preferred option.

Reasons

Some 80% of ridge-and-furrow earthworks in Cheshire have been destroyed without adequate record since the late 1940s. Further destruction should be avoided if possible in order to retain them for their landscape character value; but if it is not possible to prevent destruction, their form should be recorded.

57.4.4: ridge-and-furrow traces? (Grade C)

If any part of these earthworks will be affected by route construction, the whole field should be surveyed at a scale of not less than 1:500. Preservation of the earthworks would be a preferred option.

Reasons

Some 80% of ridge-and-furrow earthworks in Cheshire have been destroyed without adequate record since the late 1940s. Further destruction should be avoided if possible in order to retain them for their landscape character value; but if it is not possible to prevent destruction, their form should be recorded.

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57.4.5: ancient boundary? (Grade C)

A rapid hachure survey of the line of this ditched boundary at a scale of 1:1000, with levels tied in to Ordnance Datum, together with a photographic record would be an appropriate response to any threat to this monument.

Reasons

Such monuments are relatively common and of purely local importance. However, they are vulnerable to destruction without record.

57.5.1: former field boundary (Grade C)

A rapid hachure survey of the line of this boundary at a scale of 1:1000, with levels tied in to Ordnance Datum, together with a photographic record would be an appropriate response to any threat to this monument.

Reasons

Such monuments are relatively common and of purely local importance. However, they are vulnerable to destruction without record.

57.5.2: linear cropmark (Grade C)

A watching brief should be maintained during construction to allow the recording of this monument.

Reason

It is suspected that this parch mark is a service trench of relatively recent date and of no great archaeological significance. However, a watching-brief will be necessary to confirm that this is indeed the case.

57.5.3: ridge-and-furrow earthworks (Grade C)

If any part of these earthworks will be affected by route construction, the whole field should be surveyed at a scale of not less than 1:500. Preservation of the earthworks would be a preferred option.

Reasons

Some 80% of ridge-and-furrow earthworks in Cheshire have been destroyed without adequate record since the late 1940s. Further destruction should be avoided if possible in order to retain them for their landscape character value; but if it is not possible to prevent destruction, their form should be recorded. This narrow form of ridge-and-furrow is thought to be later in date than those discussed above.

57.5.4: former marl pit (Grade C)

A watching brief should be maintained on this site during construction, with provision for a temporary suspension of work to allow for archaeological recording. This could include the removal of environmental samples from any silts at the bottom of the pit.

Reasons

Although marl pits are a common feature in the Cheshire landscape, few have been subject to archaeological recording. Their potential to yield information about past environments through study of anaerobic deposits preserved in them is high.

57.6.1: boundary stone (Grade C)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this stone still exists *in situ*. If so, it should be recorded photographically and drawn at a scale of 1:20. If it is possible to retain this stone in its original position, this should be done; if this is not possible, every effort should be made to ensure that it is reinstated in position (unless this is in the centre of the carriageway).

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Reasons

Boundary stones were an important element in establishing land ownership before the advent of modern accurate cartography. They are minor but socially important elements in the historic landscape.

57.6.2: boundary stone (Grade C)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this stone still exists *in situ*. If so, it should be recorded photographically and drawn at a scale of 1:20. If it is possible to retain this stone in its original position, this should be done; if this is not possible, every effort should be made to ensure that it is reinstated in position (unless this is in the centre of the carriageway).

Reasons

Boundary stones were an important element in establishing land ownership before the advent of modern accurate cartography. They are minor but socially important elements in the historic landscape.

57.6.4: gravel pit (Grade C)

A watching brief should be maintained on the site of this former gravel pit with provision made for the temporary suspension of works to allow for archaeological recording in the event of structures or machinery being revealed during construction.

Reasons

Although the gravel pit itself is of little interest, there is potential for the discovery of associated remains such as buildings and machinery.

57.6.6: well (Grade C)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this well still exists as an upstanding structure; if so, detailed recording of any remains should be allowed before construction. In any event, a watching brief should be maintained on the site during construction work.

Reasons

Although wells were common until the middle of the twentieth century, their forms in Cheshire are not well known, especially in rural areas.

57.6.7: well (Grade C)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this well still exists as an upstanding structure; if so, detailed recording of any remains should be allowed before construction. In any event, a watching brief should be maintained on the site during construction work.

Reasons

Although wells were common until the middle of the twentieth century, their forms in Cheshire are not well known, especially in rural areas.

