

Allen Archaeology Limited

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATORY WORKS:
LAND SOUTH OF CHERRYFIELD DRIVE, KIRKBY TOWN CENTRE, KNOWSLEY, MERSEYSIDE**

Client:	David Wilson Homes North West
Planning Reference:	24/00068/FUL
National Grid Reference:	SJ 41060 98560
AAL Site Code:	KICD 24
Date:	25th October 2024

1.0 Summary

This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological investigation as part of a programme of archaeological mitigatory works, which has been prepared for David Wilson Homes North West following a planning application (24/00068/FUL) for *'demolition of existing buildings and erection of 807 dwellings (use class c3) with vehicular access from Cherryfield Drive and Bewley Drive and associated landscaping and infrastructure , extension to the existing Cherryfield Drive car park to provide an additional 60 parking spaces and highway improvements to Cherryfield Drive'* on land south of Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby Town Centre, Knowsley.

The fieldwork, recording and reporting will conform to current national guidelines as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *'Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation'* (CIfA 2023) and *'Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations'* (CIfA 2020) and the Historic England document *'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (Historic England 2015). All Historic England guidelines on archaeological best practice will also be followed (www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/).

2.0 Site Location and Description

The proposed development site is located in Kirkby, Merseyside, in the administrative district of Knowsley. It is situated c.9.75km southwest from the centre of Liverpool and c.10.32km west-northwest of the centre of St Helens. The site is approximately 31.65 hectares and presently is split between an open park and a fenced, concreted, overgrown area, a carpark and three buildings are also within the site. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) SJ 41025 98377 and is c.17 - 28m above Ordnance Datum.

The bedrock geology comprises sandstone in Chester Formation, with superficial deposits of glacial till across much of the site. Small outcrops of Shirdley Hill sand are also present (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geoindex-onshore/>).

3.0 Planning Background

A planning application (24/00068/FUL) has been submitted for *'demolition of existing buildings and erection of 807 dwellings (use class c3) with vehicular access from Cherryfield Drive and Bewley Drive and associated landscaping and infrastructure , extension to the existing Cherryfield Drive car park to provide an additional 60 parking spaces and highway improvements to Cherryfield Drive'* on land south of Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby Town Centre, Knowsley.

Development management advice has been sort from Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) who has advised that:

'the applicant be required to undertake a programme of archaeological work, and that such works be secured by means of the following condition:

No development or demolition shall take place until the applicant or their agents, has secured the implementation and submission of a report on a programme of archaeological works. That programme of archaeological works should be undertaken in accordance with a Project Design which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority prior to works taking place. The Project Design must include the following five steps:

- *A phased programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;*
- *A programme for post-investigation reporting to include production of a final report of the significance of the below-ground archaeological interest;*
- *Provision for appropriate publication and dissemination of the archaeology and history of the site;*
- *Provision for archive deposition of the report, finds and records of the site investigation; and*
- *Nomination of a competent person or persons / organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved Project Design.'*

This WSI outlines a programme of archaeological work, the results which will inform the decision on the need, design and extent of any subsequent archaeological mitigation works that may be required in advance of development. If further phases of mitigation are required, a method statement / project design will be produced for the work and will be addenda to this WSI.

This document represents a WSI for this initial archaeological investigation only; this document alone will not result in the discharge of any archaeological conditions that may be part of any future planning permission for this site.

The approach adopted is consistent with the guidelines that are set out in Paragraph 211, Chapter 16, Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, of the National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities: December 2023).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was prepared by Allen Archaeology Ltd. (2022), a summary of which is provided below:

Prehistoric evidence is limited to a spearhead of possible Bronze Age date and a Bronze Age socketed axe. Roman activity is also limited to two findspots, there is therefore a negligible potential for activity of prehistoric or Roman date within the proposed development site.

The place name of Kirkby has 10th century origins and translates to 'a village with a church', settlement within the early medieval period is therefore highly likely. The focus of this activity would have most likely been in the area around the modern church as this was the historic core of the medieval town. The proposed development site is situated south of this area and was most likely a part of a medieval park. Due to this there is a low potential for early medieval and medieval settlement and agriculture within the proposed development site. No ridge and furrow earthworks were noted during the site visit or on LiDAR images.

Post-medieval evidence within the study area mainly consists of residential development and farm buildings identified from historical mapping. A barn was located within the site outline but has since been demolished and the area redeveloped. There is a negligible potential for archaeology of this period.

The northern and southeastern parts of the site underwent development in recent years, and this is likely to have impacted upon the archaeological potential in these areas.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the investigations will be to gather sufficient information for the Historic Environment Officer to be able to make a decision regarding the management of sub-surface heritage assets at the site.

Evidence shall be gathered to establish the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeological remains, and to allow for the determination of any appropriate strategies to mitigate the effect of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource.

