



# LINGLEY MERE, WARRINGTON, CHESHIRE

## Archaeological Watching Brief



**Oxford Archaeology North**

March 2009

**White Young Green Consulting  
and the Lingley Mere Business  
Park Development Company**

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## SUMMARY

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Lingley Mere Business Park Development Company submitted a planning proposal for the development of land at Lingley Mere, near Warrington, Cheshire (NGR SJ 5580 8994). To inform the initial stages of the planning process, OA North undertook a desk-based assessment (2004), which identified a number of sites of archaeological potential within and around the proposed development site. Those that lay closest to the development site included a post-medieval farm (Site **10**), two cropmarks likely to be ponds (Sites **11** and **12**), and a wood, possibly of medieval origin (Site **19**). A post-medieval mill (Site **13**) and a kiln (Site **14**) lay close to, although just south of, the proposed development area. Accordingly, following the advice of Cheshire County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), the local planning authority requested, as a condition of the development, that an archaeological watching brief be maintained on those intrusive groundworks close to these sites. White Young Green Consulting Ltd, acting on behalf of the Lingley Mere Business Park Development Company, commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake the works required to satisfy the planning conditions.

The works were undertaken in two stages in 2006 and 2007. Following the removal of topsoil from the site, the first phase of monitored groundworks took place within the central part of the site and comprised the excavation of a large retention pond between the existing building of Borrow New Hall and the location of the proposed business park. The area of this coincided with the locations of sites **10-12** and **19**. Weather and ground conditions during these works were extremely poor, with much of the area covered by standing water. Visibility was thus very restricted, and no archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed.

The second stage of monitoring observed groundworks at the southern end of the site, close to Site **13**. During the works, no evidence of the mill structure, associated components, or any other archaeological remains, were observed.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Simon Smith of White Young Green Consulting and also the Lingley Mere Business Park Development Company Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also expressed to Peter Moir from Amec and the staff from Access Construction Limited for all their help during the project. OA North are also grateful to Mark Leah of Cheshire County Council Historic Environment Service for his advice and support.

The watching brief was undertaken by Andrew Lane, Jason Clarke and Chris Healey, each of whom contributed to this report; the drawings were produced by Christina Robinson, Marie Rowland and Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who also edited the report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In 2004 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) undertook a desk-based assessment to inform a pre-planning proposal by Lingley Mere Business Park Development Company Ltd (LMBPDC) for the construction of a business park on a 50-hectare greenfield site at Lingley Mere, just to the north of the Great Sankey area of Warrington, Cheshire (NGR SJ 5580 8994; Fig 1). The desk-based assessment identified 21 sites of cultural heritage significance, of which seven (Site **10**: Barrow New Hall Farm; Sites **11** and **12**: cropmarks, possibly of ponds; Site **13**: site of post-medieval mill, Site **14**: site of medieval or post-medieval kiln, Site **18**: medieval dam, and Site **19**: medieval wood) lay within, or next to, the boundary of the proposed development area (Fig 2).
- 1.1.2 The development itself was to comprise a major construction scheme, with buildings, car parks and associated roads. Following submission of a planning application by LMBPDC, and in accordance with advice from Cheshire County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), the local planning authority set a condition that any groundworks within the vicinity of the cultural heritage sites identified by the desk-based assessment should be subject to programme of archaeological monitoring. Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) produced a project design (*Appendix 1*) to meet the requirements of the local planning agency and, in February 2006, were commissioned by White Young Green (WYG), on behalf of LMBPDC, to undertake any necessary archaeological monitoring. It was proposed that the watching brief would be maintained within a c 30m radius around each of the gazetteer sites within the development site.
- 1.1.3 The monitored groundworks were undertaken in two phases. The first, undertaken in 2006 towards the centre of the development site, comprised the filling-in of an existing pond and the excavation of a large east/west pond just to the south of the existing building of Barrow New Hall. This pond, coincided with the locations of sites **12** and **19** identified during the desk-based assessment (OA North 2004). Any negative works within the vicinities of Sites **11** and **12**, located between these two ponds, were also observed. The second phase of monitoring, undertaken in 2007, focused on those groundworks near Site **13**, close to the southern site entrance.

