

**A WATCHING BRIEF AT
STRETTON ROAD, MUCH WENLOCK, SHROPSHIRE 2016**

by
H R HANNAFORD MCIfA

A Report for
**FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT TEAM
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2016 the Archaeology Service carried out a watching brief on the topsoil strip preliminary to the construction an attenuation pond on land southwest of Bridge House, Stretton Road, Much Wenlock Shropshire (NGR S0 611 994).

1.2 The attenuation pond is located on the outskirts of the medieval town of Much Wenlock. The Shropshire Historic Environment Record [HER] indicates that the former line of the Much Wenlock, Craven Arms & Coalbrookdale Railway (HER 08447) crosses the southern part of the proposed development site. In addition, Environment Agency Lidar data suggest that earthwork remains of a probable holloway and possible former field boundary bank were present in the central and northern parts of the proposed development site. Both of these latter features were considered to be of local level importance only.

1.3 Given the large area to be stripped of topsoil, the proposed development site was deemed to have low to moderate archaeological potential.

1.4 Because of the potential archaeological significance of the site it was a condition of the planning consent (Planning Ref: 14/01753/FUL) for the works that they should be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief on the groundworks. The aim of the programme of archaeological work is to allow for the preservation by record of any archaeological remains that are encountered during the works.

1.5 The Archaeology Service, Shropshire Council was commissioned by Shropshire Council's Flood and Water Management Team to carry out this programme of archaeological work.

2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.1 The topsoil strip was carried out in the first half of November 2016. The topsoil consisted of a brown loam about 0.3m in depth and lay over a light brown-grey silty clay subsoil. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed following the topsoil strip. There was no sign of either the supposed holloway or former field boundary within the study area. Dumped soil was removed from the southeastern edge of the site along the line of the former easement of the Much Wenlock, Craven Arms & Coalbrookdale Railway, exposing in places stone chippings which may have been ballast for the former trackbed.

2.2 No significant archaeological features or deposits were exposed by the topsoil strip.

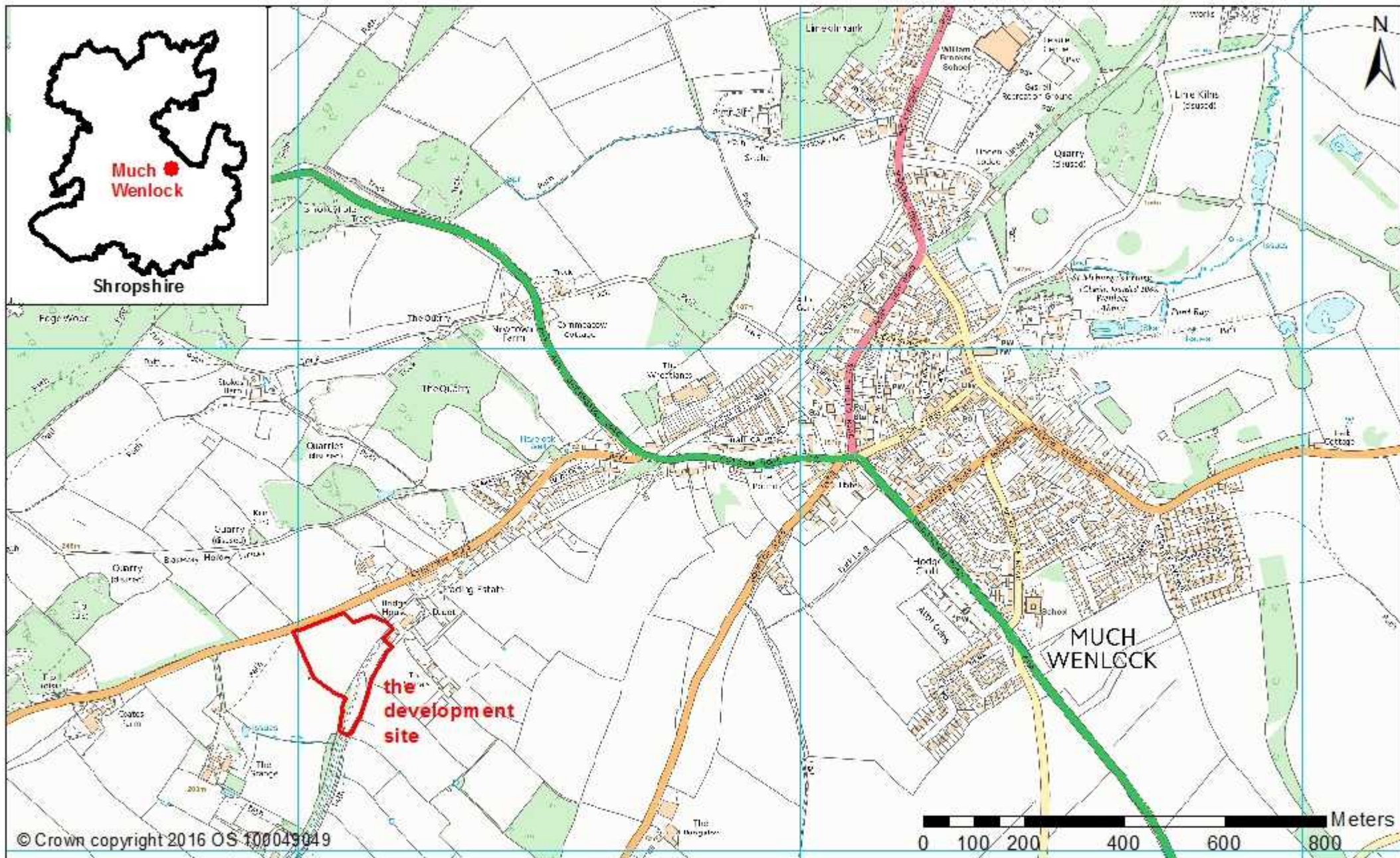




Photo 1: The development site, looking S



Photo 2: The development site, looking NE

STRETTON ROAD, MUCH WENLOCK 2016