

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OFF PEEL PARK AVENUE

CLITHEROE, RIBBLE VALLEY



ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

GARRY MILLER
Historic Building Consultancy

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OCTOBER 2017

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1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This assessment relates to a proposed residential development on land off Peel Park Avenue at Clitheroe, in the borough of Ribble Valley, Lancashire. Its purpose is to inform the planning process of the archaeological potential of the application site.

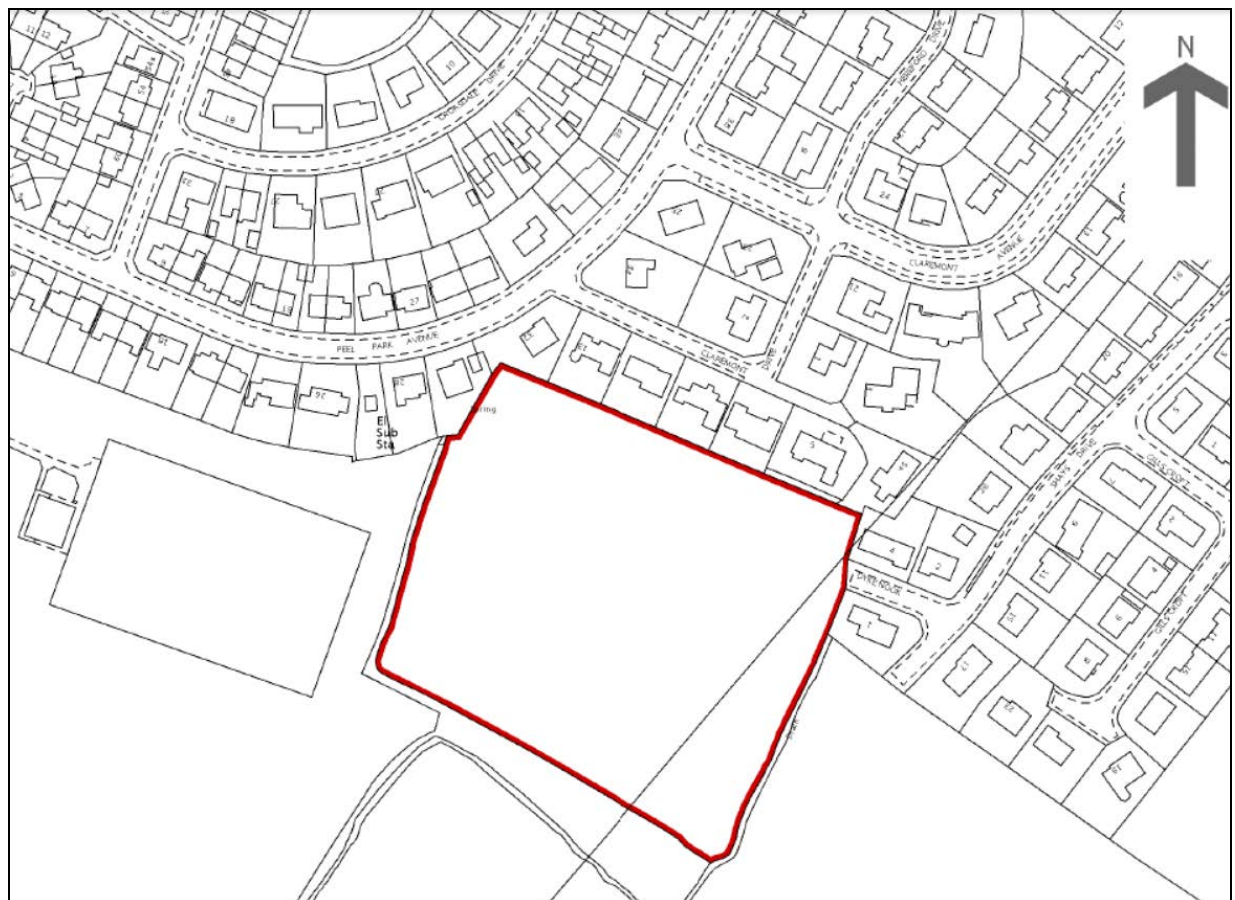
The site is an agricultural field located on the southeast outskirts of Clitheroe and forms part of the town's rural hinterland. It is entirely enclosed, with access only via a gate between numbers 30 and 32 Peel Park Avenue. To the west the site is adjoined by a sports pitch, to the north and east by modern housing and to the south by further agricultural land whose landscape characteristics are that of post-medieval enclosure.

