

Allen Archaeology Limited

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATORY WORKS:
HUYTON CRICKET CLUB HUYTON LANE, HUYTON, KNOWSLEY, MERSEYSIDE**

Client:	Breck
Planning Reference:	25/00458/FUL
National Grid Reference:	SJ 44427 91327
AAL Site Code:	HUHL 26
Date:	15th July 2026

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 Breck North West following a planning application (25/00458/FUL) for a *'change of use of the existing redundant pavilion building to a flexible use falling within use class e, (commercial, business and service) f1 (learning and non residential institutions) or f2 (local community uses) and the erection of 84 dwellings, provision of roads and sewers, open space and other associated works* at Huyton Cricket Club Huyton Lane Huyton Knowsley L36 7XH.

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 Huyton is a town in the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley, Merseyside, England. Part of the Liverpool Built-up Area, it borders the Liverpool suburbs of Dovecot, Knotty Ash and Netherley. It is situated c.10km east of the centre of Liverpool and c.8km southwest of the centre of St Helens. The site is approximately 2.2 hectares and comprises the Grade II Listed former Huyton Cricket and Bowling Pavilion [the Pavilion], and the land formerly associated with the club, including the former cricket pitch and bowling green. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) SJ 44427 91327.

The bedrock geology comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation sealed by superficial deposits of Devensian diamicton glacial till (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geoindex-onshore/>).

3.0 Planning Background

A planning application (25/00458/FUL) has been submitted for *'change of use of the existing redundant pavilion building to a flexible use falling within use class e, (commercial, business and service) f1 (learning and non residential institutions) or f2 (local community uses) and the erection of 84 dwellings, provision of roads and sewers, open space and other associated works* at Huyton Cricket Club Huyton Lane Huyton Knowsley L36 7XH.

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

'As this site has archaeological interest I advise that the applicant be required to undertake a targeted 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.*

The use of such a condition is in line with the guidance set out in Paragraph 218, Chapter 16, Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment, of the National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities: December 2024), Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2 (Historic England: July 2015) and Knowsley Local Plan Policies CS2 and CS20 (Knowsley Council: 2016).

The use of such a pre-commencement condition is necessary to ensure the implementation of the required scheme of archaeological investigation and its appropriate publication..'

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 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment of the National Planning Policy Framework (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2025).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

A Heritage Impact Assessment has previously been produced by Lichfields (2025) for the site and a summary of which is provided below:

Little evidence for prehistoric activity has been recorded within the vicinity of the site, although a Bronze Age settlement was recovered near St Chad's in Kirkby and at Brunt Boggart in Tarbock. Iron Age activity is also scarce, with only the partial excavation of a double-ditched enclosure at Brook House Farm in Halewood. Evidence for probable Romano-British farmsteads are recorded to the south of Huyton around Halewood and Tarbock (some 5km to the south of Huyton) and include evidence for the manufacture of tiles.

Huyton is one of Knowsley's earliest settlements, probably dating to the 7th or 8th centuries. St Michael's Church is likely to have Anglo-Saxon origins and may occupy an earlier pagan site, with the original settlement centred around it.

Huyton is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Hitune', later appearing as 'Hutona' and 'Hyton' before becoming 'Huyton' in the 18th century.

During the medieval period, Huyton was likely surrounded by a common open field system, expanded between the 12th and 14th centuries as the population grew.

St Michael's Church was substantially rebuilt in 1647, with later 17th- and 19th-century alterations. The Liverpool–Warrington Turnpike, opened from 1726, brought improved connections through routes including Blue Bell Lane and Huyton Lane, while the church's enlargement in 1810 suggests continued local prosperity.

A village green was created around 1819 when Vicar Ellis Ashton erected a cross to prevent bullbaiting and cockfighting opposite the church. The green was formalised in 1897 with a sandstone wall, railings and a replica cross.

Huyton remained largely agricultural until the Liverpool and Manchester Railway opened in 1830. As one of the first villages with a mainline railway connection, it became attractive to wealthy Liverpool commuters, prompting rapid settlement growth.

The 1850 OS map shows the Site as undeveloped open field, while development had begun around the station and along Derby Road. Early buildings clustered around St Michael's Church and Blue Bell Lane, with the church, vicarage and brewery forming the largest structures in the village.

By 1894, the cricket ground, pavilion and bowling green had been laid out, though surrounding land remained largely agricultural. New terraces had been built on Blue Bell Lane, while larger houses appeared on Stanley Road and Archway Road and planned Victorian suburbs developed near the railway station.

From 1894, Huyton formed part of Huyton-with-Roby Urban District Council. Between 1900 and 1930, development remained limited, although the cricket and bowling club grounds expanded westwards and small additional structures appeared on the site by 1907.

Major change followed in the 1930s, when farmland owned by the Earls of Derby was sold for new housing estates. During WWII, unoccupied houses in the Blue Bell and Woolfall Heath estates were used as internment camps, including the 'Woolfall Camp', nicknamed 'Huyton University' because of its educated internees. The camps operated from 1940 to 1948 before the houses reverted to local authority use.

A March 1946 aerial photograph shows the start of large-scale residential development north of the Site, including the laying out of Adswood Road and surrounding streets..

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 12no. 30m x 1.8m trenches (with a contingency for additional trenching if requested by MEAS) 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 August 2026. 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.

Digital photography (using a DSLR camera with 24mp sensors, capturing both) will form an integral part of the recording strategy, with photographs incorporating scales, an identification board and directional arrow, where appropriate. 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

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, 2025, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London: HMSO

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

