

University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

**Archaeological Desk-
Based Assessment
Report**

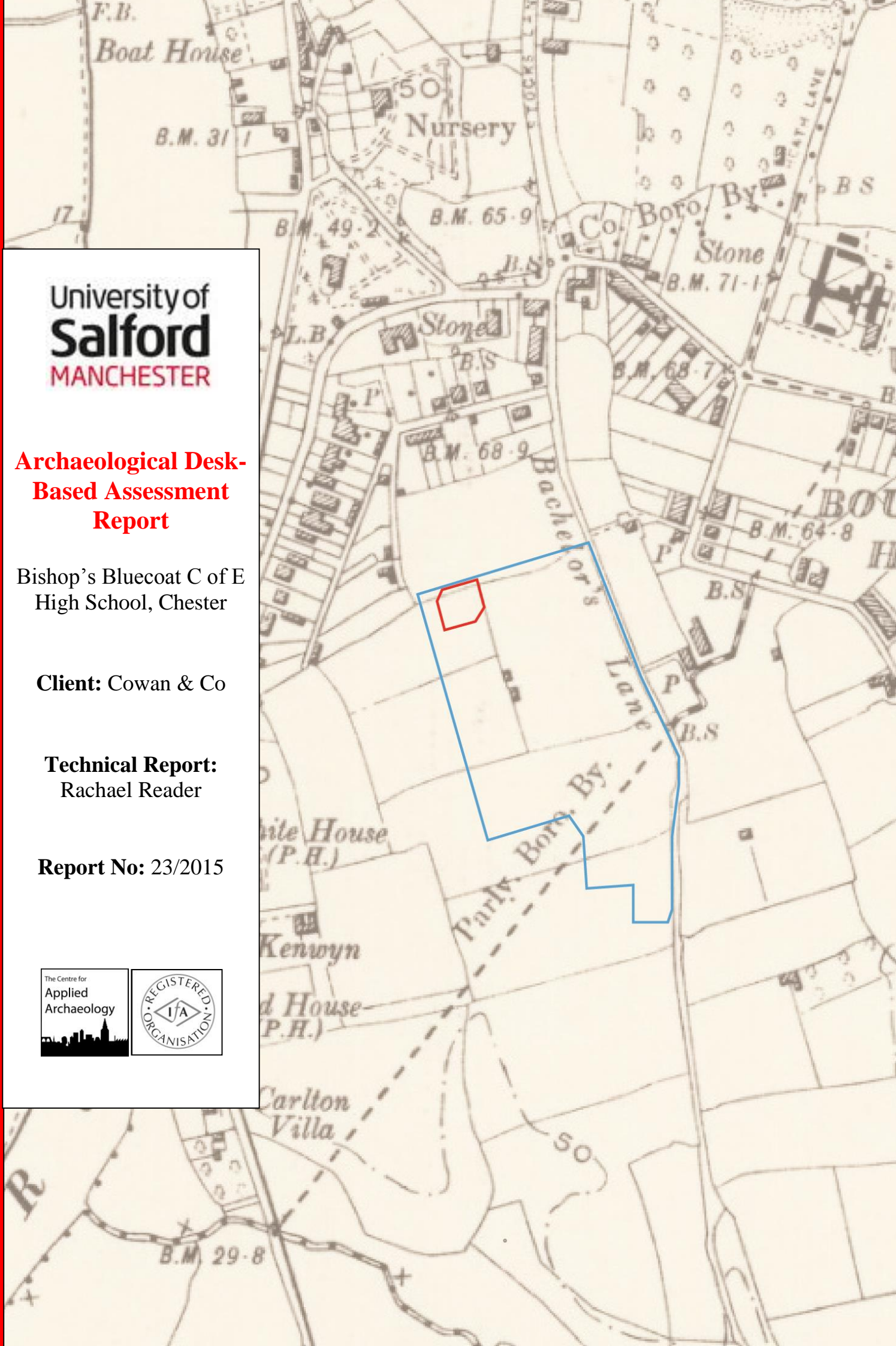
Bishop's Bluecoat C of E
High School, Chester

Client: Cowan & Co

Technical Report:
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Report No: 23/2015

The Centre for
Applied
Archaeology



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NGR: SJ 42198 65576

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Prepared for: David Whiteside, Cowan & Co, Chartered Architects and Chartered Building Surveyors


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Contents

Summary	1
1. Introduction	2
2. Methodology Statement	4
3. The Setting	5
4. Archaeological & Historical Background	6
5. Gazetteer of Sites	10
6. Significance of the Remains	16
7. Impact of the Development	20
8. Recommendations for Mitigation	23
9. Sources	24
10. Archive	26
Appendix 1: Figures	27

Summary

Salford Archaeology (formerly known as the Centre for Applied Archaeology) was commissioned by David Whiteside of Cowan & Co, Chartered Architects, to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment on land at the Bishop's Blue Coat C of E High School, Chester, Cheshire (centred on SJ 42198 65576).

The aim of the archaeological assessment was to identify, as far as possible the nature, extent and significance of the archaeological resource so as to enable any informed recommendations to be made for the future treatment of any surviving remains. This information was required to inform a planning application (14/02953/FUL) to demolish three temporary classrooms and build a new classroom extension.

The desk-based research has found that the school may lie within the boundary of a Roman Cremation Cemetery (**Sites 1 and 2**) and cremations were found during the school's construction (**Site 2**). The area remained rural until the late 20th century with very little development, therefore there is also the potential for remains relating to Medieval agriculture to survive. These remains have been assessed and a programme of mitigation has been proposed.

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

Salford Archaeology (formerly known as the Centre for Applied Archaeology) was commissioned by David Whiteside of Cowan & Co, Chartered Architects, to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment on land located at the Bishop's Blue Coat C of E High School, Chester, Cheshire (centred on SJ 42198 65576). This information was required to inform a planning application (14/02953/FUL) to demolish a series of temporary classrooms and build a new classroom block at the NW edge of the school complex.

The aim of the archaeological assessment was to identify, as far as possible the nature, extent and significance of the archaeological resource so as to enable any informed recommendations to be made for the future treatment of any surviving remains.

1.2 Government and Local Planning Policies

1.2.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The significance of the archaeological resource identified within this report has been assessed as recommended in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Local Communities, March 2012).

NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies and outlines the presumption in favour of sustainable development, which is defined by three principles: economic, social and environmental. Of the twelve core planning principles underpinning plan and decision making, conserving "heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations" is one.

Section 12 specifically deals with the historic environment (paragraphs 126-141) and local planning authorities should consider:

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

Paragraph 128 states that local planning authorities, when determining applications, should require the applicant to describe the significance of any affected heritage assets. This should be sufficient so as to understand the potential impact on their significance and this should be done using the appropriate expertise where necessary.

Paragraph 135 indicates that the effect of the proposal on non-designated heritage assets (designated assets are covered in paragraphs 132-134) should be taken into account. Paragraph 141 requires developers to record and advance understanding of heritage assets to be lost, in a manner appropriate to their importance and impact.