The principal archaeological interest of the site resides in the Ribchester-Ilkley Roman road that passes through it and whose course is clearly recorded by the first series six-inch OS mapping of 1847. While the site has not been previously investigated, archaeological work has revealed considerable evidence of this road elsewhere along its course, the closest being at Higher Standen Farm 400 metres southwest of the site. It is considered therefore that the site holds strong potential for archaeological evidence of the road.

Owing to this strong potential it is considered that should planning consent be granted, a programme of archaeological investigation should be conditioned in advance of the proposed development. The detailed scope and extent of this investigation would need to be agreed with and approved by Ribble Valley Borough Council and their archaeology advisors, the Lancashire Archaeology Advisory Service.

2: THE SITE

The application site is an agricultural field located on the southeast outskirts of the town of Clitheroe, principal community of the borough of Ribble Valley in Lancashire. The site lies southeast of Peel Park Avenue, which belongs to a late 20th century outer suburb of the town, and forms part of Clitheroe's rural hinterland. It is entirely enclosed, with access only via a gate between numbers 30 and 32 Peel Park Avenue. To the west the site is adjoined by a sports pitch, to the north and east by modern housing on Claremont Drive, Dyke Nook and Shays Drive, and to the south by further agricultural land.



Map 1. The application site



1. Aerial view of the site



2. Google Streetview image of the access to the site from Peel Park Drive

3: THE PROPOSAL/SCOPE OF THIS REPORT

3.1 The proposal

Proposals have been submitted to Ribble Valley Borough Council for a new residential development by Applethwaite Homes upon the application site.

3.2 Archaeological Impact

The archaeological interest of the site primarily resides in the section of the Roman road from Ribchester to Ilkley that crosses it. The purpose of this assessment is therefore to inform the planning process of the archaeological potential of the site in relation to possible evidence, buried or otherwise, of the road.

3.3. Scope of this report

The assessment is based upon an investigation of records contained in the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, undertaken within a 500 metre radius of the application site. A field survey has not been undertaken.

4: HISTORICAL SUMMARY

4.1 Prehistory

There is no direct evidence from the HER for any prehistoric activity upon the application site, although a small fragment of a spear or arrowhead tip, probably late Bronze Age to Roman, was found by metal detector in the 1990s around 500 metres to the northwest off Peel Street, Clitheroe.

4.2 Roman period (AD 70 - 5th century)

The Roman road linking the forts at Ribchester (*Bremetennacum Veteranorum*) and Ilkley (*Verbeia*) is well-documented, and its course through the site is clearly recorded on the first-series OS mapping of 1847 (Map 2, following page). Investigations have taken place in several areas along its length, the closest to the site being in relation to a proposed development near Higher Standen Farm, around 400 metres southwest, in late 2011 (see section 5.3). Section six of the road, from the A671 to Clitheroe, is generally evident as a series of hedges and tracks while a section of metalling can be seen south of the application site near Pendleton Bridge (see below, 5.2). A further area of metalling can be seen in the seventh section (Clitheroe to Worston) near Worston Brook. Other evidence of Roman presence within the area has included a coin of Tetricus II (AD 270-273), half of a Roman seal box, part of a lock pin and a terret ring for a harness, all recovered during metal detecting within the proposed development area at Higher Standen Farm (1).

- (1) Archaeological Services Durham University, geophysical survey report on land at Higher Standen Farm, January 2012.

