

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

WEST ACRE

KELSALL

For Focon Ltd

Blair Poole MSc MifA

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

WEST ACRE KELSALL

Client: Focon Ltd

Local Authority: Cheshire West and Chester Council

NGR: 352902,368070

Planning App: 11/04343/OUT

Author(s): B Poole

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Date: March 14

L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

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Abstract

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring carried out at the site of West Acre, Kelsall, during excavations for footings for new detached dwellings and garages. The work was carried out as part of a condition for planning permission which has been granted by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

The site is located approximately 14km north of Chester within the village of Kelsall at NGR SJ 352902,368070.

Archaeological monitoring was carried out by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology between 5th February and 1st March 2014 on behalf of Focon Ltd.

Historic research showed that the historic parish boundary between Kelsall and Delamere cuts across the site along a north south alignment.

No archaeological features were encountered during the works.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document outlines the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out at West Acre, Quarry Lane, Kelsall, CW6 0NJ. The site is located at grid reference 352902,368070 (FIGURE 1). The site has been granted planning permission (11/04343/OUT) for the demolition of the existing building and construction of four new dwellings and improved access.
- 1.2. The watching brief had been requested as the application site straddles the historic township boundary between Delamere and Kelsall, which is marked on the historic mapping and recorded in the Cheshire Historic Environment Record. This boundary marks the historic boundary of the medieval area of Delamere Forest which was under Royal jurisdiction.
- 1.3. The archaeological monitoring was carried out by of L – P : Archaeology between 5th February and 1st March 2014.
- 1.4. The work was carried out in accordance with Cheshire County Council's revised General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants (APRIL 2003) in conjunction with IfA Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (1994) revised 2008.

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 West and Chester Council. On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment Cheshire West and Chester take advice from Julie Edwards, of Cheshire Shared Service.
- 2.1.4. Planning permission was granted for the site in 2011 (11/0434/OUT) relating to demolition of the standing building and erection of four detached dwellings with upgraded access. Condition 15 of the planning permission states:
- No development shall take place within the site area until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved scheme.
- 2.1.5. The study site does not lie within the Kelsall Conservation Area. The site does not fall within an Area of Archaeological Importance or Area of Archaeological Potential. There are no Scheduled Monuments or Registered Parks and Gardens or Battlefields on, or in the vicinity of the site.
- 2.1.6. A written scheme of investigation was prepared by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology and submitted to and agreed by Julie Edwards of Cheshire Shared

Services in advance of works (APPENDIX 1).

2.2. GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.2.1. The underlying solid geology of the area is thought to be of sandstone of the Wilmslow Sandstone Formation (BGS GEOINDEX). The drift geology of the area is boulder clay and sandy clay deposits (BGS GEOINDEX).
- 2.2.2. The site is located approximately 14km north of Chester in a rural area at an elevation of approximately 150m AOD.
- 2.2.3. The site is situated to the east of the village, on a steep hill. The site fronts onto the eastern side of Quarry Lane, in a residential area, with Kelsborrow Way to the north and west, and Kings Wood Walk to the south (FIGURE 2).

2.3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.3.1. The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to monitor groundworks associated with the new development. This is to ensure that archaeologically sensitive deposits of significance were respected and to record the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological or historic architectural remains on site exposed or disturbed during groundworks.

3. Archaeological & Historic Background

PREHISTORIC

- 3.1.1. The Historic Environment Record (HER) records a single Mesolithic find spot within Kelsall, a microlithic flint core and a thumb scraper (HER 1857). This find suggests Mesolithic activity in the wider area.
- 3.1.2. HER 1872, records the site of a Bronze Age burial at Kelsall. This was not a burial mound but a small stone circle which enclosed two filled pits, one of which contained stones laid over a cremation urn and boar tusk. This burial is probably related to the settlement of people in this period on Kelsborrow Hill, 500m to the south east of the site, where traces of a Bronze Age settlement have been discovered (SCHOLES 1999).
- 3.1.3. Iron Age field systems have also been identified in Kelsall (CROSBY 1996). These Iron Age field systems have been recorded as HER 1984, and have also been registered as a Scheduled Monument by English Heritage. The field systems are located approximately 2km to the north east of the study site. It is difficult to distinguish between Iron Age and Roman field systems as the same techniques were used (BRENNAND 2006). The presence of these agricultural systems show that some areas of Kelsall were settled and farmed during the Iron Age, however it is unclear as to how widespread this occupation was in the area.

ROMAN

- 3.1.4. Kelsall appears to have remained a small agricultural area during the Roman period, and evidence for substantial Roman activity here is sparse. A major road did however run through the north side of Kelsall, this was the main route from Chester to Manchester, approximately 700m to the north of the study area.
- 3.1.5. Other records within the HER relating to this period include HER 1858, which records a sherd of Roman pottery and HER 2868 the findspot of a Roman *denarius* of *Atoninus Pious*. A third findspot has been recorded as HER 1863, this refers to a *denarius* of *Titus* which was found on a building site at Hallowsgate, the name given to an area of Kelsall, in 1965.

- 3.1.6. An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by L – P : Archaeology in 2007 on the site of Hallowsgate, 700m south west of the site. The watching brief also involved a metal detector survey. This survey recovered a single Roman coin however it was badly degraded and therefore the date could not be ascertained (STATTER 2007).
- 3.1.7. Although no significant settlement dating to this period has been discovered in Kelsall it is clear that the area was used as a thoroughfare on the route between Chester and Manchester.
- 3.1.8. Agricultural activity may have taken place in Kelsall during this period, as a continuation of the Iron Age activity. The evidence for this comes from the field systems mentioned above.

EARLY MEDIEVAL

- 3.1.9. The coverage of Kelsall within Domesday book seems uncertain. It may be that Kelsall is referred to as '*Cocle*', whose location has not been established, or it could have been part of the parish of Tarvin (CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL 1993). Kelsall is later known to have been located within Tarvin's parish catchment until 1866 when Kelsall civil parish was formed.
- 3.1.10. No records exist within the HER relating to this period. However the scheduled area around the Iron Age field systems also includes several lynchets which are thought to date to the Early Medieval period (HER 1984).

MEDIEVAL

- 3.1.11. There is no evidence for Medieval activity on the site itself, it is therefore thought that the area was largely agricultural.
- 3.1.12. A search of the HER revealed two findspots relating to this period. The first being HER 2866, a silver half penny from the reign of Edward III. The second, HER 2867, refers to a silver coin dating to the 15th century from the French or Spanish Netherlands.
- 3.1.13. This coin could have been brought into the area by a number of activities and exchanges, and was probably lost here accidentally.

POST MEDIEVAL

- 3.1.14. HER 1859 refers to fragments of pottery and glass dating to the 18th century. These finds were recovered whilst fieldwalking and therefore it is thought likely that the finds had been part of a rubbish deposit and had been ploughed across the field.
- 3.1.15. Until the late 18th century most of Kelsall remained as common agricultural land. However during the 19th century Parliamentary enclosure began and the commons of Kelsall were divided up (CROSBY 1996).
- 3.1.16. The 1841 Tithe map of Kelsall only depicts the western third of the site, as the rest of the site lay with Delamere forest, much of which is not recorded on Tithe maps. What is shown is recorded as 'part of a field', suggesting the remaining section of the site was also part of a single, undivided, field. This also suggests that there was no physical barrier between the two parishes at this time.
- 3.1.17. St Philip's Chapel of Ease in Kelsall was erected in 1860 as a local social and religious centre (LATHAM 1985). This indicates that Kelsall was beginning to grow during this period. This led to Kelsall gaining its own civil parish status in 1866.
- 3.1.18. A map regression exercise has shown that Kelsall only began to grow as a non-agricultural community after 1912. This can be seen on the Ordnance Survey maps of the area.
- 3.1.19. The first edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1874 (FIGURE 3) shows the site as a single open field in an area typified by agricultural fields. To the east of the site is Harewood Hill, with a large dwelling overlooking the site area from the east of Quarry Lane. Quarry Lane had been established earlier to allow transport of materials from the quarry 350m north of the site. Located 100m to the south of the site is Dogmoor Well, a large spring. The parish boundary is clearly shown cutting across the site in a north south alignment.
- 3.1.20. There is no development shown on the site until the 1954 Ordnance Survey map (FIGURE 3), when a dwelling is erected off Quarry Lane. This occupies the

same location as the standing building and it is thought that this dwelling forms the core of the standing building.

