



THE ARCHAEOLOGY CO.

Falinge Fold, Rochdale
Written Scheme of Investigation

July 2023

1: Introduction

Steven Price of The Archaeology Co. has been commissioned to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the trial trenching evaluation to be carried out prior to development on land on the south side of Falinge Fold, Rochdale. The site is proposed to be redeveloped for residential use. Condition 9 of Planning Permission 22/00335/OUT states:

No development shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been secured and which has been prepared by the appointed archaeological contractor and submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation has been completed in accordance with the approved WSI. The WSI shall cover the following:

(a) A phased programme and methodology of site investigation and recording to include:

- targeted field evaluation trenching*
- (depending upon the evaluation results) a strip map and record exercise*
- targeted open area excavation*

(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) Provision for publication and dissemination of the analysis and report on the site investigation.

(d) Provision for archive deposition of the report, finds 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 protect the significance of any archaeological remains on the site in accordance with policy P2 of the adopted Rochdale Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Reason for pre-commencement condition: Further investigation will be necessary prior to commencement of any building or engineering works on site.

2: Site Location

The site is located on the southern side of Falinge Fold at its western end and opposite 'Old Falinge'. The postal address is Falinge Fold, Shawclough, Rochdale OL12 6LD and the National Grid Reference is SD 88815 14270. The site bound to the north by Falinge Fold and to the east and south by Faling Park High School. It is bound to the west by Falinge Park High School playing fields. The site encompasses approximately 0.09 ha. A Desk-based assessment by Paul Butler Associates notes that the site holds potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval archaeological deposits due to Falinge having Medieval origins and the site being relatively undeveloped since this time.

3: Historical Background

Although no significant finds have been found in the immediate study area Mesolithic and Neolithic activity has been documented around Rochdale, most notably on Blackstone Edge, where Mesolithic activity was discovered (Marshall n.d., 6-7). Bronze and Iron age evidence exists in the form of several axe heads found around Rochdale, as well as burial mounds, including Hades Hill barrow, excavated in 1895 (ibid., 8).

Evidence of Roman occupation in Rochdale is scant, although a hoard of Roman coins were found at Underwood in 1805 and a Roman road runs across Blackstone Edge (ibid., 9).

The Saxons left trace of their presence in the form of numerous place names in the area. Falinge derives from 'Fealh' or 'Fealg', which was Anglo-Saxon for Fallow (Rochdale Observer 1925, 32). It has also been known as Ffalenge', 'le Faling' and 'Falingesik' (Old Falinge n.d.). The first record of Falinge dates back to the 12th century. Ranulp, son of Orm conveyed to the church an annual rent of eleven pence, which Dobbe and Lovekok, his brothers, paid him for land at Ffalenges. By charter at Ffalenges, the day after the feats of St. James at Apostle 1330, Randulph, Son of

Gilbert de Ffalenges gave the abbot of Whalley all his land in Ffalenges, with the buildings included, to be held by the abbots forever (Rochdale Observer 1925, 32).

Rochdale's importance as a woollen town was established in the 16th century and a major factor in the continuing development of the area was the river Roch and its tributaries (Lathams 2006, 58). In 1626 a fulling mill was reportedly in Falinge on a plot of land called Houroade, near the river Roch (Rochdale Observer 1925, 32). Old Falinge, formerly called Falinge Hall, was built by James Haslam, a wealthy merchant, in 1721 (Rochdale Observer 1925, 32; Old Falinge n.d.). The date stone still lies above the door giving his initials, along with his wife, Jane. The Haslams of Foot Mill had been fulling millers since the end of the reign of Elizabeth the First. This lasted until the mid-18th century, when a descendant, another James Haslam disposed of the property (Rochdale Observer 1925, 32).

