



**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL
TRENCHING:
SILVER HILL FARM AND PLOT W OF KINGSWAY BUSINESS PARK, BROAD LANE AND LOWER LANE,
ROCHDALE, OL16 4PT**

Application:	22/00998/FUL
Client:	Barratt and David Wilson Homes North West
National Grid Reference:	SD 91177 11291
Date	19 th June 2024
AAL Site Code	ROBL 24

1.0 Introduction

This document is the Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, which has been prepared as a recommendation by Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) for the *'Residential development of up to 64 dwellings, including part demolition and refurbishment of Grade II Listed Building Silver Hill Farmhouse and associated buildings, together with new vehicular access points, car parking, boundaries, landscaping, creation of open space, and other associated works'* on land at Silver Hill Farm and Plot W of Kingsway Business Park, Broad Lane and Lower Lane, Rochdale, OL16 4PT (Planning Reference 22/00998/FUL).

The fieldwork and reporting will conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *'Standard for archaeological field evaluation'* (CIfA 2023a), *'Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation'* (CIfA 2023b), and the Historic England document *'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (English Heritage 2015a). All Historic England guidelines on archaeological practice will also be followed (www.historicengland.org.uk/advice/).

2.0 Site Location and Description

The development site is located off Broad Lane, approximately 400m to the north of the M62 motorway, between a residential suburb of Rochdale and the Kingsway Business Park. The site is approximately c.2.5ha and centred at NGR SD 91177 11291 (Figure 1).

The bedrock geology comprises of Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation - mudstone, siltstone and sandstone formed approximately 319 to 318 million years ago in the Langsettian Substage period overlain with a superficial geology of diamicton hummocky glacial deposits formed in the Devensian period (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

A planning application has been submitted for *'Residential development of up to 64 dwellings, including part demolition and refurbishment of Grade II Listed Building Silver Hill Farmhouse and associated buildings, together with new vehicular access points, car parking, boundaries, landscaping, creation of open space, and other associated works on land at Silver Hill Farm and Plot W of Kingsway Business Park, Broad Lane and Lower Lane, Rochdale, OL16 4PT (Planning Reference 22/00998/FUL)*. GMAAS were consulted and recommended that a programme of archaeological works is secured through a planning condition worded as follows:

No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. 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:

1. Informed by the updated North West Regional Research Framework, a phased programme and methodology of investigation and recording to include:

- a) historic building recording of the Silver Hill Farm complex*
- b) a site walkover to identify and record any surviving features or remains of the farm enclosure*
- c) a watching brief to be maintained during primary infrastructure works across Plot W, with results used to inform the necessity of watching briefs in other areas*
- d) informed by the above, more detailed excavation (subject of new WSI)*

2. A programme for post-investigation assessment to include:

- a) analysis of the site investigation records and finds*
- b) production of a final report on the significance of the archaeological and historical interest represented.*

3. Deposition of the final report with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.

4. Dissemination of the results commensurate with their significance.

5. Provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation.

6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.

Reason: In accordance with NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 205 - 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.

Following discussions with GMAAS and the client it was agreed that an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching could be undertaken in place of the watching brief and this WSI covers that element of the works. A previous WSI has already been produced covering the building and walkover surveys.

The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), *'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'* (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2023).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

A publication 'Farmers and Weavers: Archaeological Investigations at Kingsway Business Park and Cutacre Country Park, by Richard Gregory, Peter Arrowsmith, Ian Miller and Michael Nevell 2021 has been produced that afforded the opportunity to investigate the archaeology of the Kingsway Business Park prior to construction and below is a summary of the archaeological and historical background from the publication.

