An Archaeological Watching Brief at Inveresk Road, Tilston, Cheshire

General view of the Access Road strip.

ARS Ltd Report 2013/96
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Inveresk Road, Tilston, Cheshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

ARS Ltd Report 2013/96

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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Executive Summary

In October 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd. (ARS Ltd.) was commissioned by RSK Environment Ltd. (RSK Ltd.) on behalf of P. E. Jones (Contractors) Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief at a site adjacent to 2 Greenway, Inveresk Road, Tilston, Cheshire. The work was carried out during ground works relating to the construction of 37 properties and associated landscaping and highway works. The work required the monitoring of targeted topsoil and vegetation strips, targeted footing excavations and the monitoring of access road works, along with one archaeological evaluation trench over the 1.6 hectare site. Further works comprised the excavation of two ponds at a mitigation site approximately 100m to the north of the main development site.

The archaeological watching brief identified no features of archaeological interest; however, frequent pottery fragments were recovered from both the topsoil and subsoil deposits, dating from the post-medieval period, along with one single fragment of Roman pottery. Clay pipe stem fragments were also recovered. The presence of these artefacts, despite not being in secure archaeological contexts or features, indicates past activity at the site.

Two possible existing field boundaries were identified at the outset of the project as being potentially medieval in date after Historic Landscape Characterisation of the area. One of the boundaries was located at the very eastern edge of the site and was found to have been impacted on by the previous construction phase of Inveresk Road and Greenway. The remaining boundary was present almost continuously throughout the centre of the site. The two archaeological interventions placed across this field boundary revealed no artefacts and displayed no palaeoenvironmental potential, with a single, sterile fill. The field boundary is present on the 1841 tithe map, hence is undoubtedly well-established, however it is not possible to say whether it may exist from medieval times due to the lack of cultural or dating evidence.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 In October 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd. (ARS Ltd.) was commissioned by RSK Environment Ltd. (RSK Ltd.) on behalf of P. E. Jones (Contractors) Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief at a site adjacent to 2 Greenway, Inveresk Road, Tilston, Cheshire. The work was carried out during ground works relating to the construction of 37 properties and associated landscaping and highway works. The work required the monitoring of targeted topsoil and vegetation strips, targeted footing excavations and the monitoring of access road works, along with one archaeological evaluation trench over the 1.6 hectare site. Further works comprised the excavation of two ponds at a mitigation site approximately 100m to the north of the main development site.

1.1.2 The works were commissioned following a condition attached to the planning consent (12/04319/FUL), requiring a scheme of archaeological work in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

1.2 Location and Geology

1.2.1 The site is centred at NGR SJ 45965 51186 at the south of the village of Tilston. The site is accessed from Inveresk Road. An associated Great Crested Newt (GCN) receptor site is located at NGR SJ 46040 51426, approximately 100m to the north of the main development site.

1.2.2 The solid geology of the site consists of the Chester Pebble Beds Formation, consisting of fine to coarse grained sandstone, commonly pebbly with conglomerates and sporadic siltstones. Overlying this, the superficial geology of the site consists of Devensian Till (British Geological Survey 2013).

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The perceived potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits at the site relates to the early settlement of Tilston, and the proposed development layout impacts on old field boundaries at four locations (Figure 3). Additionally, the GCN receptor site borders a stream with palaeoenvironmental potential (Figure 2).

2.2 The objective of the watching brief was to identify, then preserve by record, any archaeological remains that may be altered, damaged or destroyed by the works. One archaeological evaluation trench was placed in the north-west corner of the site and targeted ground works comprising the following were archaeologically monitored:

- Construction of access roads
- Excavation for wall footings
- Service trenches
- Landscaping
- Scrapes for ponds

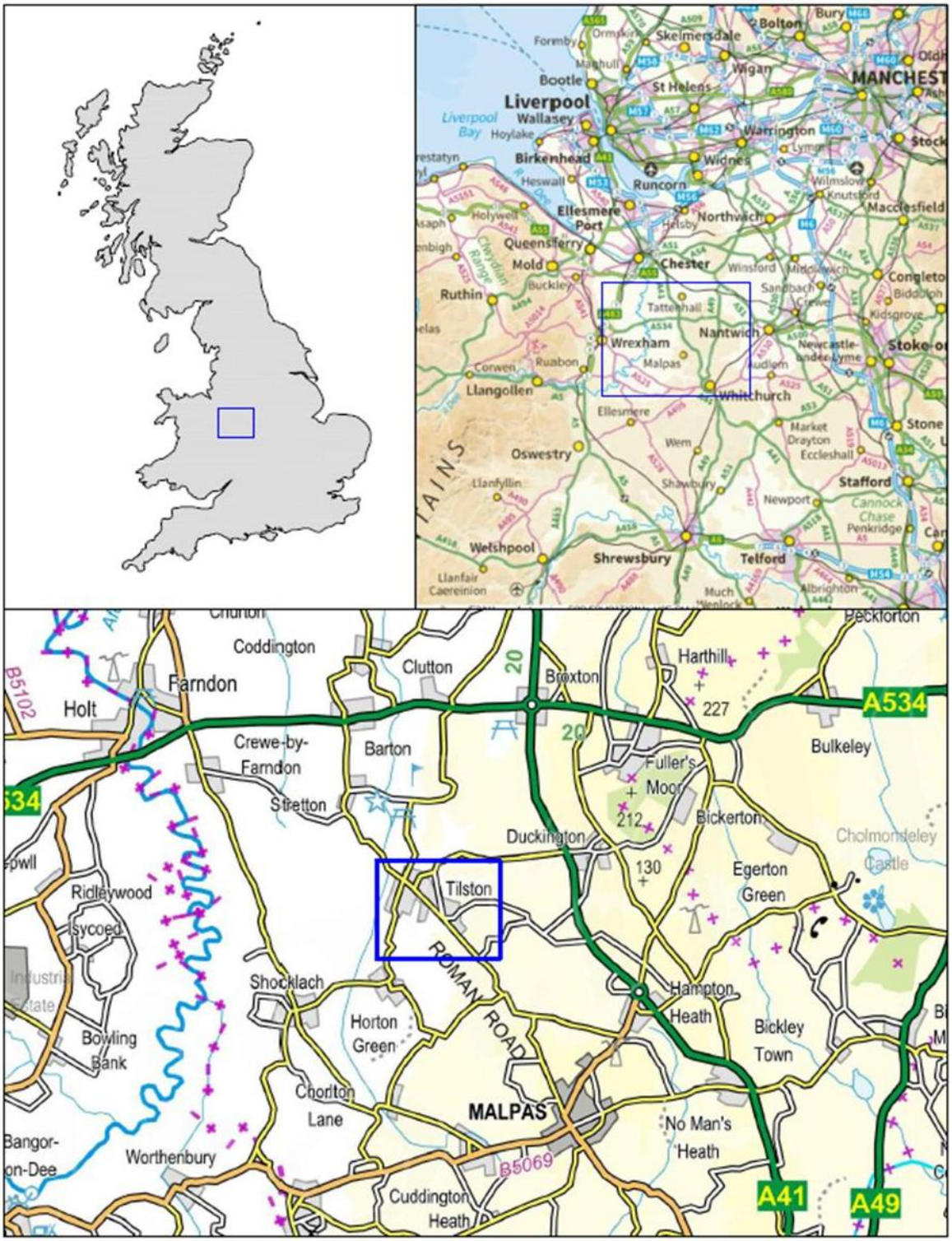


Figure 1: General site location.

