



THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.

Atlas Sheds Store, 9 - 8 Draw Well
Road, Knowsley
Written Scheme of Investigation

April 2024

1: Introduction

Steven Price of The Archaeology Co. has been commissioned to prepare a WSI for a level 2/3 historic building survey of Atlas Sheds Store, 9 - 8 Draw Well Road, Knowsley. The planning application (23/02741/FUL) is awaiting a decision, although it is expected that the following condition will be required:

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 historic building investigation. That programme of historic building investigation works should be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority prior to works taking place. The WSI must include the following:

- A 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 historic building.*
- Provision for appropriate publication and dissemination of the archaeology and history of the historic building.*
- Provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation.*
- Nomination of a competent person or persons / organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI."*

The use of such a pre-commencement condition is necessary to ensure the implementation of the required scheme of historic building investigation and its appropriate publication. The condition is in line with guidance set out in Paragraph 205, Chapter 16, Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, of the National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities: September 2023), Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 (Historic England: 2015) and Knowsley Core Strategy Policy CS20 (2016).

The works are for the "conversion of abandoned World War II magazine bunker into a commercial/industrial premises for the manufacturing and storage of metal

products". This document forms the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which outlines the programme of work required to undertake this survey.

2: Site Location

The site is located on the west side of Draw Well Road in Knowsley Industrial Estate to the east side of Kirby. The postal address is Atlas Sheds Store, 9 - 8 Draw Well Road, Knowsley Industrial Park, Kirby, Knowsley, L33 7BJ and the National Grid Reference is SJ 43568 98780. The building is one of nine bunkers recorded on the HER (HER No. MME21493) recorded as "Second World War munition bunkers, Draw Well Road, Knowsley Industrial Park, Kirby". There were 10 such bunkers but four on the east side of the road were demolished in late 2020.

3: Historical Background

Prior to the 1930's the site was within an enclosed field, of which there were several in the area. To the Boundary Road ran east to the, and north of this were Draw Well Farm and Stockpit Farm.

Britain entered the Second World War in 1939 and towards the end of this year ROF Kirby was begun to be built. A complex of buildings was laid out along with 18 miles of road and 23 miles of railway. The railway first appears to have been used on 8 May 1940 when Dale Lane No.1 signal box was opened to control the junction between the ordnance factory branch and the main line (Graham & Wright 2017).

The factory produced shells and many of the workers came from Liverpool which necessitated the opening of the Kirby Royal Ordnance Factory station. Passenger train services were unadvertised and provided purely for the munitions workers. The name Kirby Royal Ordnance Factory was not used on destination boards as the site was subject to intense secrecy. By the summer of 1941 the factory was employing 10,000 workers and the factory continued to expand, with the workforce reaching a total of 23,000. Vast quantities of munitions went out by rail, and by the close of hostilities Kirby had produced

10% of all of the ammunition used by Britain during the Second World War (Graham & Wright 2017).

Kirkby was designated as a wartime-only Royal Ordnance Factory and closed in March 1946. The factory site was taken over by Liverpool Corporation who developed it as an industrial estate (Graham & Wright 2017).

4: Historic Building Survey

Aims

Buildings are an important part of the historic environment as they provide information on historical technology, social structure and lifestyles. The alteration of buildings may remove evidence of their past uses and occupation and make it more difficult for future historians to understand and interpret them. The aim of the survey is for the completion of a site archive. This will be achieved by recording and analysing the plan form, function, age and development of the building and by the preparation of a written, drawn and photographic archive for future reference.

Research Objectives

The North West Regional Research Framework was reviewed for relevant research objectives. The site is a former munitions bunker and, in this instance, the results may go towards addressing the following question:

Ind75: How have former military sites been adapted for re-use?

