

Dunkirk Way, Backford Cross, Cheshire

Metal Detecting Survey Report

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Dunkirk Way, Backford Cross, Cheshire

Metal Detecting Survey Report

Written by Anne Templeton

*With contributions from Karen Barker and illustrations by
Mark Tidmarsh*

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Summary

In January 2020, Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by RPS UK and Ireland Ltd to conduct and supervise a metal detecting survey in conjunction with the Crewe and Nantwich Metal Detecting Society at the site of Dunkirk Way, Backford Cross, Cheshire. The main aim of the survey was to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, by establishing from the finds retrieved if significant below-ground archaeological deposits were likely to be preserved. This was necessary due to the proximity of the site to a nearby moated site of probable medieval origin. The survey was conducted during January 2020 and recovered a total of seventy objects, all of which were found to be post-medieval in origin and relatively ubiquitous in nature.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North would like to thank RPS UK and Ireland Ltd for commissioning this project.

The project was managed for OA North by Dr Adam Tinsley. The fieldwork was directed by Anne Templeton, who was supported by the Crewe and Nantwich Metal Detecting Society (CNMDS). Survey and digitizing was carried out by Mark Tidmarsh. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds, and prepared the archive under the management of Karen Barker, who also assessed the objects.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by RPS UK and Ireland Ltd (RPS) on behalf of Redrow Homes, to undertake a metal detecting survey at the site of Dunkirk Way, Backford Cross, Cheshire. CH1 6LZ (Fig 1).
- 1.1.2 An archaeological desk based assessment of the study site (RPS 2013) was prepared in accordance with requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and submitted to support an application for residential development. The assessment established that there were no designated heritage assets within the study site and it was concluded there was no potential for adverse impacts to the heritage significance of any off-site designated heritage assets. While no archaeological remains are recorded from the site in the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), a moat (CHER 2013/1/1), possibly the site of a medieval manor house, with an associated fishpond lies c 300m to the north-west of the study site and c 350m to the east is the site of Backford Cross (CHER 2022) documented as being in existence by AD 1292-1308. Limited potential was therefore judged to exist for remains of medieval origin and archaeological conditions were included in planning consent for the development.
- 1.1.3 The work was subsequently undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (14/04966/FUL) to inform the Planning Authority of the archaeological potential of the site. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by RPS detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition (*Appendix B*). This document outlines how OA North implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The study site lies to the north of the A5117, Dunkirk Way, and is approximately 6.2ha in size, although the survey area is approximately 3.3ha of the wider site (Fig 2). The study area is centred at National Grid Reference SJ 38204 73399, bounded to the south by the A5117 and by open countryside to the west and the north. The eastern boundary is not physically marked, but runs parallel to a hedgerow and adjacent overhead electricity power lines. The site lies on level ground at a height of approximately 33m above Ordnance Datum. It comprises of a series of fields given over to pasture, although sections of the site are currently under development.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology of the area is mapped as sedimentary bedrock of sandstone and conglomerate rocks of the Chester Formation and of Triassic date (BGS 2020), overlain by extensive deposits of glacial Diamicton Till (Cranfield 2020).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The study site encompasses sections of seven fields which the 1840 Tithe Map of Backford Cross shows as four fields, the southernmost of which had been divided into several plots by the time of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (1875; RPS 2013).

The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project suggests the fields represent enclosure from the eighteenth-century, when it was shown as unimproved, unenclosed land and woodland on the 1777 Burdett map. The Tithe map describes the fields as arable or pasture land.

- 1.3.2 Whilst no archaeological remains are recorded from the site in the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER), a moat (CHER 2013/1/1), possibly the site of a medieval manor house, with an associated fishpond lies approximately 300m to the north west of the study site. Approximately 350 metres to the east is the site of Backford Cross (CHER 2022) documented as existing by 1292-1308.
- 1.3.3 The site lies at the junction of four medieval townships and two of the township boundaries form the southern and western boundaries of the study area. These boundaries may once have been marked by ditches, potentially surviving as below ground archaeological features. Furthermore, historic mapping and aerial photographs indicate that the majority of the site has survived as undeveloped ground throughout the later Post medieval period. The presence of below ground undisturbed deposits cannot therefore be totally ruled out. (RPS, 2019).

2 METAL DETECTING SURVEY AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To undertake a systematic, supervised metal detector survey across the site equating to approximately 3.3ha;
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- iii. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
- iv. Ensure the recording of any archaeological artefacts discovered during the survey;
- v. Inform as to whether further archaeological work is required.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The survey was undertaken between the 6th and 9th of January 2020, by a team of between four-six experienced metal detectorists from the Crewe and Nantwich Metal Detecting Society (CNMDS), under the supervision of Anne Templeton (OA North Supervisor). All personnel signed a written agreement waiving their rights to ownership of finds or reward under the Treasure Act (1996) in accordance with Section 81 of the Treasure Act Code of Practice. All personnel completed an Oxford Archaeology Site Health and Safety Induction.

2.2.2 This methodology conforms to the requirements of the current national and local planning policy (including National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] 2012). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice and appropriate national, local standards and guidelines including:

- Cheshire County Council's revised General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants (2003);
- Metal Detecting on Archaeological Excavations in Cheshire (Detectorists and Archaeologists Liaison Group 2004);
- Management of Recording Projects in the Historic Environment: MORPHE (English Heritage 2006);
- Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [revised edition] 2014).
- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [revised edition] 2014).

2.2.3 A 30m grid was set out across the study area using a Global Positioning System (GPS), accurate to within +/- 0.02m, to enable full coverage of the area. Each grid square was then systematically surveyed by individual members of the team, each walking 5m transects along both opposing axis. A series of overhead power lines, extending approximately north-west/south-east along the eastern boundary of the survey area, produced interference that inhibited sound recognition via headsets during detection. This level of interference extended for approximately 50m from the base of the pylons

and undoubtedly inhibited results within the zone of interference (Fig 3). In addition, several ponds were located within the survey area and were, consequently, excluded.

- 2.2.4 Where a signal was detected, manual excavation to recover and identify the item was undertaken. Each manual intrusion covered a maximum area of 0.25m diameter, and was immediately backfilled. Each find was individually surveyed using the GPS to accurately locate the item and, subsequently, bagged and marked with an individual find number, corresponding to the GPS survey number, and the site code. The finds were then gathered up and returned to OA North's Lancaster office for processing and assessment.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the survey exclusively relate to the finds report detailed below and do not require a detailed discussion of stratigraphy or matrix composition etc.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence was fairly uniform. The natural geology was not fully excavated due to the limited signal strength of the metal detectors, which limited finds recognition to within approximately 0.50m bgl. A maximum depth of 0.38m was excavated and remained within the topsoil and subsoil layers, which consisted of mid brownish grey clayey silt.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the metal detecting survey were poor, the site being waterlogged to the southern extent, due to current construction, and with vehicle rutting at access points.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 The finds recovered during the survey were randomly distributed across most of the area with few significant or discernibly deliberate or focused concentrations. There is no indication that any of the finds derived from buried features based upon this distribution and, indeed, this is superficially confirmed by recovery exclusively from topsoil contexts. This would suggest a consistent use of the fields during the period in question with a pattern of random, accidental discard, rather than deliberate, or, indeed, accidental deposition within archaeological features disturbed by subsequent activity ie plough activity. All finds are consistent with a post-medieval or later date.

