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**The Cheshire Cheese PH,  
29 Main Street, Frodsham,  
Cheshire, WA6 7AZ.**

**July 2019  
V 1.0**





aeon archaeology

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**The Cheshire Cheese PH,  
29 Main Street, Frodsham,  
Cheshire, WA6 7AZ.**

**July 2019**

Report no. 0205 v1.0

Archaeological Evaluation

Aeon Archaeology  
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Broughton  
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Written by: Josh Dean BA ACIfA

Checked by: Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA



Project Code: A0216.1

Date: 30/07/2019

Client: Bold Projects Ltd.

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# **The Cheshire Cheese PH, 29 Main Street, Frodsham, Cheshire, WA6 7AZ.**

## **July 2019**

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## **1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Bold Projects Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation as part of the erection of a residential development to create six new build dwellings (C3 use) and the conversion and refurbishment of the Public House (A4 use) to create two dwellings (C3 use) with associate access, parking and amenity space on land adjacent to The Cheshire Cheese Public House, 29 Main Street, Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 7AZ.

The archaeological evaluation identified a single feature at the site; a single square, brick-built fire pit belonging to a row of former post-medieval dwellings which once fronted the Site. This had a flat stone base, measured 0.45m<sup>2</sup> and was the only remaining structure found during the excavation showing that demolition of the post-medieval housing stock had all but removed them in their entirety. Covering this fire pit was a large spread of bricks which acted as an aggregate for the fly-ash which was pressed down above it. These bricks were almost certainly imported from another site as well as the fly ash and both were employed to level the area in advance of it being utilised as a car park, this is supported by the presence of modern plastic beneath the brick which suggest that they arrived in the area within the last forty years.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Bold Projects Ltd, (hereafter the Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation as part of the erection of a residential development to create six new build dwellings (C3 use) and the conversion and refurbishment of the Public House (A4 use) to create two dwellings (C3 use) with associate access, parking and amenity space on land adjacent to The Cheshire Cheese Public House, 29 Main Street, Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 7AZ (centred on **NGR SJ 51356 77664**). (see figures 1 & 2).

Outline planning permission was obtained on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and the following condition concerning archaeology was applied to the consent (**18/01239/OUT**):

### *Condition 6*

*No development shall take place within the site area until the applicant or agent (or successor in title) has secured the implementation of a program of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation that has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.*

*Reason: to ensure that the nature, extent and significance of this site of potential archaeological interest is adequately assessed. Having regard to article 35 of the DMPO 2015, these details are required prior to the commencement of development to ensure that a scheme of investigation construction is agreed prior to any disruption of potential archaeological deposits.*

The use of such a condition is in line with guidance set out in paragraph 199, Section 6 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019), 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).

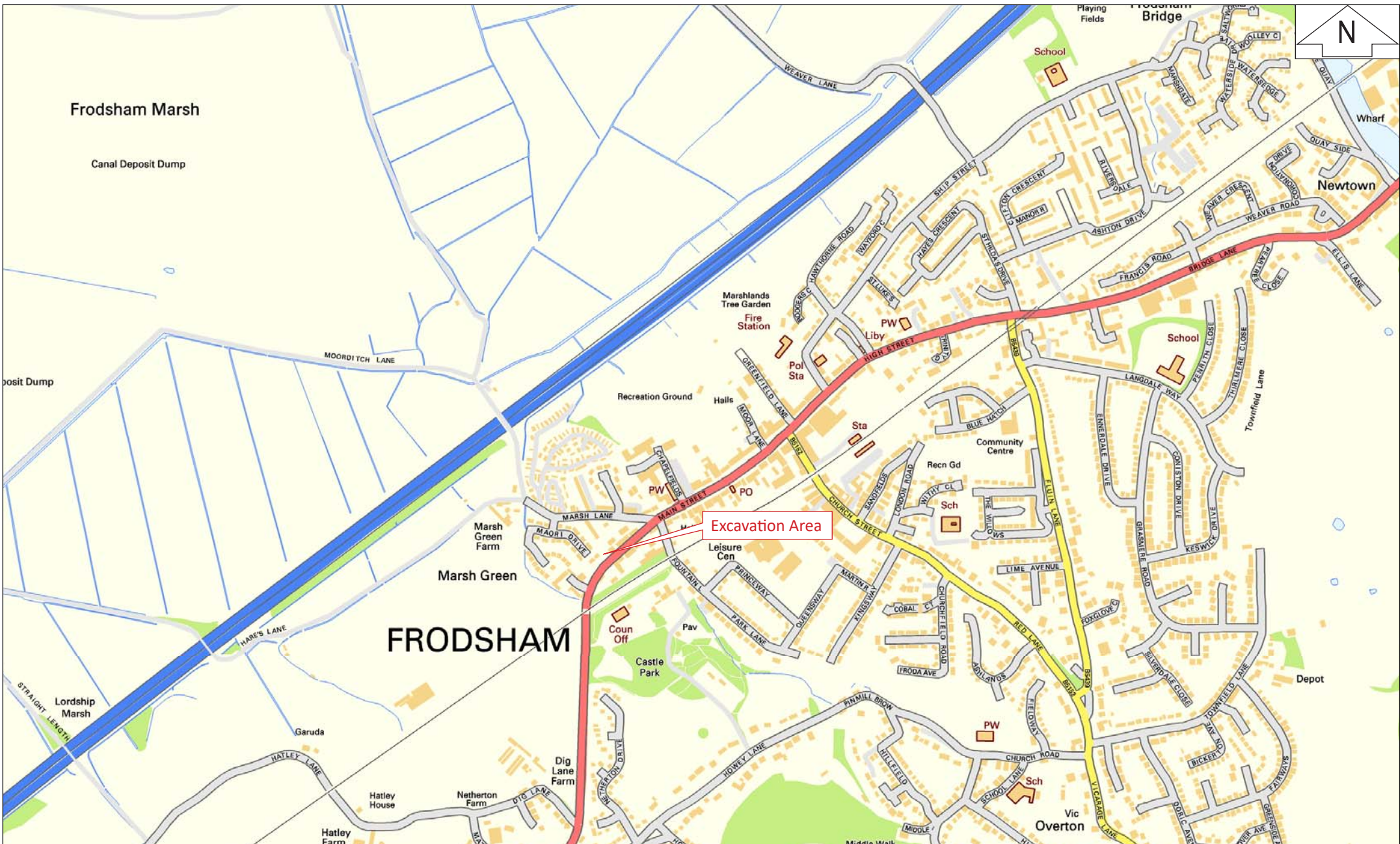
The work adhered to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).