57.6.11: boundary stone (Grade C)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this stone still exists *in situ*. If so, it should be recorded photographically and drawn at a scale of 1:20. If it is possible to retain this stone in its original position, this should be done; if this is not possible, every effort should be made to ensure that it is reinstated in position (unless this is in the centre of the carriageway).

Reasons

Boundary stones were an important element in establishing land ownership before the advent of modern accurate cartography. They are minor but socially important elements in the historic landscape.

57.6.12: mile post (Grade C)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this mile post still exists *in situ*. If so, it should be recorded photographically and drawn at a scale of 1:20.

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Reasons

Traditional mile posts of the type erected in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries have often disappeared without record. Although not always worthy of preservation *in situ*, they are an important part of the furniture of rural roads and lanes.

57.6.13: Vicar's Cross Golf Course (Grade C)

There is little reason to record the Golf Course as such in detail. However, a rapid surface inspection of the area it occupies will be necessary before a decision is made about route lines in order to determine whether or not any remains which pre-date its construction are still visible in the landscape. Some features identified by a survey may require further evaluation, either interventional (*ie* trial trenching) or non-interventional (detailed hachure survey or geophysical survey). A watching brief should be maintained at all times with provision of the temporary suspension of works to enable appropriate archaeological recording of any remains discovered in this way.

Reasons

The existence of Vicar's Cross Golf Course has protected a large area from many of the more destructive aspects of late twentieth-century agriculture whilst at the same time masking earlier landscapes. A rapid survey could establish the presence or absence of surviving historic features (such as hedgerows, boundaries and so on) in the Golf Course; depending on the nature of any discoveries made in this way, further evaluation may be necessary to determine their character.

57.6.14: stone (Grade C)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this stone still exists *in situ*. If so, it should be recorded photographically and drawn at a scale of 1:20. If it is possible to retain this stone in its original position, this should be done; if this is not possible, every effort should be made to ensure that it is reinstated in position (unless this is in the centre of the carriageway).

Reasons

Boundary stones were an important element in establishing land ownership before the advent of modern accurate cartography. They are minor but socially important elements in the historic landscape.

57.6.15: stones (Grade C)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not these stones still exist *in situ*. If so, they should be recorded photographically and drawn at a scale of 1:20. If it is possible to retain them in their original positions, this should be done; if this is not possible, every effort should be made to ensure that they are reinstated in position (unless this is in the centre of the carriageway).

Reasons

Boundary stones were an important element in establishing land ownership before the advent of modern accurate cartography. They are minor but socially important elements in the historic landscape.

Christleton

28.2.6: Roman bronze bell (Grade B*)

This find-spot may be associated with the crossing of the River Gowy, where it is likely that occupation existed in the Roman period. In view of the likely importance of the Roman river-crossing, it is recommended that every effort be made to avoid crossing the river here. However, if this is unavoidable, evaluation by trial trenching and extensive geophysical survey is recommended in order to ascertain the character of the remains at the crossing-point.

Reasons

It is believed that the River Gowy formed the boundary between the *prata* regions to the west, lands owned and controlled directly by the Roman legion stationed at Chester, and those in private ownership to the east. It is very probable

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that an official checkpoint existed here to restrict the flow of traffic into the area and an evaluation should be allowed to ascertain the character of that checkpoint if it is not possible to cross the river elsewhere.

28.2.7: Roman road Chester-Manchester (Grade B)

If the proposed works are likely to affect any part of this road, it is recommended that evaluation be undertaken to determine its survival and character. This should be in the form of trial trenching. Should such work show the road surfaces to be well preserved, a sample area should be subject to detailed excavation before destruction and the remainder recorded during a watching brief during construction with provision made for the temporary suspension of work if necessary.

Reasons

Evaluation will enable an assessment to be made of the survival of the Roman road surfaces and associated features such as side ditches. The date of the road and any repairs could be established and the type of construction techniques elucidated.

28.2.8: Roman military enclosure (SAM)

The route must not be allowed to affect this monument. If a proposed route passes close to the site (within 100 metres), evaluation of the condition of the monument must be made; this should be non-interventional and consist of geophysical survey (such as soil resistivity) to establish the extent of the site.

Reasons

This is a Scheduled Ancient Monument designated by the Secretary of State for the Environment. It is one of an extensive group of probable Roman military enclosure, thought to have been built as practice camps, which exists to the east and north-east of the fortress at Chester and this example survives as a low earthwork. They have not been subject to detailed archaeological examination, although this example has been surveyed by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for England. Geophysical survey could establish whether or not any associated remains exist outside the enclosed area. The monuments have significant group value.

