

## Archaeological Watching Brief at Old Hall Hotel, Sandbach, Cheshire



Old Hall Hotel, Sandbach

**ARS Ltd Report 2011/62**

June 2011

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## **Archaeological Watching Brief at Old Hall Hotel, Sandbach, Cheshire**

**ARS Ltd Report 2011/62**

**Archaeological Research Services Ltd**

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## ***Executive Summary***

*In January 2011 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by IB Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Old Hall Hotel, Sandbach, Cheshire. The work was carried out during exploratory groundworks for a proposed extension to east of the existing seventeenth century Grade I listed building. The objective of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological features possibly associated with the hall.*

*The Development Control Archaeologist of Cheshire East Council required that a watching brief should be carried out to observe any groundworks taking place for the proposed extension in order to identify any potential archaeological remains. This involved monitoring under watching brief conditions the machine excavation of two small exploratory evaluation trenches, service trenches, foundation trenches and a soak-away pit.*

*A photographic record was also made of the basement, which revealed no significant historic features. The photographic record is reproduced as Appendix 2.*

*The results of the watching brief revealed that no archaeological remains were present within the excavated areas. The only finds present were reasonably modern butchered animal bones.*

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 In January 2011 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by IB Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Old Hall Hotel, High Street, Sandbach, Cheshire (Fig. 1). The work was carried out during exploratory groundworks for a proposed extension to east of the existing seventeenth century Grade I listed building (LBS 56218).
- 1.2 The hall is dated 1656, and it is a large black and white timber framed building occupying the site of the ancient mansion of the *Sondbaches* who were once lords of the manor.
- 1.3 The objective of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological features possibly associated with the hall.
- 1.4 Old Hall is situated to the south-east of Sandbach town centre, on the south side of High Street (SJ 759 606). The site is situated within the car park to the east of a brick extension to the rear of the timber framed Old Hall.
- 1.5 The solid geology of the site consists of Triassic mudstones, sandstones and silts whilst the superficial deposits comprise glaciofluvial sands and gravels (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/>). The soils are classified as naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy soils (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>). The site lies around 60m above ordnance datum (AOD) and slopes gently to the east.

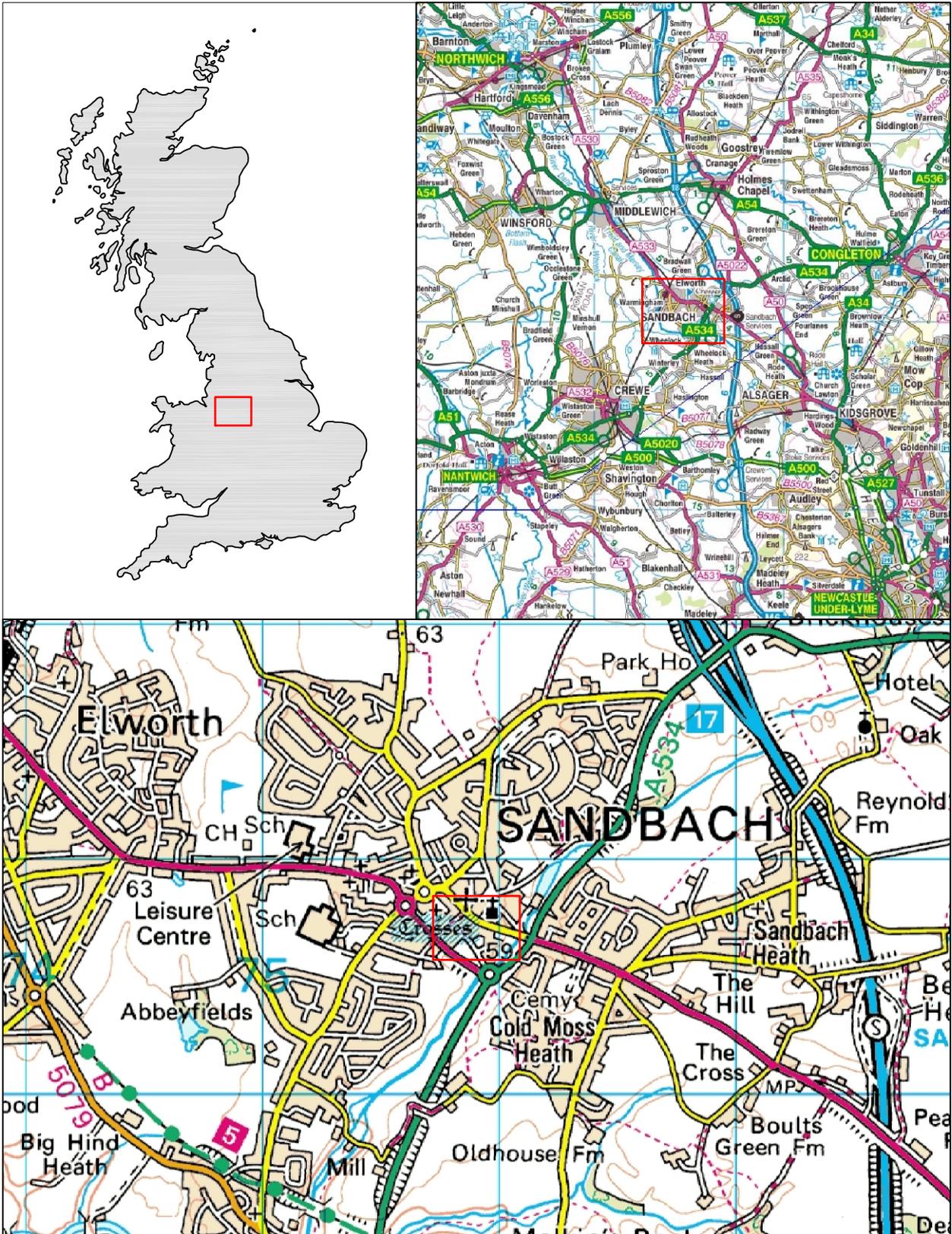


Figure 1. Site Location

Ordnance Survey data if applicable  
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 100045420

Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
Angel House  
Portland Square  
Bakewell  
Derbyshire  
DE45 1HB