3.1.21. By the 1970 OS map a housing estate has begun to develop to the west of the site area, along Kelsborrow Way (FIGURE 4). The standing building on the site has also been extended and can be seen to occupy the same footprint as the current structure. Two outbuildings have also been erected to the northeast corner of the site.

3.1.22. 1988 parish boundary changes meant 30 acres of the previous Delamere parish were incorporated into Kelsall, including the majority of the site area.

3.1.23. By the 1989 Ordnance Survey map the housing estate to the west, off Kelsborrow Way has grown massively and other development now surrounds to site area.

3.1.24. There are no changes visible on the site between the 1970 Ordnance Survey map and the current 2011 survey edition (FIGURE 4).

4. Methodology

- 4.1. All groundworks were monitored by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 4.2. Examination and cleaning of archaeological deposits was carried out by hand using appropriate tools. All deposits were examined and recorded in section.
- 4.3. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) submitted by L – P : Archaeology containing a detailed methodology had been agreed in advance of works by the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.
- 4.4. 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.

5. Results

- 5.1. This section will outline the results of the archaeological monitoring of the works. Deposits are shown in (parenthesis). All levels are given below ground level (BGL).
- 5.2. A series of footing trenches for three new detached dwellings and garages were excavated on the site (FIGURE 5). These trenches measured 1m wide by 1m deep. A total of three deposits were identified on the site within the excavated trenches.
- 5.3. The upper context was a 0.45m thick layer of mid brown silt loam (100) forming a topsoil deposit across the site (PLATE 1). This deposit produced a small assemblage of ceramic finds dating from between the 18th and 20th centuries. These are discussed in more detail in SECTION 6, below.



Plate 1 - South facing section of footing excavation, 1m scale

- 5.4. Underlying (100) was a light brown to red sandy clay subsoil (101), which extended beyond the base of the trench at 1m BGL. Context (101) was a natural subsoil, which produced no finds.
- 5.5. At the southwest area of house plot 3 a small area of the natural bedrock (102) was identified at the base of the trench, underlying the subsoil (101).
- 5.6. During the course of the groundworks a wider area around the house plots was stripped of the topsoil. This work was monitored with a view to try and identify whether any evidence of the parish boundary could be seen. No evidence of a ditch, which would be expected of a parish boundary, was seen on the site. It is

possible that as this parish boundary lies between the settlement of Kelsall and the historic forest of Delamere, it is possible that no upstanding boundary was required. The topography of the land and the presence of the forest may have acted as a boundary in itself. The Tithe map of 1841 for the area stops halfway across the site, as Delamere fell outside of normal Tithe collection and the apportionment records the site as being formed of 'part of a field'. This suggests that even at this time the site area was a whole field that was only divided abstractly, on a map, rather than by a physical mechanism within the field itself.

6. Finds & Archive

6.1.FINDS

6.1.1. All finds were collected from site were recovered from the modern topsoil (100).

6.1.2. Table 1, below, is an index of the finds recovered from the site, shown by context.

CONTEXT	FABRIC	COUNT	DECORATION/NOTES	PERIOD
(100)	Ceramic	1	Body sherd of blue and white ware plate	18 th - 19 th C
(100)	Ceramic	1	Rim sherd of blue and white ware plate	18 th - 19 th C
(100)	Ceramic	1	Rim sherd of blue and white ware plate	18 th - 19 th C
(100)	Ceramic	1	Rim sherd of terracotta flower pot	19 th - 20 th C
(100)	Ceramic	1	Body sherd of black glazed vessel	18 th - 19 th C

Table 1 – Finds recovered from site

6.2.ARCHIVE

6.2.1. The document archive consists of:

- ◇ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◇ 1 x Drawing Film
- ◇ 1 x Photographic Register
- ◇ 8 x Black and white photographs and respective negatives
- ◇ 1 x Context Register
- ◇ 3 x Context sheets

6.2.1. The finds archive consists of:

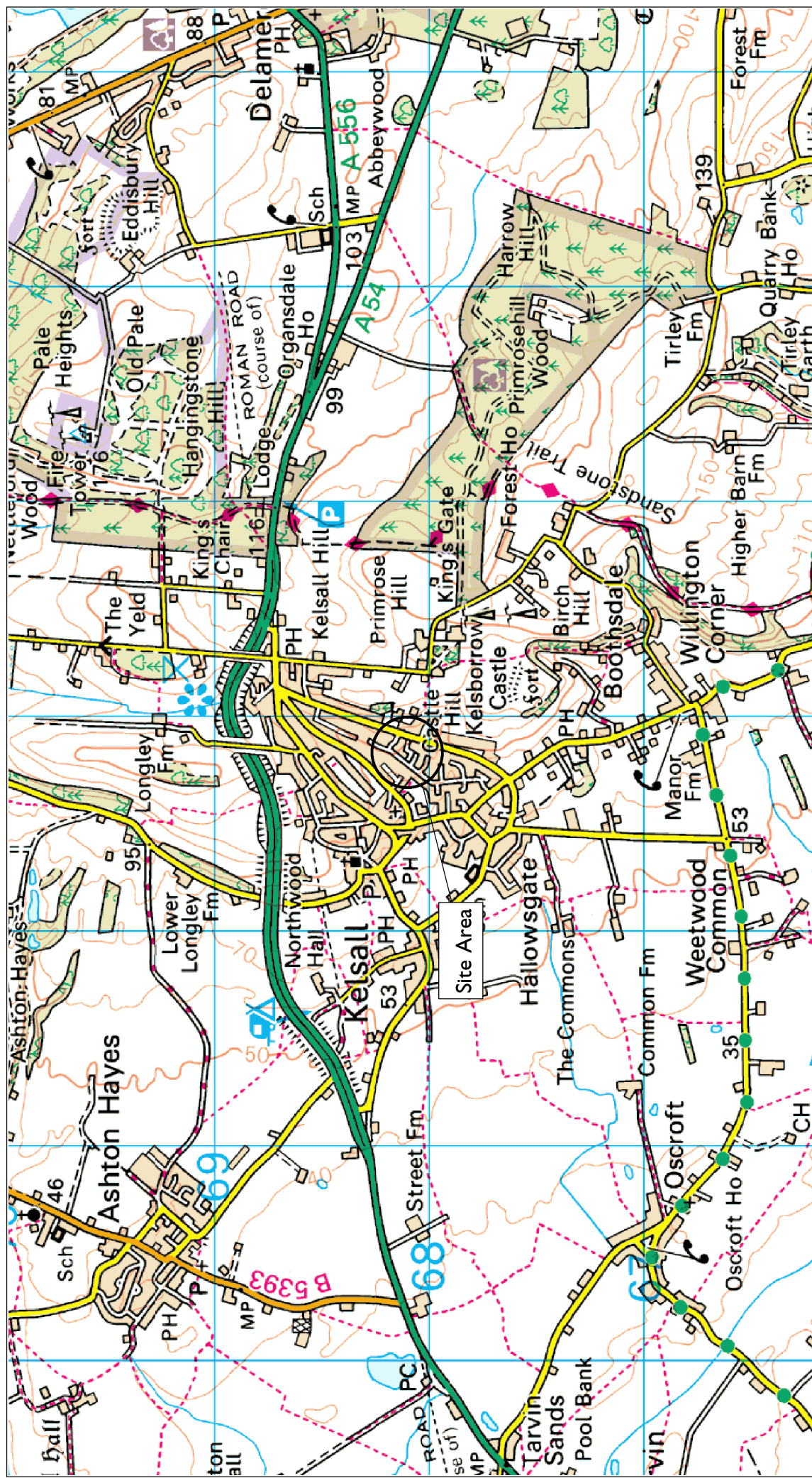
- ◇ 1 x box artefacts as described in Table 1, above (all materials).
- ◇ The archive is to be deposited with the Cheshire West and Chester Museum Service.

