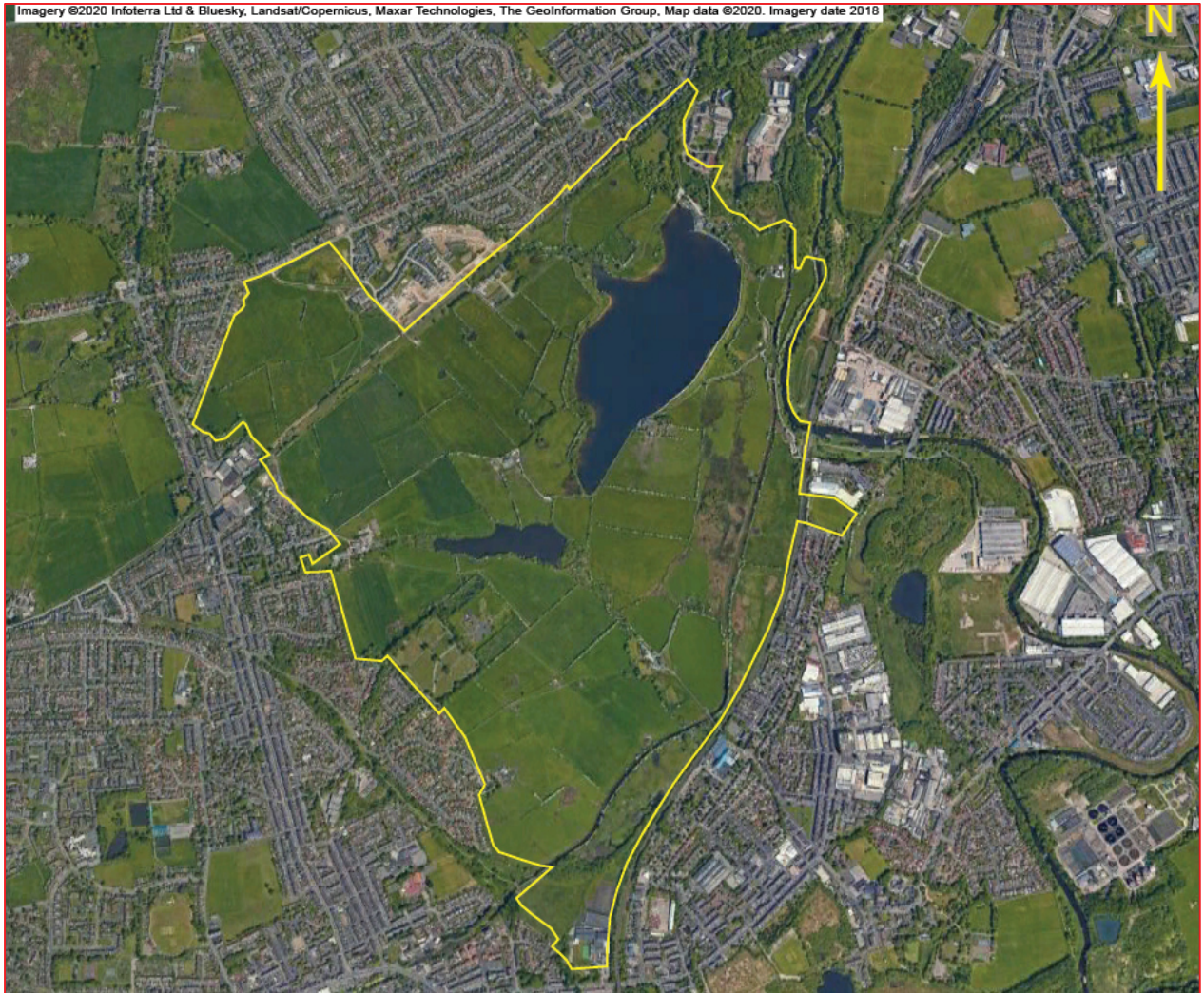


# Elton Parkland Bury Council Allocation GMA7



## Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological and Historic Landscape Character Assessment

*Document Number: 3475.R01b*

*August 2020*

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**Report Prepared for:**

**Turley Associates  
1 New York Street  
Manchester  
M1 4HD**

**Thursby House  
1 Thursby Road  
Bromborough  
Wirral  
CH62 3PW**

*www.nexus-heritage.com*

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**Note on Transcriptions of Historic Maps**

Historical mapping, both Ordnance Survey (OS) and individual cartographer's work relies on the accuracy of the data input into it and the projection used to produce a two dimensional image from three dimensional data. Techniques of survey have evolved and improved over the centuries but pre-OS maps are of widely varying quality and their accuracy is limited by the technology used to create them.

