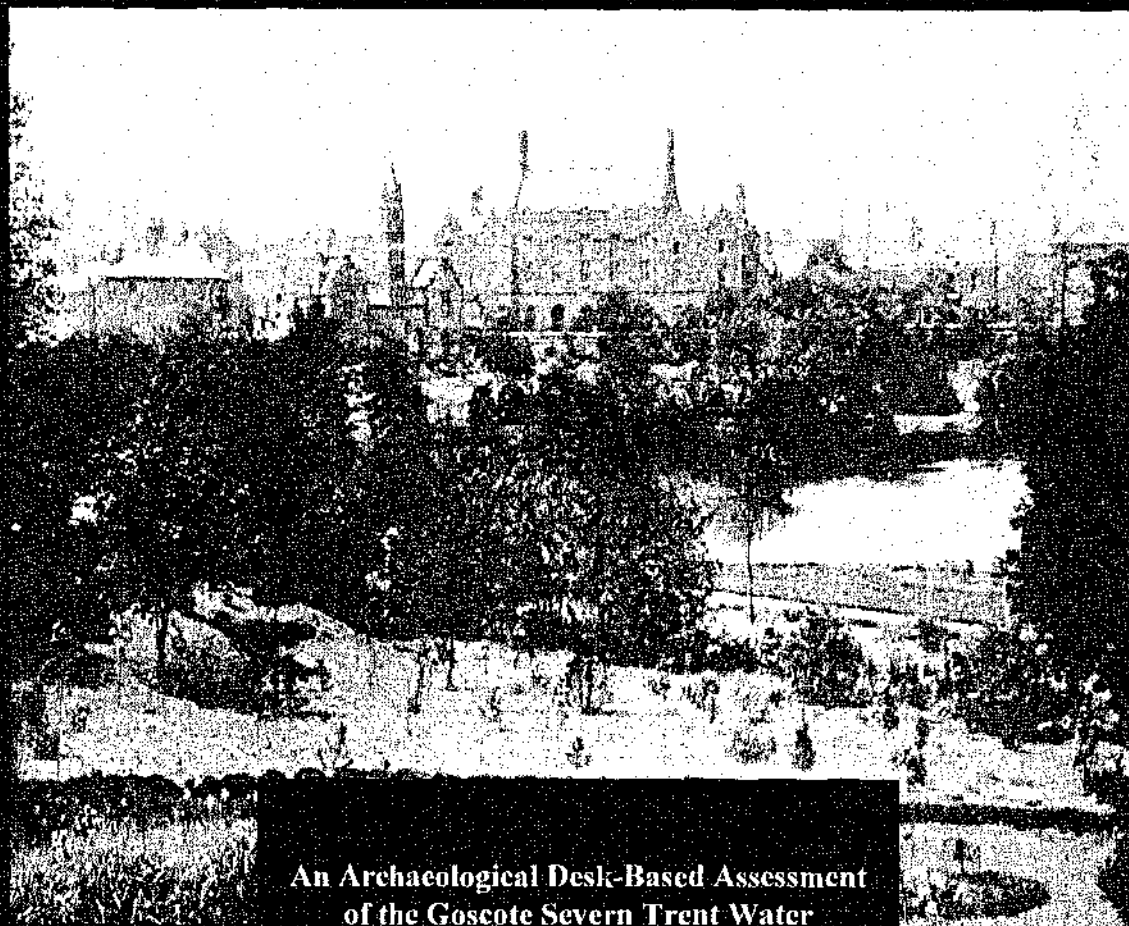


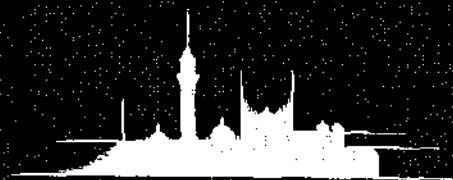
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An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
of the Goscote Severn Trent Water
Pumping Main, Walsall

1999

B.U.F.A.U.



Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
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**An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
of the Goscote Severn Trent Water Pumping Main, Walsall**

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by
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An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of the Goscote Severn Trent Water Pumping Main, Walsall

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1.0 Summary

This desk-based assessment has demonstrated that the route of the Goscote Severn Trent Water Pumping Main (NGR SP 0155 9958 to SP 0137 9587) may transect discrete areas of archaeological survival. Areas 3, 4 and 5 lie outside the medieval town limit and are likely to have been subject to quarrying. The route of the proposed pipeline, along existing roads, introduces the potential for disturbance by modern services. It is unlikely that any surviving archaeological deposits will be sufficiently extensive to further current understanding of these areas of Walsall, and no further archaeological mitigation is recommended in these areas. Below-ground deposits in Area 7 have some potential for contributing to current understanding of medieval, and possibly earlier, landscape and it is recommended that groundworks are monitored by a qualified archaeologist. Areas 1, 2 and 6 have a high potential for furthering our understanding of the medieval and early-post-medieval town and landscape. As with Area 7, it is recommended that groundworks be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. Should significant archaeological remains be recorded during this monitoring, provision should be made for a more intensive archaeological presence, which would allow for the full excavation and recording of the remains in advance of further groundworks, allowing their preservation by record.

