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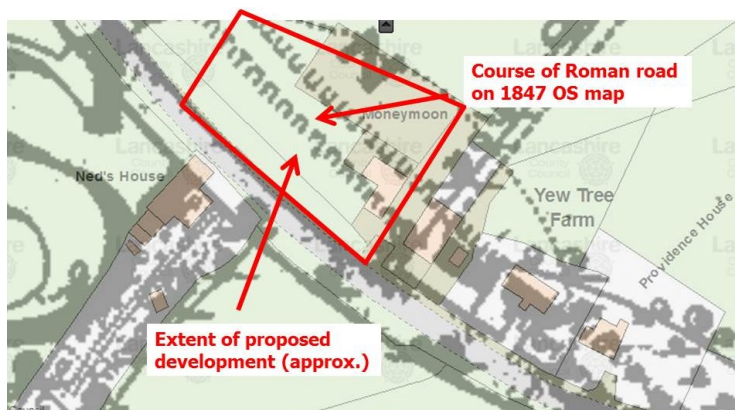
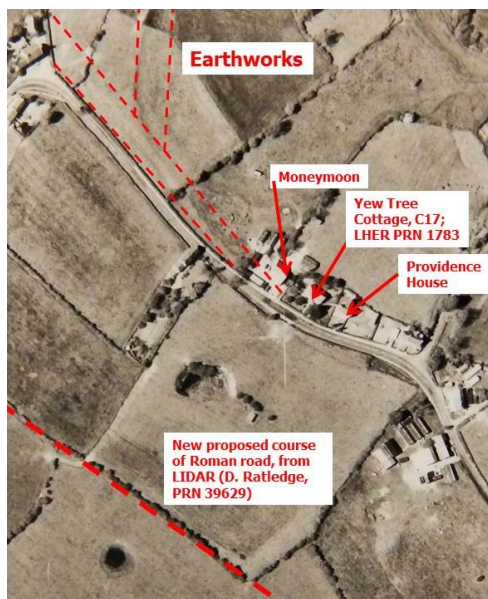
Desk-based & field evaluation of sites & structures
Standing building photography, survey, & analysis
Garden History & First World War projects

Archaeological watching briefs
Environmental Impact Assessment
Outreach and lectures

‘Moneymoon’, Preston Rd. RIBCHESTER, PR3 3YD Ribble Valley Borough Lancashire

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Planning Application ref. 3/2018/1087



(L) Detail from aerial photo taken 3 June 1963 (HSL UK sortie 63-54, Run 12, frame 9490; © Lancashire Archives)

(R) Modern mapping overlain onto Ordnance Survey 1847, showing ‘Roman road’ earthwork and approx. extent of proposed development <http://mario.lancashire.gov.uk/agsmario/default.aspx?point=363603:436597:500>

DRAFT

17 Sept 2019

Prepared on behalf of:
**Mr C. Moss and Mr N. Houghton, Ribble Valley Borough Council,
and Lancashire County Council Archaeology Team**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 **Site location and circumstances.** A costed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been requested by Mr C. Moss and Mr N. Houghton (the Clients), concerning creation of a new driveway and associated works at 'Moneymoon', Preston Road, Ribchester, PR3 3YD, in Ribble Valley Borough, Lancashire (centred SD 6332 3691).

1.2 **Planning application.** A planning application (ref. 3/2018/1087) was approved by Ribble Valley Borough Council on 8 March 2019, subject to conditions including (No. 5):

‘No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation and recording works. This must be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. These works shall comprise the undertaking of a formal archaeological watching brief during any excavations required for the proposed development. This shall include the lifting of any extant concrete ground slabs, foundations and redundant services, the construction of all new foundations, slabs and service connects, the formation of new walls and drive/parking/path surfaces and any landscaping works required. A contingency plan should be in place as part of this work, to deal with any unexpected or particularly complex remains encountered. A formal report shall be compiled and submitted on the work undertaken, the results obtained and any conclusions drawn from them. The above works must be carried out by appropriately qualified and experienced professional archaeological contractor to the standards and guidance set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed details.

Reason: To ensure and safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological/historical importance associated with the building.’

1.3 **The present document** is a Written Scheme of Investigation of the type required by RVBC and LCAT, and should therefore be forwarded to both bodies (once approved by the Client). Current procedure is that LCAT advise the LPA that a condition can be discharged, or that WSIs or other inputs are appropriate for the advice they have given; thus technically the approval comes from the LPA (i.e. RVBC in this instance). LCAT then require at least seven working days’ notice of the commencement of works, in case they wish to monitor the standard of the archaeological provision.

