Recent Archaeological Sites in Cheshire, Warrington and Halton

Roman Sites identified through archaeological fieldwork instigated by the Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS) for the period April 2022 to March 2023 summarised below.

***Archaeological excavation at Crown Farm Quarry, Oakmere, August 2022. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (SJ 5664 6946).***

Following the submission of a planning application for the expansion of the quarry and an earlier programme of archaeological evaluation (Jenkin 2010), a c100m length of the line of the Roman road from Chester to Northwich (CHER 844/1/0) was stripped under archaeological supervision and examined, prior to the initiation of quarrying operations (Whitworth 2022). The stretch of road chosen for further work lay at the western end of the quarry and was selected for more detailed examination as the 2010 evaluation had shown that its line lay under the embankment of a nineteenth century mineral railway and might be better preserved than elsewhere within the quarry.

In the event, survival proved to be extremely poor with much of the former road surface represented by a loose concentration of gravel within the topsoil. Only at the western end of the trench were significant amounts of gravel recognised beneath the topsoil but, even here, the material was loose with little evidence of surviving structure. Other features and deposits recognised during the work perhaps explain the poor survival of the road, with evidence for tree throw holes, ploughing, a large pit that may have been used to win gravel from the road surface, and broad areas of linear disturbance that are thought to represent evidence of subsoiling.

Excavations during a subsequent watching brief (Vernon 2022) revealed a probable Roman ditch lying a little to the south of the line of the road and parallel to it (Fig.1). The function of this feature remains unclear as it lies immediately to the north of a natural, boggy depression and seems unlikely to represent the northern boundary of an enclosure.

Jenkin, C 2010 *Cheshire Sands Quarry, Delamere, Cheshire: Archaeological Evaluation and Auger Survey*.(Unpublished client report CP. No: 1280/10). Nenthead: North Pennines Archaeology. **CHER ECH4727**

Whitworth, H *2022 Land at Crown Farm Quarry, Oakmere, Cheshire: Archaeological Excavation Report*.(Unpublished client report GM12404, CFQ-H). Bolton: Wardell Armstrong Archaeology. **CHER ECH7154**

Vernon, E 2022 *Land at Crown Farm Quarry, Oakmere, Cheshire: Archaeological Watching Brief Report*.(Unpublished client report GM12404, CFQ-I). Bolton: Wardell Armstrong Archaeology. **CHER ECH7155**