3.4 Finds summary

- 3.4.1 **Introduction.** A total of seventy metal finds was retrieved during the survey (*Appendix A*), of which, OR 47 and 48, join to form one complete door handle. All the finds are post-medieval to modern in date.
- 3.4.2 **Coins;** of the seventy finds, half (35) are copper alloy coins, ranging in date from mid-eighteenth century to modern day c AD 2010. Two of the coins, OR9a/b are Irish, minted in London, but circulated in Ireland c AD 1727-1820 (Plate 1 and 2).
- 3.4.3 **Copper Alloy:** excluding coins, twenty objects are copper alloy. Nine of these are buttons, including two with remains of a gilt coating, one of which is a General Post Office civilian uniform button (Plate 3). One of the flat buttons is silvered. There are two fragments of cutlery handles, one of which is electro-plated nickel silver with a worn indistinguishable hallmark. The oldest dateable object found is a plain cast spectacle buckle (Plate 4), of which a very similar example has been dated c AD 1550-1650 (Whitehead 2003, no 376). There is also a terret ring from a horse-drawn cart, or plough, and a variety of door and pipe fittings.
- 3.4.4 **Iron:** only seven iron objects were recovered; a stirrup, horseshoe, garage door handle, and a Swiss army knife are of modern design.



Plate 1: George III Irish half pence, date only half legible.

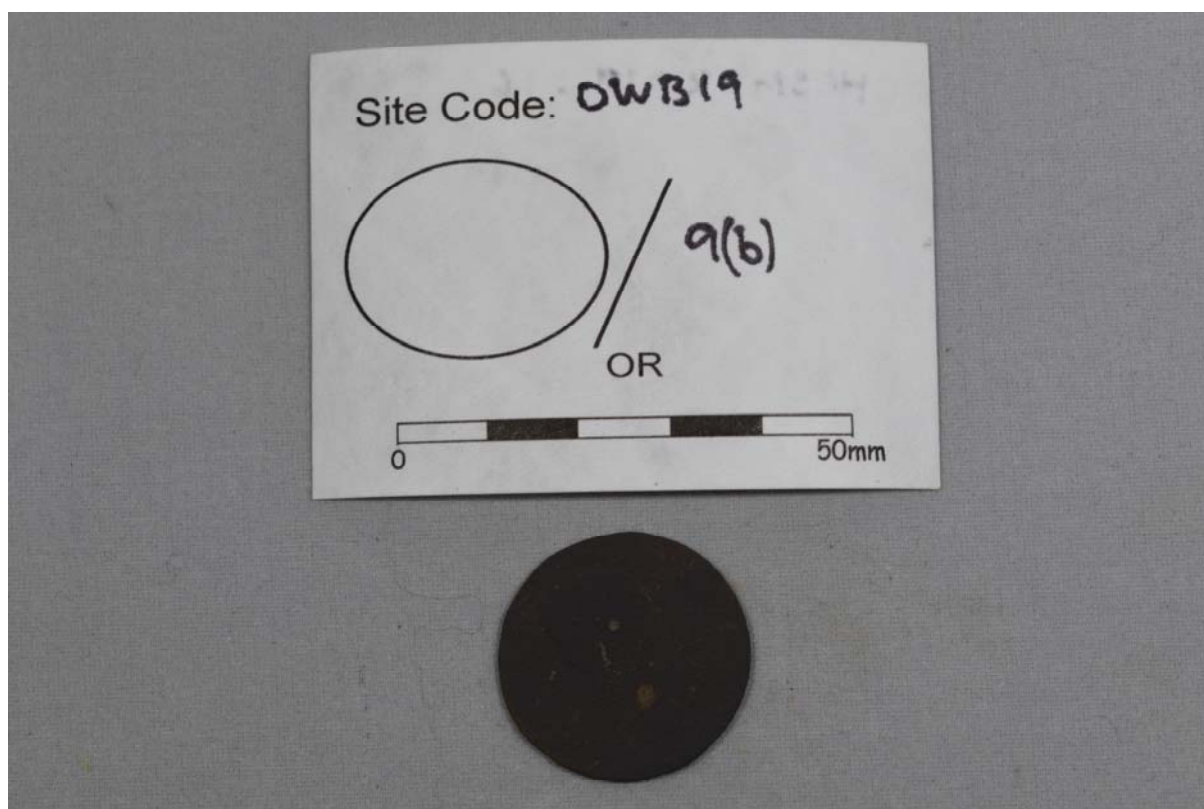


Plate 2: Irish half pence, very worn detail George II or III

3.4.5 **Lead:** two cast lead 'Musket balls' were retrieved, one of which has an associated fragment of leather from its pouch or patch, and has not been fired; the second ball is

flattened to one side suggesting it has been fired. The remaining lead can be associated with water pipes and their repair.

- 3.4.6 **Potential:** given the relatively late date of origin and general ubiquity of the individual finds there is no potential for further study.

