



Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester

Archaeological Evaluation Report

November 2022

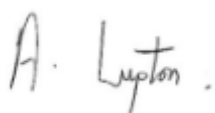
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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Ashley Joynes and Charlotte Howsam

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Summary

In September 2022, Oxford Archaeology (OA) North were commissioned by The Environment Partnership (TEP), on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd (Manchester), to undertake an archaeological trial-trench evaluation and archaeological monitoring on the proposed site of a residential development north-west of Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (NGR: SD 85362 08730).

The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: 16/01399/HYBR). Orion Heritage produced a desk-based assessment to accompany the planning application. Following discussions between TEP and the Heritage Management Director for Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service (GMAAS), a programme of four trial trenches across the development area was proposed. TEP subsequently produced a written scheme of investigation (WSI), and OA North were commissioned to undertake the fieldwork. Upon commencement of the works on 15th September 2022 it was found that due to the advanced state of development groundworks the original trenching strategy could not be carried out, restricting the works to two trenches (Trenches 1 and 2); which were also repositioned due to on-site constraints. No significant archaeology was identified in either trench.

Further discussions, including a site meeting, were held with the Heritage Management Director for GMAAS to agree a strategy for archaeological works. It was proposed that a further three trial trenches (Trench 5, 6 and 7) were to excavated in undisturbed areas in the northern part of the site, two areas to be subject to hand-cleaning in the western part of the site, and the excavation of a manhole was to be monitored under watching brief conditions. TEP produced an additional WSI detailing the methodology to be implemented for these further works, which were undertaken over two days, 27th and 28th September 2022.

No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the archaeological works. A small number of late post-medieval/modern land drains were revealed crossing two trenches concentrated in the northern part of the site. The only other feature encountered was a natural tree-throw hole in Area 2 to the south. Variations in the natural geology were examined in these two areas and found to have most likely been caused by disturbance from machines and possible bioturbation. The archaeological monitoring identified a disturbed natural deposit. No residual finds were recovered from the site.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North would like to thank Amir Bassir of The Environment Partnership (TEP) for commissioning this project on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd (Manchester). Thanks are also extended to Ian Miller, Heritage Management Director for Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) who monitored the work on behalf of Rochdale Borough Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Paul Dunn. The first site visit was directed by Helen Stocks, assisted by Lauren Basnett and Selina Dean. The second visit was directed by Katie Sanderson, assisted by Selina Dean and Ashley Joynes. The illustrations were produced by Mark Tidmarsh, whilst the report was written by Ashley Joynes and Charlotte Howsam.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by The Environment Partnership (TEP), on behalf of their client Bellway Homes Ltd (Manchester), to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation and monitoring at the site of a proposed residential development to the north-west of Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (NGR: SD 85362 08730; Fig 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 16/01399/HYBR). Orion Heritage produced a desk-based assessment (Orion Heritage 2017) to accompany the planning application. Following discussions between TEP and the Heritage Management Director for Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service (GMAAS), a programme of four trial trenches across the development area was proposed. TEP subsequently produced a written scheme of investigation (WSI; *Appendix A*), and OA North were commissioned to undertake the necessary fieldwork. Upon commencement of the works on 15th September 2022 it was found that due to the advanced state of development groundworks the original trenching strategy could not be carried out, restricting the works to two trenches (Trenches 1 and 2); which were also repositioned due to on-site constraints. No significant archaeology was identified in either trench.
- 1.1.3 Further discussions, including a site meeting, were held with the Heritage Management Director for GMAAS to agree a strategy for archaeological works. It was proposed that a further three trial trenches (Trench 5, 6 and 7) were to be excavated in undisturbed areas in the northern part of the site, two areas to be subject to hand-cleaning in the western part of the site, and the excavation of a manhole was to be monitored under watching brief conditions. TEP produced an additional WSI (*Appendix B*) detailing the methodology to be implemented for these further works, which were undertaken over two days, 27th and 28th September 2022. This document outlines how OA North implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the south of Heywood, a town in the Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale, Greater Manchester (centred on NGR SD 85362 08730; Fig. 1). The proposed development site occupies a roughly triangular block of land measuring c 5.5ha. It is bounded by Manchester Road to the east, agricultural land to the south and west, and properties and associated land off Hareshill Road to the north.
- 1.2.2 The central part of the site lies at c 122m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the land gradually slopes down to c 119m aOD in the west and c 120m aOD in the east towards Manchester Road (TEP 2021).
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation (BGS 2022). In the east of the site this is overlain by Devensian Till, which is recorded as Diamicton (*ibid*). In the central raised area of the site, the overlying superficial deposits are Devensian sand and gravel of Glaciofluvial Ice Contact Deposits (*ibid*). To the west the overlying deposits are sand

and gravel Lacustrine Deposits (*ibid*). The soils within the site are mapped as freely draining slightly acid sandy soils (Cranfield University 2022).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site and wider development area has been described in detail in the archaeological assessment produced by Orion Heritage (2017); it was reproduced in the two WSIs (*Appendix A* and *B*) and is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 Mesolithic settlement activity has been recorded across the region in a variety of settings and environments, and these sites have demonstrated several phases of occupation (Cowell 1996). However, the primary evidence from this period recorded in proximity of the site is largely in the form of lithic scatters identified during fieldwalking or incidentally during large-scale excavations (Hall *et al* 1995).
- 1.3.3 During the Neolithic period, the Lancashire climate appears to have shifted to a cooler and wetter environment. This, along with woodland clearance and the development of grazing land for animals, contributed to the formation of large areas of moss (blanket bog) across the region. These cooler waterlogged conditions are suggested to be the cause of limited settlement activity in the area during the Neolithic period (Hall *et al* 1995), and only one burial monument, comprising a cairn dating to the Neolithic–Bronze Age period, is recorded to the north-east of the site at Windhill (*ibid*).
- 1.3.4 Within the Heywood area, the Bronze Age is represented by a find spot of a Bronze Age stone axe to the north of the development site (ID: LVPL-48A638) and two found to the north-east adjacent to the Whittle Brook.
- 1.3.5 A possible Iron Age settlement was recorded at Rhodes Green to the south-west of the site and a beaded torque was found by workman in 1832 to the north-east at Calderbrook (GMAU 1990a). To the south-west at Salford along the Salteye Brook, a similar site in character to that of the development site, located on a natural low promontory with free draining sandy soils, revealed the remains of prehistoric and late pre-Roman Iron Age occupation/settlement that continued into the Roman period (GMAU 1998).
- 1.3.6 By AD 70, sometime after the initial Roman invasion, the region eventually formed the northern frontier of Roman Britain and soon after several Roman forts were established in Manchester, Lancaster, Ribchester and Castleshaw, the latter located 15km east of the site. The remains of a local Roman road are thought to cross through Rochdale, north of Heywood and across to Bury, some way from the site's location (GMAU 1990b).
- 1.3.7 After the departure of the Roman legions in the fifth century AD, the region eventually became part of the Kingdom of Northumbria. Æthelfrith, the king of Northumbria in the seventh century, is considered to have crossed through the area around the site with his troops on the way to Chester, where a battle is recorded by several sources including Bede as having taken place at some time between AD 605 and AD 616.

- 1.3.8 Heywood is not recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086; however, its name is derived from the Old English for 'high (or chief) wood' (Mills 2011), suggesting at least late Saxon origins. To the north of Heywood, at the site of Gristlehurst Hall, excavations in 2014 revealed a clay-lined pit with a stone foundation; its western side opened onto an area defined by boulders and a soot- and charcoal-filled hollow (BAG 2014). Charcoal provided a radiocarbon date of cal AD 987–1045.
- 1.3.9 The place name 'Heghwode' was first recorded in 1246 and was located in the parish of Hopwood (Morgan 1978). The development site likely fell within Siddal Moor, then part of Whittle, which was a detached portion of Bury Parish. The site was located north-east of the small settlement of Birch; however, several medieval features relating to agriculture are recorded within and adjacent to the site including remains of field systems, terracing and ridge-and-furrow cultivation. Prior to the fourteenth century, the climate had improved, making more land available for both arable and pasture farming. The watercourses in proximity of the site, such as the Whittle Brook, would have provided access to water for livestock and would have been able to supply the water for a possible homestead moat site at New Gap Farm to the south of the site. In addition, the site of the medieval settlement of Meadowcroft, Pilsworth, to the south-west, survives as earthworks and cropmarks. Limited excavation and fieldwalking revealed an industrial site with evidence of ironworking and smelting activities (GMAU 1998).
- 1.3.10 Further industrial activity in the area surrounding the site during the late medieval–post medieval period was recorded in a lease dated 1587 between Edmund Hopwood and Isabella Schoharie, referring to a 'Coleyfylde' at Siddal. Within the western end of the site and to the east of Manchester Road, some post-medieval features associated with coal mining are recorded in the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 1.3.11 Siddal Moor was recorded in a 1570 survey of the lands of Edward Hopwood and was described as comprising 500 acres with the right to turbary. Therefore, the peat on Siddal Moor was subject to cutting for fuel. A small area of peat is recorded in the Greater Manchester HER adjacent to the southern boundary of the site. The eighteenth-century farmsteads of Siddal Moor Farm to the north and New Gap Farm to the south are recorded on historic mapping predating the Siddal Moor Enclosure of 1815, following an Act of Parliament in 1812. Following the tithe awards in 1838 and 1840, the former moorland was also exploited for compost manufacturing due to peat's natural abilities to hold water and nutrients for use in gardening. Coal mining on the moor was also continued during this time by the Hopwood family, and some of the straight hedgerow boundaries from the 1815 moor enclosure remain extant on the development site to the present day.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of the archaeological features and deposits within the areas of interest. The results of the evaluation will allow GMAAS to make a reasonable and informed decision as to whether any archaeological remains on site would require a programme of mitigation works.
- 2.1.2 With reference to the updated *North West Archaeological Research Framework* (Research Frameworks 2022), the evaluation aimed to address following relevant objectives from the prehistory and Roman agendas:
- PH23: How can we identify previously unknown prehistoric sites?
 - PH26: What was the changing nature of the relationships between people and their environment during the prehistoric period?
 - PH30: What can incidental, residual lithics tell us about Mesolithic activity and settlement locations?
 - PH32: How can targeted survey and excavation address the issue of sparsity of Neolithic settlement in the North West?
 - R20: How can we identify regional types and patterns of distribution, despite low levels of material culture across the region?
 - R27: How can the analysis of the origin of stone for buildings, funerary structures and querns help to determine patterns of resource exploitation and trade?

