

Land adjacent to Ribchester Police Station,  
Preston New Road, Ribchester, Lancashire

NGR SD 6473 3547



## An Archaeological Evaluation

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## **CONTENTS**

SUMMARY	3
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	4
INTRODUCTION	5-6
PHYSICAL BACKGROUND	7
HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	8-11
AIMS & OBJECTIVES	12
METHODOLOGY	13-14
TRENCH STRATIGRAPHY	15-17
INTERPRETATION	18
CONCLUSION	19

## **APPENDICES**

## SUMMARY

A planning application for a new development on the land adjacent to Ribchester Police Station at NGR SD 6473 3547 was submitted to Lancashire County Council. The Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) advised that there was reason to believe that archaeological remains may exist on the site of planned development. As such LCAS requested that an evaluative watching brief be carried out on the site, prior to any development work. Archaeological Consultant Stephen John Baldwin was instructed by Mr David Hardman to carry out the archaeological evaluation. An archaeological specification was carried out over a period of 3 days (commencing 18th April 2011) in accordance with the LCAS's specification.

The aim of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the application area.

Based on the archaeological evidence from nearby sites, such as Bee Mill and Ribblesdale Mill, it was thought that the land adjacent to Ribchester Police Station may exhibit evidence of Roman activity. The aforementioned site of Ribblesdale Mill has produced timber buildings exhibiting military characteristics (Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000), whilst excavations at Bee Mill exposed Roman soil horizons (Neil 1999). The location of the site, adjacent to the suggested course of a Roman road '*parallel and south-west of the modern Preston Road*' (Neil 1999:17), also indicated that it may produce evidence of Roman activity.

Excavations within the 10m x 2m evaluation trench revealed a series of deposits, with a burnt feature dating to the modern period in the upper deposits, and a steel pipe located 1.06m below the modern ground surface, directly above the natural ground. The deposits above this pipe produced a range of pottery, including a single Roman piece. The south end of the trench also produced a variety of pottery, including a green glazed fragment, dated to the medieval period. Due to the variations in date between the pottery found within the same deposits, it was interpreted that these contexts had been redeposited, and so did not represent evidence of Roman or medieval activity on this site. The location of these contexts, overlying a modern pipeline, supports their late date.

It is possible that intact Roman and medieval deposits may survive either side of the 2011 evaluation trench away from the iron pipe disturbance.

The revised report has been updated in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework document published in July 2018 (NPPF 2018).

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I would like to thank David Hardman of New Build for commissioning and funding the archaeological evaluation; and for providing plant facilities and ground works. My grateful thanks go to the Lancashire County Archaeology Service Planning Officer (Archaeology), Doug Moir for guidance in advance of the project. I would also like to thank Jane Lloyd for digitising the original plans and sections and for producing the AutoCAD drawings used to illustrate this report. Thanks also go to Dave Cockrell (Architect) and Andrew Hale (Architect) of Cassidy and Ashton for providing site drawings, plans and topographical surveys. Finally to Lancashire Record Office for their assistance with the desk based assessment.

I would like to thank Mr Jonathan Renshaw MRICS of ebrdesigns.com Limited for commissioning the revised report

## INTRODUCTION

A planning application is to be submitted to Lancashire County Council in respect of a proposed new development on the land adjacent to the Police Station, Church Street, Ribchester at NGR SD 6473 3547. The Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) advised that there is reason to believe that archaeological remains may exist on the site of planned development. No previous excavations have been carried out on the site, however its location adjacent to a Roman road, leading from the site of the Roman fort of *Bremetanacum*, and the surrounding *vicus*, indicate that the site may be of high archaeological potential. A number of sites have been excavated in the near vicinity of the proposed site of development. The sites of Ribblesdale Mill (Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000) and Bee Mill (Neil 1999) are closest to the proposed site of development, and the former has been argued to have produced evidence of timber structures exhibiting military patterns, whilst excavations at Bee Mill exposed Roman soil horizons (Neil 1999). Around '110 excavations, evaluations, and watching briefs' had been carried out in Ribchester by 2003 (Philpott 2004: 3), which have produced evidence of activity dating from the Bronze Age onward, though with a definite peak in activity during the Roman period. As such LCAS recommended that an archaeological field evaluation be undertaken so that archaeological implications of the proposed developments can be adequately assessed and an appropriate mitigation strategy formulated if necessary.

