



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING A6, WINGATES INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WESTHOUGHTON WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been commissioned by Harworth Estates in response to a condition of planning permission for the A6 realignment slotin application as part of the Wingates development.
- 1.2 The planning application, reference 16770/23, is for:

Application for a New Access, Road Realignment, Altered Landform, Planting and Associated Infrastructure

- 1.3 Wingates is located on land at Chorley Road, Wingates, Westhoughton, Bolton, BL5 3LZ, centred at approximately National Grid Reference SD644076 and covers an area of approximately 2.61 hectares. This is referred to throughout this report as the 'development site'.
- 1.4 The local planning authority is Bolton Council. The archaeological advisors to the council are the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS).
- 1.5 Consultation with GMAAS prior to the submission of the planning application highlighted that the historic environment desk-based assessment (TEP, 2018) and the results of the archaeological evaluation (Cook, 2021) provided sufficient information to inform the requirement of an archaeological condition for this consent and inform the aims of the archaeological works.
- 1.6 Condition 4 of the planning consent states:

No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. The works are to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The WSI shall cover the following:

- 1. Informed by the North West Historic Environment Research Framework, a phased programme and methodology of investigation and recording to include:
- i an archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks,
- ii informed by the above, targeted more detailed excavation/investigation.
- 2. A programme for post investigation assessment to include:
- i analysis of the site investigations records and finds,
- ii production of a final report on the investigation results.
- 3. Deposition of the final report with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.
- 4. Dissemination of the results commensurate with their significance.
- 5. Provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation.



6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.

Reason: In accordance with NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 205 - To record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.

Reason for pre-commencement condition: Any construction activities have the potential to disturb below ground or surface remains.

- 1.7 This WSI sets out the proposed methodology for archaeological observation, investigation and recording (archaeological watching brief) of groundworks within the development site.
- 1.8 This WSI has been prepared by The Environment Partnership (TEP) Ltd, a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) in accordance with CIfA guidance (CIfA, 2020). It has been authored and approved by a member of the CIfA.
- 1.9 The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken by appropriately qualified archaeologists, referred to as the 'archaeological contractor' throughout this report.

Aims and Objectives

- 1.10 The programme of archaeological works has been designed to mitigate the disturbance or destruction of archaeological remains during the groundworks for the development.
- 1.11 This approach is in accordance with paragraphs 200 and 211 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2023).
- 1.12 The aim of the archaeological works is for the preservation by record of hedgerows classed as important under the archaeology and heritage criteria, Schedule 1, Part II, of The Hedgerow Regulations 1997, which are to be removed during the development.
- 1.13 A further aim is to record any evidence of a potential Roman road as identified in the desk-based assessment (TEP, 2018). A proposed route from Manchester to Blackrod is suggested to run along the line of the modern A6.
- 1.14 The research objectives of the programme of work will be determined by what, if any, archaeological remains are present within the development footprint. However, subsequent assessment and analysis will be in accordance with relevant objectives outlined in the North West Regional Research Framework. Potential objectives could include:
 - R11: How can we identify typologies and the development of military sites and Roman road systems?
 - PM10: Where does pre18th century enclosure survive in the region?
 - Ind05: How well understood is change and development of the agrarian landscape in response to industrialisation and enclosure?



- Ind15: How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes and field patterns?
- GS37: How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes, field patterns, distributions of buildings and building types?