Specifically, given the close location of the development site to the medieval core of Kirby can evidence be gained to further our understanding of the historic origins of the town.

6.0 Methodology

Historic maps indicate that an area in the northern half of the proposed development site has not been subject to modern development, although some gravel extraction has taken place in the past. The proposed methodology therefore entails the excavation of 16 no. 50m x 2m trenches (with a contingency for additional trenching if requested by MEAS) within the northern area, located as shown on the attached plan (Figure 1), or as near as site conditions will allow. The fieldwork will be undertaken by a team of experienced field archaeologists, who will act strictly in accordance with the contents of this document, and will adhere to national and local guidelines regarding agreed best practice for archaeological monitoring and recording projects. The commencement date has yet to be agreed, but is provisionally set for November 2024. It is anticipated that site work will take approximately two weeks.

The evaluation trenches will be accurately located using a survey grade GPS receiving RTK corrections. A mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket will be used to remove topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits in spits no greater than 100mm in thickness. The process will be repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon is exposed. All further excavation will then be by hand. Machine excavation will be monitored at all times by an experienced field archaeologist.

In the event of positive results in the excavated trenches, all features will be investigated unless otherwise agreed with the LPA archaeology advisor. It is not anticipated that the complete excavation of features will be necessary at this stage, but excavated features will be based on:

- 50% sample of postholes and pits up to 1.5m in diameter
- 25% minimum sample of pits with a diameter greater than 1.5m (including at least one full profile across the feature). Where pits contain multiple layers (4 or more), and/or have interesting or significant assemblages (e.g. collections of bones, pot sherds, flints, environmental evidence), 100% of the feature will be excavated to maximise finds recovery and information retrieval.
- Junctions, butt-ends and a clear section of all linears to be excavated, with all significant relationships to be defined and investigated. Approximately 10% of each linear feature

encountered will be excavated to determine its character and composition. If specialised deposits such as localised refuse dumping or industrial waste are encountered then further excavation will be undertaken to maximise artefact retrieval.

- Structures (e.g. wall foundations) and any specialised activity areas (e.g. kilns, hearths or ovens) will be fully or extensively excavated and all relationships recorded.
- Working hollows, quarry pits, etc. will be investigated to define their extent, date and function, with all relationships defined.

Metal detecting will be carried out by AAL staff during the initial machine excavation of the trenches as well as of archaeological deposits and spoil heaps with a unit not set to discriminate against iron.

A full written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits will be drawn to scale, in plan and section at an appropriate scale (usually 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Full colour photography will form an integral part of the recording strategy, and all archive photographs will incorporate scales and a directional arrow. Additional working shots of the site may also be taken to complement the record.

If human burials or cremations are exposed during the evaluation, in the first instance the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) will be contacted to discuss an appropriate strategy for the management of the human remains on site. It is anticipated however that wherever possible the human remains will be left *in situ* unless at direct threat from the proposed development or ongoing cultivation practices. If the remains are at threat from the development, AAL will obtain a Ministry of Justice licence authorising the removal of the remains. These will be cleaned, photographed and recorded on standard AAL human skeletal remains recording sheets, prior to removal for cleaning at the offices of AAL and subsequent analysis by the named specialist.

Any artefacts found during the investigation that are deemed to be 'treasure' (as defined by the Treasure Act 1996) will be removed from site to a secure store and reported to the appropriate coroner's office and the Portable Antiquities Scheme local finds liaison officer based at the Museum of Liverpool.

Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled with the appropriate deposit context number, and then later processed at the offices of Allen Archaeology Limited. These will then be submitted for specialist assessment to the following organisations/persons (depending on their availability):

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| • S Percival | Early prehistoric pottery |
| • Phil Mills | Later prehistoric and Romano-British pottery |
| • S Bates | Worked lithic materials |
| • Sue Anderson | Post-Roman pottery |
| • Bryn Leadbetter | Animal bone |
| • Lili Serrano | Human bone |
| • Adam Daubney | Other artefacts |
| • V Fryer | Environmental analysis |
| • K Krawiec | Geoarchaeology |
| • York Archaeological Trust | Conservation |

If the archaeological investigations result in the recovery of unstable artefactual remains (e.g. metallic objects, preserved wood/leather), Allen Archaeology Limited will commission the services of York Archaeological Trust to advise and implement conservation of unstable artefacts; to undertake x-ray

analysis and to provide an assessment of potential summary, which will then be attached to the main report.

7.0 Environmental Works

All environmental sampling, processing, analysis and reporting will be undertaken in line with the guidance set out in the Historic England document 'Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation' (English Heritage 2011).

