

Archaeological Watching Brief Report for land at

MILL LANE ADLINGTON

For CgMs Consulting

Blair Poole MSc MIfA

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Watching Brief Report for land at

MILL LANE ADLINGTON

Client: CgMs Consulting

Local Authority: Cheshire East Council

NGR: 391060,390400

Planning App: 11/0366M

Author(s): Poole, B.

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Site Code: MAC/ML 12

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

A trading name of L – P : Heritage LLP

33 Lower Bridge Street | Chester | Cheshire | CH1 1RS | +44 [0]1244 313100 | chester@lparchaeology.com

www.lparchaeology.com

Abstract

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology between 29th and 31st August 2012 on groundworks to the south of Mill Lane, Adlington on behalf of CgMs Consulting.

The work was in advance of the construction of a new access road and car park on the site. Historic research indicated that the site lies in an area close to a Saxon manor and in an area of Post Medieval development.

Where the new car park is to be situated the work revealed a thin layer of topsoil overlying natural sand and loam deposits. A large service trench was identified running southeast across the site and a small 20th century concrete post base was also identified on the site. The presence of modern plough scars in the natural subsoils across the site show the level of disturbance across the site.

Within the new access road area a much deeper level of disturbance was identified, which appear to relate to attempts to form a solid access route for vehicles into the site in the late 20th or early 21st century. This late disturbance sealed in a stone culvert running north south within the access road. Ceramic finds from the culvert date this to the 19th to 20th century.

No archaeological features were exposed during groundworks.

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1. Introduction

1.1. This document refers to the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at land to the south of Mill Lane, Adlington (11/0366M). The work was undertaken in order to satisfy a planning condition attached to the planning consent granted by Cheshire East Council.

1.2. This document has been prepared by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology on behalf of CgMs Consulting and sets out the results of the archaeological monitoring carried out at the site between 29th and 31st August 2012.

1.3., The site is located to the south of Mill Lane, Adlington, Macclesfield, SK10 4LF (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 391060,380400.

2. Site Background

2.1.Planning consent has been granted by Cheshire east Council for development at the site under application number 11/0366M.

2.2.In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). This document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment and replaces all previous Planning Policy Guidance, specifically PPS5. Section 12 of this document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment.

2.3.The local planning authority is Cheshire East Council who take archaeological advice from Mark Leah of Cheshire Shared Service.

2.4.In considering any planning application for development Cheshire East Council is bound by the policies provided by the NPPE.

2.5.As a condition of the planning consent stated:

No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.

2.6.CgMs submitted a Written Scheme of Investigation in March 2012 (SMITH 2012), which was agreed in advance of fieldwork.

2.7.AIMS OFWORKS

2.8.The aims of the work were to;

2.8.1. Ensure the recording of archaeological assets discovered during the archaeological works

2.8.2. Ensure any below ground archaeological deposits exposed were promptly identified

2.8.3. Ensure the recording of archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available.

2.9.GEOLOGY

2.9.1. The geology of the site is Pleistocene boulder clays overlying fluvio-glacial sand and gravel (SMITH 2012).

2.10.TOPOGRAPHY

2.10.1.The site is located to the south of Mill Lane in the village of Adlington, Cheshire (FIGURE 2). To the south of the site are open fields. To the west of the site is Mill Lane Cottage, a 20th century structure. To the east of the site is the A523.

2.10.2.The site is within a rural setting with few domestic residences along Mill Lane to the west, and a housing estate to the east of the A523.

2.11.METHODOLOGY

2.11.1.A full method statement was submitted by L – P : Archaeology in advance of works (Poole 2012). That document detailed the methodology to be employed on the site and can be found as APPENDIX 2 of this report.

2.11.2.All works were carried out in accordance with the agreed project design (POOLE 2012) and the Code of Approved Practice as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2002).

