Land at South Heywood, Greater Manchester
Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation
August 2020

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Report
Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation

Site
Land at South Heywood, Greater Manchester

Date
August 2020

Planning Authority
Rochdale Borough Council

Prepared and Approved By
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Final

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Contents

1.0 Introduction
2.0 Aims and Objectives
3.0 Methodology
4.0 Timetable and Personnel
5.0 Monitoring
6.0 Insurance
7.0 Health and Safety

List of Illustrations

Figure 1 Location of trenches in Land Parcel 6

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for land at South Heywood, Greater Manchester (Figure 1) has been researched and prepared by Dr Robert Smith (Director, Orion Heritage Limited) on behalf of Russells South Heywood Limited.

1.2 An application for a proposed link road and mixed-use development on land at South Heywood has recently been consented by Rochdale Borough Council.

1.3 The application contains a planning requirement relating to archaeological assessment and investigation (Condition 9) and involves a WSI being submitted to the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), advisors to Rochdale Planning Department, prior to any development works taking place. This document therefore presents the written scheme for archaeological assessment on Land Parcel 6 of the scheme (shown on Figure 1).

1.4 Condition 9 is as follows:

No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or their successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by Rochdale 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 to 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.

1.5 In terms of Condition 9, the following technical reports have been prepared:

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

1.6 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Land at South Heywood, Rochdale [Orion Heritage 2018]) of the site showed that, on present evidence, the archaeological potential of the site is low. Although some level of archaeological potential is acknowledged in some parts of the site.

Archaeological Assessment Report

1.7 Orion Heritage commissioned an archaeological assessment report (which included historic building assessments and a landscape survey [Archaeological Assessment Report: South Heywood, Rochdale, L P Archaeology 2017]).

1.8 The archaeological assessment report indicated that the site underwent some form of economic growth associated with the farming community in the mid to late 19th century and many of the standing buildings reflect this. However, of the extant structures, only Hareshill Farm and Siddal Moor Farm are of historic value.

1.9 In terms of the landscape survey, partnered with cartographic and aerial data, the fields comprising the northern area of the site have had a significant impact from modern development. The central area of the site, along Hareshill Road, adjacent to Siddal Moor Farm, is predominantly comprised of Post-Medieval enclosed fields and the southern boundary is largely comprised of Ancient Fields.

1.10 This WSI deals with the scope of the trial trenching programme for Land Parcel 6 (shown on Figure 1) in order to discharge archaeological condition on it.

1.11 It is acknowledged that if archaeological remains are discovered during the trial trenching exercise in any parts of the site, further additional excavation work may be required by GMAAS. This will be subject to a separate WSI.

2.0 Aims and Objectives

2.1 The principal aim of the archaeological programme of works will be to determine the character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any archaeological remains present; therefore, ensuring their preservation by record.

2.2 In order to address the main aim, the general objectives are to:

- Ensure the recording of archaeological assets discovered during the archaeological works;
- Ensure that any below-ground archaeological deposits exposed are promptly identified; and
- Ensure the recording of archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available.

2.3 This specification conforms to the requirements of current national and local planning policy (including *NPPF* [2019]). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice, and the appropriate national and local standards and guidelines, including:

- *Management of Recording Projects in the Historic Environment: MORPHE* (English Heritage 2006);
- *Code of Conduct* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] [revised edition] 2014); and
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [revised edition] 2014).

3.0 Methodology

Programme of Archaeological Works

3.1 As highlighted above, the archaeological programme of works will comprise the following:

- The excavation of eight trenches (-Trenches 1-3 measure 10 m x 1.8 m and Trenches 4-8 measure 50 m x 1.8 m)) which are targeted on features shown on the early mapping (two houses which were shown on the 1840 tithe map in the north of the site and a field boundary in the south of the site); and
- Report production.

Recording

3.2 The areas subject to trenching will be accurately tied into the National Grid, preferably by an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) or Total Station and located onto a 1:2,500 map of the area.

3.3 The trial trenches may be opened down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits of a maximum 0.2 m thickness, by the use of an appropriate machine using a wide toothless ditching blade. Under no circumstances should the machine be used to cut arbitrary trenches down to natural deposits. Any machine work must be carried out under direct archaeological supervision and the machine halted if significant archaeological deposits are encountered. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon may be exposed by the machine, but must then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features, and then dug by hand.

3.4 All archaeological remains will be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to meet the aims and objectives of the project. The complete stratigraphic sequence, down to naturally occurring deposits will be excavated and the work will investigate and record all inter-relationships between features. Provision should be made for the use of shoring/stepping to accomplish this if necessary. All trenches are to be the stated dimensions at their base. The following strategy will be employed:

- Linear features: a minimum sample of 20% of each linear feature, such as ditches. Each section should be at least 1 m wide and, where possible, sections will be located and recorded adjacent to the trench edge. All intersections will be investigated to determine the relationship(s) between the component features. All termini will be investigated. If upon excavation of the sample section no datable artefacts are recovered, then the remainder of the feature within the trench should be rapidly excavated up to 100%. A mechanical excavator may be employed to remove the upper fills but the primary fills should be quickly hand excavated to maximise retrieval of artefacts.
- Other linear and discrete features: all stake-holes, post-holes, pits, ring ditches, kilns, and other structural/funerary/industrial features will be 50% excavated in the first instance, recorded in section, and then fully excavated. All intersections will be investigated to determine the relationship(s) between the component features. Where possible, sections will be located and recorded adjacent to the trench edge.
- Built structures: walls, floors, etc. will be excavated sufficient to establish their form, phasing, construction techniques. All intersections will be investigated to determine the relationship(s) between the component features.