7. Summary & Conclusions

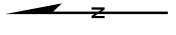
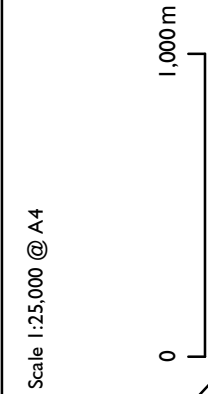
- 7.1. This report outlines the results of archaeological monitoring carried out at the site of West Acre, Quarry Lane, Kelsall, CW6 0NJ. The site is located at grid reference 352902,368070.
- 7.2. Planning permission has been granted for the demolition of standing buildings and the erection of four new detached dwellings, garages, landscaping and associated services. Archaeological monitoring was carried out by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology between 5th February and 1st March 2014 on behalf of Focon Ltd.
- 7.3. Historic research suggests that the historic parish boundary between Kelsall and Delamere crosses bisects the site. The form of this boundary was not known, and potential for preserved deposits was thought to exist on the site.
- 7.4. No archaeological features were encountered during the archaeological monitoring. Below the modern topsoil was the natural subsoil at approximately 0.45m depth.
- 7.5. No evidence for a physical parish boundary, such as ditch or earthwork, was encountered on the site. This may be due to the fact that the boundary was historically between an area of open agriculture and forest, which may not have required a visible division marker.

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location General



Scale 1:25,000 @ A4



PROJECT // 1551C - West Acre, Kelsall

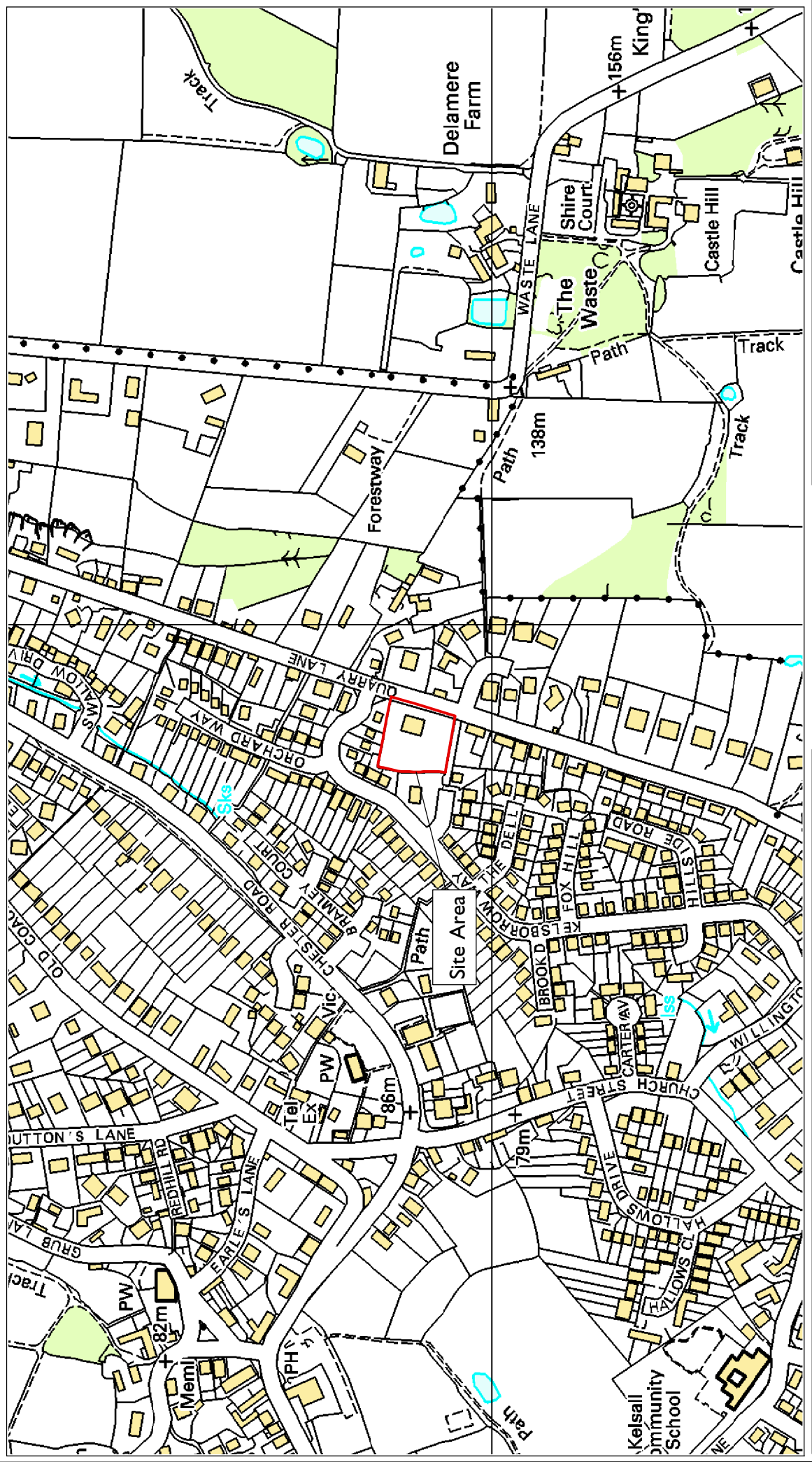
DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

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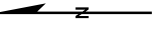
DOC REF: LP1551C-AWB-v1

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FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