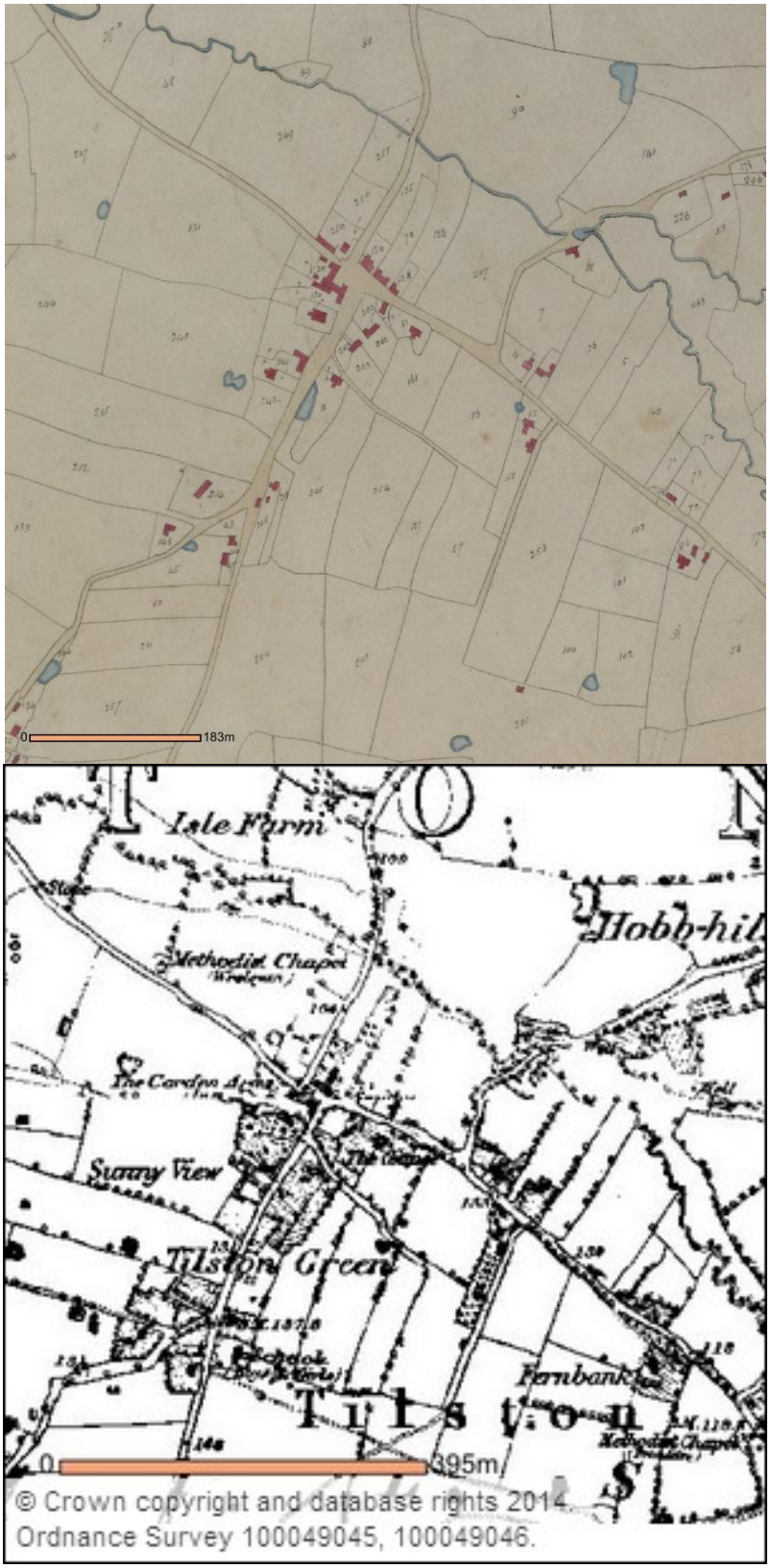


Figure 2: (upper) Tithe Map 1836-51 and (lower) First Ed. OS Map c.1875 showing historic field pattern
Reproduced from Cheshire Archives Website: http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/TwinMaps.aspx
Accessed 25/03/14

Legend:

- Construction Site
- GCN Receptor Site

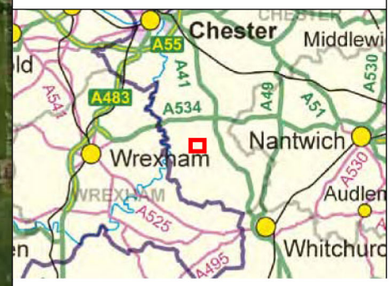


Figure 3 Site Location Plan (after Raybould 2013)

