

Waddow View, Clitheroe, Lancashire: An Archaeological Evaluation



Trench 7 showing the underlying bedrock geology

ARS Ltd Report No. 2013/01
January 2013

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Executive Summary

In December 2012 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by The Huntrojde Estate and Clitheroe Auction Mart Co Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at a pre-determination stage on land at Waddow View, Clitheroe, Lancashire. The site is located immediately west of Clitheroe, Lancashire, and is presently exclusively pasture land.

Following a geophysical survey of 40% of the site undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd in September 2012, the purpose of the evaluation trenching was to determine whether archaeological remains survive within the proposed development area and also to characterise their nature, importance and likely extent.

Only two of the nine trenches revealed any archaeological features. Trench 3 located within Field 3 contained deposits relating to a ground make-up platform which sat atop the original topsoil surface, now buried. Trench 7 located within Field 1 contained a large refuse pit comprising mixed soils with rubble and various ceramic detritus of early 20th century date. None of these features is of archaeological or historic significance..

1. Introduction

1.1 In December 2012 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by The Huntroyde Estate and Clitheroe Auction Mart Co Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation, at a pre-determination stage, on land at Waddow View, Clitheroe, Lancashire, in advance of the submission of a planning application for housing development.

1.2 A geophysical survey was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services in September of 2012, which did not produce definite evidence of archaeological features, but did reveal a small number of magnetic anomalies that were determined by the Lancashire County Council Planning Officer (Archaeology) to justify further archaeological investigation.