1.2.2 Local Development Framework

NPPF outlines the need for local planning authorities to create local plans and frameworks to implement NPPF at a local level. The Chester Archaeological Plan (Beckley and Campbell 2014) provides the evidence base for the Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) Local Plan and summarises the approach the local authority will take in determining planning applications which may affect heritage assets. In addition to this, there is a research framework specific to the archaeology and heritage of Chester (Beckley and Campbell 2013), as well as character zones within the Chester Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) which defines the archaeology of wider areas of Chester and its surroundings.

Cheshire and Chester West Council are advised on archaeological matters by the development control archaeologist at Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS).

2. Methodology Statement

The assessment considers the potential impact of the development upon any potential heritage assets within the study area and comprises of an archaeological desk-based study and a site inspection. The works followed the IfA standard and guidance for undertaking archaeological desk-based assessments (Institute for Archaeologists, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, 1994, revised 2014)

2.1 Research

The desk-based assessment made use of the following sources:

- Published and unpublished cartographic, documentary and photographic sources.
- The Cheshire Historic Environment Record, held by CAPAS

2.2 Site Inspection

The aim of the site inspection was to relate the findings of the desk-based study to the existing land use of the study area in order to identify any evidence of the structures which formally stood on the site along with the sites potential for surviving below ground remains.

3. The Setting

3.1 Location, Topography and Land use

The city of Chester lies at the western extreme of the Cheshire county boundary with Wales. The study area (centred on SJ 42198 65576) lies approximately 2km SE of the city centre and is on the site of a secondary school. Historically, the area lies within the township of Great Boughton and the parish of Chester St Oswalds.

The study area is located on relatively flat land although the ground gently slopes towards Caldý Brook to the south and the river Dee lies 300m to the west. The site is located at approximately 20m AOD.

The study area appears to lie in Roman and Medieval Chester's rural fringe and is undeveloped until the school was built in the late 20th century.

3.2 Geology

The underlying bedrock of the study area, as mapped by the British Geological Survey, is described as 'Chester Pebble Beds Formation, comprising of sandstone and pebbles. The overlying drift geology is described as Till' (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

3.3 Designations

There are no designations within the development area considered to be of national importance, although there two listed buildings with the wider study area: Walmoor House (**Site 6**; NHL No': 1375760) and Beauford Lodge (**Site 7**; NHL No': 1375759) which are Grade II* and II listed respectively. The study area however does fall within the Chester Urban Archaeological Database area, which was a project designed to enhance the current HER and address specific research question with regards to the Chester area. The site lies within Character Zone 81 – Caldý Valley Road, which is described as an area of rural landscapes, replaced by expanding settlement from the Victorian times onwards. The Dee Banks (Chester) Conservation area also lies to the NW (Designation Number: DCH1466).

3.4 Previous Archaeological Works

A watching brief by Grosvenor Museum during the 1970s was conducted during the school's construction and found the remains of Roman cremations and associated finds (**Site 2**). All the finds were recovered from a service trench excavated for a main drain.

4. Archaeological & Historical Background

This section of the report is based on cartographic (**Figures 3 to 7**) and documentary research in addition to the information laid out in CAPAS documents: Chester Archaeological Research Framework (2013) and the Chester Archaeological Plan (2014).

4.1 Prehistoric Period (c. 250,000-8000BC)

Evidence for prehistoric activity is generally limited and none is recorded within the study area, with virtually no evidence for Palaeolithic activity in Cheshire. The body of evidence for the Mesolithic period (8000-4000 BC) is growing but activity is generally dispersed across Cheshire although palaeo-environmental evidence clearly suggests that the landscape was being exploited at this time (Leah *et al* 1997). Neolithic (4000-2500BC) finds are recorded within the city but examples of structures and burial monuments are recorded from the wider Cheshire area. Again, Bronze Age (2500-700BC) activity is limited to scattered artefacts within the city and Iron Age activity (700BC – AD42) although limited, has been seen in some areas of the city. For example, settlement activity has been recorded at the amphitheatre and pottery has been recovered from Handbridge, just over 1km W of the study area.

With so little evidence for prehistoric activity, the potential is considered low for the study area however as the area has not been intensely developed there is scope for evidence to be discovered.

4.2 Roman Period

The centre of *Deva* fortress lies 2km NW of the current study area and was established in 74AD and probably abandoned by 410AD. The sequence and development is generally well understood and there are both upstanding and below ground archaeological remains of the Roman fort. The stone-faced rampart, dating to 100AD survives in parts of the city wall and parts of the principia and amphitheatre can still be seen today.

Contemporary, civilian, settlement (*Canabae Legionis*) has also been identified on the outskirts of the city particularly along Watling Street (south) and Foregate Street (east). Other activity identified within and outwith the city includes agricultural activity, Roman roads, industrial activity and cemeteries. A Roman cemetery has been identified along the east-running Watling Street as well as stretching southwards running parallel with the River Dee.

There is the potential for Roman activity within the study area, as the Roman road network extended into this area although it was beyond the civilian settlement area. However Roman cremation urns have been found in a wide area, including from Stocks Lane, just to the north of the study area (CHER 8006) and there is the potential for the cemetery to extend into the study area. These remains could be of regional significance and has the potential to address Theme 24 in the archaeological research framework

4.3 Saxon and Medieval

The Saxon period (400 – 1066AD) is poorly understood generally across the county and much of the evidence can only be implied from placenames and church dedications. There is limited evidence within Chester for occupation evidence, from around the 7th century and settlement is thought to have concentrated around St. John's Church, SE of the Roman fort. A burh was established in 907 AD in response to a threat from Hiberno-Norse settlements in the Wirral and archaeological evidence for this period is better attested. By the late 9th century AD, Chester had become an important administrative, trading and military centre (Higham 1993) as well as a port.

The city developed in the Medieval period (1066 – c.1550) into the largest and most prosperous city in the north-west (Carrington 1994, 6). A castle was established in the south-west corner of Chester and the Saxon Minster was refounded as a Benedictine abbey in 1092. There are a number of upstanding buildings dating to this period and the period is well documented archaeologically. However the city generally developed in the same area as the Roman settlement, therefore the study area still remained undeveloped at this time.

The potential for Medieval activity within the study area is considered to be low although the UAD assessment identified the potential for below ground remains relating to Medieval agricultural activity at a relatively shallow depth. These remains could have the potential to address Themes 60.4 and 60.5 in the archaeological research framework

4.4 Post Medieval

By 1750, Chester had lost its status as other towns and cities prospered although cathedral status had by this time transferred to St Werbergh's Abbey from St John's. Chester was a Royalist stronghold during the Civil War and this necessitated the building of defensive and artillery earthworks surrounding the city. The town suburbs began to take shape and major infrastructure changes during the 18th century prepared Chester for the Industrial Revolution.

The study area still remained undeveloped and was located historically within the township of Great Boughton. The origins of this village are fairly obscure although it was described in Kelly's 1889 Directory as an area of cultivated market gardens.

Boughton Hall, 0.5km N of the study area, was in existence by the 17th century and was supposedly rebuilt after being burnt down during the Civil War (Chester Characterisation Study). It appears that Boughton was settled during the Medieval period and was home to the Leper Hospital and villages which developed to the east, including Great Boughton, remained predominantly rural.

The potential for Post-Medieval activity is considered to be low although the UAD assessment identified the potential for below ground remains relating to Post-Medieval agriculture. These have the potential to address Themes 94.2 and 95.1 in the archaeological research framework.