2.0 Introduction

This report describes the results of a first stage of archaeological assessment of the proposed Goscote Severn Trent Water pumping main (hereafter the Survey Area) which runs from NGR SP 0155 9958 to SP 0137 9587. This assessment is based upon a search of documentary and cartographic sources, published and unpublished written records and a walkover survey of the proposed line. Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit produced this report on behalf of Severn Trent Water Limited. The guidelines set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994) were followed.

A general introduction will first place the Survey Area in context. It is followed by a consideration of the area's present character which will incorporate the results of a walkover survey, its historical and archaeological profile, the below-ground information, an assessment of the archaeological implications of groundworks, and recommendations for an archaeological response to those works. Illustrative maps and photographs are included to depict aspects of the area's archaeological and historical character.

3.0 Location of the Survey Area (Figure 1)

The Survey Area is located on the eastern side of Walsall town centre. The line of the proposed water main extends south from Ford Brook and follows Mill Lane, Butts Street and Upper Forster Street before crossing the Broadway Roundabout to Lichfield Street. From here it follows Walhouse Road, Broadway North, Delves Green Road, Bell Lane and terminates at Brockhurst Crescent.

The character of the Survey Area is largely residential. Broadway North represents the ring road around the eastern side of Walsall town centre.

4.0 Geology and Topography

The historic core of Walsall lies within and around a shallow stream valley. The Ford Brook, at the northern end of the Survey Area, joins with the Holbrook to form the Town Brook and this continues to the River Tame. Waterlogged alluvial deposits are present within the stream valley, whilst bands of sand and gravel, clay subsoil and limestone are recorded around the town outskirts (Baker 1989). The ground level varies considerably throughout the Survey Area (see **Section 6.0** Areas 1-7 below).

5.0 Historical Profile of the Survey Area

The specific chronology of the early medieval growth of Walsall has not been firmly established. Although the town is not recorded in the Domesday Survey, it may relate to the place-name 'Walesho' which was recorded in a will dating to 1002-4 (Baker 1989). The first certain record is dated to 1159 when Henry II granted the manor of Walsall to Herbert le Rous, a royal official. Evidence of the developing physical and administrative town structure begins to emerge in the 13th-century parish church, market and borough charters and records (Litherland 1996).

There are two hypotheses concerning the early development of Walsall. Gould argues that the focus of several historic routes at Town End indicates that this provided the focus for the original settlement of Walsall (Gould 1983). This contrasts with another school of thought which suggests that the parish church, located on its elevated hill-top site, was more likely to have provided the focus for settlement. In support of this, Dr Nigel Baker, a prominent historical geographer, suggests that the network of historic routes converge on the western end of Park Street because it formed the westernmost extent of the planned medieval town, not the centre of it (Baker 1989).

The earliest recorded site within the Survey Area is The Delves (PRN 6706) where a number of Roman coins have been found. The Delves may also have been a focus for pre-Conquest iron-working activity as a 19th-century historian records the existence of the 'Dane Shafts' (PRN 2630). However, no surviving evidence of these has yet been found. Other possible medieval sites within the Survey Area are represented by settlements which were clustered around The Delves, Walhouse Road and Rushall Street. Industrial activity was characterised by coal and iron-mining at The Arboretum and adjacent golf course and at The Delves. John

Leland commented on the prominence of mining in the town of Walsall in 1540 (VCH 1976). A medieval mill may have been located at Mill Lane (see **Section 6.1** Area 1 below).

Yates' map of Staffordshire, dated 1775, although schematic in nature, shows that the town was well-established by this time, with all the arterial routes being lined with ribbon development. This expansion continued throughout the 18th century, and increased when the Birmingham canal was extended to Walsall in 1799. This connected the town to a nationwide transport system and allowed increased import and export of heavy industrial goods, including locally produced ironstone, limestone and coal. Both the Snape map of 1782 and the Mason map of 1824 chronicle the continued expansion of Walsall beyond the confines of the medieval borough. Much of the early-19th century development of Walsall was carried out under the auspices of two men, Lord Bradford who owned land to the southwest of the town, and John Walhouse and his successors, the barons of Hatherton, who owned land to the northeast.

The canal was superseded by the railway in the mid-19th century and this had a particular impact on the town's leather-working industry which gained in importance once it could be connected to the surrounding region. Tanning sites are recorded to the north of the Broadway roundabout. The railway also caused the town centre to shift from the parish church and market, towards the railway itself.

6.0 A Detailed Assessment of the Survey Area

The Survey Area has been divided into seven areas of potential archaeological survival. Each area will be evaluated and discussed under the following headings:

Present Character includes a description of the built environment, together with observations on land-use made during a site inspection.

Historical and Archaeological Profile provides an outline of the historical development of the area and provides details of any previous archaeological work carried out within the area.