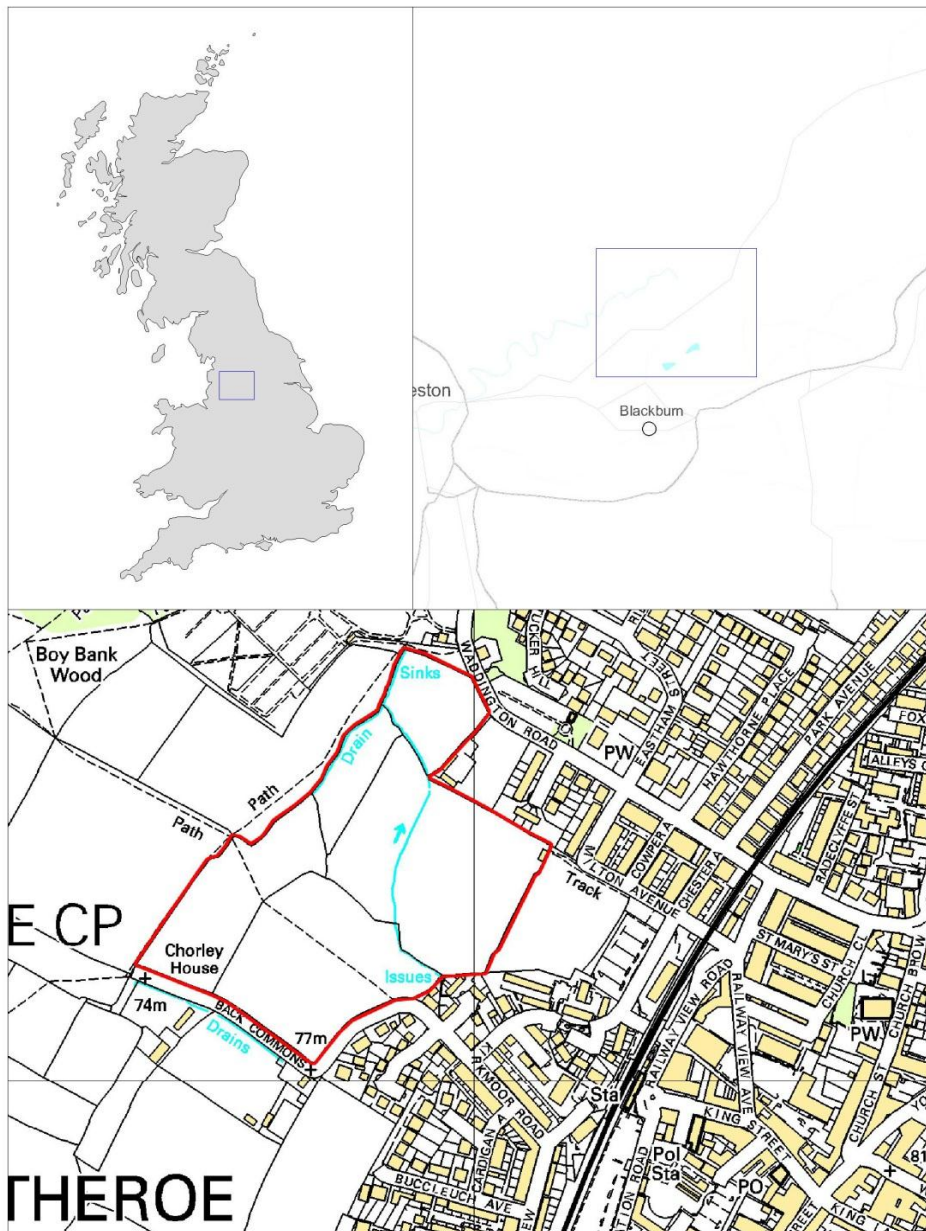


Figure 1: Site location Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420

2. Location and Geology

2.1 The proposed development site is situated immediately west of Clitheroe, Lancashire, on land to the south of the River Ribble, overlooking Waddow Hall. The site comprises five fields, which are currently exclusively pasture, and extends over an area of c.8.4ha, which is centred on NGR SD 738 421. The site elevation is between 73m AOD to the north, and 77m AOD towards the south-east.

2.2 The solid geology of the area comprises Clitheroe Limestone and Hodder Mudstone formations with overlying superficial deposits of Devensian diamicton till (BGS 2012).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 A paucity of archaeological work has been carried out in the Clitheroe area, and none has been recorded within the proposed development area. In 2006, there were 213 sites recorded for Clitheroe in the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, including 97 listed buildings and one scheduled monument. Nine of these sites are known to have origins pre-dating 1800, including two prehistoric find spots, a Roman Road and six medieval sites (Hartley 2006).

3.2 A report on Aggregate Extraction in the Lower Ribble Valley undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North/Liverpool University (Oxford Archaeology North/Liverpool University 2007) identifies this area of the Ribble Valley as having a high/medium potential for the survival of archaeological deposits dating to the prehistoric period.

4. Aims and Objectives

4.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to identify and assess archaeological features within the proposed development area in order to establish the extent, condition, character and date of any of these features; to assess the potential significance of buried archaeology on the site and the likely impact of proposed development upon such buried archaeological remains; and to record any features or deposits at an appropriate level as prescribed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix II).

5. Methodology

5.1 In consultation with the Lancashire County Council Planning Officer (Archaeology) the archaeological evaluation comprised nine 30m x 2m trenches (Fig. 2). The trench locations were positioned (Fig. 2) in order to target possible features that were identified through the geophysical survey undertaken by Archaeological Research Services in September 2012 (ARS 2012), along with sampling areas not covered by the geophysical survey.

5.2 The trenches were opened by machine using a toothless ditching bucket in level spits until the natural level was reached, at which point the trenches were examined and cleaned by hand. All machine excavation was carried out under careful archaeological supervision.

5.5 The deposits were recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. Each context was recorded on pro-forma records which included the following: character and contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency); interpretation and phasing as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers.

5.6 Each trench was planned at 1:50, except where blank. Trench sides were also drawn in section at a scale of 1:50. All deposits and the base of each trench were levelled and heights are expressed in metres above Ordnance Datum.

5.7 A photographic record was maintained including photographs of each trench. All images were taken in digital and black and white film format, and contain a graduated photographic scale.

6. Evaluation Results

6.1 Trenches 1, 2, 4-6, 8, and 9

Trenches 1, 2, 4-6, 8, and 9 were all archaeologically sterile. None of them produced any archaeological finds, features (aside from late 19th century/early 20th century field drains) or buried surfaces. The geophysical survey undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd in September 2012 did not cover the location of trenches 1, 2, 8 and 9 and no anomalies were recorded in the location of trench 6 (ARS 2012). In trench 4 the significant magnetic disturbance recorded can be attributed to the geology and this will have masked any subtle response from the field drains. In trench 5 the presence of large angular rock fragments up to boulder size within the soil will account for the discrete magnetic anomalies that were recorded in the geophysical survey. Generally, each trench was dug through dark-brown silty topsoil, which had light beige/orange-brown silty clay subsoil beneath. Each trench was excavated down to the level of the grey-brown/grey-blue natural boulder clay. Trenches 1-4, 8, and 9 demonstrated through the presence of regularly-spaced late 19th century/early 20th century field drains that the site has required extensive drainage in the past. This tendency towards saturation may account for the lack of archaeology across the majority of the trenches.