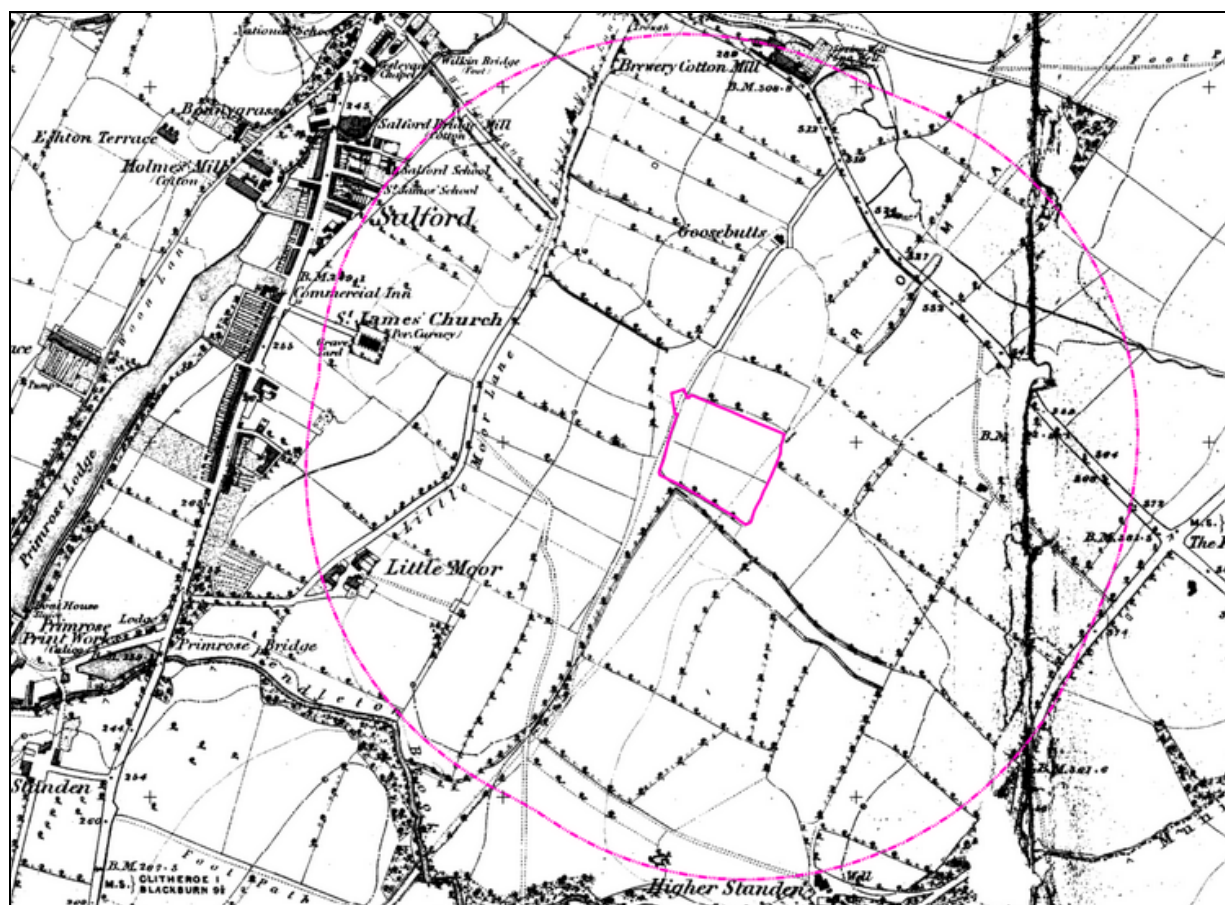
4.3 Medieval period (5th century - 1540)

There is minimal evidence of medieval activity within the immediate search area. A spindle whorl was discovered at Higher Standen in the 1990s by metal detecting, and fragments of a lead ampulla have also been found within the 500 metre radius of the site.

4.4 Post-medieval period (1541 - 1899)

The site lies within a landscape southeast of Clitheroe whose general appearance is that of a field system related to post-medieval agriculture. This is evident on the 1847

mapping which shows the site then comprised two small fields and belonged to a wider landscape of an irregular enclosure pattern characterised by small, hedgerow-defined fields and few settlements. Beyond the linear outer suburb of Clitheroe extending north-south along Whalley Road, the principal settlements in 1847 were the hamlet of Little Moor, consisting of a house and terraced cottages of late 18th-early 19th century date around 475 metres southwest of the site, and Higher Standen Farm at 500 metres southeast.



