

# CHATBURN ROAD, DOWNHAM, LANCASHIRE

## Archaeological Watching Brief



Client: Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership

Planning Application: 3/2019/0331

NGR: 37748 44429 to 37829 44440

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February 2020



<b>The Site</b>	
Site Name	Chatburn Road, Downham
County	Lancashire
NGR	37748 44429 to 37829 44440

<b>Client</b>	
Client Name	Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership
Client's architect/agent	Sarah Dornan, Countryside Access Officer, Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Scheme, Forest of Bowland AONB

<b>Planning</b>	
Pre-planning?	No
Planning Application No.	3/2019/0331
Plans (e.g. conversion, extension, demolition)	Creation of bridleway
Condition number	6
Local Planning Authority	Ribble Valley Borough Council
Planning Archaeologist	Planning Officer (Archaeology), Lancashire County Council
Groundworks subject to watching brief	Topsoil stripping and subsequent excavation for bridleway

<b>Archiving</b>	
Relevant Record Office(s)/Archive Centre(s)	Preston
Relevant HER	Lancashire
Relevant museum	Clitheroe Castle Museum of the Museum of Lancashire Life, Preston

<b>Staffing</b>	
Desk-based assessment	Dan Elsworth
Watching brief	Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace
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Report editing	Jo Dawson
Illustrations	Tom Mace
Date watching brief carried out	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2020

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## Summary

Following an application for planning permission by the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership to create a new concessionary bridleway between Chatburn and Downham, Lancashire, and following discussions with the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service, an archaeological watching brief was requested to be undertaken on part of the associated groundworks where the route of the bridleway crosses the course of the Roman road between the forts at Ribchester and Ilkley. Greenlane Archaeology was appointed by Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership to carry out the work, which was undertaken on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

While the wider area has evidence of human activity from the end of the last Ice Age onwards the most significant feature within the proposed site boundary is the Roman road from the fort at Ribchester to the south-west, running east into Yorkshire. The raised *agger* of the Roman road is marked on Ordnance Survey maps of the area from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, and its course is apparent from lidar imagery of the site. The road is aligned approximately east /west at this point. Chatburn and Downham are both recorded from at least the medieval period and formed part of the manor of Downham, although the place names are Old English and indicate an early medieval origin.

The watching brief monitored the stripping of an area approximately 10m long by 3m wide across the presumed line of the Roman road, in order to assess what survived of the Roman road so that subsequent work could be carried out in a manner that would avoid unnecessary damage to any archaeological remains that were present. In the event no obvious surface of the road survived, only a small area of cobbles, which may be part of the underlying surface of the road although they were some distance of the route suggested by the extant earthworks, and an area of very loose angular gravel. The gravel, while on the line of the road, was not the type of material usually associated with Roman roads and, while it could not be directly dated, may represent material dumped on the site at a later date. The cobbles were below a layer of subsoil that contained medieval pottery and so are clearly early, but are not obviously on the line of the road.

It seems likely that in this area the road, assuming it definitely ran through this area, has been considerably denuded of any original metalling, kerbstones, or any of the layers from which it would have been constructed. The field has almost certainly been subject to agricultural improvements such as ploughing, perhaps from as early as the medieval period on the basis of the finds. This, plus the proximity of the area monitored to the field boundary and gate, has presumably led to the loss of the majority of the original road structure, although variations in road building techniques based on local topography have to be taken into consideration. It is also conceivable that the gravel deposit represents a naturally occurring material and that the road was deliberately built along an existing ridge.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 The circumstances of the project are set out in the tables on the inside cover of this report.

### 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The route of the Chatburn to Downham bridleway crosses the raised *agger* of the Ribchester to Ilkley Roman road in a field east of the junction of Green Lane and Chatburn Road, Downham (Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership 2019). This field, at the east end of the route, is between 140m and 150m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2004; Figure 1). The site is to the north-west edge of the village of Downham, which is located c6km to the south-east of the River Ribble and to the north side of Pendle Hill (Countryside Commission 1998, 92).

1.2.2 The site lies within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Lancashire County Council 2015). The Bowland Fringe and Pendle Hill area, which wraps around the Bowland Fells, is characterised by an undulating rolling landscape, meandering rivers, expanses of semi-natural broadleaved woodland, and improved pasture, for dairy and livestock farming (Countryside Commission 1998, 92). Isolated country houses, such as Downham Hall c100m to the south, are another typical feature of the landscape (Countryside Commission 1998, 93).

1.2.3 The solid geology of the Ribble River picks out the less resistant calcareous mudstones and Carboniferous Limestone from the harder Millstone Grit of the Bowland Fells, with overlying glacial deposits of thick tills and mounded areas of sand and gravel (Countryside Commission 1998, 93).