Inveresk Road, Tilston

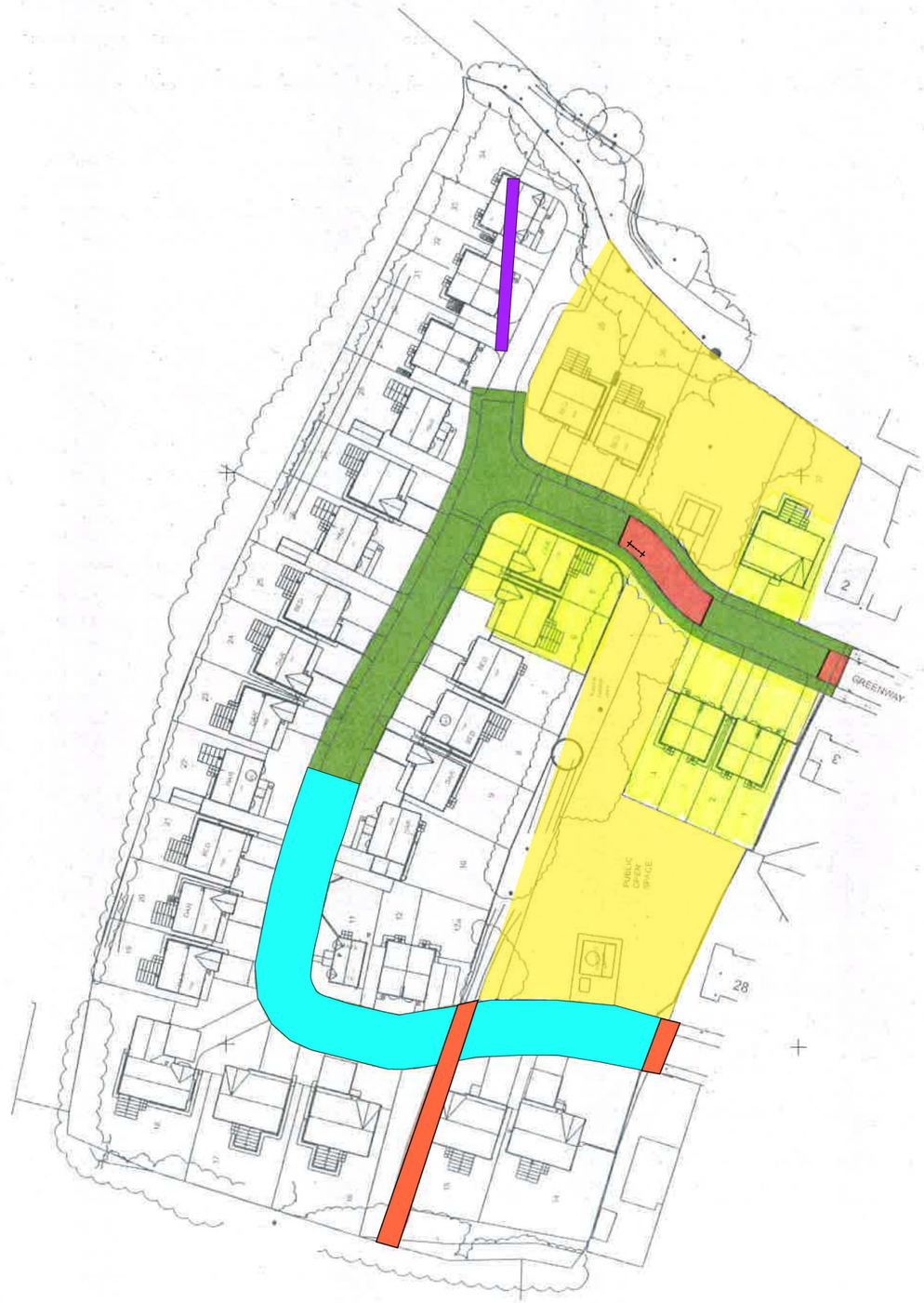
0 100 200

Metres

SCALE: 1:5,000 @ A3

REV 00

Document Path: P660436 - Inveresk Road\01 - Graphics\01 - GIS\Fig1 - Site Location Plan.mxd



351300

351200

351100

345800

345900

346000

346100

Key:

- Topsoil and vegetation strip areas
- Topsoil strip over access road footprint
- Anticipated hedgerow breach
- Access road strip down to natural substrate
- Evaluation trench
- +---+ Location of section through hedgerow

Inveresk Road, Tilston

Figure 4: Propsed development layout and associated archaeological works

0 20 40
Metres
SCALE: 1:1,000 @ A3

N W E S

REV 00

Document Path: P660436 - Inveresk Road\01 - Graphics\01 - GIS\Fig2 - Proposed Development Layout.mxd

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Tilston is recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey and by this time was a large and important township, although it is unclear exactly when the settlement was founded (CAPAS Pers. Comm.).

3.2 The Romano-British settlement of Bovium is suggested to lie close by, and archaeological remains of this period have been discovered in fields to the north-west of the village. Chester Road, a Roman road linking Chester with Wroxeter and Caerleon, lies on the projected route of the Tilston to Malpas section of Watling Street (CAPAS Pers. Comm.).

3.3 The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project (Cheshire County Council and English Heritage 2008) classifies the development area as 'Medieval Townfields'. The area has not been developed throughout the later post-medieval period and the field boundaries shown on the 1841 tithe mapping survive.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 A detailed project design – the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) - was issued by RSK Ltd and approved by CAPAS (Appendix I).

4.2 Archaeological remains were excavated and recorded within the working area according to accepted professional standards, by a qualified professional(s), and in accordance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (IfA 2013a), Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2013b) and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (IfA 2013c).

4.3 All archaeological deposits were recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate) and sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate).

4.4 Photographs (digital SLR) were taken as appropriate, to record each deposit, the site and the landscape context, and included an appropriate scale measure.

4.5 All surfaces exposed by topsoil stripping were left in a suitable state for the proper identification of archaeological remains. Areas were hand-cleaned by the archaeologist in order to better-define any remains identified. Where archaeological remains were identified, machinery and vehicles were not permitted to cross the area.

4.6 Sufficient artefacts identified during the course of the project were, as a minimum, collected, processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of the agreed repository. The treatment of artefacts and environmental samples was in accordance with IfA guidance (2013d).

4.7 All artefacts were retained from excavated contexts. Sufficient artefacts were retained to elucidate the date and function of the feature or deposit. Artefacts were bagged by archaeological context.

4.8 Excavated spoil was examined for artefacts and scanned with a metal detector.

4.9 A risk assessment in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) was undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations were adhered to at all times.

5. RESULTS

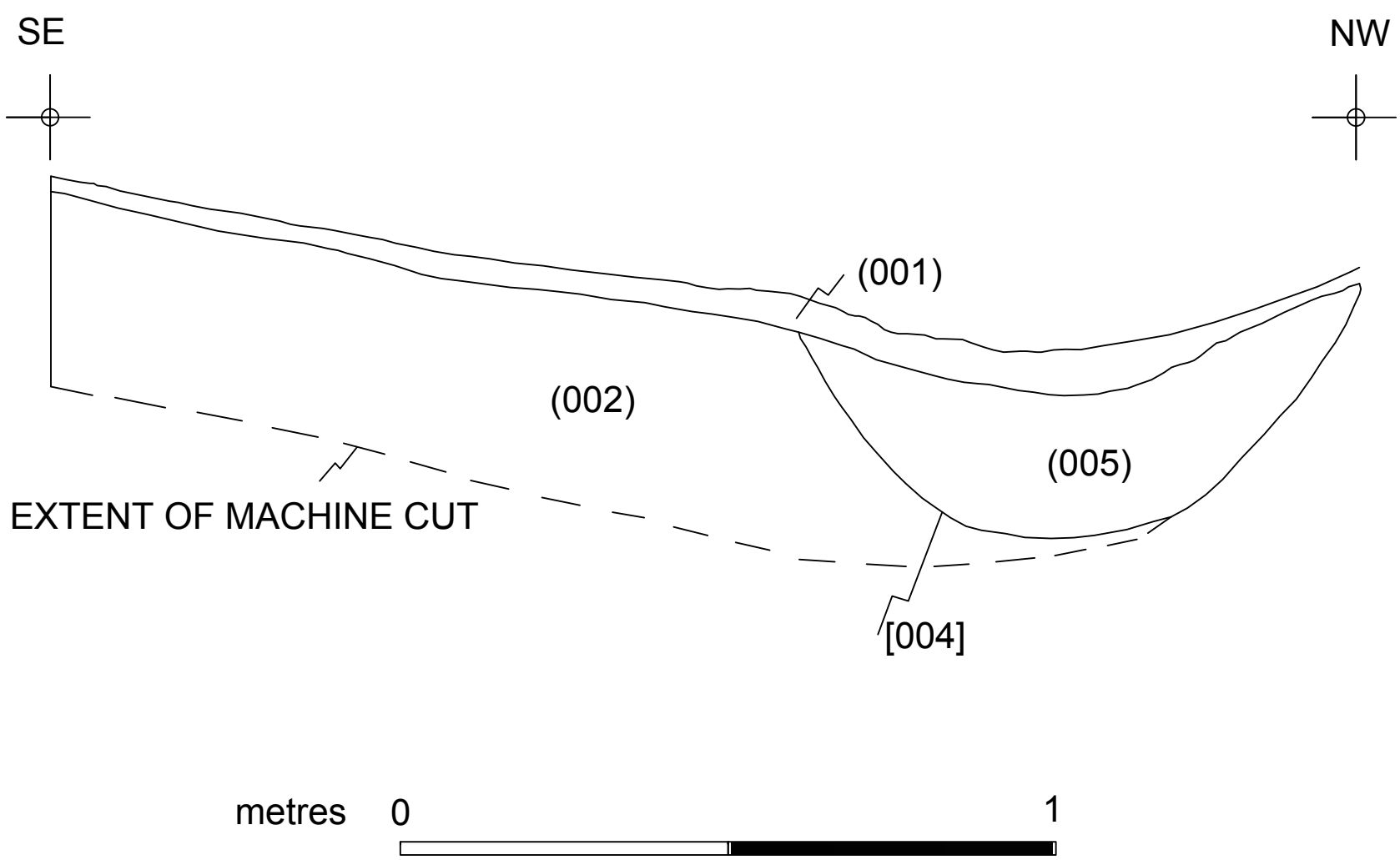
5.1 Initial Topsoil and Vegetation Strip and Footing Excavations