**Figure 01:** Location of excavation site at The Cheshire Cheese Pub, Frodsham, Cheshire. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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**Figure 02:** Location of excavation site at The Cheshire Cheese Pub, Frodsham, Cheshire. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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### 3.0 SITE LOCATION

The site is situated near to the western approach to the town of Frodsham, north of the A56; the street becomes the High Street to the northeast and leads toward Helsby to the southwest. The town of Frodsham is in the unitary authority of Cheshire West and Chester (center point **NGR: NGR SJ 51356 77664**) (figures. 1-3). The Site consisted of a carpark to the southwest of The Cheshire Cheese Public House.

#### **4.0 HISTORY OF THE SITE**

The archaeological potential is focused on the fact that the site lies within Frodsham's area of Archaeological Potential, as defined during research conducted by the Cheshire Historic Towns Survey, which reflects the presumed extent of the settlement of Frodsham in the medieval and post-medieval periods. During these periods, the street frontages are the locations most likely to have been occupied by dwellings and a 25" ordnance survey map of c.1880 shows the present public house and outbuildings whilst the tithe map of 1846 shows an earlier structure occupying the present building's footprint, with further structures to the east in what is now the car park. The tithe apportionment describes the structures as "homesteads" and they are best interpreted as domestic dwellings with long thin plots to the rear.

It is not suggested that this archaeological interest is sufficient to generate an objection to the development or to justify further pre-determination work and it must be acknowledged that previous work in Frodsham has failed to locate any significant remains in the plots to the rear of the street frontage. In addition, it is noted that the bulk of the present building will be retained. In these circumstances, any archaeological interest is focused on the other street frontage buildings in what is now part of the car park to the west of the inn. New dwellings are proposed here and any below-ground evidence of the previous structures will be destroyed by their construction. It is advised, therefore, that this part of the site (that part of the car park to the west of the inn and stretching 10 m back from the street frontage) should be subject to a targeted program of mitigation with the area stripped under archaeological supervision and any archaeological deposits excavated and recorded. A report will also be required (Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service, CAPAS) (Total Environment), Cheshire Shared Services (consultee comments 19/04/2018).

## 5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the works was to characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains uncovered during the excavation. The broad aims of the archaeological excavation were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow the DMA at CAPAS to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works at the site.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological excavation were:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Frodsham.

The archaeological excavation targeted the following area:

1. The footprint of the proposed new dwellings to the west of the Cheshire Cheese Public House, Frodsham.

The broad characteristics of both the size and orientation of the excavation was considered to be appropriate and were agreed with the Development Management Archaeologist at CAPAS.

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 2014), and in the *CIFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (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

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 the residual ceramic finds only offered minimal potential for analysis and therefore did not warrant any alteration to the initial project design.

## **6.0 METHODOLOGY**

Before the excavation commenced an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface re-instatement and health and safety protection measures were agreed with the Client, and the Development Management Archaeologist at CAPAS.

