Transport for Greater Manchester and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

TEMPORARY RE-DEVELOPMENT OF HEATON LANE CAR PARK, STOCKPORT INTERCHANGE

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

70031899-355
APRIL 2020

CONFIDENTIAL

Transport for Greater Manchester and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

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TYPE OF DOCUMENT (VERSION) CONFIDENTIAL

PROJECT NO. 70031899

OUR REF. NO. 70031899-355

DATE: APRIL 2020

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Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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QUALITY CONTROL

Issue/revision	First issue	Revision 1	Revision 2	Revision 3
Remarks	First issue			
Date	07/04/2020			
Prepared by	Jeremy Bradley			
Signature				
Checked by	Phil Weston			
Signature				
Authorised by	Alex Grassam			
Signature				
Project number	70031899			
Report number	70031899			
File reference				

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WSP has been commissioned by Transport for Greater Manchester and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological trial trench evaluation, in advance of the re-development of Heaton Lane car park, Stockport as a temporary bus station / depot. The groundworks for the temporary re-development of Heaton Lane car park will comprise the construction of bus bays on the eastern half of the proposed development, including deep drainage, and excavations for a fuel interceptor tank to a depth of approximately 4m. Finished levels for the site are up to 0.75m below present ground level. The proposed significant ground disturbance is likely to impact on the southern extent of Wellington Bridge Mill which includes the engine house, as well as back to back workers housing on John, Union and Henry Streets, especially if cellared.

The archaeological work is required in order to fulfil the terms of an archaeological planning condition (ref DC/071417, dated 16th October 2019) attached to the planning permission for the development.

The WSI sets out the scope and methodology for the archaeological evaluation, including the fieldwork method (including health & safety considerations), approach to sampling, progress reporting, post-excavation reporting, archiving and dissemination. This document has been prepared in consultation with the Heritage Management Director at Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Services, the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority (LPA). The aim of the evaluation is to clarify the presence, nature, date, extent and significance of any archaeological remains that might be present in the areas of proposed impact. The WSI has been informed by an historic environment desk-based assessment (HEDBA) prepared for the Proposed Scheme in 2016 and a mitigation strategy prepared in 2018 in consultation with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service. This identified an archaeological potential for Stockport Interchange temporary Bus Station (Heaton Lane) with the historic mapping analysis suggesting that the south of the site (facing onto Heaton Lane) has not been disturbed to the extent of the north of the site towards the Heaton Lane multi-storey car park. Therefore, there is potential for archaeological remains to survive below-ground in this area. The particular asset of interest is the southern extent of Wellington Bridge Mill which includes the engine house (**Appendix C**, **Figure 3**). Other assets, to the east of Wellington Bridge Mill, include back to back workers housing on John, Union and Henry Streets especially if cellared.

An archaeological watching brief monitoring Geotechnical Investigations on the proposed development, undertaken in 2019, further indicated that the site has some potential to retain physical remains of the early 19th-century Wellington Bridge Mill, and possibly adjacent workers' housing (Salford Archaeology 2019, SA/2019/93) at depths below approximately 0.5m from the current ground level (and greater in other parts of the site). Archaeological survival across the site is therefore anticipated to be good.

The archaeological work will comprise of six evaluation trenches measuring between 15m and 20m long by 2m wide **(Appendix C, Figure 2** and **3**). These are targeted on possible archaeological features identified on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map.

The results of the evaluation will allow the Heritage Management Director at Greater Manchester Archaeological Services to determine an appropriate mitigation strategy for any significant archaeological remains revealed. This might comprise a second stage of investigation, as mitigation, in the form of targeted archaeological excavation and recording in advance of construction, and/or an archaeological watching brief during the removal of recent overburden and in particular the demolition layer identified during the archaeological watching brief (Salford Archaeology 2019, 19).

In the unlikely event that remains of very high significance are revealed, there may be a requirement for preservation in situ (e.g. through avoidance/design adjustments). It is possible that the evaluation will reveal no significant remains, in which case no further work would be required.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1. WSP has been commissioned by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (Stockport MBC) (hereafter referred to as the 'Applicant') to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological trial trench evaluation in advance of the proposed development at Heaton Lane, Stockport, Greater Manchester (National Grid Reference/NGR 389123 390395**; Figure 1** in **Appendix C**).

1.1.2. The archaeological work is required in order to fulfil the terms of an archaeological planning condition (ref DC/071417, dated 16th October 2019) attached to the planning permission for the development.

1.1.3. The scheme comprises the construction of a temporary bus station on the site of Heaton Lane Car Park, which comprises multi-storey parking to the north of the site and a level car park to the south. The main area of impact will be on the level car park to the south. This will comprise the construction of bus bays on the eastern half of the site, which also include deep drainage and excavations for a fuel interceptor tank to a depth of approximately 4m. Finished levels for the site are up to 0.75m below present ground level and therefore will result in substantial ground disturbance in some locations.

1.1.4. The WSI sets out the scope and methodology for the archaeological evaluation including fieldwork methods (inclusive of health & safety considerations), approach to sampling, progress reporting, post-excavation reporting, archiving and dissemination. The aim of the evaluation is to clarify the presence, nature, date, extent and significance of any archaeological remains that might be present in the areas of proposed impact. The archaeological work is required in order to help fulfil an archaeological planning condition (ref DC/071417, dated 16th October 2019) attached to the planning permission for the development. The condition states that *"Prior to commencement of development and in accordance with the relevant phasing plan approved under Condition No 2, the applicant or their agents or successors in title shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological works."*

1.1.5. Condition 54 states that *"The works shall be to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by Stockport Planning Authority. The WSI shall cover the following: A phased programme and methodology of investigation and recording to include: - evaluation trenching - informed by the above, targeted excavation (subject to a new WSI)"*.

