

Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Report

Hareshill Road, South Heywood

For Orion Heritage



Image from Google Earth 2025

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Abstract

Planning consent has been granted by Rochdale Borough Council for a link road and mixed-use development as part of the Northern Gateway. An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Dee Archaeological Services on eight evaluation trenches, in line with the archaeological condition and approved WSI. Works were undertaken on site in September and October 2025 on behalf of Orion Heritage.

Research places the site in an area of agricultural character with both peat extraction and coal mining in the wider area dating from the 16th century. The site area comprises of fields associated with Hareshill Farm, now demolished. There is potential for earlier peat extraction in the southeastern part of the site, at Siddal Moor.

Trench 1 contained the remnants of a brick wall running north-south, associated with the late 19th to early 20th century farmyard wall for Hareshill Farm. Infill material, dating from the 20th century overlies the wall.

Trench 3 contained a linear, which has been interpreted as an infilled hedgerow from a removed field boundary seen on the 1839 township map.

Trench 4 contained two stone lined culverts thought to be 18th to 19th century in date associated with drainage for the fields and associated with Hareshill Farm.

Trenches 2, 5, and 6 revealed ploughsoil overlying the natural clay. Trenches 7 and 8, in the southeastern part of the site, contained around 2m of 21st century infill. The 1839 Pilsworth township map depicts a pond in this area.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report details the results of Archaeological evaluation trenching carried out for the northern parcel of land at South Heywood, Greater Manchester. The archaeological fieldwork, encompassing eight 50m long trenches, was carried out between the 29th of September and 3rd of October 2025 by Dee Archaeological Services Ltd (DAS) on behalf of Orion Heritage.
- 1.2 This document has been prepared in-line with condition 17 which required archaeological evaluation trenching, as requested by the Local Planning Authority Rochdale Borough Council and the archaeologist at Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS). Planning consent has been secured for a proposed link road and mixed-use development on land north of Hareshill Road.
- 1.3 The site is located on open land to the north of Queen Elizabeth II Way and Hareshill Road, South Heywood, OL10 2TP at NGR (SD) 385206,409196 (Figure 1 & Figure 2). Previous reports suggested the area saw economic growth associated with agriculture in the mid to late 19th century. The reports indicate that the site area has had a significant impact from modern development, and comprises mainly post medieval to modern enclosed fields. As such evaluation trenching was requested in advance of development to allow for mitigation should significant archaeological features be present.
- 1.4 The work was carried out in accordance with the Written Scheme Investigation (WSI) prepared by Orion Heritage (Smith, 2025) and approved by GMAAS. Works were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (CIfA, 2022). All works were carried out in line with the CIfA standard for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA, 2023a) and universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA, 2023b).

2 Planning Background

2.1 Planning

2.1.1 In December 2024 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & communities issued the revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DLUHC, 2024). Chapter 16 of the NPPF sets out policies for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.

2.1.2 The NPPF indicates planning decisions should be made based on the significance of Heritage Assets. These are defined as buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.

2.1.3 In considering any planning applications the Local Planning Authority is Rochdale Borough Council who take impartial advice from Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS). Condition 17 from Schedule 2 relates to the outline planning application:

- Major mixed-use development comprising supporting residential uses comprising up to 1000 dwellings (class c3); employment uses (classes b2/b8) comprising up to 135,460m² gross internal area (gia); a new primary school(class d1); class a1/a2/a3/a5 uses comprising up to 2500m² gia which includes no more than 499m² of a1 uses; together with associated landscaping, open space and sports pitches, drainage, ecological enhancements, cycleway and footpath linkages, infrastructure and other works ancillary thereto (all matters reserved for future consideration except access).

Condition 17

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

2.2 Previous Work

2.2.1 As part of the condition a series of reports were commissioned including a desk based assessment (Smith, 2018) and Archaeological Assessment, which included historic building assessments and landscape survey (Jones and Poole, 2017). These reports indicated that the archaeological potential of the site is low. Mainly focussing on post medieval and modern agricultural activities. The historic building assessments indicated that only two structures, Hareshill Farm and Siddal Moor, maintained historic value. The landscape survey shows the site area mainly comprises post medieval and modern fieldsystems.

2.3 Statutory Designations

2.3.1 There are no known scheduled monuments or listed buildings on the site and the site does not lie within a conservation area. There are no registered battlefields or parks and gardens on or around the site.

2.3.2 Regional Research Agenda

2.3.3 All archaeological projects aim to feed information into the North West England Regional Research Framework (Research Frameworks, 2024), to help develop areas of research relating to the historic environment that require attention. The evaluation trenches have produced negligible data to the regional research agenda.

2.4 Geology & Topography

2.4.1 The British Geological Survey GeoIndex shows the site to be located on a bed rock of Pennine Lower Coal Measure Formation – mudstone, siltstone and sandstone; with superficial glaciofluvial deposits noted as Devensian of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey, 2025).

2.4.2 The site lies to the south of Heywood in an area of agricultural, industrial and commercial character. To the south of the site lies the new road, Queen Elizabeth II Way and Hareshill Road, beyond which are open fields. To the east of the site area series of industrial units which were undergoing demolition at the time of survey. Open fields lie to the north of the site, leading to a modern residential estate. To the west of the site is a large industrial unit.

3 Archaeological & Historic Background

3.1 This section should be seen as a summary of the development of the site and relevant surrounding area, and should not be seen as a complete history of Rochdale.

Period	From	To
Palaeolithic	450,000	12,000 BC
Mesolithic	12,000	4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000	1,800 BC
Bronze Age	1,800	600 BC
Iron Age	600 BC	43 AD
Roman	43	410 AD
Early Medieval	410	1066 AD
Medieval	1066	1485 AD
Post Medieval	1485	1750 AD
Industrial	1750	1901 AD
Modern	1901	Present

Table 1 - Time periods used in this report

3.2 A desk based assessment (Smith, 2018) and archaeological assessment (Jones and Poole, 2017) were previously undertaken for the site. This is a summary of those works with additional research.

3.3 No Mesolithic or Neolithic activity or finds have been identified in or immediately surrounding the site (Smith, 2018). No archaeological features have been recorded on site or within its' surroundings, however, two Bronze Age stone hammers have been recovered from the wider landscape (Jones and Poole, 2017). No Iron Age activity is recorded on or around the site area.

3.4 No Roman activity has been recorded on the site or in the surrounding area.

3.5 The Early Medieval period is poorly represented in the archaeological record in the area, and as such evidence often comes from place-names. Heywood, from the Old English *hēah* and *wudu*, means High or Chief Wood (Mills, 2011). Heywood as a settlement is not named in the Domesday Survey of 1086, although it is known to lie in the lands of Roger of Poitou (Jones and Poole, 2017).

3.6 Medieval settlement and agricultural landscapes are represented in the area, with evidence of terracing, field systems and ridge and furrow (Jones and Poole, 2017).

3.7 The Heywood family are recorded in the area by 1165. By the 13th century they were established landowners, with Adam de Bury granting '*one parcel of land hereinafter*

called *Hewode*' to Peter de Hewode in the 1270s (Smith, 2018). Heywood, or 'Heghwode', was recorded in 1246.

- 3.8 From the 16th century Heywood underwent a phase of growth relating to the coal mining industry. In 1587 a lease between Edmund Hopwood and Isabella Schonarde refers to an interest in Coleyfylde at Siddal, where mining activity had commenced (Jones and Poole, 2017). Siddal Moor was also included in a survey of 1570 of the lands belonging to Edward Hopwood. The document refers to the right of turbary, indicating the presence of peat, which was used as a source of fuel (Burns and Cook, 2024).
- 3.9 During the 17th century small communities in the area known as 'folds' were allowed to have their own mines, the fold's around Heywood became scattered with small pits (Jones and Poole, 2017). The Dearden and Gregge families are recorded as holding mining interests in Heywood, with the Dearden family on Siddal Moor (Burns and Cook, 2024).

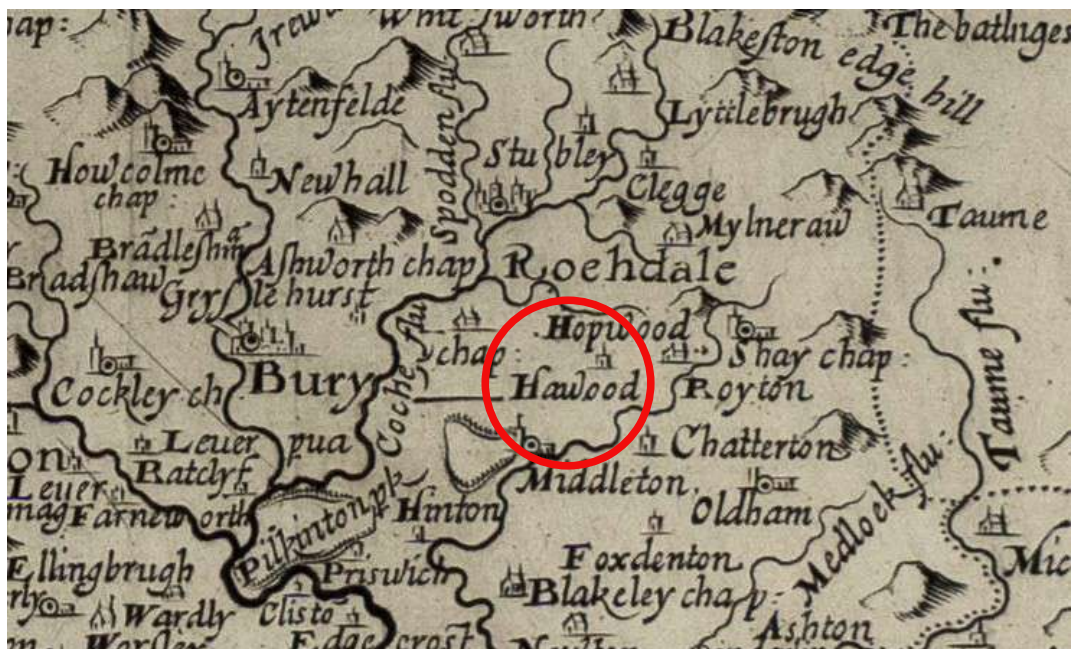


Plate 1- 1607 map of Lancashire, Saxton C.