2.0 Policy, Standards and Guidance

National Planning Policy

- 2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2023) has three overarching objectives to achieve its aim of sustainable development. This includes an environmental objective to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment (Chapter 2, paragraph 8).
- 2.2 Chapter 16 of the NPPF (2023) then goes on to describe provisions specifically relating to conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
- 2.3 Paragraph 200 advises local planning authorities to require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by their proposal, including any contribution made by their setting. It states that "the level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance". In addition, "Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation".
- 2.4 Paragraph 211 states that "local planning authorities ... should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible". The request for pre-determination works attached to the planning application, and this corresponding WSI, are in accordance with this policy provision of the NPPF.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.5 The Bolton Local Plan (2011) includes several references to conserving the significance of heritage assets and historic character of the places within the borough, as follows:
 - Strategic Objective 11: To conserve and enhance the best of Bolton's built heritage and landscapes and improve the quality of open spaces and the design of new buildings.
 - Policy CG3 includes: 4. Conserve and enhance the heritage significance of heritage assets and heritage areas, recognising the importance of sites, areas and buildings of archaeological, historic, cultural and architectural interest and their settings.
 - The M61 Corridor Built Environment policy **M7** states: Ensure that the scale and massing of new development along the M61 corridor respects the distinctive landscape qualities and relates sympathetically to the surrounding area.
 - The Westhoughton policy **OA3** also includes: 7. Conserve and enhance the character of the existing physical environment, especially the conservation area in Westhoughton town centre.



Emerging Planning Policy

- 2.6 The Places for Everyone (PFE) plan, formerly Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, is the long-term plan of nine Greater Manchester districts, which includes Bolton. This draft plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in February 2022, and it was confirmed in February 2024 that the development plan is sound and can be adopted following the recommendations provided by the Inspectors.
- 2.7 Heritage is considered within policy **JP-P 2**, which states that the Greater Manchester Combined Authorities will "positively conserve, sustain and enhance its historic environment and heritage assets and their settings", in accordance with the NPPF.
- 2.8 The proposed development site is located within the area allocated as a strategic employment site, reference JPA6.

Guidance

- 2.9 The guidance most relevant to this WSI is provided in:
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2023, Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2023, *Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording*
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives
 - Historic England 2015, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

Monitoring

- 2.10 The implementation of the works outlined in this WSI will be monitored by Ben Dyson, Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA) at GMAAS, on behalf of the Bolton Council, the local planning authority (LPA). The SPA will be given suitable notice of the commencement of works on site and be kept up to date with progress during all phases of the archaeological works.
- 2.11 All archaeological fieldwork will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist, working under the direction of a full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, or equivalently qualified project director.



March 2024

3.0 Background

Site Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The solid geology is recorded by the British Geological Survey as Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation overlain by Devensian Till.
- The site is slightly sloping at an elevation of approximately 135m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north-west, to 133m aOD in the south-east.

Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.3 The archaeological and historic background has been provided in a historic environment desk-based assessment, which was completed in September 2018 (TEP, 2018). Data was gathered of all designated and non-designated heritage assets within a 1km study area of the development site. A brief summary is provided here.
- 3.4 There is limited evidence of prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the development site, though it is likely that this area was utilised for its natural resources during these periods.
- 3.5 There is also no recorded evidence of the Roman period in the immediate vicinity of the development site, however the route of a road from Manchester to Blackrod is suggested to run along the line of the modern A6.
- 3.6 Settlement at Wingates may have its origins in the early medieval period and continues to be located within a mainly agricultural landscape until the early 19th century when industrial developments such as coal mines were introduced.

Previous Archaeological Events

- 3.7 An Environmental Statement, with supporting desk-based assessment (TEP, 2018) was submitted to Bolton Council for land to the north of the proposed development site, known as Wingates Phase 1. A condition of the planning consent (reference 04766/18) was for an archaeological evaluation which was carried out in 2021 (Cook, 2021).
- 3.8 A watching brief was undertaken during site geotechnical investigations which recorded lenses of fragmented coal, interpreted as probable spreads of waste material from the mines (Cook, 2021: 11). A walkover survey was also conducted to further evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, which noted that there were five shallow surface depressions in the southern half of the site (Cook, 2021: 11).
- 3.9 The evaluation excavated 22 trenches of various lengths that aimed to establish the character, extent and significance of below-ground archaeological remains, especially those related to the post medieval coal mining in the area. It recorded a section of a colliery railway which ran between the main part of Scot Lane Colliery and Pit No. 8, located in the north-western corner of the site (Cook, 2021: 20), and an infilled shaft of Tommy Lane Pit, which had been shown on late 19th century historic mapping, located in the centre of the northern half of the site (Cook, 2021: 19). No other archaeological remains were recorded.