1.1.6. The WSI has been informed by a historic environment desk-based assessment (HEDBA; AECOM 2016) and a subsequent mitigation strategy prepared by WSP (2018) in support of the planning application. The scope of works set out in the WSI has also been informed by a subsequent archaeological watching brief, carried out in 2019 during Ground Investigation works (Salford Archaeology 2019).

1.1.7. The results of the evaluation will allow the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), the archaeological advisor for the Local Planning Authority (LPA), to determine an appropriate mitigation strategy for any significant archaeological remains revealed. Any archaeological mitigation work that may be necessary would require an additional WSI to be

produced detailing the scope and method for that work including fieldwork (inc. health & safety), post-excavation assessment, analysis, publication and archive as stipulated in Condition 54 of Planning Application Number DC/071417. The mitigation WSI would need to be separately approved by GMAAS.

1.1.8. The planning condition would normally be discharged once the results of any mitigation have been disseminated at a level appropriate to the significance of the findings (e.g. submission of a report to the County Historic Environment Record, the publication in an appropriate journal, or a monograph).

1.1.9. Section 2 of this WSI provides a summary of the archaeological and historical background. Sections 3–5 deal with the archaeological evaluation, and outline the aims, objectives, and methodology. References are provided in **Appendix B**.

1.2 CONSULTATION

1.2.1. WSP contacted the LPA Archaeological Advisor (Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director (Archaeology) at Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) on 16th March 2020 to discuss the scope of the investigation. The agreed approach is presented in this WSI.

1.3 SITE INSPECTION

1.3.1. No site inspection has been undertaken as part of the preparation of the WSI. The information presented is based on previous studies and data provided by the client from third parties. Prior to the commencement of any intrusive work, it is recommended that a site visit is undertaken by a member of the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team and the archaeological fieldwork contractor to review the information and scope of works presented in this document and, where required, update this WSI and the Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS). This would include, but not be limited to, a review of the proposed trench locations, site access and site security.

1.4 PROJECT ROLES

1.4.1. The '*WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team'* is responsible for managing the scope and for monitoring and assuring the work on behalf of the client. The team will liaise directly with the LPA Archaeological Advisor. Section 7 sets out the role and responsibilities in detail.

1.4.2. The '*LPA Archaeological Advisor'* provides the development control and planning advice to the LPA and has the final decision on the scope of work and signs off the evaluation when it is complete, in consultation with the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team. This is GMAAS.

1.4.3. The '*archaeological fieldwork contractor'* is responsible for carrying out the fieldwork, post-excavation reporting, deposition of the archive and dissemination. All reporting by archaeological fieldwork contractor the will be via the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team.

1.4.4. The '*Main Contractor'* is the contractor in control of the site and responsible for all Health and Safety and site security. Unless noted otherwise, the Main Contractor is the archaeological fieldwork contractor.

1.4.5. The *'plant attendance contractor*' refers to the operative of the plant, hired by the archaeological fieldwork contractor and under their direction.

1.4.6. '*The client'* is the developer. This may or may not be the current landowner.

1.4.7. The '*project archive repository'* is the organisation, for example the county or local museum, responsible for the long-term curation of the project archive, including the field notes, plans, photographs and archived finds. The archaeological fieldwork subcontractor will establish the project archive repository prior to starting the work and will be assigned a unique project reference number ('site code').

1.5 STATEMENT OF LIABILITY

1.5.1. This document is confidential and for the exclusive benefit of the Client (Transport for Greater Manchester and Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council). It may not be assigned to or relied upon by a third party without the agreement of WSP UK Limited ('WSP') in writing. WSP retains all copyright and other intellectual property rights in the document and its contents unless transferred by written agreement between WSP and the Client.

1.5.2. The findings and opinions expressed are based on the conditions encountered and/or the information reasonably available at the date of issue of this document (or other date e.g. date of inspection) and shall be applicable only to the circumstances envisaged herein.

1.5.3. No person except the Client shall have the benefit of this document by virtue of the *Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999*.

2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT BASELINE SUMMARY

2.1 SITE LOCATION

2.1.1. The proposed development is located in Stockport town centre on land bounded by Great Egerton Street to the north, Heaton Lane to the south, Wellington Road North to the east and Gas Street to the west (centred on NGR SJ 389123 390395; Appendix C, Figure 1). The site lies on the north bank of the River Mersey and is currently used as a surface-level car park. The northern part of the proposed development is occupied by a multi-storey carpark which is not subject to this WSI.

2.2 TOPOGRAPHY

2.2.1. The site of the proposed development is currently occupied by a carpark. The tarmac surface of the carpark falls slightly from 45.1m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to the north-east adjacent to the multi-storey carpark to 44.8m aOD fronting on to Heaton Lane to the south-west.

2.3 GEOLOGY

2.3.1. The site is located on sandstone bedrock of the Chester Formation formed c. 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period. The superficial natural consists of River Terrace deposits – Devensian sand and gravel – which were formed c. 3 million years ago in a local environment dominated by rivers (British Geological Survey 2019).

2.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

2.4.1. The HEDBA (AECOM 2016) provides a detailed archaeological and historical background, which is summarised here.

2.4.2. Prehistoric remains in the Stockport area have been rare and sporadic. Finds consist of isolated discoveries such as some Bronze Age cremation burials in Cheadle and two Bronze axes found in Adswood (Tindall 1985, 69). Evidence for Roman presence in Stockport is also archaeologically very slim. There have been occasional Roman finds in the area but as yet there is little firm archaeological evidence for early settlement. However, it is likely that the Roman roads from Cheadle to Melandra Castle (Gamesely) and from Manchester to Buxton crossed the Mersey in Stockport (Salford Archaeology 2018).