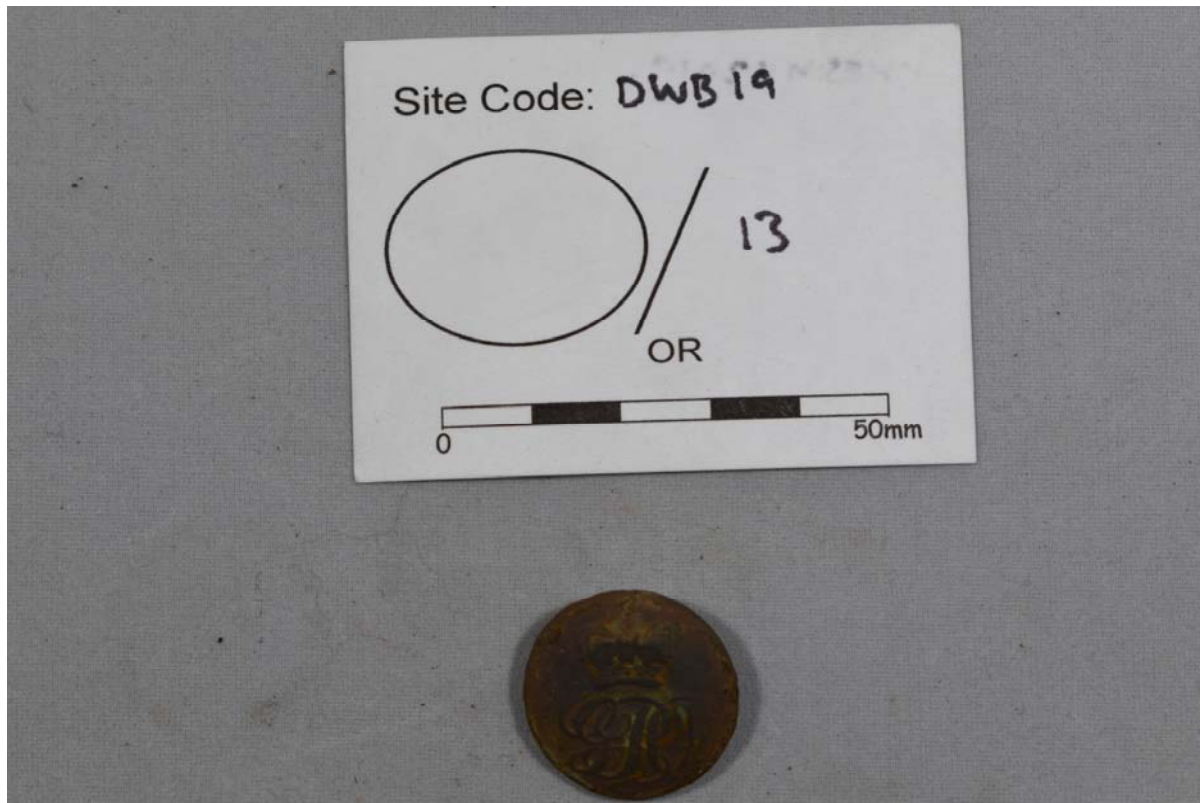


Plate 3: General Post Office civilian uniform button

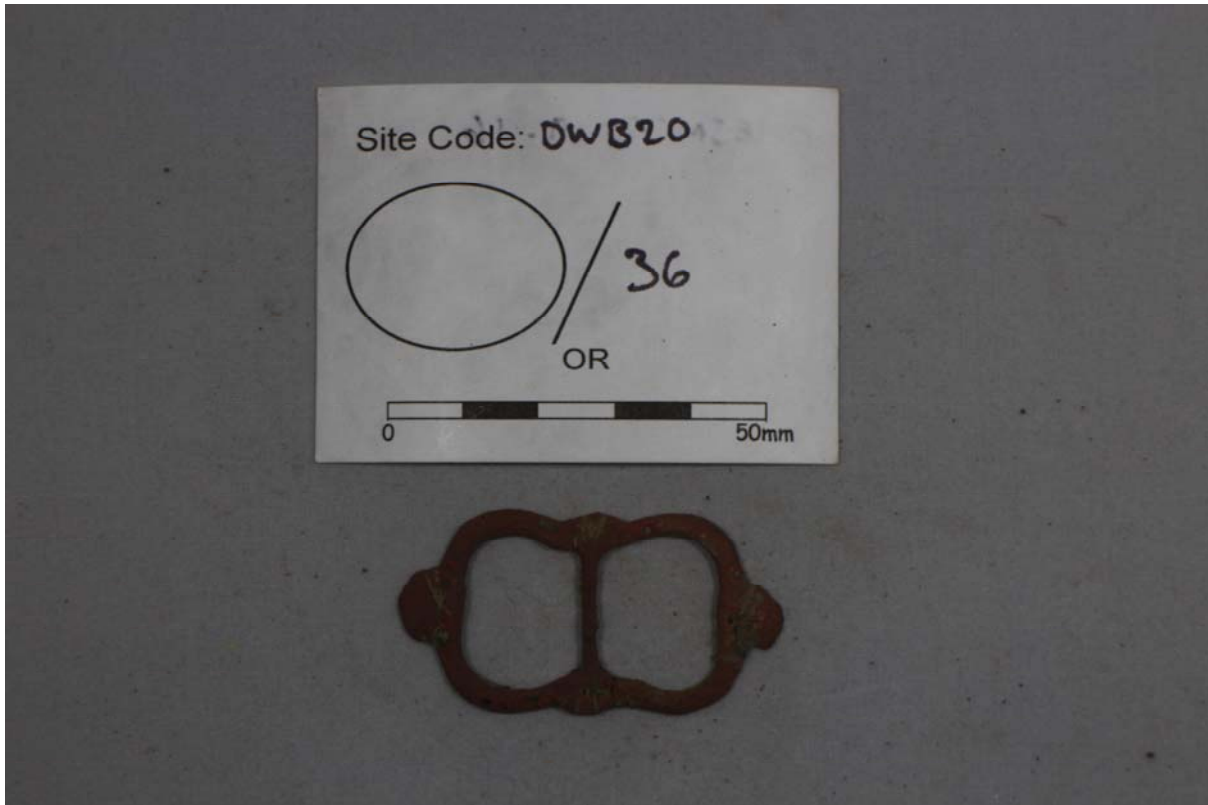


Plate 4: Cast double-looped spectacle buckle with missing pin

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 While the results of the survey are reliable, at least in terms of the recovery of metallurgical artefacts, the prevailing ground conditions in some parts of the survey area, relating to waterlogging of the site, as well as the interference experienced in relation to the presence of the overhead pylons, undoubtedly adversely effected the results, excluding certain areas from effective survey.

4.2 Survey Brief objectives and results

4.2.1 The survey has successfully achieved the objectives set out in the WSI, in that it recovered and identified a range of metallic objects from across the survey area. In almost all cases the items were successfully identified in terms of form and function and, for the most part, the chronological parameters of their use and loss. In chronological terms, the date range of the artefacts are entirely consistent and exclusively reside with the post-medieval / modern period. No evidence associated with the moated manor site and the medieval or any earlier period was recorded.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The distribution of the finds across most of the survey area, with few significant concentrations, would support an interpretation of a pattern of random, accidental discard, rather than deliberate, or, indeed, accidental deposition within archaeological features disturbed by subsequent activity ie plough activity. This is supported by the exclusive recovery of the items from the topsoil layer, although the limitations of the equipment in terms of depth, would not necessarily allow detection of material within boni fide archaeological features at greater depths. Despite containing a quantity of coins, no finds constitute Treasure under the terms of the Treasure Act (1996).

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The exclusive association of the material with the post-medieval / modern period is of little significance in archaeological terms. Individual items are also of little intrinsic value given their relative mundane or ubiquitous nature.