Creating an overlay of historic mapping (including first and second edition OS Maps) and modern OS data can never be completely accurate. Creating a good approximation relies on using digital technologies to estimate and extrapolate the projection, orientation and scale of original maps by correlating known points on the modern OS grid with the historic mapping. This georeferencing 'distorts' the historic mapping to fit the modern grid using a set of known points chosen by the cartographer/illustrator.

Modern digitally produced OS mapping has a stated accuracy tolerance. The most detailed mapping at 1:1,250 (urban) will have a relative error of  $\leq \pm 0.5\text{m}$  up to 60m. On the ground that equates to an error between two points which are 60m apart on the ground 95% of the time the scaled measurement would be between 59.1m and 60.9m (paraphrased from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/land-registry-plans-the-basis-of-land-registry-applications/land-registry-plans-the-basis-of-land-registry-plans-practice-guide-40-supplement-1>.)

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## INTRODUCTION

Following on from the issue of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) land allocations, Peel Holdings (the Client), after consultation with Bury Council has requested heritage assessments to feed into the developing masterplan for the Elton Park (GMA7) development parcel.

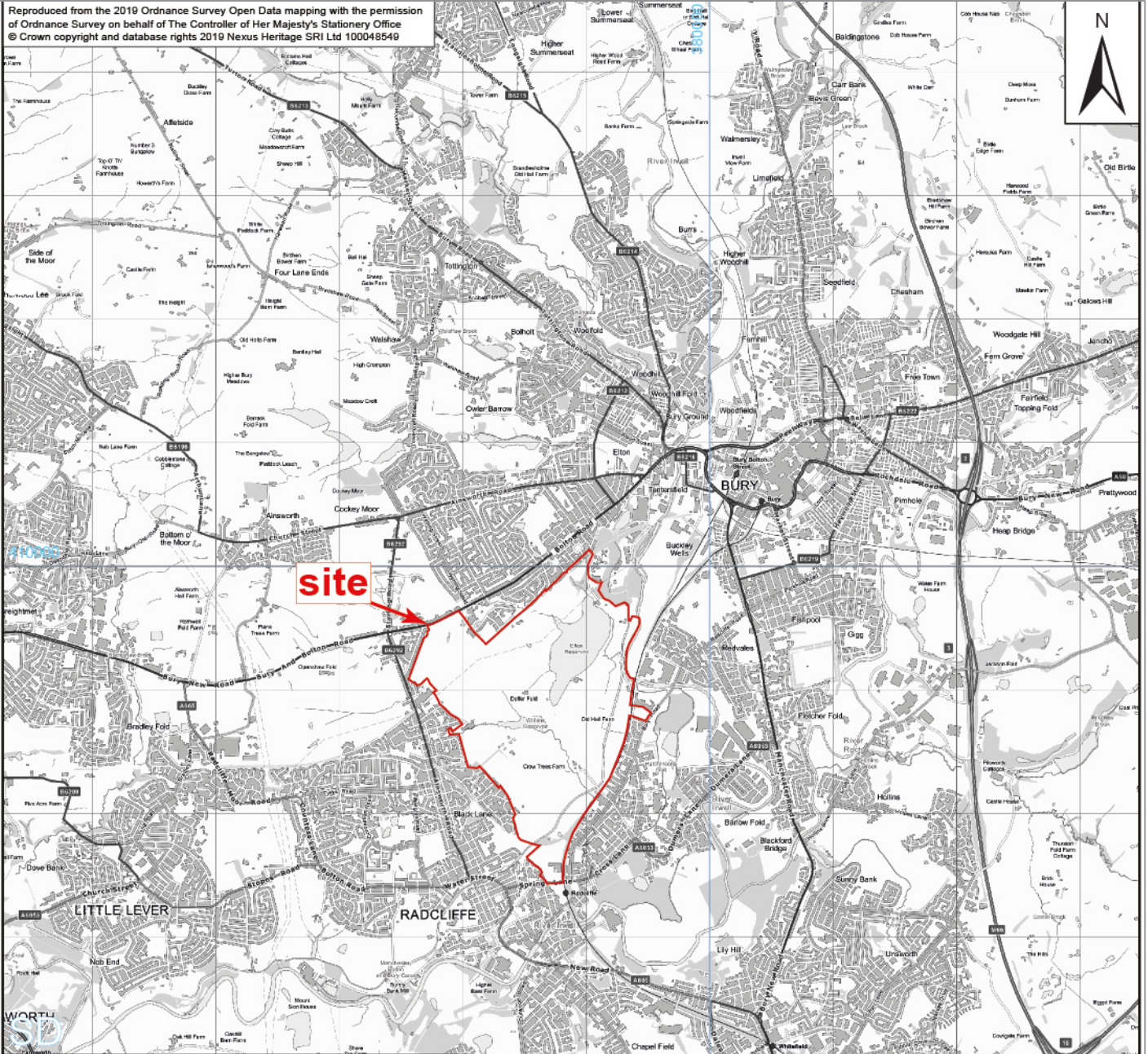
Nexus Heritage has been commissioned to prepare a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological and historic landscape character assessment (hereafter the Assessment). The WSI provides for a programme of data collection, site walk-over survey, reporting and deposition of the final report with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.

