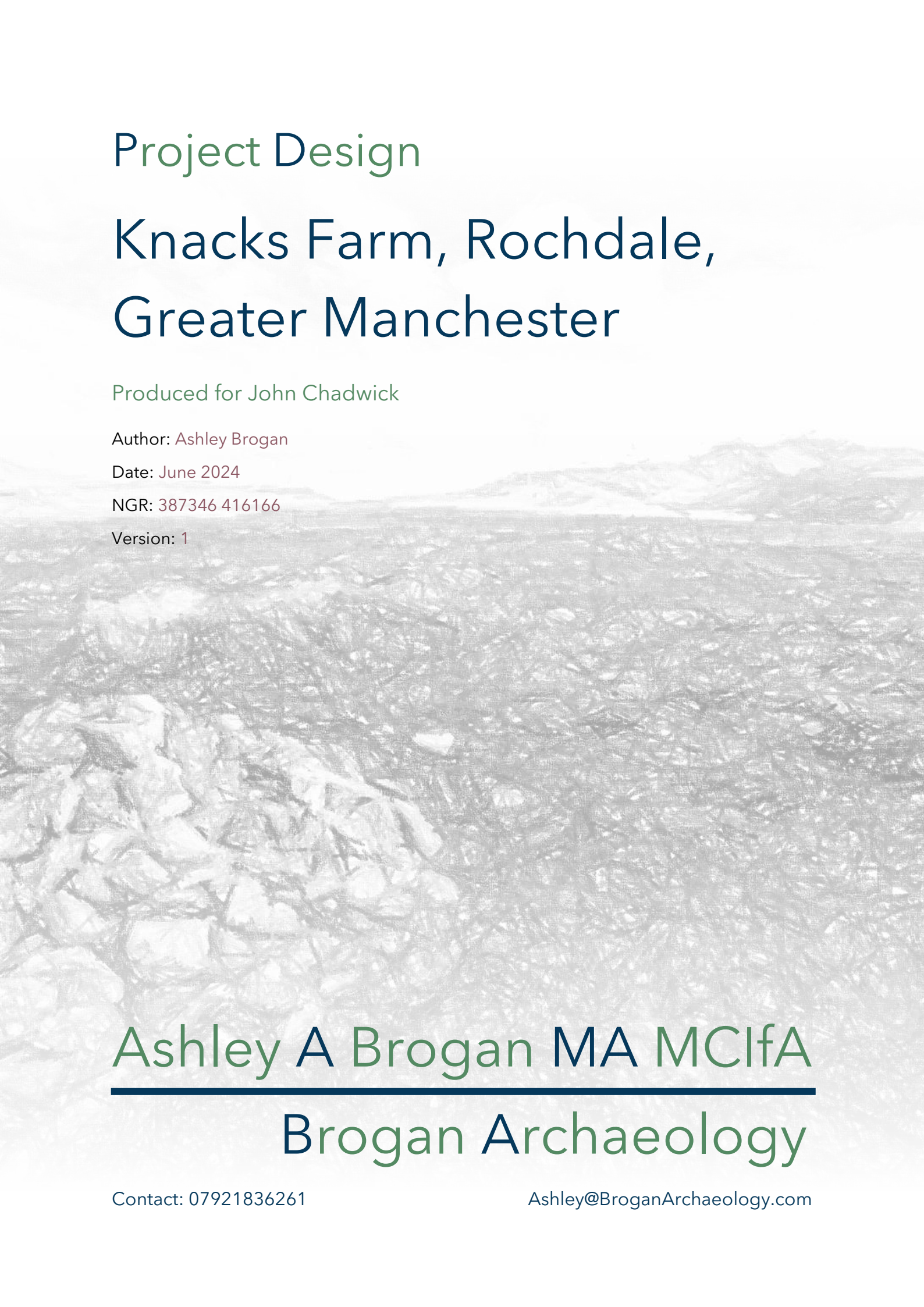




Project Design

Knacks Farm, Rochdale, Greater Manchester

Produced for John Chadwick

Author: Ashley Brogan

Date: June 2024

NGR: 387346 416166

Version: 1

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project background

This document provides a Project Design (PD) for the required programme of archaeological monitoring for the proposed development at Knacks Farm, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (NGR 387346 416166) (hereinafter referred to as 'the Site'). The PD has been prepared for John Chadwick of Knacks Farm and the proposed development includes the removal of existing manège and erection of a new manège.