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The full methodology is outlined in the WSIs (*Appendix A and B*) and was adhered to in full, and, as such, was fully compliant with prevailing guidelines and established industry best practice (CIfA 2020a; 2020b; 2022; Historic England 2015). A programme of field observation accurately recorded the character of the deposits within the evaluation and watching brief areas.
- 2.2.2 As development had commenced prior to the arrival of archaeologists on site, only two of the original four proposed evaluation trenches, were excavated (Trenches 1 and 2). These trenches were relocated to the south-west of their original positions (Fig. 2). Trench 2 was also repositioned on a north-west/south-east alignment. Following discussions between TEP and GMAAS, a further three trenches (Trenches 5–7) were excavated in areas that had not been stripped to the natural geology.
- 2.2.3 The trial trenches were laid out by the site engineers prior to excavation. The topsoil, and any surviving subsoil, were removed by 13-tonne 360° tracked mechanical excavators, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit or natural geology. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, the trench edges. Subsequent cleaning and investigation of all archaeological deposits was undertaken manually, using either hoes, shovel scraping,

and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions. All features of archaeological interest were investigated.

- 2.2.4 In addition to the extra trial trenches, it was agreed by TEP and GMAAS that two areas measuring c 8m² located towards the west of the site were to be hand cleaned to investigate any potential archaeological features or deposits exposed from the removal of the overburden deposits. Furthermore, a watching brief was carried out during the development groundworks. This involved monitoring the excavation of a c 10m by 2m trench associated with drainage installation in the north-west of the site.
- 2.2.5 The trenches were surveyed by use of a real-time kinematic (RTK) global navigation satellite system (GNSS), accurate to within 0.02m-0.03m, and altitude information was established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum. All information identified during the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the former Centre of Archaeology of English Heritage, with an accompanying pictorial record (plans, sections, and digital photographs). Primary records were available for inspection at all times.
- 2.2.6 Results of all field investigations were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. The site archive includes both photographic images and accurate large-scale plans and sections at appropriate scales (1:50; 1:20; 1:10).
- 2.2.7 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the WSI, and in accordance with current ClfA (2020b) and Historic England (2015) guidelines. The archive will be deposited with the Touchstones, Rochdale in due course. An online access to the index of archaeological investigation (OASIS) form will also be uploaded, along with a digital copy of this report.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the fieldwork are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches and monitored areas, all of which were devoid of any significant archaeological remains. The full details of all trial trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in *Appendix C*. Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was aligned north-east/south-west and located in the south-east of the site (Fig. 2; Plate 1). The trench revealed a stratigraphic sequence comprising a made ground deposit (**100**) overlying a mid-yellowish grey clay silt subsoil (**101**), which in turn overlaid the natural clay (**102**). No archaeological features or residual finds were encountered within the trench.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north-east (1m and 2m scales)

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 This trench was positioned in the central-south of the site on a north-west/south-east alignment (Fig. 2; Plate 2). Excavation of the trench revealed a deposit of possible redeposited natural sand, or the natural geology (**200**), in excess of 1.2m thick. No other deposits or archaeological features were exposed within the trench.



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking east (2m scale)

3.4 Trenches 5, 6 and 7

- 3.4.1 Trenches 5, 6 and 7 were all located along the northern boundary of the site on a broadly north-west/south-east-alignment (Fig 2). All three trenches encountered the same stratigraphic sequence, natural sandy clay geology, overlain by subsoil, approximately 0.18m thick, which was, in turn, overlain by topsoil, approximately 0.28m thick (Plates 3 to 5). Trench 7 contained a thin alluvial deposit, **701**, which overlay subsoil **702**, and was approximately 0.18m thick.
- 3.4.2 No significant archaeological remains were encountered in the trenches, with the only features identified cutting the natural geology being post-medieval or modern field drains. There were also no finds or environmental samples recovered from these trenches as there were no suitable deposits.



Plate 3: Trench 5, looking north-west (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 4: Trench 6, looking south-east (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 5: Trench 7, looking east-south-east (1m and 2m scales)

3.5 Areas 1 and 2

- 3.5.1 Areas 1 and 2 (Fig 2) were subject to hand-cleaning following their mechanical stripping (Plates 6 and 7), which was not subject to archaeological monitoring. Both areas were approximately 8m² in area, with the principal aim of being to investigate potential archaeological features cutting the surface of the natural geology, as identified during the site meeting held between TEP and GMAAS.



Plate 6: Area 1, looking west (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 7: Area 2, looking south-east (1m and 2m scales)

- 3.5.2 Both areas revealed the surface of the natural geology, with several potential features being excavated and, subsequently, identified as either disturbance from the mechanical excavation of the site or bioturbation. A tree-throw was recorded in Area 2 (Fig 2; Plate 8), located in the south-east corner of the area, the feature, **1**, was irregular in plan and profile, measuring approximately 1.13m by 0.79m and 0.23m deep, and contained a single sterile fill, **2**.



*Plate 8: Tree-throw hole **1** in Area 2, looking south-east (0.2m scale)*

3.6 Watching brief area

- 3.6.1 Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation a c 10m by 2m trench associated with drainage installation located in the north-west of the site. It was orientated north-west/south-east, perpendicular to the western site boundary. The trench was excavated to a depth of c 0.5m and revealed a mid pinkish grey clay that appeared to have been a disturbed natural deposit (Plate 9). No archaeological remains were encountered within the trench.



Plate 9: Watching brief trench, looking north-east (no scale)

3.7 Environmental and finds summary

- 3.7.1 No environmental samples were taken as there were no suitable deposits uncovered and no archaeological finds were recovered during the archaeological monitoring.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Given that much of the site had been stripped of overburden deposits prior to the arrival of archaeologists on site, the results of the trial-trench evaluation and watching brief are limited. Nevertheless, the excavation of additional trenches in undisturbed areas of the site and the investigation of anomalies identified in the surface of the natural geology in two stripped areas were undertaken in order to maximise the potential for exposing archaeological remains.
- 4.1.2 The ground and site conditions were generally good throughout the course of the evaluation and watching brief, and the supervised machining was generally carried out cleanly providing good visibility of the archaeological features and deposits in the evaluation trenches and monitored areas.
- 4.1.3 While the WSIs (*Appendix A and B*) highlighted the archaeological potential of the site, particularly for prehistoric and Roman remains, the investigations demonstrated the absence of any significant archaeological features, with only a small number of late post-medieval/modern land drains and a natural feature revealed. In addition, no residual finds were recovered from the excavated deposits.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The archaeological investigation of the site is considered to have largely achieved its general aims (*Section 2.1.1*). The evaluation and watching brief established the overall absence of archaeological remains on site. The only features encountered were a small number of late post-medieval/modern land drains identified cutting into the natural geology in Trenches 5 and 7 in the northern half of the site and a sterile tree-throw hole was also encountered in Area 2, located towards west.
- 4.2.2 Given the absence of any archaeological remains predating the late post-medieval/modern period and the lack of residual finds in overburden deposits, the results of the investigations cannot inform on the nature of prehistoric and Roman activity on site or within the immediate area (*Section 2.1.2*).

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The trial trenches in the northern half of the site (Trenches 5–7) revealed largely uniform stratigraphic sequences of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial deposits. The stratigraphy in Trenches 1 and 2 in the southern half of the site were slightly different: a made ground deposit overlaid the subsoil, while in Trench 2 only the natural geology/redeposit natural sand was encountered. Disturbed natural was also revealed in the watching brief trench in the north-west of the site.
- 4.3.2 A natural tree-throw hole was investigated in Area 2. No finds or ecofacts were recovered from its single fill and so the feature cannot inform on a specific phase of activity or the nature of the past environment. Other potential features were investigated in Area 2, as well as those in Area 1, were found to be variations in the natural geology, most likely caused by disturbance from machines and possible bioturbation.

- 4.3.3 The only other features revealed on site were a small number of late post-medieval/modern land drains noted in Trenches 5 and 7, one of which was ceramic and another covered with red bricks. They provide evidence of the agricultural use of the landscape during the late post-medieval/modern period.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The archaeological works on site established the overall absence of any significant archaeological remains on site, with only a small number of land drains demonstrative of the agricultural nature of land use during the late post-medieval/modern period. Together with the lack of earlier archaeological features and residual finds in the investigated areas of the site, the results most likely reflect disturbance/truncation from agricultural activities carried out on site and within the immediate area throughout the post-medieval period and into the modern era, as indicated by historic mapping. In addition, the largely negative results may also demonstrate the site's location away from known medieval settlements and earlier sites recorded within the wider landscape (see *Section 1.3*).

