



---

# Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton, Chester CH2 2PE.

September 2017  
V 1.0



aeon archaeology



Archaeological Watching Brief  
Project Code: A0119.1  
Report no. 0140

---



aeon archaeology

---

# **Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton, Chester CH2 2PE.**

## **September 2017**

Report no. 0140 v1.0

Archaeological Watching Brief

Aeon Archaeology  
25, Mold Road  
Broughton  
Chester  
CH4 0PQ

Written by: Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA

Checked by: Josh Dean BA ACIfA



Project Code: A0119.1  
Date: 14/09/2017  
Client: Piers Dutton  
Planning Ref: 17/00676/FUL  
[info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk)

---

# Figures

**Figure 01:** Location of Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

**Figure 02:** Location of Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). Scale 1:10,000 at A4.

**Figure 03:** Location of area minotred by watching brief at Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

**Figure 04:** Location and orientation of photographs at Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton. Scale 1:500 at A4.

# Plates

**Plate 01:** Pre-excavation photograph of development area, from the west. Scale 1.0m.

**Plate 02:** Pre-excavation photograph of development area, from the south. Scale 1.0m.

**Plate 03:** Post-excavation photograph of development area, from the south. Scale 1.0m.

**Plate 04:** Post-excavation photograph of development area, from the north. Scale 1.0m.

**Plate 05:** West facing trench section, from the west. Scale 0.5m.

**Plate 06:** South facing trench section showing modern foundation cut, from the south. Scale 0.5m.

## Contents

1.0	NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY .....	2
2.0	INTRODUCTION .....	3
3.0	PROJECT AIMS .....	4
4.0	METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF .....	6
4.1	Watching Brief .....	6
4.2	Data Collection from Site Records .....	6
4.3	Artefact Methodology .....	7
4.4	Environmental Samples Methodology .....	7
4.5	Report and dissemination .....	7
5.0	HISTORIC BACKGROUND .....	8
6.0	QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS .....	9
6.1	The Documentary Archive .....	9
6.2	Environmental Samples .....	9
6.3	Artefacts .....	9
7.0	RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF .....	10
7.1	New Milking Parlour – Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton, Chester (figures 1-4; plates 1-6)10	
8.0	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	11
10.0	SOURCES.....	12
	APPENDIX I: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF .....	13

## **1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Piers Dutton to carry out an archaeological watching brief at as part of the erection of a new steel portal framed building for the housing, feeding and milking of cattle at Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton, Chester as part of a condition of full planning permission.

The watching brief did not reveal any archaeological remains or artefacts and it is therefore recommended that the archaeological condition be discharged.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr Piers Dutton, hereafter the Client, to carry out an archaeological watching brief at as part of the erection of a new steel portal framed building for the housing, feeding and milking of cattle at Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton, Chester (NGR SJ 42324 69227) (figures 01 and 02).

A mitigation brief was not prepared for this scheme by the Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service Cheshire Shared Services (CAPAS) but the following was made a condition of full planning permission (17/00676/FUL):

### *Condition 5*

*There shall be no excavation of ground in connection with the development until a programme of archaeological work devised in accordance with a written scheme of investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out wholly in accordance with the approved scheme.*