Scale 1:5,000 @ A4



PROJECT // 1551C - West Acre, Kelsall

DESCRIPTION // Site Location Detail

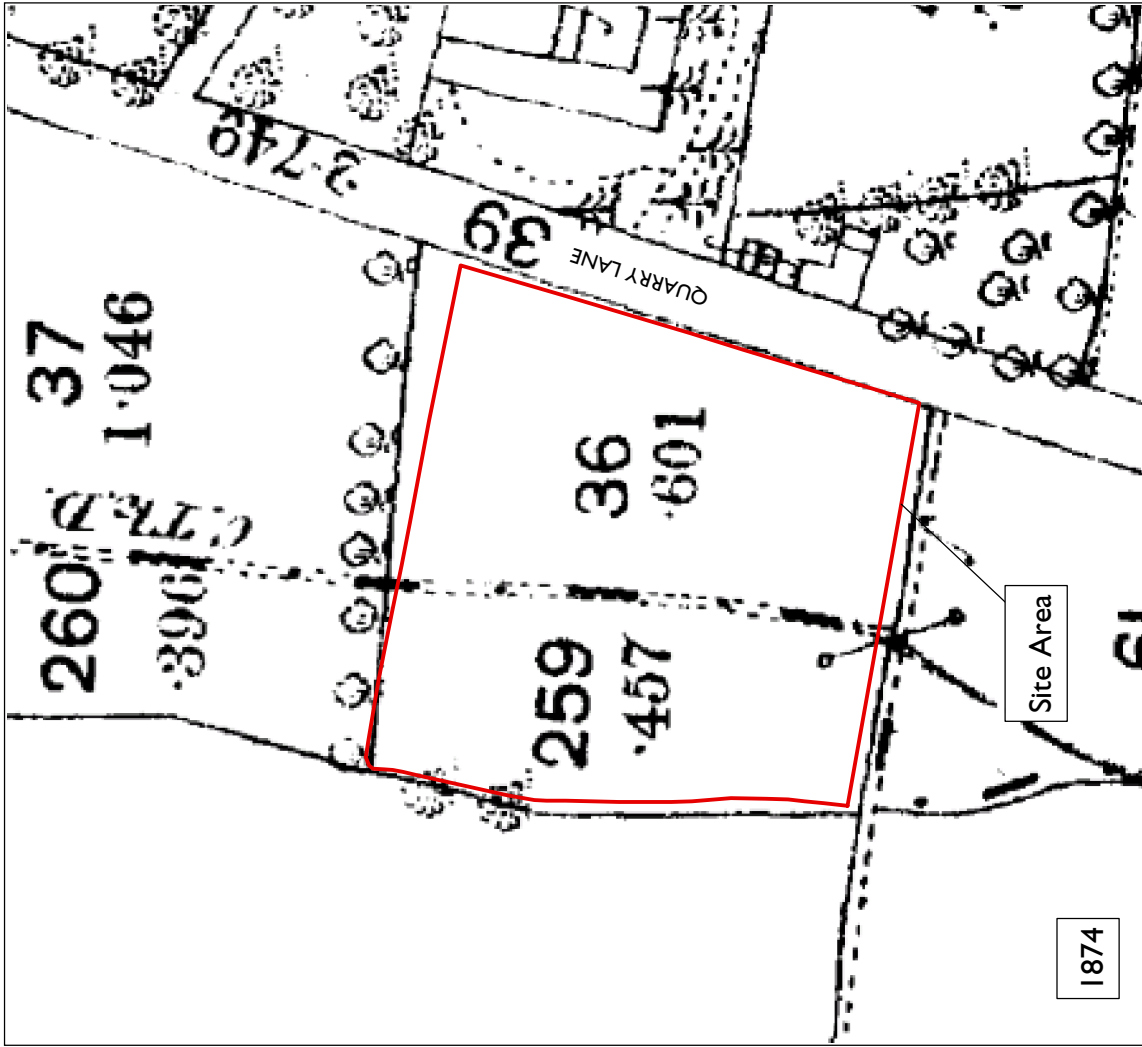
Reproduced by permission of the controller of HMSO, Licence 100053067

0 100m

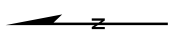
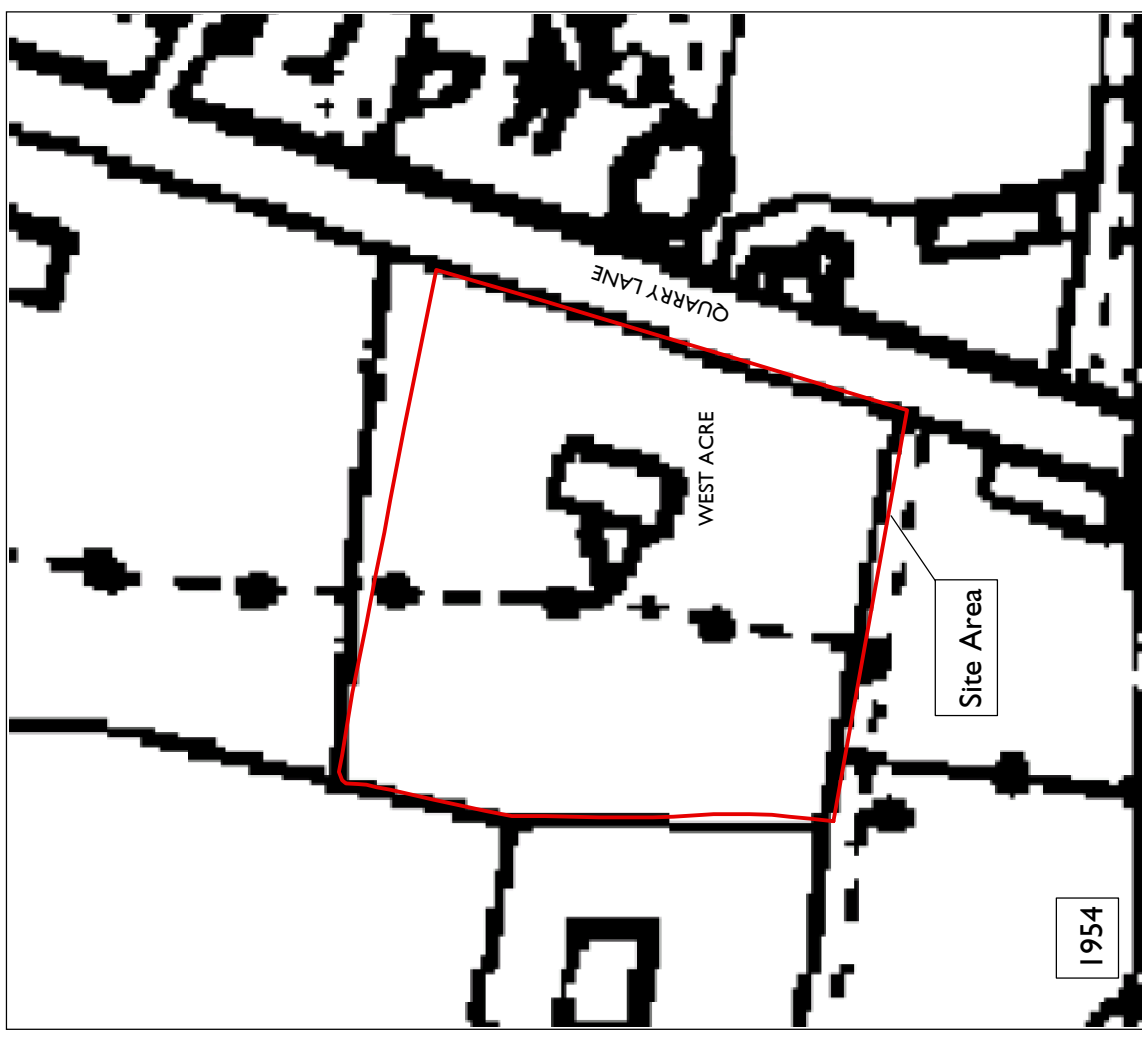
DOC REF: LP1551C-AWB-v1