Figure 1: Site location

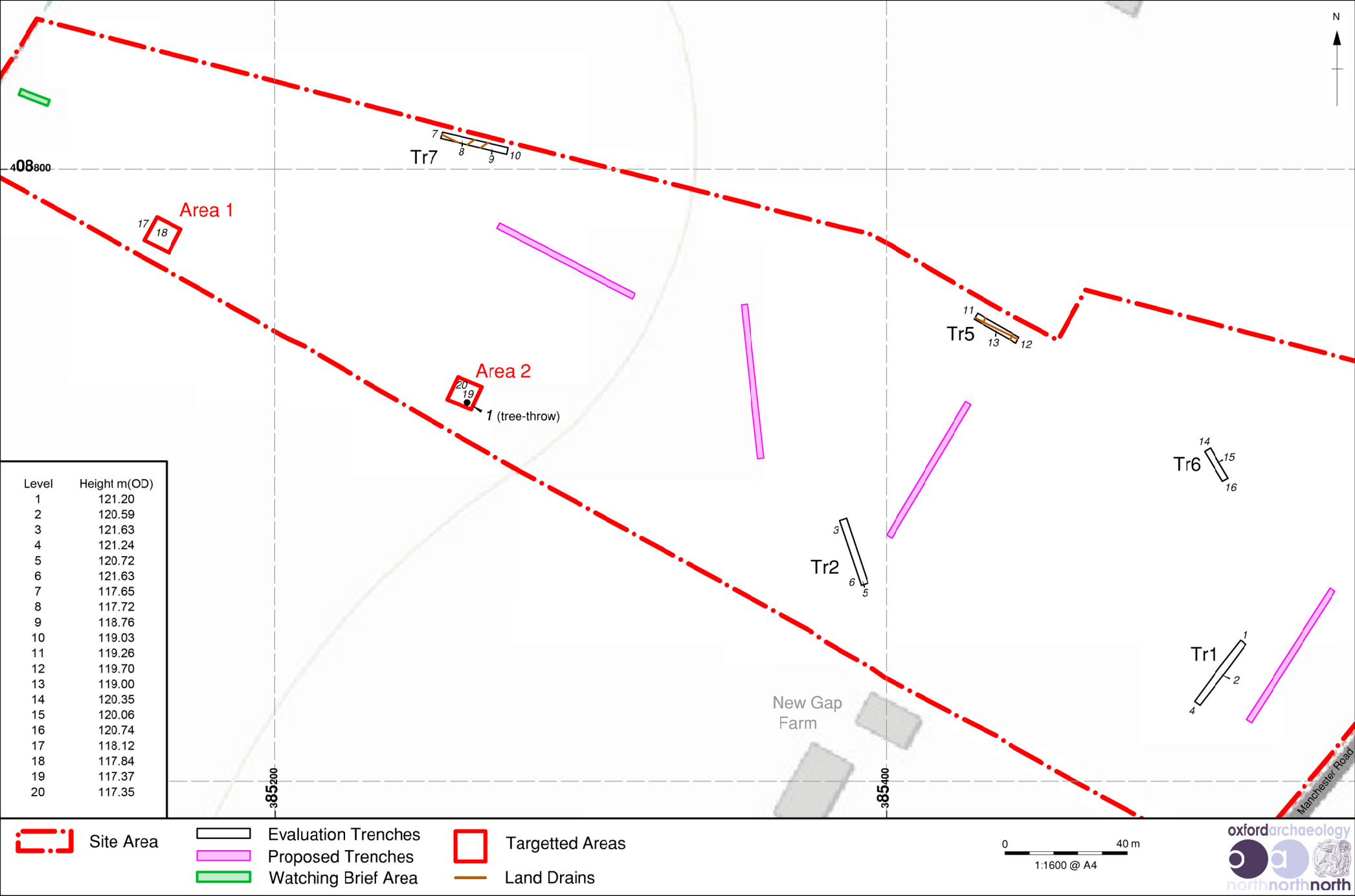


Figure 2: Location plan of evaluation trenching, targeted areas and watching brief area

APPENDIX A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (2021)



ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING LAND AT MANCHESTER ROAD, HEYWOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Archaeological Trial Trench Plan

APPENDIX B: Risk Assessment Method

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been commissioned by Bellway Homes Ltd as part of a programme of archaeological works required in order to discharge Condition 17 of approved Planning Application 16/01399/HYBR for a mixed use development at Land Bound By Manchester Road, Hareshill Road And Pilsworth Road West Of Junction 19 Of The M62 Rochdale. This planning condition states that;

"No development shall take place on any phase of development until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works for that particular phase. The works are to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The WSI shall cover the following:

- a). A phased programme and methodology of investigation and recording to include:
- a historic building survey - archaeological evaluation - informed by the above, more detailed targeted excavation (subject of a new WSI)*
- b). A programme for post investigation assessment to include: - analysis of the site investigation records and finds - production of a final report on the significance of the archaeological and historical interest represented.*
- c). Dissemination of the results commensurate with their significance. d). Provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation.*
- e). Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.*

Reason: To record and advance understanding of heritage assets impacted on by the development and to make information about the archaeological heritage interest publicly accessible in accordance with the requirements of Core Strategy Policy P2 and the National Planning Policy Framework. Reason for pre-commencement condition: To ensure the opportunity for archaeological investigation is undertaken as part of pre-commencement works on site in the public interests of recording and advancing understanding of the archaeological heritage of the site."

- 1.2 Development at the site is to be taken forward in phases, and this WSI deals with South Heywood Phase 1, which covers an area of approximately 5.5 ha to the west of Manchester Road, at NGR SD 85392 08724. This is referred to throughout this WSI as the 'development site'.
- 1.3 The local planning authority is the Rochdale Borough Council. The advisors to Rochdale Council on archaeological matters are the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS).
- 1.4 This WSI sets out the proposed methodology for a trial trench evaluation and programme of reporting. There are no historic buildings within the Phase 1 development site, therefore this WSI does not cover historic building recording.

- 1.5 Email consultation was undertaken initially in December 2018 with the Heritage Management Director (Archaeology) at the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) regarding the archaeological potential of the development site. The response from GMAAS stated that they believed the site to have potential for prehistory/Romano-British archaeology and that the site should be subject to a programme of trial trenching. These trenches in the Phase 1 site were recommended to be targeted to evaluate topographic high points indicated by the OS 6" first edition map contours, together with a trackway shown on that map (see Figure 1).



Figure 1: OS County Series Lancashire and Furness 1851 1:10,560. Showing raised elevation and earlier trackway across the centre of the development site. © National Library of Scotland

- 1.6 On 30th March 2021 email consultation was again undertaken with the Heritage Management Director (Archaeology) at GMAAS which confirmed that the previous advice was still valid and the proposed trench plan (Appendix A) was suitable to target the areas previously identified for the trial trench evaluation.
- 1.7 This WSI has been prepared by TEP, a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). It has been authored by a full Member of the CIfA. The archaeological works will be undertaken by appropriately qualified archaeologists at Oxford Archaeology North.

Aims and Objectives

- 1.8 The aim of the trial trench evaluation is to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of the archaeological features and deposits within the areas of interest. The information gained will allow the GMAAS to make a reasonable and informed decision as to whether the archaeological remains on site, should any be present, are to be subject to a programme of mitigation works, to be defined following the results of the evaluation.
- 1.9 The programme of work is designed in accordance with paragraphs 189 and 199 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

1.10 The research objectives of the programme of work will be determined by what archaeological remains are present within the development site. However, subsequent assessment and analysis will be in accordance with relevant objectives outlined in the updated North West Archaeological Research Framework (2006). Relevant objectives from the Prehistory and Roman Agendas may include:

- PH23: How can we identify previously unknown prehistoric sites?
- PH26: What was the changing nature of the relationships between people and their environment during the prehistoric period?
- PH30: What can incidental, residual lithics tell us about Mesolithic activity and settlement locations?
- PH32: How can targeted survey and excavation address the issue of sparsity of Neolithic settlement in the North West?
- R20: How can we identify regional types and patterns of distribution, despite low levels of material culture across the region?
- R27: How can the analysis of the origin of stone for buildings, funerary structures and querns help to determine patterns of resource exploitation and trade?

2.0 Policy, Standards and Guidance

- 2.1 Section 16 of The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), revised February 2019, describes the provisions specifically relating to conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
- 2.2 Paragraph 189 advises local planning authorities to require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by their proposal, including any contribution made by their setting, including *"where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation"*. It states that *"the level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance"*.
- 2.3 Paragraph 199 states that *"local planning authorities ... should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible"*. The request for pre-determination works attached to the planning application, and this corresponding WSI, are in accordance with this policy provision of the NPPF.

Guidance

- 2.4 The guidance most relevant to this WSI is provided in:
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief;
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials;
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives; and
 - Historic England, 2015 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).

Monitoring

- 2.5 The implementation of the works outlined in this WSI will be monitored by the Heritage Management Director at Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA). GMAAS will be kept up to date with progress during all phases of the archaeological works.
- 2.6 All archaeological fieldwork will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist, working under the direction of a full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, or equivalently qualified project director.

3.0 Background

Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The solid geology is recorded by the British Geological Survey as Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation, Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. In the east this is overlain by Devensian Till, which is recorded as Diamicton, indicative of former ice age conditions, with deposits left by meltwater. In the centre raised area of the site, the overlying deposits are Glaciofluvial Ice Contact Deposits, Devensian - Sand and Gravel, which are also set down by glacial meltwater action. To the west, the overlying deposits are Lacustrine Deposits - Sand and Gravel, which are indicative of a past local environment previously dominated by lakes. It is noted that the presence of Lacustrine Deposits adjacent to the higher elevation in the centre of the site may indicate archaeological potential for prehistoric lakeside activity in the area. The historic course of the Whittle Brook is also depicted on historic mapping as closer to the east of the development site in the 19th century before its later diversion.
- 3.2 The soils on the site are categorised as Soilscape 10: Freely draining slightly acid sandy soils, which may limit the potential for recovery of any human or animal bone which may be associated with the archaeological remains of a settlement site, but it could also preserve other organic materials and ceramics. The development site is at 119m above Ordnance Datum in the west, rising to 122m to its highest point in the centre and drops down to 120m in the south-east and east towards Manchester Road.
- 3.3 As noted in the North West Archaeological Research Framework, and 2018 consultation comments from GMAAS, the topographic and geological conditions of the development site, which comprise an elevated area of land on free draining sandy soils close to watercourses and former mossland also indicates archaeological potential for prehistoric activity in the area.

Archaeological and Historic Background

Historic map evidence

- 3.4 Available historic mapping shows that the study area which includes the development site comprised open moorland in post medieval period until enclosure in the late-19th century. The character has endured until the present day.

Prehistoric

- 3.5 North West England has a number of recorded sites which provide evidence of changes in climate, relative sea level, and past vegetation in the early prehistoric period (North West Archaeological Research Framework 2006). This environmental evidence also provides a background to understanding the movement of people during this time, as a reaction to changes in the environment and this can be used to aid interpretation of the regions' early prehistoric sites. The main areas which retain direct evidence of human activity in the Palaeolithic period however are still cave sites, and there is still little evidence of settlement activities in this period within the study area.

- 3.6 Mesolithic settlement activity has been recorded across the region in a variety of settings and environments and these sites have demonstrated several phases of occupation. However, the primary evidence from this period in the study area tends to be in the form of lithic scatters recorded during field walking or incidentally during large scale excavations. Within the wider study area, Mesolithic flints have been recovered, and environmental evidence of woodland clearance has also been recorded. The climate appears to have supported hunter gatherer populations in Lancashire at this time, however settlement may have been seasonal, following the movement of game animals between the lowlands and Pennine hills.
- 3.7 Into the Neolithic period the Lancashire climate appears to have shifted to a cooler and wetter environment. This, along with woodland clearance and the creation of grazing land for animals, contributed to the formation of large areas of moss (blanket bog) across the region. The development site appears to be located within the former site of Siddal Moor (as evidenced on the 1786 map of Lancashire by Yates), which was likely an area of mossland and evidence of peat is known within the vicinity, although it has not been recorded yet within the site itself. These cooler waterlogged conditions are suggested to be the cause of limited settlement activity in the area during the Neolithic period, and only one burial monument, comprising a cairn dating to the Neolithic to Bronze Age period, is recorded in the north-east of the study area.
- 3.8 This wet climate in the study area is thought to continue into the Bronze Age with the abandonment of some formerly occupied sites, and this state of use continues into the Iron Age period. In the wider region there has been evidence of settlement and farming activity, as well as funerary sites on the Pennine fringes and also in lowland areas. In the study area, the Bronze Age is represented by a find spot of a Bronze Age stone axe in Heywood to the north, and two were also found to the north-east of the development site adjacent to the Whittle Brook. These may represent votive deposits.
- 3.9 Recent archaeological investigations in the region have recorded that the typically Iron Age hillforts in North West England have their origins in the Late Bronze Age. The Iron Age period appears to develop upon field systems established elsewhere in the Bronze Age and farming activity intensified, which may have been a result of population pressures. In the south of the region, earlier settlement sites developed further in the later Iron Age and the number of lowland rural settlements also increased at this time. To the south-west of the study area a possible Iron Age settlement was recorded at Rhodes Green, and to the north-east at Calderbook, a beaded torque was found by workman in 1832. To the south-west at Salford along the Salteye Brook, a similar site in character to that of the development site, located on a natural low promontory with free draining sandy soils, revealed the remains of prehistoric and Late Pre-Roman Iron Age to Romano-British occupation/settlement in this area, during an evaluation by UMAU in 2008. This settlement included the remains of postholes/pits and linear gullies and the archaeologists also recovered late Mesolithic worked flint, a quern fragment and fire cracked pebbles (University of Manchester Archaeological Unit 2008). Another similar site in topography and location, was partly excavated near Cadishead, close to Chat Moss, provided comparable results, but also included an enclosure with the remains of a number of hut circles.