28.2.9: Roman military enclosure (SAM)

The route must not be allowed to affect this monument. If a proposed route passes close to the site (within 100 metres), evaluation of the condition of the monument must be made; this should be non-interventional and consist of geophysical survey (such as soil resistivity) to establish the extent of the site.

Reasons

This is a Scheduled Ancient Monument designated by the Secretary of State for the Environment. It is one of an extensive group of probable Roman military enclosure, thought to have been built as practice camps, which exists to the east and north-east of the fortress at Chester and this example survives as a low earthwork. They have not been subject to detailed archaeological examination, although this example has been surveyed by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for England. Geophysical survey could establish whether or not any associated remains exist outside the enclosed area. The monuments have significant group value.

28.4.4: line of medieval road? (Grade B/C)

Evaluation of this site by both geophysical survey and limited trenching could establish its character. If it is the line of the medieval road, further excavation will be necessary in order to record a significant length; if it proved to be of recent date, it is unlikely that further work would be required.

Reasons

Although provisionally interpreted as the line of an earlier road approaching the crossing of the River Gowy, this is not certainly the case. Evaluation could shed more light on its character. If it is a medieval road, further work will be necessary as such roads have rarely been found and little is known of their form.

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28.5.2: Chester to Northwich Turnpike road (Grade B)

If a proposed route will affect the line of the Turnpike road, limited evaluation by trial trench should be undertaken in order to determine the survival and quality of any remains of the original road surfaces and side ditches. It is considered unlikely that further archaeological intervention would be necessary, although a watching brief should be maintained during construction with a facility for the temporary suspension of work to allow recording to take place.

Reasons

Little is known about the form and construction of the eighteenth-century road.

28.6.30: concrete bunker (Grade B)

A rapid survey should be undertaken to establish the degree of survival of this monument; this should include sketch plans and elevations as well as photographs. If the site is likely to be destroyed in whole or part by the construction of the bypass, a detailed photographic and drawn survey of the site will be necessary.

Reasons

Defensive works from the Second World War are vulnerable to destruction without record, and are increasingly recognised as a valuable archaeological resource. Very little is known about the form and distribution of these defences in the vicinity of Chester, which was a strategically important centre as the headquarters of the Western Command.

28.6.31: toll gate (Grade C)

If this site is affected by the construction of the route, a detailed watching brief should be carried out to locate it precisely and ascertain its character.

Reasons

Although shown on early maps of Cheshire, there is some disagreement over whether it was a simple gate or a full-scale toll-booth which a watching brief could ascertain.

Cotton Edmunds

38.4.1: Stamford Mill (Grade B)

If this site or its environs is affected by the construction of the bypass, detailed archaeological recording should take place prior to construction. This should include a survey of surviving earthworks (mill dam, leats and so on) at a scale of not less than 1:500 and a full survey of the standing building. During construction a detailed watching brief with a facility for the temporary suspension of works for archaeological recording should be allowed.

Reasons

Mill sites in western Cheshire have not been subject to systematic archaeological survey and many have been destroyed without adequate record during the twentieth century. It is also likely that remains associated with earlier mills on this site have survived.

38.6.2: well (Grade C)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this well still exists as an upstanding structure; if so, detailed recording of any remains should be allowed before construction. In any event, a watching brief should be maintained on the site during construction work.

Reasons

Although wells were common until the middle of the twentieth century, their forms in Cheshire are not well known, especially in rural areas.

38.6.3: boundary stone (Grade C)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this stone still exists *in situ*. If so, it should be recorded photographically and drawn at a scale of 1:20. If it is possible to retain the stone in its original position, this should be done; if this is not possible, every effort should be made to ensure that it is reinstated in position (unless this is in the centre of the carriageway).

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Reasons

Boundary stones were an important element in establishing land ownership before the advent of modern accurate cartography. They are minor but socially important elements in the historic landscape.

38.6.4: hydraulic ram (Grade B)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this ram still exists. If so, it should be recorded photographically and drawn at a scale of 1:20, the drawings to include details of the mechanism.

Reasons

It has not so far been possible to establish the date and function of this site, although it is probably connected with the pumping of water. As an industrial monument it is of a type which is vulnerable to destruction without record.

38.6.6: well (Grade C)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this well still exists as an upstanding structure; if so, detailed recording of any remains should be allowed before construction. In any event, a watching brief should be maintained on the site during construction work.

Reasons

Although wells were common until the middle of the twentieth century, their forms in Cheshire are not well known, especially in rural areas.