### **6.1 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 cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that they can be archived with the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

### **6.2 Artefact Methodology**

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Finds numbers would be attributed and 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 excavation. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client and Cheshire County Council. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

### **6.3 Environmental Samples Methodology**

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples were 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.

### **6.4 Report and dissemination**

A full archive including plans, photographs and written material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced.

Upon approval from the Client copies of the report will be sent to the Cheshire Historic Environment Record and the Development Management Archaeologist (Mr Mark Leah).

## **7.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

### **7.1 The Documentary Archive**

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological excavation:

Digital photographs	28
Context Sheets	7
Drawings	2 on 1 sheets

### **7.2 Environmental Samples**

No environmental samples were taken as all revealed contexts produced dateable artefacts

### **7.3 Artefacts**

Five individual artefacts were recovered during the excavation phase; two examples of clay pipe stems, a single sherd of Victorian blue transfer ware and two examples of Annular ware. All finds were cleaned and identification made in-house at Aeon Archaeology.

## 8.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

The evaluation was designed to assess and characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains present at the Site. The location of the evaluation area can be found on figures 3-4. Where relevant context numbers have been assigned these are shown enclosed within brackets.

Prior to the commencement of the excavation it was brought to the attention of the attending archaeologist that two cars had been abandoned within the car park. These were parked directly over the proposed south-western extent of the excavation. Therefore, with no means of moving the vehicles in that area it was necessary to curtail the south-western extent of the excavation. The reduction of the ground level was made using a JCB which was to remain outside of the confines of the excavation at all times in order to preserve the integrity of any below ground archaeological remains.

The excavation area measured 17.24m in length by 10.56m in width and was 0.43m deep at its maximum depth, aligned northwest to southeast. The excavation area cut through a series of homogenous stratigraphic layers; initially 0.08m of tarmac was removed, which lay above 0.03m of a hard, light grey-brown silt sub-base (102) with frequent angular pebble inclusions. Beneath this was 0.11m of a firm black fly-ash (103) which in turn covered a 0.12m deep layer of wire cut unfrosted red bricks (104) which did not appear to be demolition nor were they formally laid (see discussion). These bricks lay above >0.10m of a soft, mid yellow-brown sand (101), representing the natural glacial substrata.

### *Discussion*

The layer of black fly ash (103) completely sealed the brick layer and was almost certainly an imported material due to its association with being an industrial by-product. Therefore, the brick layer (104) which lay below the ash may share a similar provenance due to its physical relationship with the fly ash (103) which appeared to have been pressed into the voids between the bricks. These materials together may have once formed a surface of sorts (with the fly ash as the upper layer) on the land adjacent to the Cheshire Cheese PH. The brick layer (104) had the characteristic of having been deposited and roughly levelled, perhaps to act as a coarse aggregate for the fly ash (103) above. Furthermore, although the bricks did possess a degree of orthodoxy (having been lain down flat in areas) they did not conform to any formal wall structure or as a purposeful surface. The wire cut nature of the bricks (which measured 23cm by 11cm by 7.5cm) suggests an origin somewhere near the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century but the presence of modern plastic within the matrix of the brick layer suggests that the bricks were laid within the last forty years.