6.2 Trench 3

Trench 3 (Fig. 3) was excavated at the north-eastern extent of the site. The trench was excavated through dark-brown silty topsoil (301), which had a depth of 0.20m. A mixed soil and rubble deposit (302) was located beneath the topsoil at the southern extent of the trench, which graded away approximately 7m from the trench's northern extent. Beneath this deposit, towards the southern extent of the trench, was a small area of dark/black silty soil mixed with coal ash and a small amount of clinker (303), which measured 2m wide by 0.21m in depth. Deposits (302) and (303) formed a discreet land make-up layer which appears to have been installed in order to raise the level of the field at the location of the north-eastern gate onto Waddington Road and will account for the high levels of magnetic disturbance as recorded and discussed in the geophysical survey report (ARS 2012). Beneath deposits (302) and (303) a buried topsoil layer (304) was encountered. This layer had a depth of 0.18m, and represented the original height of the field surface at this location. A light beige/orange-brown silty clay subsoil (305) sat beneath the topsoil (301) and the buried topsoil horizon (304), with a depth of 0.18m. The grey-blue boulder clay (306) continued beyond the limit of excavation.

6.3 Trench 7

Trench 7 (Fig. 4) was excavated towards the south of the site. The trench was excavated through dark-brown silty topsoil (701), which had a depth of 0.22m. An orange-brown silty clay subsoil (702) sat beneath the topsoil with a depth of 0.15m. Beneath this was the slightly variable reddish-brown sandy boulder clay natural (703) that continued beyond the limit of the excavation. At three locations along the trench the natural clay was interrupted by the protrusion of the bedrock (706). Towards the western end of the trench, a modern feature was encountered, which had been recorded as a strong mixed anomaly in the geophysical survey (ARS 2012). This comprised a large pit (704), with a fill consisting of mixed soil, rubble, and ceramic detritus. The feature measured approximately 5m in width, and greater than 1.10m in depth.

7. Discussion

7.1 The land make-up deposits recorded in Trench 3 are visible at surface level in Field 3 as a pronounced raised platform. The deposit (302) comprised various waste materials, such as broken ceramics of 20th century date, pieces of drainage/sewerage pipe, fired brick, metallic objects and very mixed soils, whilst deposit (303) was a discreet area of soil with what appeared to be coal ash and a small amount of clinker. Whilst deposit (303) is atop the original topsoil surface, no in-situ heating or burning was observed, so it is most likely that this deposit represents discarded material, possibly from a coal fire. The platform of ground formed a flat surface presumably to aid access to the field when entering from the gate on Waddington Road, which lies to the north-east.

7.2 The pit feature observed within Trench 7 was interpreted as a refuse tip, which had been dug through the topsoil and subsoil down in to the natural clay. The tip was filled with mixed soil and rubble and various pieces of early 20th century ceramic detritus and metalwork, which appeared to date the deposition of this material to this period.

7.3 The pronounced dearth of significant archaeological remains at this location may possibly have an explanation in the use of land whereby the fields are currently in use as pasture land for agricultural stock, and this may have been their primary use in the past. The use of extensive subsurface drainage across the site indicating a tendency towards saturation of the field systems also suggests a potential reason for the lack of archaeological features at this location.

8. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

8.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

8.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

9. Statement of Indemnity

9.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or

opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

10. Acknowledgements

10.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with this work. In particular we would like to thank Doug Moir of Lancashire County Council Archaeological Service for his advice and John Staples on behalf of The Huntroyde Estate, Robert Parker of Clitheroe Auction Mart Co Ltd, Mr J Taylor, Ms Sarah Howard and Ms Samantha Howard for kindly allowing access to the site.