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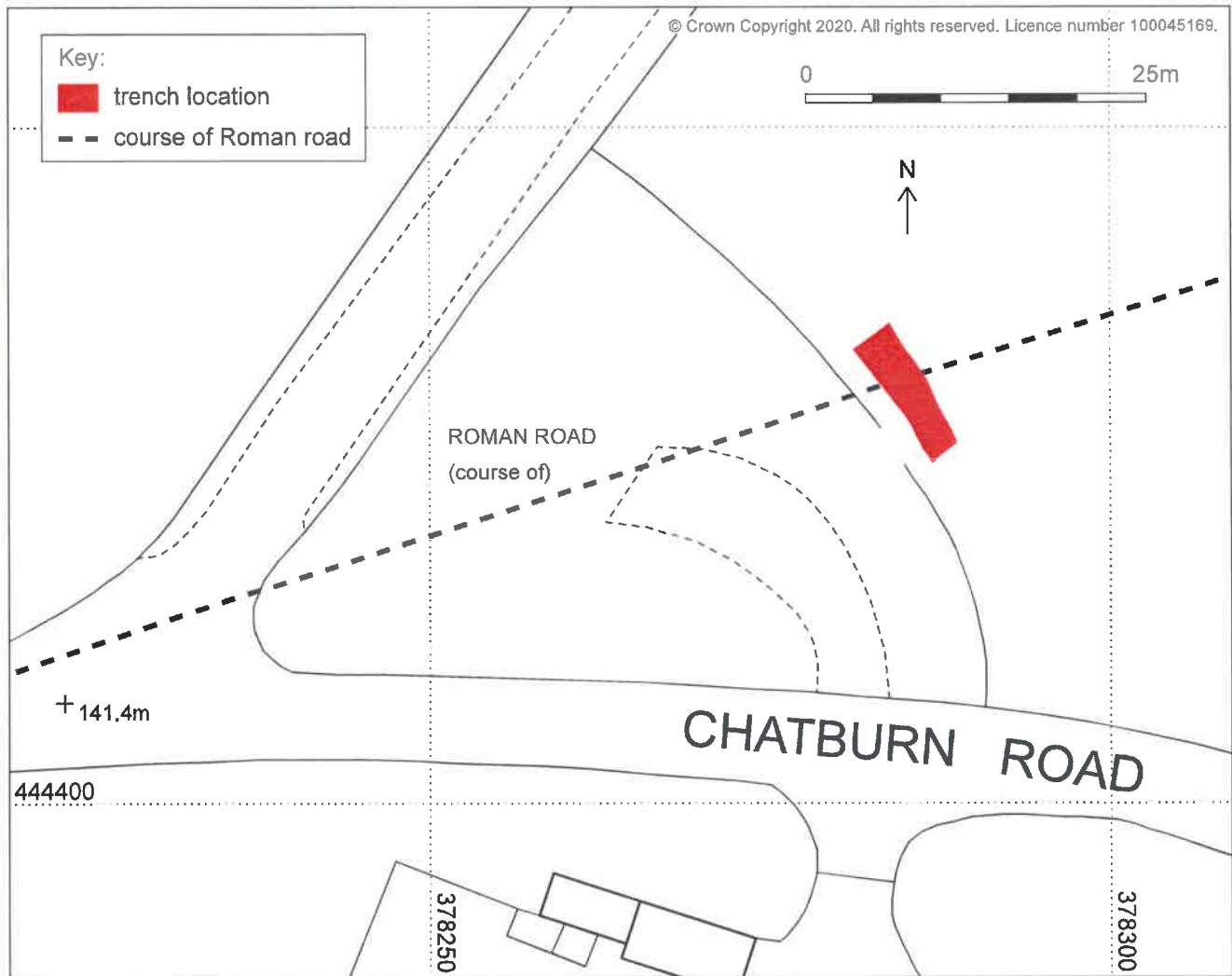
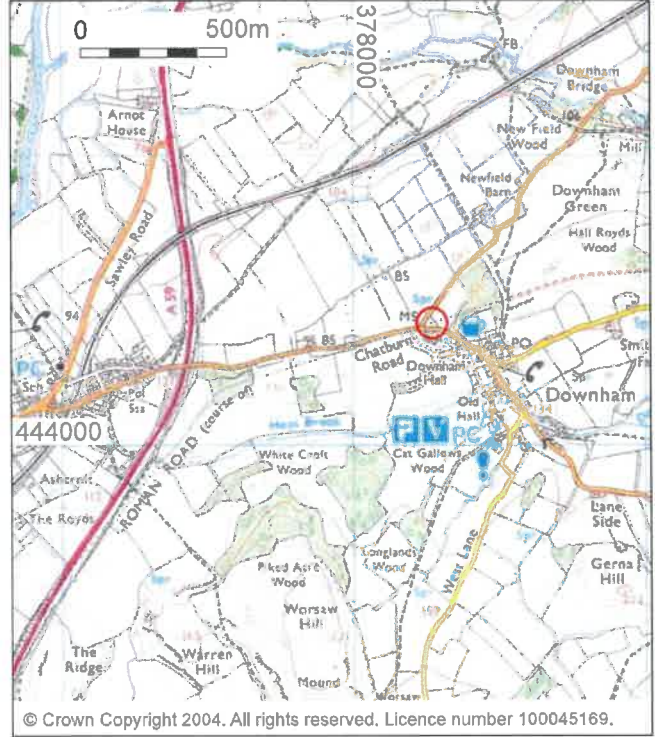


Figure 1: Site location

## 2. Methodology

2.1.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b). This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the compilation of the desk-based assessment:

- **Record Office/Archive Centre:** the majority of original and secondary sources relating to the site are deposited in the relevant Record Office(s) or Archive Centre(s), as specified in the cover sheet of this report. Of principal importance are early maps of the site. These were examined in order to establish the development of the site, date of any structures present within it, and details of land use, in order to set the site in its historical, archaeological, and regional context. In addition, any details of the site's owners and occupiers were acquired where available;
- **Online Resources:** where available, mapping such as Ordnance Survey maps were consulted online;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** Greenlane Archaeology's office library includes maps, local histories, and unpublished primary and secondary sources. These were consulted where relevant, in order to provide information about the history and archaeology of the site and the general area.

## 2.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

2.2.1 The watching brief monitored groundworks associated with the project set out in the tables on the inside cover of this report.

2.2.2 All aspects of the archaeological recording were carried out according to the standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a) and Greenlane Archaeology's own excavation manual (2007). The deposits encountered were recorded in the following manner:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all deposits were made using Greenlane Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs:** photographs in colour digital format (both 12 meg JPEG and RAW file format with a sensor size of over 18meg) were taken of the site as well as general working shots, according to Historic England guidelines (Historic England 2015). A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report. A written record of all of the photographs was also made using Greenlane Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Drawings:** drawings were produced on site as follows:
  - i. a site plan at a scale of 1:500;
  - ii. a trench plan at a scale of 1:20.

## 2.3 Environmental Samples

2.3.1 No environmental samples were taken as no appropriate deposits were encountered.

## 2.4 Finds

2.4.1 **Processing:** all of the artefacts recovered from the watching brief were washed, with the exception of metal objects, which were dry-brushed. They were then naturally air-dried and packaged appropriately in self-seal bags with white write-on panels.

2.4.2 **Assessment and recording:** the finds were assessed and identified in the first instance by Jo Dawson. The finds were recorded directly into the catalogue produced as part of this report (*Appendix 3*).

## 2.5 Archive

2.5.1 The archive of the project will be deposited with the relevant Record Office or Archive Centre, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report, together with a copy of the report. The archive has been compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2014c). In addition details will be submitted to the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public. A paper copy of the report will be provided to the client and a digital copy of the report will be provided for the relevant Historic Environment Record, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report.



### 3. Site History

#### 3.1 Map Regression

3.1.1 **Introduction:** a number of early maps and plans of the site were examined. Although there are early, typically county-wide, maps that include the area, they generally lack detail. The first useful maps of the area, which help illustrate the way in which the site has developed over time, do not appear until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. As a result, it is primarily maps from that date onwards that are discussed below.

3.1.2 **Tithe map, 1850:** the tithe map for Downham township was consulted but much of it was clearly not subject to tithes and the area of the site itself was not included on the map, so no information could be gained from this.

3.1.3 **Ordnance Survey, 1847:** the site occupies part of a large field on the north side of the road opposite St Leonard's Church (Plate 1). Two dashed parallel lines mark the sides of the route of the Roman road, which presumably still survived as an earthwork at this point, running approximately east-north-east/west-south-west across the area. The route of the earthwork is continued to the west of the junction of Green Lane and Chatburn Road.



Plate 1: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1847

3.1.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1886:** some alterations have been made to the church buildings and churchyard to the south, but little has changed within the watching brief area (Plate 2; cf. Plate 1). Only the north side of the Roman road is marked at this point. The hachures make clear that it sloped down to the north-north-west along the section apparent in the field.

3.1.5 **Ordnance Survey, 1908:** nothing is shown to have changed from the earlier edition of the Ordnance Survey mapping (Plate 3; cf. Plate 2).