Discussions have been held with the Heritage Management Director (Archaeology) Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (hereafter the HMD), to discuss the aims of the assessment, and the methods to be employed, in order to ensure that the assessment meet the expectations of the Bury Council and the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.

This document is offered for consideration to Turley Associates (advisors to Peel Holdings) and the HMD for verification. Any observations on the content of the draft Written Scheme of Investigation made by Turley Associates and/or the HMD will be taken into account during preparation of the final version.

## LOCATION AND SITE INFORMATION

The Elton Reservoir Land Allocation (centred at NGR 378626, 408664) lies to the north of Radcliffe and c.2km south-west of Bury town centre. The Site is 251.7ha in size and is bounded by Bolton Road to the north, Bury road to the east, Ainsworth road to the west and Spring Lane to the south. (Fig. 1).



PROJECT TITLE:  
**Elton Parkland Bury Council Allocation  
 GMA7**

DRAWING TITLE:  
**Site Location**

DATE:  
**17.08.2020**

DRAWN BY:  
**AN**

FIGURE:  
**1**



 Site



<b>FIGURE TITLE:</b> Site Plan			
<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b> Elton Parkland: Bury Council Allocation GMA7			
<b>CLIENT:</b> Peel Holdings			
<b>PROJECT NO:</b> 3475	<b>SCALE:</b> 1:25,000 @A4		
<b>DATE:</b> 17.08.2020	<b>DRAWN BY:</b> AN	<b>FIGURE:</b> 2	<b>ISSUE:</b> 1

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There are no Scheduled Monuments within the site and no designated assets which are primarily archaeological in character. It is understood that the implications arising from the historic built environment (including listed buildings and non-designated extant structures) is being dealt with under separate cover.

A total of 17 sites of archaeological interest have been identified on the site. These sites are either recorded on the Greater Manchester Historic Environment record (GMHER) or are noted in the document Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Historic Environment Assessment Screening Exercise commissioned by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and prepared by the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the University of Salford.

The sites range in date from the prehistoric period though to the post-medieval period.

The archaeological site with the most significance is the late Neolithic hengiform monument and associated features on land between Withins Reservoir and Radcliffe Cemetery. This site has been partially investigated by means of small scale archaeological excavations and geophysical survey. The geophysical survey also identified a ring ditch close to the hengiform monument. The presence of archaeological remains has been confirmed and there is no reason to challenge the identification of the remains as a Neolithic monument. The monument may represent the focus of ritual and communal activities of early farming communities of the Upper Irwell valley. The prehistoric archaeological potential at the site beyond the known site of the hengiform monument is hinted at by the find of a Neolithic adze in 2017 close to the hengiform monument and the underlying sands and gravels which provided favourable ground conditions for prehistoric settlement and activity.

The course of a Roman road, running from Manchester to Ribchester is confidently predicted to run across the site on the basis of historic mapping and LiDAR data. No other Roman sites or artefacts have been recovered from the immediate area but the Roman road and any Roman period activity present alongside the road, would be a material consideration in the masterplan process and the determination of any planning application.

There is little to suggest the presence of any particular medieval archaeological remains on the site – but any of the sites of the now abandoned post-medieval farmsteads such as Hams Farm may have been established in the medieval period.

The archaeologies of the post-medieval agricultural landscape and Industrial Revolution are also represented at the site – with several abandoned farmsteads, three relict collieries, colliery workers' housing, disused railways, a canal and a brickcroft.