Archaeological Consultant Stephen John Baldwin was instructed by Mr David Hardman to carry out the archaeological evaluation. An archaeological evaluation was carried out over a period of 3 days (commencing 18th April 2011) in accordance with the LCAS specification.

In November 2019, Archaeological Consultant Stephen John Baldwin was instructed by Mr Jonathan Renshaw MRICS of ebrdesigns.com Limited to carry out a revision of the 2011 archaeological evaluation and revise the previous report resulting in the production of this January 2020 report.

The revised report has been updated in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework document published in July 2018 (NPPF 2018) the relevant paragraphs include:

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

190. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the

setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

191. Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect of, or damage to, a heritage asset, the deteriorated state of the heritage asset should not be taken into account in any decision.

192. In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

*a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*

*b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and*

*c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.*

197. The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

198. Local planning authorities should not permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.

199. Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

200. Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.

202. Local planning authorities should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies.

## **PHYSICAL BACKGROUND**

### **Location**

Ribchester lies '60m OD' (Neil 1999: 10) at SD649353 on the north bank of the River Ribble, at the point of a meander. The settlement is located 5km south of Longridge Fell, and to the north of Anglezarke Moor, both of which form the western- most extremities of the Pennines. Ribchester itself lies within the Ribble Valley, which drains into the Irish Sea to the west (Neil 1999: 10). The site is located on the land adjacent to Ribchester Police Station on Church Street, at NGR SD 6473 3547, around 500m NW of Ribchester village centre.

### **Geology**

Ribchester lies on bedrock of Sabden Shales, part of the Millstone Grit Group. The Shales are separated from the Worston Grit Group to the north (of which Longridge Fell is a part) by the Upper Bowland Shale formation (Neil 1999:10). The Sabden Shales comprise 'clayey rocks, shales and mudstones' (North Pennines Archaeology Limited 2009:11).

Boulder clay deposits, reaching depths of 50m, cover the Sabden Shale bedrock (OAN 2005: 6). These deposits appear as 'reddish brown sandy clay with grey mottling, containing beds of laminated clay, sands and gravel' (Neil 1999:10). The site under development is located at the northern limit of a series of river terrace deposits laid down by the River Ribble. These terrace deposits are being eroded by the Ribble, which has led to the loss of around a third of the Roman fort (OAN 2005: 6).

## HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### Prehistory

Although Ribchester was primarily a Roman settlement, evidence of earlier Bronze Age activity has been found in the area. A circular Bronze Age ditch was discovered in 1987, enclosing five cremation urn burials, dated to around 1300BC (Neil 1999: 11). Evidence of Bronze Age agricultural activity on the banks of the River Ribble has also been suggested based on the results of soil analysis (Oxford Archaeology North 2005: 6).

### Roman

Roman remains in Ribchester are much more abundant. The settlement itself is thought to date to the Roman period (Baines 1870:104), when it was known as *Bremetanacum* (Buxton & Howard 2000). A Roman temple, dated to AD 214 was discovered in the town, adjacent to the River Ribble in 1811 (Baines 1870:105). More recently evidence has come to light which suggests that Ribchester may have begun as a fort, during the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (Neil 1999:11). Evidence of a civilian settlement in the form of a *vicus* has also been found at Ribchester.

#### *Fort*

Several different phases of Ribchester's Roman fort have been identified. The earliest phases indicate that it was initially a timber structure, radiocarbon dated to 72AD (The Conservation Studio 2005:8). Modifications were made between 82- 86AD, and the timber fort was finally demolished between 117- 125AD. A stone structure replaced the timber one in c. 198- 206 AD. This was abandoned in the latter half of the fourth century AD. The fort was located directly adjacent to the River Ribble, however evidence of Roman timber structures with a 'military pattern' (Neil 1999: 12) have been found opposite the site of Bee Mill, just to the south-east of the site under development. Opposite the site of Bee Mill other Roman timber buildings, dated to 125 AD, have been recovered. It has been suggested that these too exhibited a military pattern, and have tentatively been interpreted as a veteran soldiers settlement (Neil 1999: 12), although this is far from certain.