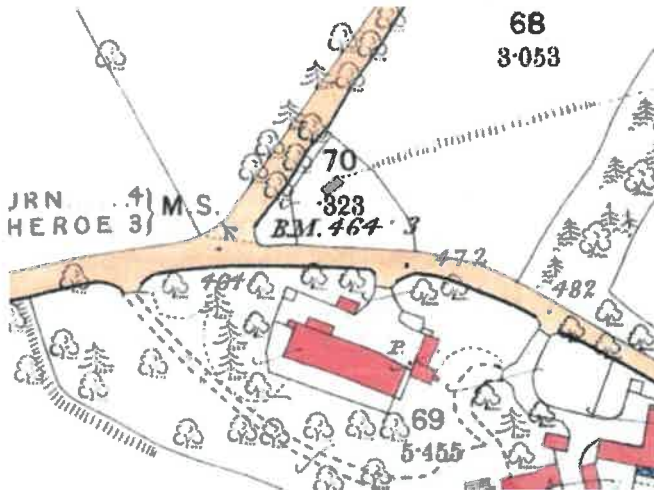


Plate 2: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1886

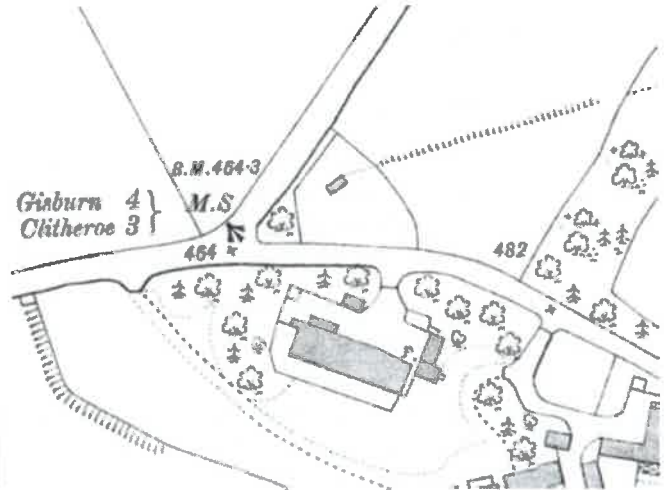


Plate 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1908

3.1.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1912:** the site is unchanged (Plate 4; cf. Plate 3).

3.1.7 **Ordnance Survey, 1932:** both sides of the Roman road are again shown, but the site remains otherwise unchanged (Plate 5; cf. Plate 4).

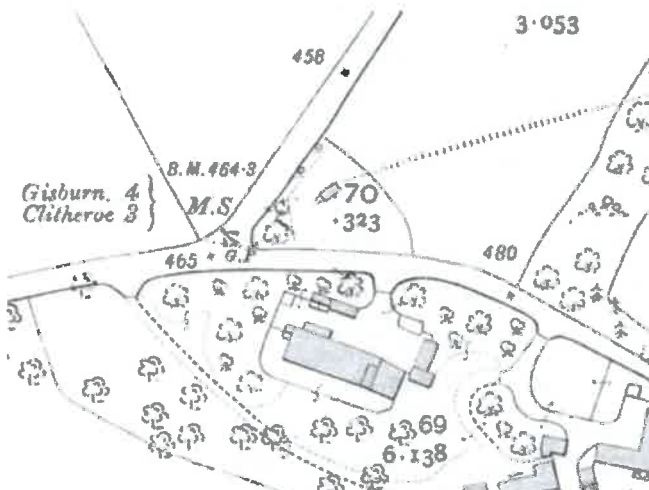


Plate 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1912

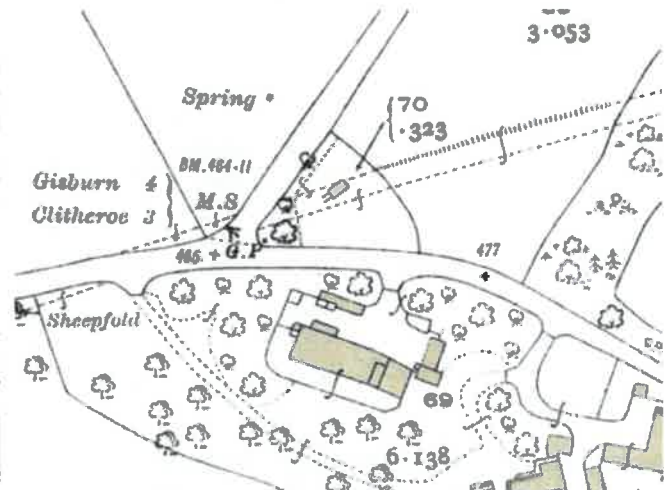
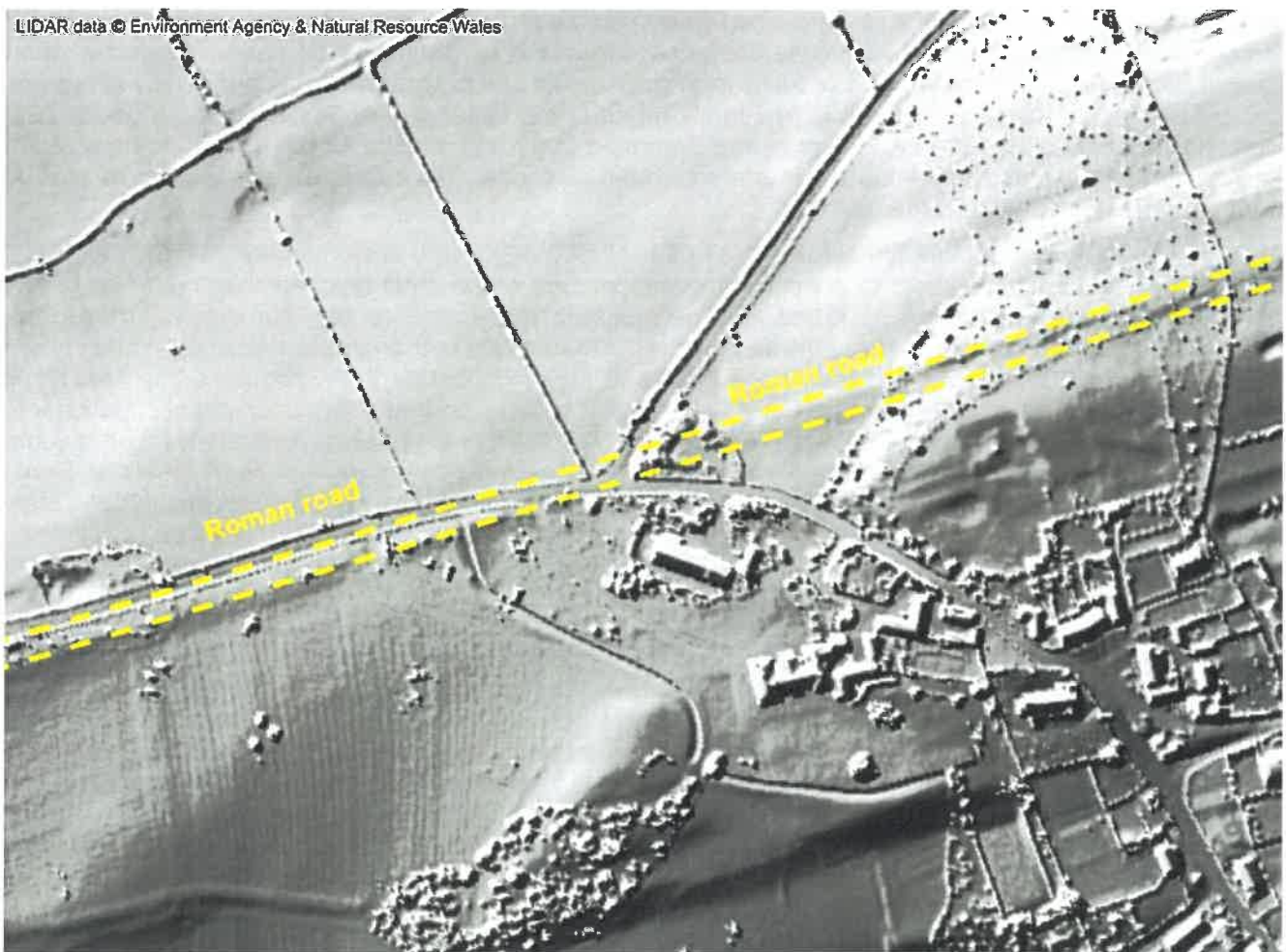


Plate 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1932

3.1.8 **Lidar imagery:** what is believed to be the route of the Roman road is clearly visible in freely available lidar imagery of the site (Plate 6; Houseprices.io 2019). The course of the road can readily be determined continuing to the west, at least as far as the line of the railway, and towards Hey House Farm to the east, before becoming less easily discernible (see Plate 7; see also Figure 1). Various other possible features of archaeological interest can also be seen, perhaps constituting elements of a relict field system further afield, including what appear to be terraces and areas of ridge and furrow in neighbouring fields.