3. Archaeological & Historic Background

TIMESCALES USED IN THIS REPORT:

PERIOD	FROM	TO
PREHISTORIC		
PALAEOLITHIC	450,000	12,000 BC
MESOLITHIC	12,000	4,000 BC
NEOLITHIC	4,000	1,800 BC
BRONZE AGE	1,800	600 BC
IRON AGE	600	43 AD
HISTORIC		
ROMAN	43	410 AD
EARLY MEDIEVAL	410	1066 AD
MEDIEVAL	1066	1485 AD
POST MEDIEVAL	1485	1900
MODERN	1901	PRESENT

Table 1- Timescales used in this report

3.1. The following section gives a brief guide to the historic development of the site and is not intended as a full history of the area.

3.2. PREHISTORIC

3.2.1. There is no evidence for Prehistoric activity on the site or in the immediate landscape around the site. However, the wider area is known to have been occupied during the Prehistoric period. It should be noted that activity from this period tends to be located in areas of sandy soil (ROEDER & GRAVES 1902). As the site is located on a sandy sub soil it has potential for prehistoric remains.

3.3. ROMAN

3.3.1. There is no known Roman activity on the site or in the immediate vicinity.

3.4. SAXON AND EARLY MEDIEVAL

3.4.1. It is thought that the settlement of Adlington is Saxon in Origin and was a pre conquest manor held in demesne by a Saxon Earl (ORMEROD 1882). It is likely

that the manor was located some distance to the west of the site area and that the site itself was forested, part of the great forest of Macclesfield (DARBY & MAXWELL 1962).

3.4.2. By the 11th century there were three great Medieval Cheshire forests, the others being Mara/Mondrem and Wirral (DARBY & MAXWELL 1962). Both Macclesfield and Wirral have since receded leaving Mara and Mondrem, now known as Delamere Forest. It is likely that the area around the site was part of a Saxon hunting forest of oak, ash, birch and pine (BU'LOCK 1972).

3.5.MEDIEVAL

3.5.1. Adlington was recorded as Eduluintune in Domesday (MORRIS 1979), which is thought to mean an the estate or settlement of Edwin (EARWAKER 1877) or Eadwulf (LEWIS 1848). This supports the hypothesis that the settlement is Saxon in origin.

3.5.2. The estate of Adlington, located 500m to the west of the site, is thought to date to the 13th century and has been the family seat of the Legh family since 1315 (EARWAKER 1877). The Legh family inherit the estate from Hugh de Coroun, lord of Adlington, whose family held the manor since at least 1265 (ORMEROD 1882).

3.5.3. It is likely that during the Medieval period the site was still within the forested area of the estate.

3.6.POST MEDIEVAL

3.6.1. The earliest house at the site of Adlington Hall appears to date from 1505, when Thomas Legh builds a hall on the site of an earlier hunting lodge (EARWAKER 1877).

3.6.2. The village appears to have remained a small rural settlement throughout the Post Medieval period, with only a few dwellings being erected. In general terms it escaped the growth and urbanisation of the surrounding settlements as Macclesfield, Alderly Edge, Bollington and Wilmslow grew exponentially.

3.6.3. During the Post Medieval period the site is thought to have been used for

agricultural purposes.

3.6.4. Several dwelling were built along Mill Lane, which are visible on the early Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of the area. From 1873 through to the 1899 maps the site is shown as vacant. However, a building is shown off Mill lane at the northeastern corner of the site. This building is to the immediate east of the new access road to be constructed as part of the new development.

3.7.MODERN

3.7.1. The 1911 OS map (FIGURE 4) shows the same layout as the 19th century maps. The next available map is dated 1938 and by this time the building at the northeastern corner of the site has been demolished.

3.7.2. During the late 20th century Mill Lane Cottage is built tot he northwest of the site and the road layout to the east is modified to allow heavier traffic.

3.7.3. It appears that from the start of the 20th century until present the site has been used for agricultural purposes.

4. Results

4.1. This section will detail the results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks on the site. Deposits are shown in (Parenthesis), cuts are shown in [square brackets].