2.4.3. There is little archaeological evidence for activity during the early medieval period. Anglo-Saxon coins have been found locally, however Stockport is not recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 which suggests there was no settlement here prior to the Norman Conquest. The settlement developed during the medieval period, centred on Market Place and Millgate and most likely had a bridge over the Mersey by the 15th century (Dodgson 1970, 271). A deer park was located on the site of Astley Street at this time (Arrowsmith 1996, 91). However, it was not until the 18th-century that Stockport began to grow rapidly, when it emerged as one of the early centres of industrialisation in the North West (Salford Archaeology 2018).

2.4.4. The factory-based silk industry was of particular importance locally by the end of the 18th century, although this branch of the textile industry had been superseded by cotton by the early 19th century. Cotton production grew rapidly during this period with the introduction of new mills and the introduction of a successful power loom in the 1820s. This is perhaps best demonstrated by the

collapse of the local handloom weavers, which dropped from 5000 practising individuals in Stockport in 1816 to just 300 in 1834 (Arrowsmith, 1997, 146).

2.4.5. Hat manufacturing, together with a thriving button-making trade, emerged as important local industries during the course of the 19th century. Interestingly, the Wellington Mill (later hat works), one of the largest ever built in Stockport, was opened by Thomas Marsland in 1828, and was mostly funded by profits from the print and dye business located at the Astley Street site (Arrowsmith 1997, 148-9). In 1833, it was recorded that Marsland's combined firm employed a workforce of 947, the largest in Stockport. During the early boom of calico printing in the 1820s, it appears that Marsland was the sole printer in Stockport, with two sites – one within the present study area, and a second located a few streets over at Daw Bank. The dye works were estimated to be the largest in Europe in the 1820s, potentially printing 1.27 million yards of cloth every six weeks (Arrowsmith 1997, 154-5).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

3.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

3.1.1. The temporary bus interchange arrangement will utilise the existing Heaton Lane Car Park which comprises the multi-storey build to the north of the site and a level car park to the south (facing onto Heaton Lane).

3.1.2. The multi-storey structure will have resulted in deep excavations and a substantial degree of loss of any archaeological remains present. Those assets subject to this disturbance are the northern extent of Wellington Bridge Mill, Heaton Lane Gas Works, the site of a Dye Works and the Tram and Bus depot. However, historic mapping analysis suggests that the south of the site (facing onto Heaton Lane) has not been disturbed to such an extent and there is certainly nothing to suggest deep excavations to the extent of the multi-storey build. Therefore, there is potential for archaeological remains to survive below-ground in this area. The particular asset of interest is the southern extent of Wellington Bridge Mill which includes the engine house (**Appendix C, Figure 3**). Other assets, and again in their southern extent, include back to back workers housing on John, Union and Henry Streets especially if cellared.

3.1.3. The results obtained from a watching brief undertaken in October 2019 during GI works (Salford 2019) lend weight to the conclusions drawn from earlier desk-based studies (AECOM 2016; WSP 2018). The watching brief confirmed, that the site has some potential to retain physical remains of the early 19th-century Wellington Bridge Mill, and possibly adjacent workers' housing.

3.1.4. The construction of the temporary interchange will comprise the construction of bus bays on the eastern half of the site, which also include deep drainage and excavations for a fuel interceptor tank to a depth of approximately 4m. Finished levels for the site are up to 0.75m below present ground level and therefore will result in substantial ground disturbance in some locations. The construction works therefore have the potential to have a direct impact, resulting in the permanent loss of archaeological remains.

3.1.5. Based on the analysis above, an archaeological investigation in the form of evaluation trenching has been developed to the south of the multi-storey block (**Appendix C, Figure 2**). The archaeological investigation of textile mills seeks to investigate those of early construction and use, and most particularly those from the 18th century and first quarter of the 19th. The precise date of construction of Wellington Bridge Mill is not presented in the HEDBA and it is not suggested that it is an early example. However, the investigation of later textile mills seeks to target power generation and transmission. For 19th century mills this is evidenced by the engine house, boilers and chimney. The location of these elements for Wellington Bridge Mill lie within the southern extent of this section of the proposed scheme.

3.1.6. The number and orientation of the trenches have been agreed with GMAAS. These investigations will be supplemented by more detailed research into the development and plan of the assets, and particularly Wellington Bridge Mill. It should be anticipated that for positive results from the evaluation, a programme of open-area mitigation would be required either prior to or during construction.

3.2 AIMS

3.2.1. The aim of the evaluation is to clarify the presence, nature, date and extent of any archaeological remains that might be present within the areas of impact, where archaeological survival is expected to be high. This is for the purposes of informing an appropriate mitigation strategy for any significant archaeological remains. If the evaluation reveals little of archaeological significance, then no further work may be necessary.

3.3 OBJECTIVES

3.3.1. The objective of trial trench evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) is to 'determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices' (CIfA, 2014a). The results of the evaluation will inform an appropriate mitigation strategy for any archaeological remains, if required.

3.3.2. This is further explained as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site…. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.'

3.3.3. In respect of the archaeological research objective specific to the site, based on the archaeological potential these are as follows:

- What evidence is there for the preservation, including the depth, extent and quality of survival, of the 19th century industrial sites and back to back workers housing (see **Appendix C, Figure 3**)?
- What evidence is present for earlier use of the site?
- What are the nature and levels of natural deposits?
- What will the impacts of the 0.5-0.75m remediation have on any buried archaeological remains within the site (including those identified above)?
- What will the impacts be on any buried archaeological remains due to any additional ground disturbance for any remediation deeper than 1.0m below ground level, particularly in the area of the proposed fuel interceptor tank?
- What is the nature and extent of any modern disturbance?

3.4 METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

3.4.1. All fieldwork methodology, recording systems, treatment of finds and samples, reporting and archiving will conform to best professional practice as summarised in the appropriate CIfA *Guideline for Evaluation* (CIfA, 2014a). The evaluation will also be carried out according to the best practice guidance stipulated by GMAAS.