1.4 **Archaeological background:** the justification for the archaeological planning condition is that the course of a *possible* Roman road lies under at least part of the proposed development. The road is what was *previously* believed to be the Roman route from Ribchester to Lancaster, called ‘Margary 704’ (Ivan D. Margary, 1967 *Roman roads in Britain*, 2 edn, London: Baker, pp. 376-7), which is recorded as Primary Record Number (PRN) 26147 on the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (Lancs HER). Very little of the course of this road has been studied by

excavation, though the late Fr Philip Graystone's (1996) *Walking Roman roads in the Fylde and the Ribble Valley* (Lancaster: Centre for NW Regional Studies, pp. 24-25) enhances Margary's text. A linear earthwork indicating the course of the road is shown as 'ancient causeway' on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch to 1 mile, sheet Lancs. 54 (surveyed 1844, published 1847), and on the 1st edition 1:2500 map published c. 1893, but is omitted from current OS mapping. The course is identifiable on aerial photographs of the 1960s and 2006, and in part is still visible as substantial earthworks, between 'Moneymoon' and 'Angels' at Ward Green Cross.

- 1.5 LAAS's submission to RVBC cites recent LiDAR (Light Imaging, Detection, And Ranging) 'aerial radar' work by Mr David Ratledge <http://www.romanroads.org/gazetteer/rib-catt.htm> which has confirmed the course of the road towards Longridge, **but some 190m to the south-west of the OS 1847 alignment (provisionally named 'Margary 704aa')**, and re-discovered the missing alignment from there to Inglewhite and Catterall.
- 1.6 It is incontrovertible that there is an earthwork 'hollow way' adjacent to the 'Moneymoon' site and - at least formerly - on/through it, as it is clearly visible in adjacent fields. However the age of this (Roman *versus* medieval) has not been established with any certainty. In Sept 2016 to Feb 2017, Mr Neil undertook desk-based assessment and an archaeological watching brief two properties away to the South-East, at Providence House, and recorded slight traces of the earthwork in the heavily disturbed front garden, and a few sherds of possible medieval pottery from upper horizons. The Moneymoon development may provide a further opportunity to recover dating evidence, as well as dimensional data about the road.
- 1.7 **Nigel Neil** has been involved continuously in archaeology for over 40 years, and became a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists in 1984 (the Institute obtained its Royal Charter in 2014). He has undertaken over 150 projects since setting up Neil Archaeological Services as a sole trader in 1994, including desk-based assessments, archaeological evaluations, watching briefs, standing building surveys, and public-engagement and Heritage Lottery projects, throughout Lancashire and the adjacent counties, on sites of all periods from the Mesolithic to the Second World War.
- 1.8 Mr Neil has undertaken more than a dozen projects in Ribchester, both inside the fort and in the *vicus* or civil settlement, including work on an adjacent property on Preston Road ('Providence House') in 2016-17. He has also worked on the Roman forts of Cramond, Wallsend, Manchester, and Lancaster.

2. PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

2.1 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROVISION

- 2.1.1 **Standards.** Whilst LCAT have not been commissioned to prepare a Specification for the watching brief, the present document has been written to meet the requirements of a typical Project Brief, and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CifA 2014) Standards and Guidance. https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifAS&GWatchingbrief_2.pdf
- 2.1.2 **Pre-project meeting.** It is strongly recommended that a pre-project meeting take place between the Client and archaeologist, to discuss the schedule of works and methodology. This information needs to be fully discussed with the groundworks contractor / machine operator, in order to agree **arrangements for stoppages to permit archaeological recording**, health and safety relating to the archaeologist working close to the machine, and a contingency plan in the event of very significant archaeological discoveries (see 2.1.5-6 below).
- 2.1.3 **Desk-based assessment.** The archaeologist will undertake limited desk-based assessment, comprising published and manuscript cartographic, and aerial photographic sources, in Lancashire Archives, and **consultation of the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (mandatory under CifA Standards and Guidance; fee payable – see para 3.4)**, to view information concerning previous work in the vicinity of the proposed works. *Note: the fee has been waived, because the HER information was obtained in 2016 for the adjacent Providence House site. The item has been retained as a contingency, in case further HER information is needed beyond what is currently available.*
- 2.1.4 **Permanent-presence watching brief.** The archaeologist (Mr Neil generally works alone) will conduct a watching brief during all excavation works (topsoil and hard-standing removal, removal of earlier/redundant services, landscaping/re-profiling, wall footings, services, etc.). Archaeological deposits will be cleaned, excavated to an appropriate extent, recorded by scale drawing, photography and written description, sampled if appropriate, and artefacts (i.e. 'finds') and ecofacts (e.g. bone, organic deposits) and their location recovered. If necessary more fragile archaeological deposits within construction trenches and areas *may* be excavated in plan, by hand, by the archaeologist. The archaeologist will seek permission to use, and acknowledge in his report, drawings prepared by the Clients' architect. **The Client will be kept informed during the works concerning the significance of archaeological discoveries, and will be informed as early as possible if there is likely to be over-run to the estimated fieldwork duration (see 3.8 below).**
- 2.1.5 **Limits of the watching brief.** Archaeological works will only be undertaken in areas where the development requires intervention, and only to the depth to be damaged by the development. Unless LCAT / RVBC specifically direct otherwise, all underlying and adjacent archaeological deposits will be left undisturbed, to fulfil the aim expressed in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of preservation of archaeological deposits, except where disturbance or removal is unavoidable.