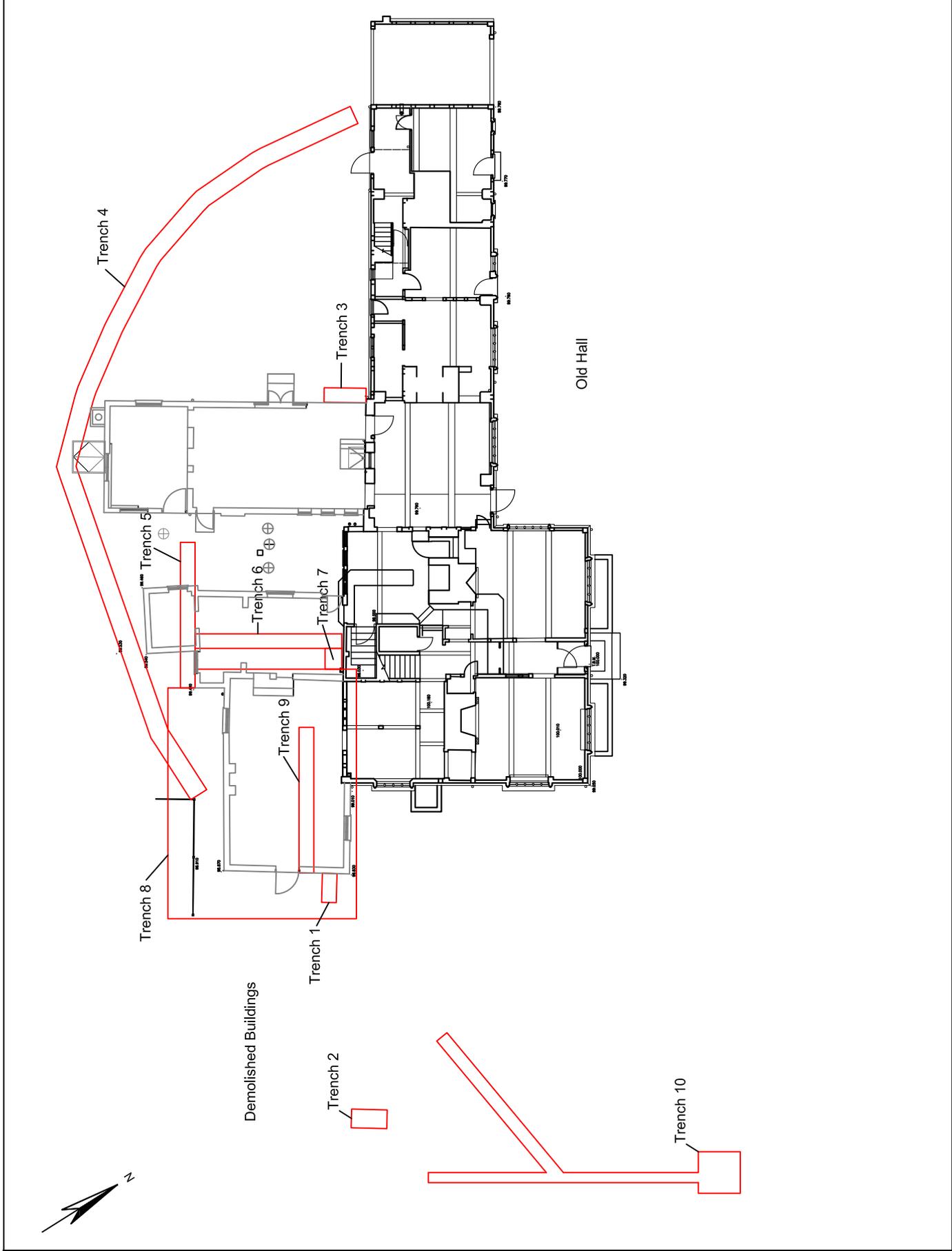
Site Code: OH11  
Drawing Ref: June 2011  
Date: KIT  
Drawn: 1:250@A4  
Scale:

Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

Key:  
Limit of Excavation

Notes:

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Ordnance Survey data if applicable  
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## **2 Methodology**

- 2.1 The specification required that a watching brief should be carried out to observe any groundworks taking place for the proposed development in order to identify any potential archaeological remains. This involved monitoring the machine excavation of two small exploratory Evaluation holes, services trenches, foundation trenches and a soak-away (Fig. 2).
- 2.2 The groundworks were machine excavated under continuous supervision by an archaeologist from ARS Ltd, according to the methodology outlined in the written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by ARS Ltd (Appendix III). The archaeologist responsible for the supervision was conversant and experienced with machine excavation in order to ensure that the overburden was removed in level spits down to any *in situ* archaeological horizons. Archaeological Research Services Ltd ensured that a toothless ditching bucket was employed at all times.
- 2.3 A written and photographic record was maintained during the watching brief. SLR cameras were used for the record photography using both black and white print and colour transparency films. Digital images were also captured using a 12.8 megapixel full frame DSLR camera (Appendices I and II).
- 2.4 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with government guidance on archaeology and planning (PPS 5) and 'The Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief' (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 and 2008).

### 3 Results

- 3.1 **Evaluation trench 1:** this trench was situated close to the east elevation of the brick extension at the rear of the Old Hall and was excavated to a maximum depth of approximately 1.3m (Fig 3). The excavation revealed that the top 500mm consisted of tarmac, sand and hardcore, below which a layer of fine yellow sand approximately 600mm thick was encountered. Below this, grey clay was present down to the maximum depth of the excavation. The wall of the adjacent brick building continued down to approximately 0.5m and was observed to rest directly on the sand. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed during the excavation.



Figure 3: Evaluation trench 1

- 3.2 **Evaluation trench 2:** this trench had the same 500mm thick layer of tarmac, sand and hardcore as evaluation trench 1 but below it a 1m thick layer of top soil was encountered (Fig 4). Below this layer a fine yellow sand, similar to that recorded in Evaluation trench 1 was encountered. This continued down to the maximum depth of the excavation which was approximately 2m. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed during the excavation.



Figure 4: Evaluation trench 2

- 3.3 **Trench 3:** this trench was excavated at the rear of the long east/west range and measured 2m long x 0.7m wide x 2.30m deep (Fig. 5). The stratigraphy was equivalent to the preceding trenches, including the absence of any significant archaeology.



Figure 5: Trench 3 (scale 2m)

- 3.4 **Trench 4:** this trench was excavated along the rear limit of the site in order to accommodate the foundations for a new perimeter/boundary wall (Fig. 6). This trench did not reveal any significant archaeology.



Figure 6: Trench 4

- 3.5 **Trench 5:** The excavated trench measured 17.1m x 0.9m and was excavated to a depth of 1.10m. The stratigraphy of the trench comprised black (10YR 2/1) topsoil (1001) measuring 0.4m in thickness, below the topsoil (1001) was a pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2) sand (1003) measuring 0.7m in thickness. The pale yellow sand (1003) continued below the depth of excavation. Archaeological finds recovered from within the topsoil (1001) comprised fragments of faunal remains, and ceramic fragments.



Figure 7: Trench 5

- 3.6 **Trench 6:** The excavated trench measured 7m x 0.9m and was excavated to a depth of 1.3m. The stratigraphy of the trench comprised a layer of tarmac (1005) measuring 0.07m in thickness below which was a hardcore layer (1006) measuring 0.1m in thickness. Below the hardcore layer (1006) was a black (10YR 2/1) topsoil layer (1001) which varied in thickness from 0.17m to 0.5m. Below the topsoil layer (1001) was a yellowish red (5YR 5/6) sand (1004) which varied in thickness from 0.63m to 0.96m in depth. The yellowish red sand (1004) continued below the depth of excavation. Archaeological finds recovered from within the yellowish red sand (1004) comprised a single ceramic fragment.



Figure 8: Trench 6

- 3.7 **Trench 7:** The excavated trench measured 2m x 0.9m and was excavated to a depth of 1.8m; the length of trench 7 was reduced to 1m when it was cut into by Trench 8. The stratigraphy of the trench comprised a layer of tarmac (1005) measuring 0.07m in thickness below which was a hardcore layer (1006) measuring 0.1m in thickness. Below the hardcore layer (1006) was a black (10YR 2/1) topsoil (1001) measuring 0.3m in thickness. Below the topsoil (1001) was a pale yellow (2.5Y 8/2) sand (1003) measuring 0.6m in depth, which overlay a yellowish red (5YR 5/6) sand (1004) measuring 0.13m in thickness. Below the yellowish red sand (1004) was a brown (10YR 4/3) clay (1007) measuring 0.6m in thickness. The brown clay (1007) continued below the depth of excavation. No archaeological finds were present in this trench.



Figure 9: Trench 7

- 3.8 **Trench 8:** The excavation of this trench was undertaken in order to provide the foundations of a proposed kitchen extension to the south-east of the main square range of the Old Hall Hotel complex. The trench was rectangular in shape and measured 10.5m along its southern edge, 12m along its northern edge and 9m along both the eastern and western edges; the trench was excavated to a depth ranging from 1.4 – 1.9m. The stratigraphy of the trench comprised a tarmac layer (1005) measuring 0.07m in thickness. Below the tarmac (1005) was a hardcore layer (1006) measuring 0.1m in thickness. In the south facing section below the hardcore layer (1006) was a black hardcore layer (1009) that contained brick fragments and CBM; this layer measured 0.02m in thickness. Below the black hardcore layer (1009) was a brown soil layer (1008) measuring 0.4m in thickness. These two layers (1008, 1009) were not ubiquitous across the trench and were only present at the left side of the south facing section. In the south facing section of Trench 8 the hardcore layer (1006) sat above a layer of pale yellow (2.5Y) sand (1003) which ranged in thickness from 0.3 – 1.3m. Below the pale yellow sand was a yellowish red (5YR 5/6) sand (1004) ranging in thickness from 0.3 – 1m. Below the yellowish red sand (1004) was a brown (10YR 4/3) clay (1007) ranging in thickness from 0.1 – 0.5m. The brown clay (1007) continued below the level of excavation. At the eastern extent of Trench 8 a buried garden soil layer (1010) was observed situated below the pale yellow sand (1003) and above the brown clay (1007). The buried soil was present in the north, west and south facing sections and ranges in thickness from 0.4 – 1m. This layer constituted the topsoil element of a garden that was present at the site. Archaeological finds comprising ceramic fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century in date and faunal remains were recovered from contexts (1003) and (1010).