Sites and Monuments Record includes individual PRN numbers for entries on the SMR record. This includes buildings which are considered to be of local architectural, historical or archaeological (including industrial) importance. The inclusion of these buildings has no statutory significance and confers no protection on the building or feature. Information from the SMR is integrated into the narrative for **Historical and Archaeological Profile**.

Below-Ground Information includes information gathered during the site inspection regarding potential structural and service disruption.

Palaeoenvironmental Deposits provides an indication of the potential of each area for containing preserved organic and environmental data.

Archaeological Potential summarises the potential of each area for further archaeological investigation and gives an indication of the potential importance of standing remains and of potential below-ground deposits and features.

6.1 Area 1: Mill Lane, Butts Street and Upper Forster Street (Figure 1; Plates 1 and 2)

Present Character

This area extends south from Ford Brook and the railway to the junction of Upper Forster Street and the Broadway roundabout. At the northern end of Area 1, the Ford Brook is lined with concrete and is c.3m wide. An area of overgrown vegetation extends from the northeastern edge of the Brook up to a railway line to the west and a railway bridge to the north. A stone-built bridge carries Mill Lane over Ford Brook. A mixture of 19th and 20th-century housing lines the northern end of Mill Lane. An open grassed area is located at the corner of Mill Lane and William Street. The Butts Tavern stands at the junction of Butts Street with Butts Road and modern housing extends along Butts Street. The northern side of Upper Forster Street is also lined with modern housing. The 19th-century buildings of Queen Mary's School line the southern side.

Historical and Archaeological Profile

Analysis of the Walsall Tithe map reveals that Mill Lane and Butts Street follow the same line as they did in the 1840s. During this period a single building, probably the mill, was located to the northeast of Mill Lane. It was linked to the Ford Brook via a spur or leat. By 1886 when the First Edition Ordnance Survey map was published the 'Butts Foundry' occupied the site of the mill, although the mill race was still in existence. The location of the 19th-century mill on an existing leat, and the name 'Mill Lane' suggests that this might also have been the site of an earlier, possibly medieval, mill (White 1998).

The area to the south of the Foundry on Mill Lane, and Butts Street, was largely built up with terraced housing by 1886. Forster Street had also been laid out. Forster Street runs parallel to Lichfield Street on its western side. At the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey it had terraced housing down its west side, and detached houses and the rear of Queen Mary's Grammar School (PRN 8963) along the eastern side. The school was founded in 1554 by Mary Queen of Scots and was relocated to this site in 1847 (Willmore 1887, 210-215). By the time of the Provisional Edition Ordnance Survey map, revised in 1912-13 with additions in 1938, the Foundry on Mill Lane had been demolished and a new building occupied the site. Only minor changes in the arrangement of houses along Butts Street and Forster Street had occurred by this period.

Sites and Monuments Record

PRN 8963 Queen Mary's School, Lichfield Street

Large 19th-century brick building.

PRN 11020 Iron Foundry, northeast of Mill Lane

Ordnance Survey map of 1887 shows an iron foundry to the northeast of Mill Lane and to the west of Butts Foundry (see PRN 11021 below).

PRN 11021 Butts Foundry, north of Mill Lane

Ordnance Survey map of 1887 shows a brass and iron foundry north of Mill Lane.

Below-Ground Information

Below-ground deposits relating to the putative medieval mill on the northeastern bank of Ford Brook may survive, despite later disturbance from a 19th-century mill and iron foundry. The foundry is now demolished. The Brook itself has been lined with concrete, and it is not known whether the Brook was dredged prior to the insertion of this lining. It is possible that the lining was inserted directly over the existing stream banks, so acting as a protective layer over the earlier deposits.

Palaeoenvironmental Deposits

This area has the potential to provide information relating to earlier use of Ford Brook and of the surrounding landscape. Evidence of the 19th-century mill leat and mill race may have survived. It is also possible that deposits and features of the putative medieval mill may be present at the northern end of this area. Artefactual and environmental material and depositional information relating to the Ford Brook and its use from the medieval period onwards will be archaeologically significant.

Archaeological Potential

Earlier archaeological desk-based assessments, evaluations, watching briefs and excavations have shown that the below-ground evidence in Walsall has a great deal of potential to answer questions concerning the industrialisation of the town itself and of the West Midlands as a whole. Any remains associated with the 19th-century mill and later foundries would be of interest. The potential survival of a medieval mill, associated leat and waterlogged deposits at the northern end of Area 1 is of great significance. Area 1 may also contain the remains of prehistoric activity, such as burnt mounds, which have been found associated with brooks and streams on a number of sites elsewhere within the West Midlands.

6.2 Area 2: Broadway Roundabout, Lichfield Street, western half of Walhouse Road (Figure 1; Plates 3 and 4)

Present Character

This area extends south from Upper Forster Street and the Broadway roundabout, across the northern end of Lichfield Street. It continues up to and includes the western half of Walhouse Road. A tarmaced area slopes down from Upper Forster Street to the Broadway roundabout. The northwestern end of Walhouse Road has a carpark on one side and a Mr Clutch building and Safeways carpark on the other side. A modern block of flats, fronted by a wide grassed area, is located at the corner of Lower Rushall Street and Walhouse Road. The remainder of Walhouse Road is characterised by a mixture of 19th and 20th-century houses, all of which front on to the side streets rather than on to Walhouse Road itself. The road slopes steeply upwards from Broadway roundabout to Area 3.