Method

This shall comprise a field survey recording of the building performed to Historic England level 2/3:

- The form and fabric of the building shall be recorded, along with a measured survey, in order to produce floor plans at each level of the building and a representative cross section. These shall be produced at 1:50 scale at least;

- Architects' plans have been supplied and will form the basis for the archaeological drawings after first being checked for accuracy on site. Should they prove to be inaccurate then drawings will be produced on site using permatrance. Measurements shall be taken with hand tapes and electronic distometers;
- A photographic survey of the building's external appearance and internal rooms, as well as detailed photographs and/or drawings of key features. Photographs will be taken using a high resolution digital SLR camera (Olympus E600 [12 Megapixels]) in RAW format, with files saved as lossless TIFF's for archive purposes. Exterior photographs may be hand-held, interior photographs should be conducted with a tripod. Where lighting is insufficient either an off-camera flash should be used or longer exposure times;
- Prior to the record being made stored materials and other obstructions will be cleared or removed from inside the building
- All photographs will contain an appropriate photographic scale and the locations and direction will be marked on a photograph location plan.
- Proforma photo recording sheets shall be used to record the number, location and direction of each shot;
- Proforma building recording sheets shall be used to record the fabric of the building in order for the building to be formally described.
- Drawings produced on site shall be digitised in AutoCAD following standard conventions set out in section 7 of Historic England's "Understanding Historic Buildings" (2016)
- An historic map regression will be undertaken along with historical research into the site. This shall include readily available information such as trade directories and census returns, with a view to producing an account of the history of the building and group of buildings it belongs to;

The assessment will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Standard and Guidance for Historic Building Surveys (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020) to Historic England level 2/3 standards (Historic England 2016). Any deviation from the stated methodology will be agreed with the planning archaeologist at MEAS in advance.

Reporting

Following the building survey, the results will be described within a fully illustrated report, which shall include the following:

- A summary of the survey's findings;
- The background to the survey, which will include an outline of the planning context, the survey dates and location details;
- Aims and Objectives
- An outline of the survey methodology;
- An account of the site's history and development;
- A formal and descriptive account of the building, with reference to plans and photographs;
- Discussion and Conclusions
- A set of measured scaled plans of the building and a representative cross section;
- Photographic index including a plan showing the location and direction of the photographs;
- The contents (report, photographs and drawings) and location of the archive
- A bibliography

A draft copy of the report will first be submitted to the MEAS Planning Archaeologist within 8 weeks of completion of the fieldwork, for agreement prior to submission of the final version. Should the results warrant it, a summary report, or detailed article on the work shall be submitted for publication in a regional or national journal, appropriate to the significance of the results and findings of the project. The format shall be agreed with the planning archaeologist at MEAS. This shall be done within 12 weeks of completion of all onsite archaeological work.

6: Archive

The results of the survey will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with ClfA Archives Selection Toolkit, Archaeological Archives Forum (2011) Archaeological Archives and current ClfA "standards and guidance for the creation,

compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archive” (published October 2014). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the ClfA in that organisation’s code of conduct.

All documents and project files will be reviewed by Steven Price throughout the project lifespan. Material will be selected on the basis of its contribution to the overall aims of the project as set out in section 4. All digital data created over the course of this project will be collected, stored, and selected for final deposition. Only final copies of any born digital data will be deposited in the final project archive. Deselected material is expected to include duplicates and any non-final versions of data. In terms of photographic images, this would include blurred or light imbalanced images. Deselected material will be deleted following acceptance of the archive.

The archive will comprise the report, digital photographs and the AutoCAD drawing file. The paper archive, comprising the report, will be placed with National Museums Liverpool, within a reasonable time of completion of the project, and the ‘project completion form’ filed. The primary digital archive shall be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), comprising the digital photographs saved as tiff files following ADS guidance, a pdf-a copy of the report and the dwg AutoCAD file. A digital copy of the report will also be sent to the Merseyside Historic Environment Record. Should the results warrant it, a summary report, or detailed article on the work shall be submitted for publication in a regional or national journal, appropriate to the significance of the results and findings of the project, as well as being uploaded to the OASIS database. This shall be done no later than one year after the completion of the work.