The planning application for the removal of existing manège and erection of a new manège was submitted in May 2023 and was approved with conditions in March 2024 (Planning Application Number 23/00363/FUL). The proposed development includes removal of existing manège and erection of a new manège measuring 60m x 20m, 1.5m high perimeter fencing and external lighting.

No archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared for the Site, however, due to the find of an Iron Age stone head within the area, the Site is considered to have archaeological potential. The earth-moving works associated with the proposed development may destroy or disturb any surviving archaeological remains within the Site. The planning permission was therefore granted subject to conditions. The archaeological conditions are outlined below.

"No development shall commence until the applicant or their agents or their successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The WSI shall cover the following:

- 1) A phased programme and methodology to include:
 - a) an archaeological watching brief during any ground-breaking works.**
- 2) A programme for post-investigation assessment to include:
 - a) analysis of the site investigation records and finds;*
 - b) production of a final report on the significance of the heritage interest recorded.**
- 3) Deposition of the final report with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.*
- 4) Dissemination of the results of the site investigations commensurate with their significance.*
- 5) Provision for archive deposition of the report, finds and records of the site investigation.*
- 6) Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI*

Reason: In accordance with NPPF policy 16, paragraph 211: To record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.

Reason for pre-commencement condition: These details are required due to insufficient information being contained within this submission and because the site lies in an area of archaeological potential."



1.2 Scope of document

A Project Design (PD) is a comprehensive document detailing the requirements and methodological approaches of a programme of archaeological works. For this project, the document proposes archaeological monitoring followed by the production of a report and archive. Any further works are beyond the scope of this document and would therefore be subject to an updated/second PD and a variation in costs.

1.3 The Site

The proposed development area is located at Knacks Farm, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The Site comprises of approximately 2.362 ha of farmland. The Site is located off Knacks Lane to the west of Broadley and to the north of Shawfield.

1.4 Proposed restoration techniques

The proposed development includes the creation of a new arena / horse platform (Figure 3). The dig will cover an area of c. 550m², grading from 0 to 1.3m maximum depth and moving a volume of c. 260m³ to the fill side in order to create a level arena. The proposed development therefore includes earthmoving works which have the potential to disturb archaeological deposits.



2. Archaeological background

2.1 Introduction

The archaeological and historical background of the Site and its broader context is provided in a brief summary of each period below.

2.2 Prehistoric periods (Mesolithic to Iron Age)

During the Mesolithic period, major environmental changes led to a change in habitats across the country. Open-tundra regions were replaced by forests within the Rochdale region, as evidenced in pollen samples taken from sites such as Dean Clough I. From 5000 BCE, the woodland declined and blanket peat began to develop. Many Mesolithic finds recovered from Rochdale have been found during surface collection and excavation works at the edges of patches of peat or within areas of eroded peat. These finds comprise stone implements associated with hunting activities. Identified Mesolithic sites are concentrated on hilltops and south-facing slopes, particularly in areas providing good visibility and natural shelter. Notable sites include the rock shelters at Light Hazzles Reservoir and Robin Hood Rocks.

The Neolithic period is characterised by the introduction of domesticated crops and animals and a more sedentary lifestyle, however, hunting and gathering remained important (Brennand & Hodgson, 2006). Forest clearance would have accelerated the woodland decline during this period to make way for agricultural land, however, pollen analysis at Rishworth Moor indicates that forest clearance was minimal in some areas. Polished and ground stone axes first appeared during the Neolithic period and numerous examples have been recovered from Rochdale. A black stone axe was found at Hollinworth and a green stone axe was found at Castle Hill. Flint axes have been recovered from Newhey and Wardle. In upland regions, finds such as arrowheads indicate the continuation of hunting. Whilst Neolithic finds have been identified within Rochdale, there is an absence of Neolithic monuments and settlements across the borough (GMAU, 2010).