Historical and Archaeological Profile

Lichfield Street was constructed in 1830, and by 1840 had become the major route between Walsall and Lichfield. Its route is little changed on the ground today. Prior to the creation of Lichfield Street, the arterial route into the town from the north was Rushall Street; it was first

recorded in 1339 and appears on King's map of 1679 (Baker 1989, 11). Mason's plan of 1824 shows block plans of buildings and property boundaries of the plots aligning Rushall Street.

Walhouse Road had also been laid out by the time of Mason's plan. The western half was lined by properties at its junction with Lower Rushall Street and it lead to an area of open land behind. The road ran between 'Mr Smiths Croft' at the north end and 'The In-Towns' at the south end. It is visible on the Walsall Tithe map of c.1840 linking Lichfield Street with Lower Rushall Street. In 1886 (according to the First Edition Ordnance Survey map) it was known as Walhouse Street, and was lined with properties for its whole length. With only minor changes to the property layout along its southern side, the street had become known as Walhouse Road by the time of the Provisional Edition Ordnance Survey (1912/13 with additions in 1938). By the early 1970s the majority of the buildings along the northern side of the road had been demolished and the area was open. Properties on the southern side of the road had been demolished and new ones built.

Sites and Monuments Record

PRN 3370 Globe Works, Lower Forster Street

19th-century leather-working site.

PRN 4742 Lower Rushall Street

Excavation in 1974-75 identified medieval and post-medieval remains, including leather-working (Wrathmell and Wrathmell 1975).

PRN 6068 The Arboretum Limeworks, Lichfield Street

Limestone quarry abandoned in the mid-19th century.

PRN 6668 Walhouse Road, Dog Kennel Lane and Rushall Street

Archaeological monitoring which was carried out in 1995, as part of the Walsall Inner Relief Road Scheme, identified post-medieval remains (Mould 1995).

PRN 8961 58, Lichfield Street

Two-storey brick house dated c.1850.

PRN 8962 55-56, Lichfield Street

Two-storey brick house dated c.1850.

PRN 8965 Arboretum Clock, Lichfield Street/Broadway

19th-century clock tower.

Below-Ground Information

This area lies within the medieval town limits of Walsall and as such has been subject to a lengthy period of activity. Below-ground deposits are likely to have been affected by later post-medieval and modern construction. However, earlier excavation (Baker 1989) and archaeological monitoring (Mould 1995) has demonstrated the survival of medieval and early-post-medieval structural remains. Archaeological work elsewhere within the West

Midlands has demonstrated that archaeological remains can survive as ‘islands’ between later activity. It is possible that Area 2 might contain intact below-ground deposits relating to the area’s earlier historical use.

Palaeoenvironmental Deposits

The Ford Brook is carried underground through Area 2. However, the depth of the proposed pipeline is shallower than that of the Ford Brook Tunnel. Elsewhere in Area 2, datable deposits and features have the potential to provide valuable environmental information relating to its medieval landuse.

Archaeological Potential

As outlined above, previous archaeological work within the immediate vicinity of Area 2 has recorded the survival of medieval and early-post-medieval structural remains. The proximity of Area 2 to the medieval town enhances the significance of any deposits and features which survive below ground and which will be affected by the proposed pipeline. Any deposits have the potential to contribute to and further the current understanding of Walsall’s medieval town-plan.

None of the standing buildings listed by the SMR will be affected by the proposed pipeline route. The tannery on Lower Forster Street will also be unaffected.

6.3 Area 3: eastern half of Walhouse Road (Figure 1)

Present Character

This area is made up of the eastern half of Walhouse Road, from Persehouse Street up to the junction with Broadway North. The ground level rises significantly from Persehouse Street to Rowley Street and is then relatively level as far as Charlotte Street. From here it drops steeply to the junction with Broadway North. Apart from one open space on the northern side of Walhouse Road, between Rowley Street and Charlotte Street, this area is characterised by residential housing. Land on the southern side of Walhouse Road, at the junction with Broadway North, is being developed by David Wilson Homes.

Historical and Archaeological Profile

The line of Walhouse Road was laid out by 1824 (see **Section 6.2** above). According to Mason’s plan of 1824, the western half of the road was slightly doglegged with the eastern half of the street. It was bounded by properties at its junction with Rushall Street and lead into open fields. Mason’s plan shows access lanes leading off this part of Walhouse Road to the rear of properties fronting onto the eastern side of Rushall Street. Baker suggests that “the provision of a rear service lane for the plots on the east side of the street, and not those on the west, may reflect functional considerations” (Baker 1989, 21). The Tithe Map of 1840 shows the road leading into fields. No houses are represented.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1886) names the eastern section of Walhouse Road as ‘Upper Walhouse Street’. The road had been extended eastwards by this period and was

lined by a mixture of properties with gardens, and occasional open plots, leading, again, into open fields. The road was extended once more to the east some time before additions were made to the Ordnance Survey map in 1938. By that time the road had taken on its modern crescent shape and was connected to the Broadway North ring road. By the 1970s, the street was lined by small terraced blocks of 3-4 houses.