James inherited the property when he was 23 years old and mortgaged all to the London branch of the Royds family for £3000. In 1755 he became bankrupt and Old Falinge became the residence of John Royds. John was the father of James Royds, who built Mount Falinge (also known as the 'House in Falinge Park') and Thomas Royds who built Greenhill (Rochdale Observer 1925, 32).

The Royds held residence throughout most of the 19th century. The 1848 OS map shows the site at this time. It is a sub rectangular field with a small outbuilding located in the northwest corner. The 1851 Rochdale Town Plan shows the site in more detail as an open garden with paths around. The small outbuilding is not shown, suggesting it was demolished in the intervening years. Rochdale agricultural society held its annual exhibition on the subject site in front of Old Falinge in 1876, and an observer at the time noted that it demonstrated Mr Royds great interest in the importance of the show and his desire to accommodate the public (Robertson 1876, 209).

The 1910 mapping shows the site as an enclosed field, although not paths are shown. The situation remained the same on the 1930 mapping.

4: Evaluation

Aims

Paul Butler Associates (2012) noted that Falinge was established as a hamlet by the 13th century, with buildings in the area and the surrounding land used for agricultural purposes. Since this time, the site has remained relatively undeveloped, with the known exception of a small outbuilding to the northwest corner of the site. Thus, the primary aim of the excavation is to assess the condition, date and depth of any surviving archaeology and to inform whether further stages of archaeological work are required. Archaeology is likely to date from the Medieval and/or Post-Medieval periods. As such the North West Regional Research Framework was assessed and the following questions identified as being relevant:

PM01: How can we develop Post-Medieval ceramic typologies and identify differences across social strata, rural and urban environments and the regions in the North West?

The evaluation may uncover sherds of Post-Medieval pottery. During this time, pottery sherds, clay tobacco pipes and glass may have become incorporated into the plough soils and such artefacts prove to be a valuable resource for analysing the material culture of the period and aid regional artefact typologies. Post medieval archaeology of the northwest is most significant as it offers an alternative narrative to that constructed in much of the Midlands, Eastern and Southern England and is intimately connected with the rapidly expanding Atlantic economy (McNeil and Newman 2006, 115).

PM34: What can pottery traditions and production tell us about trades of commerce in the region?

Post-Medieval period of the northwest is lacking in artefacts compared to other regions. Any identified pottery will help to understand the pottery production and trade in the region.

LM03: How did small settlements evolve and exploit environmental resources?

The hamlet of Falinge is known to have been present during the Medieval period. Environmental sampling of the medieval contexts on the site for plant fossils may help to answer this question.

LM10: How can a review of excavated and surveyed extant farm buildings and house types contribute to our understanding of the late medieval/early Post Medieval transition?

The northwest trench is located over the footprint of a building which was demolished in the mid 19th century and other earlier buildings may have been on the site. Should building remains be uncovered they will be analysed in terms of plan form, building function and date, which may contribute to the growing body of data of the period and add data to any review.

Method

Prior to the excavation, the area shall be cleared of trees and shrubs so that the trenches can be located and excavated. Three trenches shall be excavated, located as shown in figure 7 and measuring 10m x 1.2m. The western is located across the outbuilding shown on the 1848 OS map. The eastern lies across former garden paths dating from the mid 19th century, and the southern is located in an area which seen no development, at least since the 1848 mapping. The initial excavation process will comprise continuous observation during the removal of topsoil, subsoil and overburden, which will be undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological control. Soils will be removed to the first archaeological horizon, where present, or where these are absent to the upper interface of geological deposits.

Following this the archaeological layers will be identified and investigated. These will be cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form, condition and, where possible, date. Hand excavation will be undertaken by trained professional archaeologists. Discreet features shall be half sectioned and linear features 10% sampled (at least). Where there are intersecting features, these intersections shall be targeted.

Photographic recording shall take the form of digital photography (DSLR 10 Megapixel minimum). An appropriate photo scale shall be present in each of the shots and a photo register compiled, recording the direction and subject of each shot. Features shall be located in plan at 1:50 scale. If features warrant it, details of will be drawn at 1:20 and sections also produced.