Map 2. Extract from the 1847 six-inch Ordnance Survey mapping which shows the post-medieval field pattern surrounding the application site. Outer circle is the 500 metre HER search area

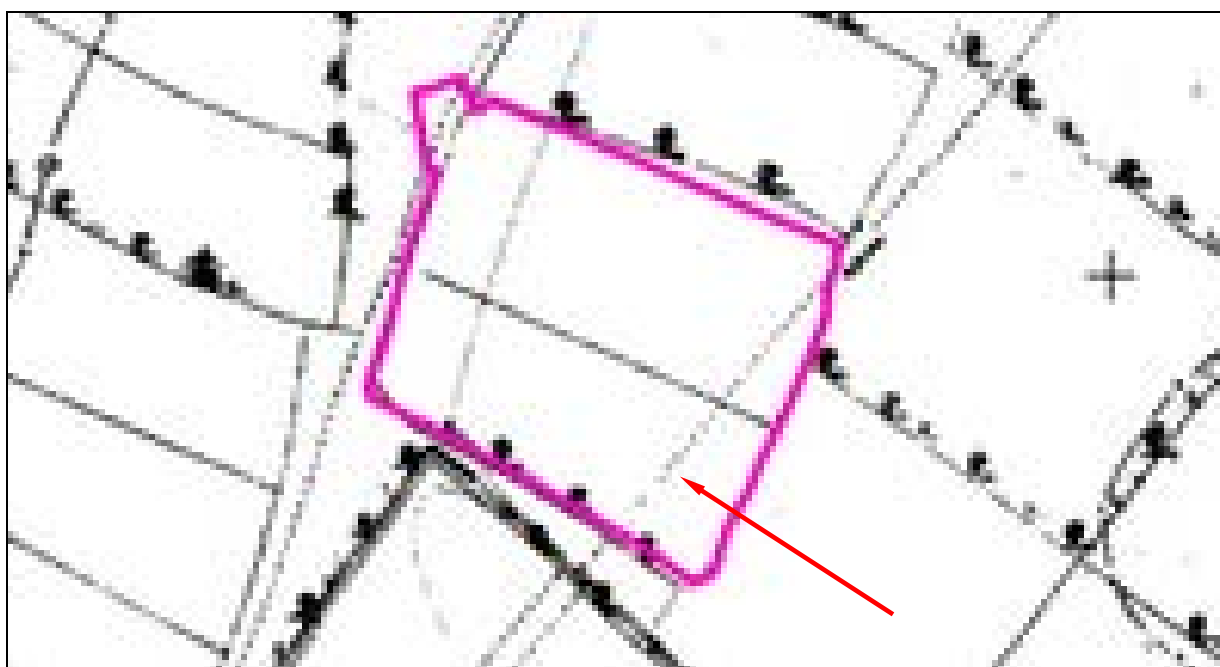
5: ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

5.1 Previous investigations within the site

No previous archaeological investigations are known to have taken place within the site.

5.2 The Roman road: descriptions

As shown upon Map 3 below, the line of the sixth (A671 to Clitheroe, HER reference PRN 15515) and seventh (Clitheroe to Worston, HER reference 15516) sections of the Roman road runs through the southeast corner of the site.



Map 3. Enlargement of the 1847 map showing the course of the Roman road through the site

The HER carries the following summary of the sixth section:

Traces of the road beside a line of trees leave the [Mitton] wood beyond the river [Calder] but there is little to see until, from Barrow Brook to [Higher] Standen Hay which stands on the road, the remains of the stone surface appear, and then the farm road runs on it almost to the main road [A671], and the agger appears clearly under trees on its north side just before it joins this road. The agger is traceable beyond by a fence and through a plantation, and at various points near Clitheroe. A parish boundary follows it for 1/2 mile near

Mearley Brook, and again near Worston. The road remains in use as a trackway with remains of the agger from the Worston-Chatburn road down to the crossing of the Chatburn Beck and then as a slight agger on to Downham Park ... {1}{2}

About 80 yards before the A671 is reached the farm road swerves to the right (south) but the Roman ridge continues straight to the main road, showing strongly despite being somewhat masked by the thick stand of trees which grow upon it – an unusual survival worth noting. For 3.5 miles after crossing the A671, the Roman line shows up with remarkable clarity on the pathfinder map (no.669) as a succession of field boundaries and tracks. There is unfortunately, no right of way along any part of it, but it is occasionally crossed by public paths which enable some stretches to be investigated. One such stretch - and a very interesting one - is crossed by the path (with right of way) leading from Little Moor to Pendleton. Just after the path has crossed the first footbridge after Little Moor [SD 74534059 ac], the Roman ridge is seen crossing the field in great strength from southwest to northeast, marked for some distance by a line of trees with its eastern ditch especially prominent. Where the track from Little Moor crosses it [SD74534057 ac] the metalling can be seen in places and southwest of this the ridge is very prominent as Pendleton Bridge is approached. It swerves to the west somewhat, apparently to avoid the junction point of a tributary, and then descends to what has obviously been a ford, with much stone in the stream bed. Shortly afterwards the outskirts of Clitheroe intervene for a short distance, but the road re-enters open country beyond and continues as a rigidly straight line of hedges with parish boundaries following it north of High Moor and again north of Worston. ... {3}