Sites and Monuments Record

There are no SMR entries for Area 3.

Below-Ground Information

Prior to the 19th century, Area 3 comprised open fields. Below-ground deposits will have been affected by 19th and 20th-century residential construction. The extent of disturbance by service trenches to deposits along the proposed pipeline is not known.

Palaeoenvironmental Deposits

No waterlogged deposits are anticipated within Area 3.

Archaeological Potential

Area 3 lies outside the core of the medieval town. Below-ground deposits relating to its medieval and post-medieval use may survive. However, the potential for recovery of settlement evidence is considered to be low.

6.4 Area 4: Broadway North, junction with Walhouse Road to The Crescent (Figure 1)

Present Character

This area extends southeast from the junction of Broadway North with Walhouse Road to that with The Crescent. The northern end of Broadway North, which is closest to the town centre, is characterised by 19th-century housing. The Arboretum, a large landscaped park and a golf course, lies on the northeastern side of Broadway, behind these houses.

Historical and Archaeological Profile

Prior to the construction of the Broadway North ring road in the 1930s, cartographic evidence shows that this area was represented by open fields and that it lay outside the medieval town-plan. Limestone quarrying had taken place to the east of the ring road up to the 19th-century and the Arboretum is constructed over one of these backfilled quarries.

Sites and Monuments Record

PRN 5710 The Arboretum

19th-century park on site of earlier limestone quarry.

Below-Ground Information

Until the construction of the ring road in the 1930s, this area was represented by open fields. Some below-ground disturbance along the proposed pipeline route may have been caused by works associated with limestone quarrying. However, the extent of quarrying and of disturbance caused by service trenches to deposits along the proposed pipeline is not known.

Palaeoenvironmental Deposits

No waterlogged deposits are anticipated within Area 4.

Archaeological Potential

Deposits and features relating to Area 4's former landuse in the medieval, and possibly earlier, period may survive along the route of the proposed pipeline. However, these may have been truncated by later 19th-century quarrying. The potential of these deposits to enhance or add to the current understanding of this area of Walsall's historical development is considered to be low.

The Arboretum park and lakes will not be affected by the proposed pipeline.

6.5 Area 5: Broadway North, junction with The Crescent to Delves Green Road (Figure 1)

Present Character

This area extends southwest from the junction of Broadway North with The Crescent to its junction with Delves Green Road. Broadway North is characterised by residential housing interspersed with shops. A sports ground and rugby playing field are located on the western side of the road.

Historical and Archaeological Profile

Area 5 lies outside the medieval town. Cartographic evidence shows that, prior to the construction of Broadway North ring road in the 1930s, the area was represented by open fields. A 19th-century house with a park and gardens, which belonged to an agent of Lord Bradford, was located on the site of the modern-day University Halls (PRN 5997). Following completion of the ring road, Broadway was lined with houses along both sides, except where playing fields are located around the university buildings.

Sites and Monuments Record

PRN 5997 Wolverhampton University Halls of Residence, Gorway Road

20th-century building on site of 19th-century residence, park and gardens of Lord Bradford's agent.

Below-Ground Information

This area comprised open fields until the construction of the ring road and subsequent residential development in the 1930s and 1940s. Although the extent of disturbance by

existing services along the proposed pipeline is not known, it is likely that deposits within Area 5 will have been largely unaffected by modern structural development.

Palaeoenvironmental Deposits

No waterlogged deposits are anticipated within Area 5.

Archaeological Potential

Below-ground deposits within Area 5 may have survived intact. However, the area's former use as open fields, combined with its location - outside the medieval town - diminishes the potential for below-ground deposits to further the current understanding of Walsall's historical development.

6.6 Area 6: Delves Green Road, Bell Lane, eastern end of Brockhurst Crescent (Figure 1; Plates 5, 6 and 7)

Present Character

This area includes Delves Green Road, Bell Lane and the eastern end of Brockhurst Crescent. The ground level increases gradually from the junction of Delves Green Road with Broadway to its junction with Bell Lane. A playing field with football pitches extends along the western side of Delves Green Road, whilst a series of allotments extends along the eastern side. Full Brook bisects the allotments and is then carried underground, beneath the road and playing field. The brook has steep-sided banks and carries water.

From its junction with Delves Crescent up to that with Bell Lane, Delves Green Road is residential in character and is lined with semi-detached houses. Bell Lane also has a residential character and its ground level drops steadily towards West Bromwich Road.

A large expanse of grassland, called Delves Green, lies to the south of Delves Green Road's junction with Bell Lane. It extends west to Poplar Avenue. A junior and middle school is located on the northern side of Bell Lane. From Poplar Avenue onwards, a wide tree-lined strip of land separates the main carriageway from a narrower road. This provides access to the houses on the southern side of Bell Lane.