Should discrete deposits be encountered and identified as potentially from the Medieval period, then sampling of the lower contexts shall be performed (up to 40L). Plant fossils shall be the main focus of the sampling, in order to inform a strategy to address question LM03. Course sieving on site shall be used for this purpose. Features identified to be associated with specific activities will be prioritised, such as cesspits, kilns, corn driers, etc. Once the nature of the archaeology is known a site specific strategy will be adopted. Should there be little to no archaeology, the collection of samples for enhanced levels of phosphate and magnetic susceptibility may be collected, as indicators of fertilisation and farming practices. Should waterlogged or mineralised deposits be found specialist input will be sought from Headland Archaeology.

Finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (following Campbell *et. al.* 2011 and Historic England "Geoarchaeology" 2015) and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. All finds are to be recorded by context. Significant "small finds" should be located within three dimensions to the nearest 10mm and bagged and labelled separately, numbered and a simple description made so that they can be identified within the assemblage. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines (UKIC). Any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996.

Those involved with recovery, treatment and packing and subsequent analysis of archaeological material will be familiar with accepted methods for its care and storage. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological material, unless the material is clearly late 20th century. Any disposal that does take place will be on academic and professional grounds. The reason for any disposal, the manner

in which it is done, and where the material was disposed shall all be documented in the fieldwork archive. Disposal will be in the form of reburial on site. All finds and samples shall be collected, processed and sorted. They shall then be quantified and recorded for the report. Finds shall be labelled, packed and stored according to The Touchstones Museum archive measures. The Touchstones Museum shall be notified prior to the commencement of the works using the project initiation form.

Human remains are not expected to be present, but if they are found they will, if possible, be left in-situ covered and protected. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Ministry of Justice. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice and curator will be informed immediately. Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains must be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of CiFA "Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains" (2017) and Historic England guidance (2017).

Should archaeological remains be found to be partially within the trench (such as the footprint of the building in the northwest corner of the site) the trench may be extended to target features of interest and allow for a clearer examination. Should significant deposits be discovered, GMAAS shall be contacted and the area may go into a phase of strip, map and record to fully expose and record the area.

Post excavation shall involve the digitisation of drawings and the compilation of a report. Finds shall be cleaned and processed. Where the assemblage is large, a sample of finds should be photographed for the report purposes. Any special finds should be photographed separately. The finds assemblage shall be assessed by a finds specialist to give an overview of its potential to meet the research aims of the project. Such finds are anticipated to be Medieval and/or Post-medieval pottery and Rob Philpott is the nominated specialist. The value of the archaeological material for research and/or educational use will also be recorded.

The results will be presented within a fully illustrated report, which will include the following:

1. A non-technical summary of the survey's findings;
2. Introductory statements;
3. Aims and objectives;
4. The background to the survey, which will include an outline of the planning context, the survey dates and location details;
5. An outline of the survey methodology;
6. Results of the excavation;
7. Conclusions;
8. A set of measured scaled drawings;
9. A photograph register including the direction of shot as well as details of the subject;
10. A copy of the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations form (OASIS);
11. A catalogue of photographs and other archive items;
12. Archive location; and
13. Appendices containing a copy of the WSI and other essential technical and supporting detail.

The work will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists "Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation" (2020).

5: Archive

The results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines ("The Management of Archaeological Projects", 2nd edition, 1991), the "Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage" (UKIC 1990), and current ClfA "standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archive" (published October 2009). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered

during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the ClfA in that organisation's code of conduct.

The written, drawn and photographic archive will be placed with Manchester Archives within a reasonable time of completion of the project. The finds shall be offered to Rochdale Touchstones Museum. A digital copy of the report shall be deposited with ADS. A copy of the final report will also be deposited with the Greater Manchester HER.