### 1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The development area lies c 5 miles to the west of Warrington, just to the north of Great Sankey and Penketh, and immediately south of the M62 motorway. The landscape is low-lying, typically around 20m above sea level, and forms part of the wider Mersey plain (Countryside Commission 1998, 142). The solid geology is made up of coal measures and sandstone (Leah *et al* 1997), overlain by typical stagnogley soils of the Clifton association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). Urban developments and

industrialisation have heavily influenced the landscape, although there are elements of the earlier agricultural landscape surviving in places (Countryside Commission 1998, 141). This is particularly true around the east end of the Mersey valley, which includes the study area, where the presence of extensive peat deposits have prevented large-scale development. In recent history the land appears to have been used for arable farming mixed with pasture on improved grassland.

### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 **Introduction:** the following section provides a very brief background to the archaeology of the development site and is not intended to be exhaustive. It is based upon the desk-based assessment for the site (OA North 2004), which can be consulted if further details are required.

1.3.2 **Prehistory:** there is only limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the general area, and none from the development site itself. The earliest excavated site in the region as at Ditton Brook, to the west, where pits and other features were associated with Late Mesolithic artefacts (Cowell and Philpott 2000); similar sites, and artefact scatters, are ‘widespread in the region’ (*op cit*, 24). Cultural material from the Neolithic period in the area is limited largely to polished stone axes (OA North 2004, 9), although there is palaeoenvironmental evidence for forest clearance and crop husbandry from the beginning of the Neolithic (Higham 1993, 16). Whilst it is considered likely that the area of Warrington was ‘the focus of a considerable settlement’ (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 1971, 14) during the Bronze Age, contemporary activity in the locality is represented by stray metal tools and hoards (Higham 1993, 19). Although the most widely-known Iron Age site-type, the hillfort, is obviously not well-represented in the lowlands of north Cheshire, regional settlement studies have indicated that, north of the river Mersey, enclosures seem to have been the dominant site-type, and may have shared at least some of the inferred characteristics of hillforts (Cowell 2005, 74). There is evidence for the early development of the salt trade (Higham 1993, 25-6) in Cheshire and, at the time of the Roman conquest, the area was probably on the boundary of lands held by the *Cornovii* tribe to the south of the Mersey and *Brigantes* to the north (Higham 1993, 31-2).

1.3.3 **Roman:** Roman Britain’s largest legionary fort was constructed at Chester by at least the 70s AD, whilst the nearest major Roman site to Lingley Mere is at Wilderspool, a large-scale settlement principally concerned with industrial activity (Higham 1993, 36). Within the more rural hinterland there is some evidence for a recognisable ‘Romanisation’ at excavated sites (Cowell and Philpott 2000, 112), although recent excavation of a late prehistoric to early medieval settlement at Brook House Farm, to the west of the study area, indicated that this process was at times limited (Cowell and Philpott 2000, 63).

1.3.4 **Early medieval:** following the gradual collapse of Roman administration in Britain, Chester remained a settlement of some status and an administrative centre until as late as the seventh century AD. It is identified as a *civitas* by Bede, with major public buildings surviving as late as the tenth century AD

(Higham 1993, 62; Thacker 1987); the wider region is, however, more difficult to interpret (*ibid*, 237). The period was one of considerable political instability as, through a process of warfare and alliances, the various petty tribal kingdoms gradually coalesced into the dominant Anglian Kingdom of Mercia. Although the majority of Mercia succumbed to the Danes in 874 (Thacker 1987), the north-west of the kingdom, including Cheshire, remained English, first as vassal-state (Crosby 1996, 29) then, in 918, under Edward the Elder of Wessex, who may have created the county later recorded as ‘the shire of the city of the legions’, or *Legeceasterscir*, in 980 (*ibid*). Relationships with the neighbouring Welsh and Anglo-Scandinavian kingdoms remained turbulent until the Norman Conquest.