In contrast to the Neolithic period, several Bronze Age monuments have been identified across Rochdale, including multiple barrows. Excavated barrows, such as Hades Hill, Wardle, and Lowhouse, Milnrow, contained cremated human bone and stone tools. Bronze Age metalwork has been recovered from across Rochdale, such as palstave axes found at Ashworth Moor and Crompton Moor and a socketed spearhead from Piethorne. Bronze Age settlement sites are limited throughout the borough, however, an occupation site was excavated at Piethorne Brook, which contained remains from the Mesolithic period and Early Bronze Age. Early Bronze Age finds included flintwork, pottery (including Beaker Ware), a worked stone shale ring and two jet beads. The presence of scrapers, spalls and worn pebbles, along with the careful placement of slabs, indicate that the site was used for leather working.

Very few Iron Age sites have been identified within Rochdale. A bronze torque was found at Mowroad in Calderbrook in 1832 by a workman (Pearson, et al., 1985). Celtic-style carved-stone heads, which have been identified throughout the Pennine foothills, have been tentatively dated to the Iron Age. Examples of the stone heads have been recovered



from Castle Farm in Castleton and St Chad's Church in Rochdale. A stone head was recovered from within the Site (HER 9061.1.0). Few details are recorded on the HER of the exact findspot and the date of recovery, however, the HER entry describes the stone head as a 'simple face with spectacle eyes, a nose with lobes, slit mouth'. By the time of the Roman invasion, Rochdale was held by the Brigantes, who occupied much of the land across western and northern England (GMAU, 2010).

The recovery of the Knacks Farm stone head from within the Site indicates some potential for archaeological remains dating to the Iron Age period. The potential for prehistoric remains is therefore considered to be moderate.

2.3 Romano-British period

The Roman period in Greater Manchester is well studied, with key excavated sites located at Manchester, Castleshaw and Wigan. The Roman military had established a fort at Manchester by the 1st century CE. By the 2nd century, the fort had developed alongside a substantial extramural settlement (*vicus*). Other forts were established at Wigan and Castleshaw, however, outside of military bases the local population were unlikely to have been largely affected by the Roman presence (GMAU, 2010).

Numerous Roman finds have been recovered from the borough. Roman finds within Rochdale comprise coins, coin hoards, pottery, tiles, a possible Roman spearhead and a silver arm of a statue (GMAU, 2010). A coin hoard was found at Oakenrod during the early 19th century (HER 2634.1.0), which consisted of a small iron box containing a rouleau of Roman brass coins (Fishwick, 1889). Other Roman sites and finds have been reported but their origins are unconfirmed. For example, the Blackstone Edge Roman Road is a scheduled monument located within Calderdale, Rochdale and, despite the name, the origin of the road is uncertain.

No finds or sites dated to the Roman period have been identified within the Site or the surrounding area, however, the stone head may date to this period. The potential for Romano-British remains is considered to be low.

2.4 Medieval period

It is possible that a settlement was established at Rochdale from the Saxon period, when the wider area was incorporated into the kingdom of Northumbria, however, evidence of activity following the Roman period is scarce throughout Greater Manchester and is often limited to placenames listed within the Domesday Survey of 1086. The Domesday Book recorded Rochdale as one of the holdings of Gamel the Thane, who was one of 21 thanes in the manor of Radcliffe (GMAU, 2010). Many of the placenames in Rochdale derive from Old English, with examples including Spotland, Wardleworth, Castleton, Hopwood and Butterworth. Spotland, the area of Rochdale in which the Site is located, derives from the Old English word 'splott', meaning a plot of land or small patch of ground (University of Nottingham, n.d.).