Roman

- 3.10 It is thought that prior to the arrival of Roman troops into North West England, the area would have been part of the large northern territory belonging to the Brigantes tribe. This area stretched across northern Britain and was primarily focussed around Yorkshire, with its administrative centre east in what is now Aldborough, first recorded by its Latin name *Isurium Brigantum*. By 70 AD sometime after the initial Roman invasion, the region eventually became the northern frontier of Roman Britain and soon after a number of Roman forts were established in Manchester, Lancaster, Ribchester and Castleshaw, located 15km east of the development site. Continuing excavations at Castleshaw have revealed more about the life and functions of this site from 79 AD, including five Roman roads, gated entranceways, timber workshop buildings, industrial waste pits and also some Mesolithic flint finds, to indicate that the site has been in use almost continually since the prehistoric period. A local Roman road is thought to cross through Rochdale, north of Heywood and across to Bury, some way from the development site's location.

Early Medieval

- 3.11 After the departure of the Roman legions in the 5th century AD, the region eventually became part of the Kingdom of Northumbria, whose border with Mercia is thought to be to the east of the study area along the River Tame. Æthelfrith, the king of Northumbria in the 7th century is thought to have crossed through the study area with his troops on the way to Battle of Chester, which is recorded as taking place at some time between 605 and 616, by a number of sources including Bede.
- 3.12 Heywood is not recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086, however its name is derived from the Old English for 'High (or chief) wood' (Mills 2011), therefore it is likely that there may have been some small woodland settlement in the study area by the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 - 1075. Hopwood to the north of the development site is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles as 'Hopwode', its place name meaning a 'wood in a small enclosed valley' and Rochdale was recorded in the Domesday Book later in 1086 as 'Recedham', from the Old Norse meaning 'Valley of the River Roch' (Mills 2011) and included 9.5 leagues of woodland. Together this indicates that the study area was initially well wooded in the early medieval period, and would have been cleared later in the early medieval and medieval period for agriculture and settlement expansion. To the north at Heywood, at the site of Gristlehurst Hall, excavations in 2014 revealed a clay-lined pit with a stone foundation, which opened onto an area that included a soot- and charcoal-filled hollow. The dating evidence for the charcoal found in the kiln structure indicated a date of 987-1045 AD for this feature.

Medieval

- 3.13 The place name 'Heghwode' was first recorded in 1246 and would have been in the parish of Hopwood at this time. The development site was likely within Siddal Moor, then part of Whittle, which was a detached portion of Bury Parish. The development site was located north-east of the small settlement of Birch, however a number of medieval features relating to agriculture are recorded within and adjacent to the including field systems, terracing and ridge and furrow cultivation remains. Prior to the 14th century the climate had improved, making more land available for agriculture and the free draining sandy soil would have been useful for both arable and pasture farming. The watercourses of the area such as the Whittle Brook would have provided access to water for livestock, and would have been able to supply the water for a possible homestead moat site at New Gap Farm to the south of the development site. Many moated homesteads were constructed in the 13th and 14th centuries, possibly in response to increasing pressure on food supplies due to a change in climate to wetter, cooler conditions and also a rise in taxes and consequently civil unrest, from which landowners sought security and protection from within their moated sites. To the south-west of the development site, the site of the medieval settlement of Meadowcroft survives as earthwork and cropmark remains, and excavation and field walking revealed an industrial site with iron working and smelting activities.

Post Medieval

- 3.14 Further industrial activity in the study area in the late medieval to post medieval period was recorded in a lease dated 1587 between Edmund Hopwood and Isabella Schoharie which referred to a 'Coleyfylde' at Siddal. This demonstrates that the potential for coal mining in the vicinity was known from at least the late-16th century, and if it was carried out, would have been in the form of bell pits and shallow workings. In the 16th century woodland traditionally used for fuel was in short supply, so it is likely that the early medieval woodland of the study area would have been cleared by this time and mining for coal as an alternative source of fuel began to increase in popularity. Within the western end of the development site and to the east of Manchester Road, some post medieval features associated with coal mining are recorded in the Greater Manchester HER.
- 3.15 Siddal Moor was recorded in a 1570 survey of the lands of Edward Hopwood, and was described as comprising 500 acres with the right to turbary, therefore the peat on Siddal Moor was subject to cutting for fuel. A small area of peat is recorded with in the Greater Manchester HER adjacent to the southern boundary of the development site. The southern boundary of Sidall Moor can still be traced along Dr Fold Lane to the south, and partially along remaining hedgerow to the west and Mercers Road in the north. The 18th century farmsteads of Siddal Moor Farm, to the north, and New Gap Farm, to the south are recorded on historic mapping before the time of the Sidall Moor Enclosure of 1815, following an Act of Parliament in 1812. Following the tithe awards in 1838 and 1840, the former moorland was also exploited for compost manufacturing due to peat's natural abilities to hold water and nutrients for use in gardening. Coal mining on the moor was also continued in this time by the Hopwood family, and some of the straight hedgerow boundaries from the 1815 moor enclosure remain extant on the development site to the present day.

4.0 Programme of Archaeological Works

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

- 4.1 The development site comprises three fields of rough pasture demarcated by the remains of straight hedgerow boundaries.
- 4.2 The evaluation will comprise the excavation of 4 trenches measuring 50m x 2m in extent. Their location is shown on Appendix A. These trenches have been placed with reference to the possible archaeological potential of the site, targeting the elevated areas in the centre and east, as well as the site of a trackway across the former Sidall Moor. The areas of investigation will be excavated by a suitably sized machine. The locations of the evaluation trenches have been confirmed in consultation with the Heritage Management Director for GMAAS.
- 4.3 All field work will be carried out by Oxford Archaeology North working under the direction of a full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Method of Excavation

- 4.4 The trial trenches will be mechanically excavated using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Under instruction the topsoil and overburden removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits of a maximum 0.1m thickness.
- 4.5 All machine work will be carried out under direct archaeological supervision and the machine will be halted if significant archaeological deposits are encountered. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon can be exposed by the machine, but will then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features and then hand excavated. At each soil horizon change, the supervising archaeologist will indicate to the machine driver that each stratum should be stored separately.
- 4.6 The archaeological works will provide an accurate record of any archaeological and paleo-environmental finds, features, artefacts or ecofacts identified.
- 4.7 Excavations will be undertaken by hand. Any archaeological surfaces that are present will be cleaned sufficiently to enhance any features, site levels will be related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum. The general site plans will be hand drawn at a scale of 1:50 or 1:100.

Method of Recording

- 4.8 Discrete features will be half-sectioned, or fully excavated if features are part of recognisable structures, contain deposits or artefacts of particular value, or likely to hold significant artefact or environmental assemblages. Intersections will be investigated to establish strategic relationships. Representative sections of linear and curvilinear features will be sample excavated away from intersections or other features or deposits, to obtain unmixed samples of material. Sections will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. Environmental bulk samples (usually 40 litres) will be taken where the deposit is likely to contain significant environmental assemblage. All records will be undertaken using pro form record sheets.

- 4.9 Sampling strategies will be in accordance with the archaeological sub-contractor fieldwork manual and described in their method statement as well as be the requirements of GMAAS.
- 4.10 The archaeological contractor will make appropriate pre-and post-excavation site records. All finds and features will be accurately located and planned accurately at appropriate scales. All site photographs will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a sensor of a minimum of 12 megapixels. All photography will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidance, Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice, 2015.

Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

- 4.11 Should the works encounter unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, more detailed recording than is appropriate within the terms of the WSI, then TEP will contact the GMAAS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter with the client.
- 4.12 Should remains or features of possible national archaeological importance be observed, fieldwork will cease on the relevant part of the site until these remains have been inspected by GMAAS (as advisors to the Local Planning Authority) and the appropriate Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

General

Finds

- 4.13 All finds or environmental samples recovered during the archaeological works will be assessed and reported on by internal and external specialists of the archaeological contractor. A list of specialists for the project will be provided in a method statement from the appointed archaeological contractor prior to works commencing.
- 4.14 All finds will be treated in accordance with current best practice as set out in Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and Historic England guidance.

Human Remains

- 4.15 If human remains are encountered during the excavation, they will be left in situ and GMAAS and the coroner notified. If it is deemed appropriate to excavate human remains, this will be done in accordance with appropriate Historic England and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (e.g. ClfA Technical Paper 14 Excavation and Post-excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Remains). Excavation, removal from site, analysis and final placing will all be subject to the requirements of the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence and any local environmental health regulations.

Treasure

- 4.16 If any artefacts are encountered that would constitute 'treasure' as defined by The Treasure Act, 1996 and the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002, they will be reported to the local Coroner and relevant Finds Liaison Officer. Any artefacts deemed to be Treasure should be excavated on the day they are discovered and removed to a secure site. If this is impractical then appropriate security provided until full excavation and removal can occur.

Paleo-environmental sampling and analysis

- 4.17 The paleo-environmental assessment aims to identify areas within the development footprint where conditions are such that deposits suitable for the study of past environments are preserved. These most commonly occur in the form of subsurface peat layers, but are also taken to include all waterlogged deposits. The identification of any suitable areas will take place during the archaeological evaluation.
- 4.18 Should any such deposits exist within the area of impact, samples will be taken by a suitably qualified specialist sub-contractor.
- 4.19 The samples would be assessed for their potential by internal or external specialists of the archaeological contractor, and suitable techniques applied to sub-sample from select cores to determine the preservation and taxonomic diversity within the samples. This is likely to include assessing for one or more of the following:
- Pollen (focussing on organic units)
 - Diatoms (focussing upon lithological transitions within and at the base of the Holocene sediment stack)
 - Foraminifera (focussing on mineral strata and in particular on transitions)
 - Plant macro-remains (focussing on organic units)
- 4.20 Having assessed the potential for analysis a project design will be produced that will provide a detailed proposal for analysis (including, for example, C14 dating, loss-on-ignition to measure organic carbon content, humification and mass specific magnetic susceptibility) of any present selected samples.
- 4.21 If necessary and appropriate the advice of the Historic England Science Advisor for the North West will be sought.