- 1.3.5 **Medieval:** the earliest direct historical references to the area appear during the medieval period. At the time of the Norman Conquest the area probably lay within the Hundred of West Derby and parish of Prescott (Lewis 2000). The township of Bold, approximately 3.5km to the north of the study area, is recorded from as early as the beginning of the thirteenth century, and consisted of two minor manors (Farrer and Brownbill 1907, 403). The original capital messuage at Bold Old Hall was certainly in existence by the fourteenth century (Lewis 2000, 196), and as early as 1330, there are references to Barrow Old Hall (Site 03), to the south-east of the development area (*op cit*, 195). A large part of the area was eventually turned over to parkland, and Barrow Old Hall is known to have been used as a dower house by at least 1537 (*ibid*). Inventories of its contents in 1605 and 1612 suggest it was a relatively modest building by this period (*op cit*, 196).
- 1.3.6 **Post-medieval and Industrial:** by the end of the seventeenth century the industrial development of the north-west of England was beginning to affect the general area and projects improving the navigation of the River Mersey encouraged a general growth in trade (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 1971). Tanning was particularly productive, partially because of links to the Irish cattle trade (*ibid*). Bold Old Hall and Barrow Old Hall suffered during this period, Bold being replaced by a new classically inspired building with an enlarged park (Robinson 1991, 163) and Barrow becoming little more than a cottage (Waite 1897). The Manor of Bold had passed out of the Bold family in 1610, and between 1858 and 1860 it was sold off (Robinson 1991, 163). The industrial development of the surrounding area continued apace during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, with heavy industries and improved communications in the form of canals and then railways, changing the landscape forever (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 1971).
- 1.3.7 The immediate area was to be affected by further major developments during the twentieth century. The Burtonwood Airbase, to the north of the development site, was originally established as a civilian facility repairing aeroplanes during the Second World War (Ferguson 1989; 1993). It was later used by the US Air Force as an airbase, and continued to expand into the 1950s (*ibid*). It was not closed until 1993, by which time it had been dissected by the construction of the M62, the second major modern development in the area.



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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 The CCCHEs-approved OA North project design (*Appendix 1*) was adhered to in full throughout the duration of the project, and all works conformed to IFA standards and accepted best practice.

### 2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 During the watching brief, those groundworks undertaken within the monitoring areas were conducted under constant archaeological supervision and comprised stripping of topsoil and subsoil to a maximum depth of 1.5m. These works were enacted by a 360° mechanical excavator, at times using a toothed bucket but, on request, using a flat ditching bucket. All exposed soil horizons were examined and described, and spoilheaps were carefully checked for any unstratified finds. Stripped areas that lay outside of the immediate groundworks for the ponds (ie, the areas of Sites **10** and **11**) were also inspected by an archaeologist in an attempt to determine whether any archaeological remains had been revealed in these areas.
- 2.2.2 A daily record of the nature, extent and depths of groundworks was maintained throughout the duration of the project. Any archaeological features were recorded on OA North *pro-forma* sheets, using a system based on that of the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. An indexed monochrome and colour slide photographic record was maintained throughout and, where appropriate, scaled plans and sections were produced to locate the presence of archaeological features as accurately as possible.

### 2.3 ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage guidelines (1991). The paper and digital archive along with a copy of this report will be deposited with the Cheshire Record Office, Chester. A copy of this report will be submitted to the Cheshire HER, where it will be publicly available for consultation.