Figure 10: Trench 8, looking east (scale 2m)

- 3.9 **Trench 9:** Trench 9 was located immediately to the south-east corner of the main square range of the Old Hall Hotel complex (Fig. 11) and was monitored on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2011. It consisted of a narrow east/west linear trench measuring *c.* 2.60 metres in length, 400mm in width and reached a maximum depth of 2.20 metres (Fig. 12). The excavation did not reveal any archaeological feature and the exposed stratigraphic sequence consisted of a brick paving floor over a made ground dark grey clay layer (100mm thick) which in turns was overlying the natural substratum layer composed of yellowish sand (800mm thick). A dark reddish brown clay natural layer was also observed beneath the sandy layer.



Figure 11: Location of trench 9, looking north



Figure 12: Trench 9, looking west

- 3.10 **Trench 10:** this trench consisted of a large soak-away pit with associated trenches which was situated within the car park to the east of the site (Fig. 13). The pit was c. 2m in diameter and 2m in depth. The stratigraphy was equivalent to previous excavated trenches. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.



Figure 13: Trench 10, looking south (scale 2m)

#### 4 **Artefactual analysis** (by Kate Mapplethorpe)

- 4.1 Animal bone was recovered from context (1010), a deposit of buried garden topsoil. The bone was hand collected. Preservation was generally very good, with only a small amount of specimens showcasing any major degree of surface degradation.
- 4.2 The largest single component of the assemblage comprised domestic fowl remains and consisted of mainly foot and leg bones (seven tarso-metatarsals, three metatarsals, and thirty-seven phalanges) although one humerus was present. All of these bones were fractured, although no clear butchery marks were present. Two fragments of skull and two vertebrae were also found in close proximity to the foot bones. Preservation was mostly good, with five phalanges showing a small amount of surface degradation.
- 4.3 A large amount of equine bones were also found. The assemblage comprised two vertebral rib ends, one calcaneum, two cervical vertebrae, one proximal humeral

epiphysis, and one femoral shaft portion and distal epiphysis. The distal femoral epiphysis and ribs appeared to come from an adult individual, while both vertebrae and the proximal humeral epiphysis came from a sub-adult. All of the bones show evidence of butchery except to proximal humeral epiphysis in the form of cut marks on the surface of the bones and chop marks cutting through the body of the bone in order to sever it from the rest of the limb. Preservation was very good on all elements.

- 4.4 The rest of the bone assemblage comprised a small amount of specimens of cattle, sheep and pig. The cattle bone (a femur shaft portion) and the sheep bone (part of the pelvis) evidenced butchery marks, while the pig bones (two tibiae) did not.
- 4.5 Due to the small size of the assemblage, only tentative suggestions can be made about the use of animal remains in this location. However, as many of the bones show clear evidence of butchery, it can be assumed that there was an abattoir of some description near the site, which concurs with local knowledge. The elements present also support this theory, as they are mostly low-utility body-parts (i.e. feet and bone ends). It is likely that this was a fairly small-scale operation, due to the fact that a larger business would be expected to create more waste.

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 The results of the watching brief reveal that no archaeological remains were present within the excavated areas monitored during the watching brief at Old Hall Hotel.

## **6 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright**

- 6.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 6.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

## **7 Statement of Indemnity**

- 7.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

## **8 Acknowledgements**

- 8.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would, in the first instance, like to thank the client, IB Construction Ltd for commissioning the work. The watching brief was

carried out by Karl Taylor, Alvaro Mora Ottomano and Angela Walker, who also compiled the report and illustrations. The project was managed by Jim Brightman who also edited the report. Thanks are also extended to Mark Leah who acted as local authority curator through the project.

## 9 References

[www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience)

[www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes](http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes)

Institute for Archaeologists. 1994 (revised 2001 & 2008). *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). 2010. *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*. London, The Stationery Office.

## APPENDIX I: Photographic Register

### Film One: 35mm Black and White

Photograph No.	Direction	Scale	Description	Date
1	E	1m	Evaluation Hole 1 Plan	24/01/11
2	S	2m	Evaluation Hole 1 Section	24/01/11
3	N	1m	Evaluation Hole 2 Plan	24/01/11
4	W	1m	Evaluation Hole 2 Section	24/01/11
5	NW		General view of site	24/01/11
6	NW	2m	General view of Hall	24/01/11
7	S		General view of site	24/01/11

### Film Two: 35mm Colour Slide

Photograph No.	Direction	Scale	Description	Date
1	E	1m	Evaluation Hole 1 Plan	24/01/11
2	S	2m	Evaluation Hole 1 Section	24/01/11
3	N	1m	Evaluation Hole 2 Plan	24/01/11
4	W	1m	Evaluation Hole 2 Section	24/01/11
5	NW		General view of site	24/01/11
6	NW	2m	General view of Hall	24/01/11
7	S		General view of site	24/01/11

**Film Three 35mm Black and White**

<b>Photograph No.</b>	<b>Direction</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	N	2m	Blocked door at north end of Room 1	07/03/2011
2	NE	1m	Sink in Room 1	07/03/2011
3	NW	2m	Steps leading down to basement	07/03/2011
4	S		View of arch at the base of the steps	07/03/2011
5	N	2m	View of Room 1	07/03/2011
6	NE	2m	View of Room 1	07/03/2011
7	SE	1m	View of Room 2	07/03/2011
8	N	2m	View of Room 2	07/03/2011
9	S	2m	View of Room 3	07/03/2011
10	SE	2m	Steps at south end of Room 3	07/03/2011
11	SE	2m	View of Room 3	07/03/2011
12	N	2m	View of Room 3	07/03/2011
13	S		Ceiling of Room 3	07/03/2011
14	NE	2m	Hooks in Room 3	07/03/2011
15	N		Ceiling of Room 2	07/03/2011
16	NW	2m	Entrance hatch to west cellar	07/03/2011
17	N	2m	Entrance hatch to west cellar	07/03/2011
18	NW	2m	View of room above west cellar	07/03/2011
19	E	2m	Door into east basement	07/03/2011
20	E	2m	Door into east basement	07/03/2011
21	W	2m	View of steps into basement	07/03/2011
22	W	2m	Timber frame of steps	07/03/2011
23	NW	2m	View of Room 4	07/03/2011
24	NW	2m	Beam end in Room 4	07/03/2011
25	E	2m	Niche in east wall of Room 4	07/03/2011
26	E	2m	Niche in east wall of Room 4	07/03/2011
27	SW	2m	Detail timber frame in Room 4	07/03/2011
28	SE	2m	View of Room 4	07/03/2011
29	N	2m	View of Room 5	07/03/2011
30	E	2m	View of Room 5	07/03/2011
31	E	2m, 0.5m	Door in east wall of Room 5	07/03/2011
32	S	1m	View of Room 6	07/03/2011
33	S	1m	View of Room 6	07/03/2011
34	N	1m	View of Room 6	07/03/2011
35	W	1m	Shelves in Room 6	07/03/2011
36	W	2m	Access to west basement	07/03/2011