- 2.1.6 **Contingency for unforeseen discoveries.** In the event of discoveries involving *human remains and/or potential Treasure Act 1996 artefacts*, these matters will be handled with discretion, and in accordance with English Law. Any find that might meet the definition of treasure the Under the Treasure Act 1996 has to be reported to a coroner. Under local agreements, finds are reported to Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) in England, who pass the report on to the local coroner. **The definition of treasure under the Act is currently under review, with particular reference to Roman objects NOT made of precious metal.** If human remains (cremation or inhumation) are encountered, even if the burial is pre-Christian, the Law (revised in 2015), requires that **work be halted** until the Ministry of Justice's Coroners Unit has been informed, and if necessary a licence under Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 is obtained (free).
- 2.1.7 **Post-excavation assessment and reporting.** The project archive and finds (and any environmental assemblage or samples) will be subjected to a formal post-excavation 'assessment of potential for analysis', in accordance with CIfA Guidance http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS&GFinds_1.pdf Assessment will include identification (as far as is possible without specialist out-sourcing), spot-dating and cataloguing of artefacts, and indexing of the archive.
- 2.1.8 **Report to Client: one digital copy** of a written ('grey literature') assessment report will be submitted to the Client (*printed and bound and/or further digital copies on request, see para 3.8*), with digital copies to LCAT and RVBC, will be prepared within 3 months of the completion of fieldwork, or to another timetable by mutual agreement. **A draft will be sent to the Client for inspection, before distribution copies are produced.** The report will place the results of the watching brief in their local and regional context, and include drawn and photographic illustrations. The LCAT copy will become a public domain document after 6 months, and LCAT reserve the right to upload it onto the internet. A copy may be uploaded onto the OASIS website (see para 2.1.10 below), and will also be *offered* to Historic England's public archive, in Swindon, which also becomes public domain. **Printed copies of the report must accompany the site archive and finds assemblage**, and will also be given to Lancashire Archives (see para 2.1.11). **The above copies of the report are all included in the 'package' costing.**
- 2.1.9 In certain circumstances, *the assessment report may recommend specific artefact conservation, and/or a further post-excavation 'analysis' phase* (e.g. for detailed **pottery identification, bone assemblage**), which - once agreed with LCAT - would have to be funded by the Client (*provisional sums are included in the costing*).
- 2.1.10 **Synoptic publication** will be done using the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS), maintained by the Archaeology Data Service (ADS <https://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>), onto whose website the report may also be uploaded. Though not currently mandatory, it is Mr Neil's practice also to publish a brief note in the appropriate period journal(s) - 'Roman Britain in 2019', in *Britannia*, and/or '(Post-)Medieval Britain and Ireland in 2019', in *Medieval Archaeology* and *Post-Medieval Archaeology*.

2.1.11 **Deposition of archive and finds assemblage.** Whilst, under English Law, the landowner is legally owner of artefacts recovered, except Treasure Act items (which become Crown property), it is usual practice to deposit the assemblage and archive, by gift, with a museum Accredited by Arts Council England. **Ribchester Roman Museum** will be approached *before* the fieldwork commences, to ascertain whether they will accept the assemblage and archive, and to determine any special conditions (e.g. obligatory labelling of individual pottery sherds), which may entail application of contingency resources. There is little alternative at present, since Lancashire County Council's Museum of Lancashire, in Preston, is currently closed, but Lancashire Archives would be willing to accept the written, drawn, and photographic archive, if Ribchester Roman Museum is not an option. Lancashire Archives will receive a printed, unbound, copy of the report as a minimum.

2.2 OTHER MATTERS

2.2.1 **Confidentiality.** The Client report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client and LCAT, for the purpose as defined in the Project Design. **It is not a publication academic report**. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for third parties, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding. **The press and Social Media will NOT be informed of the project, or of any discoveries, without the prior approval of the Client.**

2.2.2 **Copyright of the archive.** The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (2014) *Standards* advise that:

'It is normal practice for both the copyright and ownership of the ... archive for archaeological work to rest with the originating body (the archaeological organisation undertaking the work). The originating body deposits the material ... on completion of the contracted works [e.g. with Ribchester Roman Museum], and normally transfers title and/or licences the use of the records at this stage. ...'.

2.2.3 **Insurance.** The Archaeological Contractor has Public Liability Indemnity, with £2 million third-party cover, on-site Personal Accident Insurance, and Professional Indemnity Insurance through Towergate Risk Solutions.