4.2. The site was divided into three areas (FIGURE 5);

- ◆ A new car park
- ◆ Access road
- ◆ Visibility spread

4.3. The car park formed the majority of the excavated area, measuring 34m east west by 38m north south. To the north of the car park was the access road, leading to Mill Lane. The access road excavation measured 30m north south by 5m east west. At the junction of the access road and Mill lane, the site entrance was widened to allow better traffic movement. This area, known as the visibility spread, measured 12m north south by 7m east west.



Plate 1 - Car park topsoil strip, looking northeast

4.4. The topsoil strip for the car park extended between 0.3 and 0.35m below ground level and revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence. An upper layer of topsoil (100) measuring between 0.16m and 0.2m thick covered the site, overlying a brown-red sandy loam natural subsoil (106), which measured a maximum of 0.08m thick within the car park area.

4.5. Underlying (106) was red sand subsoil (105) that extended beyond the base of the

excavated area at a depth of 0.3m below ground level. Both (105) and (106) were noted as undulating natural soils and in areas (105) raised sufficiently to penetrate (106), where (106) was thinning out (FIGURE 6).



Plate 2 – South facing section of car park excavation, 1m scale

- 4.6. It was recorded that across the stripped area plough marks were seen in the subsoils (105) and (106) running in a southwest-northeast alignment. The depth of the plough marks suggest that any shallow deposits would have been truncated during ploughing activity. Within the plough marks pulped recycled paper was identified, indicating a 21st century date for the plough activity.
- 4.7. Two features were recorded within the car park area. Running southeast-northwest across the site was a 1.1m wide service trench [102] (FIGURE 5). This trench had been filled with a yellow, loose, sand (101). The service trench was not excavated as it was below the level of disturbance for the development and for safety issues.
- 4.8. A modern concrete post base, 103, was found 2m from the eastern edge of the trench (FIGURE 5). The cut for this feature, [104], measured 0.3m by 0.3m in plan and had vertical sides. The presence of modern concrete and well preserved wood within the concrete surface indicate that this is late 20th or early 21st century in date.
- 4.9. The access road ran north from the car park area to Mill Lane at 5m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.75m below ground level. This depth was due to the presence of late 20th century disturbance to form a vehicle trackway. The topsoil (100) measured 0.07m thick and overlay a 0.25 to 0.3m thick layer of dark brown

silt containing rubble, brick, slate and plastic inclusions (111) (FIGURE 6). It is thought that this deposit is a disturbed layer created through regular heavy vehicle access churning up the soil. Typically building rubble is laid to create temporary tracks in locations such as this, which over time get turned into the soil through wheel activity.

4.10. Underlying (111) was the natural subsoil (105), which extended beyond the base of the trench.



Plate 3 - East facing section of access road, showing [108], 1m scale

4.11. At the location of a previous gateway to the site, 6m north of the car park area, a 4m wide 0.8m deep trench had been cut running east west [108]. This had been filled with brick rubble (107) to create a solid and well drained area at the gated entrance (FIGURES 5 & 6). This is clearly a late 20th or early 21st century modification to the site.



Plate 4 - Culvert 109, looking south. 1m scale

4.12.A 19th to 20th century stone culvert 109 was identified within the access road, running north south with a curved return to the east at the northern end of the culvert (FIGURE 5). The culvert was capped with 0.2m by 0.2m wide grey stone slabs, 0.05m thick. These sat on top of two stone linear alignments (FIGURE 7) creating a void in the centre. The cut for the culvert [110] measured 0.36m wide and cut the natural subsoil (105). The culvert was sealed by the disturbed 20th century deposit (111).



Plate 5 - Culvert 109, 1m scale

4.13.The culvert measured 0.1m deep, with deposit (105) forming the base of the culvert. Ceramic finds from within the construction of blue and white transfer ware and blue and salt glaze ceramic suggest a 19th or 20th century date for the culvert.