L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 3 // 1874 & 1954 OS Maps



Scale 1:1,000 @ A4



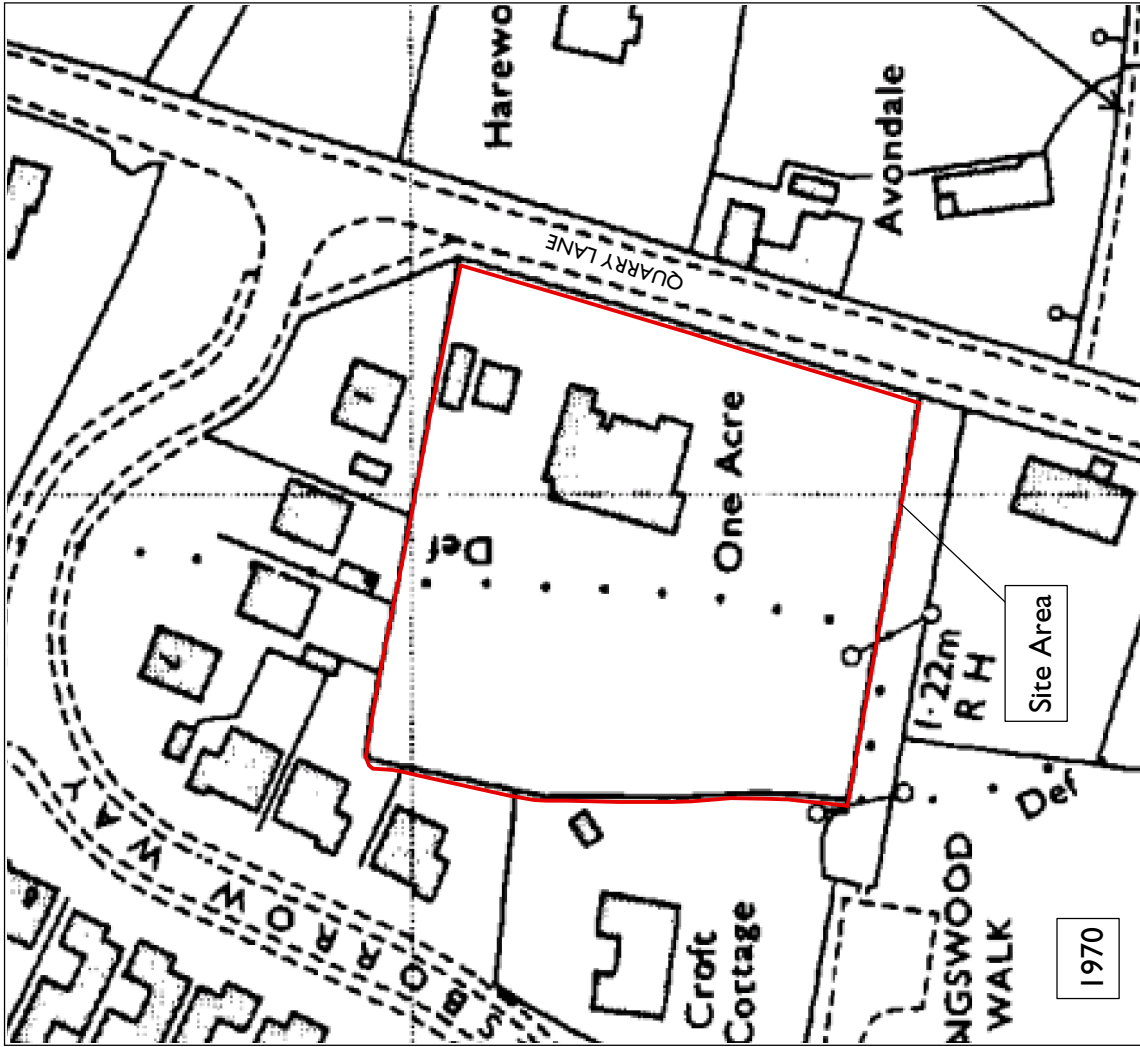
PROJECT // 1551C - West Acre, Kelsall

DESCRIPTION // 1874 & 1954 Ordnance Survey Maps

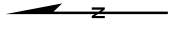
DOC REF: LP1551C-AWB-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 4 // 1970 & 2011 OS Maps



Scale 1:1,000 @ A4



PROJECT // 1551C - West Acre, Kelsall

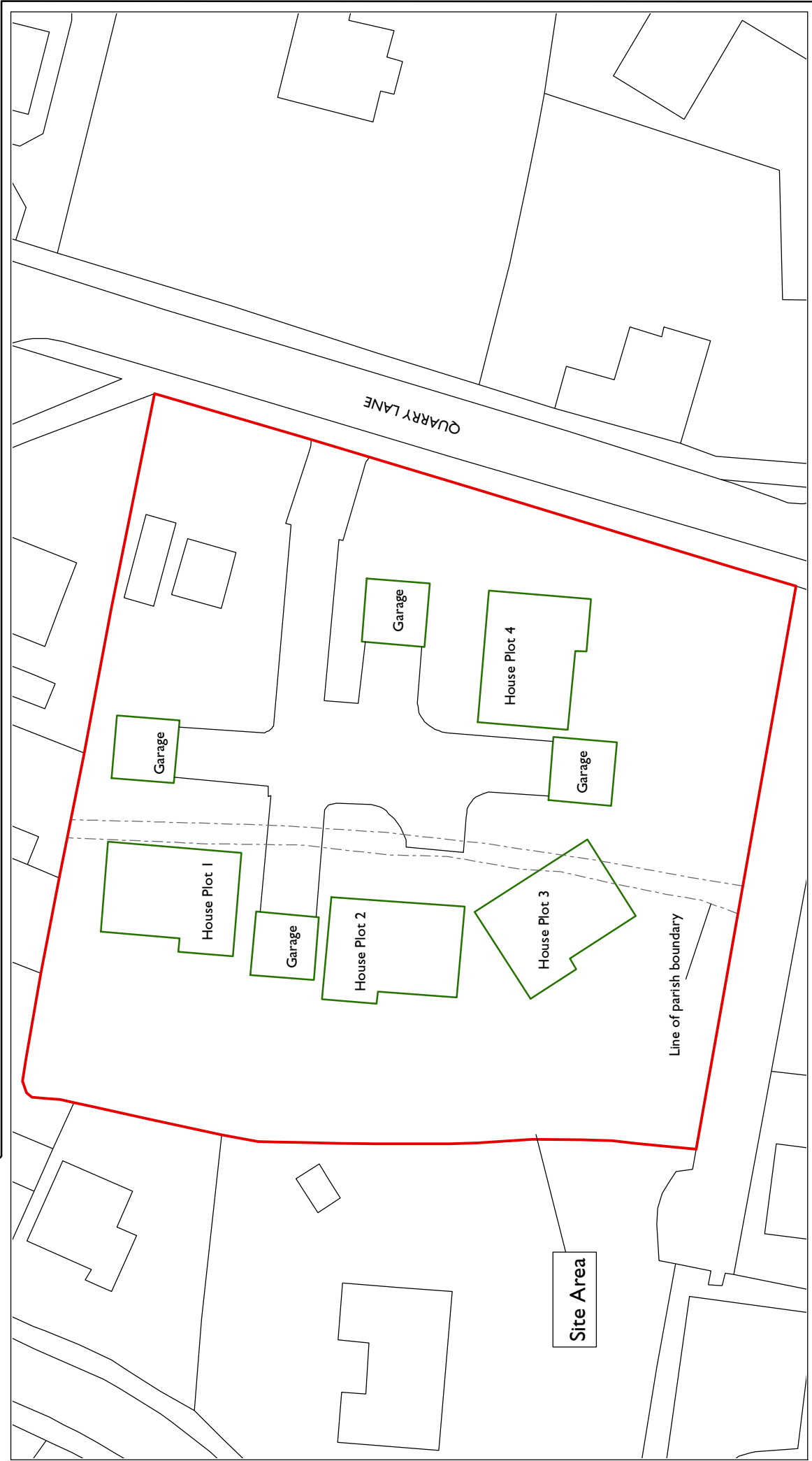
DESCRIPTION // 1970 & 2011 Ordnance Survey Maps