Barrow

7.1.4: Late Iron Age terret ring (Grade B*)

This find-spot may be associated with the crossing of the River Gowy, where it is likely that occupation existed in the Roman period (and, if the attribution of a pre-Roman date to this find is correct, also in the Iron Age). In view of the likely importance of the river-crossing, it is recommended that every effort be made to avoid crossing the river here. However, if this is unavoidable, evaluation by trial trenching and extensive geophysical survey is recommended in order to ascertain the character of the remains. Further full-scale excavation could be recommended following such evaluation.

Reasons

It is believed that the River Gowy was a boundary between pre-Roman social territories and also between the Roman *prata legionis* to the west, lands owned and controlled directly by the legion stationed at Chester, and those lands in private ownership to the east. It is very probable that in the Roman period a checkpoint existed here to restrict the flow of traffic across the river and an evaluation should be allowed to ascertain the character of that checkpoint if it is not possible for the bypass to cross the river elsewhere.

7.2.1: Roman road Chester-Manchester (Grade A)

The proposed bypass should avoid this part of the line of the Roman road altogether. If it passes close to the line (within 100 metres) it is recommended that detailed evaluation be undertaken to determine whether or not any associated settlement features survive adjacent to it.

Reasons

The road embankment (or *agger*) survives as an earthwork which is an important element in the landscape. Given the presence of Romano-British pottery and a coin close to the north side of this road (7.2.2), it is possible that settlement existed alongside or close to it and evaluation should be undertaken to determine whether or not this would be affected by construction of the bypass.

7.2.2: Romano-British pottery and coin (Grade B*)

This material probably represents some kind of occupation in the immediate vicinity. If the bypass is to pass within about 200 metres of this find-spot, it is recommended that evaluation be undertaken. This could combine geophysical techniques (eg soil resistivity survey) with sampling excavation of 5% of areas

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of activity shown up by the survey or random trenching if the survey proves negative. Should such work reveal a well-preserved occupation site, the entire area affected by the route should be excavated prior to construction.

Reasons

Very few Romano-British rural settlements have so far been located in Cheshire, but it is likely that many must once have existed. Scatters of material such as this are thought to be the sole surviving surface traces of sites of this character. Evaluation would help to show whether or not this assumption is correct and help to formulate a research programme for further work prior to destruction or recommendations for the preservation of the site.

7.4.8: Medieval coin (Grade B*/C)

Because of the possibility of association with the earthworks at Milton Brook Bridge (7.4.15), recommendations for this find-spot have not been made separately.

7.4.12: Stamford Bridge (medieval, site of) (Grade B)

The exact location of the medieval Stamford Bridge is not known. If the suspected medieval road (28.4.4) really is the approach to the river-crossing, evaluation of the former site should be designed to elucidate the form of the medieval bridge. If elements of the bridge structure are found to remain *in situ*, these should be excavated fully under controlled archaeological conditions.

Reasons

Only the major stone bridges which crossed the River Dee have survived from the Middle Ages, so the investigation of a smaller bridge could help to throw light on structures of this type which once must have been relatively common.

7.4.15: earthworks (Grade B/C)

A rapid survey of this site will be necessary to determine whether or not these earthworks have survived. If they have, they should be fully recorded by means of a survey at a scale not less than 1:500, and trial excavation of some 5% of the site undertaken. Further decisions about the treatment of the site should follow from the results of this survey and evaluation.

Reasons

It is assumed that the origins of rural earthworks are well understood; it will be necessary to examine the origins of these to test the hypothesis that they are the remains of a deserted settlement.

7.5.9: Chester to Northwich Turnpike road (Grade B)

If the proposed bypass will affect the line of the Turnpike road, limited evaluation by trial trench should be undertaken in order to determine the survival and quality of any remains of the original road surfaces and side ditches. It is considered unlikely that further archaeological intervention would be necessary, although a watching brief should be maintained during construction of the route with a facility for the suspension of work temporarily to allow archaeological recording to take place.

Reasons

Little is known about the form and construction of the eighteenth-century Turnpike road.

7.5.10: side gate on Turnpike road (Grade C)

If this site is affected by the construction of the bypass, a detailed watching brief should be carried out in order to locate it precisely and ascertain its character.

Reasons

Although shown on early maps of Cheshire, there is no information about the character of this gate and no indication of whether or not a booth was associated with it.