Programme

- 4.22 It is anticipated that the works will happen in accordance with the following programme:
- June 2021 - submit WSI for approval by GMAAS
 - June 2021 undertake trial trench evaluation
 - +4 weeks - report
 - +8 weeks - deposit archive

Organisation and Key Personnel

- 4.23 TEP is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The heritage team is under overall management of **Jason Clarke BSc MA MCIfA, Principal Historic Environment Consultant (TEP)**.
- 4.24 The archaeological works will be undertaken by appropriate qualified archaeologists from Oxford Archaeology North and will be managed by **Jason Clarke BSc MA MCIfA, Principal Historic Environment Consultant (TEP)**.

5.0 Reporting

- 5.1 In accordance with the principles of Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015) and the Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd Ed (MAP2) (English Heritage 1991), a programme of assessment and reporting will be undertaken, following completion of the archaeological evaluation fieldwork.
- 5.2 In the event of negative, or non-complex findings, a report will be produced detailing the results of the fieldwork within four weeks of the end of the fieldwork and archived within six months. If archaeology is revealed within the development site that requires further work, the results of the evaluation will be utilised to produce a project design for a mitigation strategy. The evaluation report will include;
- a front cover to include the NGR, and HER reference number
 - a concise, non-technical summary of the results,
 - the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken,
 - description of the methodology, including the sources consulted,
 - a very brief summary of the historical background of the study area,
 - a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the impact,
 - a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design,
 - the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted,
 - a site location plan related to the national grid,
 - appropriate plans showing the location and position of features or sites located,
 - plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds,
 - illustrative photographs as appropriate,
 - coordinates (latitude/longitude) of relevant sites if archaeological remains have been discovered.
- 5.3 In the event of archaeologically significant finds, the results of fieldwork combined with subsequent archaeological evaluation and mitigation will also be published in a relevant and appropriate journal, or other publically disseminated publication, as appropriate.
- 5.4 Pottery reports will refer to the appropriate type series.

6.0 Archive

- 6.1 A copy of the report provided as a PDF on disk, and as hard copies, will be submitted to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.
- 6.2 An archive of the results of the archaeological work will be produced, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, 2nd edition, 1991) and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2020). The archive will contain any site matrices, and summary reports of the artefact record, context records, and any other records or materials recovered.
- 6.3 Greater Manchester HER will be informed of fieldwork commencing and of the arrangements made for deposition of the project archive.
- 6.4 The original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media), and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche), together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) will be deposited with the relevant local archive.
- 6.5 Any relevant archive generated will be deposited with an appropriate regional depository, it is understood that a charge may be made for this and that the depository will need to be contacted to agree to the deposition of any archive in advance.
- 6.6 Details of the work will be entered on the OASIS database at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis>.

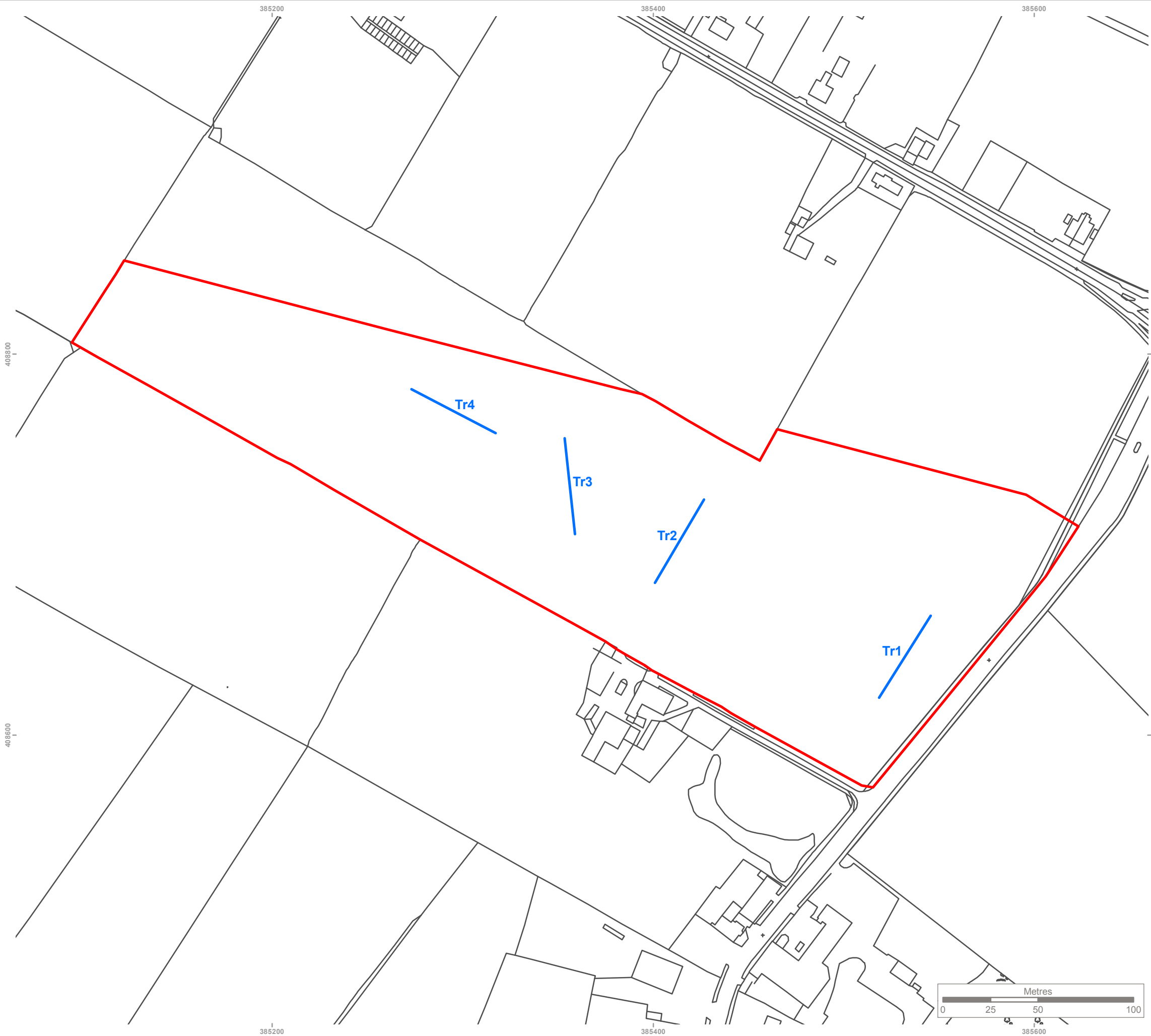
7.0 Health and Safety

- 7.1 The archaeologists on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. Where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose.
- 7.2 All work on site would be undertaken strictly in accordance with the project health and safety plan and task specific risk assessments. All companies working on the project will adhere to the client's required quality, health, safety and environment controls.
- 7.3 Access routes to working areas would be specified by the client and access would only be permitted to those routes and the area of the fieldwork.
- 7.4 All site staff, including subcontractors and visitors, will prove that they have attended a site induction and have the necessary competencies (e.g. CITB training for machine operators and CSCS cards) and any other necessary health and safety qualifications.
- 7.5 The archaeologists will maintain a record of site attendance for each day that they attend site for the archaeological works.
- 7.6 All site staff personnel will wear PPE consisting of gloves, goggles, hardhat, steel toe-capped boots with mid-sole protection and high visibility vest or jacket at all times. All equipment must be 'fit for purpose' and be maintained in a sound working condition that complies with all relevant Health and Safety regulations and recommendations, including;
 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Government Guidance for Working Safely;
 - Health & Safety at Work Act 1974; and
 - Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999.
- 7.7 The Archaeological Contractor will have their own Health and Safety policies compiled using national guidelines, which conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation and best practice. The RAMS provided by the Archaeological Contractor will include a specific section covering Coronavirus (COVID-19) for working safely.

References

- CIfA, 2019, Code of Conduct. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- CIfA, 2020, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
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- Orion Heritage, 2017, South Heywood Rochdale, Archaeological Assessment Report, Unpublished Report
- The North West England Regional Research Framework, 2006
<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>
- Websites
- Heritagegateway.org.uk*
- Old-maps.co.uk*
- www.british-history.ac.uk*
- www.pastscape.co.uk*

APPENDIX A: Archaeological Trial Trench Plan



KEY

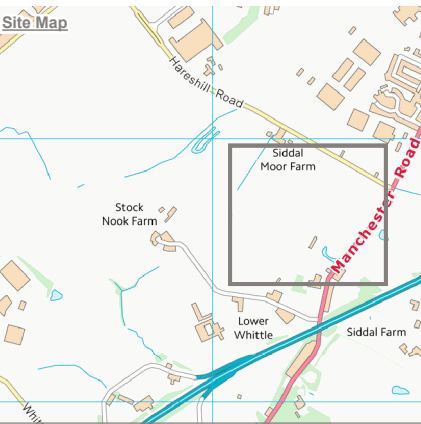
Site boundary

Archaeological trial trenches



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Site Map



UK Location Map



Scale: 1:30,000

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date



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Project
Manchester Road, Heywood

Title
Archaeological Trial Trench Plan

Drawing Number
G8866.001

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AB	SHB	JC	1:2,000 @ A3	09/06/2021

APPENDIX B: Risk Assessment Method Statement



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APPENDIX B WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (2022)



THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING LAND AT MANCHESTER ROAD, HEYWOOD ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

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Document Title	Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation
Prepared for	Bellway Homes Ltd (Manchester)
Prepared by	TEP - Market Harborough
Document Ref	8866.002

Author	Amir Bassir
Date	September 2022
Checked	Jason Clarke
Approved	Jason Clarke

Amendment History					
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Plan of Proposed Archaeological Works

APPENDIX B: Risk Assessment Method

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been commissioned by Bellway Homes Ltd as part of a programme of archaeological works required in order to discharge Condition 17 of approved Planning Application 16/01399/HYBR for a mixed-use development at Land Bound By Manchester Road, Hareshill Road And Pilsworth Road West Of Junction 19 Of The M62 Rochdale. This planning condition states that;

"No development shall take place on any phase of development until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works for that particular phase. The works are to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The WSI shall cover the following:

- a). A phased programme and methodology of investigation and recording to include:
- a historic building survey - archaeological evaluation - informed by the above, more detailed targeted excavation (subject of a new WSI)*
- b). A programme for post investigation assessment to include: - analysis of the site investigation records and finds - production of a final report on the significance of the archaeological and historical interest represented.*
- c). Dissemination of the results commensurate with their significance. d). Provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation.*
- e). Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.*

Reason: To record and advance understanding of heritage assets impacted on by the development and to make information about the archaeological heritage interest publicly accessible in accordance with the requirements of Core Strategy Policy P2 and the National Planning Policy Framework. Reason for pre-commencement condition: To ensure the opportunity for archaeological investigation is undertaken as part of pre-commencement works on site in the public interests of recording and advancing understanding of the archaeological heritage of the site."