- 3.10 The earliest cartographic depiction of Heywood is Saxton's map of 1607, however, this does not show the site in any detail (Plate 1). This layout is repeated on numerous subsequent maps, such as Morden's map of Lancashire of 1695 (Plate 2).



Plate 2- 1695 map of Lancashire, Morden R.

- 3.11 Cartographic depictions of the area stay relatively general in form into the 19th century. Greenwood's map of the area, dated 1819, is the first to illustrate the area in any detail (Plate 3). This shows the site as undeveloped to the south of the main settlement.



Plate 3- 1819 map of Lancashire, Greenwood C.

- 3.12 The site area extends over two separate townships, with the bulk of the site to the west lying within Pilsworth Township, and the easternmost field lying within Hopwood Township. The township maps for Pilsworth and Hopwood (Figure 4) show the land as all within the ownership of the Earl of Wilton and occupied by Moses Partington (Table 2). All fields were recorded as in meadow, pasture or with potatoes in crop.

Parish	Plot	Owner	Occupier
Hopwood	296 – Part of Siddal Moor	The Rt Hon Earl Wilton	Moses Partington
Pilsworth	220 – Site yard and garden	The Rt Hon Earl Wilton	Moses Partington
Pilsworth	222 – Barn meadow	The Rt Hon Earl Wilton	Moses Partington
Pilsworth	223 – Meadow	The Rt Hon Earl Wilton	Moses Partington
Pilsworth	228 – Old field	The Rt Hon Earl Wilton	Moses Partington
Pilsworth	229 – Well meadow	The Rt Hon Earl Wilton	Moses Partington
Pilsworth	233a – Intack	The Rt Hon Earl Wilton	Moses Partington

Table 2 - Township apportionment data

- 3.13 Hares Hill Farm is shown on plot 220 divided from the surrounding fields by an irregular boundary, likely a hedgerow at this time. An access road can be seen running northwest-southeast from Hareshill Road to the farmyard.
- 3.14 The 1844 Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows the site in detail following much the same layout as the 1839 map (Figure 5). Hares Hill Farm, labelled as Hayshill on the 1844 OS map, appears to have a more formal linear boundary at this time, suggesting a structural barrier between the farmyard and the surrounding fields. The only other modification to the site is the removal of the north-south field boundary between plots 223 and 228, forming a larger L-shaped field.
- 3.15 The 1889 OS map (Figure 6) shows the removal of the field boundary around plot 229 shown on the 1839 the township map, creating a single large field to the east and north of Hareshill Farm. This layout is repeated on the 1910 and 1927 OS maps (Figure 7 & Figure 8). The 1937 OS map (Figure 9) maintains the same field boundaries as the 1910 and 1927 maps, however, the boundary structure to the south and east of Hareshill Farm has been moved, creating a smaller farm complex. The complex of buildings at Hareshill Farm were demolished between 2021 and 2022.
- 3.16 Between 2021 and 2023 Queen Elizabeth II Way was established along the southern boundary of the site. Historic images from Google Earth show the easement works and remediation extending significantly into the southeastern field (Plate 4).



Plate 4- Southeastern field showing remediation (Google Earth, 24/04/222, 53°34'43"N 2°13'22"W, 612m)

4 Aims

4.1 The aims of the trial trenching as defined in the approved WSI (Smith, 2025) were as follows:

4.2 The aims of the works were 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.

4.3 GMAAS were informed of the findings to allow for appropriate monitoring.

5 Methodology

- 5.1 The detailed methodology can be found in the approved WSI (Smith, 2025). A summary of the site methodology can be found below.
- 5.2 The evaluation trenching involved the excavation of eight 50m by 1.8m trenches. Removal of overburden and modern fill deposits was undertaken by machine under close supervision, until archaeological features, or natural deposits, were exposed. These features were cleaned by hand and located by Leica viva GPS equipment.
- 5.3 Trenches were excavated by machine under archaeological supervision in spits. Where features or significant deposits were identified, these were cleaned using hand tools and recorded to determine extent, function, date and relationship to adjacent features. All features were cleaned and recorded via pro-forma context sheets, drawn records at 1:10 and 1:50 on permatrace, and a full photographic record, with a register maintained on site.
- 5.4 All finds recovered were cleaned and recorded in accordance with Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of Archaeological Materials (CIfA, 2020).
- 5.5 Works were carried out in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct (CIfA, 2022). All works were carried out in line with the CIfA standard for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA, 2023a) and universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA, 2023b). All works were carried out in accordance with the Historic England guidance document MoRPHE (Historic England, 2015).
- 5.6 The site code 25-0086 was allocated by DAS and was used on all documentary archives.
- 5.7 In accordance with current Museum Service standards born-digital data, such as this report, digital photographs, database and GIS data, with appropriate metadata, will be deposited with a CoreTrustSeal Repository, currently the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), making the archive publicly accessible. Each report, once approved, is subsequently made available for inclusion and publication by digital means through the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) via OASIS and a copy made publicly available via inclusion on the GM HER.

6 Results

6.1 Eight trenches measuring 50m by 1.8m were excavated across the site (Figure 2). The trenches were all excavated in line with the approved WSI (Smith, 2025).

6.2 Trench 1

6.2.1 Was located at the western end of the site, close to the demolished Hareshill Farm (Figure 10). The trench was excavated along a northwest-southeast alignment to a maximum depth of 0.92m below ground level (Plate 5).



Plate 5- Trench 1, looking east

6.2.2 The uppermost deposit (100) was a 250mm thick layer of dark brown humic loam (Plate 6). Below this was a 400mm thick layer of dark brown clay silt (101), with rubble and tarmac inclusions. Deposit (101) appears to be an infill material, likely following the demolition of the access track to Hareshill Farm to the north of

the trench in the early 21st century. Deposit (101) overlay the natural yellow clay (102).



Plate 6- Trench 1, south facing section, 1m scale

6.2.3 Crossing the trench, in a north-south alignment, 16.5m from the western end of the trench, was a brick wall 103 (Plate 7). The wall was of red brick, two bricks wide, in stretcher courses. The bricks measured 220 x 120 x 80mm in size. Three courses of the wall remained intact, sitting above the natural clay (102). The infill (101) directly overlay wall, 103 with no cut present.



Plate 7- Trench 1, wall 103, looking east, 1m scale

6.2.4 The wall aligns with the farmyard wall associated with Hareshill Farm shown on the 1889 through 1927 OS maps of the site. This appears to relate to a phase of modification to the farmyard between 1844 and 1889.

6.3 Trench 2

6.3.1 Trench 2 was located to the east of Trench 1, and was excavated along a north-south alignment.

6.3.2 The trench was excavated to a depth of 400mm below ground level (Plate 8). The uppermost deposit was a 50mm thick layer of dark brown topsoil (200), which overlay a mid brown silty clay ploughsoil (201), 250mm thick. This overlay the natural clay (202).

6.3.3 No archaeological features were present within Trench 2.



Plate 8- Trench 2, east facing section, 1m scale

6.4 Trench 3

6.4.1 Trench 3 was located to the northeast of Hareshill Farm and was excavated along an east-west alignment. The uppermost deposit was a 75mm thick dark brown topsoil (300), which overlay the 250mm thick plough soil (301). Deposit (301) was a dark brown loose loam with pebble inclusions. This overlay the natural clay (302). A sondage was excavated at the western end of Trench 3 to confirm the interpretation of the natural deposit.

6.4.2 Cut into (302) was a 700mm wide north-south aligned linear [303]. The linear measured 300mm deep with a u-shaped profile (Figure 11 & Plate 9).



Plate 9- Trench 2, north facing section, 1m scale

6.4.3 The fill of [303] was a loose light brown silty loam (304). The linear aligns with a hedgerow seen on the 1839 township map (Figure 4) that appears to have been removed by the 1844 OS map (Figure 5).

6.5 Trench 4

6.5.1 Trench 4 was located in the northern field and was excavated along an east-west alignment (Figure 12). The uppermost deposit (400) was a 150mm thick layer of dark brown humic topsoil. The topsoil overlay a 300mm thick dark brown clay loam subsoil (401), likely and earlier plough soil. This overlay the natural clay (402).

6.5.2 Cut into the natural clay (402), and overlain by the plough soil (401) two sandstone culverts were identified. Culvert 403 was located 2m from the western end of the trench and was aligned northeast-southwest (Plate 10). The culvert measured 4.6m long by 350mm wide, with large stone capping sealing an 80mm deep stone lined channel. The culvert follows the line of the field boundary and is visible on the lidar data (Figure 3). It likely dates from the 18th to 19th century, associated with Hareshill Farm.



Plate 10- Trench 4, culvert 403

- 6.5.3 The second culvert, 404, was located 11m from the western end of the trench, and was aligned northwest-southeast, at a 90 degree angle to 403 (Plate 11).



Plate 11- Trench 4, culvert 404

- 6.5.4 Culvert 404 had been disturbed by a modern field drain that ran east-west along the trench and by ploughing activity. The majority of the stone capping had been damaged exposing the construction of the culvert, measuring 360mm wide, with stonework lining the edges, 60mm high. This is also thought to be 18th to 19th century in date, associated with Hareshill Farm.

6.6 Trench 5

- 6.6.1 Trench 5 was located in the centre of the site and was excavated along a north-south alignment. The upper deposit was a 100mm thick layer of dark brown humic topsoil (500), which overlay a 300mm thick dark brown layer of plough soil (501). The ploughsoil overlay the natural clay (502). No archaeological features were present within Trench 5.



Plate 12- Trench 5, west facing section, 1m scale

6.7 Trench 6

- 6.7.1 Trench 6 was located to the south of Trench 5, along an east-west alignment. The upper deposit within Trench 6 was a 50mm thick dark brown humic topsoil (600). This overlay a 400mm thick mid brown silt-clay loam (601) ploughsoil. The ploughsoil overlay then natural clay (602) (Plate 13). No archaeological features were present within Trench 6.



