

Archaeological Watching Brief Report for Land at

**9-17 CHURCHSIDE
MACCLESFIELD**

For Nexus Heritage

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report for Land at

9 – 17 CHURCHSIDE MACCLESFIELD

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Abstract

This document outlines the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken at 9 – 17 Churchside, Macclesfield. The work was undertaken to determine the presence and character of any surviving archaeology at the site.

Fieldwork was carried out by Pascal Eloy of L – P : Archaeology between 26th November 2013 and 8th January 2014 on behalf of Nexus Heritage acting as archaeological consultant to the Decs Group.

Historic research indicates that the site lies within the Medieval settlement of Macclesfield and within the heart of the Post Medieval town.

The standing buildings fronting onto Churchside, forming the frontage of the site, are thought to date to the early 18th century.

All deposits encountered during the groundworks could be seen to be contemporary with the construction of the standing buildings, or relate to later modifications. Deposits, features and artefacts of minor archaeological significance, related to later post-medieval activity, were recorded and recovered. These included early 19th century yard surfaces and out-building foundations to the rear of the standing buildings, and a waste pit and culvert set within a matrix containing Post Medieval pottery, glass and clay pipe fragments.

No evidence was encountered for features dating to earlier periods, and as such no evidence to assist in the elucidation of medieval land use within the medieval borough. No evidence was recovered relating to the later medieval settlement core to the east of the Market Place and the north of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels was encountered.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document describes the results of archaeological monitoring of ground clearance and excavation following demolition works to the rear of 9 – 17 Churchside, Macclesfield. The works monitored entailed the excavation for new footings and drainage. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in order to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains encountered during the works.
- 1.2. The site is located at 9 – 17 Churchside, Macclesfield, SK10 1HG at NGR (SJ) 391794,373735 (FIGURE 1).
- 1.3. Planning permission (12/2592M) has been granted for the demolition of three single storey toilet block additions to the rear of properties 9, 11 & 13, and construction of extensions to the terraced buildings, as well as the adaptation of existing car park to rear to form gardens.
- 1.4. Archaeological monitoring was carried out by Pascal Eloy of L – P : Archaeology between 26th November 2013 and 8th January 2014 on behalf of Nexus Heritage acting as archaeological consultant to the Decs Group.
- 1.5. 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.

2. Site Background

2.1. PLANNING

- 2.1.1. 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.
- 2.1.2. Paragraph 128 of the NPPF indicates planning decisions should be made based on the significance of Heritage Assets. These are defined as buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.
- 2.1.3. In considering any planning application for development the Local Planning Authority is the Cheshire East Council.
- 2.1.4. A condition has been attached to planning consent for the site (12/2592M);
- 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
- 2.1.5. A written scheme of investigation was prepared by Nexus Heritage and submitted and agreed by Mark Leah of Cheshire Shared Services in advance of works.

2.2. GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.2.1. The British Geological Survey GeoIndex for the site records the superficial (drift) deposits as Devensian glaciofluvial sand and gravels. The solid geology of the area is recorded as Chester Pebble Beds.
- 2.2.2. The site lies in an area of residential dwellings in the centre of Macclesfield on

relatively level ground, at approximately 150mOD, to the north of Churchside and St Michaels and All Angels Church (FIGURE 2) .

2.3.ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORIC BACKGROUND

- 2.3.1. There is limited evidence for Prehistoric activity in the area. However, it is thought that there was activity from the Mesolithic onwards. Flint finds from the surrounding area suggest a seasonal mobile economy. The most significant local Prehistoric feature are the Bullstones, a ring and standing stone thought to date from the Bronze Age, overlooking Macclesfield.
- 2.3.2. A series of disparate finds from the Roman period suggest activity from this period in the wider area.
- 2.3.3. The earliest known settlement of Macclesfield is in the Early Medieval Period as a Saxon manor. The site lies within Macclesfield's area of archaeological potential and is thought to be situated in one of the two possible locations of the estate for the manor of Macclesfield.
- 2.3.4. Macclesfield appears in the Domesday Book as being held by Earl Hugh of Chester, previously falling under the control of Earl Edwin. The town was granted a borough charter by Earl Ranulf III of Chester, in the early 13th century. A second charter was granted by King Edward I in 1261 prior to his ascension to the throne. The site lies within the heart of the later medieval settlement of Macclesfield.
- 2.3.5. Macclesfield developed into a major silk producing centre during the Post Medieval period. The site area was developed in the Post Medieval period and the standing buildings along Churchside, forming the southern boundary of the site, are Grade II Listed Buildings dating to the early 19th century. They are described by English Heritage as (390962) "*Terrace of 5 houses, now offices. Early C19. Flemish-bond brickwork with Welsh slate roofs. 2 storeys, 5-window range. Each a single unit, double-pile plan with doorway to left. 4-panelled doors with blind painted fanlights in round-arched stone architraves. 16-pane sash windows with flat-arched painted stone heads and stone sills. Stone plinth, plain eaves band, end wall stacks.*"

2.4.AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.4.1. The aims of the watching brief, as outlined in the written scheme of investigation, were:

- ◇ To allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of any archaeological remains on the site affected by excavations for the development, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.
- ◇ To provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

2.4.2. The specific objectives, as outlined in the written scheme of investigation, were:

- ◇ To observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance
- ◇ To record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance
- ◇ To recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data.
- ◇ Where the raw data allows, to construct a model of the depositional processes and stratigraphic sequence for the relevant parts of the site.

3. Methodology

- 3.1. All groundworks were monitored by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 3.2. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits was carried out by hand using appropriate tools. All archaeological deposits were examined and recorded in section.
- 3.3. A written scheme of investigation (APPENDIX 1) submitted by Nexus Heritage containing a detailed methodology had been agreed in advance of works by the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.
- 3.4. The intended methodology was adhered to at all times during groundworks as there were no obstacles or constraints which impeded the implementation of the WSI. Therefore the methodological approach to addressing the aims and objectives was satisfactory and the highest confidence can be placed in the data recovered and the report.
- 3.5. The nature of the results of the watching brief, limited to 19th century activity on the site, can be seen to have a marginal contribution to the Archaeological research Framework for North West England (BRENNAND 2006).