4.14. At the location of the visibility spread, at the junction of the access road with Mill Lane, the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.7m below ground level. The disturbed silt and rubble deposit (111) extended to this depth, where it overlay the natural subsoil (105).

5. Summary & Conclusions

- 5.1. This document outlines the results of the archaeological monitoring on groundworks at land to the south of Mill Lane, Adlington. The work was undertaken to discharge a planning condition attached to the planning consent for the development.
- 5.2. The site is located to the south of Mill Lane, Adlington, Macclesfield, SK10 4LF (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 391060,380400.
- 5.3. Archaeological monitoring was carried out by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology between 29th and 31st August 2012.
- 5.4. All fieldwork adhered to an agreed written scheme of investigation and method statement document (SMITH 2012 & POOLE 2012). The standards laid out by English Heritage and the Institute for Archaeologists were adhered to at all times as well as all relevant local standards.
- 5.5. Historic research indicated that the site lies in an area close to a Saxon manor and in an area of Post Medieval development.
- 5.6. Three areas were excavated to form a new access road and car park on the site. Within the main field area, where the new car park is to be situated the work revealed a thin layer of topsoil overlying natural sand and loam deposits. A large service trench was identified running southeast across the site and a small 20th century concrete post base was also identified on the site. The presence of modern plough scars in the natural subsoils across the site show the level of disturbance across the site.
- 5.7. Within the new access road a much deeper level of disturbance was identified, which appear to relate to attempts to form a solid access route for vehicles into the site in the late 20th or early 21st century. This late disturbance sealed in a stone culvert running north south within the access road. Ceramic finds from the culvert date this to the 19th or 20th century.
- 5.8. No archaeological features were exposed during groundworks.

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- SMITH, R. 2012. *Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation. Land to the South of Mill Lane, Adlington, Macclesfield*. CgMs Consulting unpublished archive report.

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location General



Scale 1:25,000 @ A4

0 1,100m



PROJECT // 1154C - Mill Lane, Addington

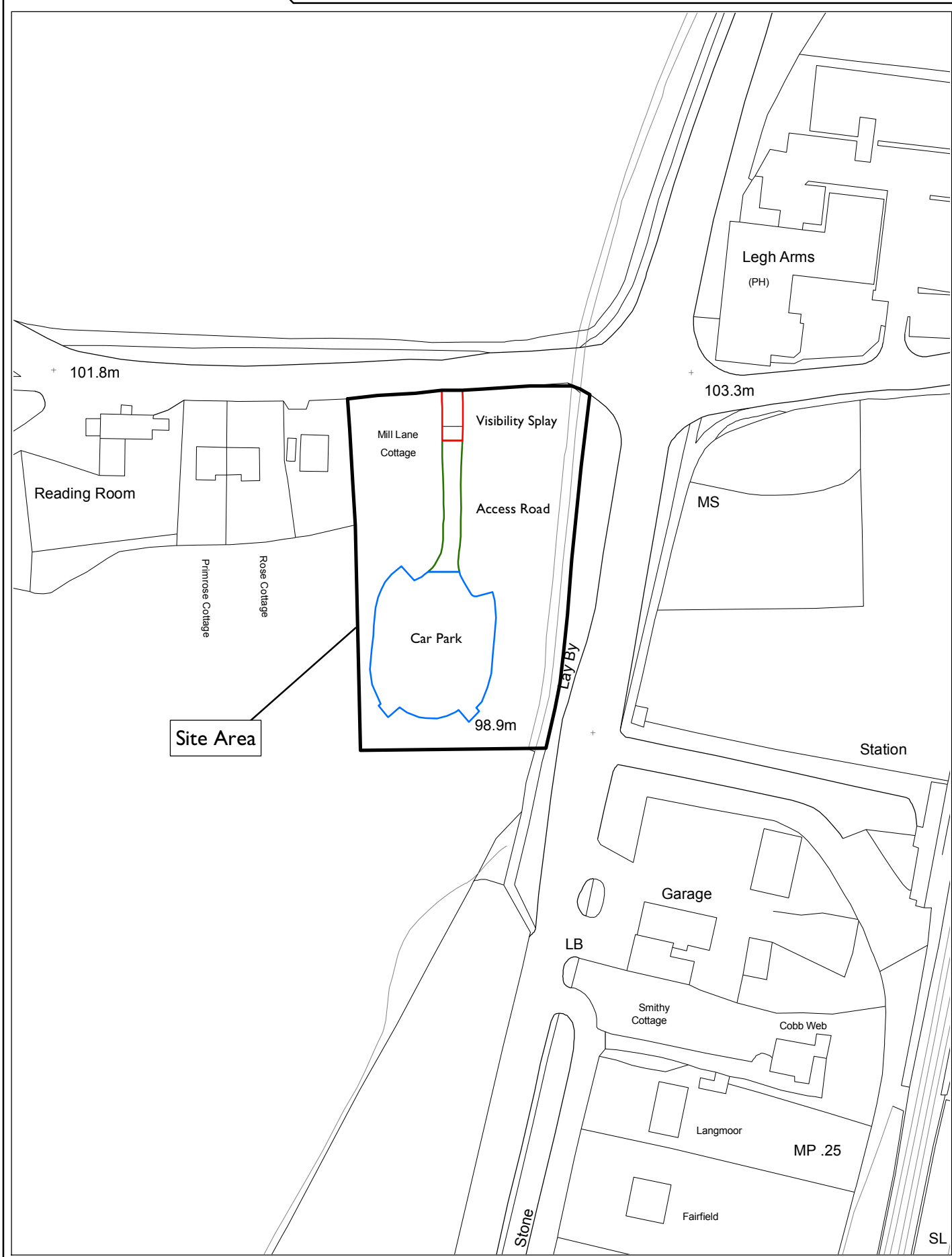
DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