**Film Four 35mm Black and White**

<b>Photograph No.</b>	<b>Direction</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	W		General views during demolition of rear extension	07/03/2011
2	SW		General views during demolition of rear extension	07/03/2011
3	SW		General views during demolition of rear extension	07/03/2011
4	SW		General views during demolition of rear extension	07/03/2011
5	SW		General views during demolition of rear extension	07/03/2011
6	NW		View of demolished basement	07/03/2011
7	NW		View of demolished basement	07/03/2011
8	NW		View of demolished basement	07/03/2011
9	SW		View during demolition	07/03/2011
10	SW		Views of demolished basement	07/03/2011
11	SW		Views of demolished basement	07/03/2011
12	W		Views of demolished basement	07/03/2011
13	W		Views of demolished basement	07/03/2011
14	W		Views of demolished basement	07/03/2011
15	NW		Views of demolished basement	07/03/2011
16	W		View during demolition	07/03/2011
17	NW		View during demolition	07/03/2011
18	NW		Infilled basement	07/03/2011
19	NW		Partially demolished room	07/03/2011
20	NW		Demolished walls	07/03/2011
21	NW		Demolished walls	07/03/2011
22	SW		Demolished walls	07/03/2011
23	N		Exterior apex of Room 6 vault	07/03/2011
24	NW		Exterior apex of Room 6 vault	07/03/2011
25	NW		Exterior apex of Room 6 vault	07/03/2011
26	N		Exterior apex of Room 6 vault	07/03/2011
27	NE		General view of the demolition	07/03/2011

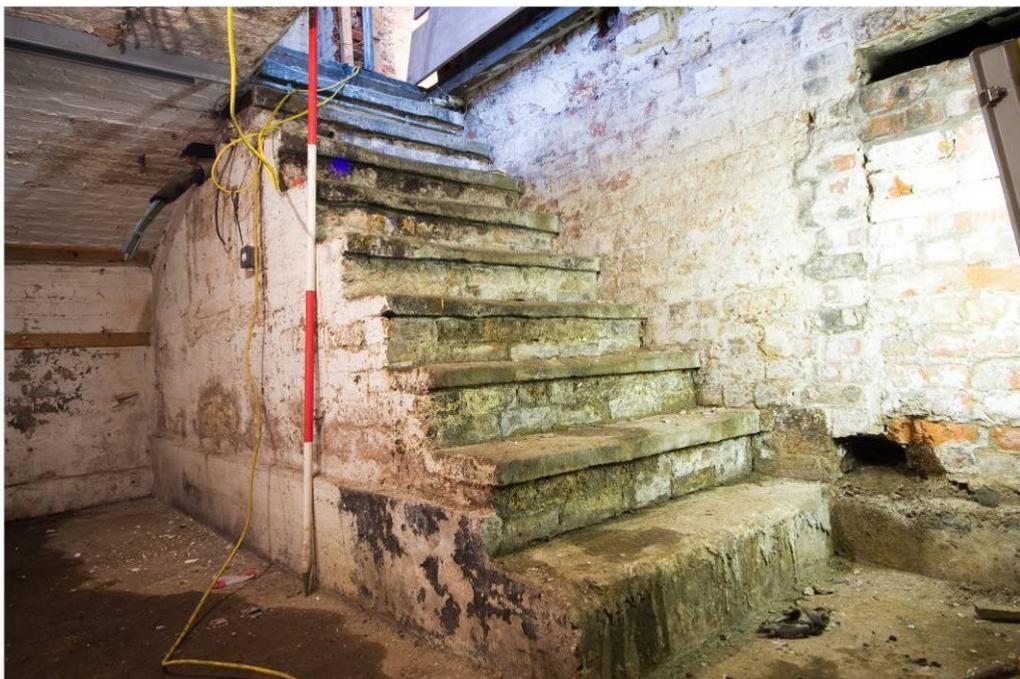
**APPENDIX II: Photographic Survey of the Basements – Images**



Film 3 001.jpg



Film 3 002.jpg



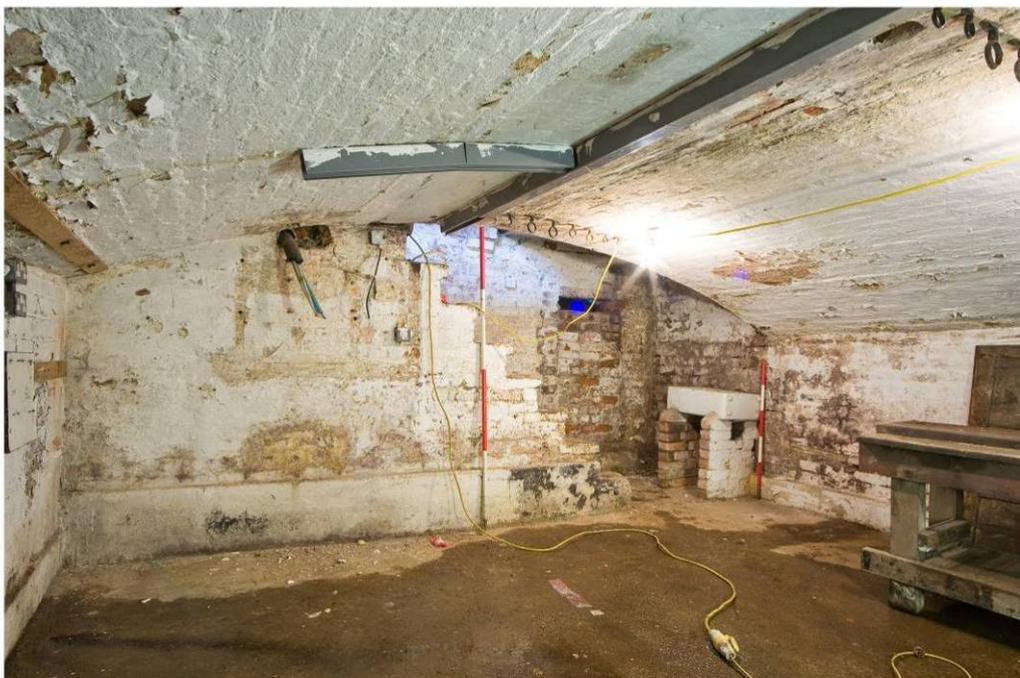
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Film 3 004.JPG