Plate 13- Trench 6, south facing section, 1m scale

6.8 Trench 7

- 6.8.1 Trench 7 was located in the eastern part of the site, to the north of the access point (Figure 2). The trench was excavated along a north-south alignment to a depth of 2.45m below ground level (Figure 13 & Plate 14).



Plate 14- Trench 7, east facing section, 2m scale

6.8.2 The upper deposit was a 450mm thick layer of mid brown topsoil (700). This overlay a 1.9m thick layer of light brown clay loam (701). At the base of (701), at the transition to (702), a dark brown humic soil, modern debris including steel cable, crisp packets, and well preserved softwood pallet material were identified (Plate 15). Deposit (702) was not excavated due to the depth of the trench. Deposit (702) appears to have been exposed prior to infilling, with grass material visible at the interface between deposits. The infill (701) likely dates to a modern remediation phase of activity on the site.

6.8.3 The 1839 Pilsworth township map depicts a pond in the northern part of Trench 7. This area appears to have been low lying and the rasing of the levels and infilling of the pond may account for this depth.



Plate 15- Trench 7, transition between (701) and (702), working shot

6.9 Trench 8

6.9.1 Trench 8 was the easternmost trench, excavated along an east-west alignment (Figure 2). Although not as deep as Trench 7, Trench 8 followed the same sequence. The upper deposit was a 400mm thick dark brown topsoil (800), which overlay a 1m thick layer of light brown clay loam (801). Deposit (801) contained modern rubble and plastic material. At the base of the trench, the transition to (802) was identified. Deposit (802) matched deposit (702) in its character. This was a dark brown humic soil with evidence of grass material at the interface with (801).



Plate 16- Trench 8, south facing section. 1m scale

6.9.2 No archaeological features were identified in Trench 8, with both Trenches 7 and 8 showing significant infill material present.

7 Finds & Samples

7.1 Finds

- 7.1.1 The site produced 13 finds, weighing a total of 164g; this included pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), clay tobacco pipe (CTP) and glass. Finds were recovered from two contexts (701) and (801) during the archaeological evaluation and date between from the late 18th to 20th century. 20th and 21st century material was noted on context sheets and discarded on site.
- 7.1.2 The assemblage was assessed in November 2025 by Rachael Matthews of DAS.
- 7.1.3 The pottery has been fully catalogued to a level and standard that is in keeping with recommendations made by both the Study Group for Roman Pottery and The Medieval Pottery Research Group (1998); and assessed in accordance with recommendations in *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (2016).
- 7.1.4 **Deposit (701)** contained 4 sherds of pottery (weighing 46g). All were 19th century in date, with body sherds from Stoneware vessels, with pearl glaze and industrial slipware tablewares. 3 fragments of CTP (weighing 5g) were recovered dating from 1850+ and single 1 piece of globular glass waste (weighing 8g). 20th and 21st century material is recorded as being present within this deposit in the site archive, such as metal cable and plastics. These finds were discarded on site.
- 7.1.5 **Deposit (801)** contained 4 sherds of late 18th to 19th century pottery (14g), identified as tablewares of pearl glaze and Industrial slip wares (1780+). A single 19th-20th piece of interior wall tile (91g) was also recovered, with a cream and mottle pink/beige glaze.
- 7.1.6 The majority of finds date between the late 18th and 20th century and likely relate to domestic refuse.
- 7.1.7 The assemblage is too small for any detailed conclusions, and has limited potential in contributing further to an understanding of the site beyond what has already been recorded in terms of the range of types and their chronology.
- 7.1.8 Data has been collected to an appropriate archive level, and no further analysis or publication is warranted. All finds are recommended for discard, in line with DAS Archive Retention Policy.

7.2 Samples

- 7.2.1 Palaeoenvironmental samples were recovered from fill (304) and deposit (702). Sample <1> from fill (304) was a 10ltr bulk sample was collected for both dating and palaeoenvironmental aims. A 5ltr sub-sample was processed and examined. No dateable material was noted and the sample was identified as having

limited potential for meeting the research aims. As such this was discarded on advice of the specialist.

- 7.2.2 Sample <2> was a 30ltr bulk sample recovered from deposit (701) for dating and palaeoenvironmental aims. On initial inspection late 20th century material was identified in the sample. On advice from the specialist this sample was not processed as it does not meet the requirements of the research aims.

8 Discussion & Conclusions

- 8.1 Land off Hareshill Road, South Heywood has been granted planning consent by Rochdale Borough Council. The phase of works this report relates to is for a proposed link road and mixed-use development. As a condition of planning consent archaeological evaluation trenching was carried out on the site by DAS in line with an approved WSI (Smith, 2025).
- 8.2 Eight trenches measuring 50m long were excavated on the site at predefined locations, as agreed within the WSI. The archaeological fieldwork was carried out between the 29th of September and the 3rd of October 2025 by Dee Archaeological Services Ltd (DAS) on behalf of Orion Heritage.
- 8.3 Historic research suggests the area was part of an agricultural economy from the medieval period, with mining and peat extraction being undertaken in the wider area from the 16th century. Peat extraction may have been undertaken close to the site around Siddal Moor, potentially extending into the eastern part of the site area. From the 18th century the fields are thought to have been associated with agricultural activity for Hareshill Farm, the farmhouse located in the northwestern section of the site. 19th century changes to field boundaries created large open fields. Early 21st century activity saw modification to the southern end of the site, with the construction of Queen Elizabeth II Way.
- 8.4 Trenches 2, 5, and 6 were archaeologically sterile, with ploughsoil overlying the natural clay. Trenches 7 and 8 revealed around 2m of made ground above a buried soil horizon. Finds from the interface with this horizon dated from the 21st century. It is thought that this low lying area, and the infilling of a pond shown on the 1839 map, created a soft area, which was remediated in the 21st century, creating the very compact clay infill with modern finds.
- 8.5 Trench 1 contained a brick wall, aligned north-south, associated with the late 19th and early 20th century boundary for Hareshill Farm farmyard. Trench 3 contained a linear feature at the location of a field boundary that had been removed in the mid 19th century. Trench 4 contained two stone lined culverts, thought to be 18th or 19th century in date, associated with Hareshill Farm.
- 8.6 Updates supplied during site works, and due to the limited findings from the trenching, GMAAS have indicated that no further archaeological work will be required.

9 Archives

9.1 Site Archive

9.1.1 The site archive consists of:

- 1 x small bags of finds
- 1 x Photographic Register
- 37 x Digital Photographs
- 1 x Context Register
- 8 x Trench Sheets

9.1.2 The archaeological trenching provided minimal results, with limited historic features identified. The finds hold no importance regionally or nationally, and are recommended for discarded, in-line with DAS policy.

9.2 Digital Archive

9.2.1 A copy of the report will be digitally deposited with the HER and OASIS only; GIS files will also be submitted to the HER to accompany the event record.

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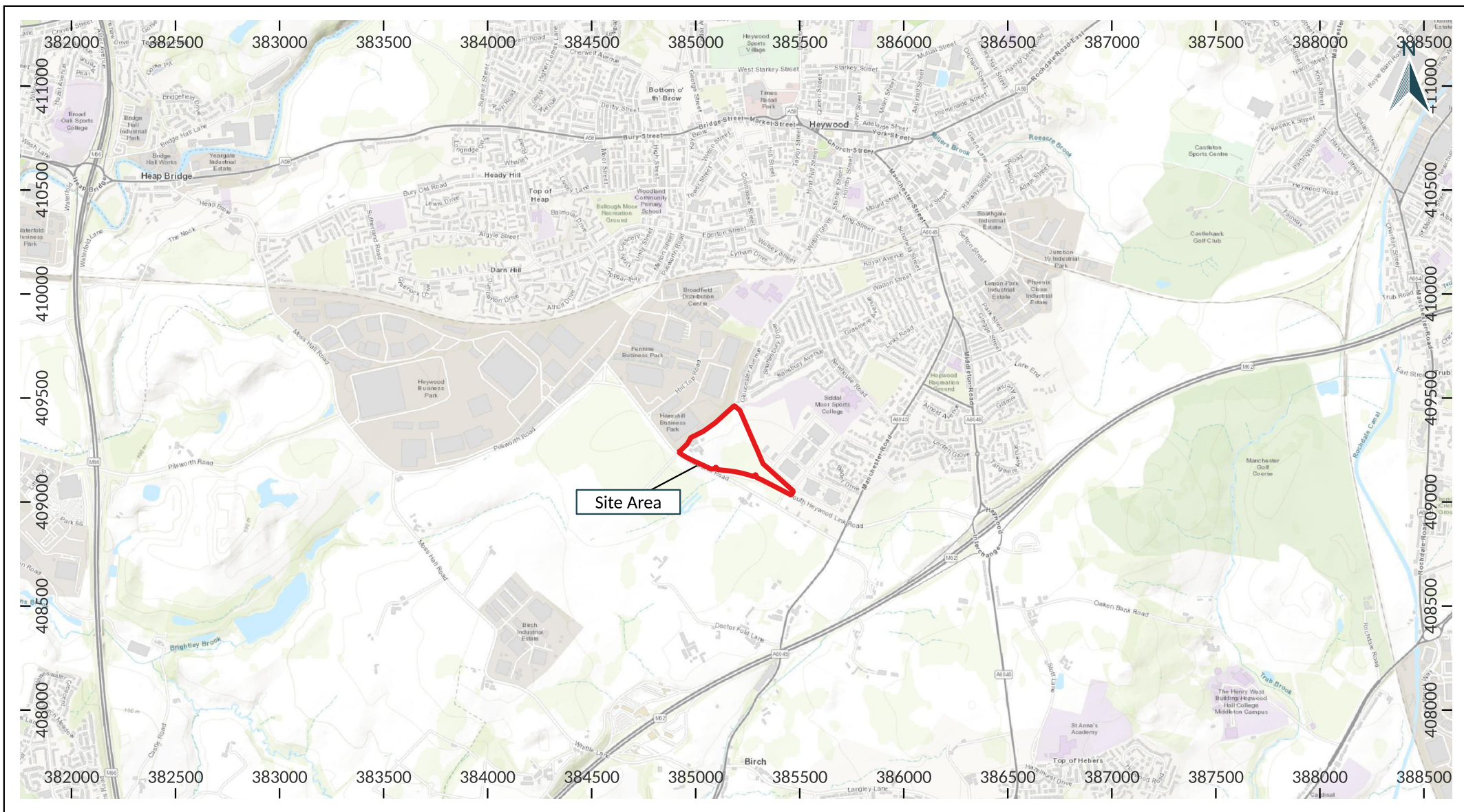
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Figures