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### 3. FIELDWORK RESULTS

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#### 3.1 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

- 3.1.1 **Phase 1:** within the watching brief area, visibility of any potential archaeological remains very poor indeed: some time prior to the monitored programme of groundworks, much of the site would appear to have been stripped of topsoil and an indeterminate amount of subsoil, whilst the watching brief itself was undertaken during a very wet period (Plates 1-3). Where topsoil was present, it consisted of very shallow (<0.05m) sandy clay, whilst survival of the 0.1-0.25m-thick grey/brown silty clay subsoil was also intermittent; both deposits contained modern building debris and plastic waste, indicative of recent disturbance. No archaeological features were observed cutting the orange/brown boulder clay natural geology, and no artefacts were identified.
- 3.1.2 **Phase 2:** conditions during the second phase of watching brief were again poor, with the development of a layer of slurry and water over much of the area of interest soon after it was stripped of c 0.07m of sandy clay topsoil by a mechanical excavator using a 1.8m ditching bucket. Excavation did not proceed below the level of the subsoil, which comprised a mid-brown silty sand with occasional modern building debris and concrete. Whilst it is possible that archaeological remains may be preserved *in situ* beneath the subsoil and thus beyond the limit of impact, there was no evidence within the subsoil for earlier demolition debris that might have been associated with the post-medieval mill (Site 13).

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## 4. CONCLUSIONS

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### 4.1 DISCUSSION

4.1.1 A number of factors are likely to have militated against the observation of archaeological remains during the watching brief. Chief among these was the extremely poor weather and the location of the site within a naturally wet area, but also the removal of topsoil and degree of associated vehicle tracking prior to the present scheme of monitored groundworks. Such issues were exacerbated by excavation mainly using a toothed bucket, and continued machine tracking. Thus, any remains that may have been present would have been extremely difficult to identify, particularly if they had been shallow subsoil features, as is likely to have been the case with Site **19**, the medieval wood. In any case the continued use of the latter site through subsequent periods is likely to have meant that any earlier archaeological remains in this area would have been truncated through substantial bioturbation associated with woodland.

4.1.2 The positions of Sites **10** and **11** meant that they lay outside of the areas of major ground disturbance. Despite this, one would expect that at least some remains of the post-medieval farm (Site **10**) would be visible following the removal of topsoil and subsoil, even if no deeper intrusive works were undertaken. Their absence may suggest that the site had been demolished very thoroughly, leaving few traces that could be identified within the poor visibility conditions. The principal foci of Sites **13** (post-medieval mill) and **14** (medieval/post-medieval kiln) lay outside of the development areas, and it is thus unsurprising that no evidence of these sites, or of associated features, was identified during the watching brief.

### 4.2 IMPACT

4.2.1 Given the poor visibility conditions that made it impossible to establish the presence, let alone the significance, of archaeological remains within the development footprint, it is not easy to establish the impact of the development. The effect on Sites **9** and **12**, coinciding with the retention ponds must have been severe, although it is likely that Site **11** has been preserved *in situ*. Site **10** may have been destroyed during demolition and site clearance prior to the present programme of groundworks. Sites **13** and **14**, arguably the most significant of the sites, lie sufficiently far from the development site not to have been adversely affected, although could well be affected by any further peripheral development such as the laying of drainage or roads during future extensions to the business park.

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## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### 5.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

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### 5.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

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## 6. ILLUSTRATIONS

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### 6.1 LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Watching brief location map

### 6.2 LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Shot of topsoil strip

Plate 2: General shot of wet conditions

Plate 3: Shot of excavated watching brief area

Plate 4: General shot of Site 13, looking west

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

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**LINGLEY MERE,  
WARRINGTON,  
CHESHIRE**

**Archaeological Watching  
Brief  
Project Design**



**Oxford Archaeology North**

January 2006

**White Young Green Consulting  
Ltd**

OA North Ref: t2645

NGR: SJ 5580 8994 (centred)

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 White Young Green Consulting Ltd (hereafter the client), on behalf of Lingley Mere Business Park Development Company Limited, are putting together proposals to undertake a programme of archaeological work on a site outlined for development at Lingley Mere near Warrington in Cheshire (SJ 5580 8994). This is in response to planning conditions set by the local planning authority following an archaeological desk-based assessment submitted by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in 2004, which assessed the likely impact that any development would have on the archaeological resource of the area.