5.1.1 The initial works monitored a topsoil and vegetation strip of the northern and eastern area of the site (Figure 3) in order to allow a site compound to be constructed and to prepare the areas where the initial building plots would be excavated. This involved stripping the upper layer of grass and vegetation and generally did not penetrate wholly through the fine dark brown clayey silt topsoil (001), although on rare occasions did expose the mid-orange brown silty clay subsoil (002). No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified during this phase of works.

Figure 5. Initial topsoil and vegetation strip in progress.

5.1.2 As part of the initial topsoil strip, four locations were targeted where it was suspected that existing field boundaries would be breached by the development (two interventions in each of the identified two field boundaries) (Figure 3). In the case of the two most easterly locations on the edge of the site boundary, it was clear that the field boundary had been disturbed during the initial development of the area in the mid-twentieth century, with the field boundary capped by concrete and curb-stones (which forms the current Inveresk Road and Greenway) at the specified locations. Despite the breach caused by the roads, a north-east to south-west aligned hedgerow could be seen in this location running almost the entire length of the site, which is intended to stay *in situ* and remain undisturbed.

5.1.3 The two most westerly field boundary locations were present as a north-east to south-west aligned hedgerow which existed as a near-continuous depression with discontinuous vegetation, visible almost the entire length of the site. Near the specified locations, a machine slot was dug in areas where there was an existing breach in vegetation in order to attempt to characterise the form and date of the boundary. In both interventions, the ditch [004] displayed a single fill (005) of very dark brown clay-silt with abundant vegetation in the form of trees, nettles, brambles and other flora. In some areas of the ditch, although not in the machine-dug slots, remnants of modern discarded material such as car tyres, a car engine and plastic sheeting was observed. The base of fill, exposed only by the machine, contained no finds or palaeoenvironmental material of interpretable or datable value. From the top of the depression to the base of the ditch, the depth measured approximately 1.5m and was cut into the subsoil (002). From the confines of the excavations, it is not possible to determine the date of the hedgerow.



Title: FIGURE 6

INV13 - NE Facing Section Through Boundary Ditch [004]

Scale: 1:10 at A4

Key:

N

Figure 7. Existing hedgerow aligned north-east to south-west, present almost continuously through the centre of the site.

Figure 8. Existing hedgerow aligned north-east to south-west, existing almost continuously through the centre of the site. The hedgerow was present as a depression, with occasional breaks in vegetation to allow for access from one field to another, as observed here.

Figure 9. Example section of the existing hedgerow. Scale 1m.

5.1.4 Following the topsoil and vegetation strip, the footings for Plot 37 were excavated. The footings reached a maximum depth of 1.6m at the north-western end, rising to 0.9m at the south-eastern end. The stratigraphic sequence comprised a thin layer of the remaining topsoil (001), approximately 0.1m thick, overlying the subsoil (002) which had a maximum thickness of 0.3m. Directly underlying these two deposits was the natural substratum (003) consisting of mid-red-brown sandy-clay with moderate sandstone inclusions. All three deposits were present trench wide and showed little diversity. No finds or features of archaeological interest were present, although two land drains were observed aligned north-east to south-west, both in the western half of the plot.

Figure 10. Excavation of the Plot 37 footings.

Figure 11. Example section in Plot 37. Scale 1m.

5.1.5 Plots 36 and 35 were dug in November and December 2013 respectively, and were very similar stratigraphically to Plot 37. Plot 36 reached a maximum depth of 2.3m at the south-eastern end, rising to between 1.6m to 2m at the north-western end. The topsoil (001) displayed a maximum thickness of 0.4m, overlying the subsoil (002) which had a maximum thickness of 0.3m. This directly overlay the natural substratum (003). Plot 35 was a uniform depth of approximately 1.5m, with the topsoil (001) a maximum of 0.35m in thickness, and the subsoil (002) 0.4m in thickness which again directly overlay the natural substratum (003). No finds or features of archaeological significance were encountered whilst excavating the footings for housing plots 35 or 36.

Figure 12. Example section of the shallow end of Plot 36. Scale 2m.

Figure 13. Example section of the deeper end of Plot 36. Scale 2x2m.

Figure 14. General shot of Plot 35 under excavation.

Figure 15. Example section of Plot 35. Scale 1m.

5.2 Access Road Works

5.2.1 Following the preliminary site preparation work of the initial topsoil and vegetation strip, and the excavation of footings 35, 36 and 37, described above, work began on the excavation on the access road.

5.2.2 The entire area encompassing the footprint of the access road, approximately 2000m², was initially stripped of topsoil under continuous archaeological monitoring. No archaeological features were identified during this process however numerous stray artefacts in both the topsoil (001) and the subsoil (002) were observed and retained. The artefacts were present throughout the entirety of the topsoil, but within the subsoil were only present within the top approximately 0.1m, after which no further artefacts were observed. The recovered artefacts mostly comprised pottery from the post-medieval period along with one fragment of Roman pottery recovered from the subsoil (002) (see section 6.1), with a small amount of clay pipe stem fragments, ceramic building material (CBM) and glass.

5.2.3 Following the initial strip, the entire area was then stripped in approximately 0.1m spits under continuous archaeological supervision down to the depth required for the build-up of the road. Due to the nature of the development, only approximately half the access road was stripped to the natural substratum (003), with the remainder stripped to the subsoil (002) (see Figure 3). No archaeological features or further artefacts were identified during this process.

Figure 16. Initial topsoil strip of the access road.

Figure 17. Stripping of the access road down to the natural substratum (003).

Figure 18. Example section in the access road excavation, showing topsoil (001), subsoil (002) and the natural substratum (003).

5.3 Archaeological Evaluation Trench

5.3.1 Following the access road works, at the request of Julie Edwards of the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service, a 25m long archaeological evaluation trench was opened in the north-west corner of the site. As the ground works were not impacting on this area of the site the trench was located in order to identify any archaeological remains. No features were present in the trench; however the stratigraphy differed slightly to that observed elsewhere across the site. The topsoil (100) was noticeably deeper than elsewhere on the site, with a maximum thickness of 0.6m and contained a higher frequency of modern debris including bricks, plastic sheeting, pottery and metal piping than elsewhere on the site, indicative of recent disturbance. In-between the topsoil (100) and subsoil (102) was a thin layer of dark brown silty-clay (101), with a maximum thickness of 0.2m and a minimum thickness of 0.08m, present throughout the entire trench. Similarly to topsoil (100), this layer (101) contained modern demolition material in the form of bricks, pottery, metal objects, plastic sheeting and glass. This layer directly overlay the subsoil (102), which was identical to the subsoil (002) observed across the rest of the site. This in turn overlay the natural substratum (103), identical to (003) observed throughout the rest of the site.