**Plate 6: Lidar imagery of the site**



**Plate 7: Lidar imagery, with the route of the Roman road highlighted**

## 3.2 Background History

3.2.1 The background history to the site helps our understanding of the development and use of the site, where known, making use of the map evidence presented above (see *Section 3.1*) where relevant.

The background to the site is intended to place the results of the project in its local context and in order to do so a brief discussion of the earlier history of its wider environs is also necessary.

### 3.3 Prehistoric Period (c11,000BC – AD 1<sup>st</sup> century)

3.3.1 While there is generally limited evidence for human activity in the region in the period immediately following the last Ice Age, there are occasional finds that demonstrate that the wider area was occupied from an early date, although probably not very intensely. Approximately 43km west of the site the so-called 'Poulton Elk' was discovered in 1970; this comprised a skeleton of a male elk, later radiocarbon dated to the early Post-Glacial period, associated with antler harpoon points, at least some of which were evidently lodged in its body, which, with other injuries, show that it had been hunted by humans (Hallam *et al* 1973). Elsewhere in the wider region habitation of this date is typically found in cave sites. A number are known on the northern edge of Morecambe Bay and east into Yorkshire, with a small number of excavations revealing the remains of animal species common at the time but now extinct in this country and artefacts of Late Upper Palaeolithic type (Cowell 1996, 20-21; Young 2002). Human remains from one of these have also recently been dated to approximately 7,100 BC (Smith *et al* 2013). The county was clearly more densely inhabited during the following period, the Mesolithic (c8,000 – 4,000 BC), as large numbers of artefacts of this date have been discovered from across Lancashire (Barrowclough 2008, 48-53). Sites of this date typically comprise collections of distinctive artefacts, microliths, often discovered during field-walking and eroding from river banks (*ibid*). Coastal areas and river valleys are notably places where such material is frequently found in the wider region (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152; Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 26). On the higher ground, in areas such as the North Pennines, numerous such artefacts have also been discovered where they have eroded from peat (Cowell 1996, 21; Spikins 1999).

3.3.2 In the following period, the Neolithic (c4,000 – 2,500 BC), large scale monuments such as burial mounds and stone circles begin to appear in the region. One of the most recognisable tool types of this period, the polished stone axe, is found in large numbers across the county, particularly in the north (Barrowclough 2008, 76), having been manufactured at Langdale in the central Lake District (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 45). In general, there is clearly some continuity from the preceding Mesolithic period, with recent work at New Laund Farm, Whitewell revealing evidence for continued occupation into the Iron Age (Anon nd). During the Bronze Age (c2,500 – 600 BC) monuments, particularly those thought to be ceremonial in nature, become more common still; for example, the multi-period Bleasdale Circle, which comprised a number of different elements including a circle of timber posts (Dawkins 1900; Varley 1938). Funerary monuments, including stone circles, have been examined more frequently than settlement sites (cf. Barrowclough 2008, 108-129), with burials of 'Beaker' type more commonly found around the higher ground in the east of Lancashire (*op cit*, 130-133). One characteristic of the lower areas, which have more wetland, is the ritual deposition of metal artefacts, particularly weapons, in water, with one style of metalwork being characteristic of the Fylde area (*op cit*, 152). Sites of Iron Age date are considerably less well attested in Lancashire. Throughout the county, settlement sites (burials are almost unknown) tend to comprise small enclosed groups of hut circles, although these are very difficult to identify in the archaeological record (*op cit*, 192), and larger hillforts are found where there is suitable topography. There is likely to be considerable continuity in settlement sites from the end of the Bronze Age, with the Iron Age representing a period of even greater land enclosure and management, but the excavated sites of this period are mostly in the south of the county (*op cit*, 193). There are some exceptions, although these are often recent discoveries and are not necessarily published, such as remains near Poulton-le-Fylde (Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014; 2018) and closer to the site at Cuerden (CAA 2018), as well as examples found nearer to Preston (Wood *et al* 2008). There is likely to have been a considerable overlap between the end of the Iron Age and the beginning of the Romano-British period, at least in terms of 'native' settlement; it is evident that in rural parts of the region, initially at least, the Roman invasion had a minimal impact on settlement patterns (Philpott 2006, 73-74).

### 3.4 Romano-British to Early Medieval Period (1<sup>st</sup> century AD – 11<sup>th</sup> century AD)

3.4.1 The nearest Roman fort was at Ribchester, approximately 16km to the south-west (Shotter 2004). The fort at Ribchester was established in the late 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and continued to be occupied well into



the 4<sup>th</sup> century, although it went through various permutations and phases of rebuilding (Edwards 2000, 46-53). Physical and archaeological evidence from the post-Roman/early medieval period is relatively uncommon in the region, especially in rural areas, although in Roman military sites, such as the fort at Ribchester, there is increasing evidence for continuity of activity into the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD.

3.4.2 The most relevant feature of Roman date is the course of the road between the fort at Ribchester as it heads eastward into Yorkshire (traditionally said to be towards the fort at Ilkley but more recently it has tended to be described as heading towards the fort at Elslack; Margary's route 72a), which is considered to pass directly across the site (see *Section 3.1* above). The line of the road here has been recorded since at least the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and was mapped in some detail on the early Ordnance Survey maps (see *Section 3*). The best account (Margary 1957, 104-105) describes its course through Chatburn, with the section referring most specifically to the site in bold:

*'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 the Downham Park. Some 300 yards inside the park it passes the north side of a knoll on an embanked terrace, and here it makes another turn of 45° back more to the east since it has now got past Pendle Hill. The road continues to be clearly traceable through the park and its plantations that border the present road, where it is a well-preserved low agger 1½ to 2 feet high, easily seen just inside the park wall, and leaving the park opposite the turning to Rimington. It then passes through a cartwright's yard and is plainly visible beyond up to Croft Wood Plantation. Beyond this the road follows a natural ridge with the agger clearly visible, past the south side of Lillands Wood to Hey House...'*

The ridge across the field through which the bridleway is to be constructed is therefore considered to represent the raised *agger* (construction mound) of the Roman road (Graystone 1996, 80; Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership 2019, 2-3), which has been recently clearly shown through Lidar data (Ratledge 2018). The date at which the road originated is unknown but it is unlikely to be before the consolidation of Roman military occupation in the area, which took place in the late 1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD (Shotter 2004, 52-72).