- 1.2 Development at the site is to be taken forward in phases, and this WSI deals with South Heywood Phase 1, which covers an area of approximately 5.5 ha to the west of Manchester Road, at NGR SD 85392 08724. This is referred to throughout this WSI as the 'development site'.
- 1.3 The local planning authority is the Rochdale Borough Council. The advisors to Rochdale Council on archaeological matters are the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS).
- 1.4 There are no historic buildings within the Phase 1 development site, therefore this WSI does not cover historic building recording.

- 1.5 This Written Scheme of Investigation follows and supersedes a previously approved WSI by TEP (document ref 8866.001) and provides a methodology for amended works following logistical issues at the development site and has been produced following consultation with the Heritage Management Director (Archaeology) at Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS). A previous scheme of trial trench evaluation was aimed at assessing the site's potential to include prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological and the trenches in the Phase 1 site were targeted to evaluate topographic high points indicated by the OS 6" first edition map contours as well as a trackway shown on that map (figure 1). Due to site conditions parts of trenches 1 and 2 identified in 8866.001 were excavated however it was not possible to complete the evaluation works set out in the approved WSI.
- 1.6 The proposed archaeological works presented in this document comprise the excavation of three trenches measuring up to 20m in length, an area of watching brief targeting the proposed site of drainage manholes, and two areas measuring 5mx5m and 8mx8m which will be hand-cleaned and subject to archaeological investigation and recording. These areas and the approach to their investigation have been identified and confirmed through consultation with the Heritage Management Director following a site monitoring meeting.
- 1.7 This document has been prepared by TEP, a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). It has been authored by a full Member of the CIfA. The archaeological works will be undertaken by appropriately qualified archaeologists at Oxford Archaeology North.



Figure 1: OS County Series Lancashire and Furness 1851 1:10,560. Showing raised elevation and earlier trackway across the centre of the development site. © National Library of Scotland

Aims and Objectives

- 1.8 The aim of the works will be to mitigate the impact of development and to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of the archaeological features and deposits within the areas of interest.
- 1.9 The programme of work is designed in accordance with paragraphs 189 and 199 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 1.10 The research objectives of the programme of work will be determined by what archaeological remains are present within the development site. However, subsequent assessment and analysis will be in accordance with relevant objectives outlined in the updated North West Archaeological Research Framework (2006). Relevant objectives from the Prehistory and Roman Agendas may include:
- PH23: How can we identify previously unknown prehistoric sites?
 - PH26: What was the changing nature of the relationships between people and their environment during the prehistoric period?
 - PH30: What can incidental, residual lithics tell us about Mesolithic activity and settlement locations?
 - PH32: How can targeted survey and excavation address the issue of sparsity of Neolithic settlement in the North West?
 - R20: How can we identify regional types and patterns of distribution, despite low levels of material culture across the region?
 - R27: How can the analysis of the origin of stone for buildings, funerary structures and querns help to determine patterns of resource exploitation and trade?

2.0 Policy, Standards and Guidance

- 2.1 Section 16 of The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), revised February 2019, describes the provisions specifically relating to conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
- 2.2 Paragraph 189 advises local planning authorities to require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by their proposal, including any contribution made by their setting, including *"where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation"*. It states that *"the level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance"*.
- 2.3 Paragraph 199 states that *"local planning authorities ... should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible"*. The request for pre-determination works attached to the planning application, and this corresponding WSI, are in accordance with this policy provision of the NPPF.

Guidance

- 2.4 The guidance most relevant to this WSI is provided in:
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief;
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation;
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for field evaluation;
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials;
 - Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives; and
 - Historic England, 2015 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).

Monitoring

- 2.5 The implementation of the works outlined in this WSI will be monitored by the Heritage Management Director at Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA). GMAAS will be kept up to date with progress during all phases of the archaeological works.
- 2.6 All archaeological fieldwork will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist, working under the direction of a full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, or equivalently qualified project director.

3.0 Background

Geology and Topography

- 3.1 The solid geology is recorded by the British Geological Survey as Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation, Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. In the east this is overlain by Devensian Till, which is recorded as Diamicton, indicative of former ice age conditions, with deposits left by meltwater. In the centre raised area of the site, the overlying deposits are Glaciofluvial Ice Contact Deposits, Devensian - Sand and Gravel, which are also set down by glacial meltwater action. To the west, the overlying deposits are Lacustrine Deposits - Sand and Gravel, which are indicative of a past local environment previously dominated by lakes. It is noted that the presence of Lacustrine Deposits adjacent to the higher elevation in the centre of the site may indicate archaeological potential for prehistoric lakeside activity in the area. The historic course of the Whittle Brook is also depicted on historic mapping as closer to the east of the development site in the 19th century before its later diversion.
- 3.2 The soils on the site are categorised as Soilscape 10: Freely draining slightly acid sandy soils, which may limit the potential for recovery of any human or animal bone which may be associated with the archaeological remains of a settlement site, but it could also preserve other organic materials and ceramics. The development site is at 119m above Ordnance Datum in the west, rising to 122m to its highest point in the centre and drops down to 120m in the south-east and east towards Manchester Road.
- 3.3 As noted in the North West Archaeological Research Framework, and 2018 consultation comments from GMAAS, the topographic and geological conditions of the development site, which comprise an elevated area of land on free draining sandy soils close to watercourses and former mossland also indicates archaeological potential for prehistoric activity in the area.

Archaeological and Historic Background

Historic map evidence

- 3.4 Available historic mapping shows that the study area which includes the development site comprised open moorland in post medieval period until enclosure in the late-19th century. The character has endured until the present day.

Prehistoric

- 3.5 North West England has a number of recorded sites which provide evidence of changes in climate, relative sea level, and past vegetation in the early prehistoric period (North West Archaeological Research Framework 2006). This environmental evidence also provides a background to understanding the movement of people during this time, as a reaction to changes in the environment and this can be used to aid interpretation of the regions' early prehistoric sites. The main areas which retain direct evidence of human activity in the Palaeolithic period however are still cave sites, and there is still little evidence of settlement activities in this period within the study area.

- 3.6 Mesolithic settlement activity has been recorded across the region in a variety of settings and environments and these sites have demonstrated several phases of occupation. However, the primary evidence from this period in the study area tends to be in the form of lithic scatters recorded during field walking or incidentally during large scale excavations. Within the wider study area, Mesolithic flints have been recovered, and environmental evidence of woodland clearance has also been recorded. The climate appears to have supported hunter gatherer populations in Lancashire at this time, however settlement may have been seasonal, following the movement of game animals between the lowlands and Pennine hills.
- 3.7 Into the Neolithic period the Lancashire climate appears to have shifted to a cooler and wetter environment. This, along with woodland clearance and the creation of grazing land for animals, contributed to the formation of large areas of moss (blanket bog) across the region. The development site appears to be located within the former site of Siddal Moor (as evidenced on the 1786 map of Lancashire by Yates), which was likely an area of mossland and evidence of peat is known within the vicinity, although it has not been recorded yet within the site itself. These cooler waterlogged conditions are suggested to be the cause of limited settlement activity in the area during the Neolithic period, and only one burial monument, comprising a cairn dating to the Neolithic to Bronze Age period, is recorded in the north-east of the study area.
- 3.8 This wet climate in the study area is thought to continue into the Bronze Age with the abandonment of some formerly occupied sites, and this state of use continues into the Iron Age period. In the wider region there has been evidence of settlement and farming activity, as well as funerary sites on the Pennine fringes and also in lowland areas. In the study area, the Bronze Age is represented by a find spot of a Bronze Age stone axe in Heywood to the north, and two were also found to the north-east of the development site adjacent to the Whittle Brook. These may represent votive deposits.
- 3.9 Recent archaeological investigations in the region have recorded that the typically Iron Age hillforts in North West England have their origins in the Late Bronze Age. The Iron Age period appears to develop upon field systems established elsewhere in the Bronze Age and farming activity intensified, which may have been a result of population pressures. In the south of the region, earlier settlement sites developed further in the later Iron Age and the number of lowland rural settlements also increased at this time. To the south-west of the study area a possible Iron Age settlement was recorded at Rhodes Green, and to the north-east at Calderbook, a beaded torque was found by workman in 1832. To the south-west at Salford along the Salteye Brook, a similar site in character to that of the development site, located on a natural low promontory with free draining sandy soils, revealed the remains of prehistoric and Late Pre-Roman Iron Age to Romano-British occupation/settlement in this area, during an evaluation by UMAU in 2008. This settlement included the remains of postholes/pits and linear gullies and the archaeologists also recovered late Mesolithic worked flint, a quern fragment and fire cracked pebbles (University of Manchester Archaeological Unit 2008). Another similar site in topography and location, was partly excavated near Cadishead, close to Chat Moss, provided comparable results, but also included an enclosure with the remains of a number of hut circles.

Roman

- 3.10 It is thought that prior to the arrival of Roman troops into North West England, the area would have been part of the large northern territory belonging to the Brigantes tribe. This area stretched across northern Britain and was primarily focussed around Yorkshire, with its administrative centre east in what is now Aldborough, first recorded by its Latin name *Isurium Brigantum*. By 70 AD sometime after the initial Roman invasion, the region eventually became the northern frontier of Roman Britain and soon after a number of Roman forts were established in Manchester, Lancaster, Ribchester and Castleshaw, located 15km east of the development site. Continuing excavations at Castleshaw have revealed more about the life and functions of this site from 79 AD, including five Roman roads, gated entranceways, timber workshop buildings, industrial waste pits and also some Mesolithic flint finds, to indicate that the site has been in use almost continually since the prehistoric period. A local Roman road is thought to cross through Rochdale, north of Heywood and across to Bury, some way from the development site's location.