4. Results

- 4.1. This section will outline the results of the archaeological monitoring of the works. Deposits are shown in (parenthesis), cut features shown in [square brackets].
- 4.2. Following demolition and clearance of the site a series of footing trenches were excavated at 0.7m wide (FIGURE 3). The initial clearance removed concrete building platforms (01) and (02), approximately 0.15m thick, which formed the base of outbuildings to the rear of the standing buildings. Where the concrete was not present York stone slabs (06), measuring 0.08m thick, were recorded. These slabs represent the previous yard surfaces for the terraced buildings fronting onto Churchside.
- 4.3. Underlying the concrete and York stone slabs were a series of levelling and sub-base layers associated with the construction of the outbuildings and yard surfaces. These are thought to be contemporary with the standing buildings fronting onto Churchside, dating to the early 19th century. Underlying the concrete (01) was a 0.1m thick layer of dark brown sandy silt (05), which contained fragments of brick and concrete. Below concrete (02) was a 0.25m layer of builders gravel (03), which overlay a 0.1m thick layer of dark brown sandy silt (04). Layer (04) is thought to be the same as deposit (05).
- 4.4. Below the York stone slabs was a yellow-brown sandy soil (07), measuring 0.2m thick. This has been interpreted as levelling in advance of laying the stone slab surface.
- 4.5. Covering the site, below the make up layers noted above, was a 0.2m thick layer of mid grey brown sandy silt (08) (FIGURE 4). The layer is truncated by tree roots, and a Stone culvert (10). The deposit consists of local geology with some brick, mortar, sandstone fragments and Post Medieval pottery. The layer must have been redeposited during the construction of the cellars of Churchside Cottages and is discoloured due to exposure to the elements prior to the laying of stone slabs (06).



Plate 1 - East facing section of footing excavations

4.6. The stone culvert (10) is a York and Sandstone constructed culvert containing a ceramic pipe, with an east west orientation. The culvert is positioned at 0.40m from the back of Churchside Cottages and remains parallel to the building. Material sizes varied, but on average measured 0.30m x 0.21m x 0.07m. The construction is rough with three courses of roughly hewn stone slabs encasing a mid brown collared ceramic pipe, with a stone capping, missing in places. The ceramic pipe is secured in place with pink orange clay (glacial till). The cut [11] created for the construction of stone culvert (10) represents a shallow linear ditch 0.5m wide and 0.40m deep, running east to west parallel to Churchside Cottages. The feature can be seen covering the length of the northern facing elevation of Churchside Cottages.

4.7. A small waste pit [12] was truncated by stone culvert (10). This waste pit also cuts layer (08) and as such is thought to represent discard from the workers who were constructing the cellars for the cottages. The cut marks a sub circular pit located in the South West corner of the Churchside Cottages yard. This feature was situated beneath stone slabs (06) and must pre date the construction of the yard and outhouses. The pit is 0.56m deep 1.3m across 1.4m long with a low bowl shaped base and steep sides. Pit fill (13) was a loosely compact grey black brown deposit containing pebbles, gravels, charcoal, clinker, sandstone and brick fragments. The pit contained Post Medieval pottery, glass and a clay pipe. The fill is charcoal rich and contains a lens of clinker. The fill would indicate a small rubbish pit containing ash

from a coal fire and pottery fragments likely to have been redeposited.

4.8. A cut, [18] for a pit was only identified in the northern section of the footing trenches. The pit has sloping sides with a gradual curve ending in a low bowl shaped base. Exposed to its full depth of 0.9m deep and 1.9m wide. The pit cuts through layer (08). The fill of pit cut [18] was a loosely compact sandy silt (19) with water worn pebbles and gravels. The deposit contains a high proportion of large sandstone blocks and fragments, around 60%. The sandstone is a dark purple brown coarse-grained material. The fill was clear of any finds and may represent a dump of unused building materials discarded during the construction of the cellars. The sandstones appeared random in their positioning within the pit. The pit was located approximately 4.5m from the northern elevation of Churchside Cottages and approximately 9m from the western outside wall enclosing the yard area.

4.9. Underlying layer (08) was a 0.95m thick mid orange brown sandy silt (09) with water worn pebbles and gravels. The layer contains brick, and sandstone fragments. The deposit appears to consist mainly of local geology with less inclusions than layer (08). This layer must have been redeposited during the construction of the cellars of Churchside Cottages. Some sloping lines of gravels are identified as tip lines with a north south orientation this clearly demonstrates the redeposition of the layer.

4.10. At the base of the footing excavations, underlying (09), was an orange- brown sand (14), 0.9m of its thickness was excavated, with it continuing beyond the base of the trench. The sand is banded with small striations likely to have been caused by water seepage. As the layer is above the total depth of the cellars it is unlikely to be natural and must have been redeposited.

4.11. A rubble backfill (15) was revealed at the eastern end of Churchside Cottages. This material consists of bricks, mortar, plaster, sandstone blocks and fragments. The backfill represents demolition materials contained within a stone built cellar. This cellar is the remnant of a building contemporary to Churchside Cottages removed relatively recently, evidence by the presence modern plastics in the deposit.

5. Finds & Archive

5.1.FINDS

5.1.1. The finds assemblage from the site is limited to a total of eight individual finds. These were recovered from (13), the fill of a small waste pit [12].

5.1.2. Table 1, below, is an index of the finds recovered from the site, shown by context. The finds from the pit are typical of a waste assemblage, and the stratigraphic location of the pit places it contemporary to the construction of the cellars. The buildings are thought to be early 19th century in date. It is thought that the mix of finds from a wide date range indicates that the material includes backfilled re-deposited artefacts.