4.0 Programme of Archaeological Works

Archaeological Watching Brief

- 4.1 The development site incorporates the carriageway and footways of Chorley Road adjacent to Blue Bell Cottages and Bluebell Farm as well as tract of currently undeveloped land adjacent to the south flank of Chorley Road. The site also incorporates part of the carriageway of Wimberry Hill Road to the east. The undeveloped part of the site comprises agricultural fields and includes a boundary hedge and trees.
- 4.2 The archaeological works will comprise an archaeological watching brief during all groundworks associated with the realignment of the A6, focussing on the extant hedgerows which are to be removed and the areas around the existing road, to investigate the presence of evidence of a potential Roman road (highlighted areas on drawing G9665.04.001 in Appendix A). The area of the watching brief will be dependent upon identification of surviving archaeology, and may be extended to ascertain the extents of the archaeological remains within the areas that will be affected by the development.
- 4.3 All field work will be carried out by suitably qualified archaeologists, working under the direction of a full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, or equivalently qualified project director.

Method of Excavation

- 4.4 A suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist will monitor the groundworks and machine excavation by an appropriately powered machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The archaeologist will work with the site management and excavation team to ensure that stripped surfaces and excavations are not tracked on or walked across until the archaeologist has inspected the area and handed it back to the contractor. The archaeologist will do so within an appropriate timescale and will avoid any unnecessary delays to the work programme.
- 4.5 Excavation of topsoil and overburden will proceed in successive level spits of a maximum 0.1m thickness down to the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural geology, whichever is encountered first. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon can be exposed by the machine but will then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features.
- 4.6 All archaeological remains will be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to meet the aims and objectives of the project. The excavation will record the complete stratigraphic sequence, down to naturally occurring deposits and will investigate and record all inter-relationships between features.
- 4.7 All artefacts will be retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified 20th and 21st century material, which can be noted and discarded. Finds will be stored in secure, appropriate conditions.



Method of Recording

- 4.8 The archaeological contractor will make appropriate pre-and post-excavation site records. All finds and features will be accurately located and planned accurately at appropriate scales.
- 4.9 Discrete features will be half-sectioned, or fully excavated if features are part of recognisable structures, contain deposits or artefacts of particular value, or likely to hold significant artefact or environmental assemblages. 10% of each linear feature should, where possible, be excavated plus terminals and intersections, with slots measuring at least 1m in width wherever possible. Intersections will be investigated to establish strategic relationships.
- 4.10 Sections will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. All records will be undertaken using pro forma record sheets.
- 4.11 Environmental bulk samples (usually 40 litres) will be taken where the deposit is likely to contain significant environmental assemblage. Representative sections of linear and curvilinear features will be sample excavated away from intersections or other features or deposits, to obtain unmixed samples of material.
- 4.12 Sampling strategies will be in accordance with the archaeological sub-contractor fieldwork manual and described in their method statement as well as the requirements of GMAAS.

Photography

- 4.13 All site photographs will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a sensor of a minimum of 12 megapixels.
- 4.14 All photography will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidance, Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice, 2015.
- 4.15 All site photography must:
 - be taken in colour.
 - · include a north arrow.
 - include a legible information board displaying the site code or accession number and the principal context number.
 - include a suitable scale bar.

<u>Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries</u>

- 4.16 Should the works encounter unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, more detailed recording than is appropriate within the terms of the WSI, then TEP will contact GMAAS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter with the client.
- 4.17 Should archaeological remains of possible national significance be observed, fieldwork will cease on the relevant part of the site until these remains have been inspected by GMAAS, and the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments for North West England.