5.3.2 The modern debris observed in (100) and (101) is indicative of recent disturbance of the area and is likely to be associated with the mid-late twentieth century construction of Inveresk Road and Greenway.

Figure 19. Evaluation trench, post-excavation.

Figure 20. Example section of the archaeological evaluation trench showing topsoil (100), demolition deposit (101) and subsoil (102). The natural substratum (103) is present in the base of the trench but obscured by water. Scale 1m.

Figure 21. Example of the modern material recovered from the topsoil (100) of the archaeological evaluation trench including modern bricks, plastic drainpipe and plastic sheeting.

5.4 Pond Scrape

5.4.1 Following the initial topsoil and vegetation strip, the excavation of targeted footings and the excavation of the archaeological evaluation trench, described above, work began on the construction of two ponds. These were situated at the GCN Receptor Site, approximately 100m to the north of the main development site (Figure 2 and 25).

5.4.2 Pond 1 measured approximately 10m (north-west to south-east) by 4.5m (north-east to south-west) and reached an overall depth of approximately 1.5m. Pond 2 measured approximately 8m (north-west to south-east) by 6m (north-east to south-west) and reached an overall depth of approximately 1.5m. The ponds were situated within 10m of each other. The stratigraphic sequence comprised a layer of dark brown clayey-silty topsoil (101), which had a uniform maximum thickness of 0.3m. Directly underlying this was mid-orange brown silty-clay subsoil (102), which reached a maximum thickness of 0.45m. This directly overlay the natural substratum (103) which was mid-reddish brown sandy clay.

5.4.3 The topsoil and subsoil in this area, although undoubtedly the same deposits as witnessed in the main development area, were very sterile, and no stray finds were present in the deposits. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed during the ground works for the two ponds, and no deposits of palaeoenvironmental potential were observed.

Figure 22. Location of the ponds, pre-excavation, looking east. The stakes in the foreground mark the location of Pond 1, whilst those in the background mark the location of Pond 2.

Figure 23. Working shot of the excavation of Pond 1, showing the upper surface of the subsoil. Facing north-west.

Figure 24. Post-excavation of Pond 1, facing south-west.

Figure 25. Working shot of the excavation of Pond 2, showing the upper surface of the subsoil. Facing north-west.

Figure 26. Post-excavation of Pond 2, looking north. Scale 1m.

Title: FIGURE 27

INV13 - Location of pond scrapes

Scale: 1:900 at A3

Key:

Pond 1

Pond 2

Malpas Road

Church Road

Holly Terrace

Inveresk Road

0m 10m 25m

N

6. FINDS ANALYSIS

6.1 Pottery Analysis

Dr. Robin Holgate MIfA FSA

6.1.1 A total of one Romano-British and 102 post-medieval potsherds was examined macroscopically and was tabulated (Tables 1 and 2) by ware within each context. All of the potsherds were recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits.

Code	Ware	Date
BBG	Black & brown glazed ware	17th to 19th century
BBG C	Black & brown glazed ware - Coarse	18th to 19th century
BWTPW	Blue and white transfer-printed ware	18th to 19th century
MOCHA	Mocha ware	Late 18th to Mid 19th century
OXF RS	Oxfordshire red-slipped ware	*c.* AD240 to late 4th C
PGE	Pearl glazed earthenware	*c.*AD 1780+
SCBW	Slip-coated buff ware	*c.*AD 1740+
UNGRE	Unglazed red earthenware	18th to 19th century
WSGST	White salt-glazed stoneware	*c.*AD 1720+

Table 1. Key to pottery ware codes

Context	Code	Quantity of sherds	Weight (g)	Notes	Date Range
001	UNGRE	1	21.8	Body sherd	18-19th C
001	BBG	3	23.41	Body sherds	17-19th C
001	BBG C	2	59.11	Body sherds	18-19th C
001	PGE	16	89.22	Including 1 plate rim, 2 bowl body sherds, 1 mug handle sherd	Late 18-19th C
001	BWTPW	10	39.14	Including three willow-pattern plate fragments	18-19th C
001	PGE	3	16.59	Rim sherds	Late 18-Mid 19th C
001	SCBW	2	26.53	Body sherds	19th C
002	UNGRE	3	135.03	Body sherds	18-19th C
002	BBG	20	661.25	Body sherds from bowls/jars	17-19th C
002	BBG C	2	3.62	Body sherds	18-19th C
002	PGE	13	101.38	Various sherds including plate rim	Late 18-19th C
002	WSGST	1	27.77	Body sherd	Late 18-19th C
002	MOCHA	1	7.19	Body sherd	19-20th C
002	BWTPW	8	28.38	Body sherds including three willow-pattern plates	18-19th C
002	SCBW	3	37.47	Body sherds	19th C
002	OXF RS	1	6.46	Rim sherd of heavily abraded Oxfordshire red-slipped ware bowl	*c.* AD240 - late 4th C
100	UNGRE	2	106.31	Body sherds	18-19th C
100	-	4	95.24	Modern bathroom tile	20th C

101		4	25.92	Modern bathroom tile	20th C
102	UNGRE	1	9.12	Body sherd	18-19th C
102	BBG	2	84.86	Body sherds	17-19th C
102	PGE	1	18.77	Body sherd	Late 18-19th C

Table 2. Pottery wares by count

6.1.2 The heavily abraded fragment of Romano-British non-local fineware could result from manuring in the late Romano-British period. The post-medieval pottery consists of a range of domestic wares and is likely to date to the 19th and early 20th centuries, although some pieces of black and brown glazed ware could date back as early as the 17th century.

6.2 Clay Pipe Analysis

6.2.1 The clay pipe recovered from the site comprised entirely stem fragments and the lack of any diagnostic bowl fragments makes the assemblage difficult to date. However, the smooth and slender appearance of the majority of the stems suggests a date after the early eighteenth century (Shopland 2005, 193).

Context	Deposit	Object	Stem Ø (mm)	Bore Ø (mm)
001	Topsoil	Stem	8	2
001	Topsoil	Stem	6	2
001	Topsoil	Stem	5	2
001	Topsoil	Stem	7	2
002	Subsoil	Stem	9	3
002	Subsoil	Stem	7	2
002	Subsoil	Stem	9	3
002	Subsoil	Stem	7	2
002	Subsoil	Stem	6	2
002	Subsoil	Stem	9	2
002	Subsoil	Stem	6	2
102	Subsoil	Stem	6	2

Table 3. Clay pipe quantification

6.3 Glass

6.3.1 Thirteen fragments of glass were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil deposits. In all cases these appear to represent domestic ware such as drinking vessels, bottles and window fragments, and none of the fragments appear to pre-date the eighteenth century, and indeed many are likely to date to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Context	Object	Description	Interpretation
002	Fragment	Thick clear glass with corrugations	Drinking glass
002	Fragment	Thick dark green curved glass	Bottle
002	Fragment	Thin green flat shard	?
100	Fragment	Clear flat shard	Window fragment?
100	Fragment	Dark red chunk	?
101	Fragment	3x matching clear glass flat shards	Window fragment?
101	Fragment	2x matching clear glass shards	Window fragment?