Should the results warrant it, a summary report, or detailed article on the work shall be submitted for publication in a regional or national journal, appropriate to the significance of the results and findings of the project. This shall be done no later than one year after the completion of the work.

6: Health and Safety

Health and Safety regulations and requirements cannot be ignored no matter how imperative the need to record archaeological information. Hence health and safety will take priority over archaeological matters. Full regard will be given to all constraints during the course of the project. A Health and Safety Statement, along with a risk assessment, will be provided. All site procedures shall be in accordance with the guidance set out in the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employees (FAME) Health and Safety Manual.

All project staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The project will follow the requirements set down in the appropriate Standard and Guidance notes prepared by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and all staff will wear appropriate PPE.

7: Monitoring

Monitoring shall follow the guidelines set out in the ClfA's Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation. Monitoring will be undertaken against the WSI and visits will be documented. Non-compliance with the agreed WSI or project design must be pointed out by the monitor to the archaeologist undertaking the work, and their client if appropriate, at the earliest opportunity. The archaeologist on site shall keep the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) abreast of the works, so that they may monitor the work. They should also be notified immediately of any significant findings.

8: General

Steven Price BA (Hons.) MA MPhil PCIfA will oversee the project and has over 15 years' experience as a field archaeologist. Project staff will include Pascal Eloy and Paul Hickman, both experience field archaeologists. All project staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The project will follow the requirements set down in the appropriate Standard and Guidance notes prepared by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and all staff will wear appropriate PPE.

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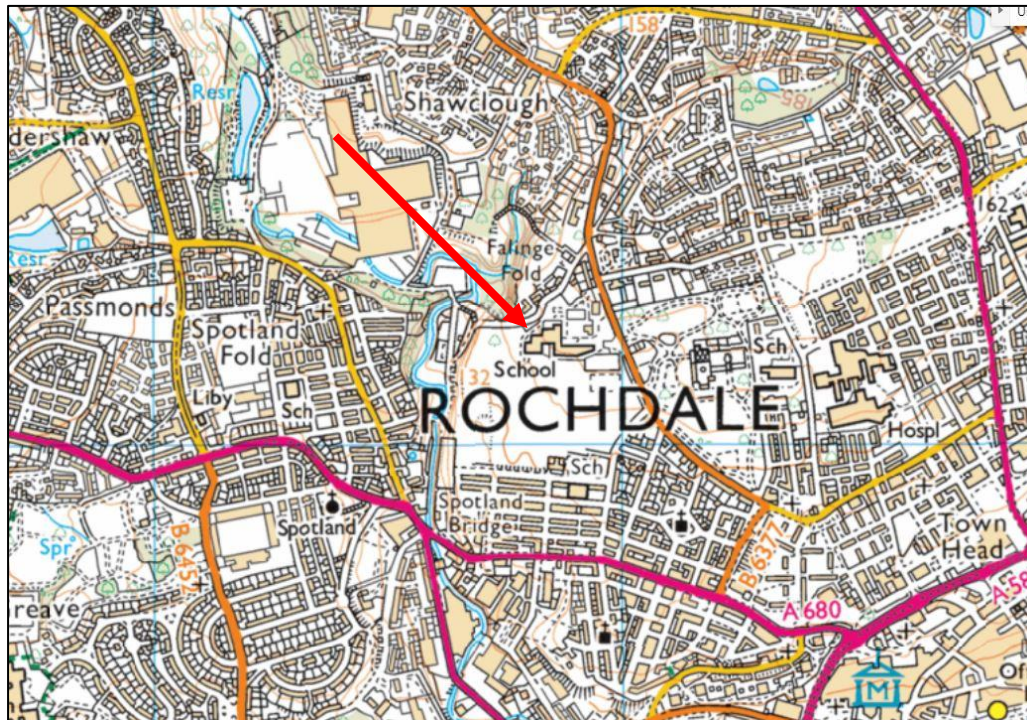