### *Reason*

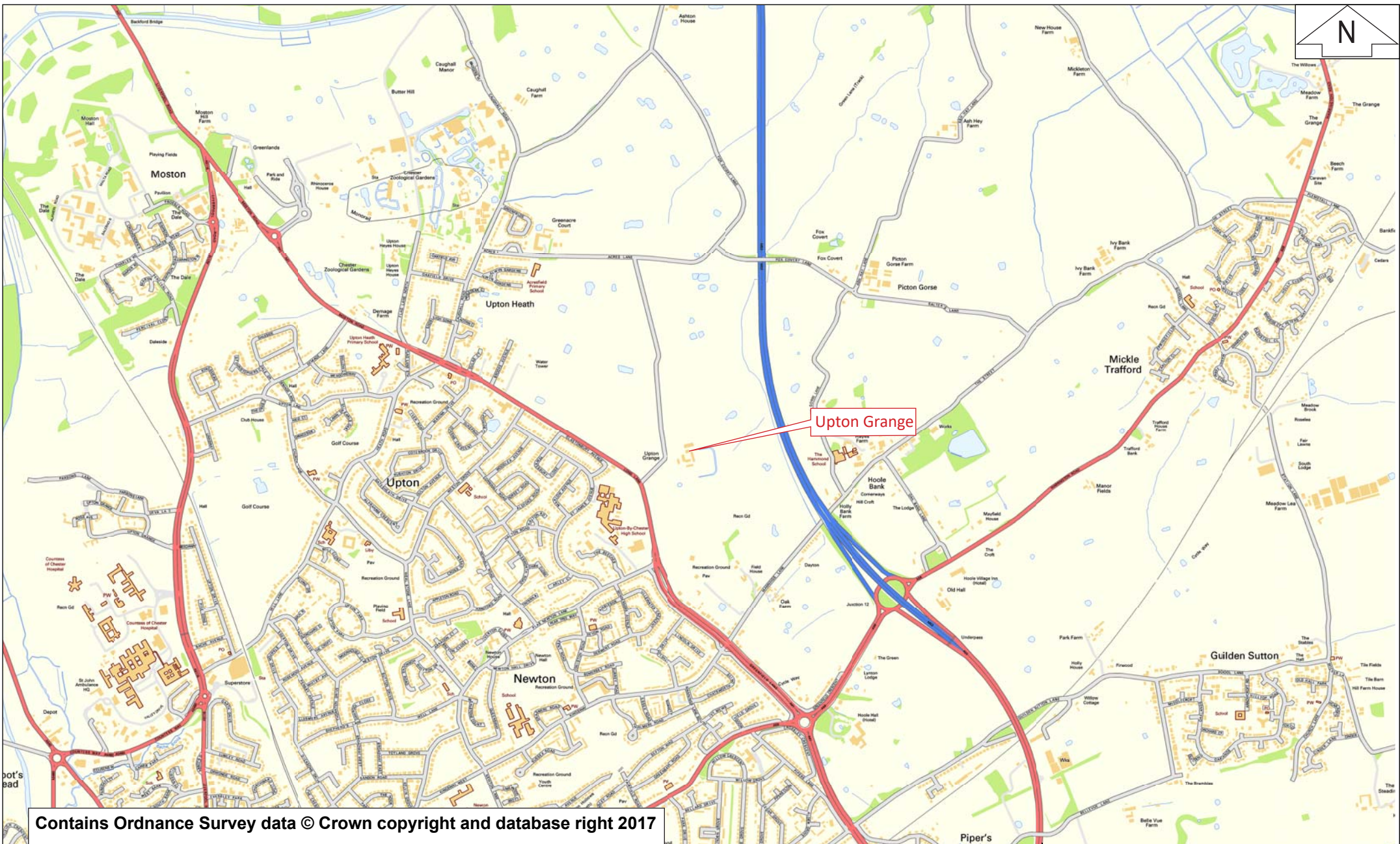
*In the interests of preserving nearby heritage assets.*

A written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was undertaken by Aeon Archaeology in June 2017 (appendix I) which outlined the principle aims of the watching brief and the methods by which they would be met. This formed the basis of a method statement submitted for the work.

The use of such a condition is in line with the guidance set out in paragraph 141, Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government and Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 (Historic England 2015)

Reference will be made to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).





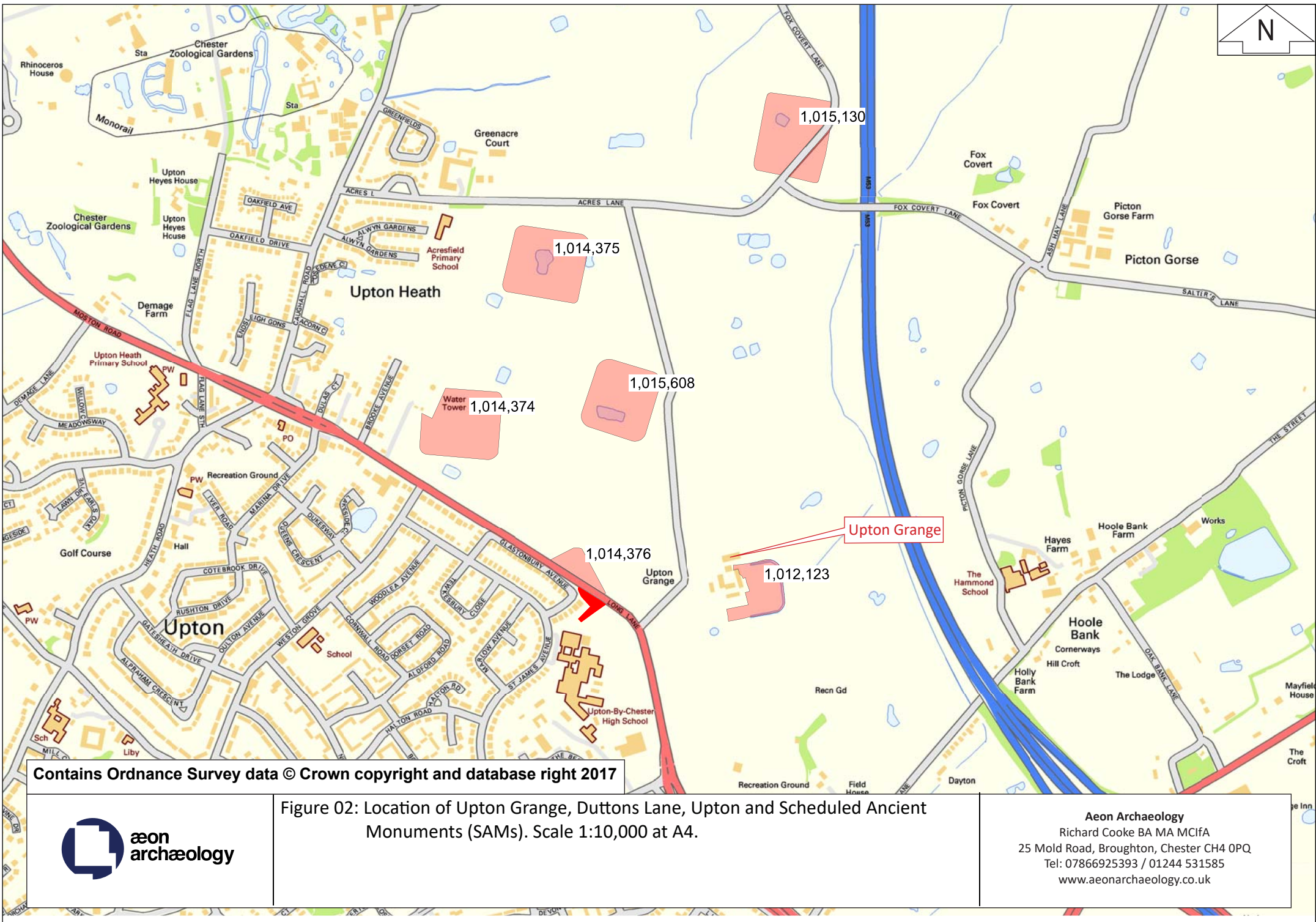
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