Film 3 005.JPG



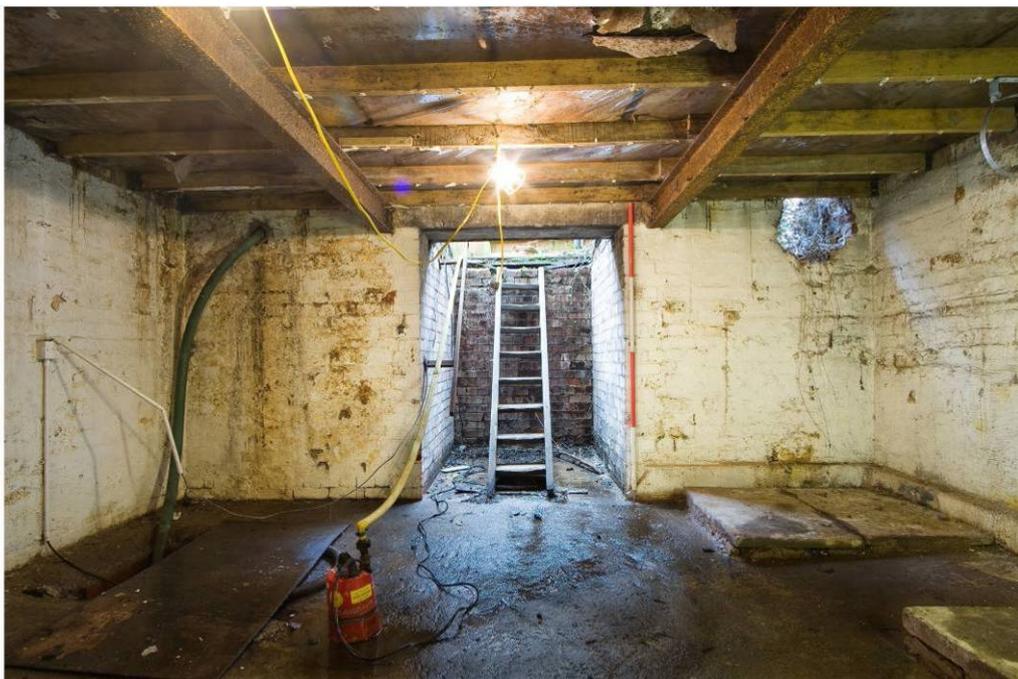
Film 3 006.JPG



Film 3 007.JPG



Film 3 008.JPG



Film 3 009.JPG



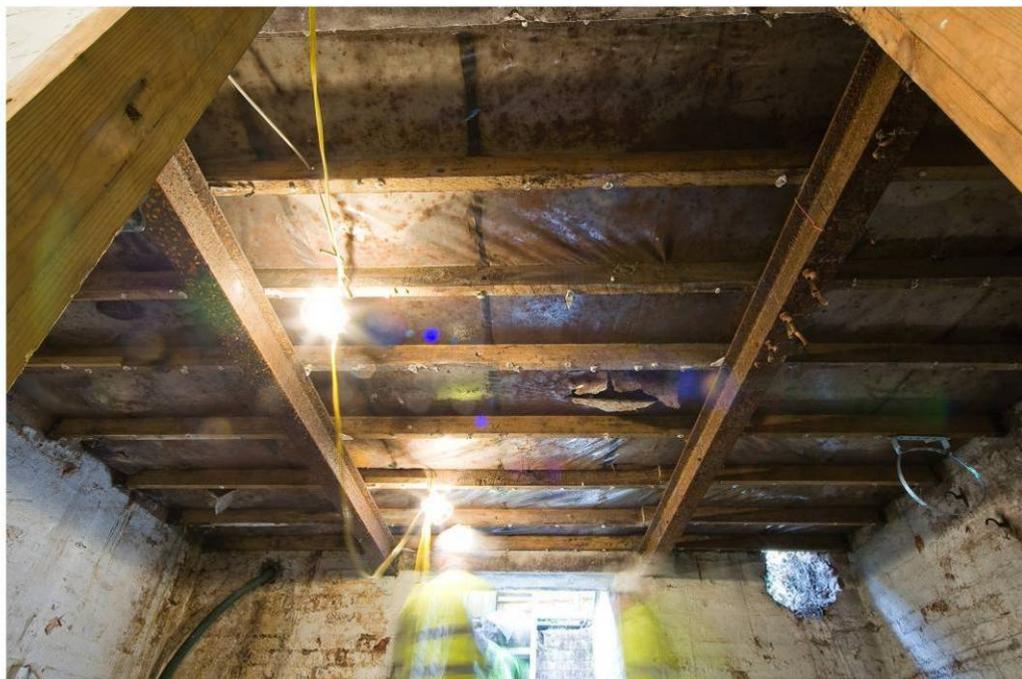
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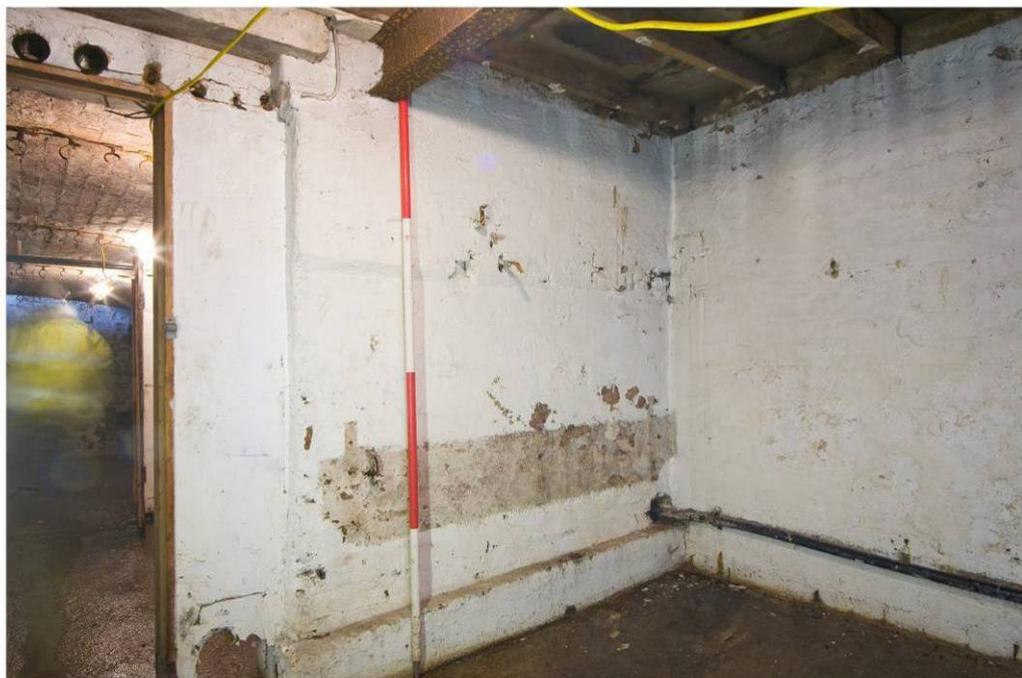
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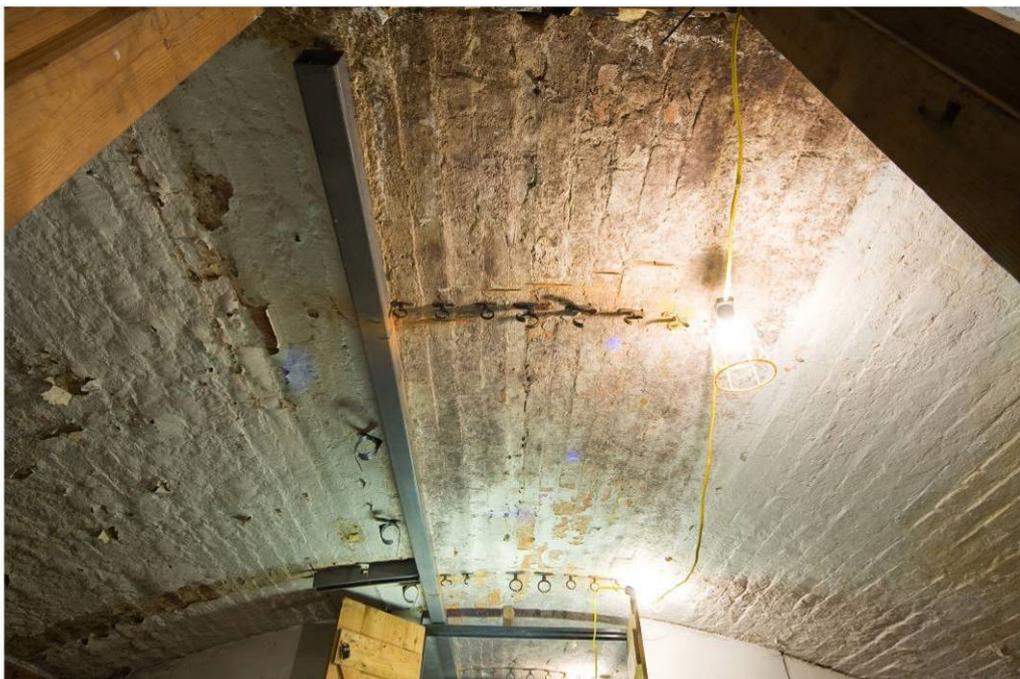
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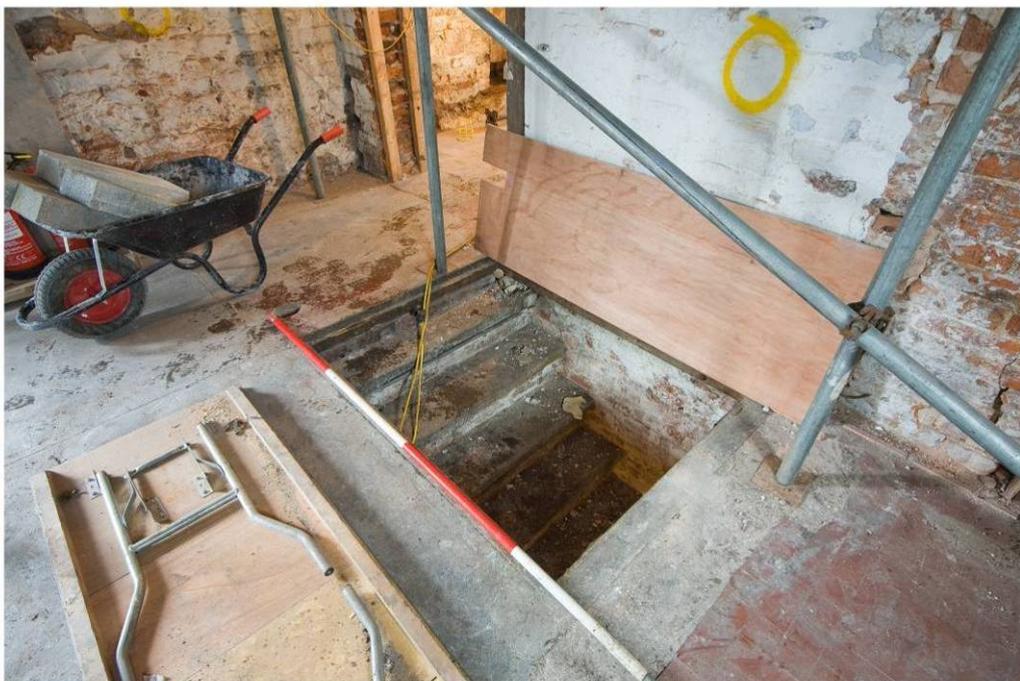
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Film 3 014.JPG