7: Staff

Steven Price of the Archaeology Co. is nominated to carry out the works. He has surveyed several large industrial buildings, such the former cotton warehouse at 6 oriel Street,

Liverpool and Victoria Mill, Manchester. All fieldwork will be undertaken and supervised by Steven Price BA (Hons.) MA, MPhil, PCIfA.

8: Timetable

One weeks' notice prior to commencement of the works shall be given the planning archaeologist at MEAS. It is anticipated that the historic building assessment will be undertaken over a period of one week, and a report will be produced within eight weeks of commencement.

9: Health and Safety

Health and Safety regulations and requirements cannot be ignored no matter how imperative the need to record archaeological information. Hence health and safety will take priority over archaeological matters. Should area be deemed unsafe, the survey shall be halted and resumed once the areas have been made safe.

Full regard will be given to all constraints during the course of the project. A Health and Safety Statement, along with a risk assessment, will be provided. All site procedures shall be in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.

The building is in a good condition although only areas deemed to be safe shall be entered. Areas which are unsafe shall be surveyed only so far as it is safe to do so. Should this occur then a return visit shall be made once the area(s) have been made safe in order to finish the recording. It is known that several areas contain asbestos. The survey will be undertaken once these areas have been made safe. If this is not possible, then a return visit once the areas have been made safe will be undertaken to finish the recording process.

10: Planning Monitoring

Monitoring shall follow the guidelines set out in section 3.5 of the ClfA's "Standard and Guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures" (2020). Monitoring will be undertaken against the WSI by MEAS on behalf of the Local Authority, and visits will be documented. Non-compliance with the agreed WSI or project design will be pointed out to the archaeologist undertaking the work, and their client if appropriate, at the earliest opportunity. The Local Planning Authority and planning archaeologist will be notified no less than one week in advancement of the commencement of the works, and will be kept informed of significant findings of the building investigation during the scheme. It is recognised they may visit the site during the fieldwork element to monitor the archaeological work.

11: Insurance

Steven Price maintains Professional Indemnity Insurance to £1,000,000

12: Copyright

Full copyright shall be maintained by the author until project completion, at which point it shall be transferred to the National Museums Liverpool. The Project Completion form shall be submitted along with a full transfer of title and the Assignment of Copyright for the Archives.

Bibliography

“North West Regional Research Framework - The Industrial and 20th Century Period”

Accessed online at: <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/industrial/#section-59>

ClfA 2020 “Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures” accessed online at:

http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_buildings.pdf

Graham, Tony & Wright, Paul 2017 “Disused Stations Site Record - Kirkby Royal Ordnance Factory”. Accessed online at:

http://disused-stations.org.uk/k/kirkby_royal_ordnance_factory/index.shtml

Historic England 2016 “Understanding Historic Buildings – A guide to good recording practice”

“National Planning Policy Framework” 2020 accessed online at www.communities.gov.uk