Figure 1: Location plan



Figure 2: Site plan

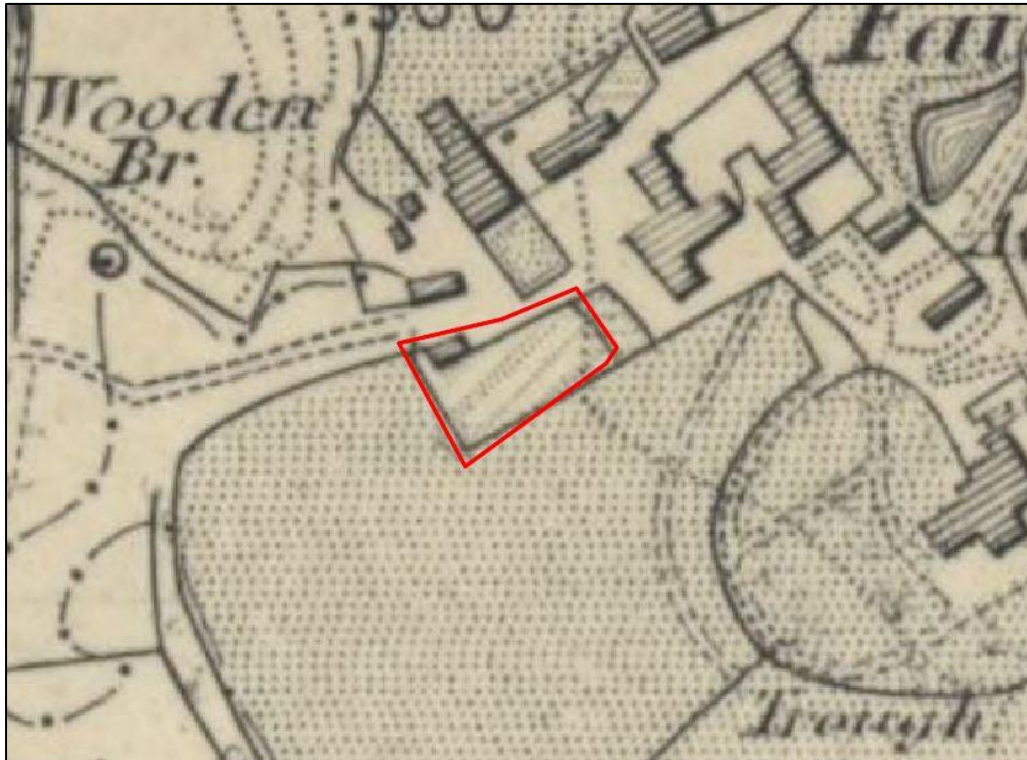


Figure 3: 1848 OS map 6":1mile Lancashire Sheet LXXXVIII

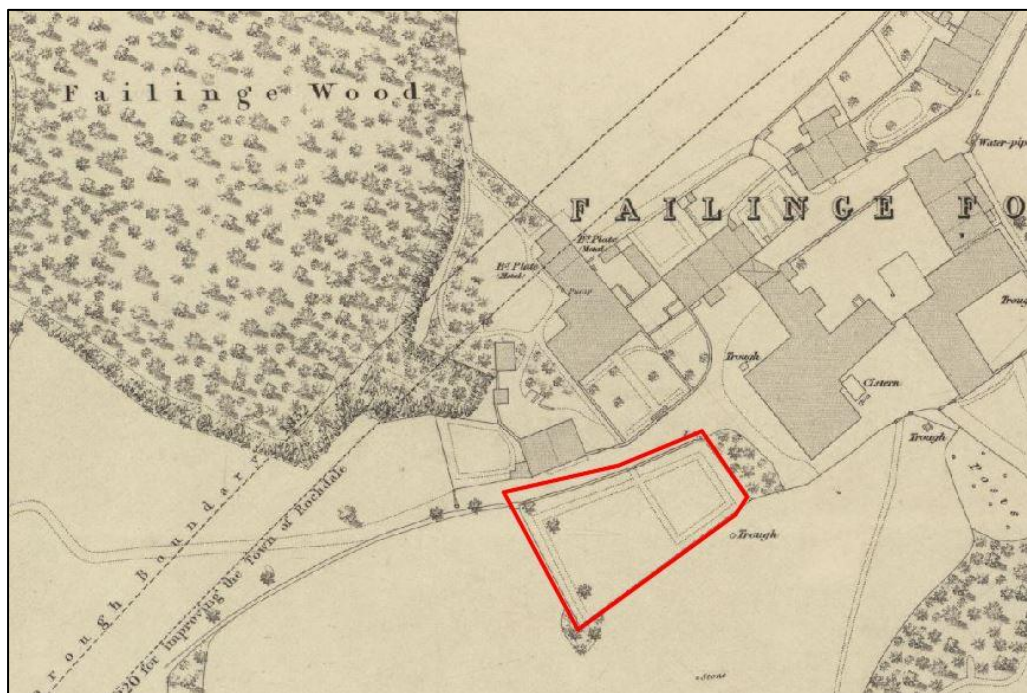