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DOC REF: LP1551C-AWB-v1

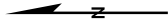
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FIGURE 5 // Excavation Areas



Scale 1:500 @ A4

0 10 m



PROJECT // 1551C - West Acre, Kelsall

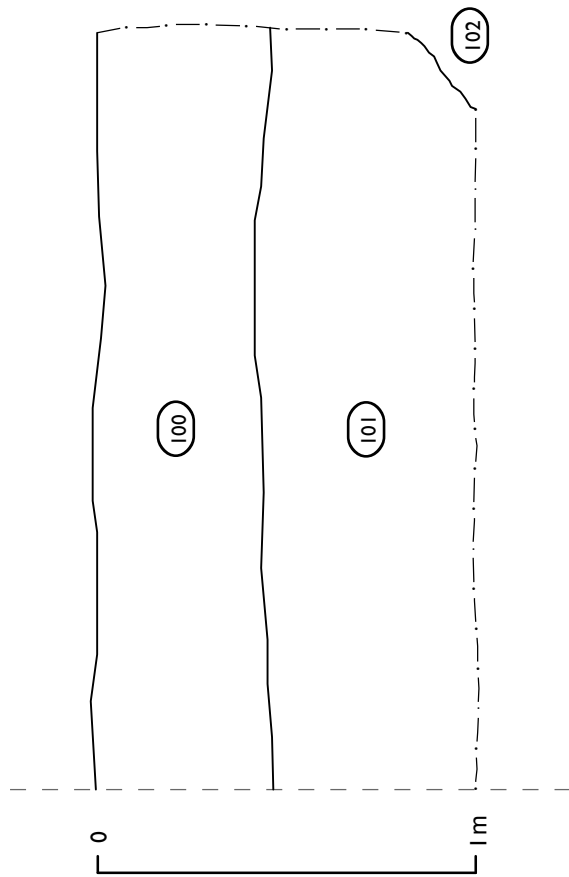
DESCRIPTION // Excavation Areas

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DOC REF: LP1551C-AWB-v1

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FIGURE 6 // South Facing Section



Scale 1:20 @ A4

PROJECT // I551C - West Acre, Kelsall

DESCRIPTION // South Facing Section of Excavation

DOC REF: LP I551C-AWB-v1

L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

APPENDIX I

Written Scheme of Investigation for

WEST ACRE

KELSALL

For Focon Ltd

Blair Poole MSc MifA

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Written Scheme of Investigation for

WEST ACRE KELSALL

Client: Focon Ltd

Local Authority: Cheshire West and Chester Council

NGR: 352902,368070

Planning App: 11/04343/OUT

Author(s): B Poole

Doc Ref: LPI551C-WSI-v1.2

Date: January 14

Site Code: TBC

L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

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Figures

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This document refers to the proposed development of West Acre, Quarry Lane, Kelsall, CW6 0NJ. The site is located at grid reference 352902,368070 (FIGURE 1).
- 1.2. The site has been granted outline planning permission (11/04343/OUT) for the demolition of the existing building and construction of four new dwellings and improved access. As part of this approval a watching brief will be required during groundworks. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been produced in order to satisfy a condition of the planning permission.
- 1.3. The watching brief has been requested as the application site straddles the historic township boundary between Delamere, Kelsall, and Tarvin, which is marked on the historic mapping and recorded in the Cheshire Historic Environment Record. This boundary is significant as it potentially marks the historic boundary of the medieval area of Delamere Forest which was under Royal jurisdiction. It is possible that the boundary was originally marked by a ditch and aerial photographs of this area of Kelsall appear to show the line of a ditch. The development may reveal archaeological evidence that would determine the nature of the boundary.
- 1.4. The archaeological monitoring will be directed by Blair Poole of L – P : Archaeology and all site staff will be suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists.
- 1.5. All site staff will undergo full site induction upon arriving for any relevant site visit, and all relevant health and safety procedures will be adhered to at all times.
- 1.6. The work will be carried out in accordance with Cheshire County Council's revised General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants (APRIL 2003) in conjunction with IfA Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (1994) revised 2008.

2. Planning Background

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. In considering any planning application for development the Local Planning Authority is the Cheshire West and Chester Council. However, this authority has only recently been formed and it does not yet have an agreed planning framework. As such Cheshire West and Chester revert to earlier plans, in this case the Chester District Local Plan which was adopted in May 2006.

POLICY ENV 32

Where development proposals affect sites of known or potential archaeological interest, the City Council will require an archaeological assessment/evaluation to be submitted as part of the planning application. Planning permission will not be granted without the adequate assessment of the nature, extent and significance of the remains and the degree to which the proposed development is likely to affect them.

POLICY ENV 33

Development proposals affecting the site or setting of a site of regional or county importance will only be permitted if the integrity of the archaeological remains has been secured.

POLICY ENV 34

Development proposals affecting the site or setting of a site of district or local importance will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the particular site or monument can be preserved in situ or, where this is not feasible, by record.

POLICY ENV 45

Planning permission will be refused for proposals that fail to have regard to the desirability of

preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

2.4. On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment Cheshire West and Chester take advice from Julie Edwards, of Cheshire Shared Service.

2.5. Outline planning permission was granted for the site in 2011 (11/0434/OUT) relating to demolition of the standing building and erection of four detached dwellings with upgraded access. Condition 15 of the planning permission states:

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

2.6. The study site does not lie within the Kelsall Conservation Area. The site does not fall within an Area of Archaeological Importance or Area of Archaeological Potential. There are no Scheduled Monuments or Registered Parks and Gardens or Battlefields on, or in the vicinity of the site.

2.7. AIMS OF WORKS

2.7.1. The aims of the archaeological watching brief are to monitor groundworks associated with the new development. This is to ensure that archaeologically sensitive deposits of significance are respected and to record the character, date, type, state of preservation, and extent of any archaeological or historic architectural remains on site exposed or disturbed during groundworks.

2.7.2. Should preserved ditch fills be identified during works, especially within potential boundary lines, these are to be sampled and assessed by a palaeo-environmental specialist.

3. Geology & Topography

3.1.GEOLOGY

3.1.1. The underlying solid geology of the area is thought to be of sandstone of the Wilmslow Sandstone Formation (BGS GEOINDEX).

3.1.2. The drift geology of the area is boulder clay (BGS GEOINDEX).

3.2.TOPOGRAPHY

3.2.1. The site is located approximately 14km north of Chester in a rural area at an elevation of approximately 150m AOD.

3.2.2. The site is situated to the east of the village, on a steep hill. The site fronts onto the eastern side of Quarry Lane, in a residential area, with Kelsborrow Way to the north and west, and Kings Wood Walk to the south (FIGURE 2).

4. Methodology

- 4.1. Groundwork will be undertaken by the clients groundwork contractor utilising suitable plant. All groundwork associated with the proposed development will be monitored, with special focus on the potential historic boundary.
- 4.2. A suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist will monitor these excavation activities to ensure that appropriate care is taken.
- 4.3. All machine excavation will be undertaken in spits. The groundworks will be closely monitored and care will be taken to observe all deposits for archaeological significance.
- 4.4. Undifferentiated topsoil and overburden of recent origin will be removed in successive spits. Under no circumstances will the site simply be machine excavated to natural without regard for the possible survival of archaeological deposits above the natural.
- 4.5. All features are to be recorded stratigraphically. Features will be recorded archaeologically, both in plan and section.
- 4.6. Hand cleaning by context will be undertaken within the trenches to clearly identify the location and extent of any features.
- 4.7. All features will be hand excavated to meet the requirements of the project to adequately record the archaeological deposits and associated features or remains. Any archaeological deposits will be examined and recorded both in plan and section. Features will be usually be fully excavated where possible, or as a minimum:
 - ◇ 50% of each intrusive feature (pits, postholes).
 - ◇ 25% of the exposed surface area and all terminals and intersections of linear features.
 - ◇ 50% structural features (beamslots, ring ditches).
 - ◇ 50-100% domestic/industrial working features (hearths, ovens) - unless large and structural, in which case see above.
- 4.8. Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered that are worthy of

preservation *in situ*, excavation will cease. A site meeting will be held to assess the significance of the deposits and to decide on a strategy for sampling them to provide sufficient data for a useful assessment or subsequent mitigation strategy.