0 500 1,000 m

Scale 1:25000 @A4



Figure 1: Site Location General

Project: 25-0086 - South Heywood

Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1

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0 100 200 m

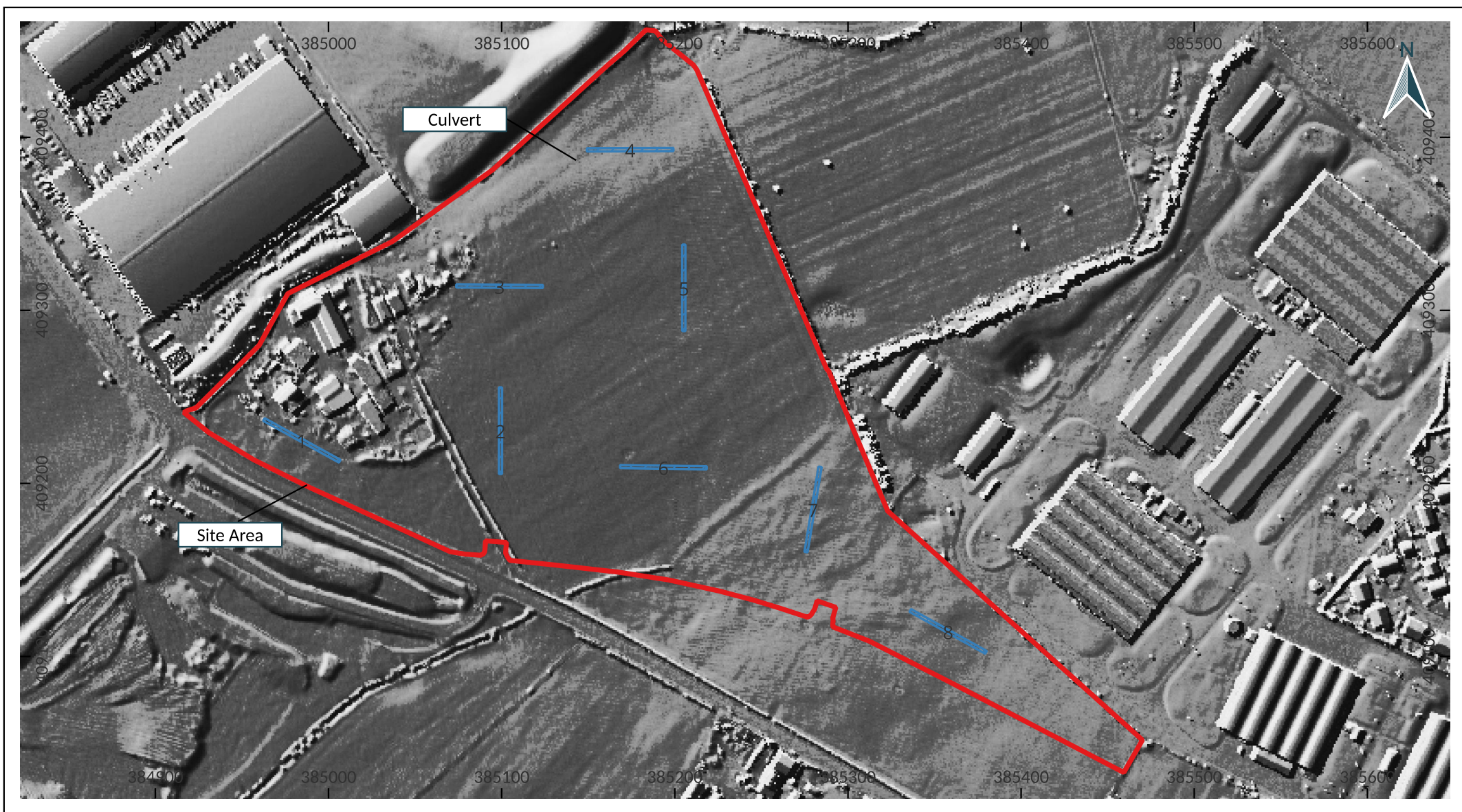
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Figure 2: Site Location With Trench Plan

Project: 25-0086 - South Heywood

Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1



0 100 200 m

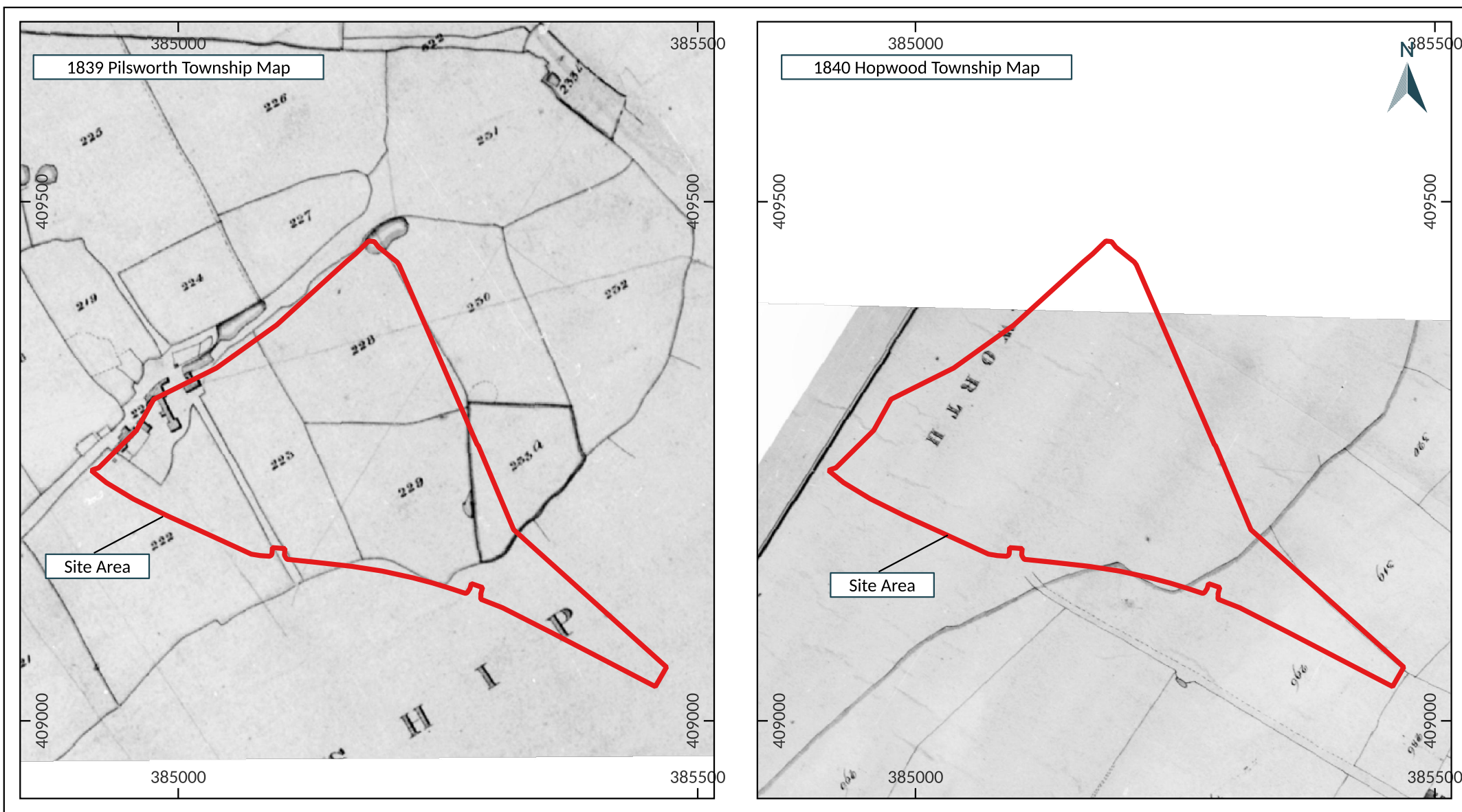
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Figure 3: Lidar Plan