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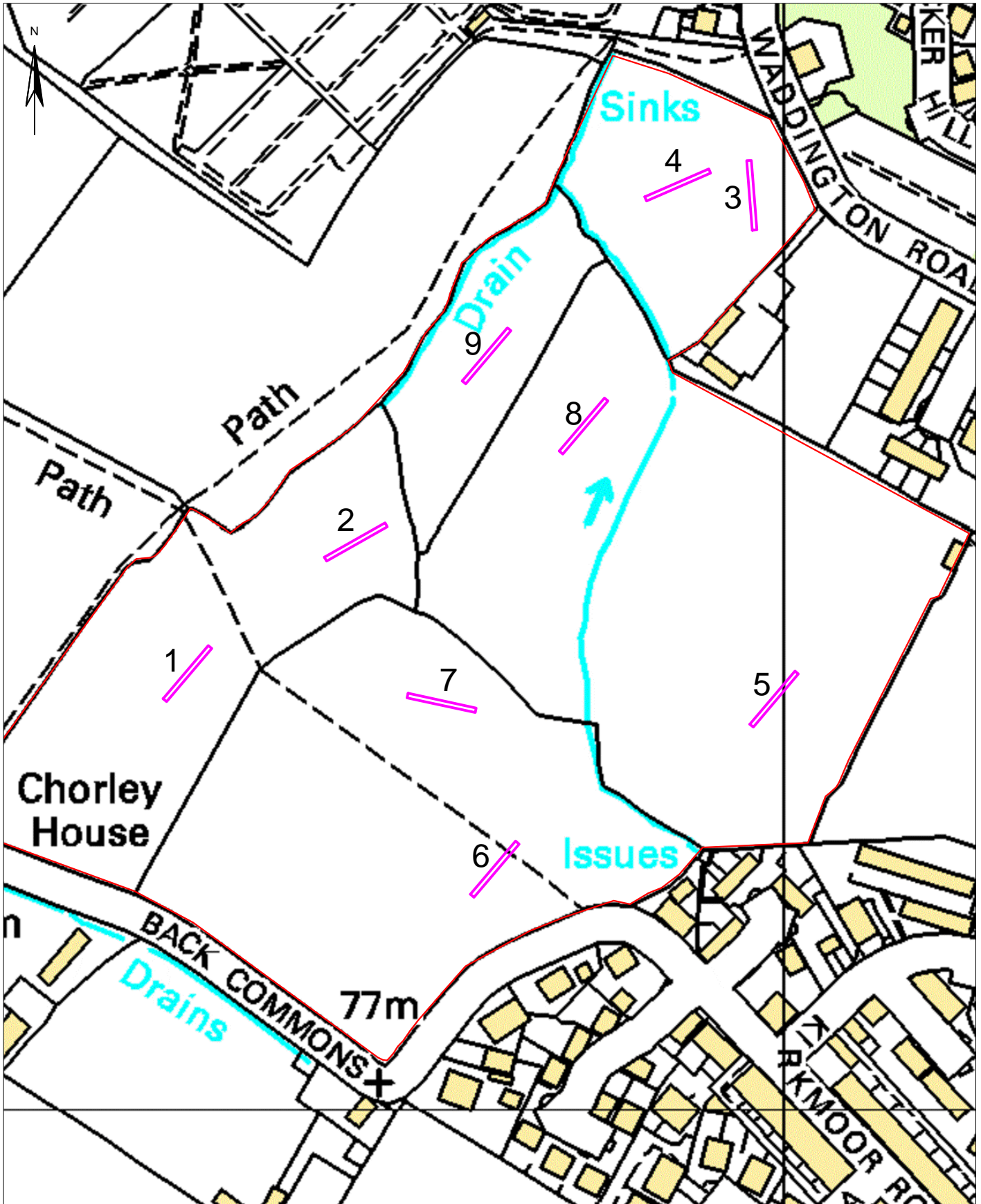
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Appendix 1 - Figures



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Figure 2: Overall Layout of Evaluation Trenches

Key:
 1 Evaluation trench 30mx2m with Trench Number

Site Code: Waddow View
 Drawing Ref:
 Date: December 2012
 Drawn: RD
 Scale: 1:2500 @ A4