General

<u>Finds</u>

- 4.18 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and any finds will be cleaned, identified, assessed/analysed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines and best practice.
- 4.19 All finds or environmental samples recovered during the archaeological works will be assessed and reported on by internal and external specialists of the archaeological contractor
- 4.20 All finds will be treated in accordance with current best practice as set out in ClfA and Historic England guidance.

Human Remains

4.21 If human remains are encountered during the excavation, they will be left in situ and the SPA, and the coroner notified. If it is deemed appropriate to excavate human remains, this will be done in accordance with appropriate Historic England and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (e.g., ClfA Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains, 2017). Excavation, removal from site, analysis and final placing will all be subject to the requirements of the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence and any local environmental health regulations.

Treasure

4.22 If any artefacts are encountered that would constitute 'treasure' as defined by The Treasure Act, 1996 and the Treasure (Designation)(Amendment) Order 2023, they will be reported to the local Coroner and relevant Finds Liaison Officer. Any artefacts deemed to be Treasure should be excavated on the day they are discovered and removed to a secure site. If this is impractical, then appropriate security provided until full excavation and removal can occur.

Palaeoenvironmental sampling and analysis

- 4.23 The palaeoenvironmental assessment aims to identify areas within the development site where conditions are such that deposits suitable for the study of past environments are preserved. These most commonly occur in the form of subsurface peat layers but are also taken to include all waterlogged deposits. The identification of any suitable areas for sampling will take place during the archaeological evaluation.
- 4.24 Should any such deposits exist within the area of impact, samples will be taken by a suitably qualified specialist sub-contractor.
- 4.25 The samples would be assessed for their potential by internal or external specialists of the archaeological contractor, and suitable techniques applied to sub-sample from select cores to determine the preservation and taxonomic diversity within the samples. This is likely to include assessing for one or more of the following:
 - Pollen (focussing on organic units)



- Diatoms (focussing upon lithological transitions within and at the base of the Holocene sediment stack)
- Foraminifera (focussing on mineral strata and in particular on transitions)
- Plant macro-remains (focussing on organic units)
- 4.26 Having assessed the potential for analysis a project design will be produced that will provide a detailed proposal for analysis (including, for example, C14 dating, loss-on-ignition to measure organic carbon content, humification and mass specific magnetic susceptibility) of any present selected samples.
- 4.27 If necessary and appropriate the advice of the Historic England Science Advisor for North West England will be sought.

Programme

- 4.28 It is anticipated that the works will happen in accordance with the following programme:
 - March 2024 submit WSI for approval by Bolton Council.
 - TBC undertake archaeological works in accordance with principal contractor's timetable.
 - +4 weeks report.
 - +8 weeks deposit archive.

Organisation and Key Personnel

- 4.29 TEP is a Registered Organisation with the ClfA. The heritage team is under overall management of Jason Clarke BSc MA MClfA, Associate Director Historic Environment (TEP).
- 4.30 The archaeological works will be undertaken by appropriately qualified archaeologists from a CIfA Registered Organisation, Archaeological Contractor.
- 4.31 A projected timetable for work on site, staff structure and numbers, and for all post excavation work, including staff numbers and specialists will be provided by the Archaeological Contractor in the form of a separate RAMS document.