The Church of St Chad, located in the centre of Rochdale, further supports the possibility of a Saxon presence in the area. St Chad was the late 7th-century Anglo Saxon Bishop of Lichfield and therefore the dedication of the church to the Saxon bishop indicates Saxon settlement within Rochdale (Fishwick, 1889). Further evidence of Saxon occupation of



Rochdale includes a possible Saxon non-rotary quern recovered from Dane Street. The possible quern was found in 1910 during excavations for an electricity works (HER 711.1.0).

Following the Norman Conquest, land was divided amongst the Norman lords. Over the following centuries, Rochdale became an important settlement. A motte and bailey castle had been established within Rochdale by the late 12th century. By 1251, Rochdale had been granted a charter for a weekly market and an annual fair on the feast days of St Simon and St Jude. Many of the farms and halls recorded in Rochdale in the 16th and 17th centuries were established during the medieval period, along with many corn mills.

Several of the farmsteads surrounding the Site were established within the post-medieval period, however, some may have their origins in the medieval period. The potential for medieval remains is considered to be low.

2.5 Post-medieval period

Rochdale was described as a 'market town well frequented' by Camden in 1582. The town continued to boom following the confiscation of lands from Whalley Abbey and the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th century and the later sale of the Byron estates during the early 17th century (GMAU, 2010). Rochdale became one of the first industrialised towns in the late 18th century and was a leading town in the industrial revolution. The Rochdale Canal opened in 1799, which created a trans-Pennine highway of commerce for cotton, wool and coal. Whilst Rochdale became an important centre for cotton goods production, the town maintained its strong woollen industry.

The land surrounding the Site was used for agricultural purposes throughout the post-medieval period. Many of the farms surrounding Knacks Farm are included on 18th- and 19th-century mapping, including Higher Dunishbooth (HER 12609.1.0), Smallshaw Farm (HER 2667.1.0) and Lower Dunishbooth (HER 12610.1.0). Smallshaw Farm (HER 2667.1.0) has a datestone of 1622 on the door lintel and another dated to 1744. Several industrial sites were also located within the landscape surrounding the Site, including Broadley Wood Mill (HER 12595.1.0), Smallshaw Mill (HER 12611.1.0), a waste mill (HER 12608.1.0), and quarries. The Site has been associated with Knacks Farm since at least the post-medieval period and therefore the Site may include features associated with post-medieval farming activities.

2.6 Topography and geology

The Site comprises farmland and lies at approximately 250m aOD. The Rochdale Historic Landscape Characterisation states that the field patterns within the Site and the surrounding area were established by 1851 and early piecemeal enclosure associated with historic farms likely existed prior to the 19th century (GMAU, 2010). The River Spodden is located approximately 650m to the east of the Site and several brooks are located surrounding the Site, including Smallshaw Brook and Dunisbooth Brook.

The underlying geology of the area comprises of Darwen Flags sandstone and mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation, which both formed between 319 and 318 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. The overlying deposits comprise of Devensian till, which formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS, 2024).



2.7 Summary

The watching brief has been recommended due to the recovery of an Iron Age stone head from within the Site. The Site therefore has archaeological potential for further remains dating to the Iron Age, and possibly remains associated with other periods, such as remains associated with medieval and post-medieval agricultural practices.



3. Aims and objectives

3.1 Aims and objectives

As stated in ClfA's Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (ClfA, 2020), the aim of the archaeological watching brief is to record and report on the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. Project-specific aims include the identification and recording of potentially significant prehistoric remains, which could contribute to the understanding of the historic use of the Site.

3.2 Research aims

The Site has the potential to contribute to the following research initiatives identified in the North West Regional Research Framework:

- LM12: How do we improve our knowledge of the region's various agricultural practices, plant and animal husbandry, and how did these change and develop over time?
- PH59: How can we develop an updated corpus of Iron Age artefacts, especially metalwork?
- PH04: How can we enhance existing datasets for Prehistory in the region?
- R03: To what extent is resistance to Roman occupation tangible in the archaeological record?