Notes: Do not scale from this drawing

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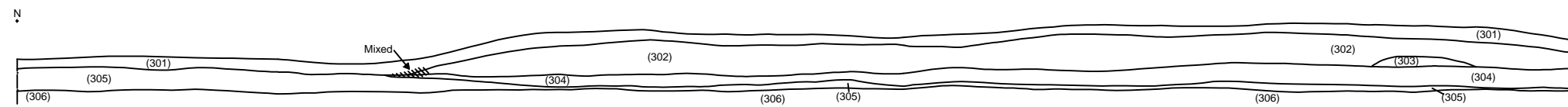
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Site Code: Waddow View
Drawing Ref: Figure 3
Date: January 2013
Drawn: SW/RD

Figure 3: Trench 3, section.
Scale 1:100 at A3

Key:

- (301) Dark brown silty topsoil
- (302) Mixed soil and rubble deposit
- (303) Dark/black soil and coal dust deposit
- (304) Buried silty topsoil horizon
- (305) Light beige silty clay subsoil
- (306) Grey-blue natural clay



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Site Code: Waddow View
Drawing Ref: Figure 4
Date: January 2013
Drawn: SW/RD

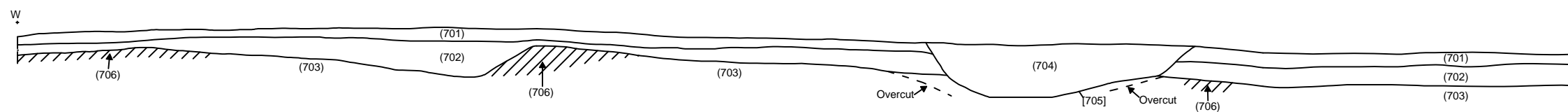
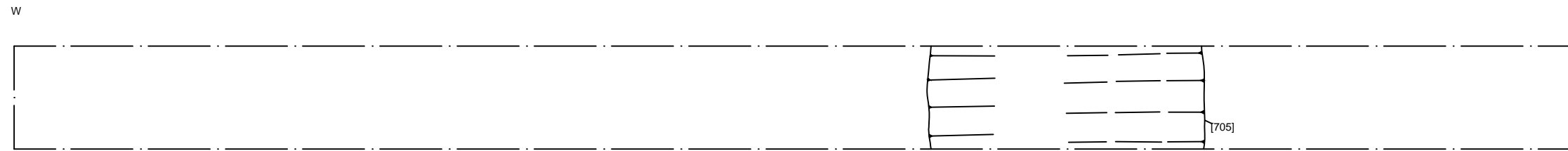
Figure 4: Trench 7, plan
and section.
Scale 1:100 at A3

Key:

- (701) Dark brown silty topsoil
- (702) Orange-brown silty clay
subsoil
- (703) Reddish brown sandy natural
clay
- (704) Fill of refuse pit
- (705) Cut of refuse pit
- (706) Bedrock

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metres 0 5 10



Figure 5: Trench 3, facing north. Scale = 2m, 1m x 2m, and 2m.



Figure 6: West-facing section of Trench 3. Scale = 1m.



Figure 7: Dark soil and coal dust deposit (303) within Trench 3, facing east. Scale = 2m.



Figure 8: Trench 7, facing north-west. Scale = 2m, 1m x 2m, and 2m.



Figure 9: South-facing section of Trench 7. Scale = 1m.



Figure 10: Refuse pit within Trench 7, facing north. Scale = 1m and 2m.

Appendix 2 – Specifications

Waddow View, Clitheroe: Proposed Housing Development Scheme

Written Scheme of Investigation for Evaluation Trenching



View across part of the site.

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Huntroyde Estate, Clitheroe Auction Mart Co Ltd, Mr J Taylor, Ms Sarah Howard and Ms Samantha Howard are preparing proposals and an application for outline planning consent for a housing development on land south of the River Ribble overlooking Waddow Hall, immediately west of Clitheroe. The site currently extends over an area of c.8.4ha and is centred on SD 738 421.