Project: 25-0086 - South Heywood

Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1



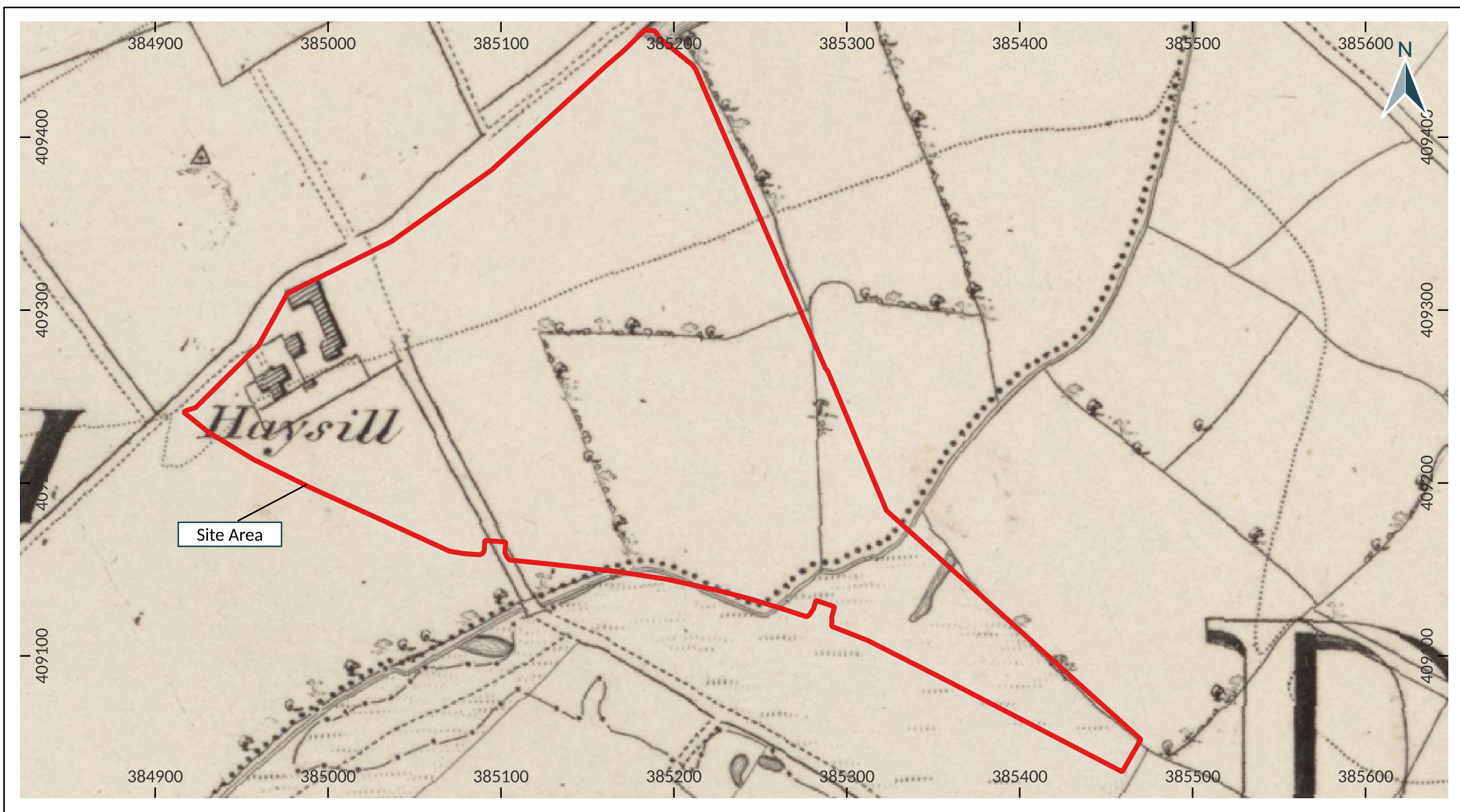
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Figure 4: 1839 Pilsworth Township & 1840 Hopwood Township Maps

Project: 25-0086 - South Heywood

Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1



0 100 200 m

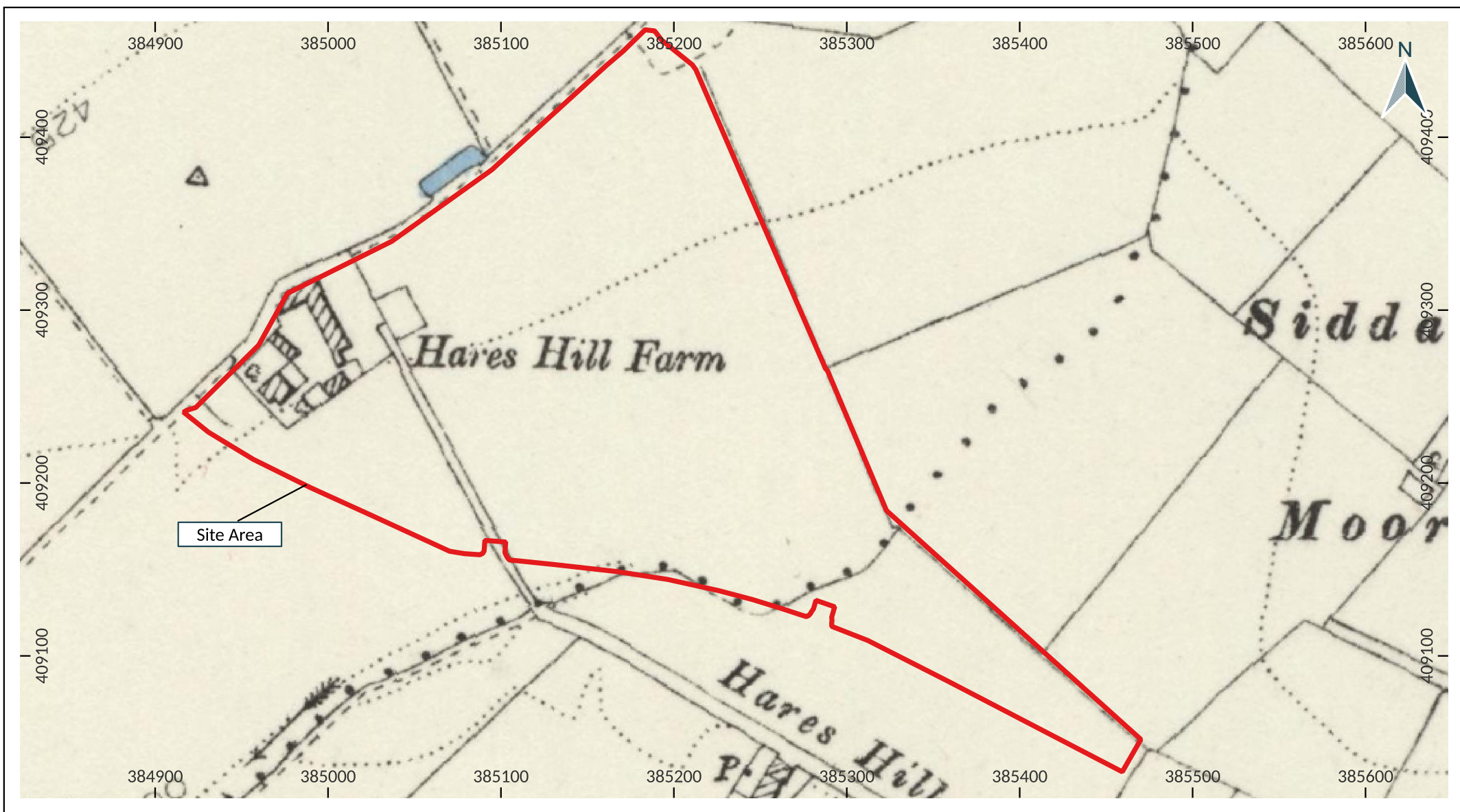
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Figure 5: 1844 OS map of Lancashire (88)

Project: 25-0086 - South Heywood

Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1



0 100 200 m

Scale 1:3000 @A4



Figure 6: 1889 OS map of Lancashire (LXXXVIII-SE)

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Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1

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0 100 200 m

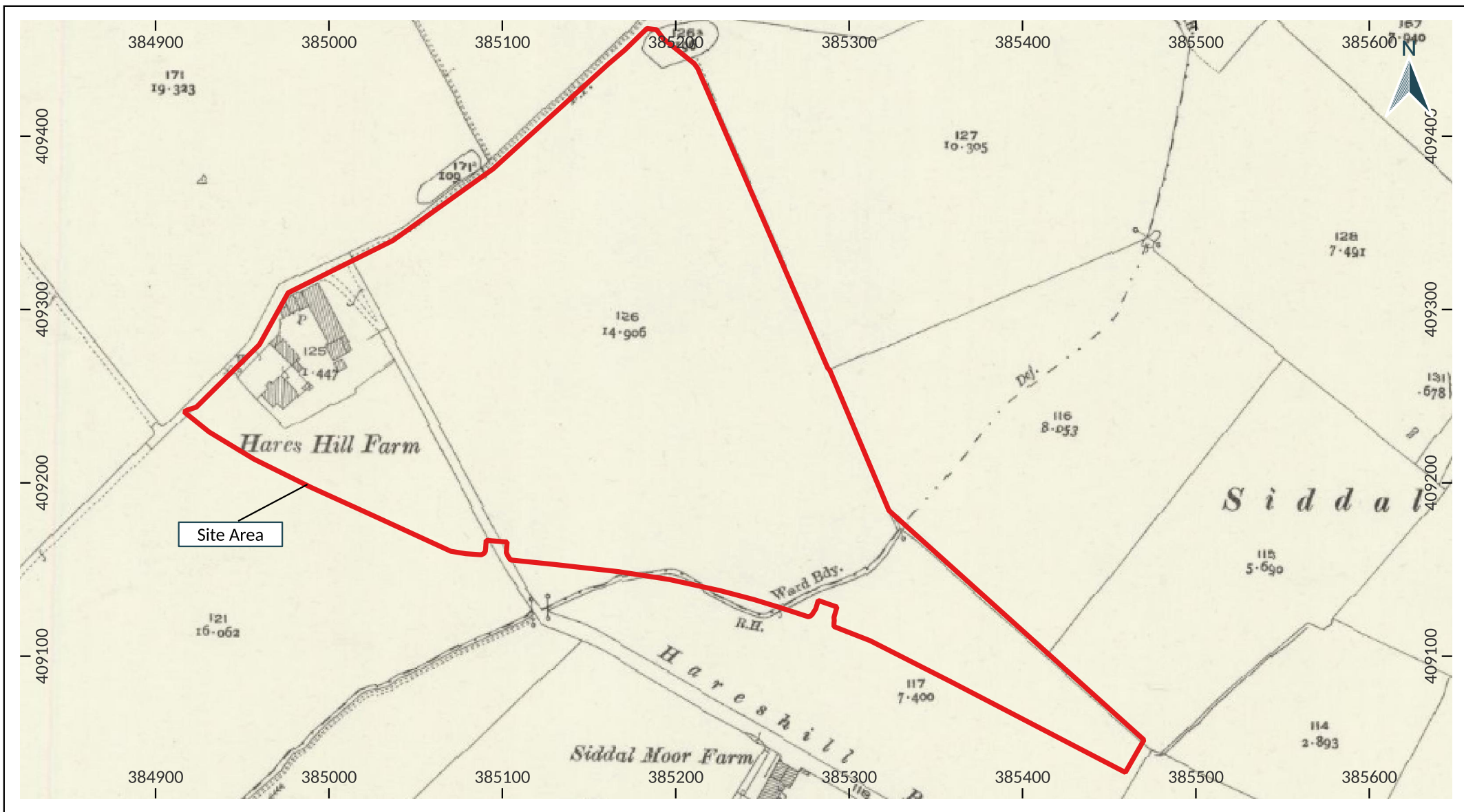
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Figure 7: 1910 OS map of Lancashire (LXXXVIII-15)

Project: 25-0086 - South Heywood

Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1



A horizontal number line with tick marks at 0, 100, and 200 m. The labels are placed above the tick marks.