Sources

{1} Ross, P. 1916. The first section of the Roman Road from Ribchester to York. *Bradford Antiquity* Vol.6 pp.267-72

{2} Bibliographic reference: Margary, I D. 1957. *Roman Roads in Britain*, Vol.2. pp.104

{3} Bibliographic reference: Graystone, P. 1996. *Walking Roman Roads in the Fylde and the Ribble Valley*. pp77-80

The seventh section HER entry reads:

... Shortly afterwards the outskirts of Clitheroe intervene for a short distance, but the road re-enters open country beyond and continues as a rigid straight line of hedges with parish boundaries following it north of High Moor [SD 757416 ac] and again north of Worston. Just beyond the point at which it is crossed by the A671 [SD 76174249 ac], a short distance west of Worston, the Roman road crosses Worston Brook; this point is accessible by footpath and is well worth visiting. The ancient hedge marking the line on both sides of the stream is very clear, but it stops short on the south side and in the gap remains of the ridge are visible, with stones outcropping here and there. In the north bank of the brook a section of metalling is exposed. ... {1}

...Beyond the [Dinkley] brook it is traceable through a wood, and then it appears clearly as a terrace beside the mental Hospital boundary, and as a slight agger beside a fence towards Hacking Hall. Here a distinct turn to north-east occurs, the new line being followed for 6 miles past the east side of Clitheroe to Downham Park, and this was done in order to pass round the north side of Pendle Hill (1,830 feet) conveniently. Traces of the road beside a line of

trees leave the wood beyond the river but there is little to see until, from Barrow Brook to Standen Hay which stands all [?] the road, the remains of the stone surface appear, and then the farm road runs on it almost to the main road, and the agger appears clearly under trees on its north side just before it joins this road. The agger is traceable beyond by a fence and through a plantation, and at various points near Clitheroe. A parish boundary follows it for 0.5 mile near Mearley Brook, and again near Worston. The road remains in use as a trackway with remains of the agger from the Worston-Chatburn road down to the crossing of the Chatburn Beck and then as a slight agger on to Downham Park. {2}{3}

Sources

{1} Bibliographic reference: Graystone, P. 1996. *Walking Roman Roads in the Fylde and the Ribble Valley*. p.80

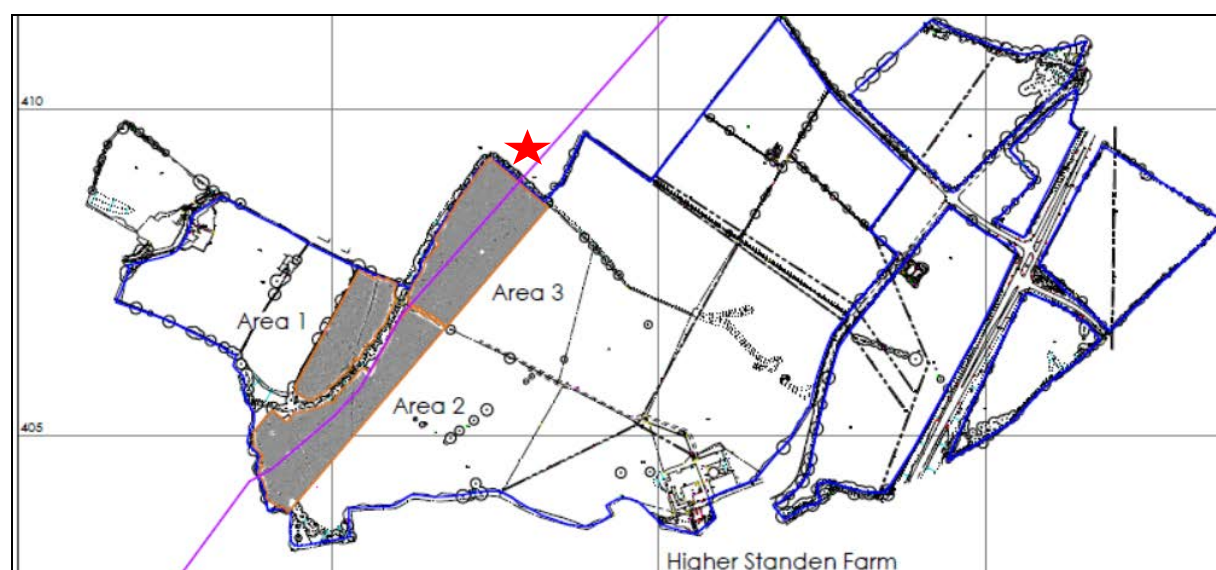
{2} Bibliographic reference: Margary, I D. 1957. *Roman Roads in Britain*, Vol.2. pp.104-6