CONTEXT	FABRIC	COUNT	DECORATION/NOTES	PERIOD
(13)	Glass	1	Edge shard of small squared vessel.	18 th C
(13)	Clay tobacco pipe	1	Pipe bowl with stem fragment. Incised, rolled, hashed band at bowl rim.	17 th C
(13)	Ceramic	1	Base of yellow ware drug jar	17 th C
(13)	Ceramic	1	Rim of brown glazed bowl	18 th - 19 th C
(13)	Ceramic	1	Rim of yellow ware bowl	17 th - 18 th C
(13)	Ceramic	1	Body sherd of brown glazed vessel	18 th - 19 th C
(13)	Ceramic	1	Base sherd of black glazed jar	18 th - 19 th C
(13)	Ceramic	1	Base sherd of black glazed jar	18 th - 19 th C

5.2.ARCHIVE

5.2.1. The document archive consists of:

- ◇ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◇ 1 x Drawing Film
- ◇ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◇ 36 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◇ 1 x Context Register
- ◇ 19 x Context sheets
- ◇ 1 x Level register sheet

5.2.1. The finds archive consists of:

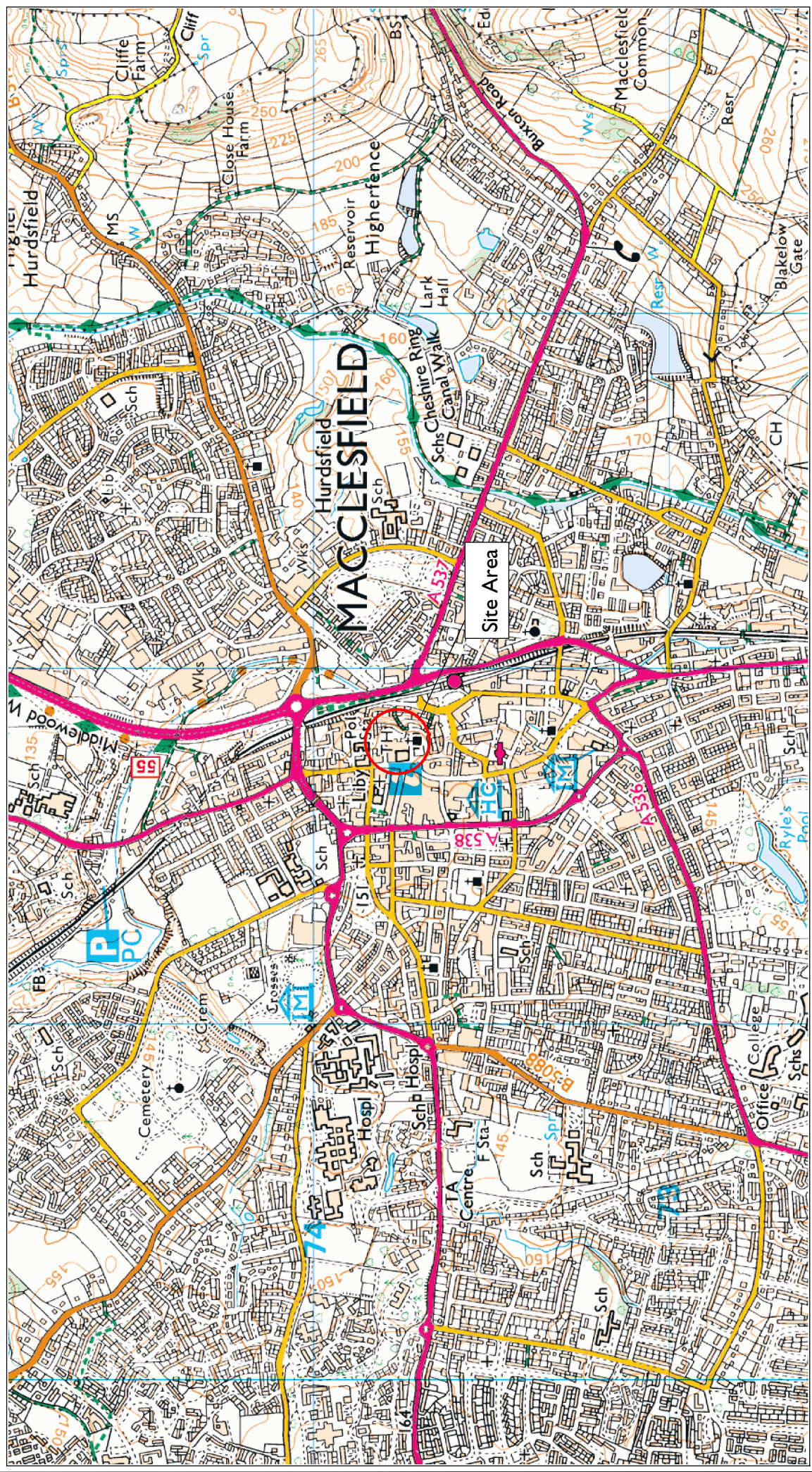
- ◇ 1 x box artefacts as described in Table 1, above (all materials).
- ◇ The archive is to be deposited with the Cheshire Museum Service.

6. Summary & Conclusions

- 6.1. This report has outlined the results of archaeological monitoring carried out at 9 – 17 Churchside, Macclesfield. The site is located at 9 – 17 Churchside, Macclesfield, SK10 1HG, at national grid reference (SJ) 391794,373735.
- 6.2. Planning permission has been granted for the demolition works and construction of extensions to existing terraced buildings. Archaeological monitoring was carried out by Pascal Eloy of L – P : Archaeology between 26th November 2013 and 8th January 2014 on behalf of Nexus Heritage acting as archaeological consultant to the Decs Group.
- 6.3. Historic research suggests that the site area lies within the Medieval settlement of Macclesfield and within the Post Medieval development. The standing buildings fronting onto Churchside, forming the frontage of the site, are thought to date to the early 18th century.
- 6.4. All deposits encountered during the groundworks could be seen to be contemporary with the construction of the standing buildings, or relate to later modifications. It appears that a large pit was originally excavated in order to construct the cellars for the cottages. This must have exceeded 2m in depth and due to the nature of the geology, (loose gravels and sand); this would have required a relatively wide excavation. As the deposits were in close proximity to the north facing elevation of the existing buildings it must be assumed that all intrusions must post date the construction of these cellars.
- 6.5. Deposits, features and artefacts of minor archaeological significance, related to later post-medieval activity, were recorded and recovered. These included early 19th century yard surfaces and out-building foundations to the rear of the standing buildings, and a waste pit and culvert set within a matrix containing Post Medieval pottery, glass and clay pipe fragments.
- 6.6. No evidence was encountered for features dating to earlier periods, and as such no evidence to assist in the elucidation of medieval land use within the medieval borough. No evidence was recovered relating to the later medieval settlement core to the east of the Market Place and the north of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels was encountered.