Scale 1:3000 @A4



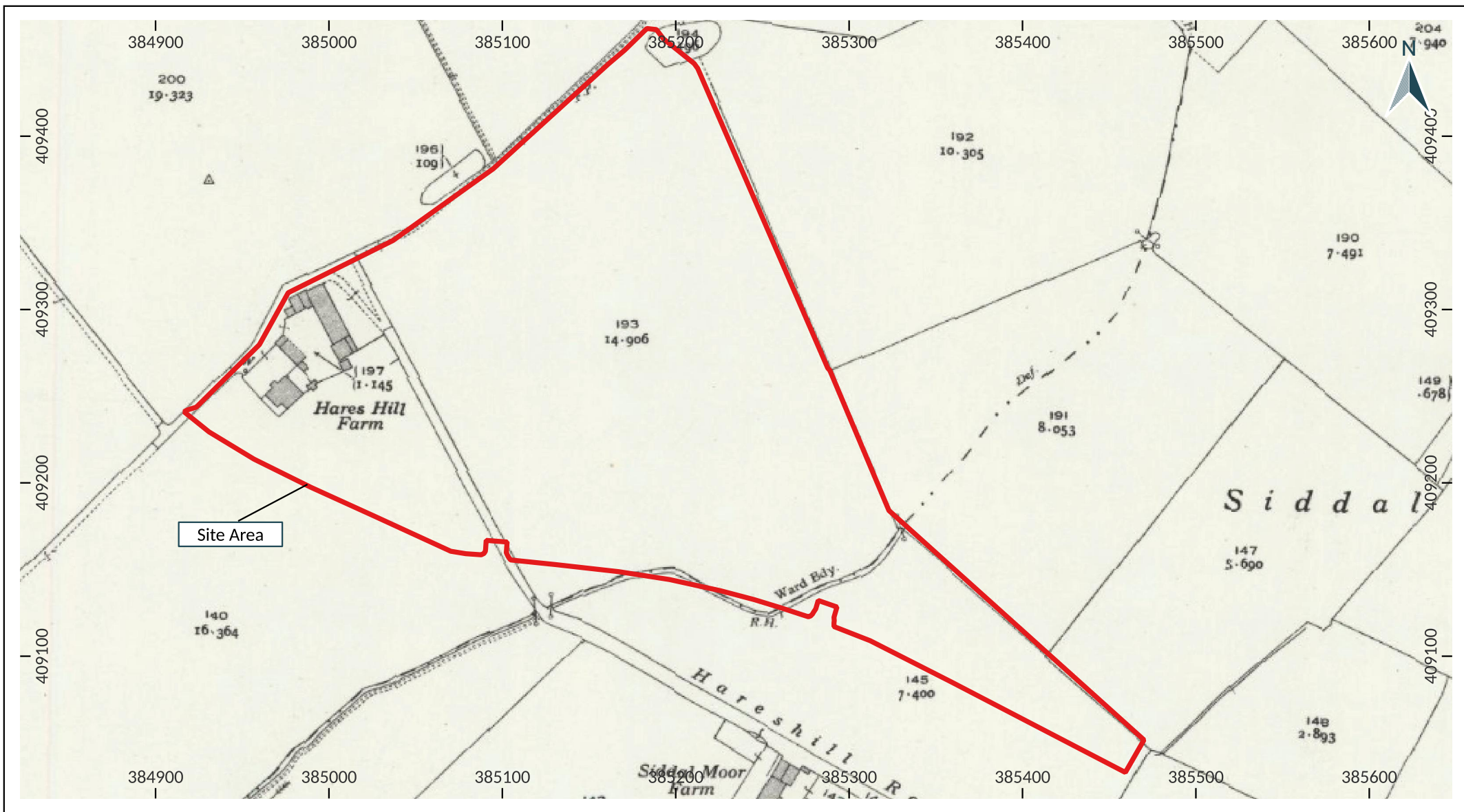
Figure 8: 1927 OS map of Lancashire (LXXXVIII-15)

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Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1

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0 100 200 m

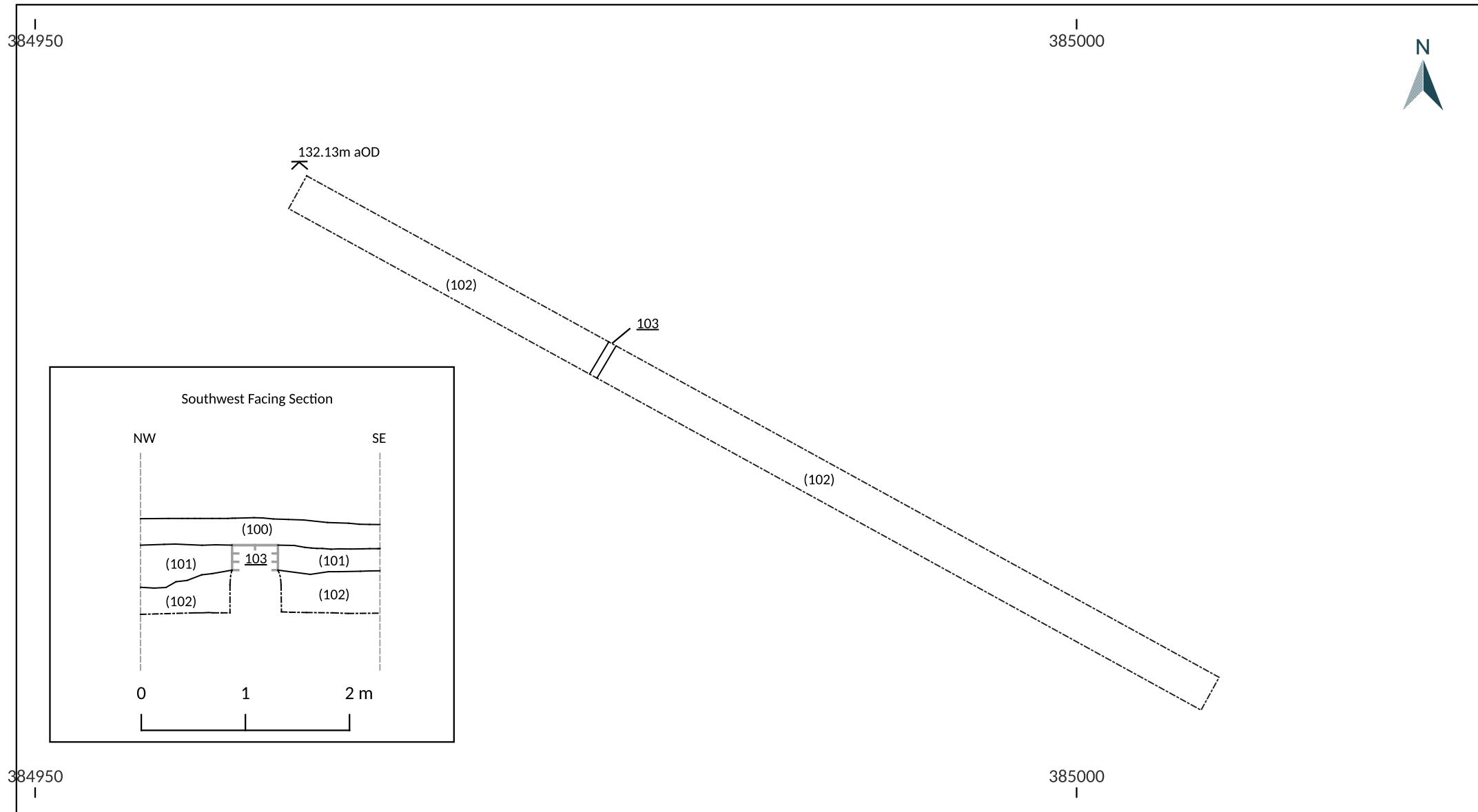
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Figure 9: 1937 OS map of Lancashire (LXXXVIII-15)