4. Methodology

4.1 Standards

The proposed archaeological monitoring will be conducted in accordance with current best archaeological practice and following national and regional standards and guidelines. This includes the Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (ClfA, 2020).

4.2 Archaeological evaluation and monitoring

4.2.1 Pre-commencement

Prior to the commencement of the monitoring, the PD will be submitted for approval to the local curator. In preparation for the on-site works, service plans will be checked to ensure that access and groundworks can be conducted safely.

4.2.2 Monitoring

All intrusive groundworks within areas requiring an archaeological watching brief will be supervised by an appropriately qualified archaeologist. Non-archaeologically significant deposits will be removed by the groundworks contractors under archaeological supervision. If archaeological features/deposits are exposed, then construction groundworks in the affected area(s) will be temporarily halted so that the monitoring archaeologist is given sufficient time to investigate and record those features to an appropriate standard.

In the event of archaeological deposits of high significance or remains that require resources beyond those anticipated within the watching brief are discovered, an alternative approach may be required. Destructive work in the affected area(s) will cease until agreement has been reached on an appropriate archaeological response.

4.2.3 Context recording

The watching brief will have the necessary equipment, including stationery, recording forms, cameras, film, photographic scales, tapes, safety equipment, and hand-digging tools. Any archaeological deposit will be appropriately recorded using context sheets and will be drawn and photographed. Registers of archaeological contexts will be maintained.

4.2.4 Artefacts

A context number will be allocated to all finds, even if this number is simply one allocated to unstratified finds. All pre-1850 CE finds will be retained, and a sample of post-1850 CE will be retained.

4.2.5 Environmental remains

Environmental samples are not included within the scope of this fieldwork.

4.2.6 Human remains

The recovery of human remains is not anticipated within the Site and therefore if found, human remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected, and all works on site in this area will cease. Police will be contacted in the event of unexpected human remains and a



representative of the Coroners Office will attend the scene. The Ministry of Justice, Local Planning Authority and GMAAS will be informed. Removal of human remains is beyond the scope of this phase of works and therefore a mitigation strategy and updated PD would be required.



5. Post-excavation and archiving

5.1 Reporting

Following the archaeological monitoring, all records and artefacts will be processed and assessed. An illustrated report will be compiled detailing the results of the archaeological monitoring. A draft copy of the report will be made available to the client for comments 6 weeks after the final phase of fieldwork. The report will include:

- a non-technical summary;
- introductory statements, including the project background, archaeological background, outline nature of the work and site description;
- description of the site location and setting;
- the aims and objectives as set out in the PD;
- the methodology including any detail of variation from the PD;
- the results of the monitoring clearly set out as a series of summary objective statements and organised clearly in relation to the methods used, and describing both structural data and associated finds and/or environmental data recovered;
- a descriptive and detailed account of the findings;
- drawings, photographs and other supportive data;
- a conclusion which sums up and interprets the results and puts them into context (local, national or otherwise); and,
- recommendations on further work if required (in most circumstances within the planning framework this will be the responsibility of the relevant planning archaeologist or curator).

Should no further work be required, a detailed and ordered site archive will be prepared and deposited in accordance with best practice outlined in Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation (AAF, 2007).

5.2 Archive deposition

The archive for the Site will be transferred to a digital format and stored in accessible systems. The archive will comprise of:

- a contents list;
- all site records, such as context sheets, trench sheets, and drawings;
- photographic records;
- indexes to drawing and photographic archives;
- all digital material; and,
- the archaeological report.

The archaeological report will be uploaded to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS), in accordance with their requirements, along with a summary of the project. Arrangements will be made for the deposition of the site archive with an appropriate location. The location of the archive will be noted within the project report.



5.3 Dissemination

The results of the archaeological monitoring will be made available to the public within a reasonable timeframe. The report will be shared with the relevant HER within 3 months of the completion of the project and the report will be uploaded to OASIS (Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations) within 12 months of production. Any further dissemination, such as booklets, monographs or information panels, are beyond the scope of the archaeological monitoring and will be considered if further work in the form of an archaeological excavation is required.