Mesolithic

Flint tools have been recovered from the bed of Hollingworth Lake (Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GMHER) 290.1.0), Turf Hill, Piethorne Valley (GMHER 297.1.0), New Nook, Blackstone Edge (GMHER 5338.1.0), and Whittaker Moor (GMHER 8867.1.1)

Bronze Age,

A bronze palstave from Crompton Moor (GMHER 5926.1.0), and a socketed spearhead from Piethorne, Milnrow (Davey and Forster 1975, entry 107). have been recovered from areas close to the site. A cremation urn was excavated within a stone cist at Low House Farm, Milnrow, from which a perforated stone axe-hammer was also recorded. Further possible barrow sites have been recorded at Thornham Fold (GMHER 9934.1.0) c 2.5 km to the south-west and at Turf Hill in the Piethorne Valley (GMHER 10341.1.0).

Iron Age

Evidence for Iron Age activity within the area is sparse (Hall et al 1995, 11 8-19; Haselgrove et al 2001, 25; Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 51-2) although excavations (North West Archaeological Surveys 1992) at Castle Steads, north of Bury suggest a late Iron Age/early Roman-period settlement and furthermore a possible Iron Age enclosure has been found in the Piethorne Valley, at Turf Hill (GMHER 10337.1.0). Iron Age finds from the area include a carved stone head discovered to the south of Lower Lane (Arrowsmith and Wilson 1998) with a similar stone head discovered close to the business park (cf Nevell 1992).

Roman

A possible Roman road (road 720a; Margary 1967, 403) is suspected to have traversed the Kingsway Business Park, running from Manchester across the Pennines towards Ilkley. Several coin hoards and coins, querns, a bronze bracelet, and the arm from a small silver statute, was discovered at Tunshill to the east of the site (Fishwick 1889, 12; Pearson et al 1985, 111-12), whilst a stone with a late Roman inscription was discovered at Low House Farm (GMHER 2730.1.1).

Medieval

The evidence for medieval activity within the area is based largely on placename evidence and the Domesday Survey of 1086. However, it is clear that during this period the area lay within the parish of Rochdale (Fishwick 1889, 1). Rochdale is mentioned by name as 'Recedham' in the Domesday Survey, the 'ham' being Old English for a settlement (Ekwall 1922; Kenyon 1991). Whilst 'Reced' might have been the Celtic name for the River Roch or from Old English meaning 'hall' (Ekwall 1922, 55).

Rochdale also became the focus of post-Conquest settlement, with construction of a motte-and-bailey castle at Castle Hill and it is likely that during the late eleventh/twelfth century the administrative units within the parish were formalised into four main townships, Butterworth, Hundersfield, Spotland, and Castleton (Fishwick 1889, 16, 18; Farrer and Brownbill 1911a, 187), with the site laying within Butterworth.

The medieval townships of Butterworth and Castleton also contained a fairly large area of common land (known as Buersill Moor) and this probably encompassed much of what is now covered by the Kingsway Business Park.

Many of the early historical references to Buersill Moor have been collated (Fishwick 1889. 71-3; 1913, ix, 30-4) and these indicate that, initially, medieval rights to the moor were in the hands of various owners/occupiers. It is also clear that some encroachment onto this common land had occurred by the mid fourteenth century since there are documentary references to buildings.

Ancient deeds for Buersill Moor contained in a 1626 survey make reference to areas of potential medieval settlement (Fishwick 1913, 30-4) and include Dig Gate to the south of the site and Lady House to the east. The deeds also refer to areas of early enclosure encompassing the site including le Blackley Hey and le Layst.

Prior to the construction of the Kingsway Business Park, several landscape features were identified which may have had their origins in the medieval period. One of these was a possible early enclosure, potentially relating to Sir John Bryon's enclosure of Buersill Moor in 1519 (above). Three evaluation trenches were excavated across its postulated boundary, however, no archaeological features were encountered. Other potential landscape features with medieval origins within the area include Moss Side Lane and Moor Bank Lane, both depicted on Yates' map of 1786

Post-medieval

The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries witnessed a series of significant changes to the form and use of the landscape within the Kingsway Business Park. This period represents an era of progressive agricultural expansion, which is defined by the eventual enclosure of the moorland and the construction of a scattering of rural dwellings, farm buildings, and associated routeways.