- 4.9. Should significant archaeological remains be identified during the watching brief, which would require additional time and resources to adequately investigate, a site meeting will be held with the client and the advisor to the local planning authority to determine an appropriate strategy for investigation. A separate quote for the additional agreed works will be submitted.
- 4.10. The contingency will not be expended without the prior express consent of the Planning Archaeologist and the client.
- 4.11. Excavated material will be examined in order to retrieve artefacts to assist in the analysis of the spatial distribution of artefacts.
- 4.12. Examination and cleaning of all archaeological deposits will be by hand using appropriate tools. Any archaeological deposits will be examined and recorded both in plan and section.
- 4.13. All finds which constitute Treasure Trove under the 1996 Treasure Act for England and Wales will be reported to the coroner by the finder within 14 days of discovery.
- 4.14. Any human remains that are discovered will initially be left *in situ*, covered and protected. If removal is necessary, this will comply with the relevant legislation, any Home Office and local environmental health regulations and the appropriate English Heritage advice.
- 4.15. All works will be carried out in accordance with the Code of Approved Practice as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008). Accordingly the project team will abide by the IfA's code of approved practice and GLAAS guidance paper.

5. Recording

- 5.1. A site code will be allocated to the site by the Chester Historic Environment Team. This code will be used to label (using appropriate materials not adhesive labels) all sheets, plans and other drawings; all context and recording sheets; all photographs (but not negatives); all other elements of the documentary archive.
- 5.2. The written recording system used will follow the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (SPENCE 1994).
- 5.3. Context sheets will include all relevant stratigraphic relationships and for complex stratigraphy a separate matrix diagram will be employed. This matrix will be fully checked during the course of the excavation. If there is any doubt over recording techniques, the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual will be used as a guide.
- 5.4. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets. Sample registers, finds recording sheets, access catalogues, and photo record cards will also be used.
- 5.5. A site location plan will be prepared (OS 1:1250) showing the investigation areas and development site in relation to surrounding locality and street pattern.
- 5.6. This will be supplemented by a plan at 1:500 (or 1:1000), which will show the location of the excavation trench in relation to the development area. The locations of the OS bench marks used and site TBM will also be indicated.
- 5.7. Detailed plans will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20.
- 5.8. The extent of any visible archaeological deposits will be recorded in plan. Long sections showing layers and any cut features will be drawn at 1:50. Short sections will be drawn at 1:20.
- 5.9. Sections containing significant deposits, including half sections, will be drawn at an appropriate scale, usually 1:10 or 1:20. All sections will be related to the Ordnance Datum using spot heights and registers of sections and plans will be kept.
- 5.10. Upon completion of each significant feature a minimum of one section will be drawn. The stratigraphy will be recorded, even if no archaeological deposits have

been identified.

5.11. An adequate photographic record will be made of any significant archaeological remains in both plan and section. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film) and digital images, illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation.

5.12. A register of all photographs taken will be kept on standardised forms.

5.13. A Harris Matrix stratification diagram will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the excavations.

6. Finds and Samples

- 6.1. All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. No finds will, however, be discarded without the prior approval of the nominated representative of the local authority.
- 6.2. Unstratified material recovered from the spoil is to be recovered and included with the finds assemblage.
- 6.3. Material dating to the 19th century shall be retained and included with the finds assemblage.
- 6.4. All finds will be washed and processed to local standards by L – P : Archaeology.
- 6.5. The finds assemblage will be subject to summary analysis, dating classification and storage according to the local standards.
- 6.6. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self-sealing plastic bags marked with the museum Accession Number and Context Number. Storage will be by standard storage boxes that comply with relevant local specifications.
- 6.7. The finds assemblage will be retained for deposition with the site archive in the relevant Museum. Documentary material including the paper archive, photographic negatives and prints will be stored in boxes to the local standards.
- 6.8. Photographic negatives will be stored in archival quality polypropylene sleeves with strip divisions, three ring holes, centres 107mm apart and dimensions no greater than, 255mm (from the punched side to the opposite edge) by 300mm. The sleeve should have a white writing strip.
- 6.9. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, 'First Aid for Finds'. 3rd edition 1998. Any necessary, conservation and treatment of wood or metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with Mark Leah and specialist conservators.
- 6.10. All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner and to the relevant local standards.
- 6.11. Finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in

accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation “Conservation Guideline No. 2”. Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1991)” will also be followed, as will the current IfA guidelines.

6.12. Environmental samples will be collected from relevant deposits such as: ditch fills, pits, riverine silts, deposits overlying floors and contexts relating to refuse disposal, and contexts where organic survival is apparent or suspected. Ongoing communication with environmental specialists will ensure that appropriate samples will be taken during the investigation to satisfy the specialist requirements. If appropriate, environmental sampling will be carried out in line with English Heritage guidelines.

6.13. Should such deposits be encountered during the course of the groundworks the advice of the local Archaeological planning advisor will be sought. A visit will be arranged to determine the importance that will be attached to the deposits exposed during the investigation. If it is considered appropriate these will be sampled by a specialist in accordance with A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis (MURPHY & WILTSHIRE 1994). These deposits will be subject to the following treatment:

- ◇ Organic samples will be subject to appropriate specialist analysis. There may be a requirement to submit timbers to dendrochronological analysis and to process some samples to provide C14 dating.
- ◇ For carbonised remains, bulk samples a minimum of 10 litres (but up to 30 litres for early prehistoric features) will be collected.
- ◇ Bulk samples of 40 - 60 litres will be taken from waterlogged or potential organic deposits for analysis of macroscopic plant remains
- ◇ Columns for pollen analysis will be taken where appropriate
- ◇ Mollusc samples will be gathered when required.
- ◇ Other bulk samples for small animal bones and other small artefacts maybe taken from appropriate deposits depending on the aims of the project.

- 6.14. Residues and any retained samples will be treated as part of the finds assemblage.
- 6.15. Ceramic material will be subject to spot dating on site and, where necessary, subsequent analysis will be undertaken in conjunction with the reference types and any series held by any relevant local museums.

7. Health and Safety

- 7.1. This section represents pertinent supplementary information. A full risk assessment has been prepared separately and is available on request.
- 7.2. All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed. Safety helmets/boots and high visibility jackets will be used by all personnel as necessary.
- 7.3. No personnel will work in deep unsupported excavations. Where the installation of temporary support work and other attendances are required, these will be provided as necessary.
- 7.4. The site shall have at least one qualified first aider present at any time and all accidents and injuries shall be reported accordingly to HSE and RIDDOR guidelines. All relevant procedures are held within the full risk assessment.
- 7.5. All staff and visitors shall undergo a full site induction and will be shown the Risk Assessment. Staff shall sign and date their copies of the risk assessment and visitors shall be required to sign a declaration stating that they shall abide by the site safety guidelines. Copies of these documents are available on request.