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DOC REF: LPI 154C-AWBv1

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FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



Scale 1:1,250 @ A4

0 50m



PROJECT // 1154C - Mill Lane, Addlington

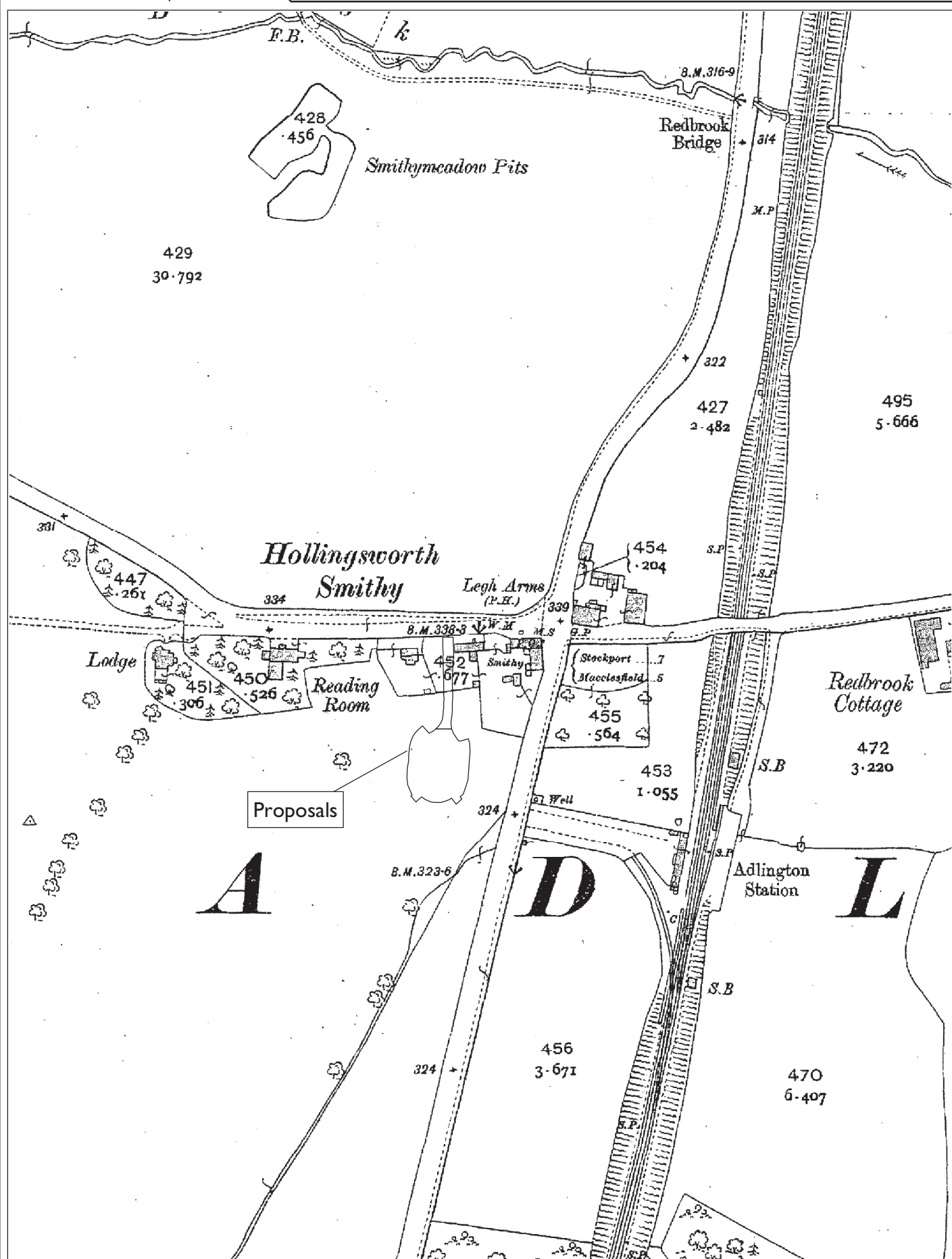
DESCRIPTION // Site Location Detail

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FIGURE 4 // 1911 OS Map



Scale 1:2,500 @ A4

0 100m



PROJECT // 1154C - Mill Lane, Addlington