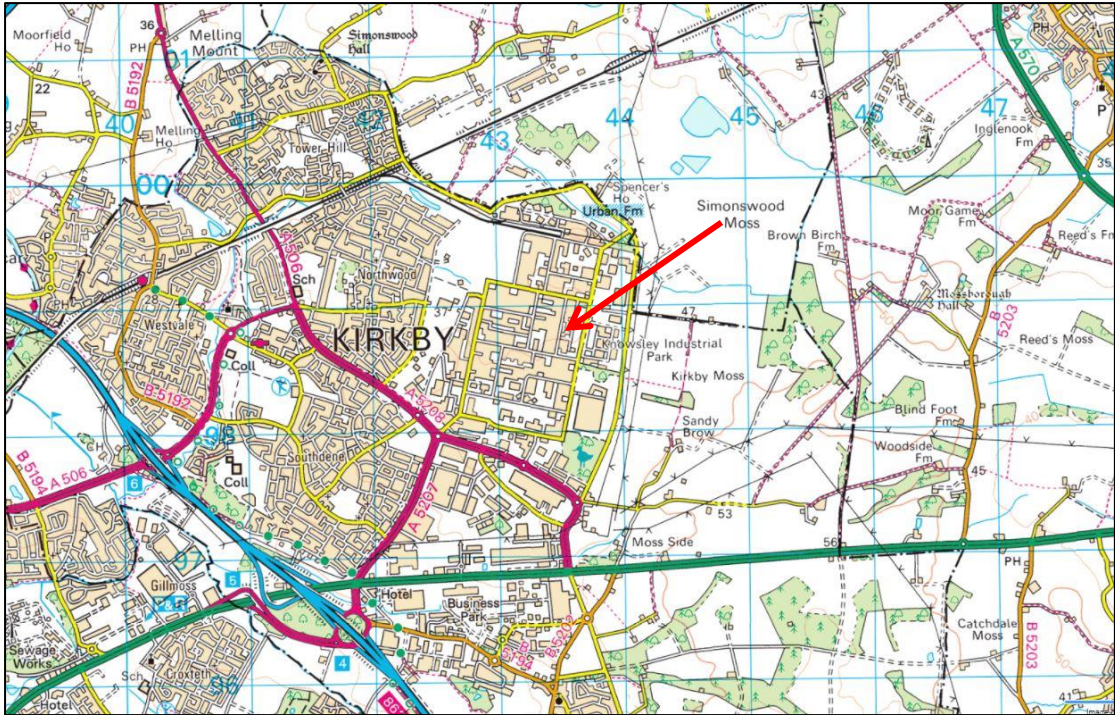


Figure 1: Location Plan (OS Licence Number: 100057911)