101	Fragment	Curved clear dark green fragment. Embossed 'DISB…' 'Trade…'	Bottle
102	Fragment	2x matching clear glass shards	Window fragment

Table 4. Glass quantification

6.4 Metal Objects

6.4.1 At the request of Julie Edwards of the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service, the use of a metal detector was employed to scan all spoil heaps and stripped areas of ground. The metal detector identified five metal objects in total, all corroded, and all representing domestic and/or agricultural activity. Three possible nail/bolts of varying size were discovered which may be linked to ploughing or farming activity, and one metal bracket with holes for affixing to a wall was identified. One further fragment of unidentifiable metal (likely an incomplete fragment) was recovered. It is not considered that any of the metal objects pre-date the 18th century.

Context	Deposit	Object	Interpretation
002	Subsoil	Fe. Nail 13.5cm in length. Heavily corroded	Large nail/bolt
002	Subsoil	Fragment Fe. Object 6cmx 2.5cm. Corroded	Unknown
002	Subsoil	Fragment bent at ~45 degrees. Corroded	Bent nail?
100	Topsoil	Object bent at ~45 degrees with decorated curved end. Holes punched in for screws/ fixing. Lightly corroded	Wall bracket?
101	Demolition layer	Slightly curved peg/nail ~15cm in length. Corroded	Peg/nail

Table 5. Metal object quantification

6.5 CBM

6.5.1 Seven fragments of CBM were recovered from across the site. These comprised some unidentifiable fragments along with 2 fragments of ceramic field drains.

Context	Deposit	Object	Interpretation
001	Topsoil	Abraded fragment	?
002	Subsoil	6x fragments. Large stone inclusions	?
100	Topsoil	Slightly curved fragment	Field drain
101	Demolition deposit	Curved fragment	Field drain
102	Subsoil	Fragment	?

Table 6. CBM quantification

6.6 Finds Discussion

6.6.1 The finds represent a mix of domestic and to a lesser extent agricultural activity. The WSI (Raybould 2013) highlights the potential for Roman remains along with remains from the early settlement of Tilston (early medieval) at the site. With the exception of a single sherd of Roman pottery recovered from subsoil (002), none of the finds are representative of the Roman or early medieval period, and are all post-medieval in date.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 The archaeological watching brief identified no archaeological features, however did produce pottery and clay pipe of post-medieval and one fragment of Roman pottery. Despite being out of context and located within mixed and disturbed topsoil and subsoil deposits, the presence of these artefacts does indicate past activity at the site. The presence of the artefacts in the topsoil and the upper surface of the subsoil suggest they may have been disturbed by ploughing/agricultural activity.

7.2 Two existing field boundaries were identified at the outset of the project as being potentially medieval in date after Historic Landscape Characterisation (Cheshire County Council and English Heritage 2008) of the area. One of the boundaries was located at the very edge of the site and was found to have been impacted on by the previous construction phase of Inveresk Road and Greenway. The remaining boundary was present almost continuously throughout the centre of the site. The two archaeological interventions placed across this field boundary revealed no artefacts and displayed no palaeoenvironmental potential, with a single, sterile fill. The field boundary is present on the 1841 tithe map, hence is undoubtedly well-established, however it is not possible to say whether it may exist from medieval times due to the lack of cultural or dating evidence.

8. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

8.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

8.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

9. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

9.1 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.

10. ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

10.1 A digital and paper archive will be prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data and is intended to be deposited with Cheshire West Museums within six months of completion of the works.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

11.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd. would like to thank all those involved with the

archaeological project, especially Dave Garner and the site-based staff of Jones Homes, Owen Raybould of RSK Ltd. and Julie Edwards of Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service.

12. REFERENCES

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Appendix I - Site Records

Context Register

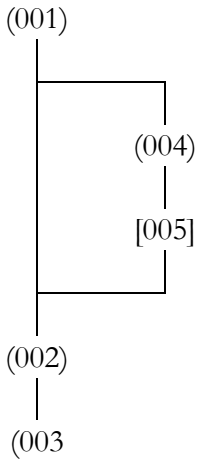
Context Number	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Subsoil
003	Natural
004	Field boundary fill
005	Field boundary cut
100	Topsoil. Evaluation Trench
101	Demolition Layer. Evaluation Trench
102	Subsoil. Evaluation Trench
103	Natural. Evaluation Trench

Finds Quantification

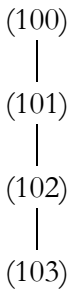
Context	Finds	Quantification
001 topsoil	Pottery	37
001 topsoil	CBM	1
001 topsoil	Clay pipe stem	4
002 subsoil	Glass	2
002 subsoil	CBM	2
002 subsoil	Fe. Object	3
002 subsoil	Clay pipe stem	7
002 subsoil	Pottery	51
100 topsoil	CBM	3
100 topsoil	Fe. Object	1
100 topsoil	Modern glass	2
100 topsoil	Pottery	6
101 demolition deposit	Fe. Object	1
101 demolition deposit	Modern glass	6
101 demolition deposit	CBM	1
101 demolition deposit	Pottery	4
102 subsoil	Clay pipe stem	1
102 subsoil	CBM	1
102 subsoil	Modern glass	2
102 subsoil	Pottery	4

Appendix II – Harris Matrices

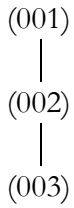
Site Strip



Evaluation Trench



Pond Scrape



PE Jones (Contractors) Ltd.

INVERESK ROAD, TILSTON

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation

660436

REVISION 01

SEPTEMBER 2013

RSK GENERAL NOTES

Project No.: 660436/01/01 Rev00

Title: Inveresk Road, Tilston, Cheshire West
Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation

Client: PE Jones (Contractors) Ltd.

Date: 30th September 2013

Office: Manchester

Status: Final

Author	Owen Raybould	**Technical reviewer**	Helena Kelly
Date:	30th September 2013	Date:	30th September 2013

Project Manager	Owen Raybould
Date:	30th September 2013

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

RSK Environment Ltd (RSK) has been commissioned by PE Jones (Contractors) Ltd to prepare a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for archaeological mitigation for **APPLICATION – 12/04319/FUL**:

> ERECTION OF 37 PROPERTIES AND ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING AND HIGHWAY WORKS
>
> LAND ADJACENT TO 2 GREENWAY, INVERESK ROAD, TILSTON, MALPAS, CHESHIRE

The construction area measures 1.6Ha in area, located at NGR 345947, 351158. An associated Great Crested Newt (GCN) receptor site at NGR 346059, 351439 measuring 0.9Ha is to be placed into secure long-term management (Figure 1).

There is potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits relating to the early settlement of Tilston, and the GCN receptor site borders a stream with palaeoenvironmental potential.

This WSI provides a programme of mitigation to assess archaeological potential of the impact area, and for the recording of buried archaeology that may be impacted upon through construction works.

