

The West Midlands Rail Freight Interchange Order 201X  
Technical Appendix 8.2-Addendum to Historic Environment Assessment  
Regulation 5(2)(a)  
Wessex - November 2017

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# West Midlands Interchange Staffordshire

## Addendum to Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

1.1.1 This report is an addendum to the Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (DBA; Wessex Archaeology 2017) following changes to the Order Limits of the West Midlands Interchange proposed development in November 2017. These changes brought two new areas into the Site boundary which required additional assessment (Figure 1).

1.1.2 This Site boundary comprises the final Order Limits.

1.1.3 This addendum will focus solely on these two areas and will not repeat information already provided within the DBA, however, references to the DBA will be made where appropriate.

#### 1.2 The Site, location and geology

##### *Area 1*

1.2.1 This area is located on the north side of the A5/Watling Street. The area is triangular in shape and is split across three pasture fields with two field boundaries.

1.2.2 Area 1 is located on relatively flat land at an approximate elevation of 105 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology of the Site is mapped as the Helsby Sandstone Formation overlain by superficial deposits of Till (British Geological Survey: Online Viewer).

##### *Area 2*

1.2.3 This area is located on the north side of Straight Mile and comprises a regular parcel of land split into four pasture fields (Plate 1) and a number of buildings associated with Straight Mile Farm (Plate 2).

1.2.4 Area 1 is located on relatively flat land at an approximate elevation of 108 m aOD. The underlying geology of the Site is mapped as the Wildmoor Sandstone Member overlain by superficial deposits of Till (British Geological Survey: Online Viewer).

### 2 METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 Aims and scope

2.1.1 The specific aims and scope of this assessment are the same as those set out within Section 3 the DBA.

#### 2.2 Site visit

2.2.1 A site visit was carried out on the 02 November 2017, although due to access issues only Area 2 was visited. Area 1 consisted of a small package of land, and use has been made



of appropriate online records and other sources to inform this Addendum. Weather conditions during the visit were dry and overcast. A fieldwork record comprising digital photographs were taken to inform and illustrate the assessment. They are currently held in the project archive.

## **2.3 Best practice**

2.3.1 This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and guidance: desk-based assessment (ClfA 2014).

## **2.4 Assumptions and limitations**

2.4.1 Data used to compile this report consists of secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some of which have been directly examined for the purposes of this assessment. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate.

## **2.5 Copyright**

2.5.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. The end-user is reminded that they remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

## **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DESIGNATIONS**

3.1.1 The planning background and relevant information regarding statutorily designated heritage assets is set out within Section 2 of the DBA.

## **4 BASELINE RESOURCE**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The baseline assessment carried out within the DBA includes both these additional areas within its 1 km Study Area and the general historical and archaeological background set out within Section 4 of the DBA remains valid. The sections set out below represent short summaries relating to the two new areas and, where appropriate, WA reference numbers from the DBA have been included.

#### *Area 1*

4.1.2 The area is located immediately adjacent to the route of the Watling Street Roman Road (WA 21), now the A5, which is a major part of the Roman road network across Great Britain running from the east coast of England through the major settlements at London (*Londinium*) and St Albans (*Verulamium*) towards the settlement at Water Eaton (*Pennocrucium*) located approximately 1.1 km to the west of the Site, and beyond to Wroxeter (*Viroconium Cornoviorum*).

4.1.3 The site of *Pennocrucium* is characterised by the presence of significant archaeological remains of at least two forts and the associated civilian settlement, *vicus*, which are now Scheduled Monuments (WA 4-6). The scale of settlement during the Romano-British period



was extensive with Area 1 located within the agricultural hinterland of the site at *Pennocrucium*.

4.1.4 The Roman Road is likely to have remained an important feature within the landscape through into the Anglo-Saxon period and beyond, although there is no recorded evidence of any heritage assets from this period or from the medieval period. This suggests Area 1 is likely to have been located within a rural landscape, a character it retained throughout the post-medieval and modern periods, as evidenced on historic mapping (DBA Figures 4-6).

4.1.5 The most noticeable change in the landscape immediately surrounding Area 1 was the construction of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal (WA 44) in 1772. A number of buildings located around Gailey Wharf (WA 41, 55, 56, 67 & 74), located approximately 60 m south-west of Area 1 were also constructed in the post-medieval period or the 19th century.

#### Area 2

4.1.6 There are no heritage assets within the immediate vicinity of Area 2 which date to earlier than the post-medieval period, the majority of evidence for earlier activity is located to the north and north-west.

4.1.7 Within the Area lies Straight Mile Farm (WA 53) which is recorded within the DBA. Its gazetteer reference is included below:

WA No.	NHLE No.	HER No.	Name	Designation	Description	Period	Easting	Northing
53		MST1 7494	Straight Mile Farm, Calf Heath, Hatherton	Not Designated	An isolated L-plan smallholding, with attached farmhouse and additional detached outbuilding to the north. The smallholding appears to have been established in the late 18th or early 19th century and the original ranges appear to be extant.	Post-medieval	392917	308833

4.1.8 The current rural character of this area has been in place since at least the post-medieval period, as evidenced on historic mapping (DBA Figures 4-6), and likely before with some evidence in the form of highly degraded earthworks located within Area 2 which suggest ridge and furrow agriculture (Plate 3).