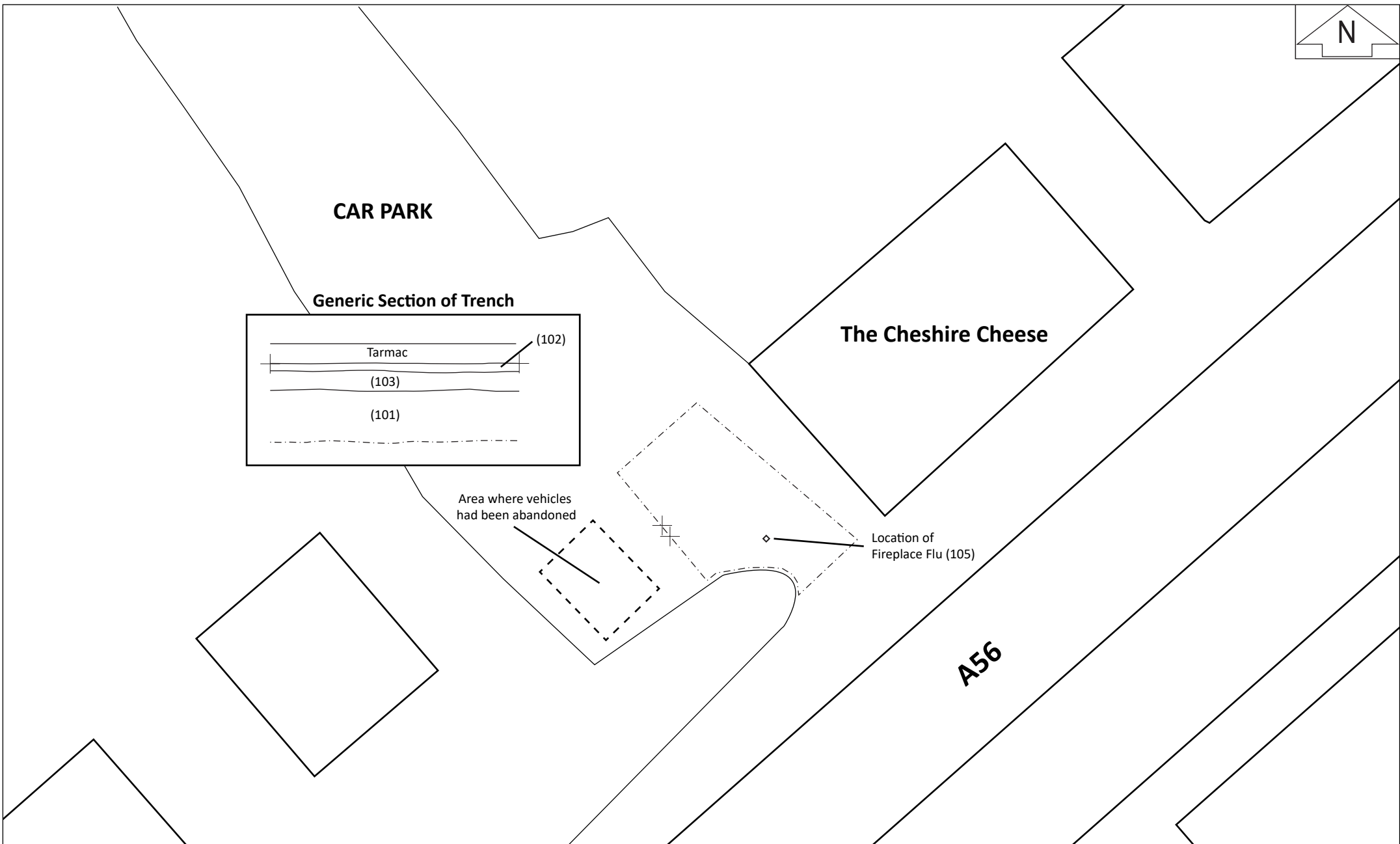
### **The fire pit (105)**

The fire pit (105) was cut [106] directly into the sand natural (101) within a square cut which was orientated north to south. The pit was constructed from unfrosted red bricks measuring 22cm by 12cm by 7.5cm and were bonded by lime mortar; these were arranged in three courses forming a square. They were built directly above three flat stones which formed the base of the pit and it appeared as if these stones were placed upon the natural (101). The structure (105) was then backfilled with a hard, clay-sand-silt (107) with occasional mortar inclusions. The only artefacts discovered at the site came from within this backfill context (107).



## *Discussion*

Aside from the solitary fire pit (105) all other elements relating to this structure appear to have been cleared away from the Site suggesting that following demolition, a thorough task of site clearance was undertaken leaving only the lower-most portion of the ash pit for the fireplace in situ. This would support the idea of the need for a raising of the area with bricks (104) and a stabilisation of the surface with fly ash (103).



**Figure 03:** Plan of showing location of archaeological feature (105) (Scale 1:500 @ A4), and generic section of Trench. Scale 1:20 @ A4



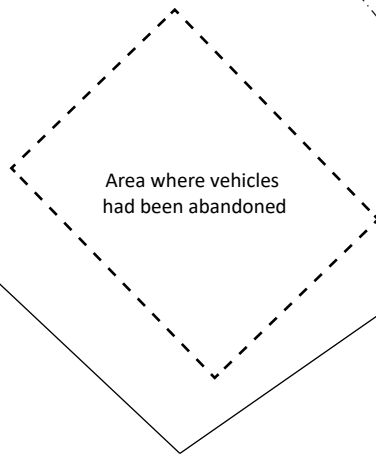
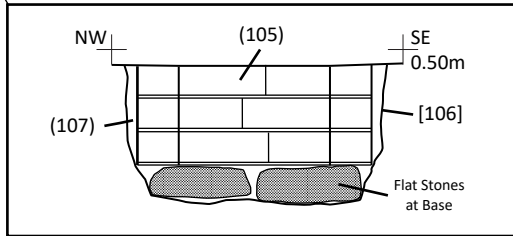
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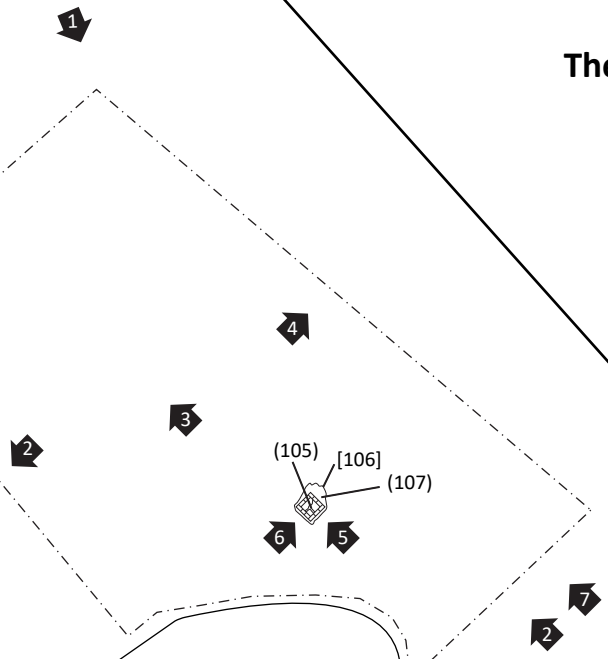
The Cheshire Cheese