The programme of mitigation, comprising an archaeological watching brief and subsequent necessary assessments, is proposed in response to planning condition 14 of Planning Consent, which reads as follows:

> *14. 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.*

1.2 Quality Standards

The WSI is also provided in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IfA 2012), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (IfA 2008), *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2008), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects Revision II* (English Heritage 1991).

Fieldworks will be carried out by archaeological subcontractors, according to this WSI and under the technical management of the Project Archaeologist.

RSK is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the IfA. All archaeological works will be supervised by appropriately qualified professionals with relevant experience, who are members of the IfA at a commensurate level.

This document and the site works will be monitored by the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (a joint service providing archaeological advice to Cheshire West and Chester Council, and Cheshire East Council) (CAPAS).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2012

The NPPF provides a tool which Local Planning Authorities in England use to prepare Local Development Frameworks (LDF) and ultimately control development within the framework and aims of sustainable development.

Section 12 of the NPPF provides policy relating to conserving and enhancing the historic environment through requirements to evaluate, preserve and, if necessary, mitigate impact on heritage assets.

1.3.2 Cheshire West and Chester Core Strategy

The Core Strategy is the key document within the Local Development Framework. The role of the Core Strategy is to set out the spatial vision for the area over the whole plan period (up to 2026), together with objectives and policies designed to achieve the vision.

A key part of Cheshire West and Chester's policy will be to ensure the effective protection of the historic environment, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.4 Archaeological Background

Tilston is recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey and by this time was a large and important township; it is unclear when the settlement was founded by the Romano-British settlement of Bovium is suggested to lie close by and archaeological remains of this period have been discovered in fields to the north west of the village. Chester Road lies on the projected route of the Tilston to Malpas section of Watling Street, a Roman road linking Chester with Wroxeter and Caerlon.

The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) Project classifies construction area as 'Medieval Townfields'. The area has not been developed throughout the later post-medieval period and the field boundaries shown on the 1841 Tithe mapping survive. The proposed development layout impacts on field boundaries at four locations (Figure 2).

There is potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits relating to the early settlement of Tilston, and the GCN receptor site borders a stream with palaeoenvironmental potential.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

2.1.1 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the archaeological watching brief is to identify, then preserve, archaeological remains that may be altered, damaged or destroyed by the works requiring the watching brief.

The objectives of the survey are to provide data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of archaeological deposits.

An archaeological watching brief is defined as the monitoring, by an appropriately qualified archaeologist, of third party activities which may impact upon or expose archaeological remains during on-site construction activities. Accordingly, a watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

The aims of the programme of archaeological field assessment and mitigation are to:

- Ensure the development and delivery of mitigation measures in the form of 'preservation by record' (excavation and recording) for any archaeological remains revealed by excavations.
- Prepare an archaeological archive of the site, that is reporting and publication of results of the watching brief, including the treatment and preservation of any finds and/or samples, deposition of the archive at an agreed repository or repositories (see 2.3.6 below), and the detailed analysis and publication of results, cross-referencing previous assessments at the site and in the local area, to an appropriate level.

2.1.2 Scope

Groundworks comprising, but not limited to, the following will be archaeologically monitored:

- Construction of access roads
- Excavation for wall footings
- Service trenches
- Landscaping groundworks
- Scrapes for ponds

Initially, it is advised that the watching brief concentrates on groundworks for access roads (Figure 2) and scrapes for ponds (Figure 1). The requirement will be reviewed in light of findings from these activities.

2.1.3 Methodology

At the outset of the project, the Main Works Contractor (MWC) will be briefed on the potential for archaeological remains.

As is standard under watching brief conditions, the limits of the works area shall not exceed the requirements of the MWC construction plans.

The monitoring archaeologist will ensure that surfaces exposed by topsoil stripping are left by the MWC in a suitable state for the proper identification of archaeological remains. Areas may be hand-cleaned by the archaeologist in order to better-define any remains identified.

Where archaeological remains are identified, machinery and vehicles will not be permitted to cross the area. If necessary, the archaeological site will be fenced off and fitted with signage.

Where archaeological remains are abundant, site works may continue elsewhere on site whilst the monitoring archaeologist is afforded sufficient time to investigate and record exposed archaeological features.

Where possible, the monitoring archaeologist will work in tandem with the Main Works Contractor in order to minimise delay to the construction programme, however, it is anticipated that the programme of advance works will allow that all archaeological works are carried out in advance of the construction phase.

2.2 Excavation and Recording

Archaeological remains will be excavated and recorded within the working area according to accepted professional standards, by a qualified professional(s), and in accordance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (IfA 2012) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (IfA 2008), Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (IfA 2008), and the archaeological contractor's fieldwork manual.

A pre-excavation plan will be produced of all visible archaeological features, including modern intrusions. The plan will be aligned/referenced to the OS grid.

Where exposed, archaeological features and structures will be recorded and excavated stratigraphically and all relationships will be investigated. Ideally, sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the information required, however, the minimum requirements are as follows:

- 50% (by volume) of all identified discrete negative features; followed by up to 50% (by number) to be fully excavated following assessment;
- 15-25% (by volume) of each linear feature, all terminals and intersections (if relationship is unclear). This percentage may be reduced dependent on the established importance and date of the type of features identified;
- 75-100% (by volume) of all structural features, including negative features;
- 75-100% (by volume) structural remains to be exposed and excavated sufficiently to establish phasing and relationships;

- 100% domestic and industrial working features; and
- 5-10% of tree-throws, to confirm interpretation, and record any deposition of artefacts. Tree-throws may be excavated by machine, if necessary.

Each context will be recorded on a *pro-forma* context sheet by descriptive and measured description.

All archaeological deposits will be recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate) and sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate).

The Ordnance Datum height of all principal features and levels will be calculated and plans and sections will be annotated with Ordnance Datum heights.

The location of archaeological features identified during the course of the project will be identified using a method appropriate to the feature. As a minimum, this will be recording using a hand-held GPS or measuring from fixed points.

Photographs (digital SLR) will be taken as appropriate, to record each feature, the site, and landscape context, including an appropriate scale measure.

2.2.1 Environmental Policy

Palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken during the watching brief where possible/appropriate, and according to standard and accepted environmental sampling policies outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance documents, and the Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA) Site Manual (1994). The English Heritage guidance Environmental Archaeology; A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition), English Heritage 2011, will also be followed.

Bulk environmental soil samples for charred plant macrofossils, small animal bones, and other artefacts will be collected from appropriate, well-sealed and dated/datable archaeological contexts. Samples of 40 litres will be collected, or 100% of smaller contexts.

For deposits where anaerobic preservation is identified, 20 litre bulk samples will be collected for the retrieval of uncharred plant macrofossils and insects.

Appropriate provision will be ensured for the application of scientific dating techniques.

Where necessary, the regional English Heritage Science Advisor will be consulted.

2.2.2 Human Remains

Any finds of human remains during the course of the Project will be left *in situ*, covered and protected.

Jones Homes, the Project Archaeologist, the relevant Archaeological Curator and the Coroner will be notified.

If removal is agreed by the above parties, it will take place under appropriate regulations (normally a licence is required from the Ministry of Justice) and with due regard for health and safety issues and the requirements of the *Burial Act 1857*.

2.2.3 Small Finds Policy

All artefacts identified during the course of the project will, as a minimum, be collected, processed, sorted, quantified, recorded, labelled, packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of the agreed repository. The treatment of artefacts and environmental samples will be in accordance with the IfA's *Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (IfA Finds Group 2008).