3.4.2. A unique project number - a 'site code' - will be obtained prior to the start of the project.

3.4.3. In terms of the area of potential archaeological impact this is assumed to be site wide. It is assumed that ground reduction for remediation would be required to a minimum depth of up to 0.75m, and deeper in the case of new drainage and the proposed fuel interceptor tank which is anticipated to be approximately 4m deep. The remediation has the potential to result in the exposure and loss of any archaeological remains located within the site.

PRE-COMMENCEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Site Walkover

3.4.4. A site walkover is required by the archaeological fieldwork contractor prior to the commencement of the works. The purpose of the site walkover is to review the proposed trench locations, the access arrangements to the site, review any requirement for onsite security, agree the location of welfare facilities and identify any other health and safety issues.

Update WSI/Method Statement

3.4.5. Any variation to the scope of fieldwork required after this would be set out in either an update to this WSI or in a separate method statement. Any variation from this WSI would need to be agreed in consultation with GMAAS and confirmed by the client before the works commence.

Risk Assessment Method Statement

3.4.6. Any health and safety requirements would be addressed in the RAMS, in consultation with the Main Contractor and the Client. This would be submitted and approved before works commence. Further information is provided in **Section 6**.

TRIAL TRENCH PLACEMENT

3.4.7. A total of six evaluation trenches measuring between 15m and 20m long by 2m wide are proposed. The trenches have been placed to target potential archaeological remains identified from the OS Town plan of 1851 (**Figure 3** in **Appendix C**). The trench locations overlying modern OS mapping are shown on **Figure 2** in **Appendix C**.

3.4.8. Trenches 1 and 2 have been positioned in order to Wellington Bridge Mill (**Figure 3 in Appendix C**), whilst Trenches 3 and 4 have been placed across the north / south alignment of former Union Street and the back to back houses located on either side of it. Trenches 5 and 6 have been placed east of Henry Street. These trenches will also target workers housing and an associated courtyard.

3.4.9. The proposed trench locations may be refined at the start of the fieldwork in light of any new information, i.e. to better investigate an archaeological feature or in response to unforeseen services, obstructions, other topographical/land constraints that are not apparent at this stage.

3.4.10. Any major changes to the location/size/shape of trenches or the removal of any trenches (i.e. due to health & safety concerns) will be discussed and agreed with GMAAS and a revised trench location plan will be issued.

3.4.11. The trenches will be marked out and scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) by the archaeological fieldwork contractor surveyor prior to any excavation.

3.4.12. The exact ‘as-dug’ locations of the trenches will be surveyed and tied in to the National Grid as part of the evaluation fieldwork and presented in the evaluation report.

3.4.13. Based on the predicted depth of deposits, it is assumed that the trenches will be around 0.75m deep and no more than 1.2m deep. This is sufficiently deep to reach any archaeological remains that survive. It should be noted that five courses of brick, thought to be associated with Wellington Bridge Mill, were recorded at c. 1m below present ground level (Salford Archaeology 2019, 13).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

3.4.14. Areas of hardstanding will be removed by a breaker initially, where required. Following that, all overburden will be removed by a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket, under the observation of the archaeological sub-contractor site supervisor. All undifferentiated material of recent origin (normally defined as twentieth century and later) within trenches will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon. The site supervisor will decide when remains of archaeological significance requiring recording are revealed.

3.4.15. Following initial exposure of archaeological horizons, investigation by the archaeological fieldwork contractor will be by hand, including cleaning, examination, sampling and recording (see below) in the appropriate manner. Archaeological hand dug investigation and recording will proceed only until significant archaeological levels have been reached and will be sufficient to allow the nature, extent, survival and significance of archaeological remains to be identified.

3.4.16. It may be appropriate to resort to supervised machine excavation, a technique that is only appropriate for the removal of homogeneous and 'low-grade' layers where it can reasonably be argued that more detailed attention would not produce information of value, and where their removal may give a 'window' onto underlying levels.

3.4.17. Archaeological excavation will proceed only until significant archaeological levels have been reached and will be sufficient to allow the nature and extent of these to be identified. The levels at which all sampling excavation and/or mechanised excavation will cease will be determined by the WSP Archaeology and Heritage Team in consultation with GMAAS. This will typically entail viewing the trenches during a site visit. Where the evaluation has revealed no significant archaeological remains digital photographs of the trenches may be sufficient for the purposes of discussion.

3.4.18. In addition to the evaluation of archaeological (i.e. man-made) deposits, in accordance with an identified research objective, an assessment of natural deposits may be necessary, especially when these are organically preserved and laid down within archaeological timescales; for example, alluvial or peat deposits, which can hold palaeoenvironmental potential.

3.4.19. Investigation will not be at the expense of any structures, features or finds which might reasonably be considered to merit preservation in-situ. In the unlikely event that remains of very high significance warranting preservation in situ *a*re identified, the archaeological fieldwork contractor will inform the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team immediately, who will then consult with the GMAAS. Appropriate measures will be taken to protect such remains from any damage or deterioration. This might involve for instance protective boxing, wrapping deposits or features in a geo-textile such as terram, sealing with sand or other suitable soft materials, or other means as deemed suitable/appropriate in consultation with GMAAS and relevant specialists, where required.

3.4.20. Overburden, comprising modern carpark deposits of concrete and tarmac, and deposits identified as demolition layers will be stored separately adjacent to each trench to enable backfilling, although no formal reinstatement will be undertaken.

SAMPLING STRATEGY

3.4.21. In order to obtain sufficient information on the likely nature, date, extent, survival and significance of any potential archaeological features and deposits identified, these will be sample excavated by hand. It is not the objective of the evaluation to archaeologically excavated features in their entirety as this would form part of a future mitigation strategy for preservation by record.

3.4.22. The following sampling strategy will be carried out:

- Significant solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or postholes will be preserved intact, even if fills are sampled, however they would be subject to investigation as far as practicable to determine extent and depth of preservation.
- Linear features will be hand excavated to achieve a minimum of a 10% sample along their length, with a minimum 1m width for each section.
- The termini of any linear features will be 100% hand excavated.
- Pits will be 50% hand excavated as a minimum.
- Isolated postholes and complex features such as hearths will be 100% hand excavated.

3.4.23. Datable finds from the sampled areas will be recovered to allow features and deposits to be dated.

3.4.24. Where palaeoenvironmental potential has been identified, bulk samples, 20L (litres) for wet and 40L–60L for dry contexts, will be taken from appropriate contexts for the recovery and assessment of palaeoenvironmental data. Provision will be made for column and other appropriate samples to be taken. Sampling methods will follow Historic England (formerly English Heritage) guidelines (Historic England 2011).

3.4.25. Where necessary, a supplementary strategy for sampling of environmental deposits may be developed by the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team in accordance with Historic England and CIfA guidelines (Historic England 2011; CIfA 2014a). Advice will be sought from GMAAS and the Historic England Regional Archaeological Science Advisor throughout the project, as appropriate. Subsequent off-site work and analysis of the processed samples and remains will be undertaken by archaeological specialists.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

3.4.26. A 'site location plan', indicating site north shall be prepared at 1:1250. A plan at 1:200 (or 1:100) shall be prepared showing the location of archaeological remains investigated in relation to the investigation area. The location of site plans will be identified in relation to Ordnance Survey National Grid.

3.4.27. Standard archaeological recording methods will comprise a written record (both description and interpretation with annotated sketches where appropriate), scaled drawings both in plan and in section, photographic record, and retrieval and annotation of archaeological finds and samples.

3.4.28. Written records will be produced using either pro-forma context or trench record sheets and where complex stratigraphy is encountered, by the single context planning method, and will be compatible with those published by the Museum of London (MoLAS 1994). Each discrete archaeological layer, fill, cut, etc., that is sampled will be individually numbered and described in terms of soil composition, stratigraphic position, dimensions, artefact content, samples, with professional interpretation as to the likely nature and date of the feature. The context system will be able to be cross-referenced to all records and will be compatible with digitisation.

3.4.29. A record of the full sequence of all archaeological remains as revealed in the evaluation will be made. Plans and sections of features will be drawn at an appropriate scale of 1:10 or 1:20, with sections drawn at 1:10 and tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. All plans and sections will include the Ordnance Datum (OD) height of strata and all principal features.

3.4.30. A 'Harris matrix' stratification diagram shall be employed to record stratigraphic relationships (Harris *et. al.* 1993), where appropriate. This record shall be compiled and checked during the course of the fieldwork with spot dating, where appropriate, incorporated onto this diagram.

3.4.31. A full photographic record will be made using Digital Single Lens Reflex (SLR) cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels in high resolution TIFF (uncompressed) format. This will record both the detail and the general context of the principal features and the site as a whole. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. Photographs will also be taken of all areas, including access routes, to provide a record of conditions prior to and on completion of the fieldwork.

3.4.32. Registers will be kept of all photographs, levels, plans, sections, finds and samples taken in the field.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS STRATEGY

3.4.33. All recovery, retention and treatment of finds and samples will be carried out mindful of the overall purpose of the exercise, i.e. to evaluate for further decision making, as expressed in CIfA (2014a) para 3.2.12 and 3.3.8. To this end, all artefactual and ecofactual material will be reviewed on site for its capability to inform the evaluation report.

3.4.34. Identified archaeological finds and artefacts will be carefully recovered by hand and bagged or boxed according to the type of artefact (i.e. pottery, ceramic building material/CBM, bone, worked flint, metal) archaeological context from which they came, with a label indicating the site code, find type and context reference number). Particularly notable artefacts will be recorded as a ‘registered’ find and recorded three dimensionally with Ordnance Datum levels. This will include in situ prehistoric worked flint.

3.4.35. Initial conservation and storage will be in a proper manner and to standards set out follow First Aid for Finds (Leigh et al. 1998) and the CIfA 'Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials' (CIfA 2014b). If necessary, an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeological conservator will be appointed to advise and assist in the lifting of fragile finds of significance and or value and to arrange for the X-raying and investigative conservation of objects as may be necessary.

3.4.36. Where necessary, a supplementary strategy for sampling of environmental deposits may be developed by the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team in accordance with Historic England and CIfA guidelines (Historic England 2011; CIfA 2014a). Advice will be sought from GMAAS and the Historic England Regional Archaeological Science Advisor throughout the project, as appropriate. Subsequent off-site work and analysis of the processed samples and remains will be undertaken by archaeological specialists.

3.4.37. Certain classes of bulk material, i.e. 20th century pottery and building material may be discarded if there is a considerable quantity (more than a single standard archive box of c. 0.016m^2), after recording with a representative sample.

3.4.38. All pottery, bone and worked flint will be washed and then marked in accordance with the project archive repository guidelines. Most building material and burnt flint (not including significant diagnostic material) will be identified, counted, weighed and discarded. Samples will be retained as appropriate. The finds identification and specialist work will be undertaken by the relevant finds specialists agreed with GMAAS to assess the date range of the assemblage with particular

reference to pottery use relevant county or region-specific type series for identification and dating, where available. This evidence will be used to characterise the site, and to establish the potential for all categories of finds should further archaeological work be necessary. Records of artefact assemblages will clearly state how they were recovered, sub-sampled and processed. Consideration will be given for donation of appropriate artefacts to type series reference collections.