3.4.3 Place-name evidence shows that all of the settlements in the local area have names largely deriving from a mixture of Old English and Norse, suggesting a mixed population in the area, and earlier elements of both languages continued to be used into the medieval period proper. Local place names demonstrate this, with Chatburn deriving from an Old English personal name *Ceatta* and the Old English *burna* meaning a small stream, while Downham derives from the Old English meaning a village on a hill (*op cit*, 79). However, one of the dominant pieces of the local landscape, Pendle Hill, takes the first element of its name from the ancient British word *pen*, meaning head or top, to which the Old English *hyll* and then the modern 'hill' have been added (*op cit*, 68) so that it essentially means 'top hill hill'.

## 3.5 Medieval Period (11<sup>th</sup> century AD – 16<sup>th</sup> century AD)

3.5.1 As already mentioned, all of the principal settlements in the area were certainly in existence by at least the medieval period, although their extent at that time is uncertain. They are typically first recorded in documentary sources in the 12<sup>th</sup> or even 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (Ekwall 1922). The site is located within the township of Downham, which is recorded from the late 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards (Ekwall 1922, 79). The manor of Downham is recorded from at least the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century and was originally assessed as three and a half plough lands, and formed part of the honour of Clitheroe, which was assigned in 1241 to the Countess of Lincoln, widow of John de Lacy (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 552-558). It later passed to the Dinley family and remained with them for some time before being eventually acquired by Richard Assheton, who had acquired the estates of Whalley Abbey after the Dissolution (*ibid*). An extent made in 1311 stated that the lord of the manor held 117 acres of arable and 10 acres of meadow, while there were also nine crofts and a water mill (*ibid*).

## 3.6 Post-Medieval (16<sup>th</sup> century AD – present)

3.6.1 Downham remained in the hands of the Assheton family and still is today, although there was a considerable dispute at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century regarding an area known as Downham Green (this is

shown on the first Ordnance Survey map as being immediately north-east of the site, although its original extent is unclear), which the tenants claimed was a common but had been enclosed. This had involved the construction of a '*great hedge and ditch*' and the Asshetons subsequently enclosed a further 20 acres in 1570 much to the annoyance of people in Chatburn, who destroyed the walls (*ibid*). The Asshetons hall in Downham was developed in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, but later remodelled along classical lines (Mitchell 1974, 30). The Pendle area is now famous for events in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century when a group of local beggars, led by matriarchs Chattox and Demdike, were accused of witchcraft and subsequently put on trial and executed (*op cit*, 7-17). During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, like the rest of Lancashire, Chatburn and Downham became increasingly industrialised, with a mill in Downham (Freethy 1988, 55-56 and 73). By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, however, the villages of Chatburn and Downham had acquired a quieter and obviously more rural feel, reliant to some extent on visitors (Freethy 1988, 56). A description of Downham in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century provides an image of the village at that time, and it is now very similar: "*A straggling street and a little babbling brook beside it, an irregular line of stone houses with old-fashioned porches and trailing flowers at the small windows, a small patch of green on which the mediaeval stocks stand, and opposite, on a crest, a Norman church, with dark brown ivied tower, and a churchyard that signifies all that is meant by the reverent words, God's Acre – such is Downham*" (Walters and Greenwood 1949, 95).

### 3.7 Previous Archaeological Work

3.7.1 An archaeological walkover survey was carried out by Northern Archaeological Associates in March 2019 as part of an earlier phase of work associated with the construction of the bridleway.

## 4. Watching Brief

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken in a single day on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and comprised the monitoring of what was essentially an evaluation trench, approximately 10m long (north/south) by 3m wide (east/west), excavated across the presumed line of the Roman road, where there was a visible earthwork running to the east (Plate 8 to Plate 10). This was carried out in order to attempt to locate any structural elements comprising part of the Roman road so that it could be avoided during the installation of fence posts alongside the new bridle path, the majority of the surface of which was to be built on top of the current ground level. Weather conditions at the time were very stormy with hail, following a period of heavy rain (Plate 11).



Plate 8 (left): The site prior to excavation, looking along the earthwork denoting the line of the Roman road, from the west



Plate 9 (right): The site prior to excavation, from the north-west



Plate 10 (left): The site prior to excavation, from the south-east



Plate 11 (right): Hail covering the site during excavation

### 4.2 Results

4.2.1 The initial deposit comprised a soft dark brownish grey silty topsoil up to 0.3 thick (**100**). Beneath this at the south end was a layer of firm mottled mid orangey brown silty clay subsoil no more than 0.1m thick (**101**). At the north end, immediately below the topsoil, there was a relatively loose deposit of dark



greyish brown angular gravel in a sandy matrix covering an area of approximately 3-4m<sup>2</sup> (**102**) (Plate 12 and Plate 13). This spread down the slope to the north and further excavation through it revealed that it was at least 0.2m thick. Below the subsoil (**101**) was a small layer of cobbles approximately 1m wide (north/south) by 1.5m long (east/west), comprising water worn stones, a mixture of volcanic types and more local geology (**103**) (Plate 14 and Plate 15). These seemed to be set on top of the underlying natural, which was exposed on either side and north of deposit **102** and comprised a firm silty or sandy mid orange clay with very little stone content (**104**).