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7.5.13: Stamford Bridge (18th century, abutments) (Grade B)

If this site is to be affected by the construction of the proposed bypass, it should be fully recorded by photogrammetry (supplemented by on-site checking and redrawing if necessary) and photography.

Reasons

Although the bridge has been demolished, important elements of its approaches and the springs of the arch have survived; as part of the eighteenth-century Turnpike road, it is architecturally of interest.

7.6.9: Milton Brook Bridge (Grade C)

This bridge should be recorded by a photographic and measured sketch survey.

Reasons

Although of no great significance, this is the sort of monument which is vulnerable to destruction without record.

7.6.10: milestone (Grade C)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this milestone still exists *in situ*. If so, it should be recorded photographically and drawn at a scale of 1:20.

Reasons

As ancillary works connected with Turnpike roads, milestones are interesting, and many have been lost as a result of twentieth-century road improvement schemes. They are also an important part of the furniture of rural highways.

Tarvin

105.1.3: prehistoric rotary quern (Grade C)

A watching brief should be maintained in this area during construction. It is not known where prehistoric occupation was located, if there was any locally. Provision should be made for a temporary suspension of work to allow detailed archaeological recording to take place. In the case of a prehistoric occupation site, this should take the form of extensive area excavation.

Reasons

It is unlikely – given the circumstances of discovery – that this find-spot shows the location of an occupation site; however, there is a chance that it was nearby and which would need to be recorded archaeologically.

105.2.1: Roman road Chester-Manchester (Grade A)

The proposed bypass should avoid this part of the line of the Roman road altogether. If it passes close to the line (within 100 metres) it is recommended that detailed evaluation be undertaken to determine whether or not any associated settlement features survive adjacent to it.

Reasons

The road embankment (or *agger*) survives as an earthwork which is an important element in the landscape. Given the presence of Romano-British pottery and a coin close to the north side of this road (7.2.2), it is possible that settlement existed alongside or close to it and evaluation should be undertaken to determine whether or not this would be affected by construction of the bypass.

105.2.2: Roman road Stamford Bridge-Nantwich (Grade B)

The exact course of the Roman road is not known, although its general direction is known. If the proposed route will affect any part of this line, it is recommended that the course is established by evaluation, combining geophysical techniques (eg soil resistivity survey) and trial trenching. Should this work show the road to be well preserved, a sample area should be subject to detailed excavation before destruction and the remainder recorded during a watching brief during construction.

Reasons

The exact course of the road is not known and could be clarified by evaluation; its date of construction as well as those of any repairs could be established, as could the type of construction techniques.

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105.2.3: Roman coin (Grade C)

A detailed watching-brief should be maintained in the vicinity of this find-spot so that the existence of any Romano-British site which might have been the origin of the coin can be recorded. If such a site is located, a temporary suspension of construction work should be allowed for further evaluation of the character of the site to be made. This could include sample excavation.

Reasons

Although there is currently no evidence to assess the presence or otherwise of Romano-British occupation which might have been the source of this coin, provision should be made to ensure that, if such occupation did exist, it is adequately recorded prior to destruction.

105.2.4: subrectangular Romano-British enclosure (Grade A)

This site and its environs must not be affected by the proposed bypass. If the route passes within 200 metres of the site, a geophysical survey of its environs will be necessary. A detailed watching brief must be maintained during construction with a facility for the temporary suspension of work to allow full and appropriate archaeological recording.

Reasons

Romano-British rural sites have proved extremely difficult to locate in Cheshire. Where they have been identified (on soils more favourable to the formation of crop marks and so on) they have tended to take the form of subrectangular and oval enclosures. This is the only Cheshire example known to survive as an earthwork. These sites are very rare and the degree of survival in this case is so exceptional as to require preservation. In addition, farmsteads would not have existed in isolation, and a pattern of fields and lanes would have been associated with it which, if affected by the bypass, will require appropriate recording.

105.4.3: medieval pottery scatter (Grade C)

A watching brief should be maintained during construction in the area of this pottery scatter.

Reasons

It is likely that this material derives from manure spread onto the Townfield of Tarvin and does not indicate an area of early settlement.

105.4.4: Townfield Lane hollow way (Grade B)

A detailed hachure survey should be made of the line of this hollow way at a scale of not less than 1:500, with levels tied in to Ordnance Datum, together with a photographic record.

Reasons

This is the main route into one of Tarvin's medieval open fields. Such lanes have rarely survived in an unimproved form.