3.5 No archaeological deposits should be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable in achieving the objectives of this evaluation, although all features identified are

expected to be half-sectioned and the full depth of archaeological deposits must be assessed. All trenches are to be the stated dimensions at their base.

3.6 All artefacts are to be retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified 20th century material, which may be noted and discarded. Finds will be stored in secure, appropriate conditions following the guidelines in *First Aid for Finds* (3rd edition).

3.7 The excavation areas will be cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features and a base plan produced at a suitable scale using a GPS.

3.8 All structures, deposits and finds will be recorded according to accepted professional standards.

3.9 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features exposed or excavated will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets. Sample recording sheets, sample registers, finds recording sheets, access catalogues, and photo record cards will also be used.

3.10 Plans indicating the location of all archaeological features encountered will be drawn at an appropriate scale. The location and extent of archaeological features will be recorded by EDM or Total Station.

3.11 Archaeological features will be plotted on an overall plan at a scale of either 1:100 or 1:50. Areas of significant remains or areas of complex stratigraphy will be planned in greater detail at 1:20 or 1:10 scale as appropriate. Plans and sections will include context numbers and Ordnance Datum (OD) spot heights for all principal strata and features.

3.12 A photographic record of the project will be maintained. This will include black and white and colour prints, and digital images, illustrating the detail and context of the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the progress of the programme of archaeological works.

Finds and Samples

3.13 A high priority will be given to dating any finds exposed. All artefactual and ecofactual material revealed during the excavation will be retained for recording and assessment and, where appropriate, further analysis and will be treated in accordance with the CIfA *Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material* ([revised] 2014).

3.14 All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No 2* (1983). Appropriate guidelines set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991) will also be followed.

3.15 Bulk environmental samples must be taken from all securely stratified deposits using a strategy which combines systematic and judgement sampling, but which also follows the methodologies outlined in the English Heritage (2011) *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (2nd edition) guidance.

3.16 Samples for specialist environmental analysis and scientific dating (soil profiles, archaeomagnetic dating, dendrochrology, etc.) should be taken if suitable material is encountered during the excavation.

3.17 Should finds and features be made that might constitute 'Treasure' under the definition of the *Treasure Act* (1996), these will, if possible, be archaeologically excavated and removed to a safe place. Such finds will also be reported immediately to the local coroner (within 14 days, in accordance with the Act).

3.18 Any human remains that are discovered will initially be left in-situ, covered and protected, and GMAAS informed of their discovery. If removal is necessary, this will comply with the relevant legislation, any Ministry of Justice and local environmental health regulations, and the appropriate Historic England advice.

Report and Archive

3.19 Details of style and format will be determined by the archaeological contractor. In any event it will include:

- An executive summary of the work undertaken and the results obtained;
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the programme of archaeological works;
- The nature, location, extent, date, significance and quality of any archaeological deposits and material uncovered;
- The nature and location of the features and deposits encountered;
- Appropriate illustrative material such as maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs; including a site location plan at 1: 2,500, a site plan at 1: 1,250, and where appropriate, large-scale specific plans;
- A summary of results; and
- A description of the archive contents and details of its location for long-term storage.

3.20 The report will also include a finds report including: any pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipes discovered during the evaluation, as well as all other artefacts that may be discovered. A specialist report on all animal or human bone discovered during the excavation will also be included. Pottery and ceramic building material will be recorded by sherd count and weight by ware type and, if appropriate, from within context groups.

3.21 The discussion of the archaeological potential of the site will also include reference to the potential indicated by the finds and environmental evidence.

3.22 Copies of the report will be submitted to GMAAS and the local planning authority in order to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the archaeological programme of works. One bound and one digital copy of the report will also be provided to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment record (HER). Copies will also be uploaded as part of the ADS OASIS database record.

3.23 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the archaeological works, will be prepared in accordance with guidance issued by the Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF) (*Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* [Brown 2011]). An accession code from the relevant Museum will be obtained prior to the deposition of the archive.

3.24 The archive will also be prepared in line with the CIfA *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* ([revised] 2014).

3.25 It is considered that outreach and engagement is not appropriate for this work due to the commercially sensitive nature of the project.

4.0 Timetable and Personnel

4.1 The anticipated date for the commencement of works is not known at present.

4.2 Curriculum Vitaes of key personnel can be provided to GMAAS in advance of the archaeological works commencing.

5.0 Monitoring

5.1 The aim of monitoring is to ensure that the archaeological works are undertaken within the limits set out in this WSI, and to the satisfaction of GMAAS.