3.4.39. All finds of gold and silver, or other objects definable as 'treasure' under the *Treasure Act 1996*, will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures of the *Treasure Act 1996* and the *Treasure (Designation) Order 2002*. Where removal cannot be affected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

HUMAN REMAINS

3.4.40. Human remains are not expected. If any finds of human remains are exposed, these will be left in situ, covered and protected. If removal is essential it can only take place with a Burial Licence as issued by the Ministry of Justice (Coroner's Division). It will be necessary to ensure that adequate security is provided.

4 REPORTING, DISSEMINATION & ARCHIVING

4.1 REPORTING

4.1.1. A fully illustrated archaeological evaluation report will be made available to the client and GMAAS within following the completion of fieldwork. The programme of post-excavation will be agreed following the conclusion of the evaluation works, but is expected to be between 6 and 12 weeks. In accordance with the CIfA standards and guidance (2014a) This will include as a minimum, the following:

- *Non-technical summary*. One-page summary outlining project background and circumstance, the principal reason for the work and when it was undertaken and by whom, its objectives, main results, and where appropriate, recommendations.
- *Introduction*. This will set out the circumstances of the project such as planning background and the reason for the work and will include the aims and specific research objectives reflected or reiterated in this WSI.
- *Archaeological and historical background*. A brief summary with the site description (including size, geology and topography, location) and background. In most cases this will be derived from the historic environment desk-based assessment.
- *Fieldwork methodology*. The methods used. This will include the detail of any variation to the agreed WSI and the reasons for such.
- *Results*. This will present a series of summary objective statements, organised clearly in relation to the methods used, and describing both structural data and associated finds and/or environmental data recovered. Descriptive material will be clearly separated from interpretative statements. Technical terminology (including dating or period references) will be explained.
- *Conclusions.* Summary and interpretation the results and their likely significance. Other elements might include a confidence rating on the results and limitations (e.g. weather or problems of access). Recommendations on further work may also be included.
- *References and bibliography.* A list of all sources used. The final destination of the archive (records and finds) will be noted in the report along with the site code assigned by the relevant project archive repository.
- *Appendices.* Essential technical and supporting detail, including for example lists of artefacts and contexts or details of measurements, gazetteers etc. Pottery reports will be expected to refer to the appropriate type series for Roman, medieval and post-medieval pottery.
- *Illustrations*. Location plan, plans and sections at appropriate scales showing location and position of trenches dug and features located and selective photography. Section drawing will include heights Ordnance Datum (OD); plans should include OD spot heights for all principal strata and features.

4.2 PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

4.2.1. In order to fulfil the planning condition, the results of the investigation will need to be published and disseminated at a level that is appropriate to the significance of the remains recorded.

4.2.2. Three hard copies of the report should be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER), on the understanding that it will be made available as a public document after an appropriate period (not exceeding 6 months from the completion of fieldwork); a further hard copy to be sent to the Client. Electronic (PDF) copies of the report will also be provided alongside the hard copies.

4.2.3. A summary account of the work should be submitted to the editor of the local archaeological journal Archaeology Round-up and any relevant period journals (e.g. Post-Medieval Archaeology) no later than March 31st of the year following completion of fieldwork.

4.2.4. Further publication may range from a 'grey literature' archaeological report, to a short journal article in local and period-based archaeological journals as appropriate, to a full monograph (in the event that the evaluation resulted in further excavation). The level of dissemination would be determined in consultation with GMAAS.

4.2.5. In all cases a short summary of the results of the work will be submitted to the HER, and National Record for the Historic Environment (NHRE), as maintained by Historic England, via a standard OASIS archaeological report form.

4.3 COPYRIGHT

4.3.1. Copyright will remain with the archaeological fieldwork contractor under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. An exclusive licence will be provided to the Client, or their appointed representative, for use of all project records and reports in all matters directly relating to the project. The archaeological fieldwork contractor retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports.

4.4 ARCHIVING

4.4.1. The site archive will contain all the data collected during the fieldwork, including records and finds, and all reports. The archaeological fieldwork contractor will ensure that the archive is quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent, and adequate resources will be provided to ensure that all records are checked. Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork.

4.4.2. A unique site code for the project will be designated to this project and will be used as the site identifier for all records produced.

4.4.3. Any finds of archaeological interest should be appropriately conserved and deposited in an appropriate institution: any finds which cannot be so deposited should be fully analysed and published.

4.4.4. Finds and records will be assembled and curated by a single organisation, and be available for public consultation in a project archive repository compatible with other archaeological archives in the county, and adhering to guidelines and standards set out in the following:

- Archaeological Archive Forum, 2011, *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation transfer and curation*
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b, *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*
- Museums and Galleries Commission, 1992, *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*
- Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1995, *Towards an Accessible Archive. The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for Use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales*
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990, *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage*

4.4.5. Copyright of the written archive will be vested in the project archive repository, which will be clearly identified in the evaluation report. The site archive will be deposited within 6 months of issuing the evaluation report.

4.5 OWNERSHIP OF FINDS

4.5.1. Whereas ownership of any finds on the site lies with the landowner, it is necessary that the landowner gives the necessary approvals, licences and permissions to donate any finds recovered from the site to the project archive repository, to enable that body to carry out its obligations to curate the finds, in perpetuity, as part of the archaeological archive from this site.

4.5.2. These approvals, licences and permissions shall be either confirmed in the Agreement and Contract regulating the archaeological works and/or confirmed by the completion of the relevant Deed of Transfer form (see **Appendix A** for draft form).

4.5.3. The Client (or their agent) will make arrangements for the signing of a Deed of Transfer Form by the Client or, if the landowner is different to the Client, by the landowner.

4.5.4. Notwithstanding the above, subsequent arrangements may be made if required between the landowner, the Client and the project archive repository for the conservation, display, provision of access to or loan of selected finds in or near their original location.

5 PROGRAMME, STAFFING AND ATTENDANCES

5.1 INITIAL TIMETABLE AND STAFFING

5.1.1. The programme for the archaeological evaluation is to be confirmed. It will be set out in either updates to this WSI or in a separate method statement.