5.0 Reporting

- In accordance with the principles of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England, 2015) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd Ed (MAP2)* (English Heritage, 1991), a programme of assessment and reporting will be undertaken, following completion of the archaeological watching brief.
- 5.2 In the event of negative, or non-complex findings, a report will be produced detailing the results of the fieldwork within four weeks of the end of the fieldwork and archived within six months. The report will include:
 - a front cover to include the NGR, and HER reference number,
 - a concise, non-technical summary of the results,
 - the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken,
 - description of the methodology, including the sources consulted,
 - a very brief summary of the historical background of the study area,
 - a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the impact.
 - tabulations of data in relation to site phasing and contexts,
 - a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design,
 - a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted,
 - a site location plan related to the national grid,
 - appropriate plans showing the location and position of features located,
 - plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds,
 - illustrative photographs as appropriate,
 - coordinates (NGR) of relevant sites if archaeological remains have been discovered.
- 5.3 In the event of archaeologically significant finds, the results of fieldwork will also be published in a relevant and appropriate journal, or other publicly disseminated publication, as appropriate.
- 5.4 Artefact analysis will include the production of a descriptive catalogue, quantification by context and discussion/interpretation if warranted, with finds critical for dating and interpretation illustrated.
- 5.5 Environmental analysis will include identification of the remains, quantification by context, discussion/interpretation if warranted, and a description of the processing methodology. Radiocarbon results will be presented in full (laboratory sample number, conventional radiocarbon age, delta C13 value, calibration programme). Copies of the laboratory-issued dating certificates will be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.6 Pottery reports will refer to the appropriate type series.



6.0 Archive

- 6.1 A digital copy of the report will be submitted to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER). If required, a copy of the report provided as a PDF on disk, and as hard copies, will also be submitted to the HER.
- An archive of the results of the archaeological work will be produced, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, 2nd edition, 1991*) and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA, 2020). The archive will contain any site matrices, and summary reports of the artefact record, context records, and any other records or materials recovered.
- 6.3 A suitable collecting repository will be contacted in advance of the works starting in order to request an accession number and to seek advice of the arrangements to be made for deposition of the project archive and any associated charges.
- The original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media), and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche), together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) will be deposited with the relevant local archive. Following the completion of the work, the digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).
- Details of the work will be entered on the OASIS database at https://oasis.ac.uk/.
 OASIS is the online system for reporting archaeological investigations and linking research outputs and archives. Reports uploaded to OASIS will become available to the public through the ADS.
- Results of the project, even if negative, will be submitted for publication in appropriate academic journals.



7.0 Health and Safety

- 7.1 The archaeologists on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. Where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose.
- 7.2 All work on site would be undertaken strictly in accordance with the project health and safety plan and task specific risk assessments. All companies working on the project will adhere to the client's required quality, health, safety and environment controls.
- 7.3 Access routes to working areas would be specified by the client and access would only be permitted to those routes and the area of the fieldwork.
- 7.4 All site staff, including subcontractors and visitors, will prove that they have attended a site induction and have the necessary competencies (e.g., CITB training for machine operators and CSCS cards) and any other necessary health and safety qualifications.
- 7.5 The archaeologists will maintain a record of site attendance for each day that they attend site for the archaeological works.
- 7.6 All site staff personnel will wear PPE consisting of gloves, goggles, hardhat, steel toe-capped boots with mid-sole protection and high visibility vest or jacket at all times. All equipment must be 'fit for purpose' and be maintained in a sound working condition that complies with all relevant Health and Safety regulations and recommendations, including:
 - Coronavirus (COVID 19) Government Guidance for Working Safely
 - · Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and
 - Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999.
- 7.7 The Archaeological Contractor will have their own Health and Safety policies compiled using national guidelines, which conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation and best practice. The RAMS provided by the Archaeological Contractor will include a specific section covering Coronavirus (COVID 19) for working safely.



References

Data Sources

Archaeological Data Services: http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archsearch

British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/

National Heritage List: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/

National Library of Scotland, Map Images: https://maps.nls.uk/index.html

National Monuments Record: http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/

Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record

North West Regional Research Framework: https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/

Legislation and Policy

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979

Bolton Council, Local Development Framework, Bolton's Core Strategy Development Plan Document, Adopted 2 March 2011

Greater Manchester Combined Authority, *Places For Everyone, Joint Development Plan Document - Publication Stage*, August 2021

Hedgerow Regulations, 1997

National Planning Policy Framework, 2023

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990

The Treasure Act, 1996

Treasure (Designation)(Amendment) Order, 2023

Best Practice and Guidance

ClfA (2023) Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording, Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

ClfA (2023) Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording, Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

ClfA (2022) Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology, Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