4.5 19th Century

Chester's canal network developed in 1779, with the Shropshire Union Canal running E-W approximately 1.5km to the N of the study area, and factories were established in locations around the city. Prior to this, Chester's suburbs developed slowly and it was only after 1840 that most of the development occurred around the study area. The railway came to Chester in 1840, with the Chester-Birkenhead and Chester-Crewe lines joining at Chester station.

The first mapping evidence for this area dates to 1849 and is the tithe apportionment map showing enclosed fields and a small pond, belonging to the Minor Canons of Chester Cathedral and Joseph Sparks, within the study area. The northern fields were known as Near and Far Green Fields and the southern field was known as Water Reans, the former occupied by Thomas Vaughan and the latter by George Taylor. Thomas Vaughan is also traceable in the 1851 census, also living near Boughton Hall and was a farmer of 5 acres. George Taylor is listed in the 1851 census, living in Great Boughton near Boughton Hall and described as a farmer of 5 acres. He is also listed living with a brother who was also described as a market gardener of 20 acres, confirming Kelly's observations. Thomas Vaughan is also traceable in the 1851 census, also living near Boughton Hall and was a farmer of 5 acres. The parliamentary boundary for Chester ran through the area of the school although is a later creation as it ran at an angle to the field boundaries and does not seem to indicate that it had earlier origins.

The general area still remained predominantly rural, although a small number of villa and large houses were constructed between the study area and the river Dee, now Dee Banks Conservation area, on an elevation overlooking the river and towards the city.

4.6 20th Century

The wider area still remained relatively undeveloped until the mid-20th century when the area was developed for residential housing.

By the early twentieth century, three small structures are shown towards the southern part of the study area although there is no indication as to what they were. By 1960, a

track is shown leading up to them. In the 1980s, these were demolished and Bishop's Bluecoat school was built.

5. Gazetteer of Sites

The following gazetteer provides a summary of the sites identified within the study area. For their location please see (Figure 7).

Site Number: 1

Site Name: Boughton Roman Cemetery

HER Number: 8006

NGR: Centred on SJ 4228 6609

Site Type: Burial

There is evidence for several cremations as well as possible associated grave goods from this area. At least six cremations have been discovered at the former Cherry Orchard sand extraction pit although these were mostly 19th century chance finds. A second concentration focuses around Stocks Lane where up to seven cremations have been found, three of which have been dated to the late first to mid second century AD. Isolated examples from Batchelor's Lane and Whitchurch road suggests that the cemetery could extend for at least half a mile.

Site Number: 2

Site Name: Batchelor's Lane Roman Cremation

HER Number: 8006/4; ECH 2509

NGR: SJ 4222 6568

Site Type: Burial

Roman pottery and a cremation were found during construction for a new school, probably Bishop's Bluecoat, in 1975. Most of the pottery sherds were not recovered from *in situ* however the cremation was found at 1.20m below the ground surface. The pottery was dated to the mid first to late second century AD. It is likely to be part of a larger Roman cemetery identified from other chance finds in the area (Site 1).

Site Number: 3

Site Name: Chester to Aldford Roman Road

HER Number: 8019/1/0

NGR: Centred on SJ 4228 6570

Site Type: Communications

It has been proposed that the Roman road system running east from Chester divided into three directions at Boughton; towards Manchester, Chesterton and Aldford, with the latter identified running south just to the east of the School. This is thought to have been a minor road (Watkin 1886, 31).

Site Number: 4



Site Name: Tarvin Union Workhouse

HER Number: 11195

NGR: SJ 4243 6590

Site Type: Institution

This workhouse opened in 1857 and comprised of an E shaped plan with a long front range parallel to the road and three narrow ranges extending from the rear of the front range and forming two yards. There were also a number of ancillary buildings. By the 1940s it was used as a care home for the elderly although this did not last long as the building was demolished during the latter part of the 20th century. The site is now modern housing

Site Number: 5

Site Name: The Meadows Ridge and Furrow

HER Number: 11213

NGR: Centred on SJ 4163 6575

Site Type: Agricultural

Evidence from aerial photography shows ridge and furrow surviving in the SE part of the Meadows, possibly dating to the early Medieval period (Chester Archaeology 1993).

Site Number: 6

Site Name: Walmoor House

HER Number: 11178; DCH 6489; ECH 5468

National Heritage List Number: 1375760

NGR: SJ 4205 6592

Site Type: Residential

This was a private residential home built for the well-known local architect John Douglas in 1896 and is a sandstone building, built in the Elizabethan style. It was used as a girl's school in the early 20th century and became the County Fire Service headquarters until 1997. It is a Grade II* listed building, first designated in 1972.

Site Number: 7

Site Name: Beauford Lodge

HER Number: 11180; DCH 6488

National Heritage List Number: 1375759

NGR: SJ 4204 6577

Site Type: Residential

This consists of two semi-detached houses, designed by John Douglas who lived in one of them until Walmoor House was constructed (**Site 6**). They are still in residential use and are Grade II listed, first designated in 1972.



Site Number: 8

Site Name: Roman coin from the Dee

HER Number: 8600/24; ECH 4911

NGR: SJ 4191 6598

Site Type: Find Spot

A denarius of Octavian (44-27BC) was recovered from the crook of the Dee at the Meadows in 1980.

Site Number: 9

Site Name: Roman coin from Dee Banks

HER Number: 8017/10; ECH 4911

NGR: SJ 4206 6587

Site Type: Find Spot

A Roman coin bearing the head of Emperor Valerian (253-260AD) was found in a private garden at Dee Banks in 1961.

Site Number: 10

Site Name: Administrative Boundary

HER Number: 11393

NGR: Centred on SJ 4000 6589

Site Type: Communications

The historic administrative boundary for the Chester parish was first explicitly defined in 1354, however it is likely to have earlier origins (Lewis and Thacker 2003). The Ordnance Survey map of 1880 records this boundary as well as the boundary stones.

Site Number: 11

Site Name: Bottoms Lane, Handbridge

HER Number: 11381

NGR: Centred on SJ 4133 6562

Site Type: Communications

Historic routeway which has been recorded under various names since the sixteenth century and therefore has possible earlier Medieval origins. It once served as the boundary between two parishes: St Bridget's and St Mary's on the Hill (Dodgson 1981, 48). Part of it now forms Meadows Lane however it originally ran eastwards to the bank of the river and past (to the north) what appears to be Medieval strip fields preserved in the field boundaries of the late 19th century, indicating its early origins.

Site Number: 12

Site Name: Sandy Lane



HER Number: 11395
NGR: Centred on SJ 4198 6577
Site Type: Communications

Historic routeway which is first mentioned in the 14th century and has been used as part of the boundary of the city of Chester (Dodgson 1981, 124). Its modern course runs along the eastern bank of the Dee and south into Saughton.

Site Number: 13
Site Name: Green Lane, Boughton Heath
HER Number: 11384
NGR: Centred on SJ 4235 6547
Site Type: Communications

Historic routeway leading east from Boughton Heath. It is marked on Bryant's 1831 map although not labelled and appears to be the same one marked as Becket's Lane on the 1874 Ordnance Survey. It is shown running in a south-easterly direction to the south of the workhouse (**Site 4**).