5.1.2. The archaeological fieldwork contractor will provide a programme for the archaeological monitoring to the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team, which will include detailing of staffing requirements.

5.1.3. The exact details of time, areas and numbers of staff involved would be agreed in discussions between the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team, the Client, and GMAAS.

5.1.4. If significant archaeological remains are revealed which cannot be satisfactorily sampled in the period initially defined, there should be sufficient flexibility within the programme and resources to enable the remains in question to be investigated to the satisfaction of the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team in consultation with GMAAS.

5.2 PROJECT TEAM

5.2.1. The work will be undertaken by an archaeological fieldwork contractor that is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and approved by the WSP Archaeology and Heritage Team.

5.2.2. Details of the archaeological fieldwork contractor staff including post-excavation specialists will be provided once the archaeological fieldwork contractor has been appointed.

5.2.3. CVs of the key members of the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team will be made available upon request.

5.3 PROGRESS REPORTS

5.3.1. The WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team will provide the Client and, if appropriate, GMAAS, with a weekly summary progress memo (1–2 pages). This will:

- Summarise the work undertaken during the week and the key findings
- Report on site attendance, where appropriate
- Confirm that the work will be completed to programme and identify any potential issues to programme
- Identify any health and safety issues (including near misses)

5.4 POST-EXCAVATION PROGRAMMING

5.4.1. The time required to complete the post-excavation assessment report and any further work, will very much depend on the volume of records generated during the mitigation work. The results of the previous work on the site will be combined in the post-excavation assessment programme.

6 HEALTH AND SAFETY

6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1. Health and Safety will take priority over all other requirements. A conditional aspect of all archaeological work is both safe access to the area of work and a safe working environment. The project will be carried out in accordance with safe working practices.

6.1.2. It is not clear at this stage if there will be a Principal Contractor (PC) on site during the archaeological fieldwork. If a PC is on site, the archaeological fieldwork will be subject to Construction (Design and Management) regulations (CDM 2015). If a PC is not on site, the Main Contractor on site in charge of site management will be the archaeological fieldwork contractor.

6.1.3. The following sections outline the health and safety aspects of the site work along with known constraints and maybe subject to change following consultation with the client, landowner, and the archaeological fieldwork contractor.

6.2 RISK ASSESSMENT AND METHODOLOGY STATEMENT (RAMS)

6.2.1. The archaeological fieldwork contractor will produce a site-specific Risk Assessment and Methodology Statement (RAMS) to cover the onsite fieldwork and will supply a copy of the company's Health and Safety Policy.

6.2.2. In the event the fieldwork is undertaken in accordance to CDM, the PC will produce a RAMS and supply it to the archaeological fieldwork contractor before the works begin. The PC will be responsible for providing all contractors and visitors to the site with a health and safety induction.

6.2.3. All RAMS will have been read, understood, and signed by all staff attending the site before any fieldwork commences.

6.3 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

6.3.1. Staff present on site will be required to wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), as identified in the RAMS. As a minimum this will be protective shoes, high-visibility vest, gloves, protective glasses and safety helmet. The requirement for any additional PPE will be identified in the RAMS.

6.4 WELFARE

6.4.1. The archaeological fieldwork contractor will be responsible ensuring the provision and positioning suitable welfare facilities on site, including toilet and water for washing. The facilities themselves maybe provided by the PC.

6.5 SITE SECURITY

6.5.1. As is typical for archaeological trial trench evaluation, the trial trenches may need to be left open overnight if archaeological remains have been revealed and require sampling and inspection. Given the urban location and proximity of public highways, the site will be required to be fully fenced using HERAS fencing off to prohibit trespassing on the site.

6.6 ACCESS

6.6.1. Site access from the relevant landowners will be arranged by the Client or their representative before site works commences. The WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team and the archaeological fieldwork contractor shall be notified if access arrangements change prior to or during the evaluation programme.

6.7 NON-ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS

SERVICES ABOVE GROUND AND BURIED

6.7.1. Available service plans have been obtained and reviewed. The plans have been consulted, and trenches moved in order to avoid services prior to the work commencing.

6.7.2. Before the works commence, it is recommended that an updated service plan is obtained by the archaeological fieldwork contractor and each trench location reviewed. Each trench footprint will be scanned with a CAT before machine excavation to identify the possible presence of any electrical services.

ACCESS TO CAR PARK UPPER LEVEL

6.7.3. The car park is to remain operational during the archaeological fieldwork and throughout the construction period. The archaeological fieldwork contractor shall develop its' methodologies and programme to ensure that any period of disruption is mitigated or minimised. Access/egress to the upper level of the car park is to be maintained at all times.

GROUND CONTAMINATION / ASBESTOS

6.7.4. A desk-based ground risk and remediation report is available (WSP 2020) and was consulted as part of the preparation of the WSI. This will be provided to the archaeological fieldwork contractor.

6.7.5. The ground risk and remediation report highlighted a number of potential risks to human health (based on a commercial use) were assessed via generic quantitative risk assessment (GQRA). Elevated concentrations of benzo(a)pyrene were recorded in two locations: WS403 located in on the north-east corner of the site at 0.40m bgl and WS402B, located at the south-west corner of the site at 4.90m bgl. No trenches are located near WS403. Excavations proposed at Trench 1, near WS402B will not exceed depths of 1.2m and therefore should cease before the level of contaminated are reached, however works should be considered to pose a potential risk. Concentrations are considered to represent a potential direct contact health risks to future site construction / maintenance workers and adequate protective measures are required to mitigate the risk.