Section of fireplace flue (105)



Flowerbed

A56



**Figure 04:** Plan of site showing direction of archaeological photography, (Scale 1:500 @ A4), and section drawing fireplace flue. Scale 1:20 @ A4.

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**Plate 01:** Pre excavation shot of the site - from the north - scale 1m



**Plate 02:** Brick demolition layer (104) revealed beneath dark ash layer (103) - from the southeast - scale 1m



**Plate 03:** Plastic projecting from beneath the Brick demolition layer (104) - from the southeast - scale 0.50m



**Plate 04:** Second example of plastic projecting from beneath the Brick demolition layer (104) - from the east - scale 0.50m



**Plate 05:** Plan shot of base of Fireplace flue (105) at basement level - from the southeast - scale 0.50m





**Plate 06:** Section of Fireplace flue (105) at basement level - from the southwest - scale 1m



**Plate 07:** Post excavation shot of the site - from the southeast - scale 1m



**Plate 08:** Generic section of trench - from the northwest - scale 0.50m

## 9.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation identified a single feature at the site; a square, brick-built ash pit pertaining to a fireplace. Although no associated archaeological remains were uncovered it is almost certain that the fire pit belonged to one of the post-medieval houses depicted on the tithe map as fronting on to Main Street and was the only structural element to have survived a phase of demolition at the Site. The survival of the ash pit is due to it having been cut into the natural glacial substrata and thus situated at a lower depth to the associated house structure. The use of ash pits were common throughout the post-medieval period and functioned partly as a flue bringing air into the fire base, but also as a pit to collect the associated ash. These required regular emptying so that the fire would draw as efficiently as possible.

Covering the fire pit was a large spread of wire-cut, unfrosted red bricks and black fly ash which were employed to level the area in advance of it being utilised as a car park. The wire-cut nature of the bricks suggests an origin somewhere near the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century but the presence of modern plastic within the matrix of the bricks suggests that they were deposited within the last forty years.

The evaluation was successfully undertaken by Aeon Archaeology. An appropriate line of communication was maintained between the Client and the Development Management Archaeologist at CAPAS, ensuring that the works advanced in compliance with the WSI. It is concluded that this investigation has been completed within expectations and in accordance with CIfA standards and guidance and has fully met the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition.

*OS Maps*

OS 1:10 000 Series sheet SJ 47 NE, SJ 47 SE, SJ 47 SW, SJ 47, SJ 48 NE, SJ 48 SE, SJ 48 SW, SJ 48 NW, SJ 57 NE, SJ 57 SE, SJ 57 SW, SJ 57 NW, SJ 58 NE, SJ 58 SE, SJ 58 SW and SJ 58 NW.

*Published sources*

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**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Excavation.**

**July 2019 v1.0**

**aeon archaeology**



Project Code: A0216.1  
Planning Ref: 18/01239/OUT  
Client: Bold Projects Ltd

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## July 2019

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by Bold Projects Ltd, (hereafter the Client), to provide a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for carrying out an archaeological excavation as part of a residential redevelopment to create six new build dwellings (C3 use) and the conversion and refurbishment of the Public House (A4 use) to create two dwellings (C3 use) with associated access, parking and amenity space on land adjacent to The Cheshire Cheese Public House, 29 Main Street, Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 7AZ (centred on **NGR SJ 51356 77664** (figures 1 - 3)).