All artefacts will be retained from excavated contexts. Sufficient artefacts will be retained to elucidate the date and function of the feature or deposit. If unsure as to the date of the context, all artefacts will be retained for further assessment.

Artefacts will be bagged by archaeological context. The location of special (or 'small') finds will be three-dimensionally recorded. Three-dimensional recording of in-situ flint working deposits will be carried out, as appropriate.

Excavated spoil will be examined for artefacts and these will be retained and recorded, except for material of a modern date which will be noted but not retained.

Finds are the property of the landowner.

Contingency will be made for external specialist advice and conservation needs on-site should unexpected, unusual or extremely fragile and delicate objects be recovered. X-raying and storing of metalwork and other delicate objects will be undertaken by an appropriate external specialist facility.

2.2.4 Treasure

In the event of discovery of artefacts covered or potentially covered by the *Treasure Act 1996* and subsequent legislation, their excavation and removal will be undertaken following notification to the relevant Archaeological Curator.

2.2.5 Health and Safety

The Project Archaeologist will ensure that all archaeological fieldwork is carried out in accordance with the Main Works Contractor Health and Safety requirements.

All standards will conform with The Health and Safety At Work etc. Act (1974).

It is expected that measures will be introduced by the Main Works Contractor or the archaeological contractor (as appropriate) in order to mitigate or control all identified hazards.

2.3 Post-Excavation Programme (Reporting and Publication)

2.3.1 Introduction

On completion of fieldwork a methodology for processing, sampling and the analysis of all artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the evaluation will be determined, commensurate to the complexity and character of the data recorded. This will be communicated in writing to CAPAS.

Consultation will be maintained with CAPAS throughout post-construction archaeological assessments.

2.3.2 Methodology & Guidance

The management of this phase will follow guidelines specified in *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage, 1991) as appropriate and commensurate to the findings of the fieldwork phase of this project. Normally, five phases are specified:

- Phase 1: project planning
- Phase 2: fieldwork
- Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis
- Phase 4: analysis and report preparation
- Phase 5: dissemination

Phase 3 involves an objective assessment of the results of the planning/fieldwork phases (Phases 1 and 2) in order to ascertain the appropriate level of post-evaluation analysis and reporting. This phase culminates in the production of a post-evaluation assessment report. The second involves carrying out the work identified within the post-evaluation assessment report, and culminates in a final report and project archive (Phases 4 and 5).

2.3.3 Post-excavation assessment – Phase 3

The level of post-excavation analysis and reporting for the purposes of the work will be commensurate to the findings of the fieldwork and sufficient to establish the character, scale, date range, artefactual and palaeo-environmental potential and overall significance of the remains.

The style and format of the report will include as a minimum the following:

- A location plan of working areas and/or other fieldwork;
- Plans and sections of features located at an appropriate scale;
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits including the present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale;
- A summary statement of the results;
- A table summarising the features, classes and numbers of artefacts contained within, spot dating of significant finds and an interpretation; and
- An interpretation of the archaeological findings both within the site and within their wider landscape setting.

Artefact analysis will be sufficient to establish date ranges of archaeological deposits, a general assessment of the types of pottery and other artefacts to assist in characterising the archaeology, and to establish the potential for all categories of artefacts should further archaeological work be necessary.

2.3.4 Analysis and report preparation – Phase 4

The work undertaken during this phase of the project will be carried out according to the recommendations contained within the post-evaluation assessment report, and may include requirements for publication, depending on the recommendations made.

2.3.5 Production of site archive - Phase 5

A full archive including plans, photographs, written material and any other material resulting from the project will be prepared within an agreed timescale after the completion of the fieldwork stage of project. The standards will conform to best practice detailed in *Archaeological Archives* (Brown 2007).

All plans, photographs and descriptions will be labelled and cross-referenced. All digital data will be written to CD-ROM and stored with the paper archive with an appropriate repository. Should new sites be identified during the course of the works, a suitable database structure will be agreed in advance with the relevant Historic Environment Record Officer.

2.3.6 Archive repository

There is currently no museum designated to accept the archives of archaeological fieldwork in Cheshire West and Chester. An attempt will be made to deposit the paper and digital archive for the project with a suitable repository as soon as one is made available.

Arrangements will be made with a designated archive repository and curator for details of the requirements of title transfer and copyright to the museum. In response to this, the designated repository will make available local standards for the submission of an archaeological archive where needed. Once this is confirmed and arrangements are made for the deposition of the archive, the designated repository will allocate the archive a unique museum identity number (accession number). The designated repository will only retain the finds and environmental archive, along with supporting paper and digital archive where necessary. The designated repository will then become responsible for managing and curating the collection.

An electronic record of the project details would be created through OASIS (http://oasis.ac.uk). The project record should include technical details for each technique used in the project. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record would be integrated into the relevant local and national Records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

2.4 Programme

The archaeological watching brief will take place during the construction phase of the development.

The post-excavation assessment and reporting will take place during and/or following the construction phase.

2.5 Monitoring

Notification of the start of site works will be made to CAPAS by Jones Homes/the Project Archaeologist, so that there will be opportunities to arrange to visit the works.

CAPAS will be kept informed of progress during the course of the works, and will be consulted as necessary to agree appropriate mitigation measures if significant archaeological remains are encountered.

3 REFERENCES

English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects Revision II*

Institute for Archaeologists, 2012, *Code of Conduct*

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

FIGURES

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol5-167212

Project details

Project name	Inveresk Road, Tilston, Cheshire. Archaeological Watching Brief
Short description of the project	In October 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd. (ARS Ltd.) was commissioned by RSK Environmental Ltd. (RSK Ltd.) on behalf of P. E. Jones (Contractors) Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief at a site adjacent to 2 Greenway, Inveresk Road, Tilston, Cheshire. The work was carried out during ground works relating to the construction of 37 properties and associated landscaping and highway works. The work required the monitoring of targeted topsoil and vegetation strips, targeted footing excavations and the monitoring of access road works, along with one archaeological evaluation trench over the 1.6 hectare site. Further works comprised the excavation of two ponds at a mitigation site approximately 100m to the north of the main development site. The archaeological watching brief identified no features of archaeological interest; however, frequent pottery fragments were recovered from both the topsoil and subsoil deposits, dating from the post-medieval period, along with one single fragment of Roman pottery. Clay pipe stem fragments were also recovered. The presence of these artefacts, despite not being in secure archaeological contexts or features, indicates past activity at the site.
Project dates	Start: 01-10-2013 End: 14-02-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Investigation type	"'Watching Brief'"

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE CHESTER TILSTON Inveresk Road
Postcode	SY14 7ED
Study area	1.60 Hectares
Lat/Long Datum (other)	SJ 45965 51186

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project brief originator	RSK Environmental Ltd
Project design originator	RSk Environmental Ltd
Project director/manager	Chris Scott
Project supervisor	Laura Strafford
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Inveresk Road, Tilston, Chershire. Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Strafford, L. and Park, V
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Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	ARS Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Bakewell
Description	A4 colour spiral bound

Entered by	Laura Strafford (laura@archaeologicalresearchservices.com)
Entered on	20 February 2014

OASIS: