



Planning, Transport  
and Environment

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
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Road Number A533	Date <del>February</del> 1997
University of Manchester Contractor Archaeological Unit	
County Cheshire	
OS Reference	
Single sided ✓ Double sided A3 0 Colour 0	

# A533 By-Pass Development Davenham, Cheshire

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## An Archaeological Watching Brief

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University of Manchester Archaeological Unit  
University of Manchester,  
Oxford Road,  
Manchester M13 9PL

0161 275 2314

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THE UNIVERSITY  
of MANCHESTER

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## *Summary*

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The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit was commissioned to undertake a watching brief along the route of the Davenham A533 By-Pass development between Davenham and Bostock, Cheshire, in order to record any further unforeseen archaeological remains following the discovery of an unknown post-medieval brick kiln during an earlier watching brief conducted along the road alignment. It was also considered possible that prehistoric remains may have existed along the development. However, throughout the archaeological watching brief no archaeological remains were observed.

### *Acknowledgements*

The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit would like to thank the Engineering Services Consultancy of Cheshire County Council for commissioning the work and also the contractor Mowlem Construction Ltd for their assistance in carrying out the work. The watching brief was undertaken by Jon Wilson and Amanda Stewart.

# *1. Introduction*

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- 1.1 The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) has been commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the A533 By-Pass development between Davenham and Bostock, Cheshire by the Engineering Consultancy of Cheshire County Council, in order to observe and record any features of archaeological significance revealed during development and to compile a report summarising the results. UMAU completed the watching brief as specified in the brief set out by Mr Adrian Tindall Principal Conservation Officer (Archaeology), Cheshire County Council.
- 1.2 The recommendation for a watching brief during the development of was based on the reports: The Archaeological Implications of the Proposed Route for the A533 Davenham By-Pass and A Further Assessment of the Archaeological Implications of the Preferred Route of the A533 Davenham By-Pass both 1992 compiled for Cheshire County Council by Gifford and Partners Consulting Engineers, Chester.

## *2. Location and Topography*

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### *2.1 Location*

The road corridor relevant to this watching brief extended from Shipbrook Road to the east of Davenham to Bostock Road which is just over two miles to the north of Davenham; to the east of the proposed road is the River Dane.

### *2.2 Topography*

According to the Geological Survey of Great Britain (Sheet 109), the underlying geology of the area is Lower Keuper Saliferous Beds belonging to the Permo-Triassic period. The overlying drift geology comprises mainly Boulder Clays with areas of Glacial Sands and Gravels of the Pleistocene and Recent periods.

### 3. *Aim*

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- 3.1 The aim of the watching brief was to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of the development.

## *4. Methodology*

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- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief consisted of the on site presence of one/two field archaeologist/s who observed the contractors during topsoil stripping of the road corridor. This work was undertaken over a period of 26 days between January and April 1996.



## 5. Results

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5.1 No archaeological features or artifacts were identified or located during this work.

## 7. Terms and Conditions

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- 7.1 The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit acts in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and observes the British Archaeologists and Developers Group Code of Practice.
- 7.2 UMAU is comprehensively insured for all field survey, investigations and excavations under the Royal Insurance (UK) Ltd Public and Employers Liability Insurance – Victoria University of Manchester and its Subsidiaries.
- 7.3 Professional Indemnity Insurance of two million pounds is provided for UMAU through the University of Manchester by Denham Direct Underwriters Ltd.
- 7.4 UMAU follows the University of Manchester's policy statement on Health and Safety and the SCAUM guidelines on Health and Safety in Field Archaeology.

# Appendix

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## A.1 *University of Manchester Archaeological Unit*

UMAU is an archaeological Unit specialising in commercial sector work in Northern and Central Britain. It is a division of Vuman, a wholly owned University of Manchester company established in 1981, whose objective is to exploit opportunities for technology transfer.

UMAU undertakes archaeological consultancies, assessments, evaluations, excavations, watching briefs, archaeological surveys and analysis, building surveys and analysis, environmental sampling and analysis and tourism development. It has an excellent working relationship with archaeologists, historians and conservationists in the public and private sectors at local, regional and national levels. Its accumulated knowledge of primary source material in the North-West is of a very high order.

## A.2 *Previous Clients*

Allot and Lomax Consulting Engineers, AMEC, Bolton MBC, British Opencast Executive, Bury MBC, Central Manchester Development Corporation, Cheshire County Council, the Collingwood Housing Association, EAG Ltd, English Heritage, Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive, Husband & Co, Manchester City Council, Derek Lovejoy Partnership, G Maunsell and Partners, McLean Homes, L G Mouchel and Partners, the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, the National Trust, North West water plc, Parkman Consulting Engineers, Peel Estates, Rochdale and Oldham Groundwork Trust, Salford City Council, Stockport MBC, Tameside MBC, Trafford Park Development Corporation, Trafford MBC, Travers Morgan, Vector Investments Ltd and Wigan MBC.

UMAU has acted as consultants on over 90% of the incoming Department of Transport road schemes in Greater Manchester and immediately adjacent areas and is increasingly used by environmental consultants in need of archaeological comment and lacking in-house provision.

UMAU's reports and fieldwork accurately reflect the above and below ground implications of proposed developments, conclusions and recommendations.