Early Medieval

- 3.11 After the departure of the Roman legions in the 5th century AD, the region eventually became part of the Kingdom of Northumbria, whose border with Mercia is thought to be to the east of the study area along the River Tame. Æthelfrith, the king of Northumbria in the 7th century is thought to have crossed through the study area with his troops on the way to Battle of Chester, which is recorded as taking place at some time between 605 and 616, by a number of sources including Bede.
- 3.12 Heywood is not recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086, however its name is derived from the Old English for 'High (or chief) wood' (Mills 2011), therefore it is likely that there may have been some small woodland settlement in the study area by the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 - 1075. Hopwood to the north of the development site is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles as 'Hopwode', its place name meaning a 'wood in a small enclosed valley' and Rochdale was recorded in the Domesday Book later in 1086 as 'Recedham', from the Old Norse meaning 'Valley of the River Roch' (Mills 2011) and included 9.5 leagues of woodland. Together this indicates that the study area was initially well wooded in the early medieval period, and would have been cleared later in the early medieval and medieval period for agriculture and settlement expansion. To the north at Heywood, at the site of Gristlehurst Hall, excavations in 2014 revealed a clay-lined pit with a stone foundation, which opened onto an area that included a soot- and charcoal-filled hollow. The dating evidence for the charcoal found in the kiln structure indicated a date of 987-1045 AD for this feature.

Medieval

- 3.13 The place name 'Heghwode' was first recorded in 1246 and would have been in the parish of Hopwood at this time. The development site was likely within Siddal Moor, then part of Whittle, which was a detached portion of Bury Parish. The development site was located north-east of the small settlement of Birch, however a number of medieval features relating to agriculture are recorded within and adjacent to the including field systems, terracing and ridge and furrow cultivation remains. Prior to the 14th century the climate had improved, making more land available for agriculture and the free draining sandy soil would have been useful for both arable and pasture farming. The watercourses of the area such as the Whittle Brook would have provided access to water for livestock, and would have been able to supply the water for a possible homestead moat site at New Gap Farm to the south of the development site. Many moated homesteads were constructed in the 13th and 14th centuries, possibly in response to increasing pressure on food supplies due to a change in climate to wetter, cooler conditions and also a rise in taxes and consequently civil unrest, from which landowners sought security and protection from within their moated sites. To the south-west of the development site, the site of the medieval settlement of Meadowcroft survives as earthwork and cropmark remains, and excavation and field walking revealed an industrial site with iron working and smelting activities.

Post Medieval

- 3.14 Further industrial activity in the study area in the late medieval to post medieval period was recorded in a lease dated 1587 between Edmund Hopwood and Isabella Schoharie which referred to a 'Coleyfylde' at Siddal. This demonstrates that the potential for coal mining in the vicinity was known from at least the late-16th century, and if it was carried out, would have been in the form of bell pits and shallow workings. In the 16th century woodland traditionally used for fuel was in short supply, so it is likely that the early medieval woodland of the study area would have been cleared by this time and mining for coal as an alternative source of fuel began to increase in popularity. Within the western end of the development site and to the east of Manchester Road, some post medieval features associated with coal mining are recorded in the Greater Manchester HER.
- 3.15 Siddal Moor was recorded in a 1570 survey of the lands of Edward Hopwood, and was described as comprising 500 acres with the right to turbary, therefore the peat on Siddal Moor was subject to cutting for fuel. A small area of peat is recorded with in the Greater Manchester HER adjacent to the southern boundary of the development site. The southern boundary of Siddal Moor can still be traced along Dr Fold Lane to the south, and partially along remaining hedgerow to the west and Mercers Road in the north. The 18th century farmsteads of Siddal Moor Farm, to the north, and New Gap Farm, to the south are recorded on historic mapping before the time of the Siddal Moor Enclosure of 1815, following an Act of Parliament in 1812. Following the tithe awards in 1838 and 1840, the former moorland was also exploited for compost manufacturing due to peat's natural abilities to hold water and nutrients for use in gardening. Coal mining on the moor was also continued in this time by the Hopwood family, and some of the straight hedgerow boundaries from the 1815 moor enclosure remain extant on the development site to the present day.

4.0 Programme of Archaeological Works

- 4.1 The development site comprises three fields of rough pasture demarcated by the remains of straight hedgerow boundaries.
- 4.2 The archaeological works will comprise the excavation of three evaluation trenches measuring up to 20m which will be located in agreed positions along the northern site boundary and adjacent to the site compound. A watching brief will be carried out during works associated with the installation of drainage at the northern extent of the site. Two areas have been identified for hand-cleaning and investigation and will comprise areas measuring 5mx5m and 8mx8m. The location of these works is shown on Appendix A. The position of the archaeological trenches and working areas will be set out by the site engineers.
- 4.3 The locations of the evaluation trenches and other areas of investigation and recording have been confirmed in consultation with the Heritage Management Director for GMAAS.
- 4.4 All field work will be carried out by Oxford Archaeology North working under the direction of a full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Method of Excavation

- 4.5 The trial trenches will be mechanically excavated using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Under instruction the topsoil and overburden removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits of a maximum 0.1m thickness.
- 4.6 The watching brief will comprise the continuous observation of groundworks by a supervising archaeologist. The two areas identified for investigation and recording will be hand-cleaned to expose any archaeological features or deposits, which will be appropriately investigated and recorded in accordance with the methodology set out in this WSI.
- 4.7 All machine work will be carried out under direct archaeological supervision and the machine will be halted if archaeological deposits or features are encountered. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon can be exposed by the machine, but will then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features and then hand excavated. At each soil horizon change, the supervising archaeologist will indicate to the machine driver that each stratum should be stored separately.
- 4.8 The archaeological works will provide an accurate record of any archaeological and paleo-environmental finds, features, artefacts or ecofacts identified.
- 4.9 Excavations will be undertaken by hand. Any archaeological surfaces that are present will be cleaned sufficiently to enhance any features, site levels will be related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum. The general site plans will be hand drawn at a scale of 1:50 or 1:100.

Method of Recording

- 4.10 Discrete features will be half-sectioned, or fully excavated if features are part of recognisable structures, contain deposits or artefacts of particular value, or likely to hold significant artefact or environmental assemblages. Intersections will be investigated to establish strategic relationships. Representative sections of linear and curvilinear features will be sample excavated away from intersections or other features or deposits, to obtain unmixed samples of material. Sections will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. Environmental bulk samples (usually 40 litres) will be taken where the deposit is likely to contain significant environmental assemblage. All records will be undertaken using pro form record sheets.
- 4.11 Sampling strategies will be in accordance with the archaeological sub-contractor fieldwork manual and described in their method statement as well as be the requirements of GMAAS.
- 4.12 The archaeological contractor will make appropriate pre-and post-excavation site records. All finds and features will be accurately located and planned accurately at appropriate scales. All site photographs will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a sensor of a minimum of 12 megapixels. All photography will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidance, Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice, 2015.

Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

- 4.13 Should the works encounter unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, more detailed recording than is appropriate within the terms of the WSI, then TEP will contact the GMAAS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter with the client.
- 4.14 Should remains or features of possible national archaeological importance be observed, fieldwork will cease on the relevant part of the site until these remains have been inspected by GMAAS (as advisors to the Local Planning Authority) and the appropriate Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

General

Finds

- 4.15 All finds or environmental samples recovered during the archaeological works will be assessed and reported on by internal and external specialists of the archaeological contractor. A list of specialists for the project will be provided in a method statement from the appointed archaeological contractor prior to works commencing.
- 4.16 All finds will be treated in accordance with current best practice as set out in Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and Historic England guidance.

Human Remains

- 4.17 If human remains are encountered during the excavation, they will be left in situ and GMAAS and the coroner notified. If it is deemed appropriate to excavate human remains, this will be done in accordance with appropriate Historic England and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (e.g. ClfA Technical Paper 14 Excavation and Post-excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Remains). Excavation, removal from site, analysis and final placing will all be subject to the requirements of the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence and any local environmental health regulations.

Treasure

- 4.18 If any artefacts are encountered that would constitute 'treasure' as defined by The Treasure Act, 1996 and the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002, they will be reported to the local Coroner and relevant Finds Liaison Officer. Any artefacts deemed to be Treasure should be excavated on the day they are discovered and removed to a secure site. If this is impractical then appropriate security provided until full excavation and removal can occur.

Paleo-environmental sampling and analysis

- 4.19 The paleo-environmental assessment aims to identify areas within the development footprint where conditions are such that deposits suitable for the study of past environments are preserved. These most commonly occur in the form of subsurface peat layers, but are also taken to include all waterlogged deposits. The identification of any suitable areas will take place during the archaeological evaluation.
- 4.20 Should any such deposits exist within the area of impact, samples will be taken by a suitably qualified specialist sub-contractor.
- 4.21 The samples would be assessed for their potential by internal or external specialists of the archaeological contractor, and suitable techniques applied to sub-sample from select cores to determine the preservation and taxonomic diversity within the samples. This is likely to include assessing for one or more of the following:
- Pollen (focussing on organic units)
 - Diatoms (focussing upon lithological transitions within and at the base of the Holocene sediment stack)
 - Foraminifera (focussing on mineral strata and in particular on transitions)
 - Plant macro-remains (focussing on organic units)
- 4.22 Having assessed the potential for analysis a project design will be produced that will provide a detailed proposal for analysis (including, for example, C14 dating, loss-on-ignition to measure organic carbon content, humification and mass specific magnetic susceptibility) of any present selected samples.
- 4.23 If necessary and appropriate the advice of the Historic England Science Advisor for the North West will be sought.

Programme

- 4.24 It is anticipated that the works will happen in accordance with the following programme:
- 23rd September 2022 - submit WSI for approval by GMAAS
 - 27th to 29th September 2022 undertake archaeological works
 - +4 weeks - report
 - +8 weeks - deposit archive

Organisation and Key Personnel

- 4.25 TEP is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The heritage team is under overall management of **Jason Clarke BSc MA MCIfA, Associate Director, Historic Environment (TEP)**.
- 4.26 The archaeological works will be undertaken by appropriate qualified archaeologists from Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) and will be managed by **Paul Dunn BA (Hons), equivalently qualified project director, Senior Project Manager (OAN)**.

5.0 Reporting

- 5.1 In accordance with the principles of Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015) and the Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd Ed (MAP2) (English Heritage 1991), a programme of assessment and reporting will be undertaken, following completion of the archaeological evaluation fieldwork.
- 5.2 In the event of negative, or non-complex findings, a report will be produced detailing the results of the fieldwork within four weeks of the end of the fieldwork and archived within six months. If archaeology is revealed within the development site that requires further work, the results of the evaluation will be utilised to produce a project design for a mitigation strategy. The evaluation report will include;
- a front cover to include the NGR, and HER reference number
 - a concise, non-technical summary of the results,
 - the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken,
 - description of the methodology, including the sources consulted,
 - a very brief summary of the historical background of the study area,
 - a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the impact,
 - a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design,
 - the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted,
 - a site location plan related to the national grid,
 - appropriate plans showing the location and position of features or sites located,
 - plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds,
 - illustrative photographs as appropriate,
 - coordinates (latitude/longitude) of relevant sites if archaeological remains have been discovered.
- 5.3 In the event of archaeologically significant finds, the results of fieldwork combined with subsequent archaeological evaluation and mitigation will also be published in a relevant and appropriate journal, or other publically disseminated publication, as appropriate.
- 5.4 Pottery reports will refer to the appropriate type series.

6.0 Archive

- 6.1 A copy of the report provided as a PDF on disk, and as hard copies, will be submitted to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.
- 6.2 An archive of the results of the archaeological work will be produced, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, 2nd edition, 1991) and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (ClfA 2020). The archive will contain any site matrices, and summary reports of the artefact record, context records, and any other records or materials recovered.
- 6.3 Greater Manchester HER will be informed of fieldwork commencing and of the arrangements made for deposition of the project archive.
- 6.4 The original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media), and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche), together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) will be deposited with the relevant local archive.
- 6.5 Any relevant archive generated will be deposited with an appropriate regional depository, it is understood that a charge may be made for this and that the depository will need to be contacted to agree to the deposition of any archive in advance.
- 6.6 Details of the work will be entered on the OASIS database at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis>.

7.0 Health and Safety

- 7.1 The archaeologists on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. Where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose.
- 7.2 All work on site would be undertaken strictly in accordance with the project health and safety plan and task specific risk assessments. All companies working on the project will adhere to the client's required quality, health, safety and environment controls.
- 7.3 Access routes to working areas would be specified by the client and access would only be permitted to those routes and the area of the fieldwork.
- 7.4 All site staff, including subcontractors and visitors, will prove that they have attended a site induction and have the necessary competencies (e.g. CITB training for machine operators and CSCS cards) and any other necessary health and safety qualifications.
- 7.5 The archaeologists will maintain a record of site attendance for each day that they attend site for the archaeological works.
- 7.6 All site staff personnel will wear PPE consisting of gloves, goggles, hardhat, steel toe-capped boots with mid-sole protection and high visibility vest or jacket at all times. All equipment must be 'fit for purpose' and be maintained in a sound working condition that complies with all relevant Health and Safety regulations and recommendations, including;
 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) Government Guidance for Working Safely;
 - Health & Safety at Work Act 1974; and
 - Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999.
- 7.7 The Archaeological Contractor will have their own Health and Safety policies compiled using national guidelines, which conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation and best practice. The RAMS provided by the Archaeological Contractor will include a specific section covering Coronavirus (COVID-19) for working safely.

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<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>

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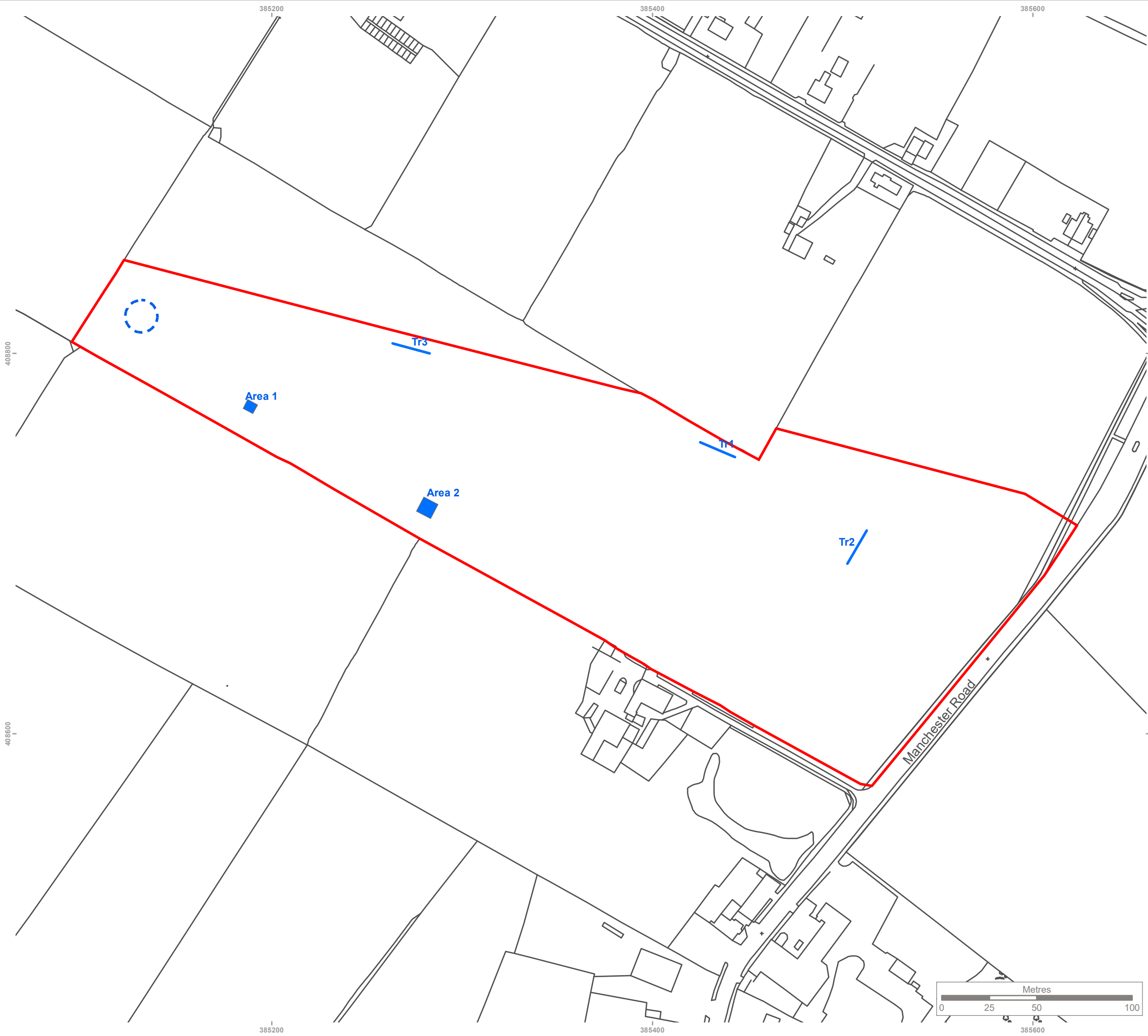
Heritagegateway.org.uk

Old-maps.co.uk

www.british-history.ac.uk

www.pastscape.co.uk

APPENDIX A: Plan of Proposed Archaeological Works



KEY

Site boundary

Archaeological trial trenches

Investigation areas

Watching brief area

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Site Map

UK Location Map

1:30,000

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

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Project
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Title
Plan of Proposed Archaeological Works

Drawing Number
G8866.002

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AB	-	JC	1:2,000 @ A3	23/09/2022

APPENDIX B: Risk Assessment Method Statement



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APPENDIX C TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE/SW
Trench contained no archaeology. Trench consists of an orange clay natural overlain by subsoil and make up.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	2
					Avg depth (m)	1.2
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.1	Other Layer. Large grain hardcore, loose.	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey clay silt	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural. Mid reddish orange clay	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NE/SW
Trench contained no archaeology. Trench contained sand make up. Geological natural not exposed.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	2
					Avg depth (m)	0.35
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.1	Other Layer. Sand, natural geology or possible redeposited natural.	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NW/SE
Trench contained no archaeology, except three land drains. Consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil, overlying alluvium.					Length (m)	16.5
					Width (m)	2.2
					Avg depth (m)	0.55
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil. Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt.	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil. Soft, light greyish brown sandy silt with rare (1–3%) small sub-rounded pebbles. Frequent (25%) rooting veins.	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Alluvial Layer. Soft, mottled light yellowish brown to medium reddish yellow slightly silty sand with rare (1%) manganese inclusions and rare (1%) oxidised iron formation.	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NW/SE
Trench contained no archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil, overlying alluvium.					Length (m)	12
					Width (m)	2.5
					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil. Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt.	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil. Soft, light greyish brown sandy silt with common (10%) rooting veins and common (5%) medium sub-rounded pebbles.	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Alluvial Layer. Firm, mottled, light greyish brown to reddish yellow clay sand with common (5%) manganese inclusions and common (5–7%) oxidised Fe formations.	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	NE/SW
Trench contained no archaeology, except three land drains. Consisted of topsoil overlying alluvium, overlying subsoil, overlying alluvium.					Length (m)	25
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil. Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt.	-	-
701	Layer	-	0.18	Alluvial Layer. Friable, light grey sandy silt with frequent (25%) rooting veins. This is a later alluvial event not seen in other trenches.	-	-
702	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil. Firm, light yellowish brown silty sand with common (10–12%) rooting veins.	-	-
703	Layer	-		Alluvial Layer. Firm, mottled, yellow brown to medium reddish yellow slightly clay sand with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and common (10%) oxidised Fe formation.		-

Areas 1 and 2						
General description					Orientation	N/A
Two areas cleaned by hand following mechanical removal of topsoil and subsoil (unsupervised), both areas approximately 8m ² . Only one feature recorded as a tree-throw, 1 , remaining possible features appeared to relate to disturbance during mechanical excavation or bioturbation.					Length (m)	-
					Width (m)	-
					Avg. depth (m)	-
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Cut	0.79	0.23	Cut of tree-throw. Irregular in plan and profile	-	-
2	Fill	0.79	0.23	Dark brown black, sandy silt.	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Alluvial Layer. Firm, mottled, light greyish brown to reddish yellow clay sand with common (5%) manganese inclusions and common (5–7%) oxidised Fe formations.	-	-

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
Site code:	MRH21
Grid Reference	SD 85362 08730
Type:	Evaluation and watching brief
Date and duration:	3 days; 15 th , 28 th and 27 th September 2022
Area of Site	c 5.5ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Mill 3, Moor Lane Mills, Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QD, and will be deposited with Touchstones Rochdale in due course.
Summary of Results:	No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the archaeological works. A small number of late post-medieval/modern land drains were revealed crossing two trenches concentrated in the northern part of the site. The only other feature encountered was a natural tree-throw hole in Area 2 to the south. Variations in the natural geology were examined in these two areas and found to have most likely been caused by disturbance from machines and possible bioturbation. The archaeological monitoring identified a disturbed natural deposit. No residual finds were recovered from the site.



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