Outline planning permission was obtained on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and the following condition concerning archaeology was applied to the consent (**18/01239/OUT**):

### Condition 6

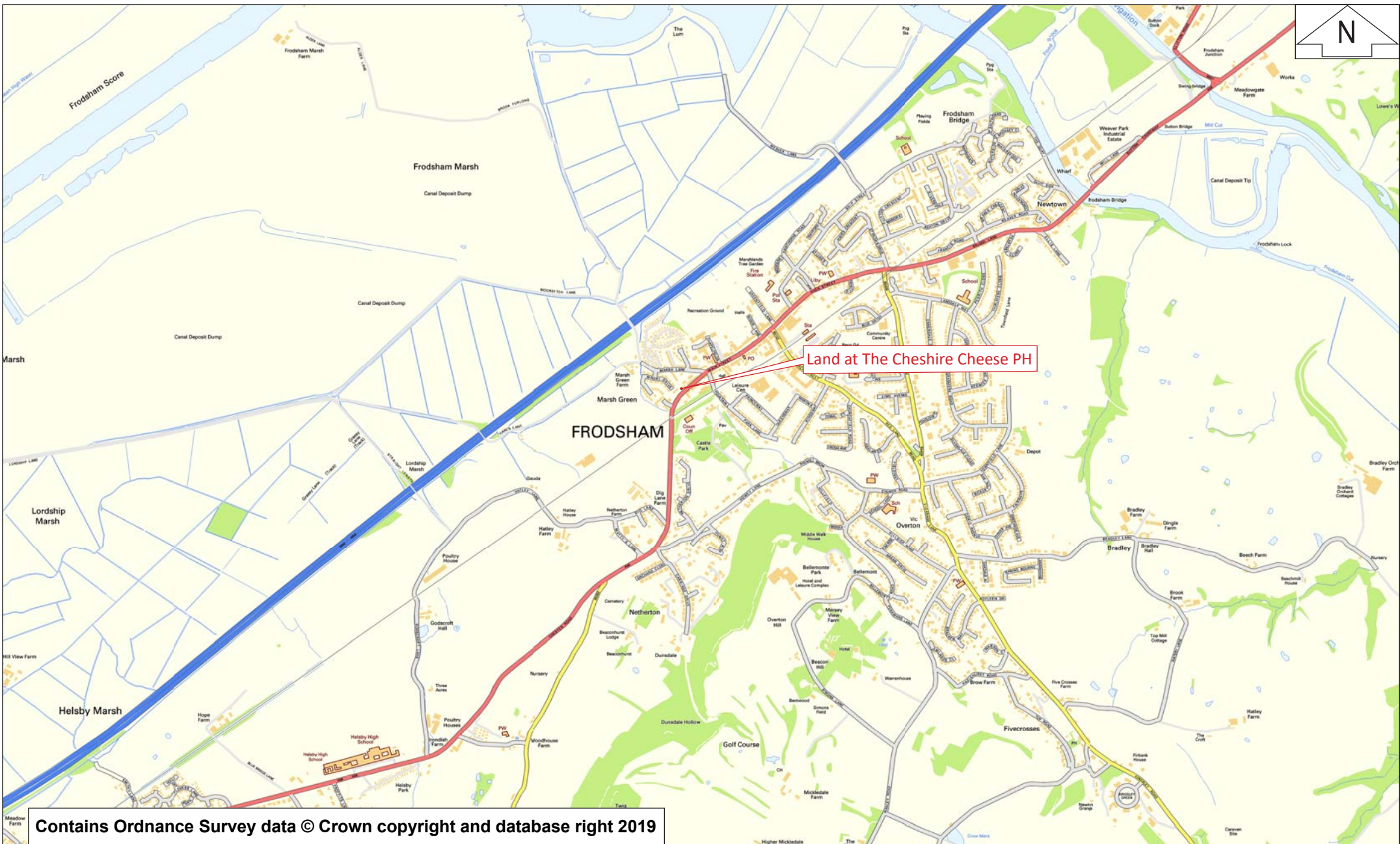
*No development shall take place within the site area until the applicant or agent (or successor in title) has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation that has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.*

*Reason: To ensure that the nature, extent and significance of this site of potential archaeological interest is adequately assessed. Having regard to Article 35 of the DMPO 2015, these details are required prior to the commencement of development to ensure that a scheme of investigation construction is agreed prior to any disruption of potential archaeological deposits.*

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The work will adhere to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Excavation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

This written scheme of investigation (WSI) partly addresses condition 6 of the outline planning permission and provides the aims, objectives and methodology for carrying out the archaeological excavation at the site.