1.1.2 The desk-based assessment found there to be a number of archaeological sites identified within the 1km radius study area, the majority of which were not considered to be of any great archaeological significance. However, the Scheduled Monument of Barrow Old Hall (Site 03; SM 13434) lies to the south-east of the study area although this is unlikely to be affected. Eight archaeological sites were identified that may be affected, consisting of a World War II airfield, a post-medieval farm and site of a mill, a medieval to post-medieval kiln, a wood and enclosure of medieval date and cropmarks of unknown origins. An archaeological watching brief was recommended for many of the sites, including the cropmarks, the mill and kiln, airfield and the wood.

1.1.3 Consequently, the client has requested that OA North submit proposals to undertake a programme of watching brief during the groundworks to commence late winter to early spring 2005.

### 1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.2.1 OA North has considerable experience of assessment and building assessment, as well as the evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 24 years. These have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.

1.2.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an **Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed to identify any additional information regarding any surviving archaeological deposits that may be directly impacted by the development. The scope of work will provide for accurate recording of any archaeological remains that are disturbed by ground works for the proposed development.

2.2 **Watching brief:** to maintain a permanent archaeological presence during associated ground disturbance, to determine the quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains discovered that will contribute to the understanding of the remains identified in the desk-based assessment (OA North 2004).

2.3 **Report and Archive:** the results will be incorporated into a report, and will be completed for the client within eight weeks of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2).

## 3 METHOD STATEMENT

### 3.1 WATCHING BRIEF

3.1.1 A programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits associated with the identified sites (*ibid*) during the proposed ground disturbance.

- 3.1.2 The watching brief will include the clearing of topsoil and any overburden, the excavation of trenches for building foundations, services and other earthmoving activities. This work will comprise archaeological observation during the excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified.
- 3.1.3 Discovery of archaeological remains will require stoppage of the clearance/construction work to allow OA North archaeologists sufficient time to undertake adequate recording. This will be carried out as efficiently as possible in order to minimise disruption. Depending on the deposits revealed, it is anticipated that the average time for the suspension of works will be approximately 2-4 hours.
- 3.1.4 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified by the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (i.e. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 3.1.5 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to the large-scale digital plan provided by the client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.
- 3.1.6 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced.
- 3.1.7 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the client and the Archaeological Officer at Cheshire County Council, who monitors the work on behalf of the local planning authority, as to the extent of further works to be carried out. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design.
- 3.1.8 In addition, should environmental/organic deposits be present on site, it would be necessary to discuss and agree a programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling and or dating with the client and Archaeological Officer.
- 3.1.9 **Treatment of finds:** all finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.
- 3.1.10 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.
- 3.1.11 **Treasure:** any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.1.12 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. The Archaeological Officer and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Home Office license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations. The cost of removal or treatment will be agreed with the client and costed as a variation.

## 3.2 REPORT



- 3.2.1 One bound and one unbound copy of the report will be submitted to the client within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork, and a further bound copy and digital copy, supplied as pdf files, will be submitted to the Cheshire HER.
- 3.2.2 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.
- 3.3 **ARCHIVE**
- 3.3.1 The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The results of the archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format. Arrangements will be made for the deposition of the full archive with Cheshire HER
- 3.3.2 Arrangements for the long-term storage of any artefacts ought to be agreed with the landowner and the Archaeological Officer before commencement of the works. Where the landowner does not wish to transfer all, or part of the archive the Archaeological Officer and Archive Curator will advise on an alternative course of action.
- 4 **OTHER MATTERS**
- 4.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY**
- 4.1.1 OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). OA North will liaise with the client to ensure all health and safety regulations are met. A risk assessment will be completed in advance of any on-site works and supplied to any interested parties if requested. It is assumed that any information regarding health and safety issues on site will be made available by the client to OA North prior to the work commencing on site.
- 4.2 PROJECT MONITORING**
- 4.2.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken through the auspices of the Archaeological Officer, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work. One week's notice is usually required by the Archaeological Officer.
- 4.3 WORK TIMETABLE**
- 4.3.1 OA North can execute projects at very short notice once a formal written agreement has been received from the client, allowing sufficient time to provide the Archaeological Officer with notice of works.
- 4.3.2 **Watching Brief:** the duration of the archaeological presence for the watching brief is as yet unknown, being dictated by the client's schedule of works.
- 4.3.3 **Report:** the client report will be completed within approximately eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork.
- 4.4 STAFFING**
- 4.4.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc AIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 4.4.2 All elements of the fieldwork will be undertaken by either an OA North project officer or supervisor experienced in this type of project. All OA North project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes. Due to scheduling requirements it is not possible to provide these details at the present time. However, once the timetable of constructions works is made available details of staff can be provided.