Figure 01: Location of Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



**Aeon Archaeology**  
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCIFA  
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
 www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk





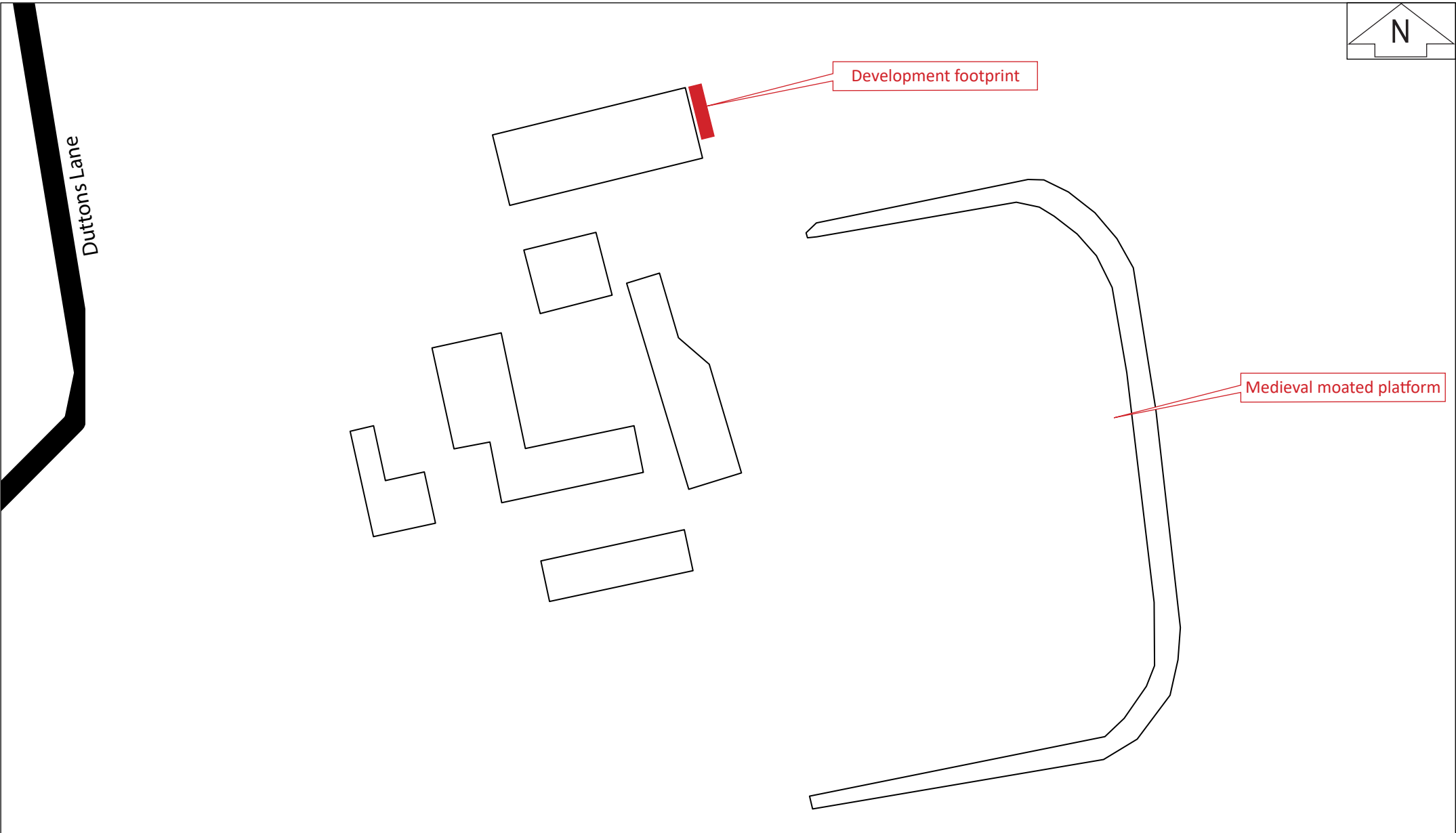
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

Figure 02: Location of Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). Scale 1:10,000 at A4.