**Plate 12 (left): Deposit 102, viewed from the north-west**

**Plate 13 (right): Deposit 102, viewed from the west**



**Plate 14 (left): Cobbles 103, viewed from the north-west**

**Plate 15 (right): Cobbles 103, viewed from the east**



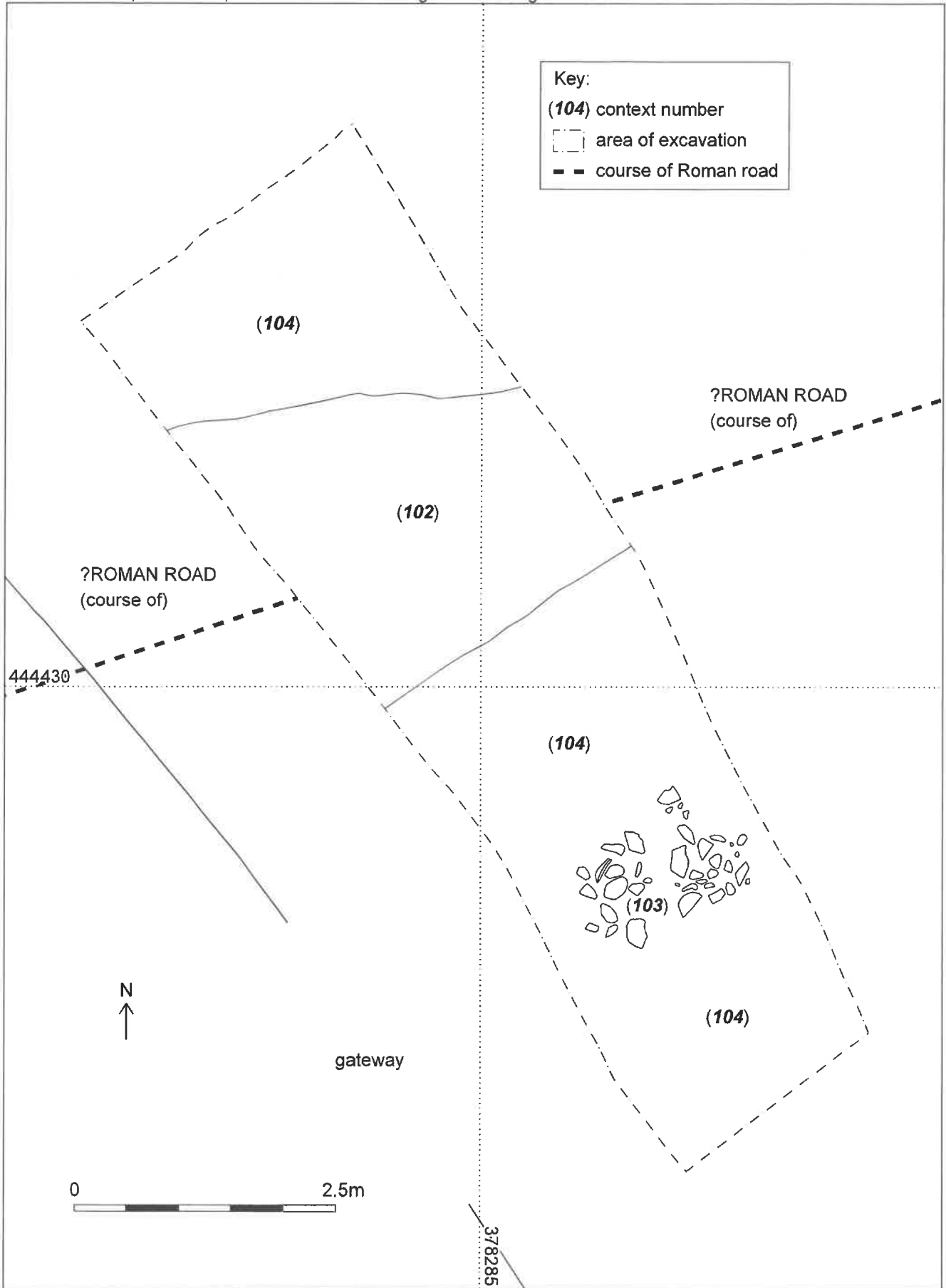


Figure 2: Trench plan

## 4.3 Finds

**4.3.1 Introduction:** a total of 10 finds were recovered during the watching brief. These are discussed by type below and a complete list of all the finds is provided in *Appendix 3*.

**4.3.2 Medieval pottery:** three fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from deposit **101**, in the area immediately above the cobbles (**103**). The material is described in generic terms (e.g. *gritty ware*) with no attempt to link to specific fabrics or specific sources and only brief descriptions of the sherds are given in *Appendix 3* following *Guidelines for the Processing and Publication of Medieval Pottery from Excavations* (Blake and Davey 1983) and *Pottery in Archaeology* (Orton *et al* 2008). The material comprises body sherds from thin-walled vessels: two fragments of unglazed, gritty ware and one of a green glazed, lightly-gritted sandy fabric. Similar gritty and sandy fabrics dominate 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century assemblages in the region and persist into the 14<sup>th</sup> century (McCarthy and Brooks 1992, 22; Whitehead *et al* 2013; Bradley and Miller 2009, 664).

**4.3.3 Post-medieval pottery:** three fragments of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil (**100**). One was white salt-glazed stoneware from a mug or jug, broadly dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the other two were refitting fragments from a plate or similar object, decorated with a blue transfer-printed pattern, and dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**4.3.4 Post-medieval CBM:** three fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from the topsoil (**100**). These all most likely represent pieces of field drain and are likely to date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century when ceramic drains began to replace earlier forms of drainage (see Davis and Davis 2013 for the most relevant discussion of this).

**4.3.5 Iron:** a single fragment of corroded iron was recovered from the subsoil (**101**) where it immediately overlay the cobbles (**103**). This evidently comprised a short shaft and flat head, of semi-circular profile no thicker than the shaft and is most likely a 'fiddle-key' type horseshoe nail. Nails of this type are generally considered to be representative of relatively early in the medieval period, i.e. the 11<sup>th</sup> century (Clark 2004, 86), although they are known from later contexts (e.g. Ford and Walsh 1987, 137).

## 5. Discussion and Conclusion

### 5.1 Discussion

5.1.1 The results of the watching brief are difficult to interpret since no surface corresponding with any certainty with the structure of a Roman road was discovered, despite the obvious earthwork remains to the east. It is conceivable that the small area of cobbles (**103**) represents part of the base layer of cobbles often found laid beneath a Roman road (see for example the sections taken through the road near Barrow Beck to the south-west of Chatburn; Graystone 1996, 74). Stratigraphically the cobbles could be Roman in date since they were below a subsoil containing only finds of medieval date, but the position of the cobbles is somewhat off the presumed line of the road based on where the earthwork has been previously mapped and what is visible in the Lidar (see *Section 3*). Alternatively, the gravel deposit at the north end of the excavated area (**102**) perhaps represents part of the road structure; it is on a better line with the earthwork to the east. However, this material was not only quite loose, rather than compacted, it was also very angular and unlike the water-worn gravels seen in sections of Roman road recently excavated elsewhere in the locality (Graystone 1996, 74; CAA 2018) or even further afield (Jackson 2019) and even where this is described as relatively angular (e.g. where excavated near Temple Sowerby; Zant 2009, 36) it has a very different appearance to what was uncovered at Chatburn. That being said, in cases where the topography meant that water-worn material was not easily available alternative types of gravel and other solutions to local problems do seem to have been used (e.g. Whitehead and Elsworth 2008). The shallow depth of deposit **102** below the topsoil does, however, suggest that it is perhaps not very old and may be material dumped on the site more recently; it was noticeable that the line of the earthwork to the east widened at this point, which is also observable in the Lidar data (see Plate 6 and Plate 7). The area of investigation is also next to a field boundary, a gate through which ran almost directly on to the presumed line of the road, and the field to the west was substantially disturbed as it has recently been used as a storage yard and historically was used by a cartwright (Margary 1957, 105) and had a small building in it (see *Section 3* above); this too is likely to have potentially led to damage to the Roman road or the dumping of material on and around it.

5.1.2 It was particularly noticeable that no road-side ditches were present, which might be expected associated alongside a Roman road (as seen in recent excavated examples in the wider region: CAA 2018; Jackson 2019). However, it is conceivable that these were not used at Chatburn due to the local topography; Margary describes it as running along a '*natural ridge*' (Margary 1957, 105). By comparison, at Kentmere, where the topography was very extreme, only a single ditch was found on one side of the road, although this appeared to have been deliberately filled with gravel and may have acted more like a soakaway (Whitehead and Elsworth 2008). It is possible that a ditch or ditches are present at Chatburn but are located at some distance from the line of the road and outside of the area investigated. It is also noteworthy that no evidence for a kerb of larger stones denoting the edge of the road was revealed, something that has been found to be present even in cases where cultivation has damaged much of the upper road surface (e.g. Zant 2009, 36).

5.1.3 The nature of the project, which meant that a full section was not cut through the complete depth of presumed line of the road, means that the results were always likely to be limited. However, the watching brief has revealed that the line of the Roman road, assuming that is indeed what the earthwork to the east of the area monitored represents, has been substantially denuded of any original surface and most of the underlying deposits. It is likely that this is case across the whole field and that it has been ploughed or been subject to cultivation. The presence of medieval pottery in a subsoil overlying the area of cobbles, which may represent part of the Roman road structure, potentially indicates that this activity was occurring as early as the medieval period. It is also likely that the enclosure of Downham Green (assuming the site fell within part of the enclosed area) in the 16<sup>th</sup> century would have increased the amount of improvement on what might have previously been unenclosed common. The presence of a horseshoe nail is potentially also of interest as, while it is likely to have derived from horses used in working the land, it could also suggest that the former Roman road was still in use into post-Roman period, something that has been seen at other excavated examples (e.g. Jackson 2019).