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location General



PROJECT // 1610C - 9-17 Churchside, Macclesfield

DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

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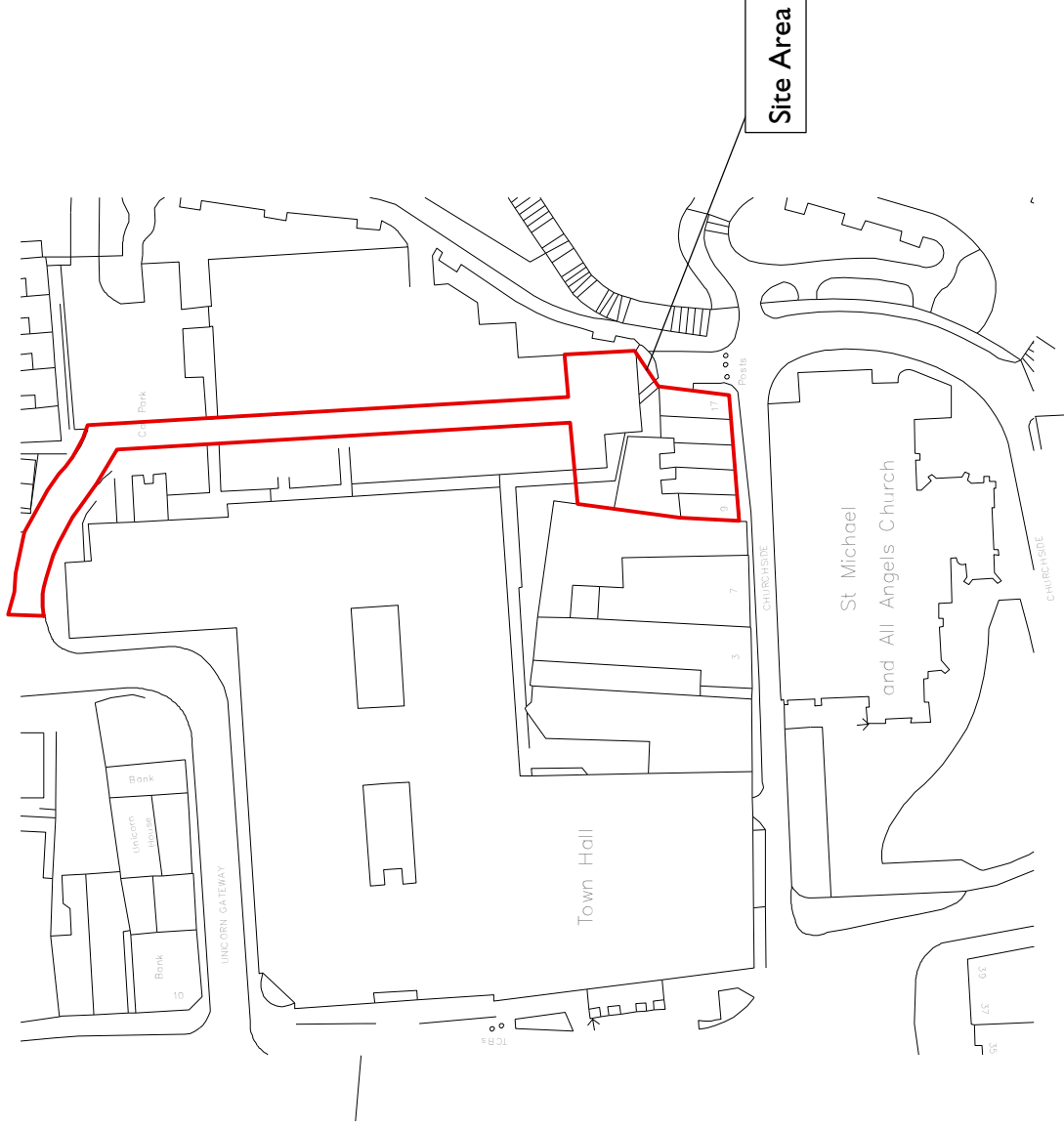
DOC REF: LP1610C-AWB-v1

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Scale 1:15,000 @ A4

0 500m

FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



Scale 1:1,000 @ A4

0 50m

PROJECT // 1610C - 9-17 Churchside, Macclesfield

DESCRIPTION // Site Location Detail

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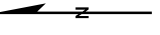
DOC REF: LP1610C-AWB-v1

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FIGURE 3 // Site Groundworks Layout