{3} Bibliographic reference: Ross, P. 1916. *The first section of the Roman Road from Ribchester to York*. *Bradford Antiquity* Vol.6 pp.267-72

5.3 Higher Standen Farm investigation

Although several archaeological investigations have taken place along the length of the road (see Appendix 1), the closest event took place at High Standen Farm, approximately 300 metres southwest of the application site. Here, a geophysical survey of a 6.5ha farmland site was undertaken by Archaeological Services, Durham University in December 2011 in advance of proposed development. The findings were:

- A length of agger associated with a Roman road may have been detected in Area 2 (see Map 5 below). This corresponds with a slight bank in the field
- Remains of the road may also survive in Area 3 to the north, where an anomalous band of data was recorded
- Possible soil-filled ditches were detected in Areas 1 and 3
- Modern and former footpaths were detected in Areas 1 and 2
- Evidence of former ridge and furrow cultivation was detected in Areas 2 and 3
- Two probable services were detected in Area 2



Map 4. Areas investigated by the 2011 survey, with the application site starred

5.4 Archaeological records of other periods

Other HER entries within the 500 metre search area relate mostly to the post-medieval agricultural settlement which is the principal characteristic of the landscape today, along with a smaller number of 19th century urban and industrial sites. They are as follows:

- PRN32002: small fragment of a cu-alloy spear or arrowhead (tip). The fragment is too small to give a specific date, which may be late Bronze Age to Roman. Found by metal detector 1990/1996
- PRN31867: a medieval spindle whorl or lead weight, found by metal detector in 1994
- PRN31990: Two fragments of a lead ampulla, dated to 1150-1500, found by detector 1990 and 1996
- PRN37733: Garden features and park, associated with Standen Hall of 1757. Listed as Grade B in 1998 and recommended for inclusion in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens
- PRN17777: Numbers 1-9 (odd) Little Moor, (Grade II) a terrace of small C18 or early C19 houses.
- PRN17778: Numbers 11-15 Little Moor (Grade II), a terrace of three C18 or early C19 cottages
- PRN17831: Little Moor House (Grade II), late C18 or early C19
- PRN5620: Brewery Cotton Mill. A brewery, built circa.1788; converted to a (calico?) printworks in 1809 and a size works from 1826. A cotton spinning and weaving mill was built on the site in 1837; rebuilt after a fire in 1896
- PRN40151: MLA37546 Goosebutts Farmhouse ,shown on OS 1:10,560 map of 1847
- PRN5614: The Church of St James, 1839 and in Norman style, listed at II
- PRN24372: MLA24170, a cricket ground, 1892, and bowling green, pre-1912

The entries are plotted on Map 5 (following page)



Map 5. Extract from the Lancashire HER mapping showing entries in the 500-metre search area

6: CONCLUSION

6.1 Archaeological potential of the site

The HER entries demonstrate that the principal archaeological interest of the site lies in the section of the Ribchester-Ilkley Roman road that passes through it. Considerable evidence exists of this road through investigations elsewhere along its course, including those 400 metres away at Higher Standen Farm. While the site has not previously been investigated, it is considered it possesses strong potential for archaeological evidence of the road, either buried or visible above ground.

6.2 Recommendation

Owing to this strong potential it is considered that should planning consent be granted, a programme of archaeological investigation should be conditioned in advance of the proposed development. The detailed scope and extent of this investigation would need to be agreed with and approved by Ribble Valley Borough Council and their archaeology advisors, the Lancashire Archaeology Advisory Service.