Silverhill Farm, within the eastern half of the site, is a former Yeoman House assumed to date from c.1789 as indicated by the date stone above the main door inscribed "Charles and Esther Beswick, 24th August 1789." The Tithe apportionment from 1844 describes the farm site as including "Houses, building, garden, enclosure and yard" and until the 20th century, contained within the historic enclosure. During the 20th century, the farm expanded with substantial modern agricultural sheds erected to the south east as well as development within the trapezoid enclosure to the north of the Farmhouse. In the early 21st century, a number of these later outbuildings were demolished. (Turley Heritage 2022).

5.0 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the evaluation will be to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site and define the nature and extent of any additional mitigation works that may be required.

Evidence shall be gathered to establish the presence/absence, nature, date, depth, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the remains, and to assess the impact of the development upon the archaeological resource.

In more specific terms, the key research agenda for the project, taken from The Research Frameworks Network of the North West Regional Research Framework (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>) relates to the site's potential for evidence relating to The Industrial and 20th Century Period rural settlement, farming and agricultural activity on the site. As such these works may address the following:

Ind05: How well understood is change and development of the agrarian landscape in response to industrialisation and enclosure?

Ind09: How does the nature of rural settlement change during this period?

Ind15: How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes and field patterns?

Historic England (2015b) has published a research framework for historic farmsteads, which aims to help secure sustainable development and the conservation of traditional farmsteads and their buildings through the planning system.

6.0 Methodology

A programme of trial trenching comprising 7no 50m x 2m and 1no 15m x 2m trenches, as set out on the attached plan, or as near as site conditions allow is proposed for the site, with the trenches targeting features recorded on OS mapping and Lidar (Trenches 1, 2 and 8 targeting the enclosure ditch, 3, 4, 6 and 7 the field boundary ditches and associated surrounding areas and trench 5 targeting undulations record on the Lidar mapping, Figures 1 and 2). A walkover survey of the site was hindered by the overgrown vegetation across the site (Plate 1) and it was not possible to detect the enclosure described on the Tithe apportionment from 1844 but did reveal undulations which are depicted on the Lidar mapping.



Plate 1: Showing overgrown vegetation across the site

The fieldwork is planned to take a week and will be supervised by Alan Telford (CV attached) assisted by two project assistants.

In each trench, topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits will be removed by mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 10cm in thickness. The process will be repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon is exposed. All further excavation of any exposed archaeological deposits will then be by hand. The trenches will be located in the positions specified, or as near as site conditions allow.

In the event of positive results in the excavated trenches, all features will be investigated, unless otherwise agreed with GMAAS, in order to determine their date, extent, level of preservation, form and where possible, function.

It is not anticipated that the complete excavation of features will be necessary at this stage, although, where archaeologically relevant, some individual features may be excavated in their entirety.

A full written record of the archaeological deposits will be made on standard Allen Archaeology Limited context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits will be drawn to scale, in plan and section (at scale 1:20 or 1:50), with Ordnance Datum heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Hand drawn plans may be supplemented with survey data gathered using a survey grade GPS or a total station theodolite. Digital photography will form an integral part of the recording strategy.

Should human remains be encountered, they will be left in situ, with excavation being limited to the identification and recording of such remains.

Any artefacts found during the investigation that are deemed to be 'treasure' (as defined by the Treasure Act 1996) will be removed from site to a secure store and reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

All finds of all classes will be collected, processed, analysed and published as appropriate. The spoil from the excavated trenches will be examined for further artefact recovery. Finds collected during the fieldwork will be bagged and labelled with the appropriate deposit context number, while registered finds will be 3D located and bagged individually with the deposit context number and small find number. Key specialists may be requested to visit the site during fieldwork to advise on the artefact collection and retention strategies. All finds will be processed (cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate) at the offices of Allen Archaeology Limited. These will then be submitted for specialist assessment as to their potential and significance for further analysis and study to the following organisations/persons (depending on their availability):