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6 FIGURES

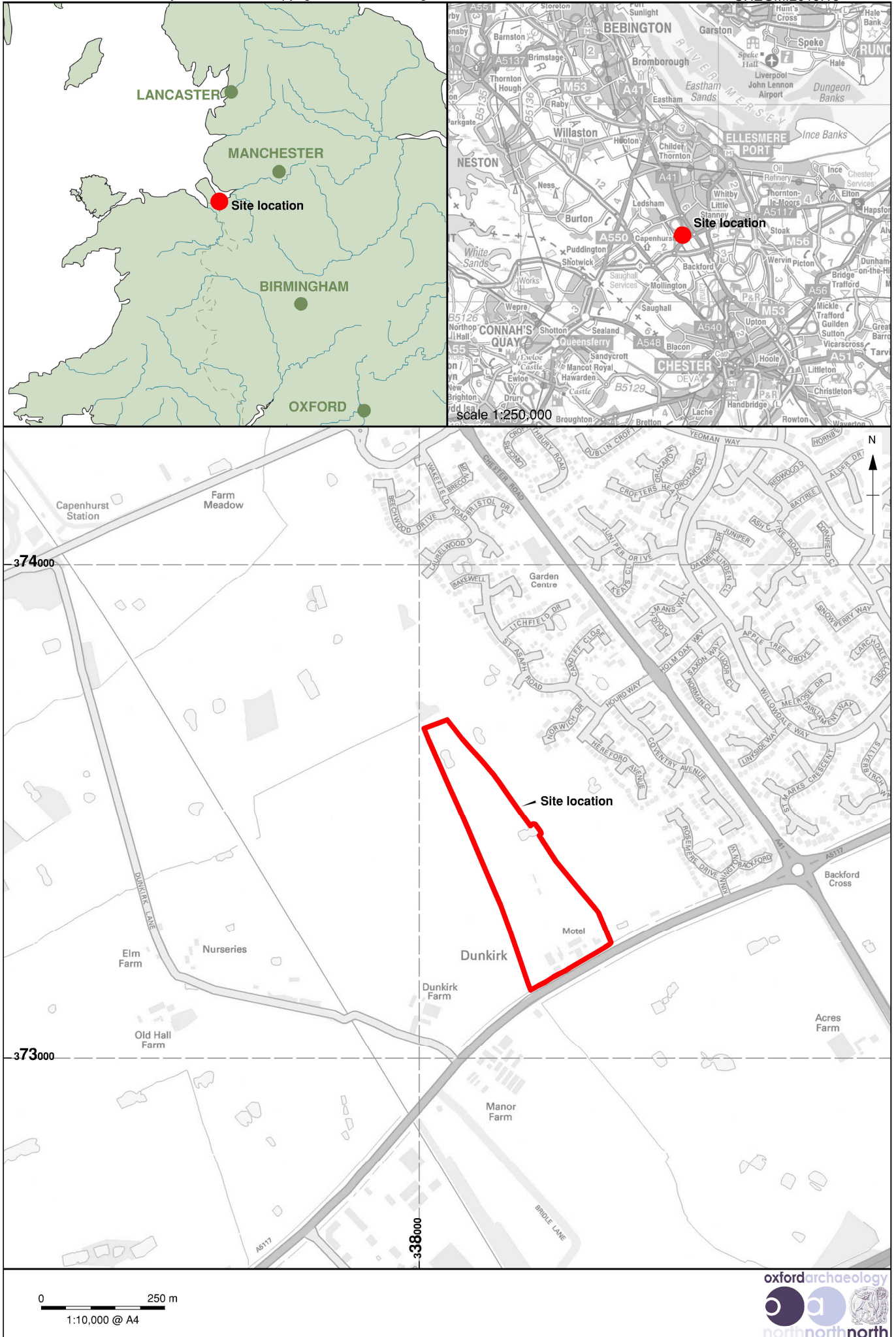
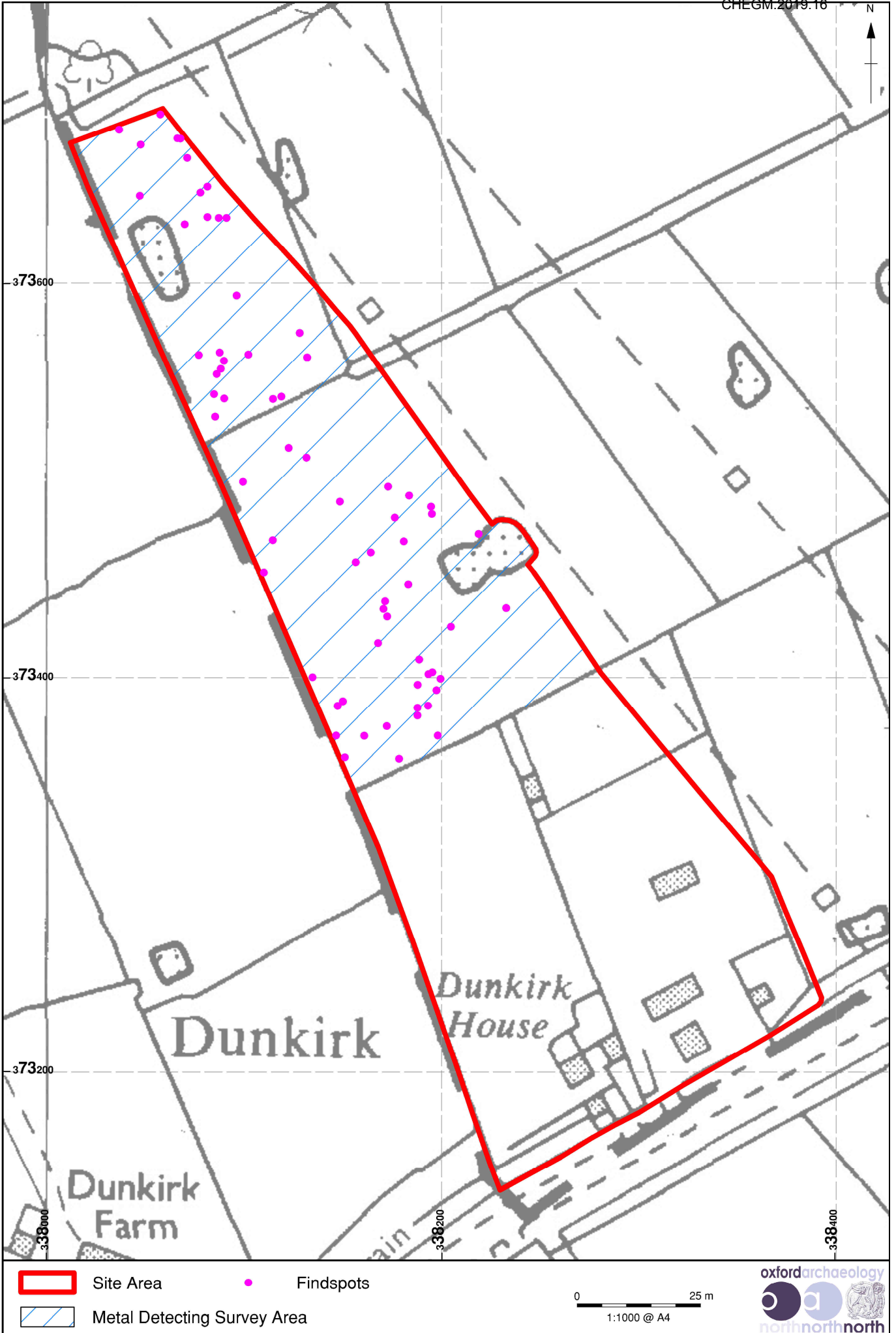