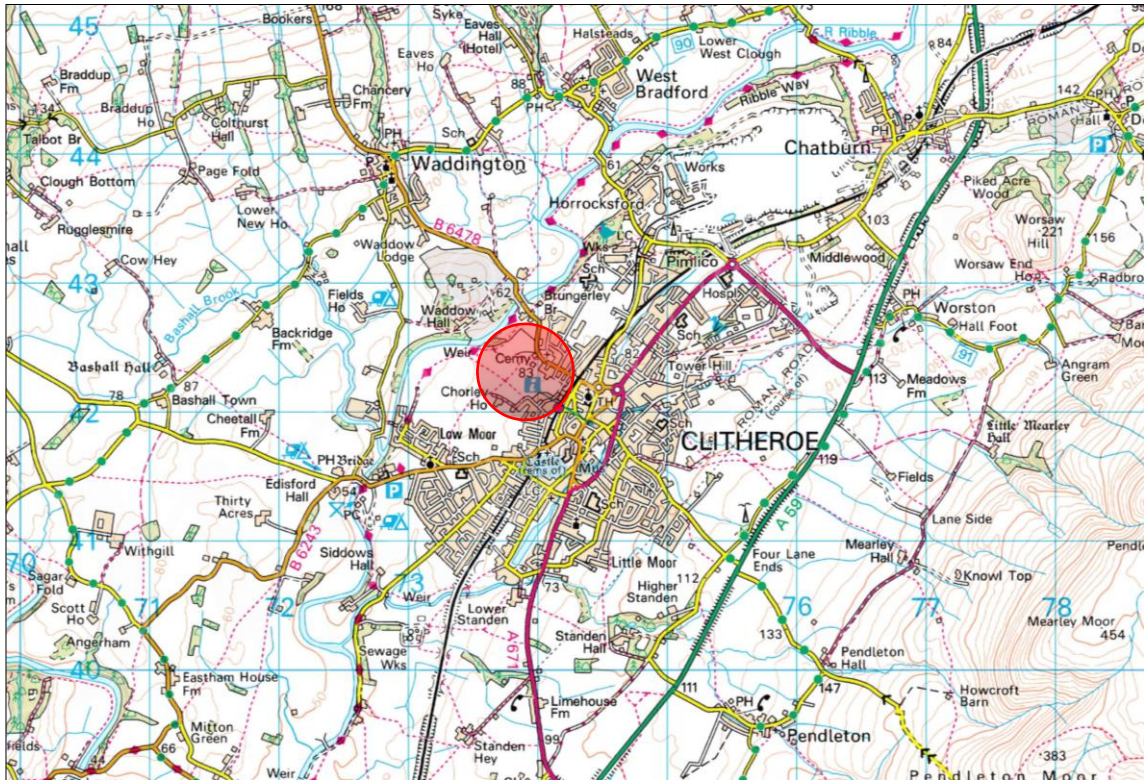


Fig. 1 Location of site

1.2 A report on Aggregate Extraction in the Lower Ribble Valley undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North/Liverpool University identifies this area of the Ribble Valley as having a high/medium potential for archaeological deposits dating to the prehistoric period (Oxford Archaeology North/Liverpool University 2007). Following this ARS Ltd undertook a geophysical survey and have subsequently held discussions with the Lancashire CC Planning Officer (Archaeology) to identify an acceptable scope of pre-determination evaluation trenching.

1.3 This document comprises a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) setting-out pre-determination evaluation trenching at the proposed development.

1.4 The purpose of the pre-determination evaluation works is to determine whether archaeological remains survive within the proposed development area and to characterise their nature, importance and likely extent with a view to informing the planning decision and whether any further archaeological mitigation works are required.

2. Scope of Works

2.1 The following WSI sets out a programme of works for targeted evaluation trenching of areas of interest identified by the geophysical survey and a sample of the areas not covered by the geophysical survey.

3. Archaeological Background

3.1 A report on Aggregate Extraction in the Lower Ribble Valley undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North/Liverpool University identifies this area of the Ribble Valley as having a high/medium potential for archaeological deposits dating to the prehistoric period (Oxford Archaeology North/Liverpool University 2007).

4. Policy background and guidance

4.1 The *National Planning Policy Framework* sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied to development.

4.2 Paragraph 128 states that, "*In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation*" (CLG 2012, 30).

4.3 The approach taken in devising this scheme of evaluation follows existing planning policy in the form of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). A geophysical survey of 40% of the site will be undertaken and the next stage in the process is excavating evaluation trenches.