**Aeon Archaeology**  
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA  
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
 www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk





Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017



Figure 03: Location of area minotred by watching brief at Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.

**Aeon Archaeology**  
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA  
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
[www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk)

### 3.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the watching brief works was to characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains uncovered during groundworks associated with the construction of the new milking parlour at Upton Grange, Upton.

The broad aims of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.
- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; rev 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014). Five stages are specified:

Phase 1: project planning

Phase 2: fieldwork

Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design

Phase 4: analysis and report preparation

Phase 5: dissemination

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. In this instance it was not necessary to prepare a revised project design as alluded to in Phase 3; as there was a paucity of evidence recovered in Phase 2 in terms of archaeological features and therefore did not warrant any alteration to the initial project design.

The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) Historic Environment Record; Aeon Archaeology; and lodged with the Oasis online database for long term archiving so that it can be accessible to the public and future

researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving the material and documentary records from the project.

## **4.0 METHODOLOGY – ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **4.1 Watching Brief**

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

*An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.*

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014a). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

All excavations were undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. A photographic record was maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 6000D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

In the event of archaeological discovery features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas, digital photographs, and plan and section drawings taken at a suitable scale (usually 1:20 for plan drawings and 1:10 for section drawings).

The archive produced is held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0119.1**.

### **4.2 Data Collection from Site Records**

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.



All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that the CHER can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

### **4.3 Artefact Methodology**

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. They would be bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-house at Aeon Archaeology. If required artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the archaeological watching brief. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client and the CAPAS. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

### **4.4 Environmental Samples Methodology**

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs would be obtained from Oxford Archaeology if required.

### **4.5 Report and dissemination**

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced, and will be lodged within a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator within six months of the completion of the project.

A draft copy of the report has been sent to the client and upon written approval from them paper and digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER, the CAPAS,, and will be logged with the Oasis online database. Copies of all notes, plans, and photographs arising from the watching brief will be stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0119.1** with the originals being lodged in a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator.

## 5.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The principle historic interest at the Site is that of the Scheduled Monument *Moated site at Upton Grange, Upton* (List Entry 1,012,123) which lies approximately 25.0m to the south and southeast of the proposed development site. The moated site at Upton Grange comprises much of the island, originally measuring c.115m x 105m together with the surrounding moat which has been partially infilled on its south-western side. That part of the island overlain by modern domestic and farm buildings is not included within the designated area. Moated sites are generally seen as the prestigious residences of the Lords of the manor. The moat marked the high status of the occupier, but also served to deter casual raiders and wild animals. Most moats were constructed between 1250 and 1350.

There is further historic interest within the localised environment with six Roman camps located within 1.5km of the Site. Roman camps are rectangular or sub-rectangular enclosures which were constructed and used by Roman soldiers either when out on campaign or as practice camps; most campaign camps were only temporary overnight bases and few were used for longer periods. They were bounded by a single earthen rampart and outer ditch and in plan were always straight-sided with rounded corners. Normally they had between one and four entrances, although as many as eleven have been recorded. Such entrances were usually centrally placed in the sides of the camp and were often protected by additional defensive outworks. Roman camps are found throughout much of England, although most known examples lie in the midlands and north. Around 140 examples have been identified and, as one of the various types of defensive enclosure built by the Roman Army, particularly in hostile upland and frontier areas, they provide an important insight into Roman military strategy and organisation. All well-preserved examples are identified as being of national importance.

The camps at Upton are part of an important group of six in the square kilometre to the west of Upton Grange Farm. Such groupings are rare and they will provide evidence of the construction and use of camps throughout the British Isles. Additionally, they will provide information on the activities of troops based in Chester. This camp remains identifiable in those areas where the road and the houses to the west have not destroyed it. It will retain information on its defences, and the interior will contain evidence of any temporary buildings and pits for latrines and refuse.

## **6.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

### **6.1 The Documentary Archive**

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological watching brief:

Watching brief day sheets	1
Digital photographs	12

### **6.2 Environmental Samples**

No environmental samples were taken as part of the watching brief as no suitable archaeological deposits were encountered.

### **6.3 Artefacts**

No artefacts were recovered during the watching brief.

## **7.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **7.1 New Milking Parlour – Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton, Chester (figures 1-4; plates 1-6)**

The archaeological watching brief was maintained by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA, archaeological contractor and consultant at Aeon Archaeology. The site was attended on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and the weather conditions were bright and sunny.

The watching brief was maintained during the excavation of the milking parlour footprint outside of the area already deemed as having been entirely disturbed by the former steel portal barn. In reality this was limited to a 10.5m by 2.5m area orientated north to south and situated between the former barn in the west and a drainage ditch in the east.

The trench was cut through a 0.1m deep dark grey-brown silt-clay topsoil which lay above a 0.2m deep dark brown-grey silt-clay subsoil, on to a firm light orange-yellow natural clay substrata. At the southern end of the trench the topsoil overlaid an isolated 0.1m deep deposit of building sand above the subsoil horizon.