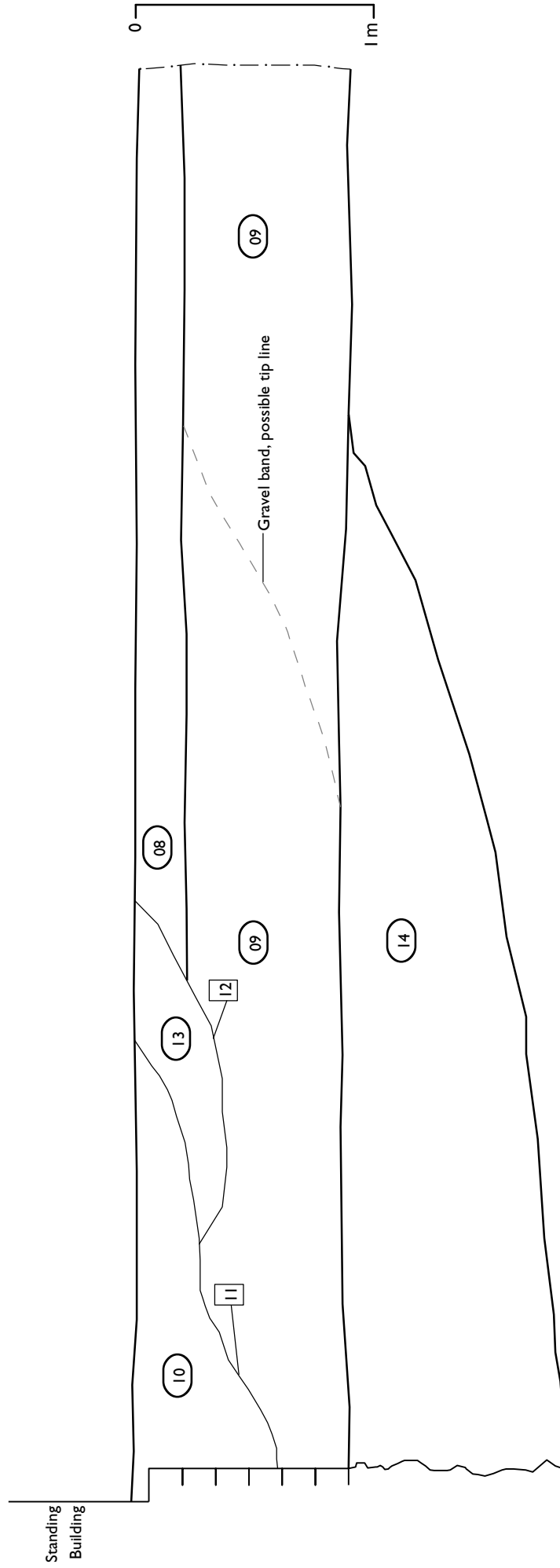


PROJECT // 1610C - 9-17 Churchside, Macclesfield
 DESCRIPTION // Site Groundworks Layout
 DOC REF: LP1610C-AWB-v1
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Scale 1:200 @ A4
 0 10m

FIGURE 4 // East Facing Section of Footings



Scale 1:25 @ A4

PROJECT // 1610C - 9-17 Churchside, Macclesfield

DESCRIPTION // East Facing Section of Footings

DOC REF: LP1610C-AWB-v1

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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

APPENDIX I



NEXUS
HERITAGE

9-17 Churchside, Macclesfield Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief



Document No: 3171.R01a

October 2013

Nexus Heritage Controlled Document – Commercial-in-Confidence

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Checked by:	Gerry Wait	Date: 09.10.13
Approved by:	Gerry Wait	Date: 09.10.13
Revision Record		
Revision No.		
a 14.10.13	Amendments and improvements to the archive provision following discussion with Mr. M. Leah of Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service of Cheshire Shared Services,	

Decs Group
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INTRODUCTION

Planning permission has been granted by Cheshire East Council for the conversion of five former terraced cottages at 9-17 Churchside, Macclesfield (Planning Application Ref: 12/2592M).

An archaeological planning condition was applied to the planning permission. The condition, recommended by the Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (APAS), of Cheshire Shared Services, was applied to ensure that an adequate record of any archaeological features revealed by the development can be made in compliance with the relevant policy. The condition states:

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

The archaeological interest derives from the location of the site within the historic core of the town. Macclesfield is a historic town in Cheshire's, tracing its origins to the early medieval period and the medieval borough, generated during a period of town planning in the 13th century town planning, was laid out around the Market Place (Cheshire County Council, 2003).

Nexus Heritage has been commissioned by Decs Group to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation which sets out how an archaeological watching brief will be undertaken in order to identify and record items of archaeological and historic interest. This document (Nexus Report 3171.R01) has been prepared with reference to the relevant provisions in the National Planning Policy Framework) and in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008 edition).

SITE LOCATION

The location of the site is at Churchside, Macclesfield (centred at NGR SJ 918 737) is shown in Figure 1. The site is characterised as residential dwellings within the built environment of Macclesfield (Figure 2).



Figure 1: Location Plan (reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO ©Crown Copyright Nexus Heritage-SRI Licence No. 100048549)