5. Evaluation Trenching

Coverage

6.1 Following discussion of the results of the geophysical survey with the Lancashire CC Planning Officer (Archaeology), it is intended to excavate a series of evaluation trenches. The evaluation trenches are targeted to where they are likely to be able to provide answers to specific questions and to assess below ground areas that are thought to have potential to contain buried remains rather than using a 'blanket-coverage' percentage-based approach which current practice guidance aims to avoid.

6.2 Any changes to the agreed trenching WSI will be discussed with, and agreed with, the Lancashire CC Planning Officer (Archaeology) before implementation.

Objectives

6.3 This phase of evaluation will involve the excavation of a number of trenches to evaluate the below ground survival of archaeological remains both as indicated by the geophysical survey and in the areas that have not been surveyed. The objective of the evaluation trenching is to identify and assess archaeological features within the area of the proposed development in order to inform on:

- 1) the location and potential significance of buried archaeology on the site
- 2) the likely impact of the proposed development upon such buried archaeological remains
- 3) the potential to minimise the impact of the design and layout of the proposed development upon the archaeology
- 4) appropriate archaeological mitigation that may form a condition attached to the planning permission.

6.4 All elements of the archaeological evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2008) and with the IfA Code of Conduct (IfA 2009).

Evaluation Trenching Methodology

6.5 Each trench will be machine stripped under continuous archaeological supervision to the first archaeological horizon in successive level spits, or to a level where it is possible to assess the presence or absence of archaeological features. A toothless ditching bucket will be used. The location of the trench will be accurately recorded in relation to the Ordnance Survey national grid.

6.6 Each trench will be cleaned by hand to allow the identification and planning of archaeological features. Each trench will be planned at an appropriate scale: 1:20 where complex deposits are present or 1:50 in areas of lesser complexity (to be omitted if the trench is completely blank). One representative long section of each trench will be produced, at an appropriate scale, if necessary. Sections and profiles of each feature sampled will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20, depending on the size of the feature. Spot levels relative to ordnance datum in metres will be taken as appropriate. All features will be investigated - discrete features will be half-sectioned in the first instance; linear features will be sampled a

minimum of 20% along their length or a minimum of a 1m sample section, if the feature is less than 10m long, depending on how much of the linear feature is situated within the trench. The deposits at junctions or interruptions in linear features will be sufficiently excavated for the relationship between components to be established.

6.7 Identified archaeological features will be sampled by manual excavation to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascertained. Provision will be made to establish whether earlier features/surfaces are sealed beneath later layers. All features investigated will be recorded in plan and section and all finds recovered retained for analysis.

6.8 For brick structures the record will include details of brick dimensions and type (handmade/machine-made, plain/frogged), mortar (colour, composition, hardness) and the extent of structures (number of courses, thickness in skins).

6.9 All identified archaeological features will be accurately fixed using an EDM/Total Station, surveying in either the planning baselines or the features themselves.

6.10 The site archive will include plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets. Each context will be recorded on pro-forma records which will include the following: character and contextual relationships, detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency), associated finds, interpretation and phasing, as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers. Each feature will be recorded on an individual record.

6.11 A photographic record will be maintained in colour high resolution digital, including photographs of all significant features and overall photographs of each area or trench, and will contain a graduated photographic scale. The main photographic archive will comprise 35mm b/w SLR print film supplemented by digital SLR (minimum 7 megapixels).

6.12 All stratified finds will be collected by context or, where appropriate, individually recorded in three dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest. All finds and pottery will be initially retained for rapid assessment other than material which is demonstrably modern.

6.13 Where features have the potential to contain palaeoenvironmental or datable remains, a sampling strategy will be adopted in order to extract necessary samples to answer key research questions about the deposits. Where deposits have the potential to contain palaeoenvironmental remains or datable material, the entire fill, or a representative sample of larger deposits, will be floated. Flotation of all feature fills with organic content will be undertaken on site employing graduated brass sieves, with 500 μ as the smallest fraction. This strategy and approach will be refined dependent on on-site conditions. Provision will be made available for recovery, processing and suitable assessment/analysis. The above strategy will be sufficient to identify botanical macrofossils and charred remains in order to inform on both human activity and the palaeoenvironment.