Site Number: 14
Site Name: Boughton Roman Vessel
HER Number: 8017/5; ECH 4911
NGR: SJ 4200 6600
Site Type: Find Spot

A Roman 'water bottle' was discovered and donated to Grosvenor Museum in 1910, therefore its exact provenance is unknown. It is thought to date to the late second – early third century AD.

Site Number: 15
Site Name: Boughton Roman Amphora Stoppers
HER Number: 8017/6; ECH 4911
NGR: SJ 4193 6567
Site Type: Find Spot

Two amphora stoppers were found in a garden close to the river bank and were donated to Grosvenor museum in the early 1980s. No date is given but they are possibly Spanish in origin.

Site Number: 16
Site Name: Stocks Lane Roman Cremation
HER Number: 8006/5; ECH 2518
NGR: SJ 4224 6610
Site Type: Burial



An intact Roman cremation was found at 21 Stocks Lane in 1982, within a pit measuring around 0.80m deep. The cremation was contained within a grey pyriform jar, dating to 80-120 AD and probably contained the remains of an adult.

Site Number: 17

Site Name: Boughton Trajanic Coin

HER Number: 8017/7; ECH 4911

NGR: SJ 4200 6600

Site Type: Find Spot

An aureus (gold coin) of Trajan (98-117 AD) was found in the Boughton area in 1830 (Watkin 1886, 239).

Site Number: 18

Site Name: Stocks Lane Roman Cremations

HER Number: 8006/3; ECH2451; ECH2454

NGR: SJ 4220 6607

Site Type: Burial

A complete Flavian Trajanic cremation urn accompanied with a lachrymatory was found during the late 19th century on the east side of Stocks Lane (Newstead 1899). Work close to this site in 1900 revealed a second cremation urn as well as the fragments of four more (Newstead 1902).

Site Number: 19

Site Name: Walmoor House Well

HER Number: DCH6490

National Heritage List Number: 1375761

NGR: SJ 4204 6588

Site Type: Residential

This is located within the garden of Walmoor House (**Site 6**) and was built at the same time as the house in 1897. It is Grade II listed, having first being designated in 1998.

6. Significance of the Remains

6.1 The Policy Context of Heritage Assets

The archaeological resource of an area can encompass a range of assets, including belowground remains, earthworks, and standing buildings and other structures. Some of these remains may have statutory protection, as Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings. Others do not but may nevertheless be of archaeological significance. Under both national and local planning policy, as outlined below, both statutory and non-statutory remains are to be considered within the planning process.

The *NPPF* (Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, March 2010) sets out the Secretary of State's policy on planning and includes a section on the conservation of the historic environment (including historic, archaeological, architectural and artistic heritage assets, *NPPF* paras 126-141), and its wider economic, environmental and social benefits. *NPPF* emphasises the significance of an individual heritage asset within the historic environment and the value that it holds for this and future generations in order to minimise or avoid conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the planning proposals. *NPPF* draws a distinction between designated heritage assets of national importance and heritage assets that are not designated but which are of heritage interest and are thus of a material planning consideration (paras 134 and 135). In the case of the former, the presumption should be in favour of conservation; in the case of the latter, where this is warranted by its significance, the developer is required to record and understand the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost, in a way that is proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance, by the use of survey, photography, excavation or other methods.

NPPF states that non-designated assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments should be considered in the same manner as designated sites (*NPPF* para 139). Regarding this policy a lack of formal designation does not itself indicate a lower level of significance; in this instance the lack of designation reflects that the site was previously unknown and therefore never considered for formal designation. Wherever possible, development should be located and designed so as to avoid damage to archaeological remains, ensuring that they are preserved in situ. Where this is not possible, or appropriate, the developer will be required to make suitable provision to ensure that the archaeological information is not lost, and in many cases to secure the preservation of the remains.

6.2 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

The most commonly accepted methodology for assessing archaeological significance is the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments, outlined in Annex 1 of *Scheduled Monuments: identifying, protecting, conserving and investigating nationally important archaeological sites under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* (DCMS March 2010). These criteria have all been utilised in this assessment and are listed below:

- Period
- Rarity
- Documentation
- Group Value
- Survival/Condition
- Fragility/Vulnerability
- Diversity
- Potential

6.3 Baseline Significance Conditions for the Bishop's Bluecoat School Study Area.

Period

The study area contains late 20th century buildings and prior to this, was undeveloped agricultural land farmed during the post-medieval period and probably earlier. There is the possibility that a Roman cremation cemetery could have extended into the study area although previously discovered cremations are scattered and its true extent is unknown.

Rarity

The remains relating to the possible Roman cremations and the road network can be considered to be of regional rarity. The extent of the cemetery has never been established and the cremations have been discovered through chance finds rather than modern archaeological excavation. Therefore any more information to help establish the nature, date and extent of the Roman cremation cemetery could help us understand the nature of occupation around Chester further and address Theme 24 of the research framework.

The remains relating to possible Medieval and Post-Medieval agricultural activity can be considered to be of local rarity. Any remains could help establish land use patterns in this area and help to understand the development of the city and its relationship with its hinterland. This can help address Themes 60.4, 60.5, 94.2 and 95.1.

Documentation

The landscape history of the site has been recovered from the historic map base, the use of archival material such as the census returns and trade directories, local historical sources and previous archaeological study. More detail could undoubtedly be learned about the development and use of the site through the examination of further documentary sources, but these are unlikely to alter significantly the archaeological and historical importance of the sites identified in this report.

Group Value

Although no remains are definitely known from the study area, there is the potential for possible Roman cremations to have a high group value. The remains of the possible cemetery (**Sites 1 and 2**) represents a group of remains relating to the early development of Chester and the use of the area outside the city walls for burial purposes.

Survival / Condition

The extent and survival of below ground archaeological remains within the study area is presently unknown. Previous chance finds around the study area of Roman cremations shows that the site has the potential to yield below ground remains relating to a possible Roman cremation cemetery. Mapping shows that the area was predominantly rural until the mid-1800s and that the study area was not developed until late 20th century. There is also the potential for below ground remains relating to agricultural activity, such as relict field boundaries or buried ploughsoil. Although subsequent development of the school will have negatively impacted on these remains, there is still a chance for archaeology to survive.

Fragility/Vulnerability

See below section 7.1 Identification and the Evaluation of Key Impacts'

Diversity

The diversity of the below-ground remains within the study area is presently unknown. However cartographic and previous archaeological investigations suggest that any below ground remains would most probably date to 1st and 4th century AD activity associated with the possible Roman cemetery (**Sites 1 and 2**) and post Roman agricultural activity.

Potential

Outside of the heritage assets identified within Chapter 5 of this report the study area does have the potential to yield below ground archaeological remains dating to the Roman Period. Although the area lies 2km away from the Roman fort centre, the City archaeological assessments shows that there was possibly a cemetery lying along Watling Street and another possible road leading SE. Previous chance finds of Roman cremations close to the study area shows that it does have the potential to lie within the extent of the cemetery, which has to date not been fully established.

6.4 Significance

On the available evidence there are no remains within the study area which are considered to be a heritage asset of national significance.