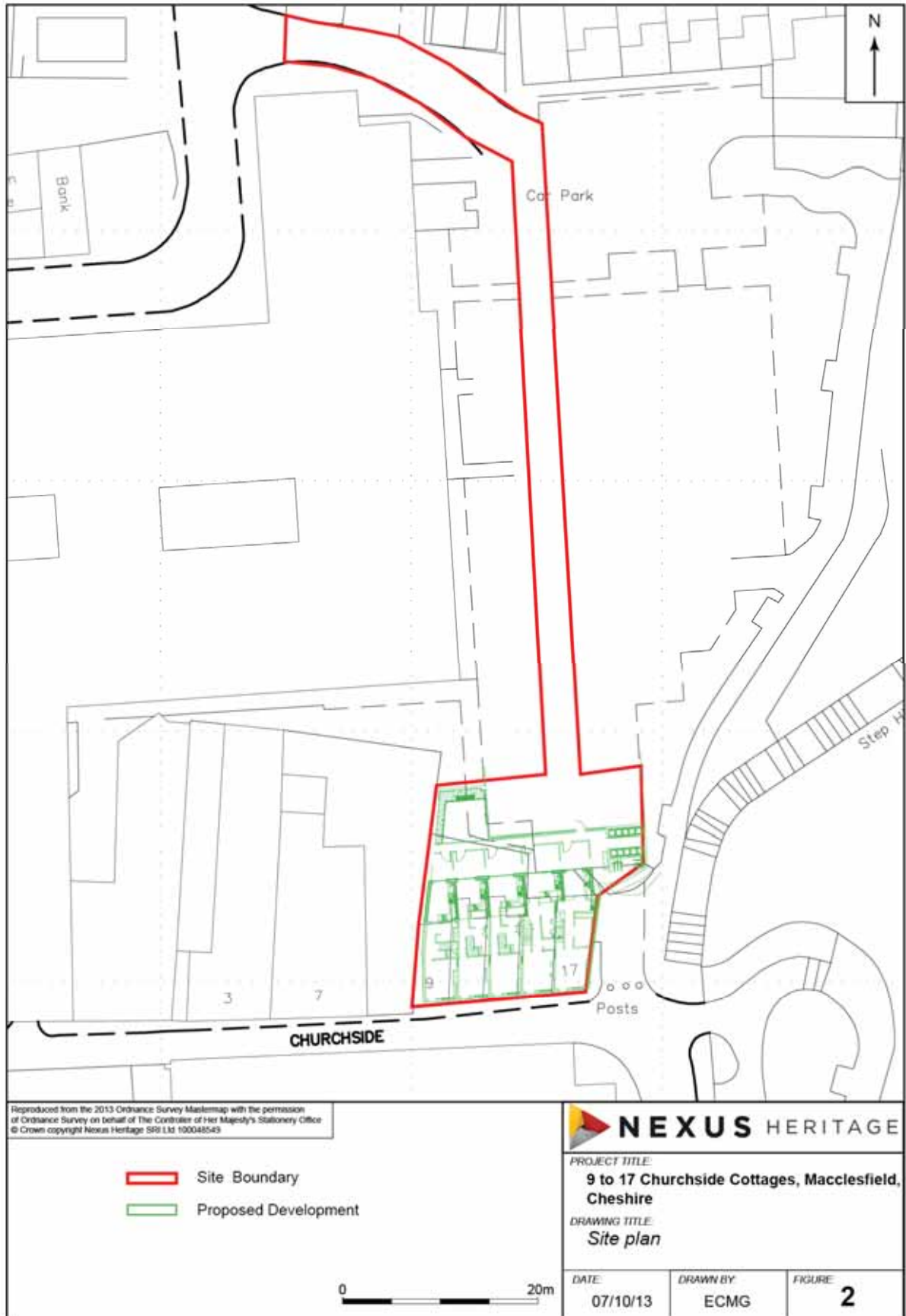


Figure 1: Site Plan (reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO ©Crown Copyright Nexus Heritage-SRI Licence No. 100048549)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background of the town of Macclesfield has been researched in detail (Cheshire County Council 2003) and there is no reason to rehearse the detail here. However, it is appropriate to note that the site of the watching brief lies within Macclesfield's area of archaeological potential as defined in the Local Plan of the former Macclesfield Borough Council. The fine grain of this potential indicates that the site may lie in one of the two possible foci of the estate for the manor of Macclesfield. With this in mind the site may contain archaeological deposits related to the earliest periods of settlement in Macclesfield. In addition the site is known to occupy a position within the later medieval settlement core and may retain archaeological evidence of tenements and other buildings or land use to the east of the Market Place and the north of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels. The potential archaeological sequence at the site may contribute to questions arising from the transition of the town from a late-Saxon settlement to a medieval borough and further address the transition from medieval to the post-medieval era.

The research topics for the early-medieval, medieval and post-medieval periods in north-west England, as detailed in the regional research strategy (Brennand, 2006) include the origins, growth and development of urban centres and the nature and character of urban life. The opportunity afforded at the current site to address any of the initiatives detailed in the research agenda (Newman and Brennand, 2006. Newman and Newman 2006 and Newman and McNeil 2006) will be taken.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The watching brief entails a presence on site during the ground works associated with the excavations for foundations and drainage, with the intention of identifying, investigating and recording any archaeological remains encountered during the works so far as is reasonably practicable given the conditions on site and health and safety considerations. The aims of the watching brief are:

- to allow, within the resources available, the opportunity to gain information about and record the presence/absence, nature and date of any archaeological remains on the site affected by excavations for the development, the presence and nature of which could not be established with sufficient confidence in advance of works which may disturb them.
- to provide the facility to signal to the relevant authorities, before irreversible impact to remains that an archaeological and/or historic find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are inadequate to support their treatment to an adequate and satisfactory standard.

The specific objectives of the watching brief are:

- to observe and recover any artefacts of archaeological significance
- to record the location, dimensions and nature of any deposits, features, structures or artefacts of archaeological significance
- to recover samples of any deposits considered to have potential for analysis for palaeoenvironmental data.
- where the raw data allows, to construct a model of the depositional processes and stratigraphic sequence for the relevant parts of the site.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology for the watching brief has been prepared with reference to the Institute of Field Archaeologists document *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008) and will be kept under constant review during the project, in order to see how far it is meeting the terms of the aims and objectives, and in order to adopt any new questions which may arise.

Curatorial monitoring of the archaeological work on behalf of Cheshire East Council will be carried out by an officer(s) of the Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (APAS) of Cheshire Shared Services. To facilitate the curatorial monitoring, the officer shall be provided with a minimum of one weeks' notice of the start of the archaeological work. Mr M. Leah (Development Control Archaeologist of the APAS) has been informed of the intention to undertake the ground works on site which require the archaeological watching brief to be maintained during October and November 2013.

A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist(s) will be commissioned for the maintenance of the watching brief. On arrival on site, the archaeologist(s) will report to the site manager and conform to the arrangements for notification of entering and leaving site. The archaeologist(s) will keep a record of the date, time and duration of all attendances at site, the names and numbers of archaeologists deployed and any actions taken. The archaeologist will wear a safety helmet, safety footwear and high visibility jacket/vest at all times.

If deposits and or artefacts are exposed during excavations for the development which require recording and recovery, it may be necessary to delay works whilst the proper investigation and recording takes place. Watching brief recording can often be undertaken without delay to groundworks, depending upon the specific circumstances and flexibility of all the staff on site. Within the constraints of the terms of the watching brief work, the archaeologist will not cause unreasonable disruption to the maintenance of the work schedules of other contractors on site.

In the event of archaeological discoveries the treatment of which (either arising from the volume/quantity of material and/or the complexity/importance of the material) is beyond the resources deployed Decs Group will be notified and a site meeting/telephone consultation arranged with representatives of Cheshire East Council. The aim of the meeting will be to confirm that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard and identify measures which would be sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard prior to destruction of the material in question..

Any archaeological deposits, features and structures identified which can be investigated and recorded under the terms of the watching brief will be excavated manually in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project – subject to the limitations on site access.