#### *Vicus*

The *vicus* is the name given to the outbuildings and civilian structures which grew up around a Roman fort. At Ribchester these structures included granaries and a bath house (The Conservation Studio 2005:4). Recently a large fragment of a Roman altar was recovered during excavations at 8A Greenside, Ribchester (Burnham *et al.*2002: 303). A Roman cremation cemetery has also been recovered at excavations carried out at 49 Church Street (Neil 1999: 13).

Five Roman roads intersected at Ribchester, running to the north, south, east, west and northwest. The site under development is located near to the course of one of these Roman roads, which has been suggested to have run parallel to the south- west of Church Street (Neil 1999:12). Previously the roads ran to Carlisle, Manchester, Skipton, Kirkham and Lancaster (Neil 1999:12). It has been argued that the Manchester to Ribchester road may have been 'the main Roman conquest route into Brigantia' (Rogers 1996: 365), thus suggesting the important position Ribchester held during the Roman period.

### **Medieval Period and the Manor of Ribchester**

The nature of Ribchester's medieval settlement is not well known, however there have been isolated finds dating to this period. The finds, including a Saxon coin, eight sherds of early medieval pottery, a bronze boss dating to the eighth century and two cross fragments pre-dating the Norman period, all indicate that there may have been Early Medieval settlement in the area (Neil 1999: 13; The Conservation Studio 2005:9).

Ribchester lies within the parish of Ribchester, within the hundred of Blackburn (Baines 1870:104). A small settlement was recorded in the Domesday book at 'Ribelcastre'. No church was mentioned in the 1086 Domesday entry, however one is known to have been in existence in Ribchester by 1193 (Neil 1999:9). Edmund de Lacye held the manor of Ribchester in 1258, and by 1337 it had passed to Henry de Cliderhow, from whom it passed to the Muntun (Monton) family (Baines 1870:107). The Monton's passed Ribchester to the Houhgtons during the early fifteenth century. The Houghtons held the manor until the late sixteenth century, when it passed to the Sherburnes, and then by marriage to the Weld family, who sold it to Joseph Fenton in 1829. The Fenton family continued to own Ribchester throughout the nineteenth century (Baines 1870:107).

### **Post Medieval to Modern**

Records dating to the Post- Medieval period indicate that Ribchester was a fairly poor village, geographically 'centred on the area north of the church' (The Conservation Studio 2005:9). The main occupations during the seventeenth century were flax spinning and weaving. By the mid- eighteenth century mills, such as Bee Mill, were being constructed in Ribchester, and thus provided means of employment for those living in the village (Neil 1999: 14).

With regards to archaeological evidence there have been a number of isolated finds recovered in the vicinity of the site under development, however no finds have come from the site itself (Isles pers.comm 2011). Historical evidence, in the form of tithe records and census', is much more abundant.

The Tithe schedule indicates that by 1838 the plot of land on Church Street under development was owned by Thomas George Malmsley, and inhabited by the Late Edward Dewhurst. It is likely that the Late Edward Dewhurst, recorded on the tithe schedule, passed his land onto his family after his death. The 1841 census indicates that two John Dewhursts (one aged 50, and one aged 60) each owned a property on Church Street. A Lawrence Dewhurst, aged 65, also occupied a property along this street. However it is unclear which lands were owned by which Dewhurst (HO107/505/12). Richard Riding was recorded as occupying a property on Church Street, in accordance with the Tithe Schedule.

The 1851 (HO 2268/288-340) census records a William Dewhurst, aged 32, as owner of a house in the village of Ribchester. An Alexander Dewhurst is also recorded as head of a household at age 14, and a Thomas Dewhurst is also recorded as owner of a different property in the village at age 46. Edward Dewhurst is also recorded as having lived within the village in 1841. It is likely that these Dewhursts inherited the properties from their relatives (the Dewhursts mentioned in the 1841 census). As none of these properties are recorded as on Church Street, they merely say 'Village', it is impossible to say which one may have been the land under development on Church Street.