The study area has the potential to contain remains of Roman and post Roman periods, which could be considered of regional and local significance respectively.

7. Impact of Development

7.1 The Identification and Evaluation of the Key Impacts on the Archaeology

There are no nationally recognized standard criteria for assessing the significance of the impact of development on archaeological remains. However, the following criteria have been adopted from *the Highways Agency's Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2, Annex 5, August 2007*. Although designed for use in transport schemes, these criteria are appropriate for use in other environmental impact assessments.

The value of known and potential archaeological remains that may be affected by the proposed development has been ranked using the following scale: Very High, High, Medium, Low, and Negligible:

- **Very High** includes World Heritage Sites and archaeological remains of international importance.
- **High** includes Scheduled Ancient Monuments and undesignated archaeological remains of national importance.
- **Medium** includes undesignated archaeological remains of regional importance.
- **Low** includes undesignated archaeological remains of local importance.
- **Negligible** includes archaeological remains of little or no significance.
- **Unknown** applies to archaeological remains whose importance has not been ascertained.

The Bishop's Bluecoat School study area contains archaeological remains of potentially Medium significance and Low significance.

Impacts on archaeological remains can be adverse or beneficial, direct or indirect, temporary or permanent. The magnitude of sensitivity for the study area has been assessed using the following scale:

- **Major** involves change to archaeological remains or their setting such that the resource is totally altered.

- **Moderate** involves change to archaeological remains or their setting such that the resource is significantly modified.
- **Minor** involves change to archaeological remains or their setting such that the resource is slightly altered.
- **Negligible** involves very minor change to archaeological remains or their setting such that the resource is hardly affected.
- **No Change** involves no change to archaeological remains or their setting. Assessment of the magnitude of the impacts has been ranked using the following scale:

Assessment of the magnitude of the impacts has been ranked using the following scale:

- **Very Large**
- **Large**
- **Moderate**
- **Slight and**
- **Neutral**

This assessment combines the value of the archaeological resource and the magnitude of impact, as shown in the table below:

Table 7.1: Significance of Impact Matrix

Value of Remains	Magnitude of Change				
	No Change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
Very High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate/ Large	Large/ Very Large	Very Large
High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate/ Slight	Moderate/ Large	Large/ Very Large
Medium	Neutral	Neutral/ Slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate/ Large
Low	Neutral	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Slight	Moderate/ Slight
Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Slight

The assessment of the study area is needed to inform a planning application to replace temporary classrooms at the NW corner of the school and replace them with a new classroom block. This will involve the removal of the temporary classrooms, grubbing out the foundations and excavation of the new foundations to a depth of 0.40m. The site of one of the three classrooms will also be landscaped.

In light of the proposed works and associated landscaping it is probable that the redevelopment of the temporary classrooms at Bishop’s Bluecoat school could result in the removal and destruction of below ground archaeological remains discussed within Chapters 5 & 6.

The magnitude of impact to this site is moderate, affecting the archaeological remains directly either through damage or removal – the development fundamentally altering their present character. The significance of the impact is shown in Table 7.2 below.

Table 7.2: Impact Matrix for the archaeological remains at the Bluecoat Bishop’s High School

Site Number	Value	Magnitude of Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change
1: Possible Roman Cremation Cemetery (below ground remains)	Medium (Regional)	Moderate	Moderate

8. Recommendations for Mitigation

8.1 Heritage Assets

Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified by a development, the developer should be required to record that asset and advance understanding of its significance, and to make this evidence publicly accessible (NPPF para 141).

None of the known and possible heritage assets identified within the application site are considered to be of national importance. However, there are known and potential heritage assets of lesser archaeological significance which merit preservation by record, should they be directly affected by development.

8.2 Mitigation Measures

The impact of development can be seen to be moderate on **Site 1**. Thus, any redevelopment occurring within the study area would involve the loss and disturbance of some of the below-ground archaeological remains identified within this report. Where appropriate because of their significance, mitigation will need to be undertaken through an archaeological record (NPPF 2012, paras 141). The construction programme will involve the grubbing out of current foundations and digging for new ones to a depth of 0.40m. As find spots have been relatively isolated and the proposed foundations do not intend to go 0.40m below the current ground surface, a watching brief is recommended during the excavation of the foundations and service trenches.

All archaeological works will require a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to be produced in consultation with CAPAS and should be concluded at the earliest possible opportunity.

8.2 Residual Effects

As a consequence of the proposed mitigation measures, following development, there will be no significant residual impact on the archaeological resource.

9. Sources

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1871 Ordnance Survey Map 6 inch to 1 mile. Cheshire Sheet 38.SE

1899 Ordnance Survey Map 6 inch to 1 mile. Cheshire Sheet 38.SE

1913 Ordnance Survey Map 6 inch to 1 mile. Cheshire Sheet 38.SE

1945 Ordnance Survey Map 6 inch to 1 mile. Cheshire Sheet 38.SE

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Chester Urban Archaeological Database Project:
http://www.cheshirearchaeology.org.uk/?page_id=156 (accessed 11.11.2015)

Cheshire Tithe Maps:
<http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/> (accessed 12.11.2015)

10. Archive

The archive comprises a historical map regression and historical research notes. This archive is currently held by the Centre for Applied Archaeology and a copy of this report will be forwarded to Cowan & Co.

A copy of this report will be deposited with the Cheshire Historic Environment Record, held by the Cheshire Archaeology Planning Advisory Service.