## 5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 The results of the watching brief were relatively inconclusive and have not established that the earthworks visible on the ground and mapped since at least the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century represent the remains of a Roman road. While this seems likely on the basis of a range of other evidence and that the earthwork running to the east of the area of investigation is the line of the Roman road, if it is, it has clearly been substantially damaged by agricultural activity from perhaps as early as the mid-11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century. While it seems likely that this is the case across the whole of the field, this could only be ascertained with any certainty through further fieldwork.

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## Appendix 1: Project Design

### Archaeological Watching Brief Cover Sheet and Project Design

The Site	
Site Name	Chatburn to Downham Bridleway
County	Lancashire
NGR	37748 44429 to 37829 44440

Client	
Client Name	Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership
Client's architect/agent	n/a

Planning	
Pre-planning?	No
Planning Application No.	3/2018/0754
Plans (e.g. conversion, extension, demolition)	Creation of Bridleway
Condition number	
Local Planning Authority	Ribble Valley Borough Council
Planning Archaeologist	Peter Iles, Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service
Groundworks subject to watching brief	Topsoil stripping and subsequent excavation for bridleway

Archiving	
Relevant Record Office(s)/Archive Centre(s)	Preston
Relevant HER	Lancashire
Relevant museum	Clitheroe Castle Museum or the Museum of Lancashire Life, Preston





## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Project Cover Sheet

1.1.1 All the details specific to this project are set out on the cover sheet of this project design. The project design itself covers all elements that are involved in an archaeological watching brief.

### 1.2 Greenlane Archaeology

1.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology is a private limited company based in Ulverston, Cumbria, and was established in 2005 (Company No. 05580819). Its directors, Jo Dawson and Daniel Elsworth, have worked continuously in commercial archaeology since 2000 and 1999 respectively, principally in the north of England and Scotland. Greenlane Archaeology is committed to a high standard of work, and abides by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct. The watching brief will be carried out according to the Standards and Guidance of the CIfA (CIfA 2014a).

### 1.3 Staff

1.3.1 **Dan Elsworth (MA (Hons), ACIfA)** graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1998 with an honours degree in Archaeology, and began working for the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, which became Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in 2001. Daniel ultimately became a project officer, and for over six and a half years worked on excavations and surveys, building investigations, desk-based assessments, and conservation and management plans. These have principally taken place in the North West, and Daniel has a particular interest in the archaeology of the area. He has managed many recent projects in Cumbria and Lancashire including several archaeological building recordings and watching briefs. He is very experienced at building recording, having carried out numerous such projects, mainly in Cumbria and Lancashire.

1.3.2 **Tom Mace (BA (Hons), MA, MifA)** has extensive experience of working on a variety of archaeological projects, especially watching briefs, but also excavations, evaluations, and building recordings, as well as report writing and illustration production. He joined Greenlane Archaeology in 2008 having worked for several previous companies including Archaeological Solutions and Oxford Archaeology North. He currently works on a broad range of projects and is also responsible for the production of all illustrations for reports and publications as well as some post-excavation assessments. He is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

1.3.3 **Jo Dawson (MA (Hons), ACIfA)** graduated from University of Glasgow in 2000 with a joint honours degree in Archaeology and Mathematics, and since then has worked continuously in commercial archaeology. Her professional career started at Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD), following which she worked for Headland Archaeology, in Edinburgh, and then Oxford Archaeology North, in Lancaster. During this time she has been involved in a range of different archaeological projects. She has extensive experience of both planning and pre-planning projects, and has undertaken assessments of all sizes. Since establishing Greenlane Archaeology in 2005 she has managed numerous projects in south Cumbria, including desk-based assessments and evaluations. She currently mainly carries out quality control of reports and post-excavation assessments. She is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

1.3.4 **Specialists:** Greenlane Archaeology have a range of outside specialists who are regularly engaged for finds and environmental work. Engagement is dependent upon availability, but specialists typically engaged are as follows:

Specialism	Specialist
Animal bone	Naomi Sewpaul
Ceramic building material, medieval and Roman	Phil Mills
Conservation	York Archaeological Trust
Clay tobacco pipe	Peter Davey (or Tom Mace in house for smaller assemblages)
Flots	Headland Archaeology, Edinburgh
Human bone	Malin Holst
Industrial residue	Gerry McDonnell
Medieval pottery	Chris Cumberpatch for assemblages from the North East of England
Miscellaneous find types, for example Roman glass and medieval and earlier metalwork	Chris Howard-Davis
Prehistoric pottery	Blaise Vyner
Radiocarbon dates	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
Roman pottery	Ruth Leary
Samian	Gwladys Monteil
X-ray of metal finds	York Archaeological Trust

## 2. Objectives

### 2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 Where an archaeological desk-based assessment has not already been carried out in a previous phase of work, the objective will be to examine early maps of the site and any other relevant primary and secondary sources in order to better understand its dating and development, and set it in its historic context.

### 2.2 Watching Brief

2.2.1 To carry out an archaeological watching brief on the relevant areas of groundworks, in order to identify any and record surviving any archaeological remains that are revealed.

### 2.3 Report

2.3.1 To produce a report detailing the results of the watching brief.

### 2.4 Archive

2.4.1 Produce a full archive of the results of the project.

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1 Desk-Based Assessment

3.1.1 Where an archaeological desk-based assessment has not already been carried out in a previous phase of work, an examination of various sources, particularly early maps and plans relating to the site, will be carried out, including other relevant primary and secondary sources. The sources that will be used as part of the desk-based assessment will include:

- **Record Office/Archive Centre:** the majority of original and secondary sources relating to the site are deposited in the relevant Record Office(s) or Archive Centre(s), as specified in the cover sheet of this project design. Of principal importance are early maps of the site. These will be examined in order to establish the development of the site, date of any structures present within it, and details of land use, in order to set the site in its historical, archaeological, and regional context. In addition, any details of the site's owners and occupiers will be acquired where available;
- **Online Resources:** where available, mapping such as Ordnance Survey maps and tithe maps will be consulted online;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** Greenlane Archaeology's office library includes maps, local histories, and unpublished primary and secondary sources. These will be consulted where relevant, in order to provide information about the history and archaeology of the site and the general area.

### 3.2 Watching Brief

3.2.1 The relevant area of groundworks will be monitored, with one archaeologist on site. If there are several areas being excavated concurrently it may be considered necessary to have more than one archaeologist on site.