The 1861 census (RG 9/3142/60-160) shows that Charles Dewhurst and his family lived at 25 Church Street, with Lawrence Dewhurst as a lodger (aged 88). William Dewhurst, aged 38, lived at 38 Church Street. A number of other Dewhursts also lived in Ribchester, although not on Church Street.

The 1871 census (RG 10/4216/79) showed that William Dewhurst, aged 45, lived at 13 Church Street, with his wife Mary Anne and family. He was recorded as a farmer of 28 acres. The previous census recorded that a William Dewhurst lived at 38 Church Street, however by 1871 William Pendleton lived at this address with his family. Charles Dewhurst, aged 52, occupied 24 Church Street with his wife Agnes and their family. Thomas Burton lived at 15 Church Street, recorded in the 1861 census as occupied by Charles Dewhurst.

By the time the 1891 (RG 12/3446/82) census was recorded Charles Dewhurst, now a widower, occupied 31 Church Street. A cotton worker, James Dewhurst occupied number 38 Church Street, and another James Dewhurst occupied number 46. The second was a farmer. Toward the end of Church Street at which the site under discussion is located, there were a number of structures. The Engine Houses (on the opposite side of Church Street) were occupied by Thomas Bells, James Smith and John Yates, and New House, directly opposite the site, was owned by James Smithes and his family. The numbered houses on Church Street had reached 70 by this point.

By the time the 1901 census (RG 13/3960/1-30) had been published there were 77 occupied structures on Church Street. As the lowest numbers began around the rectory, where Church Street reaches the River Ribble, it follows that the higher numbers may be the furthest structures away from the river, along Church Street. This is supported by the last address (77 Church Street) being shortly followed on the census by New House (directly opposite the site of development). As such those higher numbers on Church Street may represent the properties adjacent to the land under discussion. The 1895 OS map indicates that around 7 structures were located down what is now known as Manor Avenue. According to the 1901 census number 69 Church Street was occupied by Alex Eccles, number 70 by Richard Molyeaux, 71 by William Sailsbury, 72 by Mathew Molyeaux, 73 by James Eccles, 74 by Elizabeth Fletcher (75 and 76 are absent) and 77 Church Street by Margaret Hesmondhalgh. All of these individuals appeared to have been employed as weavers, possibly in the nearby Bee Mill.

### **Map Regression**

The site under development is shown as a roughly triangular area of land from the first 1847 OS map. New House is marked on this earliest OS map, opposite the site. No other structures are marked in the vicinity. The 1894 OS map records that some changes had been made, most notably the additions of Bee Mill and Ribbleston Mill, to the south east of the site, on Church Street. The 1913 OS map records little change since 1894. However by the time the 1932 1:2500 OS map was published a small rectangular structure had been built on the site of the proposed development. This structure was located in the west corner of the site, and appears to have been oriented east- west. The 1967 1:2500 OS map, published 35 years later, indicates that three other structures had been constructed, to the south and south east of the one recorded on the 1932 map. All of these structures appeared to be small, and are unlikely to have been houses based on their size, however their function is unclear.

**Recent archaeological interventions within Ribchester village (post-2011)**

Land to the rear of the Black Bull Inn, Church St, Ribchester was monitored by North Pennines Archaeology in 2014. Also in 2014 NPA undertook an archaeological watching brief near to the Roman Fort Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) site. In 2015 Minerva Heritage undertook an archaeological watching brief at Ribchester Playing Fields. An archaeological watching brief carried out by Oxford Archaeology North at 29 Church St found no deposits of archaeological significance. In June 2018 North Star Archaeology undertook archaeological watching brief on land at 42 Sarmatian Fold, Ribchester.

In 2019 the Department of Archaeology, University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) concluded an archaeological research and student training excavation within the Roman Fort.

## AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aim of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the application area. It is understood that the information gained will allow the Planning Authority to make a reasonable and informed decision on the planning application with regard to whether archaeological deposits should be preserved *in-situ*, or may more appropriately be recorded archaeologically prior to destruction.