With respect to historic landscape character there are 661 individual historic landscape parcels within the Site and a buffer of 1km around the Site boundary.





## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Nexus Heritage acts as Archaeological Consultant to the Client, and Anthony Martin is identified as a Competent Person.

Nexus Heritage and Aeon Archaeology operate in accordance with:

- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct* (2019 edition).
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (2019 edition)
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (2017 edition).
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2014 edition).
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2020 edition)

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The broad aim is to contribute archaeological and historic landscape information to the spatial planning and allocation consideration by means of positive and constructive data collection and presentation which acknowledges the historic and traditional manner of identifying archaeological sites and historic landscape but moves forward and defines distinct archaeological and historic landscape zones and identifies areas of greater and lesser degree of sensitivity to change. This aim will be addressed by adopting principles of assessment and analysis from the 'characterisation' approach to historic environment assessment. An approach of this kind is useful when assessing large areas of land at a strategic level, and takes the principles of regional Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) and applies and develops them at a more detailed, area or site-specific level.

The aim is to incorporate a detailed, localised characterisation and analysis approach by:

- assessing of the total landscape;
- assessing surviving features to investigate landscape time-depth
- assessing landscape change through history
- assessing the historic origins of the landscape
- identifying archaeological and historic landscape issues;
- identifying constraints on and opportunities for types of development at locations within the allocation.

The specific objectives for the Assessment are:

- to prepare an overview of the development of the land allocation area's known and potential archaeological and historic landscape resource;
- to develop a model for assessing the sensitivity to change of the land allocation's known and potential archaeological and historic landscape resource
- collect the data and collate it in an industry standard GIS framework
- recommend future action

## METHODS

The Assessment would be undertaken within a Digital Data Management Plan environment.

### Digital Data Management Plan

#### Type of study

Historic environment desk-based assessment and characterisation.

#### Types of data

Digital text, digital photographs, vector and raster images, digital spreadsheets.

#### Format and Scale of the Data

Photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIF format for long term archiving and JPEG format for use in the digital report, converted using Adobe Photoshop. All photographs renamed using AF5 freeware with the prefix (project code\_frame number) and a photographic metadata created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or Access (.accdb).

Written descriptions taken in digital .txt format and sent via email to ensure a digital backup copy at time of record.

Plans scanned as .PDF files.

GIS data will be georeferenced using the Ordnance Survey National Grid and saved as ESRI shapefiles which will contain the associated attribute tables including metadata. Attribute tables will also be exported as .CSV files.

#### Methodologies for Data Collection / Generation

Digital data will be collected / generated in line with recommendations made in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives (2014. Rev 2020). Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.3 are relevant:

Project Specifications, Research Designs or similar documents should include a project specific Selection Strategy and a Data Management Plan.

Project designs or schedules of works etc should outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate

#### Data Quality and Standards

Consistency and quality of data collection / generation will be controlled and documented through the use of standardised procedure as outlined in the WSI. This will include the use of standardised data capture file formats, digital proformas, data entry validation, peer review, and use of controlled vocabularies.

#### Managing, Storing and Curating Data

All digital data will be organised into the Nexus Heritage project file systems and backed up to the cloud using Dropbox with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

#### Metadata Standards and Data Documentation

Digital metadata created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or Access (.accdb) of all photographic plates.

For GIS creation, the metadata relating to each spatial feature will be contained in the attribute table. This will include:

- Date of creation
- Date of any edits and modifications
- Ordnance Survey Grid reference



- Extent

### Data Preservation Strategy and Standards

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER); submission of digital (.PDF) reports and a project completion form to the Oasis database; submission of the scanned (.PDF) archive, photographic plates (.TIF), and metadata (.xlsx) (.acddb) to the Archaeology Data Service (ADS); and retention of copies of all digital files at Nexus Heritage on physical external hard drive and uploaded to the cloud.

### Suitability for Sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 6.8) except for where project confidentiality restricts the sharing of data. All data sets will be selected / discriminated by Nexus Heritage and written permission will be sought from all project specific Clients prior to the sharing of data.

### Discovery by Potential Users of the Research Data

Potential users of the generated digital data (outside of the organisation) will be able to source the data and identify whether it could be suitable for their research purposes through access granted via the ADS and Oasis websites. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Nexus Heritage.

### Governance of Access

The decision to supply research data to potential new users will be via the associated website request (ADS, Oasis, HER) or via Nexus Heritage.