At the northern end of the trench a foundation cut measuring 2.0m in width east to west by >1.0m in length north to south by 0.5m in depth was observed within the northern trench section. This cut had a sharp top break of slope and a straight side to the east – the west side not visible – with a flat base. The cut was filled with a single dark black-grey silt-clay with occasional red-brick fragment inclusions and corresponded with a concrete wall to the immediate northwest and was almost certainly a foundation cut for this feature and therefore of modern origin.

There were no archaeological features or artefacts recovered during the watching brief nor during a careful inspection of the removed trench spoil.





**Plate 01:** Pre-excitation photograph of development area, from the west. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 02:** Pre-excitation photograph of development area, from the south. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 03:** Post-excitation photograph of development area, from the south. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 04:** Post-excitation photograph of development area, from the north. Scale 1.0m.



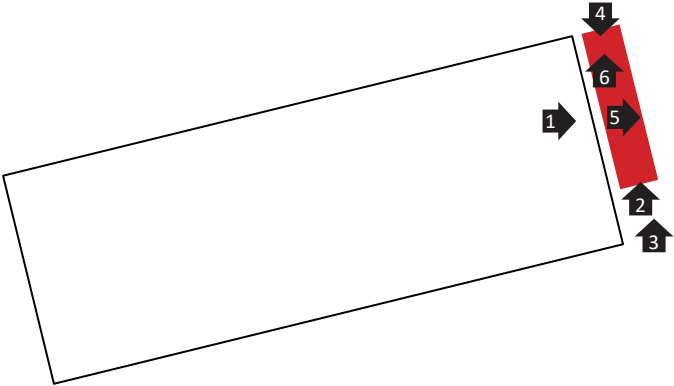


**Plate 05:** West facing trench section, from the west. Scale 0.5m.





**Plate 06:** South facing trench section showing modern foundation cut, from the south. Scale 0.5m.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017



Figure 04: Location and orientation of photographs at Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton. Scale 1:500 at A4.

**Aeon Archaeology**  
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA  
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
[www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk)

## **8.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The archaeological watching brief at Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton, Chester did not reveal any archaeological remains or artefacts from any archaeological time period. The watching brief showed that the north-westernmost corner of the area monitored had been disturbed by a modern foundation trench for a concrete wall, but otherwise the trench was sterile of archaeological remains and appeared to have not been disturbed in the past.

There is a wealth of archaeological remains within close proximity of the development area, however the site lies outside of the medieval moated platform Scheduled Ancient Monument (List Entry 1,012,123) and although associated features such as ancillary structures, agricultural landscapes, quarry scoops, marl pits, and fish ponds are likely to have existed close to the site, it appears the development area has remained undeveloped. Furthermore, the six Roman camps located within 1.5km of the site are likely to have been relatively self-contained and it is unlikely that any related remains would have spread in close proximity to the site.

The watching brief can be seen as having fulfilled the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition and it is recommended that the condition now be discharged.



## **10.0 SOURCES**

British Geological Survey website. [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk).

English Heritage, 2006, rev 2015. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE)

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief

**APPENDIX I: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



aeon archaeology

---

**Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton,  
Chester CH2 2PE.**

**Written Scheme of Investigation  
for Archaeological Watching Brief.**

**June 2017 v1.0**



Project Code: A0119.1  
Planning Ref: 17/00676/FUL

---

1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	1
2.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND .....	2
3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....	3
4.0 METHODOLOGY .....	4
4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief.....	4
4.2 Watching brief report .....	5
4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment .....	5
4.2.2 Post-excavation Report .....	6
4.3 Archive.....	6
5.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS .....	7
6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES .....	7
7.0 HUMAN REMAINS .....	7
8.0 SMALL FINDS .....	8
9.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE .....	8
10.0 STAFF & TIMETABLE.....	9
10.1 Staff .....	9
10.2 Timetable.....	9
11.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY .....	9
12.0 INSURANCE.....	9
13.0 GENERAL.....	10
14.0 SPECIALISTS .....	10

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Mr Piers Dutton, hereafter the Client, to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological watching brief as part of the erection of a new steel portal framed building for the housing, feeding and milking of cattle at Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton, Chester (NGR SJ 42324 69227).

A mitigation brief was not prepared for this scheme by the Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service Cheshire Shared Services (CAPAS) but the following was made a condition of full planning permission (17/00676/FUL):

### *Condition 5*

*There shall be no excavation of ground in connection with the development until a programme of archaeological work devised in accordance with a written scheme of investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out wholly in accordance with the approved scheme.*