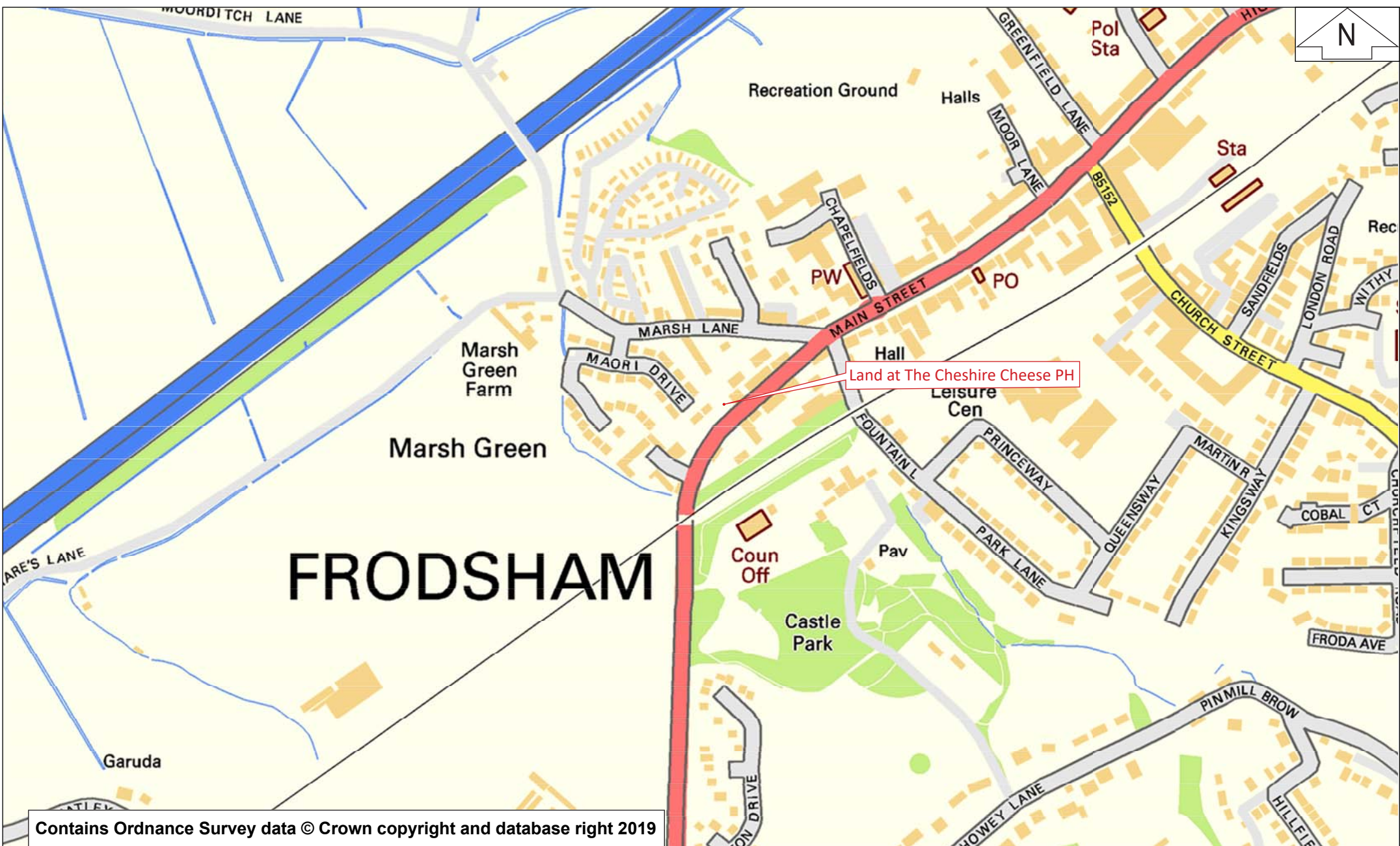


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Figure 01: Location of proposed development site on land adjacent to The Cheshire Cheese Public House, 29 Main Street, Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 7AZ. Scale 1:20,000 at A4.

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Figure 02: Location of proposed development site on land adjacent to The Cheshire Cheese Public House, 29 Main Street, Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 7AZ. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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Figure 03: Location of archaeological excavation on land adjacent to The Cheshire Cheese Public House, 29 Main Street, Frodsham, Cheshire WA6 7AZ. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

**Aeon Archaeology**  
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## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological potential is focussed on the fact that the site lies within Frodsham's area of Archaeological Potential, as defined during research conducted by the Cheshire Historic Towns Survey, which reflects the presumed extent of the settlement in the medieval and post-medieval settlement. During these periods, the street frontages are the locations most likely to have been occupied by dwellings and the 25' ordnance Survey map of c 1880 shows the present public house and outbuildings whilst the tithe map of 1846 shows an earlier structure occupying the present building's footprint, with further structures to the east in what is now the car park. The tithe apportionment describes these structures as 'homesteads' and they are best interpreted as domestic dwellings, with long thin plots to the rear.

It is not suggested that this archaeological interest is sufficient to generate an objection to the development or to justify further pre-determination work and it must be acknowledged that previous work in Frodsham has failed to locate any significant remains in the plots to the rear of the street frontage. In addition, it is noted that the bulk of the present building will be retained. In these circumstances, any archaeological interest is focussed on the other street frontage buildings in what is now part of the car park to the east of the inn. New dwellings are proposed here and any below-ground evidence of the previous structures will be destroyed by their construction. It is advised, therefore, that this part of the site (that part of the car park to the east of the inn and stretching 10m back from the street frontage) should be subject to a targeted programme of mitigation with the area stripped under archaeological supervision and any archaeological deposits excavated and recorded. A report will also be required (Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (Total Environment), Cheshire Shared Services (consultee comments 19/04/2018)).