Appendix 1: Figures

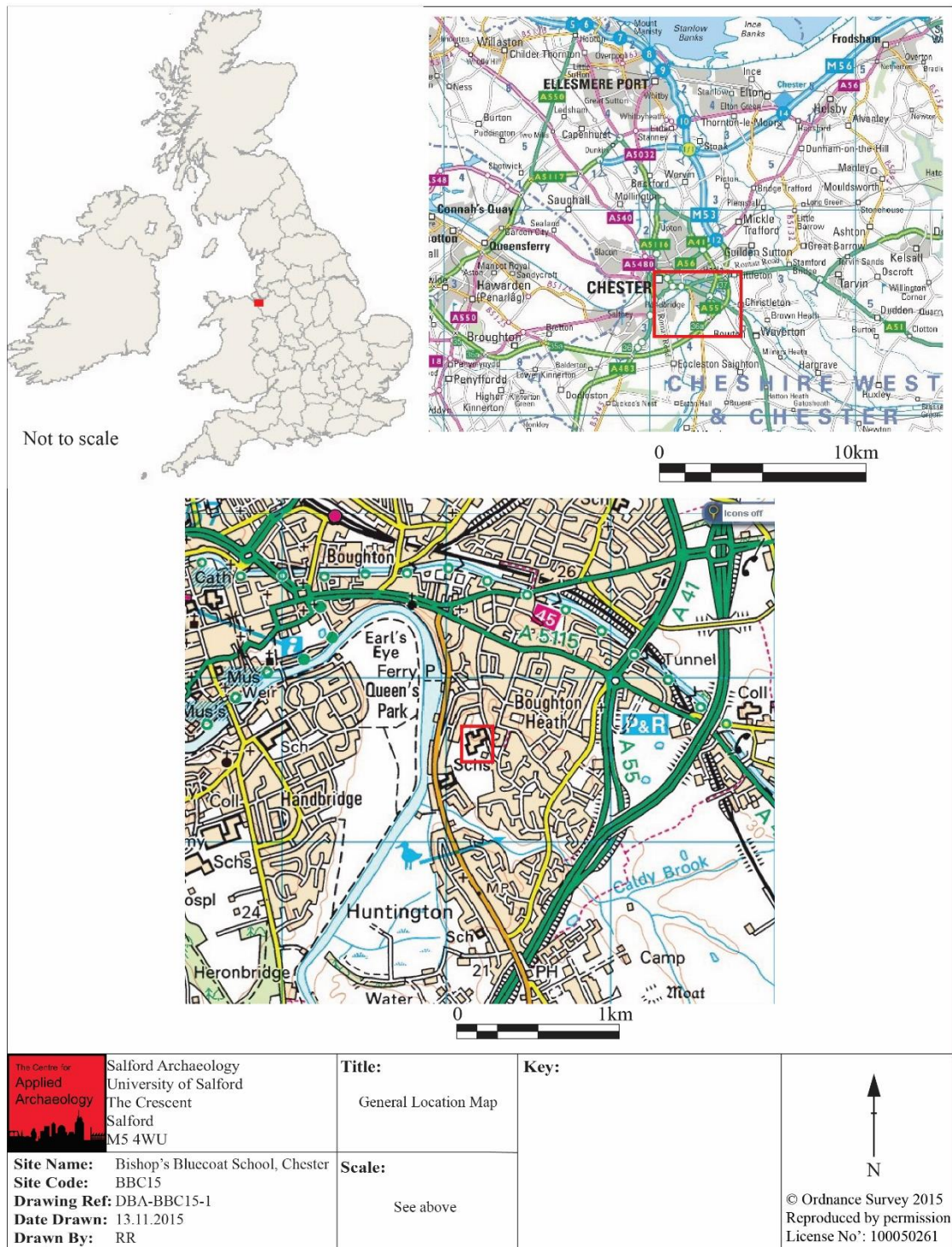


Figure 1: Location map

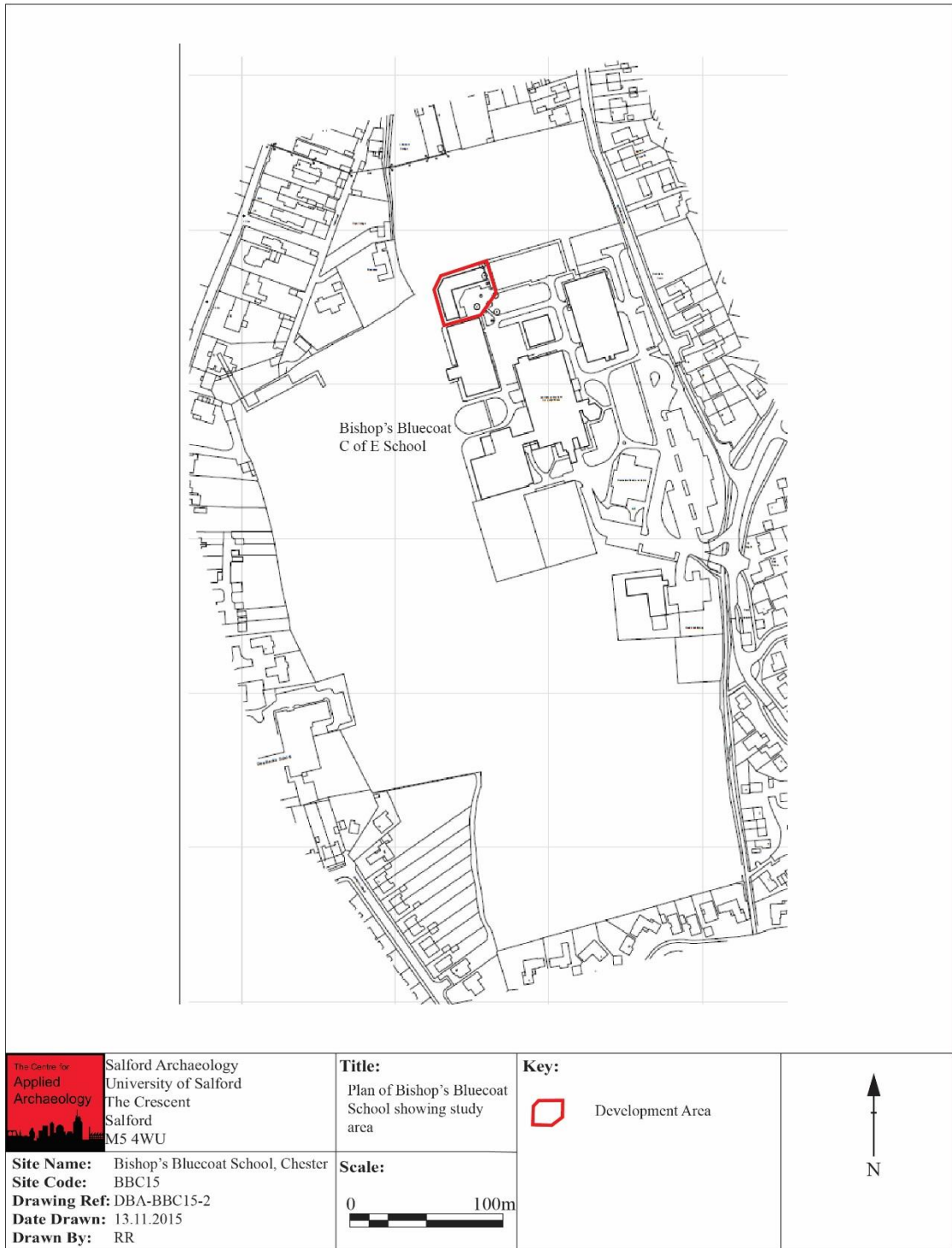
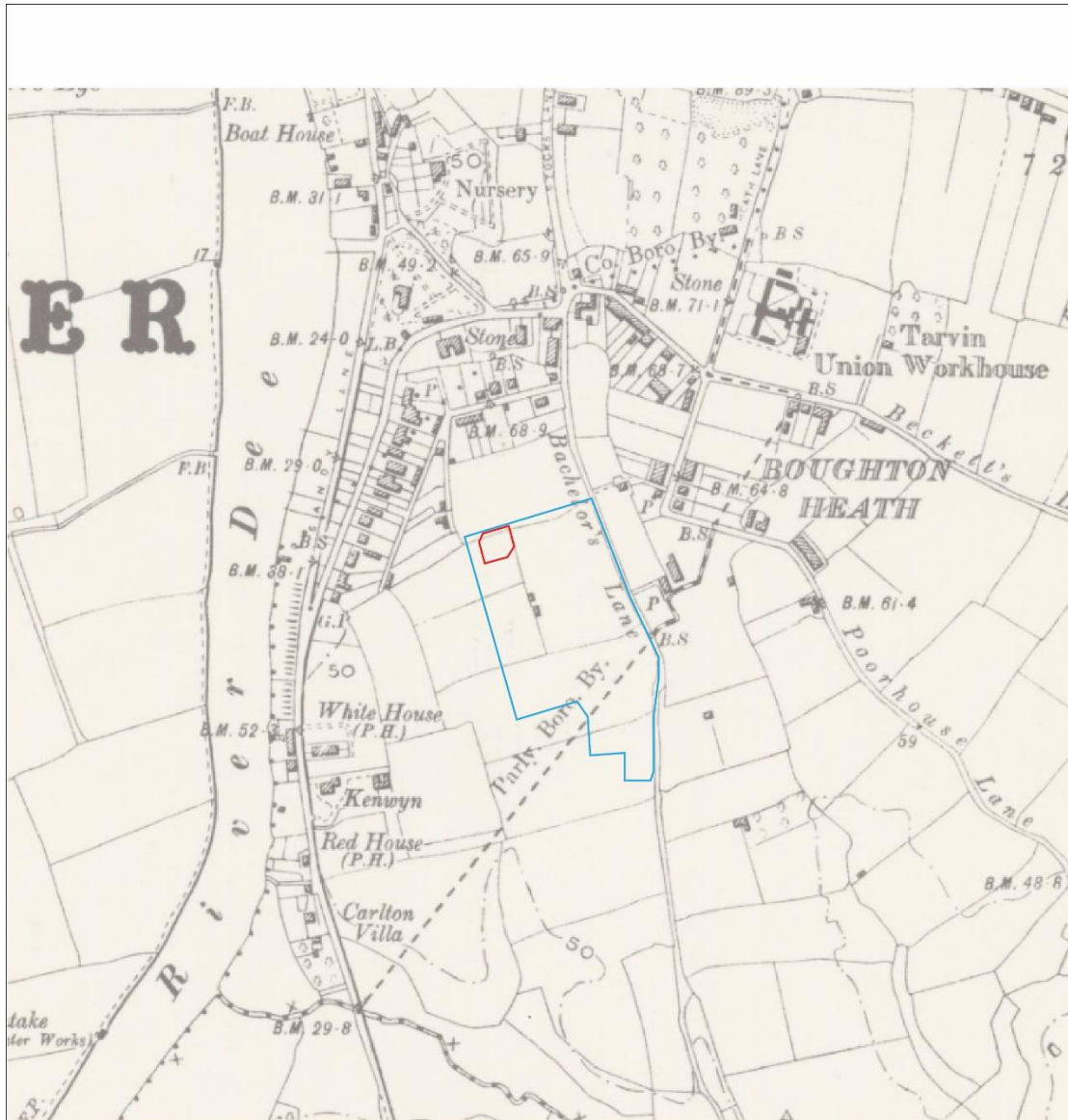