### *Reason*

*In the interests of preserving nearby heritage assets.*

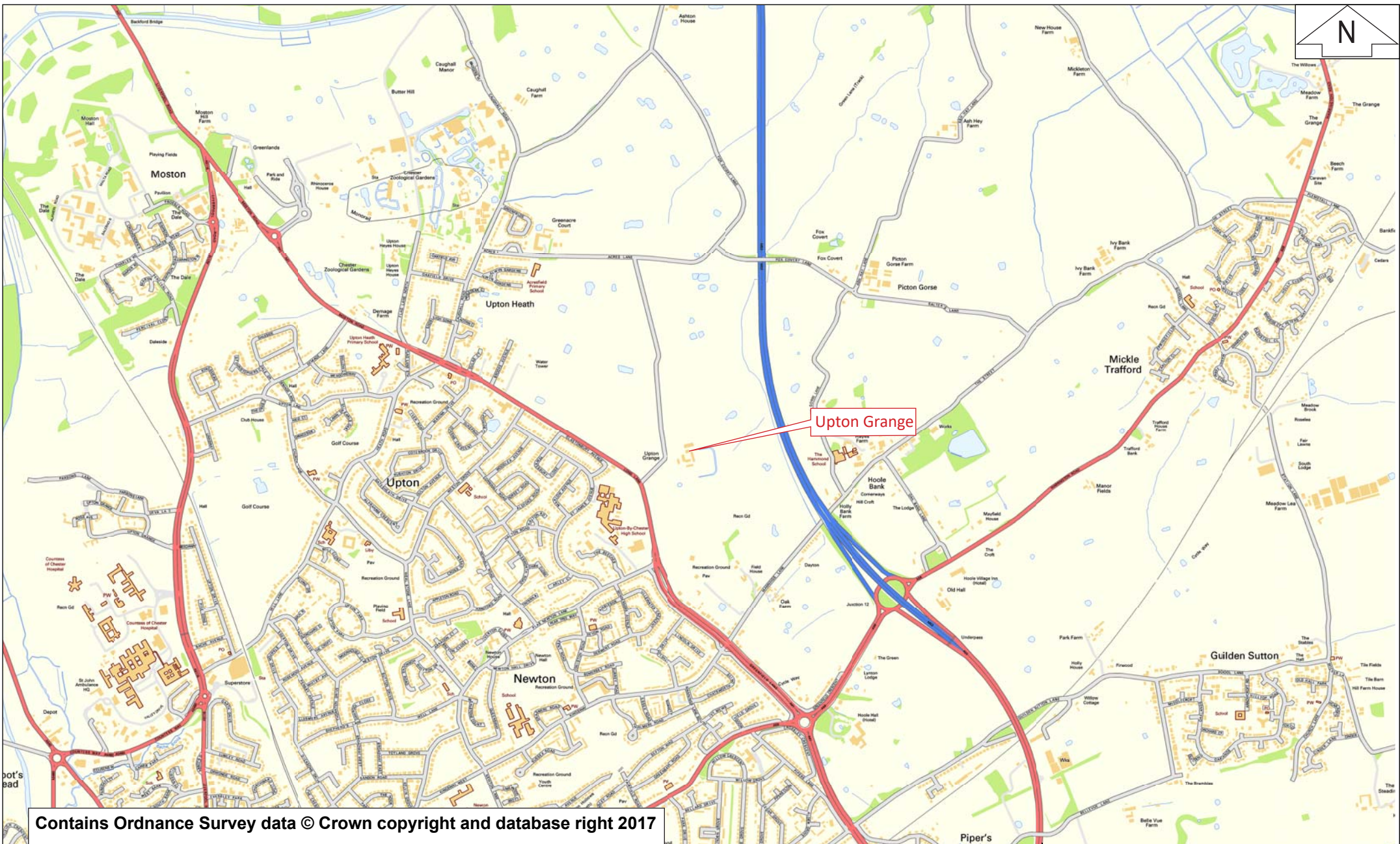
The watching brief will be maintained during intrusive groundworks, as detailed below.

This WSI states the aims, objectives and methodology for implementing the archaeological watching brief so as to meet the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition.

The use of such a condition is in line with the guidance set out in paragraph 141, Section 12 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government and Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 (Historic England 2015)

Reference will be made to the guidelines specified in Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).