Figure 1: Site location



AT*L11285**MAT** Jan 2020

Figure 2: Location of findspots identified during the metal detecting survey

APPENDIX A FINDS TABLE

OR	Material	Category	Description	Date
1	Copper Alloy	Handle	Undecorated spoon / fork handle fragment. 35 x 15 x 2mm	Post-medieval
2	Iron	Washer	Diam. 40mm	Post-medieval
3	Copper Alloy	Coin	Queen Victoria farthing, worn detail	187?
4	Copper Alloy	Coin	Edward VII one Pence	1906
5	Copper Alloy and Gilt	Button	Cast, flat, round button, damaged single loop to rear. Remains of gilt on reverse and stamped legend 'STANDARD COLOUR GILT'. Diam. 20mm	Post-medieval
6	Copper Alloy	Button	Cast, round, flat with lip button with missing attachment. Undecorated, and damaged to one side. Diam. 32mm	Post-medieval
7	Copper Alloy	Button	Pressed shirt button with central dome with 4 symmetrical circular holes. Interior flange raised text 'LEWIS'S LIVERPOOL'. Diam. 16mm	Post 1856
8	Cupro-nickel	Coin	Queen Elizabeth II five pence piece	2010
9a	Copper Alloy	Coin	George III Irish half pence, date only half legible.	17??
9b	Copper Alloy	Coin	Irish half pence, very worn detail George II or III	1727-1820
10	Copper Alloy	Terret ring	Cast. Screw fitting. Height 88mm Diam. 62mm	Post medieval
11	Copper Alloy	Coin	George V one pence	1936
12a	Iron	Stirrup	Standard Fillis Iron, tread missing. H. 142 x 124 x 54mm	Post medieval
12b	Copper Alloy	Coin	George VI half pence	1942
13	Copper Alloy and Gilt	Button	General Post Office civilian uniform button. Convex and hollow button with patchy remains of gilt on top surface with the king's crown above the letters GPO. The rear of the button comprises a separate element with a shank and groove along the mid portion. Surrounding this is an illegible legend. Diam. 24mm	1902-1952
14	Copper Alloy	Coin	King George V one pence	1929
15	Copper Alloy	Coin	Queen Victoria one pence	1900
16	Copper Alloy	Coin	King George V one pence	1936

OR	Material	Category	Description	Date
17	Copper Alloy	Coin	King George VI one pence	1938
18	Copper Alloy	Coin	Queen Victoria one pence	1894
19	Lead	Water Pipe	Collar fragment with internal and external screw thread	Post-medieval
20	Lead + Leather	Shot	'Musket ball' casting flash visible, small fragment of leather, no evidence fired. Diam. 18mm, 31g.	Post-medieval
21	Copper Alloy	Coin	Queen Victoria one pence	1887
22	Copper Alloy	Coin	King George V one Pence	1927
23	Copper Alloy	Coin	King George VI half pence	1945
24	Iron	Horseshoe	Feathered heel, with upturned toe, four nail holes to each side. 138 x 152 x 12mm. 546g	Post-medieval
25	Copper Alloy	Coin	Old half pence - Illegible	Post 1660
26	Copper Alloy	Button	Flat, round button, damaged attachment Diam 18mm	Post-medieval
27	Copper Alloy	Coin	Old one penny, illegible	Post 1838
28	Copper Alloy	Coin	Queen Elizabeth II one penny	1961
29	Copper Alloy	Coin	Queen Victoria one penny, very worn detail, date illegible	1838-1901
30	Copper Alloy	Dome	Flattened dome with concentric grooves to exterior surface. This may be related to raising copper bowls by hammering, as these start as discs with concentric circles drawn on them. 76 x 44mm 58g	Post-medieval
31	Copper Alloy	Coin	Queen Elizabeth II threepence	1954
32	Copper Alloy	Coin	King George VI half pence	1938
33	Copper Alloy	Coin	Queen Victoria one pence	1897
34	Copper Alloy	Water Pipe	Small fragment of a pipe connector	Post-medieval
35	Copper Alloy	Coin	King George II half pence, date illegible	1727-1760
36	Copper Alloy	Buckle	Cast double-looped spectacle buckle with missing pin. The frame is convex at the front and flat at the rear, at each outside end of the frame is a semi-circular flat protrusion. 52 x 27 x 2mm. 4g.	Post-medieval 1550-1650
37	Copper Alloy	Coin	King George V one penny	1921
38	Copper Alloy	Coin	Old half pence, visible Britannia only	1660-1936
39	Copper Alloy	Coin	King George VI half pence	1942
40	Copper Alloy	Coin	King George V half pence	1928
41	Copper Alloy	Coin	King George V one penny	1917
42	Copper Alloy	Button	Flat, round button, single loop to rear. Stamped design, encircled	Post-medieval

OR	Material	Category	Description	Date
			cross surrounded by imitation woven fabric design. Diam. 22mm	
43	Copper Alloy	Coin	Queen Elizabeth II two pence. Obverse very worn, reverse NEW PENCE	1971-1981
44	Copper Alloy	Cutlery handle	Spoon or fork handle with worn Hallmark. Electro-plated nickel silver. 78mm	Post-medieval
45	Iron	Chain Link	Oval 76 x 46 x 7mm	Post-medieval
46	Lead	Water Pipe	End fragment with internal and external screw thread	Post-medieval
47	Copper Alloy	Door handle	Cast, Joins OR 48 to form complete handle with leaf shaped plates with three countersunk screw holes in each plate. Complete 227mm	Post-medieval
48	Copper Alloy	Door Handle	Joins OR 47	Post-medieval
49	Copper Alloy	Coin	Old half pence - Illegible	Post 1660
50	Lead	Fragment	38g	Not closely dated
51	Copper Alloy	Hinge Plate	Rectangular plate screw holes at each corner 69 x 28mm	Post-medieval
52	Copper Alloy	Coin	King George III, reverse very worn	1760-1820
53	Iron	Handle with lock	Barrel lock incorporated into a handle commonly used on garage doors.	Post-medieval
54	Lead	Shot	'Musket ball' casting flash visible, flattened to one side suggesting fired. Diam. 18mm, 30g.	Post-medieval
55	Lead	Fragment	14g	Not closely dated
56	Copper Alloy + Silver	Button	Silvered copper alloy, flat round button with loop missing Diam. 21mm	Post-medieval
57	Copper Alloy	Button	Embossed cap, loop and back missing. Diam. 15mm	Post-medieval
58	Copper Alloy	Coin	Queen Victoria half pence	1900
59	Lead	drip	20g	Not closely dated
60	Copper Alloy	Money clip	Stamped sheet with raised design 29 x 8mm.	Post-medieval
61	Copper Alloy	Rod	294 x 8mm.	Post-medieval
62	Iron	Knife	Swiss Army Knife.	Post 1897 (Patent date)