It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable. The method of recording will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and the stratigraphy will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The archaeologist will record archaeological deposits using *proformae* recording forms and locate them on a large-scale site plan related to

the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum references. The drawn record will comprise plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10; proprietary electronic hardware and software to prepare site drawings may be used as appropriate.

All finds work will be carried out in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists publication *Guidelines on Finds Work* (1991). All artefacts discovered will be retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified items dating to the twentieth or twenty-first centuries AD which will be recorded by material type, form, identification and weight, and discarded. All finds will be assessed in order to recover information that will contribute to an understanding of their date and function. Artefacts pre-dating the 20th century may be discarded and a project specific discard policy will be agreed with the landowner, Cheshire East Council and the recipient archive repository. All retained finds will be stabilised and packaged in accordance with best practice and the requirements of the organisation nominated to receive the archive. The terms of the *Treasure Act* (1996) will be followed with regard to any items discovered to which the Act would apply. Such items will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required. Where removal cannot be effected on the day of discovery the archaeological contractor will deploy suitable security measures to protect the items from unlawful removal.

Samples for scientific dating will be taken if suitable material is encountered during the watching brief.

The retention of artefacts and samples will only take place where appropriate measures are in place to mitigate the risks and hazards associated with toxic, chemical or biohazard contamination.

Recommendations for discard/further analysis will be made in the report in accordance with the English Heritage guidance documents *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (2002) and *Geoarchaeology – Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (2007). A sampling strategy will be agreed with a suitably qualified and experienced bio-archaeologist and any deviation from the sampling procedures outlined in the above guidance documents will be discussed and agreed with Cheshire East Council in advance of implementation.

Any human remains discovered will be left *in situ* and protected. The police, Decs Group and Cheshire East Council will be notified of the presence of human remains at the earliest opportunity. If removal is necessary, mandated by the relevant regulatory authorities and appropriate funding is provided the remains will be excavated archaeologically in accordance with the English Heritage document *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (2005) and any conditions imposed by the Ministry of Justice and/or the Local Planning Authority Environmental Health Directorate. Any assessment and reporting work on recovered human remains will be undertaken in accordance with the English Heritage document *Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports* (2004).

The watching brief works will be surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The observed areas, trenches, works, deposits, features and structures within them will be accurately located on a site plan prepared at most appropriate and largest scale. The photographic record will be secured by black and white film, colour slide film and will be supplemented by photographs taken using digital camera.

At the conclusion of the fieldwork, a brief summary of the results will be prepared for the Decs Group. The report will be prepared after the retained artefacts have been cleaned, identified (if possible), labelled, assessed and dated (if possible). The artefacts will be packed and stored in appropriate materials and conditions to ensure that no deterioration occurs. All artefact/ecofact processing/storage will be carried out in accordance with UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation) guidelines and should accord with the Institute for Archaeologists document *Guidelines on Finds Work*. Soil or other samples recovered will be processed as appropriate by a qualified and experienced bio-archaeological scientist. Where the need for dating of individual contexts/features arises, material suitable for scientific dating will be identified and Decs Group advised.

ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

After the completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared which encompasses the results of the archaeological watching brief. The report would normally contain the following, but the contents may be adapted to take account of project specific circumstances:

- A non-technical summary
- A table of contents
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site
- A statement of the project aims
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data)
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to watching brief and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.
- A bibliography sources consulted.
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository

One digital .PDF copy of a draft version of the report will be made available for comment within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

Should the delivery of the report depend on the incorporation of reports arising from specialist and/or laboratory work then a revised timetable for delivery of the draft report may be agreed upon conclusion of the fieldwork stage. Any observations on the content of the draft report made by Decs Group, APAS and Cheshire East Council will be taken into account during preparation of the final report.

A digital .pdf copy of the final report will be submitted to Decs Group (1) and onward submission to the Cheshire East Council (1 copy) and the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (1 copy). A copy of the final report will also be submitted to the4 National Monument Record in appropriate hard and digital formats.

A summary report on the archaeological works will be provided to a suitable local journal if this is appropriate to the significance of the results, with a record note presented to the appropriate national period journal(s). These reports/notes will include the collaborative role of Decs Group, Cheshire East Council and Cheshire Shared Services in the completion of the archaeological works. An OASIS report will also be submitted, where appropriate.

COPYRIGHT

Copyright to any commissioned reports and any other project documents will be retained by the archaeologist under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act of 1988; excepting that an exclusive licence will be provided to Decs Group and Cheshire East Council for the use of such documents by Decs Group and Cheshire East Council in all matters directly relating to the project. The copyright of this document remains with Nexus Heritage, subject to the same exclusive licence.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The archaeologist will treat as confidential all information obtained directly or indirectly from Decs Group in connection with these archaeological investigations and will not, without the prior consent of Decs Group, disclose any information relating to the project or publicise the project in any way.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

All relevant certification will be obtained from Decs Group regarding Health and Safety prior to any site works and will conform to arrangements for notification of entering and leaving the site.

The archaeologist undertaking the watching brief will be guided by the *Health and Safety at Work Act* (1974), the *Standing Conference of Archaeology Unit Managers Health and Safety Manual* (1991), *Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations* (2002), *Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations* (2007), *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations* (1999), the *Work at Height Regulations* (2005), the *Confined Spaces Regulations* (1997), the *Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations* (2002) and the Council for British Archaeology Handbook No. 6, *Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork* (1989).

While carrying out the archaeological investigations the archaeologist will operate in accordance with all applicable Health and Safety Legislation.

The archaeologist will provide himself or herself with all necessary protective clothing and equipment. The archaeologist will wear a safety helmet and reflective jacket/waistcoat at all times on site. Ear defenders and eye goggles would be used as required when machinery is in operation

The Decs Group will supply any information regarding hazardous contaminants present in surface materials and sub-surface strata at the site. Where contaminated material is present in the surface or sub-surface deposits at the site appropriate measures will be taken to ensure the health and safety of archaeologists which may come into contact with contaminants. In case of encountering contaminated soil, the Decs Group will be informed immediately.