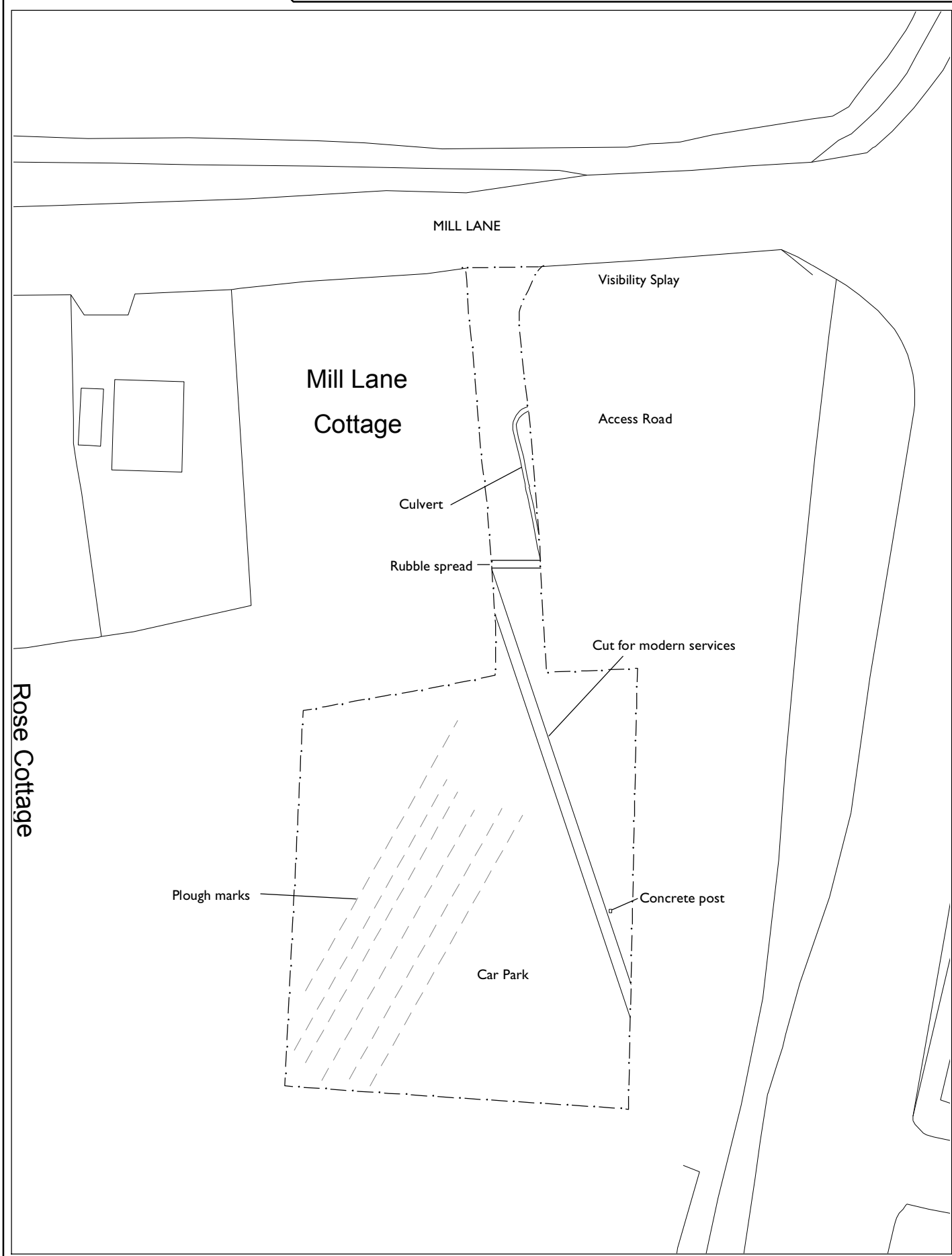
DESCRIPTION // 1911 Ordnance Survey Map

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FIGURE 5 // Excavated Areas



Scale 1:500 @ A4

0 10m



PROJECT // 1154C - Mill Lane, Addlington

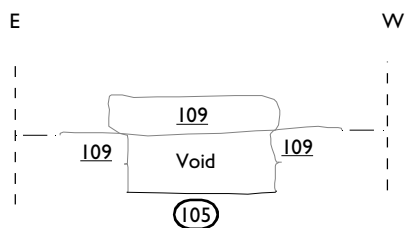
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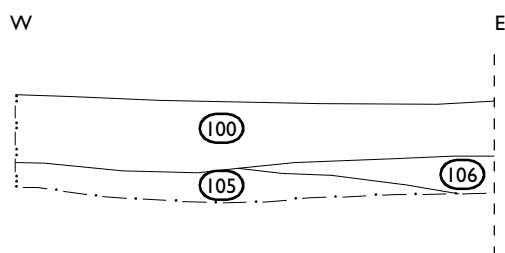
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North facing section of culvert 109