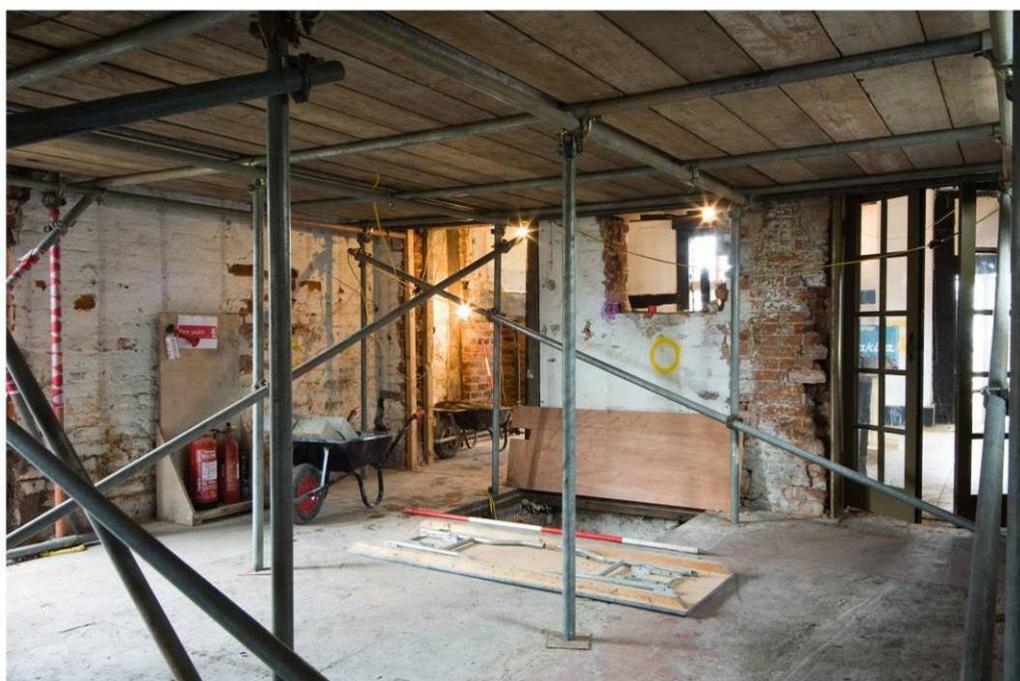
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Film 3 016.JPG



Film 3 017.JPG



Film 3 018.JPG



Film 3 019.JPG



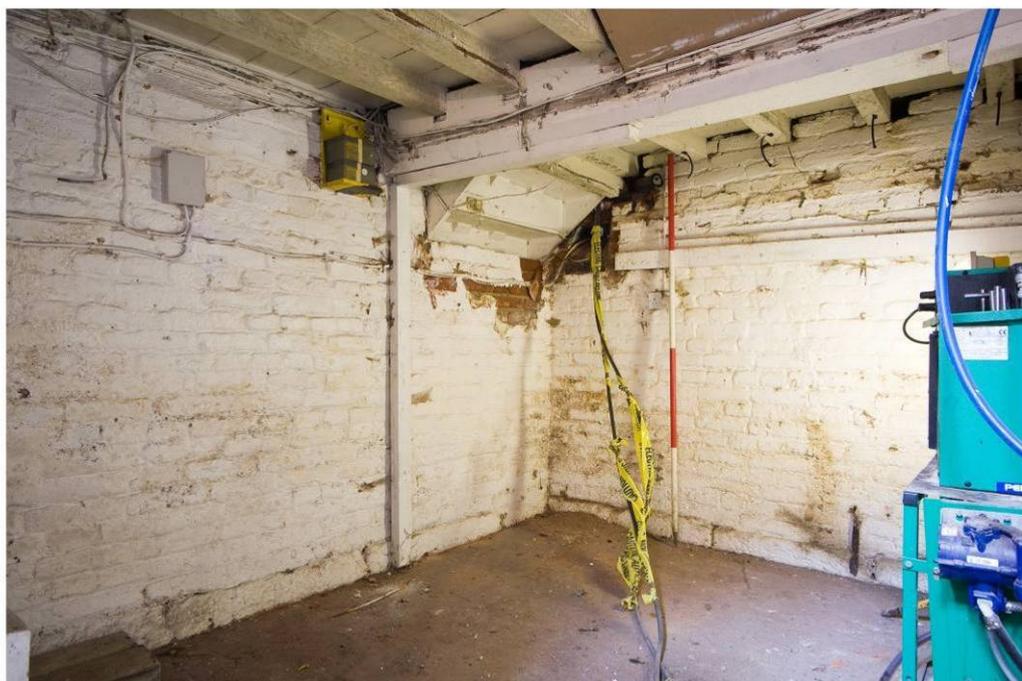
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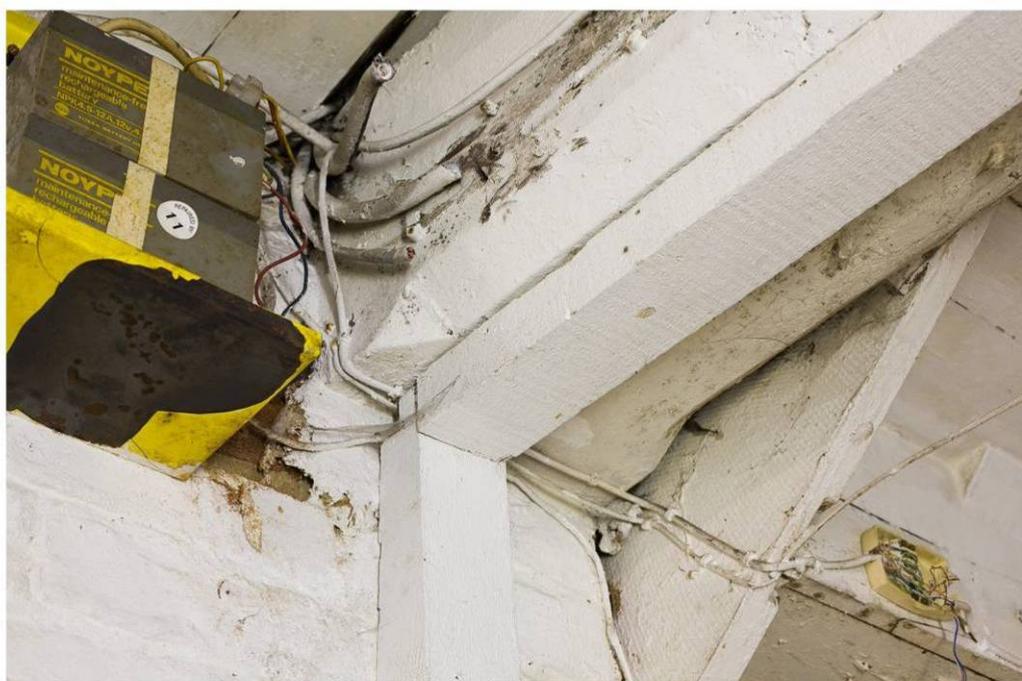
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Film 3 022.JPG