5.4 Public engagement

Opportunities for public engagement or outreach are not considered to be appropriate during the archaeological monitoring phase.



6. Programme and staffing

6.1 Programme

The project will commence on a date agreed in writing and GMAAS will be notified of the fieldwork at least one week prior to the commencement of the monitoring. The programme of works is estimated to take 1 day, however, additional days may be required. An updated PD can be produced to reflect any changes. Any changes will be agreed with GMAAS.

6.2 Unexpected circumstances

The proposed work has been designed to best practice and using the available information, however, buried archaeological remains cannot always be accurately quantified prior to investigation. The following circumstances cannot be reasonably predicted and may lead to additional costs and delays:

- Further works not specified within the PD, which are required by the client or LPA;
- Trenches that are unexpectedly deep or inaccessible. These may require the use of shoring to allow access;
- Unexpected discoveries of a date and nature more significant than expected. This may lead to additional work and more detailed recording;
- Unexpected ground conditions could lead to additional work, for example, water-logged deposits may require additional work;
- Unexpected specialist recording may incur additional costs and time, such as radiocarbon dating, conservation of artefacts etc;
- If human remains are identified, the provision of a Ministry of Justice Section 25 License would be required in a revised scheme of work;
- Other circumstances that may delay operations, such as exceptionally poor weather, breakdowns, vandalism, or any other damage to equipment;

Where possible, Brogan Archaeology will seek to avoid additional cost or exceeding the programme. Other costs and changes will be included in a revised PD.

6.3 Project staff

The project will be managed by Ashley Brogan MCIfA. The field team will consist of a minimum of one staff during the watching brief.



7. Health and safety

7.1 Policy

All work will operate within all appropriate Health and Safety legislation, including:

- The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974);
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999);
- The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (2015);
- The Control of Asbestos Regulations (2006);
- Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations (1996);
- The Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (2002);
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (2002);
- The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations (1981);
- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (2005);
- The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (1998);
- Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (1998).

A site-specific Project Health and Safety Plan will be formulated prior to commencement of fieldwork. Brogan Archaeology recognises it has a legal duty to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all employees, members of the public, employees of other companies, volunteers and all other users of and visitors to site.

7.2 PPE

All staff will wear PPE at appropriate times, which includes safety helmets (EN397), ear defenders (EN 352-3), safety spectacles (EN166), goggles (Chemical BSEN 166 Type 3); dust masks (EN149 2001), disposable overalls (Type 5/6 disposable EN340); hi-visibility vests (EN471), heavy-duty nitrone rubber gloves (EN420, 388), safety footwear - steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons EN345-47. Any other PPE required by the client and/or Principal Contractor must be provided or funded by them, if not otherwise agreed in advance.

7.3 Services

Plans of existing services will be required prior to commencement. Due to the nature of the project, services are unlikely to be located within the Site, however, it is the duty of the client to ensure that live services are not encountered during their excavations. Operatives working on behalf of the client should consult all relevant documentation prior to excavation and use all appropriate service avoidance measures during the work. No archaeologist working on site will interfere with live services in any way.

7.4 Insurance

Brogan Archaeology is insured for employers' liability up to £10,000,000, public liability up to £5,000,000, and professional indemnity up to £2,000,000. Further details are available on request.



7.5 Responsibilities of the client

The client will be responsible for the following:

- obtaining all necessary permissions for undertaking the works, such as consents for scheduled sites under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 or any other designated heritage assets;
- ensuring all checks are completed with respect to current Environmental Legislation;
- arranging access to the Site and any other required access;
- supplying welfare for on-site workers;
- supplying required machinery such as plant, CAT and jenny, or any other equipment that may be required for excavation and safety;
- reinstatement of any areas investigated as part of the archaeological investigation;
- dealing with claims for agricultural or commercial compensation caused by loss of business due to the project;
- arranging liability for disturbance of protected species; and
- dealing with claims to damage to services.