### Exclusive use of the data by the Generating Organisation

There is a Nexus Heritage requirement is for timely data sharing, with the understanding that a limited, defined period of exclusive use of data for primary research is reasonable according to the nature and value of the data, and that this restriction on sharing should be based on simple, clear principles. This time period is expected to be six months from completion of the project however Nexus Heritage reserves the right to extend this period without notice if primary data research dictates.

### Restrictions or Delays to Sharing, with Planned Actions to Limit Such Restrictions

Restriction to data sharing may be due to participant confidentiality or consent agreements. Strategies to limit restrictions will include data being anonymised or aggregated; gaining participant consent for data sharing; and gaining copyright permissions. For prospective projects, consent procedures will include provision for data sharing to maximise the value of the data for wider research use, while providing adequate safeguards for participants.

### Regulation of Responsibilities of Users

External users of the data will be bound by data sharing agreements provided by the relevant organisation or directly through Nexus Heritage.

### Responsibilities

Responsibility for project-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be through Nexus Heritage when concerning data generation and early/ mid-term storage. Upon deposition with digital depositories the project-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be the responsibility of the specific organisations themselves.

### Organisational Policies on Data Sharing and Data Security

The following Nexus Heritage policies are relevant:

Nexus Heritage Archive Deposition Policy 2019

Nexus Heritage Quality Assurance Policy 2019

Nexus Heritage Conflict of Interest Policy 2019

Nexus Heritage Outreach Policy 2019

### **Staged Approach**

The assessment would be undertaken as a staged approach.

Stage 1: Data gathering and analysis of historical development

Stage 2: Characterisation of the resource

Stage 3: Analysis of the Sensitivity of the historic environment

Stage 4: Preparation of technical report and GIS

### **Stage 1: Data gathering and analysis of historical development**

This element of work will take into account any existing information in the public domain and also secure data to include:

- Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GMHER) information
- Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) information
- Historic maps;
- LIDAR data
- Archival research, including aerial photograph analysis and place-name research and investigation of any documentary references to the origins of farmstead identified on mid-19<sup>th</sup> century historic mapping
- Tracing the origins of extant hedgerows through examination of historic maps (to be supported by field observations) and testing the hedgerows against the relevant criteria under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations
- Topographical and geological data capture
- Review of previous archaeological investigations
- Review of the Archaeological Research Framework for North West England

Following the initial data gathering, a walk-over survey of the Site would be undertaken. Every effort would be made to access all the land but Nexus Heritage is not able to confirm that complete access will be possible.

The analysis of the data will provide the basis for a wide ranging understanding of the key themes in the development of the historic environment of the Site.

### **Stage 2: Characterisation of the Archaeological and Historic Landscape Character Resource**

The analysis will then include the preparation of a characterisation for the archaeological and historic landscape elements of the historic environment. This analysis will include the presentation of historic character areas as colour coded and numbered polygons with an overlay of the location of heritage assets, important hedgerows and other relevant landscape features. Each spatial feature will be assigned an archaeological sensitivity rating.

The results of the process will be presented in both tabulated gazetteer format and in GIS-generated maps/shapefiles demonstrating a broad understanding of the archaeological and historic landscape dimensions of the historic environment in an accessible and usable/updatable format.

### **Stage 3: Analysis of the Sensitivity to Change of the Archaeological Resource and Historic Landscape Character Resource**

The archaeological and historic landscape elements of the historic environment will be analysed with respect to sensitivity to major physical change.



The relative sensitivity of the archaeological resource will be expressed on a scale ranging from High, medium to low. This sensitivity model used will be based on that developed by Historic England and Chris Blandford Associates for the Thames Gateway large-scale strategic development project, where the sensitivity model for the project assessed "the sensitivity of the fabric, integrity, and historic significance, to major physical change resulting from modern development".

#### **Stage 4: Preparation of technical report and GIS**

The outputs from the Assessment will consist of four key related products: technical reports for archaeology, landscape and built heritage and a headline report summarising each of the three technical reports. The final output will contain a package of GIS maps containing the results of the characterisation analysis. Please note this WSI does not cover the built heritage technical assessment and report. During the development of the consultation report, appropriate consultation will be undertaken with GMAAS and Bury Council.

Each technical report will present the approach and methodologies used in the project and provide the key messages, information, general character, resource and opportunities.