Film 3 023.JPG



Film 3 024.JPG



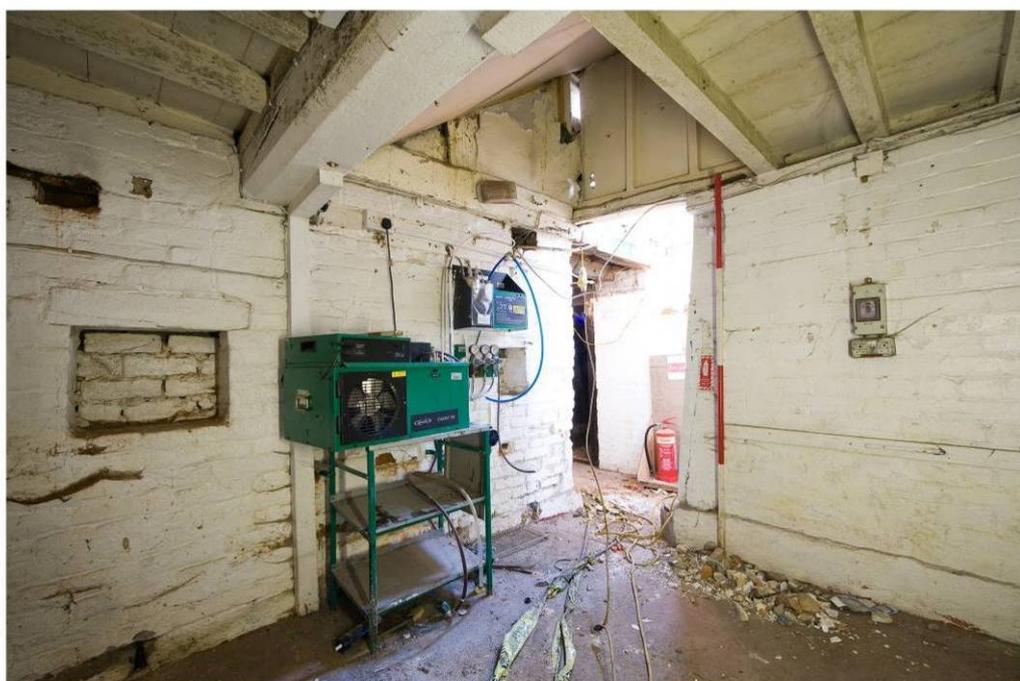
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Film 3 026.JPG



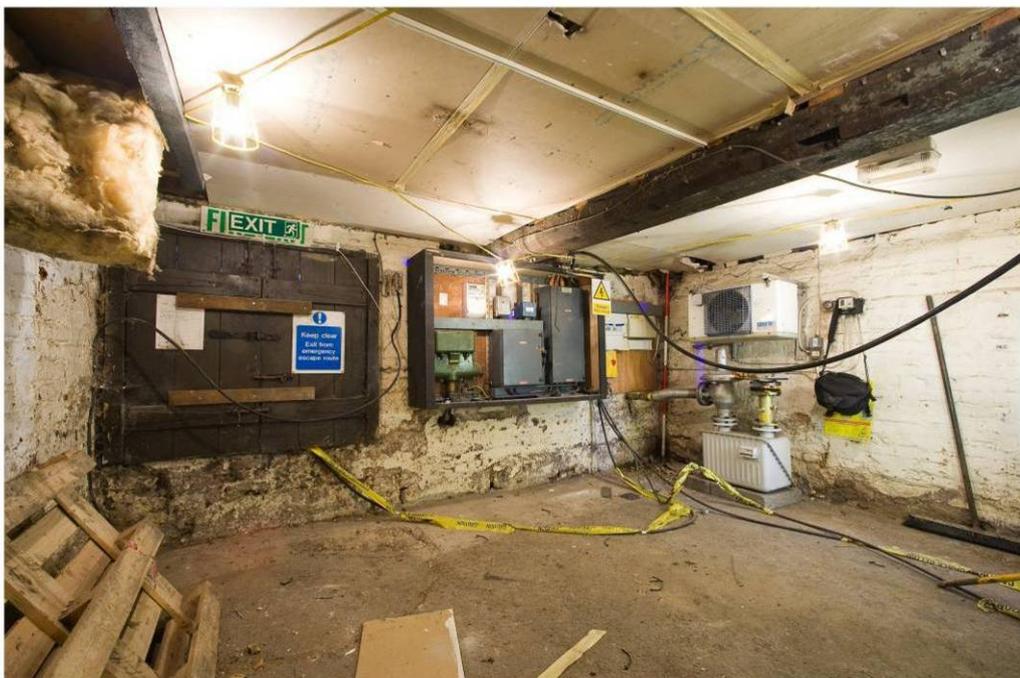
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Film 3 028.JPG



Film 3 029.JPG



Film 3 030.JPG



Film 3 031.JPG



Film 3 032.JPG



Film 3 033.JPG



Film 3 034.JPG



Film 3 035.JPG



Film 3 036.JPG



Film 4 001.JPG



Film 4 002.JPG



Film 4 003.JPG



Film 4 004.JPG



Film 4 005.JPG



Film 4 006.JPG



Film 4 007.JPG



Film 4 008.JPG



Film 4 009.JPG



Film 4 010.JPG



Film 4 011.JPG



Film 4 012.JPG



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Film 4 016.JPG



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Film 4 018.JPG



Film 4 019.JPG



Film 4 020.JPG



Film 4 021.JPG



Film 4 022.JPG



Film 4 023.JPG



Film 4 024.JPG



Film 4 025.JPG



Film 4 026.JPG



Film 4 027.JPG

## **APPENDIX III: Written Scheme of Investigation**

### **Old Hall, High Street, Sandbach, Cheshire**

### **Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief**



**Archaeological Research  
Services Ltd**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. An archaeological field evaluation has been requested by the Development Control Archaeologist for Cheshire Shared Services (CSS) prior to the proposed re-development of the Grade I listed Old Hall (NGR. SJ 759 606). The development comprises the demolition of three side and rear extensions together with the erection of a new extension.
- 1.2. The Development Control Archaeologist has indicated that there is archaeological potential on the site, and the following condition has been attached to the planning consent:

“No development shall take place within the area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance in accordance with the approved scheme.”
- 1.3. The archaeological work will comprise archaeological observation of the relevant aspects of the development (initial strip, excavation of foundation trenches and major services, and any other significant earth moving). This will be carried out in order to identify, record and excavate any deposits that may be present.
- 1.4. This document is a written scheme of investigation confirming the nature of the watching brief to be undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd).

#### **2. Objectives**

- 2.1. The objective of the archaeological watching brief is to provide a sufficient record of archaeological remains prior to their removal during the course of the development.
- 2.2. A general photographic record of the basement within the Old Hall will also be carried out, the results of which will be appended to the report of the watching brief.
- 2.3. The research aims for any further work, should this be required following the watching brief will be developed in an additional WSI.
- 2.4. If significant archaeological remains are identified during the watching brief that require further examination, a site meeting will be arranged with the client, ARS Ltd and the Development Control Archaeologist in order to agree the requirement and timetable for further work. This is in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5) (CLG 2010).