3.2.2 The watching brief methodology will be as follows:

- All excavation will be carried out under supervision by staff from Greenlane Archaeology. Should the excavation technique utilised be deemed liable to have an adverse effect on any archaeological deposits that might be present an alternative method will be sought, where feasible;
- All deposits of archaeological significance will be examined by hand if possible in a stratigraphic manner, using shovels, mattocks, or trowels as appropriate for the scale;
- The position of any features, such as ditches, pits, or walls, will be recorded and where necessary these will be investigated in order to establish their full extent, date, and relationship to any other features. If possible, negative features such as ditches or pits will be examined by sample excavation, typically half of a pit or similar feature and approximately 10% of a linear feature;
- All recording of features will include detailed plans and sections at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 where practicable or sketches where it is not and photographs in both colour print and colour digital format. In addition, photographs will also be taken of the site before work begins and after completion;

- All deposits, drawings and photographs will be recorded on Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- All finds will be recovered during the watching brief for further assessment as far as is practically and safely possible. Should significant amounts of finds be encountered an appropriate sampling strategy will be devised;
- All faunal remains will also be recovered by hand during the watching brief as far as is practically and safely possible, but where it is considered likely that there is potential for the bones of fish or small mammals to be present appropriate volumes of samples will be taken for sieving;
- Deposits that are considered likely to have, for example, preserved environmental remains, industrial residues, and/or material suitable for scientific dating will be sampled. Bulk samples of between 20 and 60 litres in volume (or 100% of smaller features) where possible, depending on the size and potential of the deposit, will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (e.g. gullies, pits and ditches) and occupation deposits such as hearths and floors. An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of samples of suitable deposits by specialist sub-contractors, who will examine the potential for further analysis. All samples will be processed using methods appropriate to the preservation conditions and the remains present;
- Any articulated human remains discovered during the watching brief will be left *in situ*, and, if possible, covered. The client will be immediately informed as will the local coroner. Should it be considered necessary to remove the remains this will require a Home Office licence, under Section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857, which will be applied for should the need arise. Any loose human bones discovered during the watching brief will be retained and removed from site for specialist assessment before being returned in order to be reinterred;
- Any objects defined as 'treasure' by the Treasure Act of 1996 (HMSO 1996) will be immediately reported to the local coroner and securely stored off-site, or covered and protected on site if immediate removal is not possible;
- Should any significant archaeological deposits be encountered during the watching brief these will immediately be brought to the attention of the Planning Archaeologist so that the need for further work can be confirmed. Any additional work will be carried out following discussion with the Planning Archaeologist and subject to a new project design, and the ensuing costs will be agreed with the client. It is considered unlikely in this case that the excavation will be deep enough to reach the significant archaeological deposits encountered during a previous period of archaeological investigation.

### 3.3 Report

3.3.1 The results of the watching brief will be compiled into a report, which will provide a summary and details of any sources consulted. It will include the following sections:

- A front cover including the appropriate national grid reference (NGR);
- A concise non-technical summary of results, including the date the project was undertaken and by whom;
- Acknowledgements;
- Project Background;
- Methodology, including a description of the work undertaken;
- Results of the watching brief, including finds and samples;;
- Discussion of the results including phasing information;
- Bibliography;
- Illustrations at appropriate scales including:
  - a site location plan related to the national grid;
  - a plan showing the location and extent of the area subject to archaeological watching brief;
  - plans and sections of any features discovered during the watching brief;

- photographs of any features encountered during the watching brief;
- copies of selected historic maps and plans of the site relevant to the understanding of its development.

### 3.4 Archive

3.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of any deposits of archaeological interest and/or working shots identified during the watching brief, formed during the project, will be stored by Greenlane Archaeology until it is completed. Upon completion it will be deposited with the relevant Record Office or Archive Centre, as detailed on the cover sheet of this project design, together with a copy of the report. The archive will be compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the ClfA (ClfA 2014b). In addition details will be submitted to the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public.

3.4.2 A copy of the report will be provided to the client and a copy will be provided for the relevant Historic Environment Record, as detailed on the cover sheet of this project design.

## 4. Work timetable

4.1 Greenlane Archaeology will be available to commence the project on the date specified on the Order Form, or at another date convenient to the client. It is envisaged that the elements of the project will be carried out in the following order:

- **Task 1:** rapid desk-based assessment (where this has not already been carried out as a previous phase of archaeological work);
- **Task 2:** archaeological watching brief;
- **Task 3:** production of draft report including illustrations;
- **Task 4:** feedback on draft report, editing and production of final report;
- **Task 5:** finalisation and deposition of archive.

## 5. Other matters

### 5.1 Access and clearance

5.1.1 Access to the site will be organised through co-ordination with the client and/or their agent(s). It is assumed that the watching brief will be able to be undertaken without obstruction. Greenlane Archaeology reserves the right to increase the price if problems with access result in delays to the work.

### 5.2 Health and Safety

5.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology carries out risk assessments for all of its projects and abides by its internal health and safety policy and relevant legislation. Health and safety is always the foremost consideration in any decision-making process.

### 5.3 Insurance

5.3.1 Greenlane Archaeology has professional indemnity insurance to the value of **£1,000,000**. Details of this can be supplied if requested.

### 5.4 Environmental and Ethical Policy

5.4.1 Greenlane Archaeology has a strong commitment to environmentally and ethically sound working practices. Its office is supplied with 100% renewable energy by Good Energy, and uses ethical telephone and internet services supplied by the Phone Co-op. In addition, the company uses the services of The Co-operative Bank for ethical banking, Naturesave for environmentally-conscious insurance, and utilises public transport wherever possible. Greenlane Archaeology is also committed to using local businesses for services and materials, thus benefiting the local economy, reducing unnecessary transportation, and improving the sustainability of small and rural businesses.

## 6. Bibliography

ClfA, 2014a *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, Reading

ClfA, 2014b *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*, Reading

## Appendix 2: Summary Context List

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
100	Deposit	Soft dark brownish grey silt, very little stone, up to 0.3m thick	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Soft mottled orange brown silty clay up to 0.1m thick	Subsoil
102	Deposit	Dark grey gravel in sandy matrix covering an area of approximately 3-4m <sup>2</sup> and at least 0.2m thick	Road surface?
103	Deposit	Area of cobbles approximately 1m wide (north/south) by 1.5m long (east/west) comprised of rounded cobbles, a mix of volcanic and more local types	Cobbled surface
104	Deposit	Firm mid-orange silty or sandy clay, very little stone	Natural

## Appendix 3: Summary Finds List

Context	Type	Quantity	Description	Date range
100	Pottery	2	White earthenware refitting flatware rim fragments with blue transfer-printed pattern	19 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
100	Pottery	1	White salt-glazed stoneware hollowware body fragment with handle terminal	18 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
100	CBM	3	Fragments of drainage tile, the largest demonstrating a circular profile	19 <sup>th</sup> century
101	Pottery	2	<i>Gritty ware</i> – two fragments, both with a soft (it will mark paper), sandy, gritty fabric, with easily visible angular grit inclusions, including some quartz fragments (some 1-1.5mm in size); both fragments have oxidised orange-coloured surfaces and a reduced grey core; both fragments represent fairly thin-walled vessel fragments (5-5.5mm thick) and both are unglazed	Mid-11 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> century
101	Pottery	1	<i>Lightly gritted sandy ware</i> – body fragment of a thin-walled vessel with a uniform, soft, sandy fabric with few visible inclusions; the fabric varies in colour: it is mostly a light grey colour with some oxidised, light orange patches, although not without exception, perhaps occurring most commonly on the surfaces; the outer surface has a flaky light green olive-coloured glaze	12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> century
101	Fe	1	Corroded fragment but with shaft and flat head forming semi-circular in profile, most likely 'fiddle key' type horseshoe nail	11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> century