Figure 2: Site plan

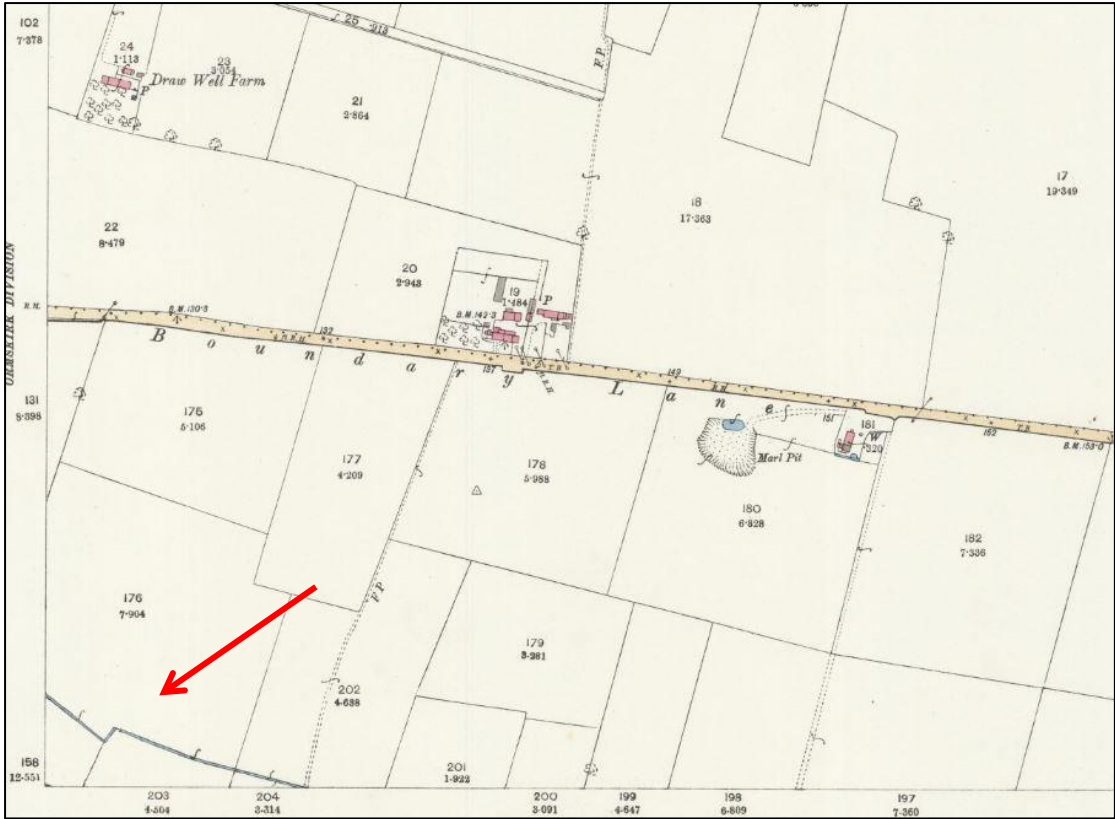


Figure 3: 1893 OS map Lancashire sheet C.6 showing approximate site location



Figure 4: 1908 OS map Lancashire sheet C.6 showing approximate site location

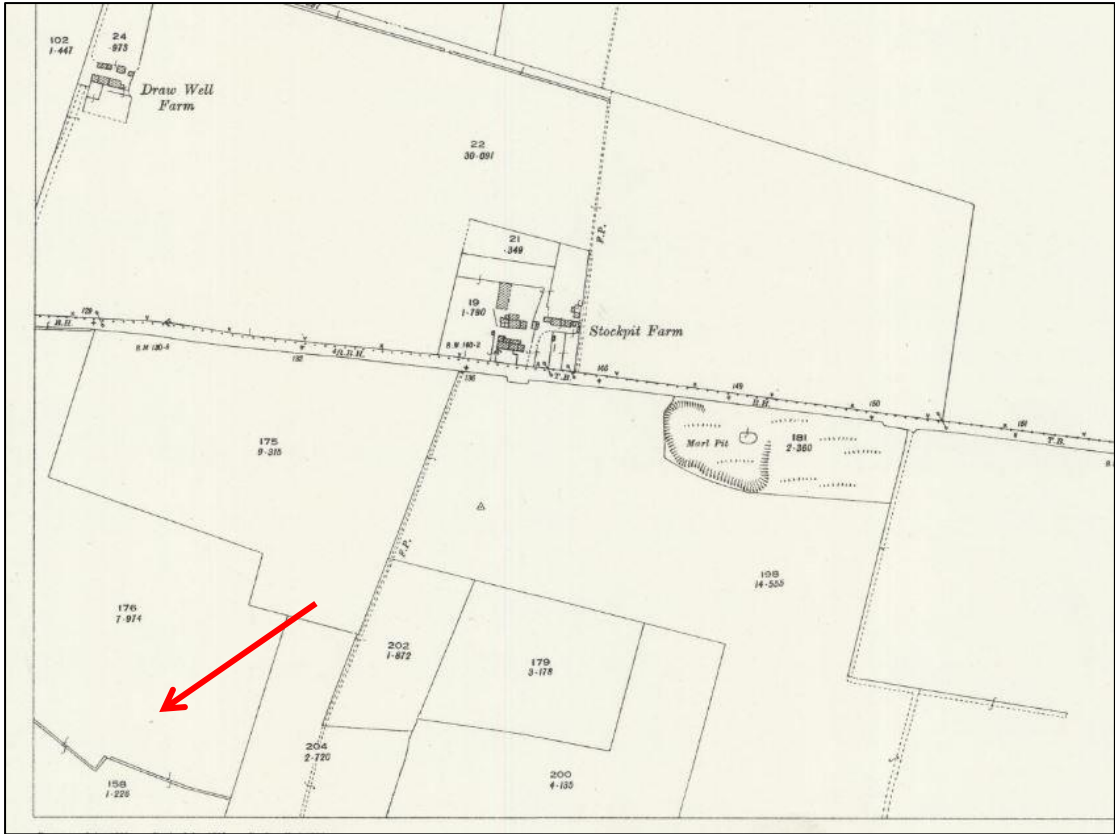


Figure 5: 1927 OS map Lancashire sheet C.6 showing approximate site location