There are two open grassed areas on either side of Bell Lane's junction with West Bromwich Road. At the junction with Brockhurst Crescent, there is a row of shops on one side and modern building, Delves Resource Centre, on the other side. A series of raised earthworks is visible in the grassed area at the front of the Resource Centre. Brockhurst Crescent is characterised by residential housing.

Historical and Archaeological Profile

Finds of Roman coins (PRN 6706) and the reference to 'Dane Shafts' (PRN 2630) at the Delves suggests that the area is of some antiquity; probably connected with the exploitation of natural outcrops of iron ore.

Delves Green Road crosses the course of the Full Brook and follows the line of an old field boundary and footpath, evident on the First Edition OS map (1886), that lead to Walstead Hall, north of Delves Green. The last Walstead Hall (PRN 6705) was a three storied, double fronted building, and may be the structure, with out buildings and two medium sized ponds, depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map at the junction of what are now called Bell Lane and Delves Green Road. By 1938 (Provisional Edition Ordnance Survey map) a school occupied the locality of the house, and the whole area had been built up with a mixture of terraced and detached housing.

The line of Bell Lane, can be identified on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, leading east to Botany Bay and west to Delves Hall Farm (PRN 6703) which was built at the junction with West Bromwich Road. The Hall and associated farm buildings, visible on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1886), were still standing on the site in the early 1970s when the 1:10,000 map series was drawn up. Delves Hall Farm buildings recorded on the SMR prior to their demolition include the house, enclosed by a large wall; a dairy; a brewhouse; a large barn and an enclosed rick yard. The SMR also noted that the site stood several feet higher than the surrounding area, possibly due to intensive occupation from an earlier period.

Sites and Monuments Record

PRN 2630 Dane Shafts, The Delves

Possible pre-conquest iron-working.

PRN 6663 Church, Delves Green

19th-century building with Chapel of Ease.

PRN 6703 Delves Hall Farm, West Bromwich Road

Farmhouse and brewery, no longer standing, possibly on the site of earlier medieval house.

PRN 6704 Settlement, The Delves

Medieval and post-medieval settlement, including Delves Common, Westwood Hayes Farm (see PRN 6705 below), a church (see PRN 6663 above), schoolroom and cottages.

PRN 6705 Walstead Hall, The Delves

Medieval and 16th-century farm/manor houses. Sixteenth-century house was demolished in 1932. This may be the unmarked building on First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885.

PRN 6706 Roman Coins, The Delves

Coins found around The Delves in 1980s.

Below-Ground Information

This area was largely undeveloped until the 1930s. With the exception of Walstead Hall and Delves Hall (see **Historical and Archaeological Profile** above) there was little below-ground disturbance prior to the late-1930s and it is likely that deposits and features relating to medieval, and possibly earlier, landuse and settlement will have survived. Areas of particular potential are along Full Brook, the boundary of Delves Green, the grassed areas on either side

of Bell Lane and earthworks on the site of the former Delves Hall, now the Delves Resource Centre.

Construction of the underground tunnel which carries Full Brook under Delves Green Road is likely to have affected below-ground deposits. The extent of disturbance by existing services along the proposed pipeline is not known.

Palaeoenvironmental Deposits

The proposed pipeline will transect Full Brook at Delves Green Road and this area is likely to provide informative, waterlogged, environmental data relating to the Brook's medieval, and potentially earlier, use.

Archaeological Potential

The Delves and Full Brook represent important foci for medieval, and possibly earlier, settlement and industrial activity. Unlike Areas 1-5 and 7, Area 6 is characterised by open land (playing field, allotments, Delves Green). The potential for transecting previously undisturbed, datable, deposits and features is considered to be high. Waterlogged deposits are likely to be recovered from Full Brook and these, along with datable deposits and features close to Delves Green, have the potential to considerably enhance our knowledge of this part of Walsall. Area 6 may also contain the remains of prehistoric activity, such as burnt mounds, which have been found associated with brooks and streams on a number of sites elsewhere within the West Midlands.

Area 7: Brockhurst Crescent (Figure 1; Plate 8)

Present Character

This area is represented by the middle section of Brockhurst Crescent and by a grassed area which forms part of a much larger public open space. The grassed area is steeply inclined from the Crescent to an embankment for the M6 motorway. A British Steel Distribution Centre is located on the northern side of Brockhurst Crescent and 20th-century residential semi-detached houses are on the southern side.

Historical and Archaeological Profile

Until the 1970s, Area 7 was represented by open fields which probably belonged to Delves Hall Farm (see **Section 6.6** above). Area 7 lay outside the medieval town and appeared to have been separate from the more disparate historical activity at the farm, and at The Delves further to the east.

Sites and Monuments Record

There are no SMR entries for Area 7.

Below-Ground Information

This area was developed in the late-20th century and the below-ground deposits have not been subjected to a long period of structural development. The extent of disturbance by existing services along the proposed pipeline is not known. However, it is likely that deposits within the grassed area will be intact.

Palaeoenvironmental Deposits

No waterlogged deposits are anticipated within Area 7.