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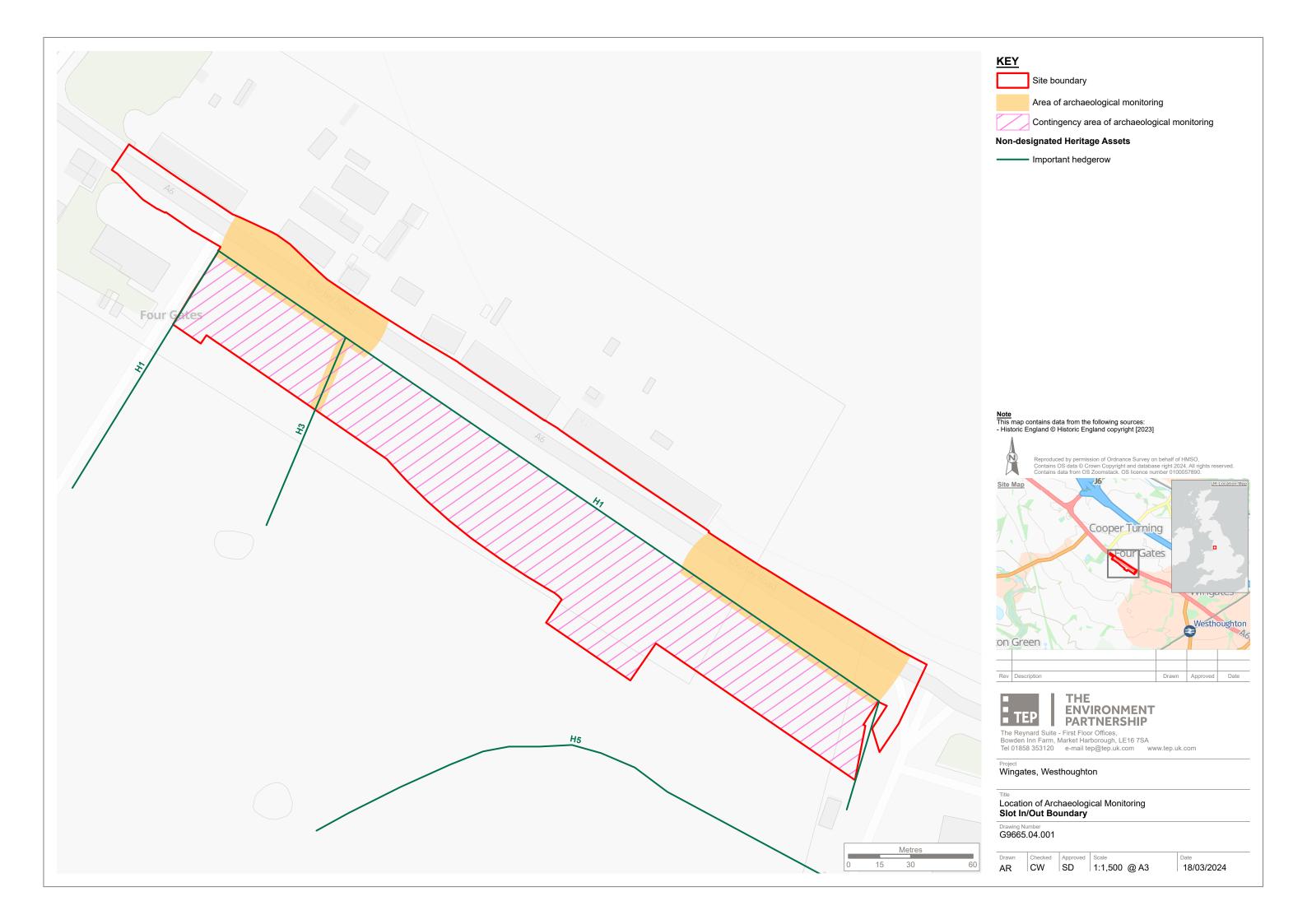
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APPENDIX A: Supporting Drawings







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