Peter Chowne	Early prehistoric pottery
Alice Beasley	Later prehistoric and Romano-British pottery
Dr Joshua Hogue	Worked lithic materials
Paul Blinkhorn	Post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material
Bryn Leadbetter	Animal bone
Tania Kausmally	Human bone
Yvonne Rose	Other artefacts
Bryn Leadbetter	Environmental analysis
York Archaeological Trust	Conservation

Any changes to the above-named specialists will only be made in agreement with GMAAS.

If the evaluation results in the recovery of unstable artefactual remains (e.g. metallic objects or preserved wood/leather), Allen Archaeology Limited will commission the services of York Archaeological Trust to advise and implement conservation of unstable artefacts; to undertake x-ray analysis and to provide an assessment of potential summary, which will then be attached to the main report.

Bryn Leadbetter is the named primary environmental consultant, who will be responsible for liaising with other specialists. Specialist advice will be sought, if necessary, from the environmental archaeologist, including a site visit to develop the sampling strategy and advise on any buried soils or palaeosols and their potential for soil micromorphological analysis, should such deposits be identified.

Bulk samples of approximately 40 litres in volume (or, where appropriate, entire feature fills) will be taken from a selection of dated and sealed contexts where appropriate. All sampling, assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2011).

Waterlogged plant macrofossil samples (of approximately 10 litres in volume) and samples for dendrochronological identification, soil micromorphology, pollen, insect remains and mollusc analysis will also be taken where it is deemed appropriate to do so and as directed by the relevant specialists. Column samples may also be taken through ditch sections/palaeochannels, etc if necessary.

Radiocarbon, dendrochronology, archaeomagnetic, pollen and monolith samples will be collected to inform the proposals for a second stage of archaeological investigation, if deemed necessary.

Should industrial activity be noted during the works, large technological residues will be collected by hand, with separate samples (c.10ml) collected for micro-slugs (i.e. hammerscale and spherical droplets), with reference made to the documents 'Archaeometallurgy: Guidelines for best practice' (Historic England 2015).

Animal bone, fish bone and small mammal/amphibian bones will be collected from all excavated features and from processed samples. These will be identified and assessed by the named specialist.

7.0 Post-fieldwork and Reporting

On completion of site operations, the records produced during the evaluation stages will be checked and ordered and a stratigraphic matrix of all archaeological features and deposits prepared.

A fully illustrated assessment report text will then be prepared that will contain the following information:

- A non-technical summary of the results
- Description of the topography and geology of the investigation area
- Description of the methodologies used during the investigation
- Detailed description of the historical and archaeological background of the site
- A text describing the results of the trial trenching
- Overall plan of the site showing evaluated areas, accurately located to the national grid
- Plans of each of the individual trenches showing the archaeological features exposed
- Sections of the trenches and archaeological features
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape
- Specialist reports on artefacts and ecofacts from the site
- Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features or groups of features
- A consideration of the significance of the results in local, regional, national and international terms

The timescale for completion of the post-excavation works is 5 days. If required, specialists will propose their own timescales during the post-fieldwork stage.

8.0 Curatorial Monitoring

Curatorial responsibility for the investigation on the site rests with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS. A minimum of one-week's notice will be given prior to the commencement of the project to enable them to make appropriate monitoring arrangements.

9.0 Archive

The documentation and records generated by the works will be assembled in accordance with the national guidelines in 'Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation' (Brown 2011). Rochdale Museum will be contacted to see if they would be interested in the physical archive, if they are not the storage of the archaeological archive will be stored at Allen Archaeology Ltd. offices in the short term until appropriate measures can be arranged for long term storage. Provision will be made for submission of the digital archive to the ADS

10.0 Report Dissemination

The report will be completed within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. Digital copies will be sent to the client, to the Local Planning Authority and to the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS. An OASIS record providing a summary account of the results of the works will be forwarded to the ADS in York following completion.