105.5.1: post-medieval lead spindle-whorl (Grade C)

A watching brief should be maintained in this area during construction. It is thought unlikely that contemporary occupation will be found in the vicinity, although provision should be made for the temporary suspension of work to allow for archaeological recording should any such site be discovered.

Reasons

It is unlikely that this find derives from an occupation site.

105.5.2: post-medieval pottery scatter (Grade C)

A watching brief should be maintained during construction in the area of this pottery scatter.

Reasons

It is likely that this material derives from manure spread onto the Townfield of Tarvin and does not indicate an area of early settlement.

105.6.1: parch marks (Grade C)

A watching brief should be maintained during construction in the area of these parch marks.

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Reasons

It is likely that these parch marks derive from relatively recent activity.

105.7.30: Holme Street Hall (LB II)

The bypass should not be allowed to affect this building, which should be retained.

Reasons

This is a Listed Building, designated by the Secretary of State for the Environment, and an important element in the historic landscape character of this area.

Hockenhull

63.1.1: prehistoric flints (Grade C)

A watching brief should be maintained in this area during construction. It is not known where prehistoric occupation was located, if there was any locally. Provision should be made for a temporary suspension of work to allow detailed archaeological recording to take place. In the case of a prehistoric occupation site, this should take the form of extensive area excavation.

Reasons

It is unlikely - given the circumstances of discovery - that this find-spot shows the location of an occupation site; however, there is a chance that it was nearby and which would need to be recorded archaeologically.

63.2.1: Roman road Stamford Bridge-Nantwich (Grade B)

The exact course of the Roman road is not known, although its general direction is known. If the proposed route will affect any part of this line, it is recommended that the course is established by evaluation, combining geophysical techniques (eg soil resistivity survey) and trial trenching. Should this work show the road to be well preserved, a sample area should be subject to detailed excavation before destruction and the remainder recorded during a watching brief during construction.

Reasons

The exact course of the road is not known and could be clarified by evaluation: its date of construction as well as those of any repairs could be established, as could the type of construction techniques.

63.3.1: boundary bank (Grade A)

This monument should not be affected by the proposed bypass. If the route passes close to any part of the bank, a full hachure survey at a scale of not less than 1:200 should be made of this feature, with levels related to Ordnance Datum. This should be supplemented by a full photographic record. If it is impossible to avoid damage to the earthwork, full excavation of the bank and its immediate environs should be undertaken prior to construction.

Reasons

This is a monument of a class rare in Cheshire which should be preserved.

63.4.2: possible moat (Grade B/C)

A rapid field survey could confirm the likelihood of a moated site at Hockenhull Hall. If its existence is not ruled out, evaluation by geophysical survey (eg soil resistivity) should be attempted. Further recommendation would depend on the results of the survey, but could include trial trenching and more detailed excavation.

Reasons

Although in the writer's opinion it is unlikely that a moat formerly existed at Hockenhull Hall, the suggestion has been made by other authorities and should be tested.

medieval coin (Grade C)

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your notes

ing-brief should be maintained in this area during construction. It is unlikely that contemporary occupation will be found in the vicinity, but provision should be made for a temporary suspension of work to allow detailed archaeological recording should any such site be discovered.

likely that this find derives from an occupation site; however, there is a possibility that an unrecorded medieval farmstead once stood nearby, which should be recorded archaeologically.

ha-ha (Grade B)

A rapid survey should be undertaken to assess the condition of this monument. Recording should include detailed elevations of any masonry remains, at a scale of not less than 1:200 and a photographic record.

Although ha-has are not uncommon, they vary greatly in form and function. The purpose of this example is not known and could be determined on the basis of its form.

late nineteenth-century farm buildings (Grade B)

These buildings should be recorded by measured sketch and photographic survey prior to construction.

This is a good group of farm buildings which have survived the mid to late nineteenth-century rebuilding of farmyards on model lines and is consequently a good example of the western Cheshire vernacular of this period.

63.6.2: earthworks (Grade B)

A rapid field survey should be undertaken to determine whether or not this site survives as earthworks. Further evaluation should then include geophysical survey (eg soil resistivity) and interventional evaluation by trial trenching. Further work may be necessary dependant upon the results of the evaluation.

Reasons

This site survived as a very clear earthwork in 1947, raising suspicions about its recent date. However, further evaluation of the nature of the site will be necessary before detailed recommendations can be made.

63.7.1: Hockenhull Hall (LB II*)

The bypass should not be allowed to affect this building, which should be retained.

Reasons

This is a Listed Building, designated by the Secretary of State for the Environment, and an important element in the historic landscape character of this area.

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