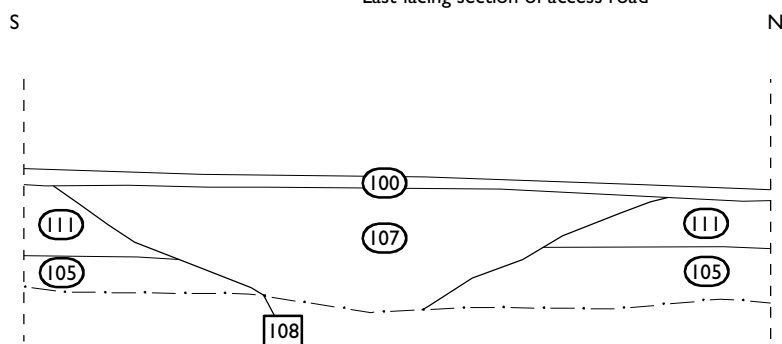
Scale 1:10 @ A4

South facing section of car park area



Scale 1:20 @ A4

East facing section of access road



Scale 1:50 @ A4

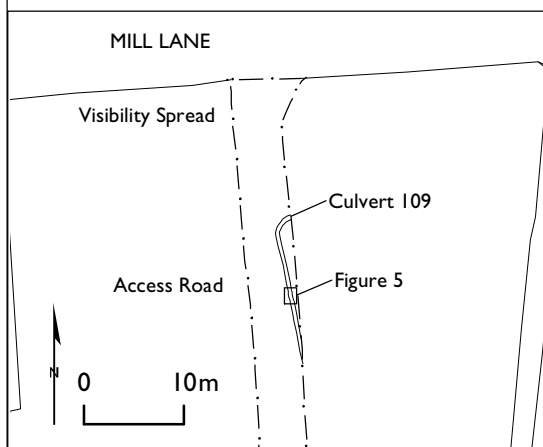
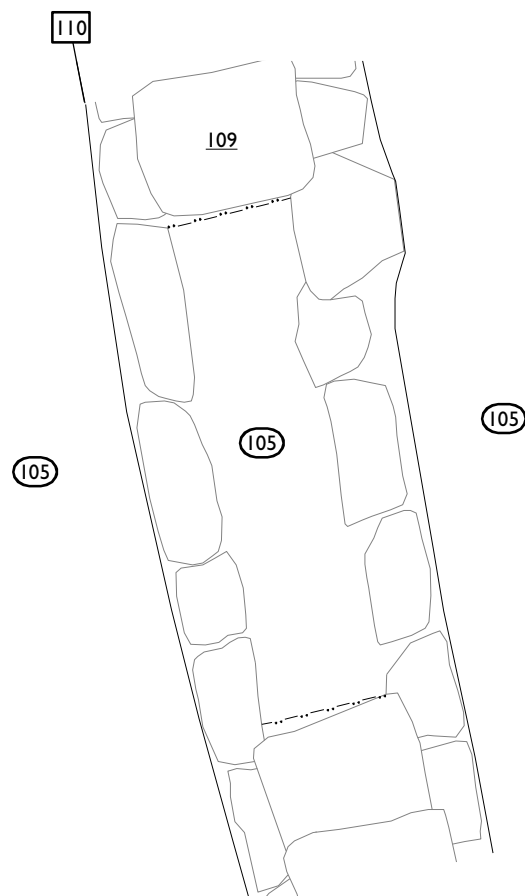
PROJECT // 1154C - Mill Lane, Addlington

DESCRIPTION // Section drawings

DOC REF: LPI154C-AWBv1

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FIGURE 7 // Plan of culvert



0 0.5m
Scale 1:10 @ A4



PROJECT // 1154C - Mill Lane, Addlington

DESCRIPTION // Plan of culvert 109

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OASIS ID: lparchae1-133748

Project details

Project name	Mill Lane, Adlington
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping at land to the south of Mill Lane, Adlington
Project dates	Start: 17-08-2012 End: 13-09-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MAC/ML 12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	CULVERT Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE MACCLESFIELD ADLINGTON Mill Lane
Postcode	SK10 4LF
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	SJ 391000 380400 52 -2 52 56 09 N 002 54 22 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 22.00m Max: 25.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	CgMs

Project director/manager	Blair Poole
Project supervisor	Blair Poole
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Paper Archive ID	MAC/ML12
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological watching Brief Report for Mill Lane Adlington
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pool, B.
Other bibliographic details	LP1154C-AWB-v1
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Chester
Description	Grey literature report on the results of monitoring topsoil stripping at Mil Lane Adlington.
Entered by	B Poole (b.poole@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	13 September 2012

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