Each technical report would contain:

- Overall summary (key findings for the area), including general character and condition,
- assets and opportunities;
- Summary of archaeological and historic landscape context: to present the area's archaeological and historic landscape context and potential
- Proposals for further work and a timetable for implementation, which may include a combination of the following:
  - Further understanding to define extent, function and relative significance of archaeological remains against criteria for designated status (e.g. archaeological field investigations)
  - Development (e.g. design guides)
  - Interpretation and promotion (e.g. community-led heritage initiatives, e.g. trails)
  - Partnership and liaison with other stakeholders to include identification of opportunities for positive engagement with heritage as per para.185 of NPPF

Sites with known or potential archaeological remains of national significance, where preservation in situ would be the preferred option, will be identified and flagged up as a priority, with recommendations for further, more detailed archaeological assessment.

The main report would be utilised by the Client during formation of its plans in order to address para. 185 of the National Planning Policy Framework:

*Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account:*

- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets, and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*
- b) the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;*
- c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and*
- d) opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.*

The main report will be supplemented by a technical report which will contain the results of the data gathering exercise and will form the evidence base for the main reports and GIS.

The GIS outputs will be provided in Industry Standard Format for circulation to Bury Council and its partners, who will have the option of uploading elements of the GIS data onto the publicly accessible GMSF map.

All outputs would be issued as draft documents/datasets for review by Turley Associates, the Client and GMAAS

## COPYRIGHT

Copyright to any commissioned reports and any other project documents prepared will be retained by the authors under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act of 1988; excepting that an exclusive licence will be provided to the Client, the Council, and the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service for the use of such documents by the Client, the Council, and the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service in all matters directly relating to the project.

The copyright of this document remains with Nexus Heritage, subject to the same exclusive licence.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors will treat as confidential all information obtained directly or indirectly from the Client in connection with the project and will not, without the prior consent of the Client, disclose any information relating to the project or publicise the project in any way.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

All relevant certification regarding Health and Safety will be in place prior to any site works. All relevant health and safety legislation will be complied with including the *Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)*, *Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations (2002)*, *Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations (2015)*, *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)*, *the Work at Height Regulations (2005)*, *the Confined Spaces Regulations (1997)* and *the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (2002)*.

## ARCHIVE

The anticipated recipient organisation for the project archive is to be identified and further information on archive requirements and charges from the anticipated recipient organisation will be determined.

The project will conform to the arrangements for archive preparation and submission prior to commencing the works and provide copies of the relevant correspondence and accession number to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.

The archive will be maintained until the period of report preparation is complete.

The archive is to be prepared, compiled and presented for long term storage according to the format requirements of the recipient organisation and as set out relevant standards including

- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2014 edition).
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014 edition)

Nexus Heritage will be responsible for the security of the project archive. An indexed project archive will be prepared. The project archive will comprise all primary written documents, maps, plans and plots, unprocessed raw data and photographs.

## MONITORING

The Client and the DMA will monitor the assessment. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of the project will be given to the DMA so that arrangements for monitoring can be made.



## RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

The archaeological works will be undertaken by a team of demonstrable competence with corporate/individual Membership of the ClfA.

**Anthony Martin:** a historic environment practitioner with over 30 years' experience in the sector and he is familiar with a wide variety of assessment processes and outputs and comfortable in the historic environment of north-west England. Key projects involving large-scale landscapes include environmental assessment chapters for large scale schemes such as the British Geological Survey's Cheshire Energy Research Field Survey, Ashlawn Road (Rugby), Hugglescote Road (Coalville), Peel Hall (Warrington) and Eccleston Park.

**Aisling Nash:** a historic environment practitioner and illustrator with over 12 years' experience in the sector including 7 years working in and managing the Worcestershire HER. She has extensive experience of HERs and GIS including data collection, enhancement and HER/GIS integration. Key projects involving these skills include '*Data Supply and Reconciliation between the NRHE and Worcestershire & Worcester City HERs*', '*The Assessment, Management and Recording of Heritage Assets in Worcestershire*' and a successful HER audit, all of which were funded by Historic England.

## COMMUNICATION PATHS

Anthony Martin is identified as the responsible individual on behalf of Nexus Heritage.

Any questions or requests for clarification arising from examination of this document are to be submitted in writing to Nexus Heritage.

## COVID-19

Any undertaking adapted during the project to abide by legal or recommended measures to impede the spread of COVID-19 infections will be recorded and acknowledged. If any of the measures taken lead to limitations to the data or outputs based on COVID-19 then recommendations will be made setting out the tasks necessary to address the limitations and complete the assessment

## SOURCES

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