APPENDIX 1: FULL HER ENTRY ON THE ROMAN ROAD (REF PRN26145)

72a Ribchester to Ilkley. {1}

The line of the Roman road is certain between Ribchester and Lidgett Flatt Farm. From this farm to Gill Hall the course is considered probable and from Gill Hall to Eller Gill Lane the line is possible. Limited investigations in a field south of Megitta House, Kenyon Lane, Dinckley, at SD 68753588 suggested that the road may be very well-preserved within this pasture field and worthy of further investigation. {2}

SD 66688 35413 The LiDAR data shows a linear feature running just off the projected course of the Roman road to Ribchester, these areas appear to still have surface features . {3}

Geophysical Surveys of Bradford undertook a survey of a part of the proposed new quarry site at Bellman Park, Clitheroe in June 1996 on behalf of ARCUS. The survey indicates few anomalies of possible archaeological origin. In particular, there is no evidence for ditches running alongside the Roman Road, nor is there any evidence for additional strip fields. Those anomalies that have some archaeological potential apparently indicate the presence of a few pits and a possible series of ditches to the north of the Roman Road. {4}

Archaeological evaluation at Marles Wood Car Park to assess the condition and quality of the Ribchester to York Roman Road. The road exists as a well preserved structure approximately 0.70m below the ground surface. There are three distinct layers which possibly represent two different phases of construction. The layers in Trench 2 represent those towards the middle of the road. Of these, the pebbles within compact sandy silt, (9) appear to be a road surface, surmounted by a layer of larger pebbles within a looser matrix (8). The upper degraded layer of pebbles, resembling (2) in character, was possibly another foundation layer which would have been overlain by a more compact road surface. However, the road clearly fell into a state of disrepair and disuse and eventually was replaced to the south along the course of the present day road. At the edge of the road, in Trench 1, there are only two clear layers. The upper of these being similar in character to (8), probably fulfilled the same function. The very hard layer of pebbles and clay was a road surface equivalent to (5) although it was greater in depth, and no foundation layer was evident. {5}

A length of agger associated with a Roman road may have been detected in Area 2. This corresponds with a slight bank in the field. Remains of the road may also survive in Area 3 to the north, where an anomalous band of data was recorded. {6}

When I was a headmaster in Blackburn ... almost forty years ago [in 1992] with the enthusiastic help of parties of schoolboys, the road was excavated at two points - firstly near the old cross (where the footpath follows the road) and secondly to the southwest near the crossing of Barrow Brook, where the road is quite derelict. ... In both instances the road was revealed in a good state of preservation, with both the foundation layer of large boulders and the surface layer of gravel present. The substantial construction of this stretch was no doubt in response to the heavy clay subsoil and the consequently wet surface. The width of the metalling was about twelve feet. [sections, photographs and location plan provided] {7}

A watching brief was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in January 2003 at the Waste-water Treatment Works (WwTW), Greenberfield Lane, Barnoldswick, Lancashire (centred SD 8768 4778). The work was commissioned by United Utilities following proposals to add a tertiary treatment stage to existing waste-water treatment works, with the consequent construction of a temporary access road, the provision of a temporary passing place and works to widen the junction between Greenberfield Lane and Gisburn Road.

The proposed development area is within the immediate vicinity of a known Roman Road, Margary 72a (Margary 1957), which runs from Ribchester in the west to Ilkley in the east, via the Roman fort at Elslack. The exact course of the Roman road is not known in this precise vicinity, but it was thought that the excavations may impact upon the surviving remains of the road. The watching brief was undertaken in a series of phases corresponding to those areas of the site which were exposed per day.

The greater part of the excavations comprised the removal of topsoil along the proposed route of a temporary access road. An average of 0.25m of topsoil was stripped from an area covering approximately 110m x 3.50m. Removal of the topsoil showed that it lay directly on the natural geology and, although close examination of the exposed ground along the whole length of the strip was made, no structures, features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.

There was no archaeological presence during the excavations of the north side of the junction, but examinations during the widening of the south side revealed similar stratigraphy with topsoil directly over natural. Part of this trench had been disturbed at the time the road was originally built, but undisturbed ground was still exposed along its length and no archaeology was observed within the trench relating to the Roman Road or otherwise.