Project: 25-0086 - South Heywood

Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1



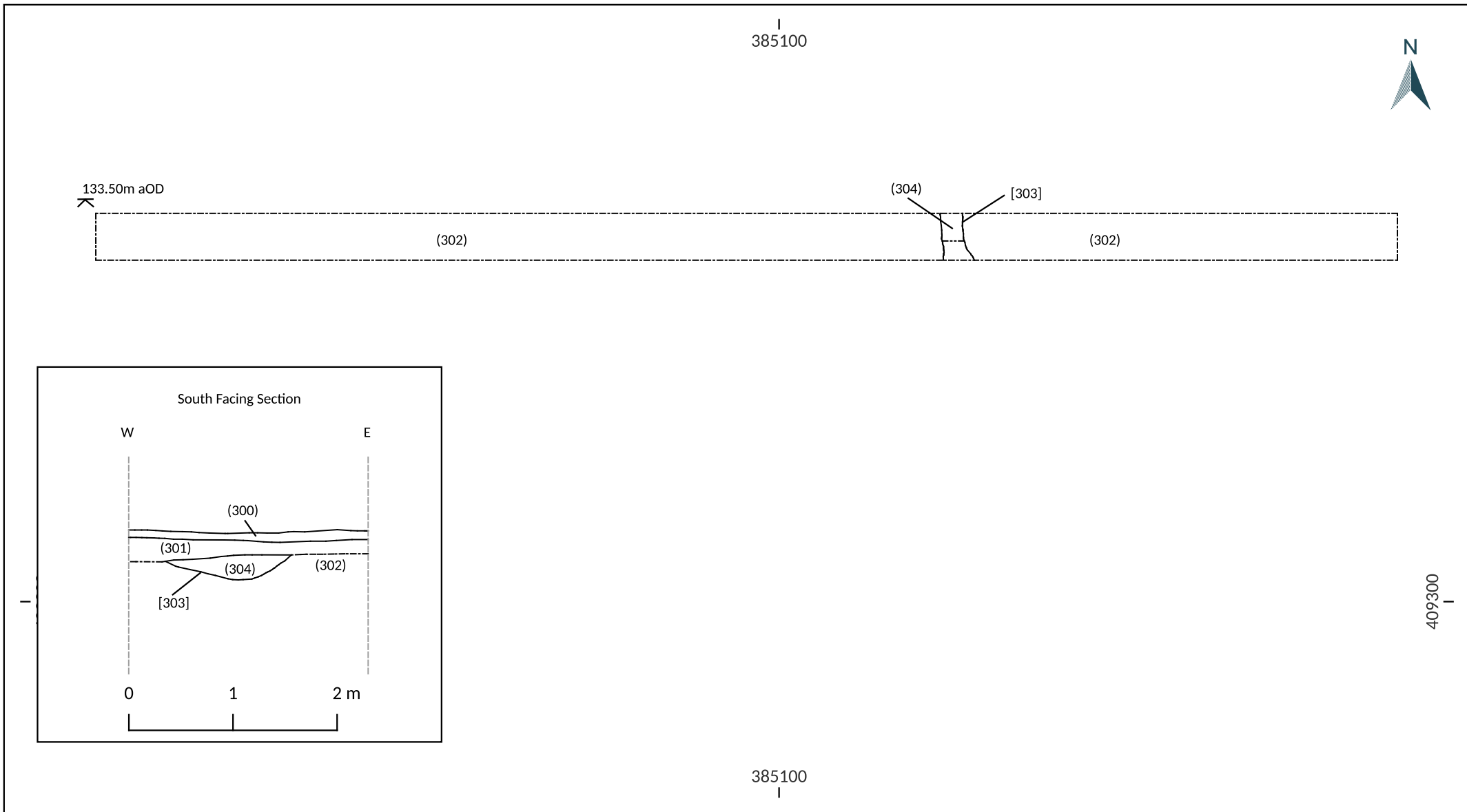
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Scale 1:250 @A4

Figure 10: Trench 1 Plan and Section

Project: 25-0086 - South Heywood

Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1



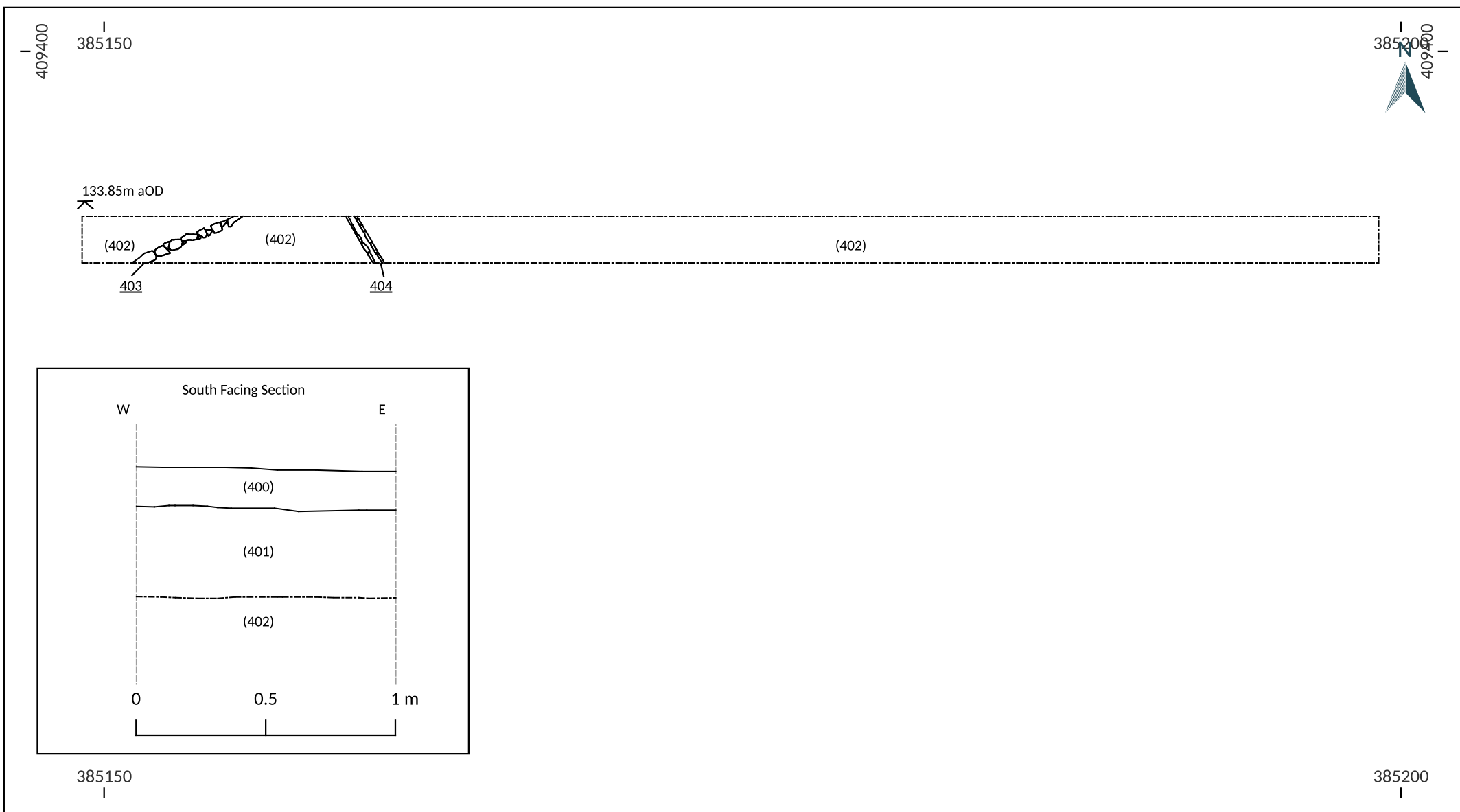
0 5 10 m

Scale 1:200 @A4

Figure 11: Trench 3 Plan and Section

Project: 25-0086 - South Heywood

Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1



0 5 10 m

Scale 1:200 @A4

Figure 12: Trench 4 Plan and Section

Project: 25-0086 - South Heywood

Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1

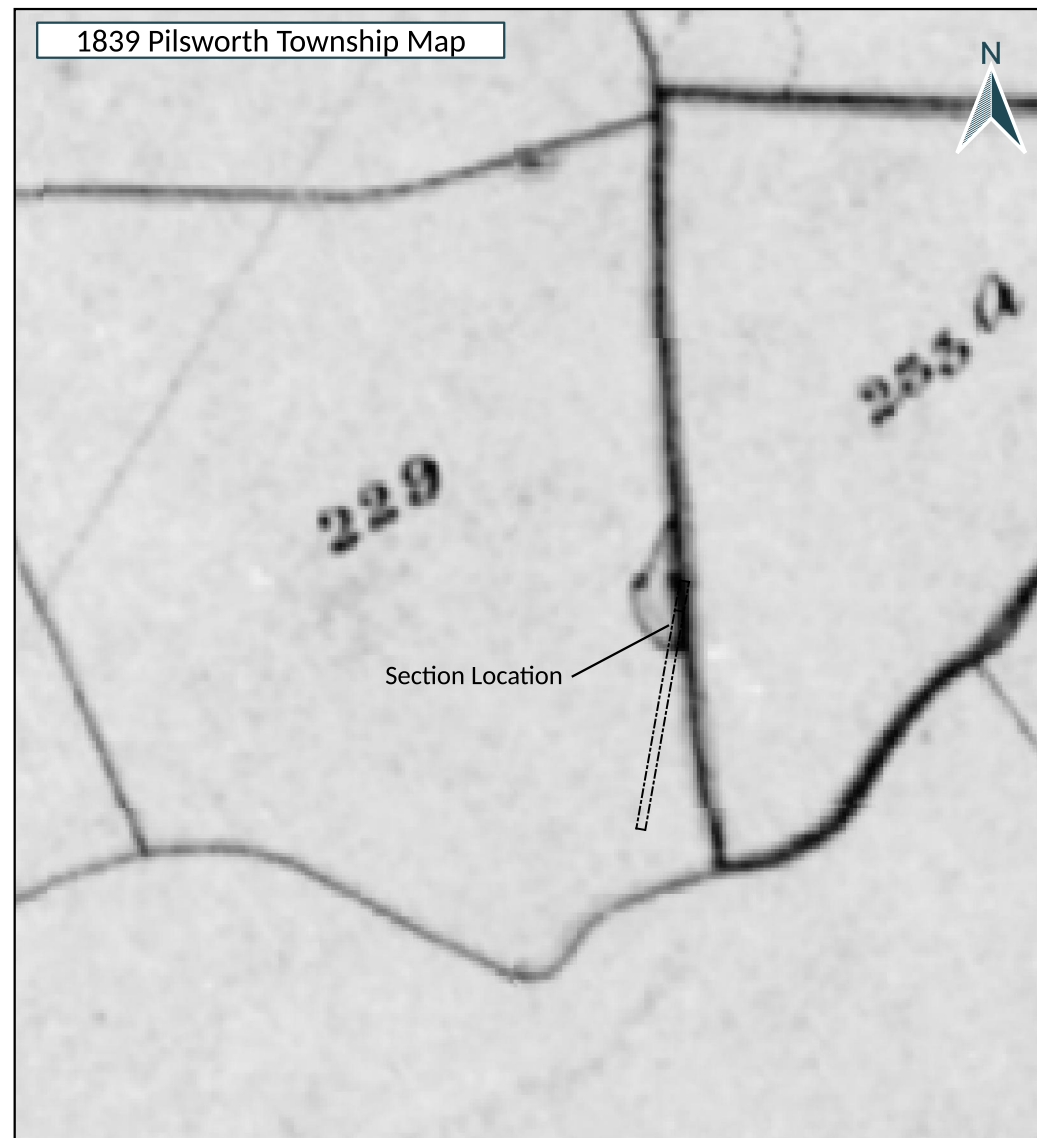
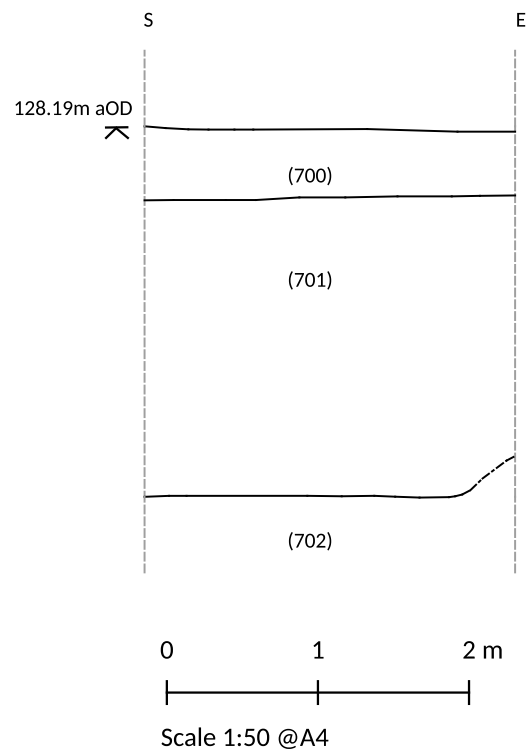