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OR	Material	Category	Description	Date
63	Iron	Nail	29mm	Not closely dated
64	Lead	Pipe fragment	Collar fragment with internal and external screw thread	Post-medieval
65	Copper Alloy	Button	Flat, round button, single loop to rear. Diam. 17mm.	Post-medieval
66	Copper Alloy	Pipe connector	Ninety-degree elbow joint	Post-medieval
67	Copper Alloy	Coin	Queen Elizabeth II half pence	1959
68	Copper Alloy	Coin	Queen Elizabeth II One Pound	Post 1983

APPENDIX B WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION: LAND AT DUNKIRK WAY, BACKFORD CROSS, CHESHIRE

Metal Detector Survey and Evaluation

JT/PO/15786/02

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION: LAND AT DUNKIRK WAY, BACKFORD CROSS, CHESHIRE**Quality Management**

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Redrow Homes

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Figure 1 Site Location

Appendices

Appendix A Risk Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

Background and Scope of Document

- 1.1 This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for undertaking an archaeological programme of work on land at Backford Cross, Cheshire (Figure 1) (hereafter referred to as the 'study site'). The archaeological investigation is for a metal detector survey in the first instance and, dependant on the results, subsequent targeted trial trenching.
- 1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the study site (RPS 2013) was prepared in accordance with the requirements of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and submitted in support an application for residential development (14/04966/FUL).
- 1.3 The assessment established that there are no designated heritage assets within the study site, and it was concluded that there is no potential for adverse impacts to the heritage significance of any off-site designated heritage assets.
- 1.4 With regard to non-designated heritage assets, the assessment established that there were no archaeological monuments, sites or finds within the study site.
- 1.5 Planning permission has been granted for the erection of 191 residential dwellings and associated public amenities (14/04966/FUL). As part of the consent, an archaeological condition applies to the development of the site. This condition (no. 11) states that:

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

To enable archaeological monitoring of excavations/development at a site which is located within an area of archaeological importance. The matter is required to be resolved prior to the commencement of development to enable its impacts in relation to the development to be properly mitigated.

Archaeological Background

- 1.6 The study site encompasses sections of seven fields which the 1840 Tithes Map of Backford Cross shows as four fields and the southern most of which had been divided into several plots by the time of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. The Cheshire Historic Landscape Characterisation project suggests that the fields represent enclosure from the 18th century when it was shown as unimproved, unenclosed land and woodland on the 1777 Burdett map. The Tithe Map describes the fields as arable or pasture land.
- 1.7 While no archaeological remains are recorded from the site in the Cheshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) a moat (CHER 2013/1/1), possibly the site of a medieval manor house, with an associated fishpond lies c.300m to the north-west of the study site and c.350 metres to the east is the site of Backford Cross (CHER 2022) documented as being in existence by 1292-1308.
- 1.8 The site lies at the junction of four medieval townships and two of the township boundaries form the southern and western boundaries of the site. Furthermore, historic mapping and aerial photographs indicate that the majority of the site has survived as undeveloped ground throughout the later Post-Medieval period. The presence of below ground undisturbed archaeological deposits cannot therefore be totally ruled out, in addition the historic township boundaries bordering the site may once have been marked by ditches which potentially survive as below ground archaeological features.

2 GEOLOGY, LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 online mapping surface records the surface bedrock within and around the study site as Sandstone and Conglomerate rocks of Triassic date. This is overlain by extensive deposits of glacial Diamicton Till (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>).
- 2.2 The soils in the study site and surrounding area are classified by the Soils Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983) as part of the Clifton Association, described as “reddish till, slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged reddish fine and coarse loamy soils and similar with slight seasonal waterlogging”.
- 2.3 The study site is approximately 6.2 hectares, and the survey area is approximately 3.3 hectares in extent (Figure 1). The study site is centred at National Grid Reference SJ 382 734. It is bounded to the south by the A5117, and by open countryside to the west and north. The eastern boundary of the site is not physically marked but is runs parallel to adjacent overhead electricity lines.
- 2.4 The site lies on level ground at a height of approximately 33m above Ordnance Datum.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Metal Detecting Survey

- 3.1 The principal aim will be to undertake a systematic supervised metal detector survey across the site equating to approximately 6.2ha.
- 3.2 In order to address the main aim, the general objectives are to:
- Ensure the recording of archaeological artefacts discovered during the survey
 - Place this record in its local or regional context
 - Make this record available
- 3.3 This specification conforms to the requirements of current national and local planning policy (including National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] 2012). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice, and the appropriate national and local standards and guidelines including:
- Cheshire County Council's revised General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants (2003)
 - Metal Detecting on Archaeological Excavations in Cheshire (Detectorists and Archaeologists Liaison Group 2004)
 - Management of Recording Projects in the Historic Environment: MORPHE (English Heritage 2006)
 - Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [revised edition] 2014)
 - Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [revised edition] 2014)

Trial Trenching

- 3.4 The principal aim of the archaeological programme of trial trenching, should it be required, will be to target and investigate concentrations of material or areas of interest and determine the need and extent for further investigation and recording.
- 3.5 In order to address the main aim, the general objectives are to:
- Ensure the recording of archaeological assets discovered during the archaeological works
 - Ensure that any below-ground archaeological deposits exposed are promptly identified
 - Ensure the recording of archaeological remains, to place this record in its local or regional context and to make this record available
- 3.6 This specification conforms to the requirements of current national and local planning policy (including National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] 2012). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice, and the appropriate national and local standards and guidelines including:
- Cheshire County Council's revised General Conditions for Archaeological Contractors and Consultants (2003)
 - Management of Recording Projects in the Historic Environment: MORPHE (English Heritage 2006)
 - Code of Conduct (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [revised edition] 2014) and
 - Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [revised edition] 2014)

Further Investigation

- 3.7 Should significant archaeological remains be encountered there may be a requirement for further investigation or mitigation work, which will be agreed with Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Services (CAPAS) once the findings of the trial trenching are known and in accordance with the significance and nature of the remains.

4 METHODOLOGY

Metal Detecting Survey

- 4.1 As highlighted above, the main aim will be to conduct a systematic supervised metal detecting survey across the site. The survey will be undertaken by a team comprised of six experienced detectorists, working under the supervision of a professional archaeological contractor.
- 4.2 The survey will be undertaken under archaeological supervision using a 30m grid, set out in advance of the survey using GPS surveying equipment, across the area in order to ensure full and detailed coverage. A recent assessment of metal detecting on archaeological sites in Cheshire by Phillpott (2017) has determined that grid-based surveys offer more systematic coverage than transect-based surveys.