6.14 Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Specialist advice on the collection of industrial residues will be sought and their strategies implemented. The advice of the English Heritage Scientific Adviser will be sought

in relation to all scientific sampling strategies.

6.15 All retained finds and palaeoenvironmental samples will be treated in accordance with the English Heritage guidance document *A Strategy for Care and Investigation of Finds (1995)* and the UKIC's document *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*.

6.16 Provision will be made for additional specialist advice (e.g. for finds analysis, conservation and scientific dating).

6.17 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act procedures.

6.18 If grave cuts are discovered on site, then they will be sampled through hand excavation to determine the presence/absence, depth and preservation of the uppermost burials, before being initially left in situ. Where excavation of human remains is necessary, a license will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice and work will be carried out under appropriate environmental health regulations and, if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendments) Act 1981.

6.19 Disarticulated human bone will be quantified, characterised and retained for assessment.

6.20 The record of the extent and vulnerability of features will be sufficiently detailed to facilitate discussions regarding the need for preservation beneath any future potential development, or any other mitigation measures including further excavation or recording.

6.21 A risk assessment will be undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations will be adhered to at all times.

Report

6.22 Following completion of the evaluation trenching ARS Ltd will produce a report which will include the following.

- A non-technical summary
- Introduction and objectives of the evaluation
- Methodology of the evaluation
- An objective summary statement of results
- A phased stratigraphic discussion of the archaeological features
- An interpretive discussion of the results, placing them in a local and regional framework and an assessment of the significance of any remains
- Appropriate supporting illustrations, including a site plan, trench and section plans, feature sections and plans and a phased site plan
- A site location plan at 1:2500 or 1:10000 as appropriate and a phased interpretation of the site as appropriate
- The results of an assessment of artefacts, ecofacts and industrial residues carried out by suitable specialists, who will be furnished with relevant contextual and stratigraphic information
- If sufficiently significant remains are recovered then an analysis of the above based upon the specialist assessment recommendations

- In the event that significant remains are encountered, then a timetable for wider dissemination will be included in the report
- A detailed context index and supporting data in tabulated form or in appendices
- An index to and the proposed location of the archive
- The proposed date of deposition of the archive
- References
- Photographs of work in progress on the site

Within the report:

- all plans will be clearly related to the national grid
- all levels will be quoted relative to ordnance datum

6.24 Copies of the final report will be deposited with the HER and will be submitted as a paper copy and a digital copy.

6.25 Additional project dissemination will be undertaken as required.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

7.1 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Lancashire CC Planning Officer (Archaeology) throughout the course of the work so that appropriate monitoring visits can be arranged.

8. Archive Deposition

8.1 A digital, paper and artefact archive, of all parts of the pre-determination evaluation, which will consist of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data which will eventually be submitted to the identified recipient museum in their standard form when possible. Advice on the retention and discard of finds and samples will have been provided by specialists during the assessment and/or analysis phases and this information will be discussed with the museum when preparing the site archive. The museum service will be notified of intended deposition using the standard accession request form. The digital archive will be deposited with the ADS. ARS Ltd will either arrange for copyright on the deposited material to be assigned to the archive, or will licence the archive to use the material, in perpetuity. This licence will allow the archive to reproduce material, including for use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.

8.2 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, marked, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see above).

8.3 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be supplied to the HER and deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM that will be attached with the report.

8.4 The Lancashire CC Planning Officer (Archaeology) will be notified on completion of fieldwork with a timetable for reporting and archive deposition.

8.5 Written confirmation of the archive transfer arrangements, including a date (confirmed or projected) for the transfer, will be included as part of the final report.

8.6 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will eventually be undertaken for the project, after client confidentiality has been waived. Key fields will be completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included within the archive).

9. Staff and Specialists

9.1 The Project will be managed by Richard Durkin. As an IfA Registered Organisation, all ARS Ltd work is undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the standards stipulated in relevant IfA guidance (2008; 2009). Statements of competence for fieldwork staff can be provided upon request. As an IfA Registered Organisation, ARS Ltd only use specialists who can provide the required level of expertise.

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