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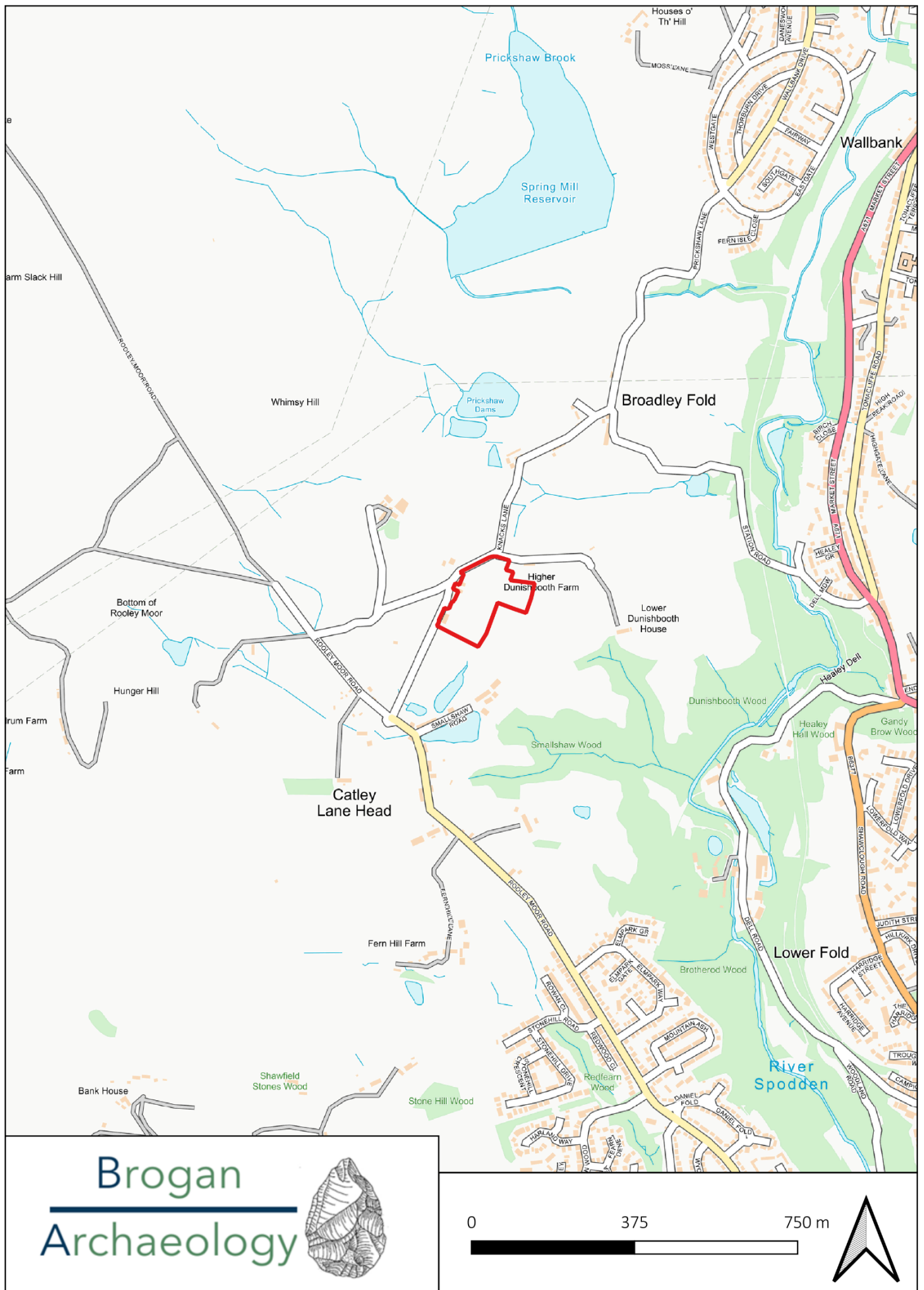