Recording

- 4.3 All finds will be recorded according to accepted professional standards.
- 4.4 Plans indicating the location of all archaeological finds encountered will be drawn at an appropriate scale. The location of archaeological finds will be recorded using Global GPS survey equipment.
- 4.5 A photographic record of the survey will be maintained by a digital camera, illustrating the detail and context of the finds discovered.

Finds

- 4.6 Collected finds will be subject to assessment and appropriate analyses by suitably qualified specialists.
- 4.7 A high priority will be given to dating any finds exposed. All identified finds and artefacts will be retained.
- 4.8 All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the UK Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guideline No 2 (1983). Appropriate guidelines set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1991) will also be followed.
- 4.9 Should finds and features be made that might constitute 'Treasure' under the definition of the Treasure Act (1996), these will, if possible, be archaeologically excavated and removed to a safe place. Such finds will also be reported immediately to the local coroner (within 14 days, in accordance with the Act).

Trial Trenching

- 4.10 Should trial trenching be required, the location and configuration of trenches will be agreed with CAPAS, dependent on the results of the metal detector survey. CAPAS will be informed of any potentially significant finds as soon as is practicably possible and the scope of any associated trial trenching agreed. It is hoped that trial trenching, if required, can be undertaken as the metal detector survey progresses (subject to appropriate health and safety considerations).

Recording

- 4.11 Trenches will be accurately tied into the National Grid using GPS survey equipment and located on a 1:2500 map of the area.
- 4.12 Topsoil will be machine-excavated using a flat toothless bucket under continuous archaeological supervision to expose the uppermost horizon of archaeological remains or, where absent, the upper interface of natural underlying geology.

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION: LAND AT DUNKIRK WAY, BACKFORD CROSS, CHESHIRE

- 4.13 The excavation areas will be cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features and a base plan produced at a suitable scale using. Plans indicating the location of all archaeological features encountered will be drawn at an appropriate scale.
- 4.14 All structures, deposits and finds will be recorded according to accepted professional standards.
- 4.15 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features exposed or excavated will be entered onto prepared industry standard pro-forma recording sheets.
- 4.16 Archaeological features will be plotted on an overall plan at a scale of either 1:100 or 1:50. Areas of significant remains or areas of complex stratigraphy will be planned in greater detail at 1:20 or 1:10 scale as appropriate. Plans and sections will include context numbers and OD spot heights for all principal strata and features.
- 4.17 A photographic record of the project will be maintained. This will include high quality digital images, illustrating the detail and context of the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the progress of the programme of archaeological works.

Finds and Samples

- 4.18 A high priority will be given to dating any finds exposed and any environmental sampling will be carried out in line with current guidelines. Artefactual and ecofactual material will be retained for recording and assessment and, where appropriate, further analysis and will be treated in accordance with the ClfA *Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material* (2014). All ceramic material will be recorded by sherd count and weight within ware and where appropriate form groups within context groups.
- 4.19 All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the UK Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guideline No 2 (1983). Appropriate guidelines set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions' Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1991) will also be followed.
- 4.20 Should finds and features be made that might constitute 'Treasure' under the definition of the Treasure Act (1996), these will, if possible, be archaeologically excavated and removed to a safe place. Such finds will also be reported immediately to the local coroner (within 14 days, in accordance with the Act).
- 4.21 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 Ministry of Justice and local environmental health regulations and the appropriate Historic England advice. Such finds will also be reported immediately to CAPAS.

Finds and Samples

- 4.22 Following completion of fieldwork, a report will be prepared within a period of 4-6 weeks describing the methods employed and outlining the results.
- 4.23 Details of style and format will be determined by the archaeological contractor. In any event it will include:
- An executive summary of the work undertaken and the results obtained
 - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the programme of archaeological works
 - The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any archaeological deposits and material uncovered
 - The nature and location of the features and deposits encountered

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION: LAND AT DUNKIRK WAY, BACKFORD CROSS, CHESHIRE

- Appropriate illustrative material such as maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs; including a site location plan at 1:2500, a site plan at 1:1250, and where appropriate, large-scale specific plans, including appropriate data and interpretative plots of the geophysical survey
 - A summary of results, including the results of any trial trenching undertaken
 - A description of the archive contents and details of its location for long-term storage
- 4.24 The report will also include a summary report on finds recovered during the metal detector survey and any trial trenching undertaken. A summary report on all animal or human bone discovered during the excavation will also be included.
- 4.25 The discussion of the archaeological potential of the site will also include reference to potential indicated by the finds and any associated environmental evidence.
- 4.26 Copies of the report will be submitted to CAPAS and the Planning Case Officer in order to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the archaeological programme of works. One bound and one digital copy of the report will also be provided to the Cheshire HER. Copies will also be uploaded as part of the ADS OASIS database record.
- 4.27 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the archaeological works, is to be prepared in accordance with guidance issued by the Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF) (*Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* [Brown 2011]). An accession code from the relevant Museum will be obtained prior to the deposition of the archive.
- 4.28 The archive will also be prepared in line with the ClfA *Standards and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (2014).

5 TIMETABLE AND PERSONNEL

- 5.1 The programme for archaeological fieldwork has yet to be determined.
- 5.2 The archaeological work will be undertaken under the overall supervision of RPS. The archaeological works will be undertaken on behalf of the developer by a professional archaeological team. RPS will oversee implementation of the project on behalf of Redrow Homes Ltd. RPS is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The appointed archaeological contractor will also be a Registered Organisation.
- 5.3 CVs of key personnel can be provided to CAPAS in advance of the work commencing if required.

6 MONITORING

- 6.1 The aim of monitoring is to ensure that the archaeological work is undertaken within the limits set out in this WSI, and to the satisfaction of CAPAS on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- 6.2 The programme of archaeological work will be undertaken under the overall supervision of CgMs Consulting on behalf of Redrow Homes Ltd.
- 6.3 A CAPAS representative will be free to visit the site by prior arrangement, as part of the monitoring process of the implementation of the archaeological work on behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council and will assess the work being undertaken on-site against the methodology detailed in this WSI and any subsequent addendums.
- 6.4 RPS will also keep CAPAS informed of the progress of the work during the period in which it is undertaken.
- 6.5 CAPAS will also be responsible for considering any changes to the programme of work. Any such alterations will be agreed in writing with the relevant parties prior to commencement of the on-site works, or at the earliest opportunity thereafter.

7 FINDS OWNERSHIP

- 7.1 All metal detectorists involved in this survey will conform to the same requirements as the nominated archaeological contractor in respect of finds ownership.
- 7.2 All personnel will sign a written agreement waiving their rights to ownership of finds, so that these may be incorporated into the site archive. They also waiver all rights to claim any reward under the Treasure Act (1996), in accordance with section 81 of the Treasure Act Code of Practice.