- 2.5. Any changes to the agreed WSI will be discussed with, and agreed with, the Development Control Archaeologist before implementation.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1. Old Hall, is included in the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER 1109/2/1) as a seventeenth century timber-framed building, which occupies the site of Sandbach's former manorial centre. Earlier structures and other features are therefore assumed to have occupied the site, evidence of which may still be present below ground.
- 3.2. The current proposal is for the construction of new extensions to the south and east of the core of the timber-framed building. Parts of which extend into the car part at the east of the building.
- 3.3. The site of the proposed new extensions is located in close proximity to the building and given the site's history, it is considered that there is the potential for archaeological remains to be discovered.

### **4. Fieldwork Methodology**

- 4.1. All archaeological fieldwork, recording of archaeological features and deposits and post-excavation analysis will be carried out to acceptable standards as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Practice* (2008) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.
- 4.2. The duration of the watching brief will be dictated by the length and scope of the development works. The allocation of this contingency will be agreed with the client and Development Control Archaeologist. Consultation between the client, ARS Ltd and the Development Control Archaeologist will be required at the end of the watching brief to ensure that all the below ground development works have been adequately observed.
- 4.3. All ground works will be excavated by machine under continuous archaeological supervision to the first archaeological horizon in successive level spits or to a level where it is possible to assess the presence or absence of archaeological features. A toothless bucket will be used wherever possible. The location of each trench/area of excavation will be recorded.

- 4.4. Where archaeological features appear to be absent, sufficient work will be done to demonstrate this. Each trench, where appropriate, will be planned at an appropriate scale; 1:20 where complex deposits are present or 1:50 in areas of lesser complexity (to be omitted if the trench is completely blank). One representative long section of each trench will be produced, where necessary, at an appropriate scale. Sections and profiles of each feature sampled will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20, depending on the size of the feature. Spot levels relative to ordnance datum in metres will be taken as appropriate.
- 4.5. Identified archaeological features will be sufficiently sampled by manual excavation to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascertained. All features thus investigated will be recorded in plan and section and all finds recovered retained for analysis.
- 4.6. For brick structures, the record should include details of brick dimensions and type (handmade/machine-made, plain/frogged), mortar (colour, composition, hardness) and the extent of structures (number of courses, thickness in skins).
- 4.7. All identified archaeological features will be accurately fixed where appropriate using an EDM/Total Station, surveying in either the planning baselines or the features themselves.
- 4.8. The site archive will include plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets. Each context will be recorded on pro-forma records which will include the following: character and contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency); associated finds; interpretation and phasing as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers. Each context will be recorded on an individual record.
- 4.9. A photographic record will be maintained including photographs of all significant features and overall photographs of each area or trench. All images will be taken in black and white print, colour slide and digital format, and will contain a graduated photographic scale. The main photographic archive will comprise 35mm b/w SLR print film, supplemented by 35mm colour SLR slide film or colour digital SLR (minimum 7 megapixels).
- 4.10. All stratified finds will be collected by context or, where appropriate, individually recorded in 3 dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest. All pottery of early post-medieval date or earlier will be retained, whether stratified or un-stratified.
- 4.11. Deposits that have the potential for providing environmental or dating evidence will be assessed while the work is in progress.
- 4.12. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Specialist advice on the collection of industrial residues will be sought and their strategies implemented. The advice of the English Heritage Scientific Adviser will be followed in relation to the collection of palaeoenvironmental evidence.
- 4.13. All retained finds and palaeoenvironmental samples will be treated in accordance with the English Heritage guidance document *A Strategy for care and investigation of find (1995)* and the UKIC's document *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage*.
- 4.14. Provision will be made for additional specialist advice, e.g. for finds analysis and conservation.
- 4.15. Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act procedures.

- 4.16. If grave cuts are discovered on site, then they will be sampled through hand excavation to determine the presence/absence, depth and preservation of the uppermost burials, before being initially left in situ. Where excavation of human remains is necessary, a license will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice and work will be carried out under appropriate environmental health regulations and, if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendments) Act 1981.
- 4.17. Disarticulate human bone will be quantified and characterised prior to reinterment on site.
- 4.18. The record of the extent and vulnerability of features will be sufficiently detailed to facilitate discussions regarding the need for preservation beneath any future potential development, or any other mitigation measures including further excavation or recording.
- 4.19. A risk assessment will be undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations will be adhered to at all times.

## **5. Monitoring Arrangements**

- 5.1. The watching brief is to begin on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011.
- 5.2. ARS Ltd will liaise with the Development Control Archaeologist for CSS at regular intervals throughout the course of the work:

Mark Leah,  
Development Control Archaeologist,  
Cheshire Shared Services,  
Archaeology Planning Advisory Service,  
Backford Hall,  
Backford,  
Chester CH1 6PZ  
Mark.leah@chestereast.gov.uk  
Tel: 01244 973289

## **6. Report**

- 6.1. Following completion of the watching brief ARS Ltd will produce a report which will include:
  - A non-technical summary.
  - Introduction and objectives of the evaluation.
  - Methodology of the evaluation.
  - An objective summary statement of results.
  - A phased stratigraphic discussion of the archaeological features.
  - An interpretive discussion of the results, placing them in a local and regional framework and an assessment of the importance of the remains in relation to the criteria in PPS 5.
  - Appropriate supporting illustrations, including a site plan, trench and section plans, feature sections and plans and a phased site plan.
  - A site location plan at 1:2500 or 1:10000 as appropriate and a phased interpretation of the site as appropriate.
  - The results of analyses of artefacts and ecofacts carried out by suitable specialists.
  - In the event that significant remains are encountered, then a publication proposal and timetable will be included in the report.

- A detailed context index and supporting data in tabulated form or in appendices.
  - An index to and the proposed location of the archive.
  - The proposed date of deposition of the archive
  - References.
  - A copy of the CSS brief and OASIS form
- 6.2. Within the report:
- All plans will be clearly related to the national grid.
  - All levels will be quoted relative to ordnance datum.
- 6.3. If significant archaeological remains are identified the report will include
- Detailed description and plans (at 1:50 scale) of any trenches which provided significant archaeological information, all feature plans and sections (at 1:10 or 1:20 scale), select artefact illustrations, photographs and an overall site plan showing all recorded archaeological features.
  - Finds quantification and assessment.
  - Assessment of any palaeo-environmental samples taken.
  - A summary of the extent, depth and state of preservation of archaeological deposits across the site.
- 6.4. Copies of the final report will be deposited with the Cheshire Historic Environment Record, and will be submitted to the Development Control Archaeologist within six weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

## **7. Archive Deposition**

- 7.1. A digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared and deposited according to *Guidance and general Conditions for Archaeological Consultants and Contractors in Cheshire* (Cheshire County Council 2003), and will consist of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data in a format to be agreed by the repository museum. The archive will be deposited in an appropriate museum in agreement with Cheshire East Arts, Heritage and Museums Manager
- 7.2. All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see above).
- 7.3. A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be supplied to the HER and deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM along that will be attached with the report.
- 7.4. Both the Development Control Archaeologist and the museum curator will be notified on completion of fieldwork, with a timetable for reporting and archive deposition.
- 7.5. Written confirmation of the archive transfer arrangements, including a date (confirmed or projected) for the transfer, will be included as part of the final report.
- 7.6. An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> has been initiated for the project. Key fields will be completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included within the archive).

7.7. The Development Control Archaeologist will be notified of the final deposition of the archive.

## **8. Changes to Methodology or Work Programme**

8.1. Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with the prior written approval of the Development Control Archaeologist.

## **9. Publication**

9.1. In the event of significant remains being encountered and excavated, there may be the need for a more formal publication. In this instance a suitable programme and timetable for publication and dissemination will be discussed and agreed upon by all stakeholders.

## **10. References**

Cheshire County Council. 2003. *Guidance and General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants in Cheshire*, Cheshire County Council.

Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). 2010. *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*. London, The Stationery Office.

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). 2000. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). 2008. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS). 2002. *Site Manual*. London, Museum of London.