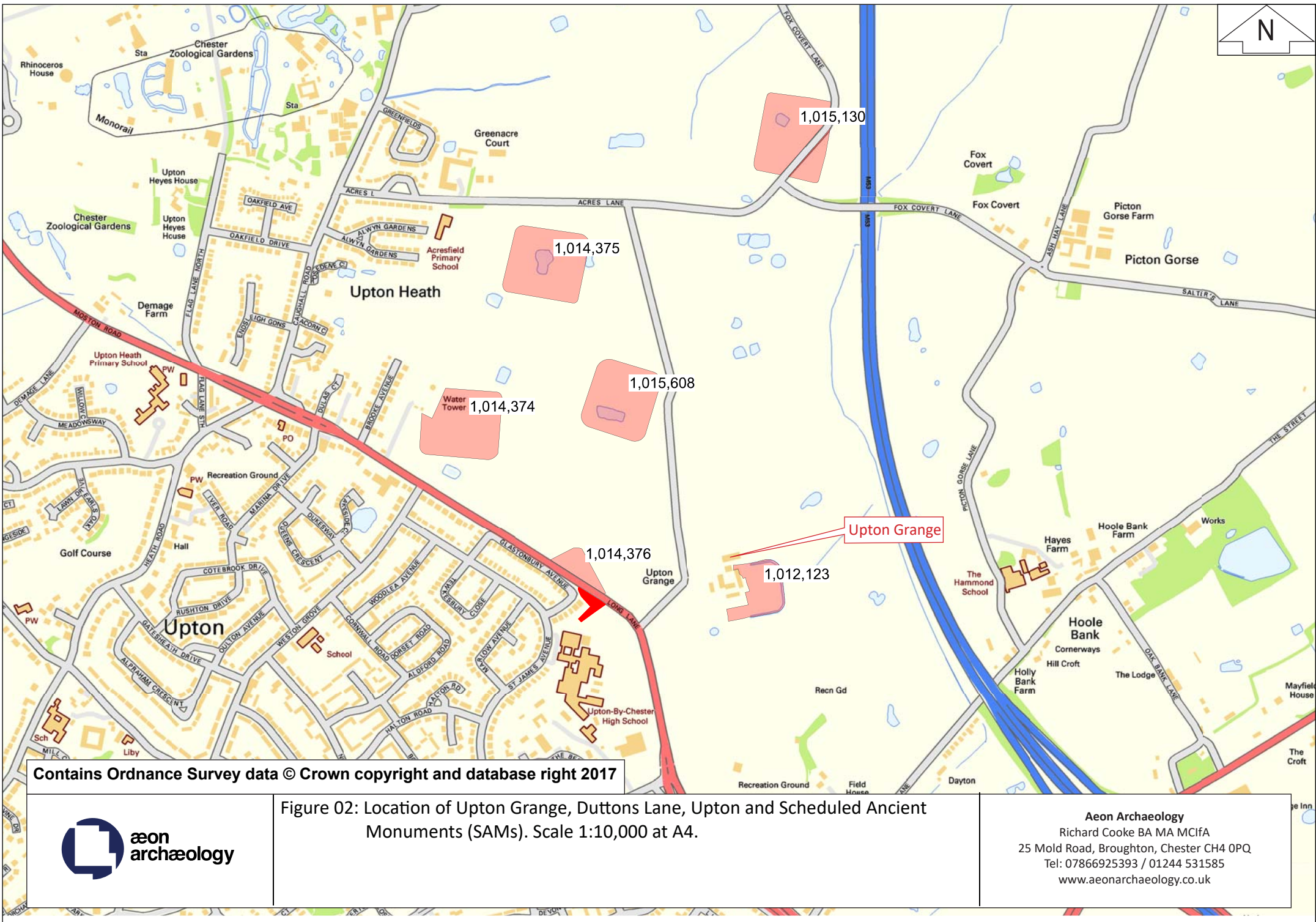
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

Figure 01: Location of Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



**Aeon Archaeology**  
 Richard Cooke BA MA MCIFA  
 25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
 Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
[www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk)





Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

Figure 02: Location of Upton Grange, Duttons Lane, Upton and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). Scale 1:10,000 at A4.



**Aeon Archaeology**  
Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA  
25 Mold Road, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PQ  
Tel: 07866925393 / 01244 531585  
[www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.aeonarchaeology.co.uk)

## 2.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The principle historic interest at the Site is that of the Scheduled Monument *Moated site at Upton Grange, Upton* (List Entry 1,012,123) which lies approximately 25.0m to the south and southeast of the proposed development site. The moated site at Upton Grange comprises much of the island, originally measuring c.115m x 105m together with the surrounding moat which has been partially infilled on its south-western side. That part of the island overlain by modern domestic and farm buildings is not included within the designated area. Moated sites are generally seen as the prestigious residences of the Lords of the manor. The moat marked the high status of the occupier, but also served to deter casual raiders and wild animals. Most moats were constructed between 1250 and 1350.

There is further historic interest within the localised environment with six Roman camps located within 1.5km of the Site. Roman camps are rectangular or sub-rectangular enclosures which were constructed and used by Roman soldiers either when out on campaign or as practice camps; most campaign camps were only temporary overnight bases and few were used for longer periods. They were bounded by a single earthen rampart and outer ditch and in plan were always straight-sided with rounded corners. Normally they had between one and four entrances, although as many as eleven have been recorded. Such entrances were usually centrally placed in the sides of the camp and were often protected by additional defensive outworks. Roman camps are found throughout much of England, although most known examples lie in the midlands and north. Around 140 examples have been identified and, as one of the various types of defensive enclosure built by the Roman Army, particularly in hostile upland and frontier areas, they provide an important insight into Roman military strategy and organisation. All well-preserved examples are identified as being of national importance.

The camps at Upton are part of an important group of six in the square kilometre to the west of Upton Grange Farm. Such groupings are rare and they will provide evidence of the construction and use of camps throughout the British Isles. Additionally, they will provide information on the activities of troops based in Chester. This camp remains identifiable in those areas where the road and the houses to the west have not destroyed it. It will retain information on its defences, and the interior will contain evidence of any temporary buildings and pits for latrines and refuse.

### 3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The archaeological watching brief shall be maintained:

- During the removal of topsoil and the excavation of foundations at the Site.

The CIfA maintains a standard for archaeological watching brief which states that:

*An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant by-laws of CIfA.*

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the CIfA as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons (CIfA 2014). The watching brief will take place within a specified area within the Site where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.

The CIfA further identifies the purpose of a watching brief as allowing, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.