8 INSURANCE

- 8.1 The archaeological contractor will hold Public Liability Insurance to the minimum value of £5m and Professional Indemnity Insurance to the minimum value of £5m.

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.1 All works will be in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), applicable regulations and codes of practice, and the Construction Design Management Regulations (2007).
- 9.2 All archaeological/metal detecting staff will undertake their operations in accordance with safe working practices.
- 9.3 A site-specific Risk Assessment will be undertaken and recorded prior to the commencement of work on site.
- 9.4 A continuous process of dynamic risk assessment will be undertaken and if significant hazards are identified a specific risk assessment will be undertaken and recorded. Control measures will be implemented as required in response to specific hazards.

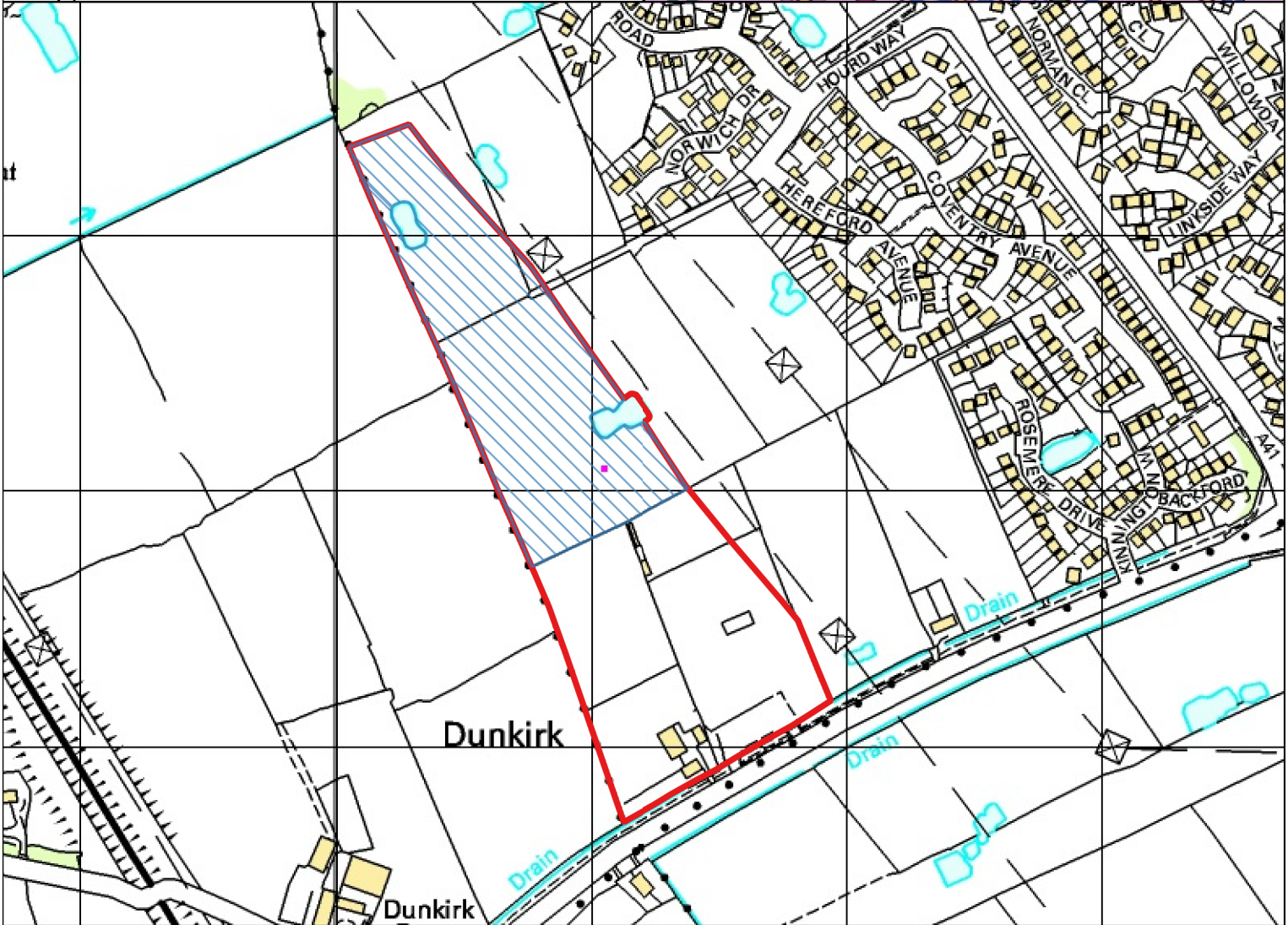
10 REFERENCES

RPS. (2013) *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Land at Backford Cross, Cheshire*. Project No. MF/15786/01

Phillpott R. (2017) *An Assessment of the Utility of Supervised Metal Detecting in Development-Led Archaeological Work in Cheshire*.



FIGURES



<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Study Site  Survey Area  Cheshire West and Chester 	  <small>MAKING COMPLEX EASY</small>	<p>Scale at A4: Varies</p>
<p>Figure 1: Site Location</p>		



APPENDICES

Appendix A

Risk Assessment

APPENDIX C SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Site name: Metal detecting survey at Dunkirk Way, Backford Cross, Cheshire
Site code: DWB20
Grid Reference: SJ 3820473399
Type: Metal Detecting Survey
Date and duration: 6/1/20 to 8/1/20
Area of Site: 3.3 hectares
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OAN, Mill 3, Moor Lane Mills, Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QD, and will be deposited with Grosvenor Museum in due course, under the following accession number: CHEGM: 2019.16.
Summary of Results: Post Medieval topsoil and subsoil metal finds.

Project Details

OASIS Number			
Project Name	Metal detecting survey at Dunkirk Way, Backford Cross, Cheshire		
Start of Fieldwork	6/1/20	End of Fieldwork	8/1/20
Previous Work	None	Future Work	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	DWB20	Planning App. No.	14/04966/FUL
HER Number		Related Numbers	

Prompt	
Development Type	Residential
Place in Planning Process	Choose an item.

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core | <input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch | <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning | <input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augering | <input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors | <input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search | <input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling | <input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking | <input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.
	Choose an item.		Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Cheshire	Address (including Postcode)
District		
Parish		
HER office		
Size of Study Area	3.3 hectares	
National Grid Ref	SJ 3820473399	

Project Originators

Organisation	
Project Brief Originator	RPS
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	Dr Adam Tinsley (OAN)
Project Supervisor	Anne Templeton (OAN)

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)		
Digital Archive		
Paper Archive		

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media

Database	<input type="checkbox"/>
GIS	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dunkirk Way, Backford Cross, Cheshire

Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>	Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input type="checkbox"/>	Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Report	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Sections	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments



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