11.0 Variations to the Proposed Scheme

Variations to the proposed scheme will only be made following written confirmation from the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS.

Should any further investigation be required beyond this specification, then the cost and duration of those supplementary examinations will be negotiated between the client and the contractor.

12.0 Health and Safety

All work will be carried out in a way that complies with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its related regulations and codes of practice. Employees of Allen Archaeology Limited will perform their duties in accordance with company safety policy, with senior staff responsible for monitoring compliance with health and safety requirements and legislation.

The archaeological site supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that all on-site archaeological work is carried out in a safety-conscious, sensible and responsible manner with due regard for the relevant health and safety requirements and legislation. All staff involved in the scheme will be provided with a Risk Assessment document prior to commencement of site operations.

13.0 Insurances

Allen Archaeology Limited maintains Employers Liability Insurance to £10,000,000.00, Public Liability Insurance to £5,000,000.00 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to £2,000,000.00. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied upon request.

14.0 Copyright

Allen Archaeology Limited shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that an exclusive license is hereby provided to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project described in this document.

License is also given to the archaeological curator to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes. This license does not cover commercial use of the material by GMAAS or a third party.

The author of any specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes for further publication.

15.0 References

Brown, D. 2011, *Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum.

CIfA, 2023a, *Standard for archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

CIfA, 2023b, *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2023, *National Planning Policy Framework*. Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. London: English Heritage.

Gregory, R, Arrowsmith, P, Miller, I and Nevell, M, 2021 *Farmers and Weavers: Archaeological Investigations at Kingsway Business Park and Cutacre Country Park, Lancaster imprints 29* Oxford Archaeology North, Lancaster

Historic England, 2015a, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. London: Historic England.

Historic England, 2015b, *Farmstead Assessment Framework Informing sustainable development and the conservation of traditional farmsteads*. London: Historic England.

Turley, 2022, *Heritage Statement Silverhill Farm, Rochdale*. Unpublished report.



Figure 1: Trench locations positioned over OS Six inch 1888-1915 map

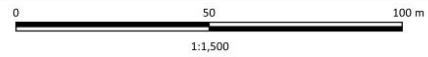


Site Code:

Figure 1:1500 @ A4 Drawn by: Revision



Figure 2: Trench locations positioned over Lidar mapping



Site Code:

Figure 1:1500 @ A4 Drawn by: Revision

Alan Telford

Alan has more than 20 years of experience of field archaeology, working both as an excavator and in supervisory roles. He has provided on-site training in aspects of excavation, recording and surveying to team members ranging from completely inexperienced volunteers to graduates already possessing practical skills. His post-excavation experience includes report preparation to publication standard and he has undertaken research for desk-based assessments and historical background for post-excavation reports. Alan also has experience of liaising with the public, from interested individuals to organised school visits. Although his experience extends to sites of all periods, Alan has particular interest in, and knowledge of, 18th–19th century industrial sites, particularly in the North-East of England and has considerable experience of the excavation of post-medieval cemeteries.

Employment

2011–present	Allen Archaeology Ltd	Senior Supervisor
2009–2011	Pre Construct Archaeology (North), Durham	Excavator/Supervisor
2004–2009	Tyne and Wear Museums Archaeology, South Shields	Supervisor
2000–2003	Pre Construct Archaeology (North), Durham	Excavator/Supervisor
1999	Lancaster University Archaeology Unit, Lancaster	Excavator
1999	ARCUS, Sheffield, South Yorkshire	Excavator
1997–1999	Tyne and Wear Museums Archaeology, Wallsend	Excavator/Assistant
1997	Lancaster University Archaeology Unit, Lancaster	Excavator
1996–1997	Newcastle City Archaeology Unit, Newcastle upon Tyne	Excavator

Qualifications

1994 BA (Hons) Archaeology 2.1, Liverpool University