It is also important to note that a watching brief provides an opportunity, if needed, for a signal to be made to all interested parties, before the destruction of the archaeological materials, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

A watching brief is, therefore, not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The aims of the watching brief are:

- To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of archaeological remains on the Site affected by excavations and groundworks, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.
- To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief are:

- To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance.
- To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data should the opportunity arise.



## **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief**

The methodology for the watching brief has been prepared with reference to the CIFA's document Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and will be kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it is meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which may arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work will be carried out by the CAPAS. To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer shall be provided with a minimum of two weeks' notice of the start of the archaeological work.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist(s) from Aeon Archaeology will be commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist(s) will report to the site manager and conform to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist(s) will keep a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist will be provided with a Health & Safety Induction by the construction contractor and wear a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

If deposits and or artefacts are exposed during excavations for the development which require recording and recovery, it may be necessary to delay works whilst the proper investigation and recording takes place. Watching brief recording can often be undertaken without delay to groundworks, depending upon the specific circumstances and flexibility of all the staff on site.

Within the constraints of the terms of the watching brief work, the archaeologist will not cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors on site. In the event of archaeological discoveries the treatment of which (either arising from the volume/quantity of material and/or the complexity/importance of the material) is beyond the resources deployed the Client will be notified and a site meeting/telephone consultation arranged with the CAPAS Development Control Archaeologist. The aim of the meeting will be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard and identify measures which would be sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard prior to destruction of the material in question.

Any archaeological deposits, features and structures identified which can be investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access.

It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable.

The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using proformae recording forms and locate them on a large-scale site plan related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references.

The groundworks excavations shall be undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The drawn record will comprise plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10; propriety electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings may be used as appropriate.

A photographic record will be maintained throughout, using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution and any subsurface remains will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations and measured drawings being undertaken if required.

The archive produced will be held at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0119.1**.

## **4.2 Watching brief report**

### **4.2.1 Post-excavation Assessment**

A report on the results of the watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006; 2015), and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two months of completion of work on site and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

The scope of post-excavation assessment will subject to a specification for approval by the CAPAS upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.



### 4.2.2 Post-excavation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related to the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository.
- In addition the post-excavation report will summarise and draw together the findings of all of the phases of work.

### 4.3 Archive

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled, and cross-referenced, and archived within a suitable repository to be agreed in advance with the CAPAS Development Control Archaeologist. Copies of the report will be lodged with the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER); CAPAS Development Control Archaeologist; and Oasis online database within six months of the completion of the project.

## 5.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

The identification of significant archaeological features during the watching brief stage may necessitate further archaeological works. This will require the submission of new cost estimates to the contractor and may be subject to a separate WSI, to be agreed with the Cheshire Development Control Archaeologist prior to implementation.

This WSI does not include a methodology or cost for examination of, conservation of, or archiving of finds discovered during the watching brief, nor of any radiocarbon dates required, nor of examination of palaeoenvironmental samples associated with any peat deposits. The need for these will be identified in the post-fieldwork programme (if required), and a new WSI will be issued for approval by the CAPAS Development Control Archaeologist prior to implementation.

## 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

If necessary, relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each liner feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

## 7.0 HUMAN REMAINS

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the CAPAS Development Control Archaeologist informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

## 8.0 SMALL FINDS

The vast majority of finds recovered from archaeological excavations comprise pottery fragments, bone, environmental and charcoal samples, and non-valuable metal items such as nails. Often many of these finds become unstable (i.e. they begin to disintegrate) when removed from the ground. All finds are the property of the landowner; however, it is recommended that all finds are donated to an appropriate museum (Neath Port Talbot Museum Service) where they can receive specialist treatment and study. Access to finds must be granted to Aeon Archaeology for a reasonable period to allow for analysis and for study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the fieldwork phase. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the CAPAS Development Control Archaeologist. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds with the exception of unstratified items dating to the twentieth or twenty-first centuries AD which will be recorded by material, type, form, identification and weight, and discarded.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location will be recorded; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All finds will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

## 9.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.

Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

## **10.0 STAFF & TIMETABLE**

### **10.1 Staff**

The work will be managed and undertaken by Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology.

### **10.2 Timetable**

The evaluation work can currently be undertaken from June 2017, although the client is encouraged to give as much notice as possible to Aeon Archaeology as project commitments are currently high.

## **11.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

## **12.0 INSURANCE**

Liability Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

- Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £10m in any one occurrence
- Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £2m in any one occurrence
- Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £250,000

The current period expires 07/09/17

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

- Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/17



### **13.0 GENERAL**

All project staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

The project will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* prepared by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

A Method Statement and Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork and circulated to all staff concerned.

Please note the following:

Aeon Archaeology will not be held responsible for any delays to the work programme resulting from the discovery of archaeological sites or finds.

### **14.0 SPECIALISTS**

Specialist advice required will be sought from the following list if required:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: Oxford Archaeology
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Waterlogged environmental: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Environmental samples: Oxford Archaeology
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Pottery (all periods): Oxford Archaeology
- Clay pipe: Oxford Archaeology

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