8. Reporting

8.1. The report will comprise a written description of the sources consulted, significant features identified during research and can be used to inform the client of any potential archaeological issues on the site in question. The report will also aid the curatorial service in their determination of any further work that may be required on the site.

8.2. A finds report should be included in this list, this report should include a ceramic report if appropriate where all pottery and ceramic building material will be recorded by sherd count and weight by ware type and, if appropriate, form within context groups.

8.3. The report will be submitted within three months of completion of fieldwork, and will include:

- ◆ A concise, non-technical summary of the results
- ◆ A summary methodology
- ◆ A summary of the historic development of the site in the context of the settlement
- ◆ Results of the archaeological monitoring
- ◆ Detailed scale plan of the site
- ◆ Recognised scale appropriate map regression of the site, to a scale which can outline the development of the buildings
- ◆ Relevant site drawings and photographs to illustrate the results
- ◆ A full bibliography of sources consulted

8.4. Two copies of the report will be sent to the client, a copy to the Cheshire Historic Environment Team and a copy to the Cheshire Historic Environment Record.

8.5. Copyright of all material within the programme shall remain with L – P : Archaeology, however the client and the local planning authority will be given a license to use such material for educational, public and research purposes.

9. Archive

- 9.1. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained. All finds and records will properly be curated by a single organisation, and be available for public consultation. Appropriate guidance set out in the MGC “Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections” (1992), and the SMA’s draft “Selection, Retention and Disposal of Archaeological Collections” (1992) will be followed in all circumstances.
- 9.2. The minimum acceptable standard for the archival report is defined in the “Management of Archaeological Projects” 5.4 and Appendix 3. It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive record of such materials) and all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 9.3. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (1990) will be followed. Arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed with the appropriate museum.
- 9.4. Pursuant to these agreements the archive will be presented to the appropriate museum within 6 months of the completion of the project (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority). In addition, written confirmation from the client will be provided for the transfer of ownership.
- 9.5. The project archive will be prepared in line with the IfA 2009 Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives and in consultation with Cheshire West Museums Service.

10. Agreement

10.1. This recommended format attempts to define best practice but cannot fully anticipate all contingencies. Material changes are however only to be made with the prior written approval of the Development Control Officer.

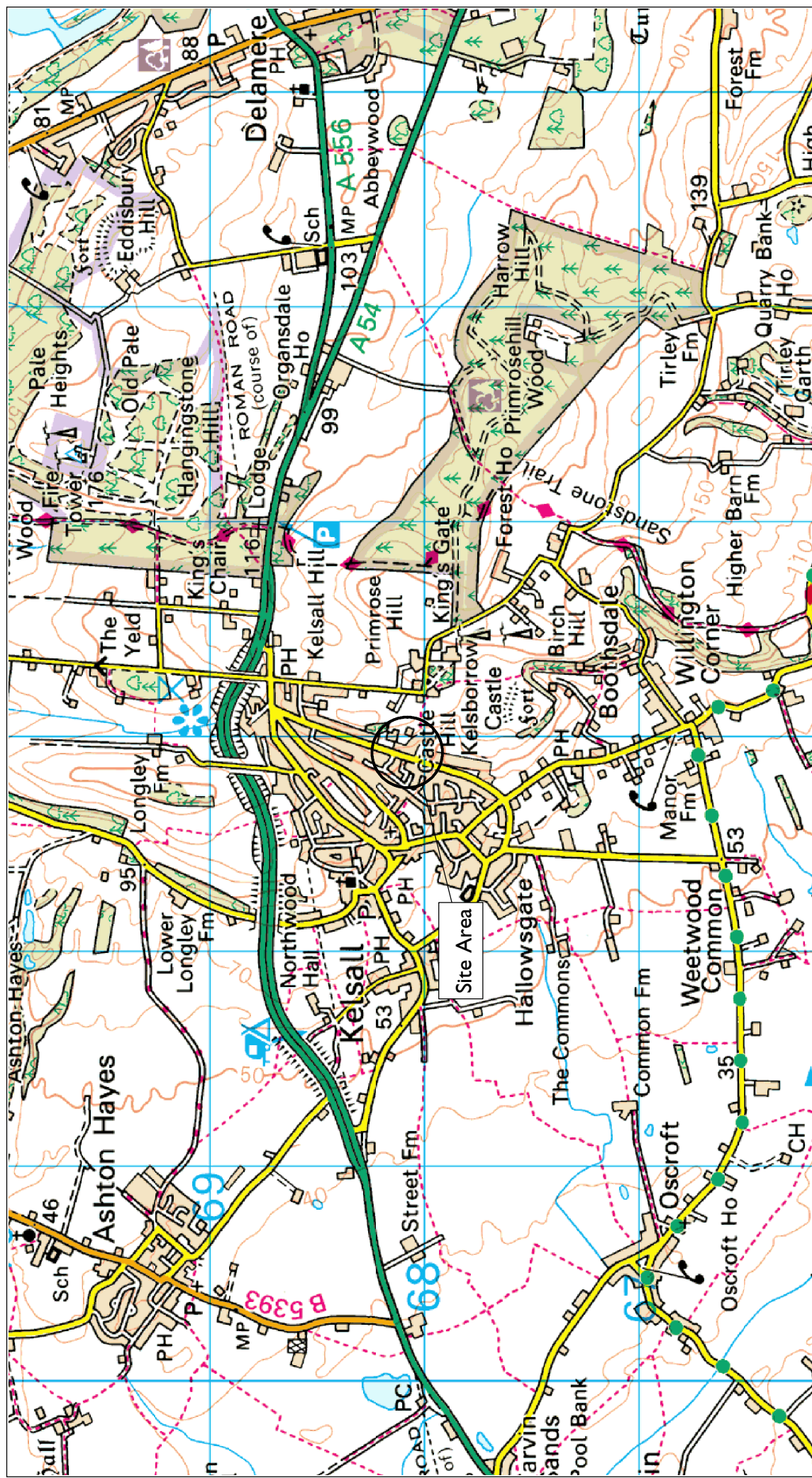
Sources Consulted

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FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location General



Scale 1:25,000 @ A4



PROJECT // 1551C - West Acre, Kelsall

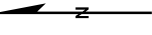
DESCRIPTION // Site Location General

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FIGURE 2 // Site Location Detail



Scale 1:1,000 @ A4



PROJECT // 1551C - West Acre, Kelsall

DESCRIPTION // Site Location Detail

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L-P:ARCHÆOLOGY

FIGURE 3 // Proposed development



Not to scale. For illustration only

PROJECT // 1551C - West Acre, Kelsall

DESCRIPTION // Proposed Development

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L-P: ARCHAEOLOGY

OASIS FORM

APPENDIX 2

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: lparchae1-175342

Project details

Project name	West Acre, Kelsall
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring of excavation of three new house plots on the site of West Acre, Quarry Lane, Kelsall, Cheshire.
Project dates	Start: 05-02-2014 End: 20-03-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	KEL/QL 14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CHESHIRE CHESTER KELSALL West Acre
Postcode	CW6 0NJ
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SJ 352902 368070 52.9244530159 -2.96265531506 52 55 28 N 002 57 45 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 148.00m Max: 150.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
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Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Blair Poole
Project supervisor	Pascal Eloy
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Focon Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Cheshire Museum Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report, West Acre, Kelsall
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Poole, B.
Other bibliographic details	Ip1551C-AWB-v1.2
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	L - P : Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Chester
Description	Report on the findings of the archaeological watching brief at West Acre, Kelsall
Entered by	b. Poole (chester@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	20 March 2014

OASIS:

Please e-mail English Heritage for OASIS help and advice

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