5.2 GMAAS will be free to visit the site by prior arrangement. They will monitor the implementation of the archaeological works on behalf of the local planning authority and will assess the work being undertaken on site against the methodology detailed in this specification.

5.3 GMAAS will also be consulted on any changes to the specification of any of the archaeological works. Any such alterations should be agreed in writing with the relevant parties, including the local planning authority, prior to commencement of on-site works, or at the earliest available opportunity thereafter.

6.0 Insurance

6.1 The appointed archaeological consultant will produce evidence of Public Liability, Professional Indemnity Insurance and/or general 'all risk' insurance.

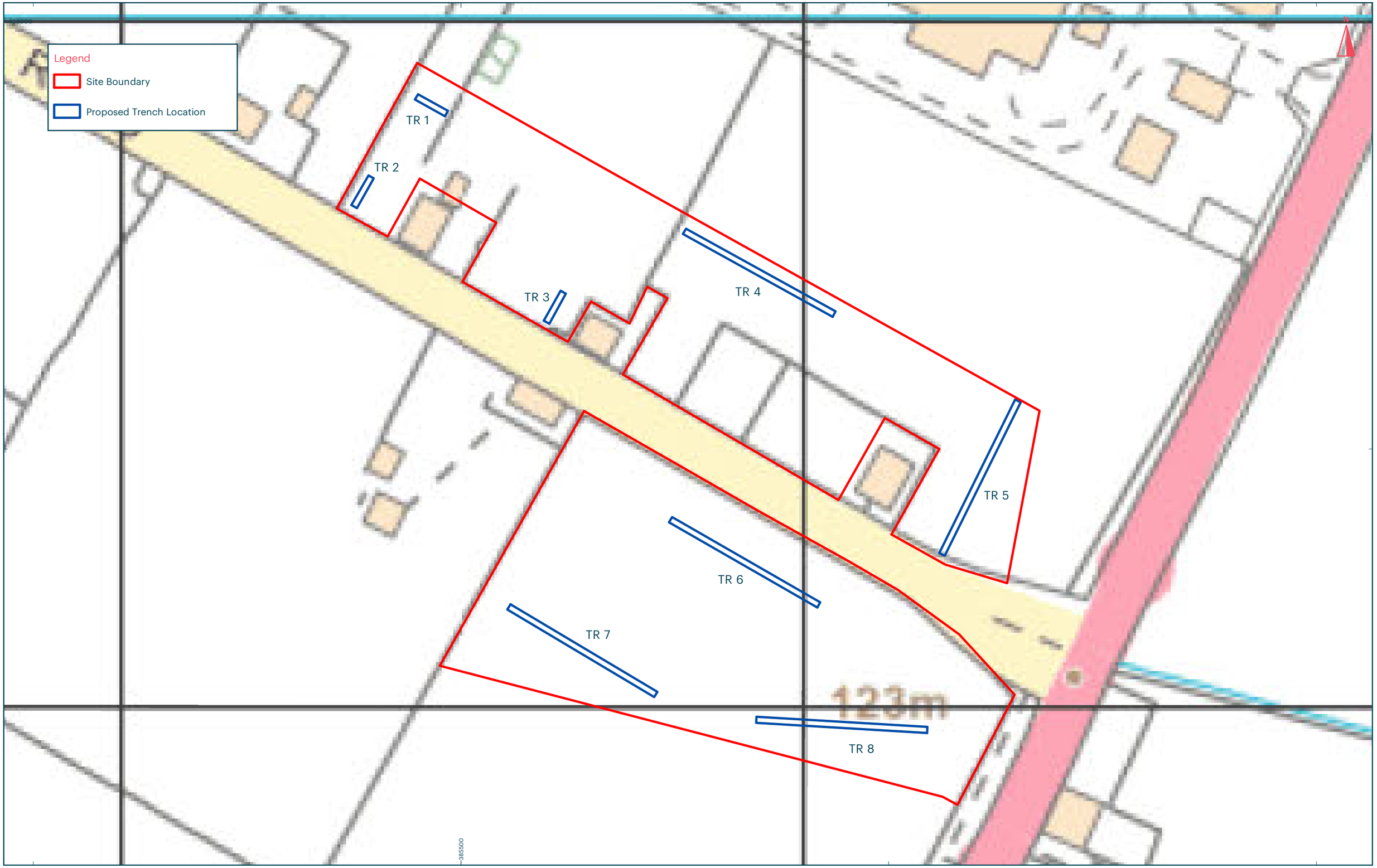
7.0 Health and Safety

7.1 All works will be in compliance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act* (1974), applicable regulations and codes of practice, and recommendations of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (1986).

7.2 All archaeological staff will undertake their operations with safe working practices.

7.3 All staff will be made aware of the hazards and any necessary measures which need to be taken with regard to those hazards.

7.4 A site-specific Risk Assessment can be prepared and submitted, if requested.



Title:
Proposed Trench Location Plan
Address:
South Heywood

TR 1-3 10m x 1.8m
TR 4-8 50m x 1.8m

Scale at A3: 1:1,000
0 25m

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