4.1.9 The most significant change to the surrounding landscape would have been the construction of the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal in 1772 and the erection of new field boundaries during enclosure in the late 18th and early 19th centuries which remain in place today.

**Table 1** Summary of known and potential historic environment resource within Areas 1 and 2

Potential	Period and Description		Significance	Previous impacts
High	Romano-British	Due to the proximity of Area 1 to known heritage assets from the Romano-British period associated with the Roman Road network hub located to the north-west of the Site and the route of Watling Street adjacent to the northern edge of the Site there is a high likelihood of encountering Romano-British remains within this area, although there is a low likelihood of encountering such remains within Area 2.	High	Neither area appears to have been subject to ploughing activities for a significant period of time.
	Post-medieval and 19th century	Straight Mile Farm is located within Area 2 and both areas were subject to enclosure in the late 18th and early 19th centuries with extant field boundaries from this period present within both areas.	Low	The farmhouse and several outbuildings are extant and appear to be in a generally good condition.  Neither area appears to have been subject to ploughing activities for a significant period of time.
Unknown	Prehistoric	There are no heritage assets within the immediate vicinity of either area which date to the prehistoric period, although remains from this period are difficult to predict or exclude.	Unknown	Neither area appears to have been subject to ploughing activities for a significant period of time.
	Anglo-Saxon and medieval	There are no heritage assets within the immediate vicinity of either area which date to the Anglo-Saxon or medieval period although it is likely both areas were located within an agricultural landscape. Possible earthworks are present within Area 2 that suggest ridge and furrow agriculture may have taken place there, although this is inconclusive. Likewise, the proximity of Area 1 to Watling Street suggests some potential for remains from the Anglo-Saxon period due to the continued use of the road, although again this is inconclusive.	Unknown	Neither area appears to have been subject to ploughing activities for a significant period of time.

## 5 PREVIOUS IMPACTS

5.1.1 Neither area appears to have undergone any significant disturbance as both have been used for grazing animals for a considerable period of a time. Therefore, any potential archaeological remains within these areas are likely to be well preserved.





## **6 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

### **6.1 Area 1**

6.1.1 Area 1 is required to allow access for works to the electricity supply. It is intended that the overhead cables will be undergrounded at this point (allowing the overhead cables to be removed from the Site) and be used for minor works to the overhead electricity supply. A different pylon arrangement will be required, as well as some intrusive works related to the underground cable. This work will be carried out by the Distribution Network Operator under their own permissions. Any impacts are consequently considered to be limited in depth and extent, with only the cable run itself likely to affect archaeological remains should they be present.

### **6.2 Area 2**

6.2.1 Area 2 is required to allow scope for additional planting and soft-landscaping works. The existing properties on this part of the Site are not proposed for demolition and it is anticipated they will be retained.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **7.1 Conclusions**

7.1.1 This report has concluded that there is archaeological interest within both Areas. The proximity of Area 1 to Watling Street leads to a high potential for associated archaeological remains from the Romano-British period to be located within this area as settlements are often located close to the Roman Road network. In addition, there is an as yet unknown potential for Anglo-Saxon remains to be present within Area 1 due to the continued use of the road throughout this period. There is also high potential for remains associated with post-medieval and 19th century agriculture.

7.1.2 Within Area 2, there is archaeological interest in regard to the extant buildings associated with Straight Mile Farm which date to the late 18th or 19th century. There is also potential for archaeological remains associated with post-medieval and 19th century agriculture.

### **7.2 Recommendations**

7.2.1 The proposed works in this area are likely to be limited in extent, with only the cable run likely to have any deeper impact which might affect archaeological remains. It is recommended that excavation of the in Area 1 is subject to Watching Brief (this may be carried out by the DNO under their own permissions).

7.2.2 It is also recommended that Area 2 be included within any additional survey/assessment works as a non-priority area.

7.2.3 An Outline Written Scheme of Investigation been prepared for submission as part of the Application. This covers the whole of the Site, including the land parcels detailed in this Addendum, and sets out (in outline) a suggested scope for further assessment and/or archaeological works to be agreed through consultation with the statutory authorities and the county archaeological officer.



## REFERENCES

### Bibliography

CIfA 2014 Standards and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Wessex Archaeology 2017. *West Midlands Interchange: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*. Unpublished Report

### Internet sources

British Geological Survey *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed on 03 November 2017)

National Heritage List for England <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/> (accessed on 03 November 2017)





Plate 1: Pasture within Area 2



Plate 2: Straight Mile Farm (WA 53), view from the south


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Plate 3: Possible ridge and furrow earthworks within Area 2, view from the south

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