6.7.6. Asbestos has been identified in Made Ground in one location in the form of large chrysotile (white asbestos) bundles from WS401at the northern end of the site at 1.0m bgl, to the east of Trench 4. Although no asbestos was identified in the remaining samples screened, the report highlights the potential for further areas of contamination due to the age and function of the buildings which formerly occupied the site. The protection of all staff will require consideration particularly from risks associated with inhalation of dust and direct contact during redevelopment.

6.7.7. Whilst no groundwater has been detected, a risk to controlled waters from surface run off and direct percolation is anticipated to occur during redevelopment. Measures should be employed during construction to limit surface water runoff.

6.7.8. The ground gas risk assessment classifies the site as Characteristic Situation 1 – very low risk

7 MONITORING AND ASSURANCE

7.1 ON SITE FIELDWORK

7.1.1. The WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team will monitor and assure all elements of the archaeological fieldwork, and will ensure that the work is carried out in accordance with this WSI, professional standards and the requirements of GMAAS. Any variance in the scope of work shall be made by the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Team acting on behalf of the client, in consultation with GMAAS.

7.1.2. The WSP Archaeology and Heritage Team will undertake monitoring visits of the fieldwork where required. This will review the following:

- Compliance by the archaeological contractor with the agreed health and safety arrangements as set out in the RAMS;
- The agreed numbers and levels of fieldwork staff attendance;
- The agree number and type of plant;
- Appropriate provision of welfare;
- Work is being undertaken in accordance with the requirements of this WSI;
- Work is being undertaken to programme; and
- Project risk (cost and programme).

7.1.3. Any non-compliance will be pointed out by the WSP Archaeology and Heritage Team at the earliest opportunity and steps agreed and put in place to resolve any issues.

7.1.4. Any key decisions (such as excavation strategy or work scope changes) that are made on site shall be noted during the monitoring visits and communicated by the WSP Archaeology and Heritage Team to relevant parties. Visits by GMAAS will be arranged so that they are satisfied that the works are being conducted to proper professional standards.

7.2 POST-EXCAVATION DELIVERABLES

7.2.1. The WSP Archaeology and Heritage Team will technically assure the deliverables conform to the format and scope agreed with GMAAS, and that the reporting is accurate and clear and with sound conclusions, and that it has been produced to professional standards and the requirements of GMAAS. This will be the case whether the agreed deliverables take the form of an archaeological report for the HER, journal article or monograph.

7.2.2. The WSP Archaeology and Heritage Team will liaise with the archaeological fieldwork subcontractor to ensure that the work is carried out to an agreed delivery programme.

Appendix A

DRAFT TRANSFER OF FINDS OWNERSHIP FORM

Appendix A: TRANSFER OF TITLE FORM

This form should be printed and will be used in conjunction with RAMM's standard entry form. The entry form is a paper form that will be signed by owner of the objects or the depositing archaeological contractor at the time of deposition.

Museum accession number:

Site name and site code:

Name of Archaeological Contractor:

Name and address of owner:

Telephone Number:

I hereby confirm my donation of the archaeological discoveries (any objects, materials or remains of archaeological interest, other than those articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be Treasure) recovered from the site named as an absolute and perpetual gift. I wish all material to be unconditionally transferred to the _____, a service of _____

Signed ---------- Date ----------

Print name ----------

Data Protection

The Museum retains the names and addresses of persons donating, bequeathing, selling or loaning objects because this information forms part of the object's history. This information is for the Museum's records and is not made available to any other organisation

Appendix B

REFERENCES

PUBLISHED AND DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

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Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1995, *Towards an Accessible Archive. The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for Use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales*.

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Appendix C

FIGURES

Date Modified: 15/04/2020

Drawn By: UKMXJ028

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Legend

- Site Boundary
- Proposed Trench

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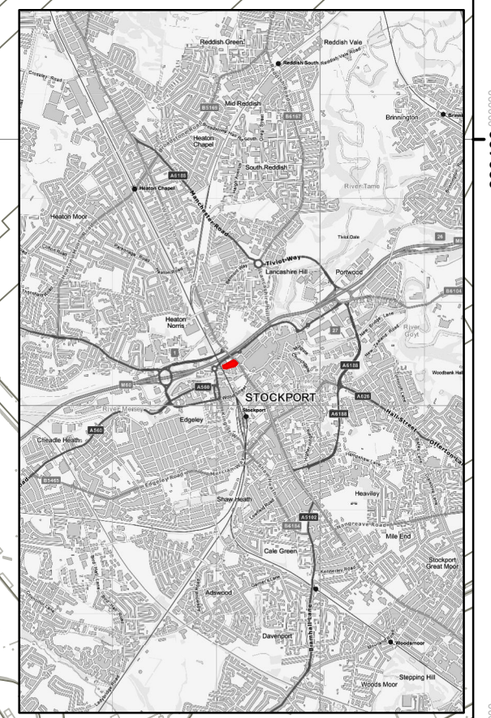

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wsp

TITLE:

Stockport Interchange - Heaton Lane
1:1000 @ A3

FIGURE No:

Figure 1 - Site Location Plan

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390450.000000 390400.000000 390350.000000

Date Modified: 16/03/2020

Drawn By: UKMXJ028

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Legend

- Proposed Trench
- Site Boundary

1 2 3 4 5 6

0 5 10 20 30 40 Meters

wsp

TITLE:

Stockport Interchange -
Heaton Lane
1:500 @ A3

FIGURE No:

Figure 2 - Locations of archaeological evaluation trenches in relation to the proposed development

Date Modified: 16/03/2020

Drawn By: UKMXJ028

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Legend

- Proposed Trench
- Site Boundary

1
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6

HEATON LANE

TAYTON STREET

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2020.

0 5 10 20 30 40 Meters

wsp

TITLE:

Stockport Interchange -
Heaton Lane
1:500 @ A3

FIGURE No:

Figure 3 - Locations of archaeological evaluation trenches overlain on the 1851 Ordnance Survey Map

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