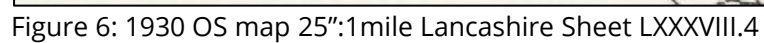
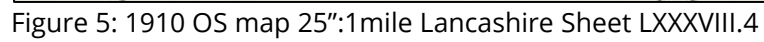


Figure 4: 1851 Rochdale Town Plan sheet 4



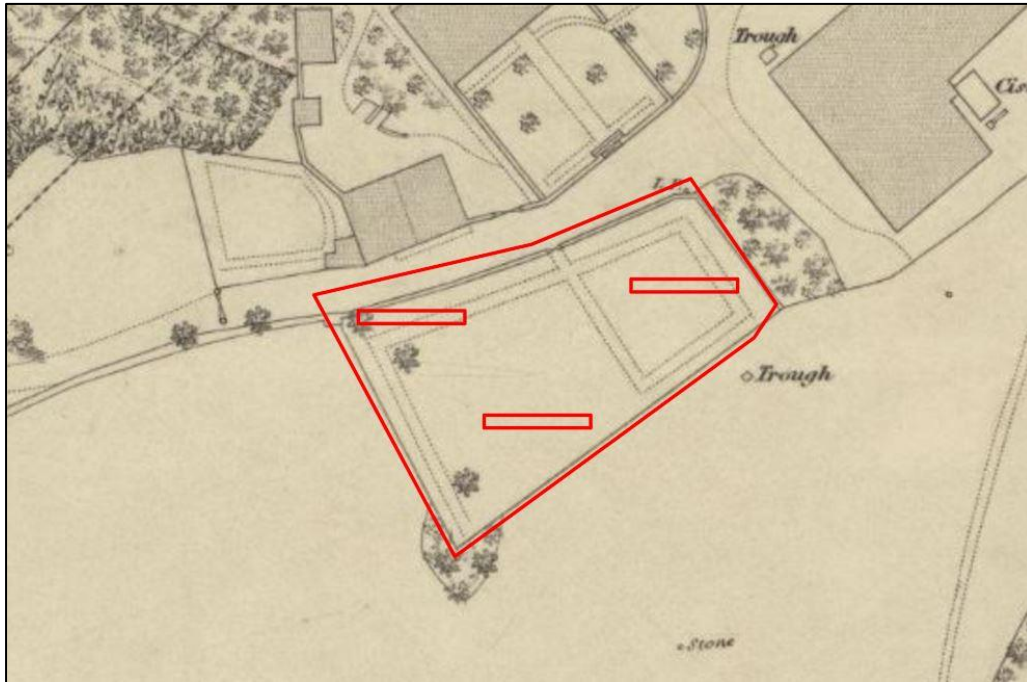


Figure 7: Trench location plan