Bryn Leadbetter is the named environmental consultant, who will be responsible for liaising with other specialists. Samples will be taken from deposits that have the potential to provide information on the preservation conditions and potential of analysis of all biological remains. If appropriate during the investigation, specialist advice will be sought from the environmental archaeologist, including a site visit to develop the sampling strategy. Processing of environmental remains will be undertaken by Allen Archaeology.

Bulk samples will be taken from deposits with obvious potential for palaeoenvironmental remains (e.g. burnt pit fills) and a selection of stratified contexts that have produced good dating evidence, and sufficient in number to establish the range and quality of the environmental evidence. Where feasible, bulk samples will be taken as scatter samples, whereby tubs will be filled from different locations within the designated fill to avoid spatial preservation bias or missing biological remains invisible to the naked eye which can form discrete 'clusters' within the fill (English Heritage, 2011, 10). Artefacts recovered during the processing of the sample or material may be available for C14 dating.

All environmental samples chosen for processing to be fully processed.

Animal bone will be hand collected from all excavated features. These will be identified and assessed by the named specialist (Bryn Leadbetter), with any recommendations for future archaeological work on the site.

8.0 Post-Excavation and Reporting

On completion of site operations, the records produced during the evaluation will be checked and ordered and a stratigraphic matrix of all archaeological features and deposits prepared.

A fully illustrated text will then be prepared that will contain the following information:

- A non-technical summary of the results
- A description of the archaeological setting of the site
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation areas
- Description of the methodologies used during the works and discussion of their effectiveness in the light of the results
- A text describing the results of the archaeological works
- Overall plan of the site showing the trenches, accurately located to the national grid
- Plans and sections of the individual trenches showing the archaeological features exposed
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape
- Specialist reports on the finds from the site. For pottery reports these will refer to the appropriate type series
- Appropriate photographs of the site, and specific archaeological features or groups of features
- A consideration of the significance of the remains found, in local, regional, national and international terms, using recognised evaluation criteria

- A consideration of the impact of the development upon the known archaeological resource.

9.0 Archive

The documentation and records generated by the investigation will be assembled in accordance with the national guidelines in 'Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation' (AAF 2011). The archive will be collected by the Museum of Liverpool in accordance with 'Guidelines for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives to the Museum of Liverpool' (National Museums Liverpool 2020).

It is anticipated that the archive for this scheme will be deposited within 12 months of the completion of the project.

10.0 Report Dissemination

A draft copy of the report will be submitted to the MEAS Planning Archaeologist, within 12 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork, for agreement. Approved copies will then be sent to the client, the Local Planning Authority and MEAS for inclusion in the Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy will also be sent to the museum along with the project archive. Knowsley Archive will be contacted to see if they require a copy of the report.

11.0 Curatorial Monitoring

The MEAS Planning Archaeologist will be notified no less than one week of the commencement of the works. They will be kept informed of developments during the scheme by Allen Archaeology. It is recognised that they may visit the site during the fieldwork element to monitor the works and confirm that they are being undertaken in accordance with this WSI and appropriate standards and guidance.

Internal monitoring will be by the author of this specification.

12.0 Variations to the Proposed Scheme of Works

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation from MEAS. Should any further investigation be required beyond the scope of the brief for works, or this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

13.0 Health and Safety

All work will be carried out in a way that complies with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice. Employees of Allen Archaeology Limited will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy, with senior staff responsible for monitoring compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation.

The archaeological site supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that all on-site archaeological work is carried out in a safety-conscious, sensible and responsible manner with due regard for the relevant health and safety requirements and legislation. All staff involved in the scheme will be provided with a Risk Assessment document prior to commencement of site operations.

14.0 Insurance

Allen Archaeology Limited maintains Employers Liability Insurance to £10,000,000.00, Public Liability Insurance to £5,000,000.00 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to £2,000,000.00. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied upon request.

15.0 Copyright

Allen Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that an exclusive license is hereby provided to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project described in this document.

License is also given to the archaeological curator to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes. This license does not cover commercial use of the material by a third party.

In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Allen Archaeology. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party.

The author of any specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes for further publication.

16.0 References

Allen Archaeology Ltd. 2022. *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Cherryfield Drive, Kirkby, Merseyside*. Unpublished report.

CIfA, 2020, *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

CIfA, 2023, *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (second edition)*, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, English Heritage: Swindon

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*, Historic England: Swindon

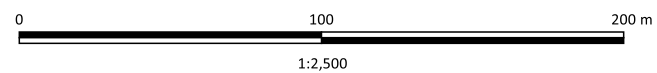
Historic England. 2011. *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition)*. Swindon. Historic England.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2023, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London: HMSO

Walker, K, 1990, *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*. UKIC Archaeology Section, London



Figure 2: Draft trenching plan proposal (detailed)



Land South Of Cherryfield
Drive Kirkby
Site Code: KICD 24