4.4.3 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken under the auspices of OA North's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis** (OA North project officer). Christine has extensive knowledge of finds from many periods.

4.4.4 Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples will be undertaken by or under the auspices of **Elizabeth Huckerby MSc** (OA North environmental manager). Elizabeth has extensive knowledge of the palaeoecology of the North West through her work on the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey.

#### **4.5 INSURANCE**

4.5.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

#### **5. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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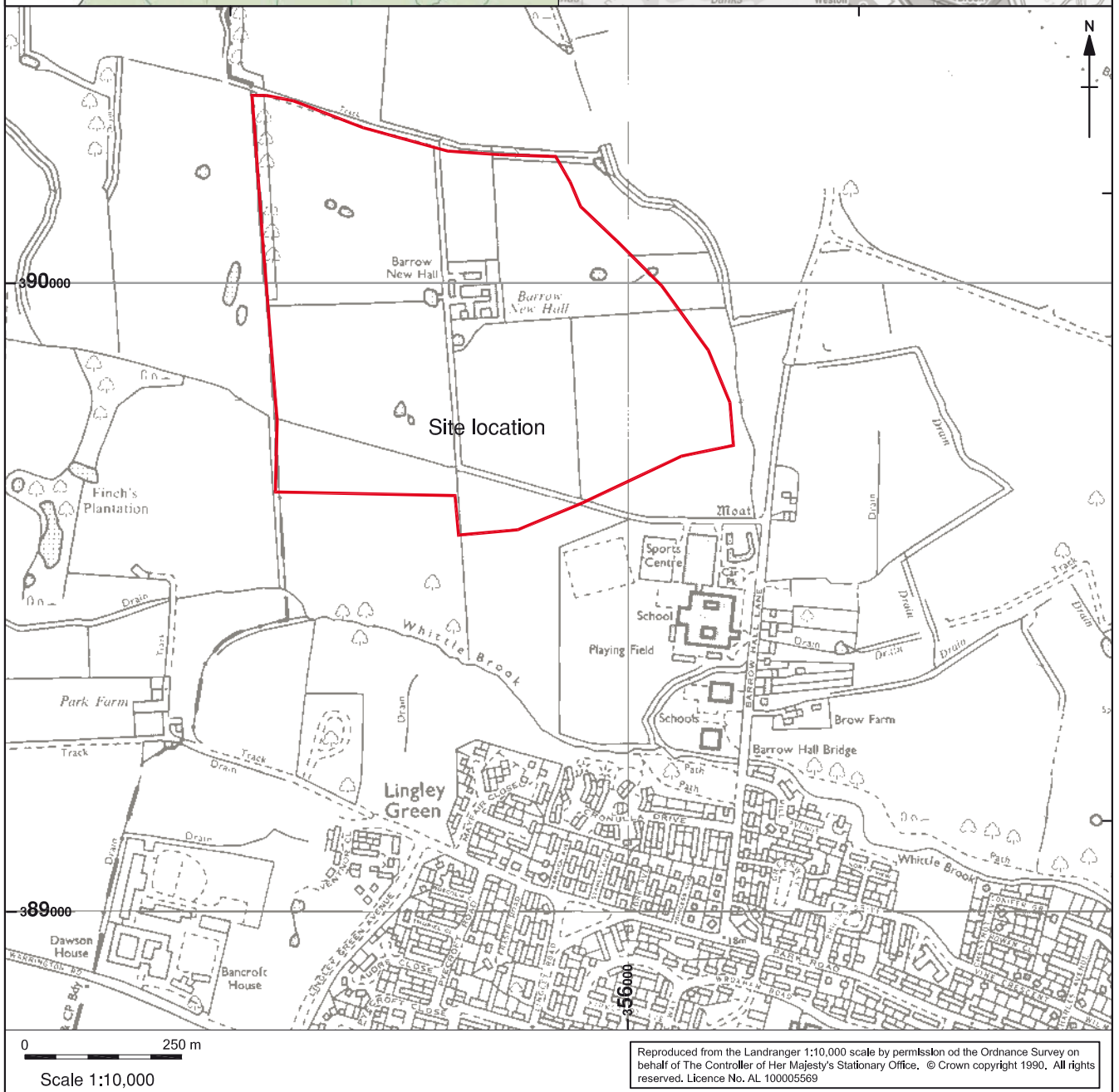
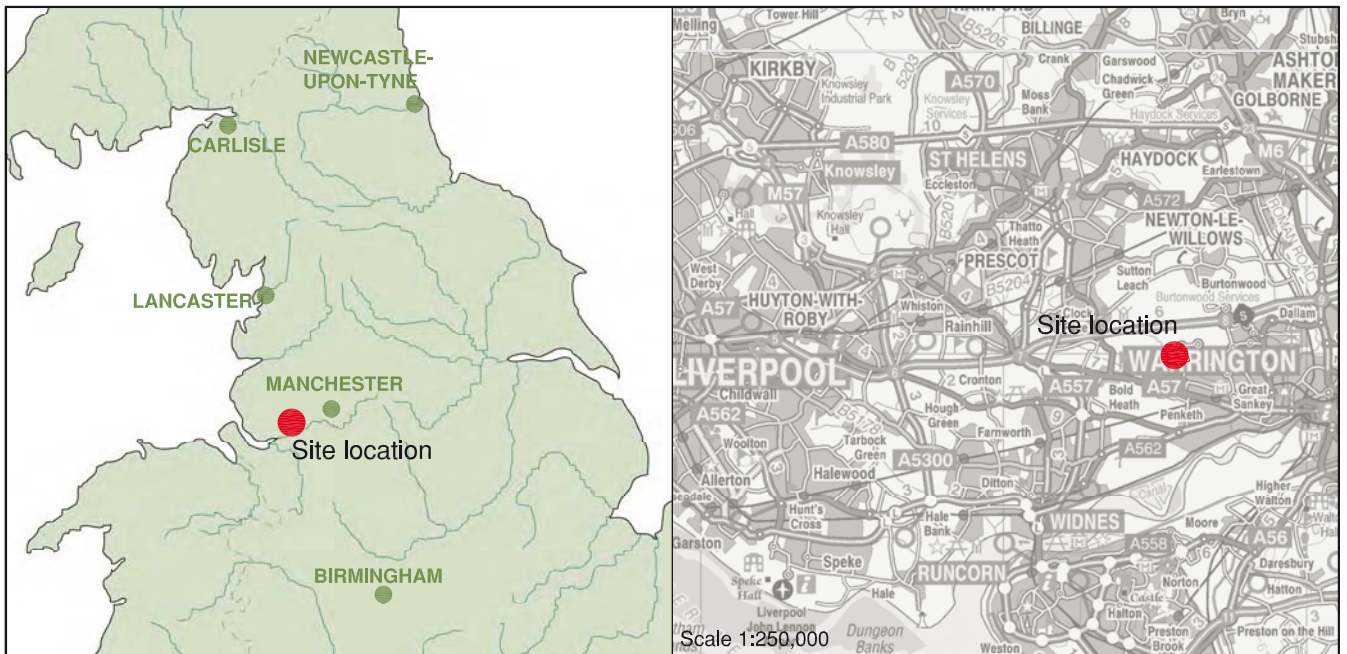