Figure 2: Proposed Development Area



	<p>Salford Archaeology University of Salford The Crescent Salford M5 4WU</p>	<p>Title: Ordnance Survey 1871 Map</p>	<p>Key:</p> <p> School Boundary</p> <p> Proposed Development Area</p>	
<p>Site Name: Bishop's Bluecoat School, Chester Site Code: BBC15 Drawing Ref: DBA-BBC15-6 Date Drawn: 13.11.2015 Drawn By: RR</p>	<p>Scale:</p>			

Figure 3



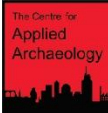



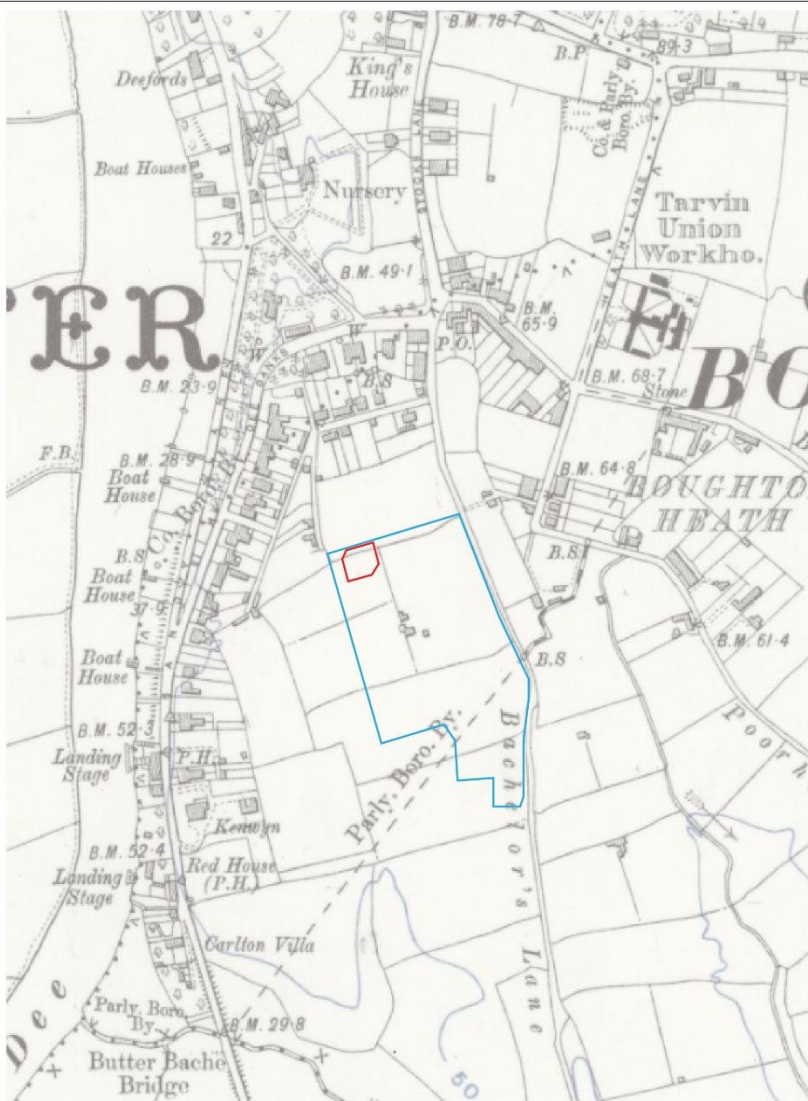
 <p>Salford Archaeology University of Salford The Crescent Salford M5 4WU</p>	<p>Title: Ordnance Survey 1899 Map</p>	<p>Key:</p> <p> School Boundary</p> <p> Proposed Development Area</p>	 <p>N</p>
	<p>Site Name: Bishop's Bluecoat School, Chester Site Code: BBC15 Drawing Ref: DBA-BBC15-3 Date Drawn: 13.11.2015 Drawn By: RR</p>		