Figure 04: Approximate location of the proposed development site on the 1846 tithe map of Frodsham.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AIMS

Before excavation commences an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface re-instatement and health and safety protection measures will be agreed with the Client and the Development Management Archaeologist and Team Leader (DMA) at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS) (Mr Mark Leah). The above named shall also be invited to attend a site meeting within the first five working days of commencement of archaeological works to review the programme, submitted method statement and arrangements that have been established for archaeological mitigation.

The size, location and orientation of the excavation area will be agreed in advance so as to best target areas that may contain archaeological features within the development footprint – however the intention is to excavate an area measuring c8.0m in length by c4.0m in width as shown in figure 03.

The broad aims of the archaeological excavation are:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.
- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.
- To enable the client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.
- To allow the DMA at CAPAS to make an informed decision on the need for and scope of further evaluative and/or mitigatory archaeological works at the site.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological excavation are:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.
- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Frodsham.

The archaeological excavation will target the following area:

1. The footprint of the proposed new dwellings to the west of The Cheshire Cheese Public House, Frodsham.

#### 4.0 METHOD STATEMENT – ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

If archaeological deposits are identified they will be manually cleaned, excavated and recorded to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features.

Contingency provision will be made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.
- Expansion of excavation trench limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core trench area.

The archaeological works will be surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The excavation area, deposits, features and structures within them will be accurately located on a site plan prepared at most appropriate and largest scale.

A written record of the trench content and all identified features will be completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas.

Any subsurface remains will be recorded photographically, with detailed notations, measured drawings, and a measured survey. The photographic record will be maintained using a digital SLR camera (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution (72dpi) with photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIFF format for long-term storage and JPEG format for presentation and inclusion in the archive. Photographic identification boards will also be used.

The excavation area will be opened with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

The excavation area and spoil heaps will be routinely investigated through the use of a metal detector and any finds/artefacts collected and processed as outlined in section 11.0.

To prevent any potential health and safety risk to the public and staff the excavation area will require cordoning with orange mesh fencing secured with road pins or heras fencing if appropriate.

All excavations, where required, will be backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure Aeon Archaeology will leave the site in a safe and tidy condition. Aeon Archaeology has not been requested to re-lay turf/lawn surface nor reinstate hard standing surfaces as found.



## 5.0 POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

A report on the results of the excavation and watching brief, in accordance with the recommendations in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation* (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 be subject to a specification (if required) for approval by the DMA at CAPAS upon the conclusion of the fieldwork project and preliminary report.

### 5.1 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.

Illustrations will include plans of the location of the study area and archaeological sites. Historical maps, when appropriate and if copyright permissions allow, will be included. Photographs of relevant sites and of the study area where appropriate will be included.

A draft copy of the report will be sent to the DMA at CAPAS and to the client for comment and approval prior to production of the final report.

## **6.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)**

The discovery of substantial archaeological remains and/or features during the archaeological works may result in the requirement for an extended programme of archaeological mitigation. This may require the submission of revised quotes to the client as well as a new specification which will be required to be approved by the DMA at CAPAS prior to implementation.

## **7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

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 linear 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)

## **8.0 HUMAN REMAINS**

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner, the DMA at CAPAS, and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England 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.

## **9.0 ARTEFACTS**

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with ClfA 2008 Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

All artefacts are the property of the landowner but it is recommended that finds are deposited with the rest of the project archive within an appropriate museum. Furthermore, the client agrees to granting access to all artefacts recovered by Aeon Archaeology for analysis, 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 archaeological works. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the DMA at CAPAS. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location and height will be plotted; 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 artefacts 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.

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)

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation and analysis of artefacts:

- 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: George Smith, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor.
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Environmental Material: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Ceramics: Leigh Dodd

## 10.0 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.

## 11.0 ARCHIVING

A draft copy of the report will be produced within two months of the completion of the fieldwork and sent to the Client and the DMA at CAPAS for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Bound copies of the report and an archive CD will be sent to the regional HER, and the Oasis online database for long term archiving. Furthermore, a summary of the project will be sent to relevant journal for publication if required.

## **12.0 PERSONNEL**

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

## **13.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON**

Regular liaison and site monitoring meetings will take place during all stages of work. The DMA at CAPAS will be informed of the start date and of discreet subsequent stages.

## **14.0 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.

## **15.0 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 07/09/19

Professional Indemnity Insurance – Insignia Underwriting Policy 347002

Limit of Indemnity £500,000 any one claim

The current period expires 07/09/19