Archaeological Potential

Below-ground deposits have not been subject to a long period of development and, as such, are likely to be largely intact. This is particularly applicable to the open grassed area which appears to represent the earlier open field system. As such, deposits in Area 7 have the potential to further our understanding of former cultivation and landuse in the medieval and post-medieval periods. These deposits are unlikely to shed any light upon the historical development of Walsall town itself.

7.0 Recommendations for an Archaeological Response (Figure 1)

The recommendations below provide an outline of the stages of archaeological mitigation which may be required for each of the seven areas of potential archaeological survival, if the proposed groundworks are approved. Each of the identified areas may require a different level of response. However, the precise nature of such mitigation would need to be approved by Walsall Borough Council and the West Midlands Sites and Monuments Office.

Recommended levels of archaeological mitigation are as follows:

Areas 3, 4 and 5

As detailed above, these areas lie outside the medieval town limit and are likely to have been subject to quarrying. The route of the proposed pipeline, along the existing roads, introduces the potential for disturbance by modern services. It is unlikely that any surviving archaeological deposits will be sufficiently extensive to further current understanding of these areas of Walsall and no further archaeological mitigation is recommended.

Area 7

Area 7 was represented by open fields until the 1970s and below-ground deposits are likely to survive intact within this zone. There is some potential for gaining a deeper understanding of medieval, and possibly earlier, landuse in this area. It is therefore recommended that groundworks are monitored by a qualified archaeologist.

Areas 1, 2 and 6

Below-ground deposits in these areas have a high potential to further our understanding of the medieval and early-post-medieval landscape. Although development has taken place within these areas, it is not clear to what extent the below-ground deposits along the proposed pipeline (i.e. in the tarmac roads) will have been affected. As with Area 7, it is recommended

that the groundworks be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. Should significant archaeological remains be recorded during this monitoring, provision should be made for a more intensive archaeological presence, which would allow for the full excavation and recording of the remains in advance of further groundworks, allowing their preservation by record.

On completion of the mitigation fieldwork, it may be appropriate to prepare an assessment of the significance of the findings, in accordance with the recommendations of Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage 1991), with a view to further analysis and publication of the results in a local archaeological journal.

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9.0 Acknowledgements

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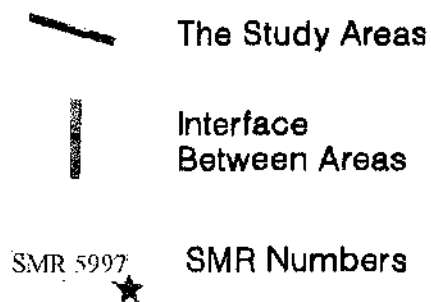
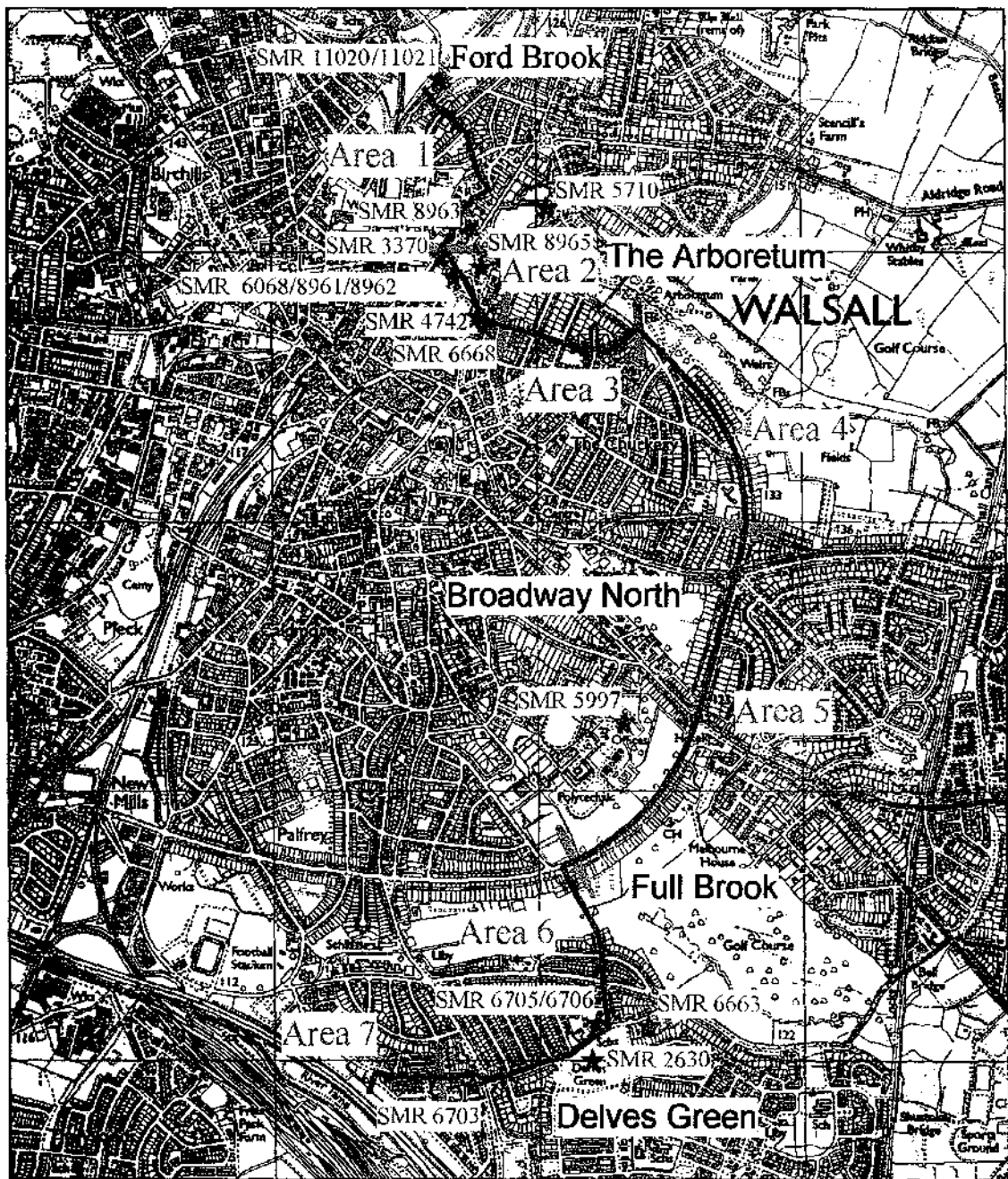