Excavations for the provision of a passing place had also been effected in the absence of archaeological supervision. However, the east-facing section was still exposed and inspection showed similar stratigraphy and no evidence that archaeology was present or had been disturbed during its construction, at least at this precise point. In general, no features of archaeological significance were encountered during the course of the watching brief. It was originally proposed in the Project Design (Appendix 1) that a watching brief also be undertaken in an area within the perimeter of the south WwTW. However, it is understood that no works are now proposed for that area and, therefore, no such undertaking is required. {8}

The Roman road from Ribchester to Ilkley, referred to as Margary 72a (Margary 1957, 104-6; Watkin 1883, 78-9; Just 1851, 6-8; LSMR PRNs 1573, 1582, 1601), crosses the width of the site, running roughly east to west. The course of the road is not in doubt, having been mapped in the 1840s by the Ordnance Survey, when some survival within the hospital boundary was recorded. Oblique and vertical aerial photographs (the latter including 1946 RAF coverage) confirm that the agger or embankment survives for long stretches on either side of the hospital. It has been examined archaeologically in recent years in Salesbury and Dinckley, west of the application site. In the first of these cases, part of its structure was traced in archaeological examinations prior to the construction of the Marles Wood car park (Tostevin 1992), and in the second a cross-section was cut at Fence Gate Farm, Dinckley. Here, the road's construction consisted of a substantial clay ridge with good evidence of side drainage ditches and some surviving stone metalling on top of the ridge. The road line turns northward by some 25 degrees, near Hacking Hall, east of the application site. It is possible that the Roman coin (reign of Hadrian) found in 1831 at Old Langho Church (LSMR PRN 183) relates to this road. The road may have continued in use in medieval times. A possible milestone fragment has been found near the line of this road, across the Calder in Little Mitton (unpubl; B J N Edwards pers comm). {9}

Sources

- (1) Bibliographic reference: Margary, I D. 1957. Roman Roads in Britain, Vol.2. pp.104-6
- (2) Personal communication: 2006. Survey of Roman Roads in Lancashire.
- (3) Digital archive: Oxford Archaeology North. 2008. ALSF Aggregate Extraction in the Lower Ribble Valley: Enhanced Historic Landscape Characterisation Gazetteer. PDF. p.35 LM1717 (MDB)
- (4) Digital archive: GSB Prospection. 1996. Bellman Quarry, Clitheroe, Lancashire: Geophysical Survey. PDF. Summary
- (5) Digital archive: LUAU. 1992. Marles Wood Car Park, Salesbury: An Archaeological Assessment. PDF.
- (6) Digital archive: Archaeological Services, Durham University. 2012. Land at Higher Standen Farm, Clitheroe, Lancashire: Geophysical Survey. PDF. Results
- (7) Bibliographic reference: Graystone, P. 1996. Walking Roman Roads in the Fylde and the Ribble Valley. pp.72-6
- (8) Digital archive: Oxford Archaeology North. 2003. Barnoldswick Waste-Water Treatment Works, Lancashire: Archaeological Watching Brief. PDF. Summary
- (9) Digital archive: LUAU. 1994. Brockhall Village, Billington: Desk-Based Archaeological Assessment. PDF. pp.13-14

APPENDIX 2: GARRY MILLER HISTORIC BUILDING CONSULTANCY

Garry Miller is an architectural historian who has spent more than 35 years studying buildings of town and countryside, in particular those of North West England. His career as a consultant began in the mid-1980s with the Preston-based Nigel Morgan Historic Building Consultancy, of which he became a partner in 1992 upon its rebranding as Datestone. In 1997 he was commissioned by the Heritage Trust for the North West, a buildings preservation trust based at Barrowford, Lancashire, to produce an in-depth regional study of vernacular houses in southwest Lancashire: the result, *Historic Houses in Lancashire: The Douglas Valley, 1300-1770* was published in 2002. The book was described as ‘*scholarship as its best*’ by *Country Life* (June 2003), and ‘*well analysed and presented*’ in *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society* (Vol 48, 2004) and was widely cited in the 2006 *Buildings of England* volume on Liverpool and Southwest Lancashire. Extensive research on the houses of Georgian and Regency Liverpool has also been undertaken, with a view to future publication. Following the success of his Douglas Valley book, Garry Miller established his own consultancy, producing analytical and interpretive reports on historic buildings. His specialism are the heritage assessments required to support planning applications affecting the historic environment, and his area of operation encompasses the North West, Midlands and North Wales along with parts of Cumbria and North and West Yorkshire. Several local authorities have cited his reports as examples of best practice, and on average reports on more than 100 buildings and sites are produced annually.