Figure 13: Trench 7 East Facing Section
Project: 25-0086 - South Heywood
Report ref: 25-0086-AER-v1

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Data Management Plan

Version	Author	Date	Summary
1.0	R Matthews	04/12/25	Draft

Project Description:	An archaeological evaluation at land off Hareshill Road, South Heywood was undertaken during September 2025.		
Project code:	25-0086	Oasis Id:	deearcha1-534635
Digital Repository	Oasis only	ADS Id:	n/a
Physical Repository	None	Accession Number:	N/A
Project Manger:	B. Poole	Data Manger:	TBC
Archive Manager:	R Matthews		
Related Polices:	• Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives, ClfA (2020) • Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials, ClfA (2020) • Selection Toolkit for Archaeological Archives, ClfA (2018) • Guides to Good Practice, ADS (2023) • Guidelines For Depositors v.4.0 , ADS (2020) • ADAPt project 6896, (Historic England) Digital Preservation Policy (2016) • DAS Digital Data and Preservation Policy (pending) • DAS Archival Selection, Retention and Disposal Policy (pending)		

1. Data Collection

1.1. The archaeological work consisted of an archaeological evaluation. The key archaeological techniques undertaken were excavation, recording and reporting.

1.1.1. Given the nature of the work the following data types were created and stored.

◆ Images

Type	Format	Volume
Digital SLR Images	.jpg / .tiff/ .raf	36 files 581.3MB

◆ Written and drawn

Type	Format	Volume
Text/documents - Reports	.pdf	2 files 26MB
Text/documents - site fieldwork sheets and drawings)	.pdf / .jpeg	0 files <51.7MB
Spreadsheets	.xlsx / .pdf	0, avg size 300KB

◆ Survey

Type	Format	Volume
Shapefiles	.shp	9 files including associated layers, 112MB

1.2. The standard method of data collection was applied throughout the project to all born data and digitised records, these adhered to the project Written Scheme of investigation (WSI), Best Practice, Standards and Guidelines, as well as, DAS Archaeology's in-house styles and policies.

1.2.1. External contractors and specialists are required to confirm to these standards and methods.

1.2.2. All born digital data and digitised records are kept within a specific project folder on Dee Archaeological Services (DAS) secure drive. These folders are organised using an in-house style, named with an identifier, descriptor and version.

1.3. To ensure quality assurance, all equipment and site data is regularly checked and reviewed by the appropriate project staff during the life of the project; with project folders maintained and back up by DAS in-house team.

2. Documentation and Metadata

2.1. The data collected includes standard formats, which abide by the project brief Museum Deposition Guidelines or Digital Repository Guidelines, and conform to the FAIR data principles: findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

2.2. Data will retain, as far as possible, the original metadata ascribed during creation. All metadata that is incorporated in the creation of the file, particularly date of creation, will be retained.

3. Ethics and legal compliance

3.1. DAS has policies regarding the ethical use of its data which comply with National law and Industry Guidelines. All data shared and preserved by DAS adheres to GDPR as specified in DAS GDPR Policy (2023).

3.2. DAS and any external contractors will not use Generative AI to collect or produce data, as per DAS Policies.

- 3.3. Copyright for all data collected or created the project team belongs to DAS.
- 3.4. The copyright from data collected and created from external specialists/contractors, as engaged by DAS, belong to DAS and will be specified in relevant contacts.
- 3.5. Data used under licence from external data providers, such as OS or HER, will only be used in terms of the licence and will not be included in the site archive unless permitted by the terms of the licence.

4. Data Security: Storage and Backup

- 4.1. DAS uses internal file servers and a cloud storage service provider, this is managed by an in-house team, with regular offline physical backups.
- 4.2. The server is accessible by staff on and off site through a secure log-in.
- 4.3. The physical site archive is the responsibility of the project manager, who will on completion of the work, upload the relevant information to the project folder.

5. Selection and Preservation

- 5.1. All data relating to the archaeological understanding of the site is kept within the working project archive.
 - 5.1.1. It is understood that not all data accumulated needs to be retained and deposited with the Archaeological Archives. Prior to deposition a selection strategy and DMP will be reviewed and agreed with the appropriate stakeholders, with all relevant data then deposited.
 - 5.1.2. Any de-selected data which is considered to have intrinsic value, may be kept by DAS within a secure company server. Any material selected for deletion will comply with the standards laid out within DAS in-house standards.
- 5.2. The long term preservation plan for the dataset is for safe storage with DAS until it is securely deposited with Archaeological Data Service (ADS) and OASIS, or another appropriate digital repository.
- 5.3. The relevant Museum will be contacted at the project initiation stage, with confirmation of depositing with a trusted digital repository. ADS will be notified of the intended repository and updated at an appropriate time.
- 5.4. Exacting costs of the deposition of digital data are not possible to produce prior to commencement of works. All archaeological projects have the potential to produce a wide range and size of data sets, depending on the scale of the archaeological resource found, the techniques required to record and other environmental factors during works.

5.5. Taking into consideration our understanding of the site and the type of archaeological works being undertaken, this project is considered unlikely to produce data in excess of what can be submitted through ADS-Easy. These costs have been estimated and included into the project budget..

6. Data Sharing

6.1. Data will be uploaded to OASIS and ADS, a Core Seal Trust approved repository (unless otherwise stated), within 12 months of project completion.

6.2. The ADS will disseminate the digital archive online under a Creative Commons licence and the dataset will be assigned a unique identifier (DOI).

6.3. There are no known restrictions on data sharing.

7. Responsibilities

7.1. Data capture, metadata production and data quality is the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Project Manager.

7.2. Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team.

7.3. Once data is incorporated into the DAS server, it's storage and backup is managed by an in-house team.

7.4. Data archiving is undertaken by the project team under the guidance of the Archives manager who is responsible for the transfer of the Archaeological Project Archive to the agreed repository.

Appendix 2 – OASIS Form

OASIS Summary for deearcha1-538683

OASIS ID (UID)	deearcha1-538683
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation Trenching Report at Hareshill Road, South Heywood
Sitename	Hareshill Road
Sitecode	25-0086
Project Identifier(s)	25-0086
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Dee Archaeological Services
Project Dates	29-Sep-2025 - 24-Nov-2025
Location	Hareshill Road NGR : SD 85206 09196 LL : 53.57914669998603, -2.224909948590684 12 Fig : 385206,409196
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Rochdale Local Authority District : Rochdale Parish : Rochdale, unparished area
Project Methodology	An archaeological evaluation of eight 50m long trenches.
Project Results	Research places the site in an area of agricultural character with both peat extraction and coal mining in the wider area dating from the 16th century. The site area comprises of fields associated with Hareshill Farm, now demolished. There is potential for earlier peat extraction in the southeastern part of the site, at Siddal Moor. Trench 1 contained the remnants of a brick wall running north-south, associated with the late 19th to early 20th century farmyard wall for Hareshill Farm. Infill material, dating from the 20th century overlie the wall. Trench 3 contained a linear, which has been interpreted as an infilled hedgerow from a removed field boundary seen on the 1839 township map. Trench 4 contained two stone lined culverts thought to be 18th to 19th century in date associated with drainage for the fields and associated with Hareshill Farm. Trenches 2, 5, and 6 revealed ploughsoil overlying the natural clay. Trenches 7 and 8, in the southeastern part of the site, contained around 2m of 21st century infill. The 1839 Pilsworth township map depicts a pond in this area.
Keywords	
Funder	Private or public corporation Orion Heritage
HER	Greater Manchester HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Blair Poole
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Appendix 3 – GMAAS email



Fwd: FW: Hareshill Road North, Heywood - Northern Land Parcel

Robert Smith
To: Blair Poole

3 December 2025 at 16:54

From: Ian Miller [redacted]
Sent: 01 December 2025 08:07
To: Rob Smith [redacted]
Subject: RE: Hareshill Road North, Heywood - Northern Land Parcel

Good morning Rob

Thank you for sending through the amended report, which I've accessioned to the HER. On that basis, I'll be content to recommend that the archaeological condition for this plot is discharged as and when GMAAS is consulted by the Case Officer.

Kind regards

Ian

Ian Miller BA FSA
Heritage Management Director

Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

Centre for Applied Archaeology, Peel Building

School of Science, Engineering & Environment
University of Salford, Manchester M5 4WT, UK
T: +44(0) 0161 295 4467 / M: +44(0) 7533 252 442