Figure 1 Site location in context





Figure 2 Site location (aerial view)



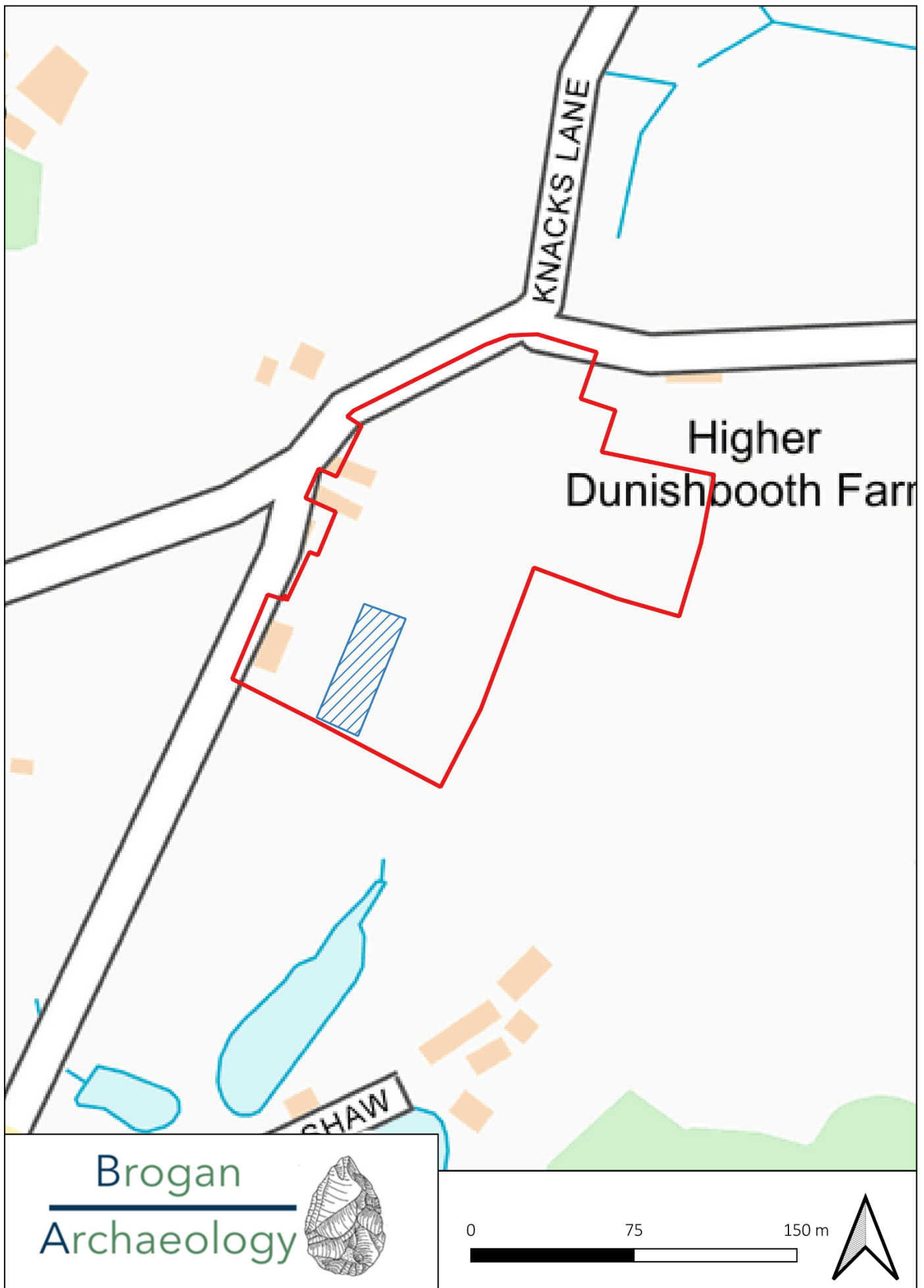


Figure 3 Area proposed for the new arena