Figure 1



Map 1



Map 2



Map 3



Plate 1: Area 1. Ford Brook, taken from bridge over Mill Lane.



Plate 2: Area 1. Overgrown vegetation adjacent to Mill Lane and Ford Brook.

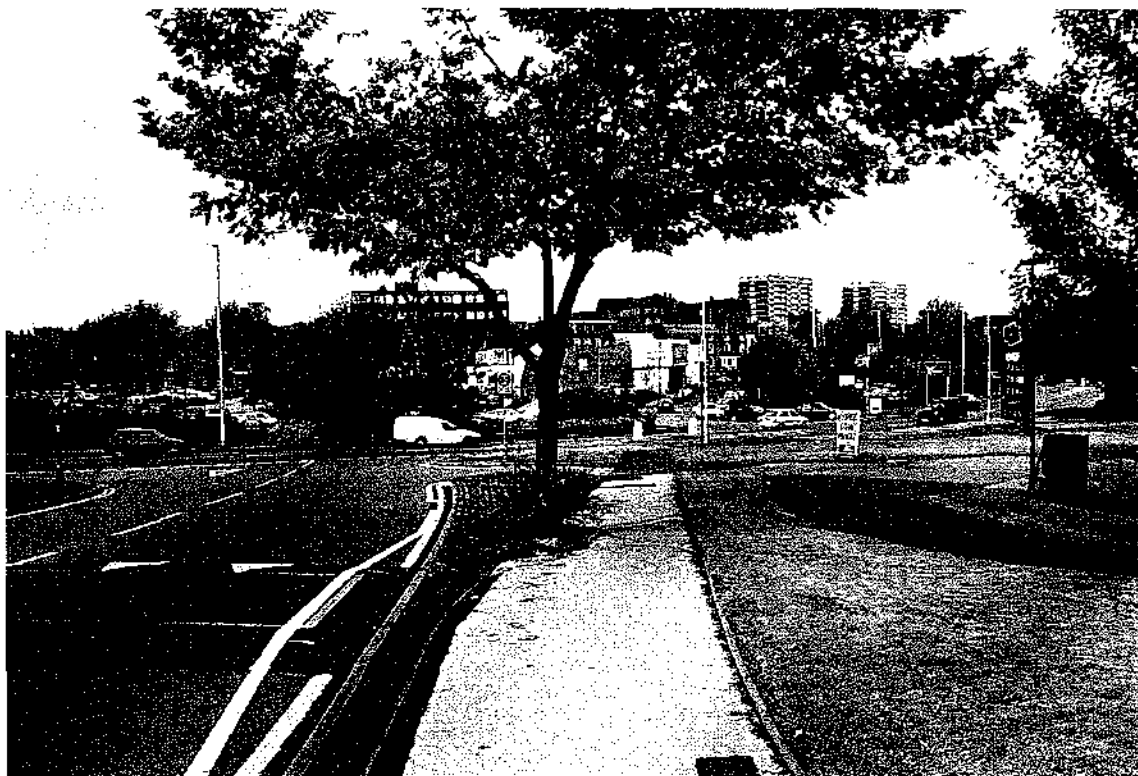


Plate 3: Area 2. Walhouse Road, looking towards Lichfield Street and Broadway roundabout.



Plate 4: Area 2. Walhouse Road, looking towards Persehouse Street.



Plate 5: Area 6. Full Brook, to east of Delves Green Road.



Plate 6: Area 6. Delves Green, at junction of Delves Green Road with Bell Lane.



Plate 7: Area 6. Delves Resource Centre, former site of Delves Hall.



Plate 8: Area 7. Public open space to the south of Brockhurst Crescent.