Figure 4








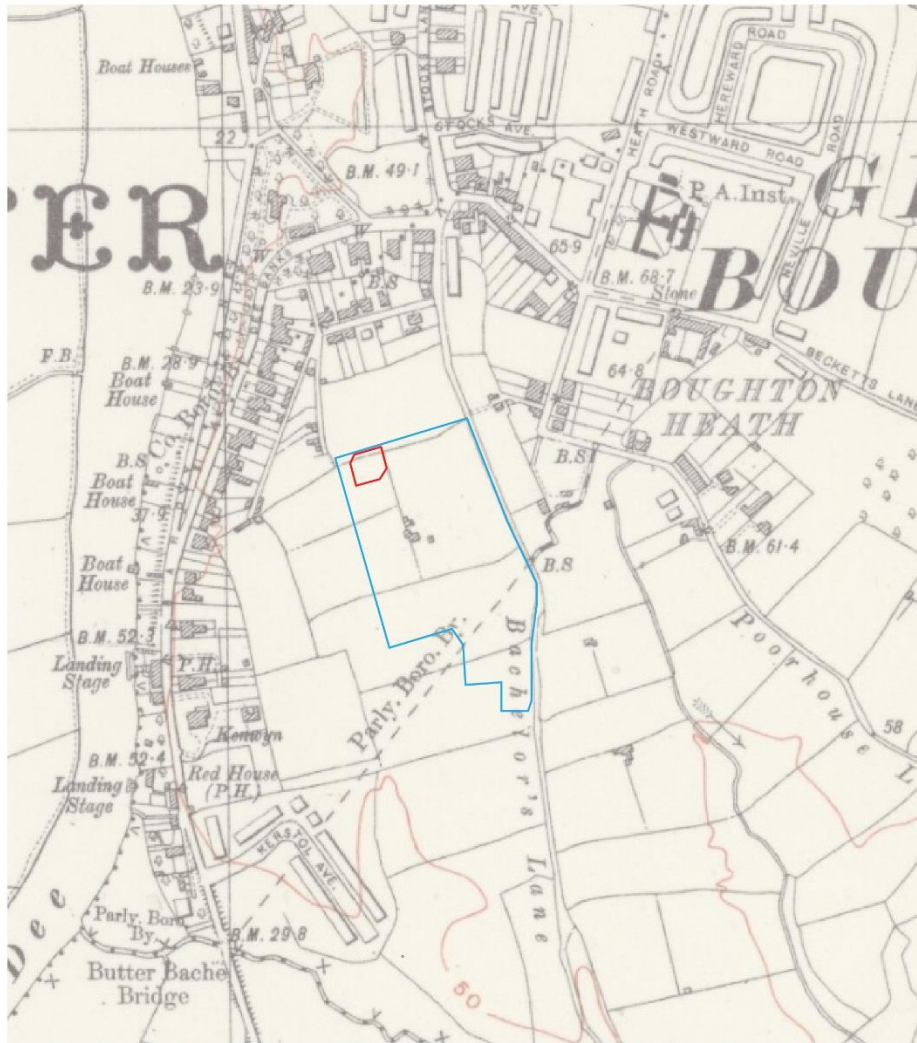
	Salford Archaeology University of Salford The Crescent Salford M5 4WU	Title: Ordnance Survey 1913 Map	Key:  School Boundary  Proposed Development Area	 N
	Site Name: Bishop's Bluecoat School, Chester Site Code: BBC15 Drawing Ref: DBA-BBC15-4 Date Drawn: 13.11.2015 Drawn By: RR	Scale: 0 100m 		

Figure 5









 <p>The Centre for Applied Archaeology Salford Archaeology University of Salford The Crescent Salford M5 4WU</p>	<p>Title: Ordnance Survey 1945 Map</p>	<p>Key:</p> <p> School Boundary</p> <p> Proposed Development Area</p>	
	<p>Site Name: Bishop's Bluecoat School, Chester Site Code: BBC15 Drawing Ref: DBA-BBC15-5 Date Drawn: 13.11.2015 Drawn By: RR</p>		

Figure 6

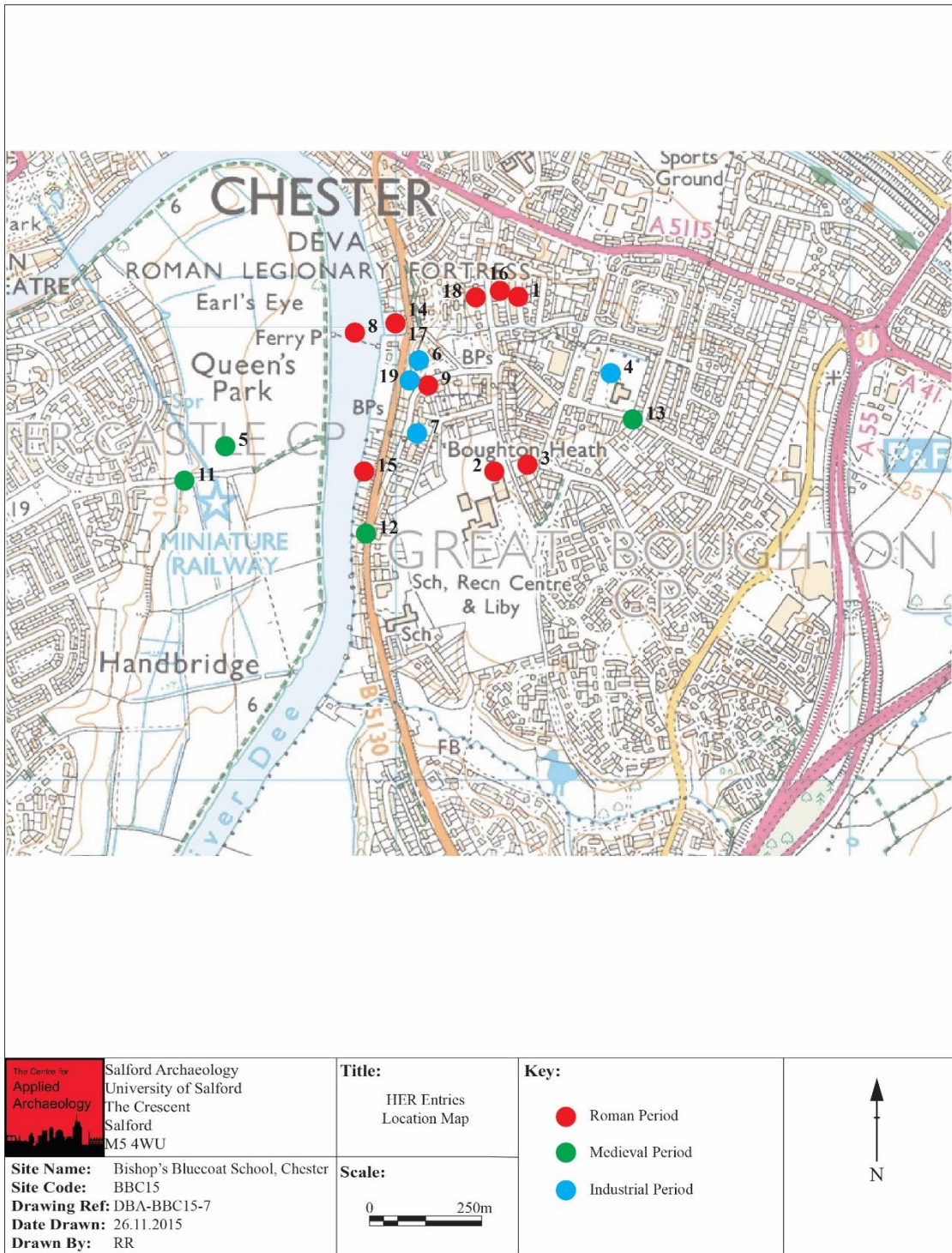


Figure 7