In the event of encountering contaminated soil, it may be necessary for a revised method statement to be produced for approval by Decs Group. Once approved, the revised method statement will be forwarded to the Cheshire East Council for reference.

A First-Aid Kit and Accident Book will be kept on site at all times for the duration of the archaeological works

ARCHIVE

The arrangements for archive preparation and submission will be complied with prior to commencing fieldwork and the archaeologist will be responsible for requests to transfer the legal title to the artefact archive from the landowner to a repository approved by Cheshire East Council.

The archive generated during the project will be offered to a suitable local museum with Museum and Galleries Commission approved storage facilities. Every effort would be made to deposit the archive in an appropriate location with the agreement of Decs Group and to secure an agreement with the relevant repository to accept the archive prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.

The archaeologist will maintain the archive until the period of report preparation is complete and will be responsible for necessary conservation work on the artefact archive to be undertaken to ensure the long-term stability of the artefacts and their availability for future study.

The archive is to be prepared, compiled and presented for long term storage according to the requirements of the receiving institution and as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists document *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2008).

The archaeologist will be responsible for the security of any excavated materials/records relating to the archaeological investigations prior to the submission of the archive. An indexed project archive will be prepared for inclusion as an appendix to the report. The project archive will comprise all primary written, documents, drawn plans and sections, photographic negatives and a set of labelled photographic prints.

The archive will comprise the stratigraphical/structural, artefact, environmental and other catalogues and all other records as well as details of the methods employed. Each separate data group should be cross-referenced to related data groups, to the final publication, and if necessary to a general context index to allow users maximum accessibility to the contents. The archive will contain some or all of the following elements:

- context information: recording (on duplicate copies) any amendments to original field records resulting from analysis
- photographic catalogue: listing all photographs taken during fieldwork, assessment and analysis
- digital photographs
- drawing index
- drawings, sketches, plans, sections, artefact drawings
- artefact catalogue
- x-ray catalogue and x-rays
- conservation records: details of conservation undertaken during analysis, cross-referred to objects conserved
- soil sample catalogues: details of samples selected for analysis
- human bone catalogues: details recorded for analysis
- animal bone catalogues: details recorded for analysis
- a copy of the site narrative

- copies of artefact, ecofact and scientific dating reports
- hard and digital copies of the final report

A synopsis of the archive would be lodged with the Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (APAS), of Cheshire Shared Services.

RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

The timing of the archaeological presence on site will depend on the nature, extent and timing of groundworks. It is anticipated that the ground works requirement the watching brief will be completed in one to three days.

The archaeological work will be undertaken by a team of demonstrable competence provided by. Archaeological staff engaged on the project will have appropriate and relevant experience.

MONITORING

The Archaeology Planning Advisory Service of Cheshire Shared Services will monitor the archaeological works on behalf of Cheshire East Council

Reasonable access to the site works will be provided by Decs Group to representatives of APAS and Cheshire East Council in order to monitor the works. A site tour and opportunity to scrutinise artefacts and site records will be provided to the monitors.

Nexus Heritage will ensure that any significant results recovered during the archaeological investigations are brought to the attention of Decs Group and will notify the relevant organisations as soon as is practicably possible, and certainly within 24 hours.

A consultation between the Nexus Heritage, Decs Group, APAS and Cheshire East Council will be convened towards or at the conclusion of the ground works requiring the archaeological watching brief. The purpose of the meeting is to advise the monitors on the manner in which the objectives of the project have been addressed and secure agreement that the fieldwork element of the project has been concluded to the satisfaction of Cheshire East Council.

SOURCES

Brennand, M. (ed), 2006, *The Archaeology of North West England: An Archaeological Research Framework for the North West Region – Volume 1: Resource Assessment*. The Association for Local Government Archaeological Officers and English Heritage with The Council for British Archaeology North West

Cheshire County Council, 2003, *Cheshire Historic Towns Survey - Macclesfield: Archaeological Assessment*

Newman R. and Brennand, M. 2006, The Early Medieval Period - Research Agenda in *The Archaeology of North West England: An Archaeological Research Framework for the North West Region – Volume 1: Resource Assessment*. The Association for Local Government Archaeological Officers and English Heritage with The Council for British Archaeology North West.

Newman, C. and Newman, R. 2006, The Medieval Period - Research Agenda in *The Archaeology of North West England: An Archaeological Research Framework for the North West Region – Volume 1: Resource Assessment*. The Association for Local Government Archaeological Officers and English Heritage with The Council for British Archaeology North West.

Newman, R and McNeil, R. 2006, The Post-Medieval Period - Research Agenda in *The Archaeology of North West England: An Archaeological Research Framework for the North West Region – Volume 1: Resource Assessment*. The Association for Local Government Archaeological Officers and English Heritage with The Council for British Archaeology North West.

OASIS FORM

APPENDIX 2

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: lparchae1-172463

Project details

Project name	9-17 Churchside, Macclesfield
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the demolition of outbuildings and erection of extensions to the rear of 9-17 Churchside, Macclesfield.
Project dates	Start: 26-11-2013 End: 24-02-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	12/2592M - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	COTTAGES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE MACCLESFIELD MACCLESFIELD 9-17 Churchside
Postcode	SK10 1HG
Study area	430.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SJ 391794 373735 52.9300002351 -2.90491194581 52 55 48 N 002 54 17 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 148.00m Max: 150.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Nexus Heritage
Project brief originator	City/Nat. Park/District/Borough archaeologist
Project design originator	Nexus Heritage
Project director/manager	Blair Poole
Project supervisor	Pascal Eloy
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Decs Group

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Physical Archive ID	LP1610C
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Digital Archive ID	LP1610C
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Paper Archive ID	LP1610C
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief report for Land at 9-17 Churchside Macclesfield
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Eloy, P.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Poole, B.
Other bibliographic details	lp1610C-AWB-v1.4
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology

Place of issue or publication	Chester
Description	Results of the archaeological monitoring at 9-17 Churchside, Macclesfield. Deposits encountered remained within the 19th century construction for cellars associated with standing buildings off Churchside.
Entered by	B Poole (chester@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	24 February 2014

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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