Figure 1: Site Location

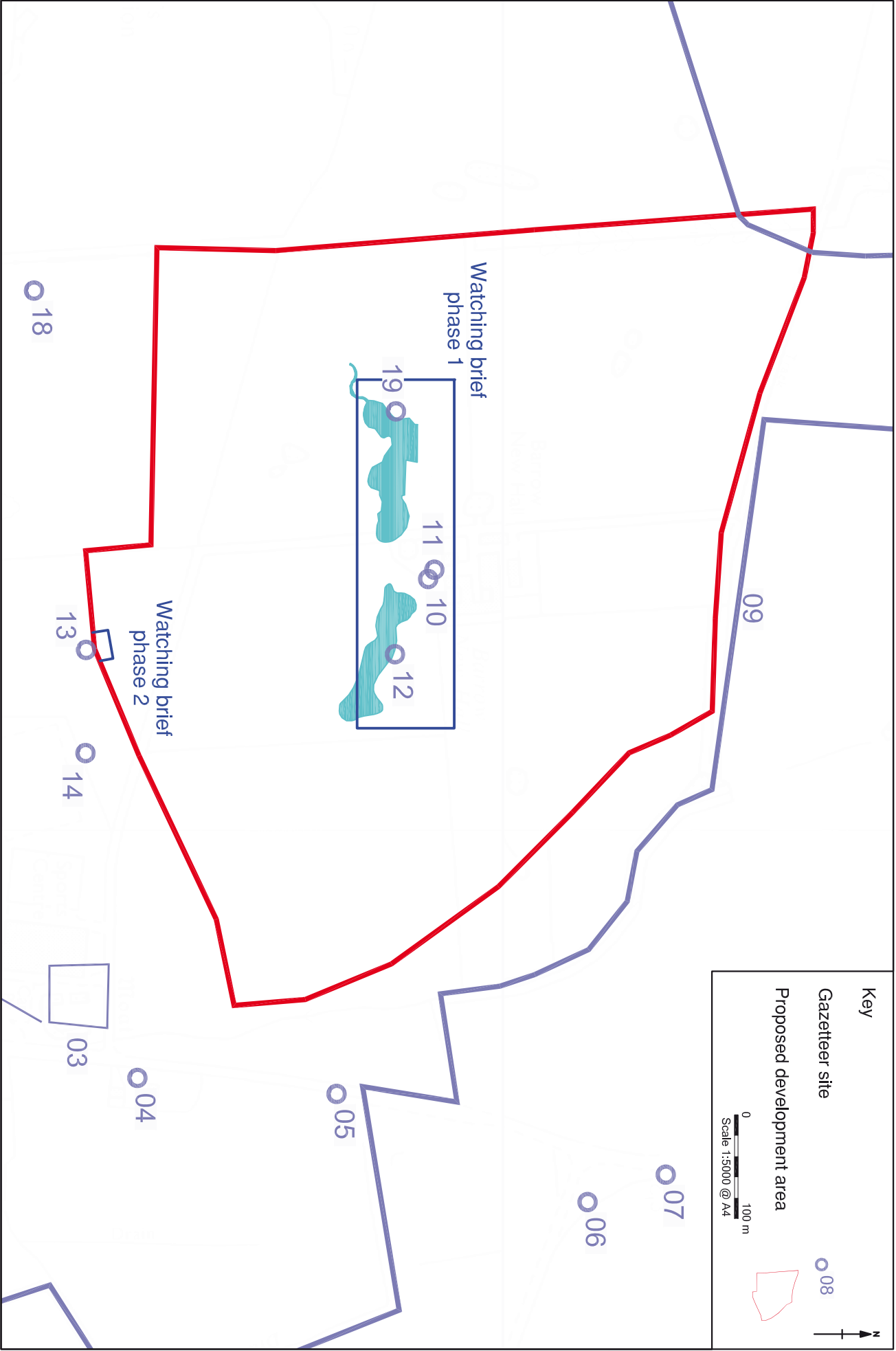


Figure 2: Watching Brief Location map



Plate 1: Shot of topsoil strip



Plate 2: General shot of wet conditions



Plate 3: Shot of excavated watching brief area



Plate 4: General shot of Site 13, looking west