The objectives of the evaluation as laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) were as follows:

- To record archaeological deposits
- To establish, wherever possible, the depth of any archaeological remains
- To establish, wherever possible, the condition of any archaeological remains
- To recover artefactual material, especially any that can be used for dating purposes

In 2011 the overall objective stipulated by LCAS was to:

*“examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results, and disseminate them”*  
(IFA 2008 revised).

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ definition of an evaluation/ excavation is to:

*“examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results, and disseminate them”* (CIFA 2015 revised).

## METHODOLOGY

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the objectives set by the LCAS Project Brief, and with the contractors Project Design (**Appendices 1 and 1a**)

A field evaluation on the land adjacent to Ribchester Police Station, Church Street, began on 18.04.2011. A single 10m x 2m trench was opened on the eastern side of the site by a mechanical excavator using a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket. No other evaluation trenches were opened on the site due to the restrictions imposed by a protected tree in the north- west corner of the site. The position of the trench is shown in **figure 1**. The evaluation trench was placed in accordance with the location of the proposed development in order that the area is appropriately sampled for archaeological evidence.

The trench aimed to evaluate archaeological remains on the site proposed for development, and was carried out following a desk based assessment which informed of any potential archaeological features on the site.

The mechanical excavator removed material from the evaluation trench in c. 150mm spits under the supervision of the archaeological contractors over a period of three days. Machine excavation ensued until any suspected archaeology was encountered, at which point machine excavation was stopped briefly in order to manually excavate and record any archaeology. Once the archaeology had been recorded machine excavations resumed. The evaluation trench was excavated in this manner down to natural clay at a depth of 1.20m below the modern ground surface.

The following procedures were adopted during the manual excavation and recording of archaeological features:

- Manual excavations of archaeological contexts were carried out by hand using a trowel and hoe.
- The stratigraphy of all contexts within the evaluation trench were recorded even when they did not appear to relate to archaeological features.
- All archaeological features were recorded using pro- forma based on the standard National Museums Liverpool context recording sheets.
- All archaeological features were drawn in plan and section at scales of 1:50 and 1:20.
- Any archaeological finds were labelled and recorded on the site finds register.
- A discriminating metal detector operated by experienced personnel was used to scan the spoil heaps for non- ferrous metal objects.

- Archaeological deposits were levelled to Ordnance Datum using a temporary bench mark and GPS levels provided by the developer.
- A photographic record of the evaluation was also prepared using digital images from a Fuji 6 mega pixel model camera and a Canon 10 mega pixel model camera. Monochrome photographs were taken using a Canon EOS 500, 35mm SLR Camera. The photographic record includes images illustrating archaeological features and general views of the trench during excavation.
- Following excavation the trench was backfilled and the surface levelled and firmed.

## TRENCH STRATIGRAPHY

### Trench Description

A 10.0m x 2.0m evaluation trench oriented north- south was opened by mechanical excavator using a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket. The trench was located toward the east side of the proposed development site in order to avoid the area surrounding a protected tree, in the North West corner of the site (Plate 1).

A thin layer of greyish brown sandy topsoil (01) measuring 0.10m in depth at the north end and 0.20m at the southern end was removed to reveal a light brownish yellow sandy deposit (02), originally interpreted as a natural subsoil. Further excavations revealed this not to be the case. The deposit (02) was recorded at a depth of 0.20m at the northern end and 0.60m at the southern end of the trench.

### Burnt Area

A burnt area (03) located in a cut [07] was recorded toward the north-west end of the trench. This was originally recorded as the remains of an amorphous burnt timber root system in the sandy deposit (02), measuring 0.85m x 0.40m x 0.07m. It was initially observed as a thin line of organic material around the edges of the deposit (Plate 2). Further investigations revealed the full deposit to be of very dark grey organic burnt/ charred wood (Plate 3). The deposit comprised large amounts of small burnt twigs, some of which retained their shape. Inclusions of burnt chicken bones were also recorded. Small finds of an iron nail <03> and copper wire <04> were recorded, dating the burnt area to the modern period. The cut [07] in which the burnt context (03) was recorded was irregularly shaped, with a rounded base, gradually sloping sides, and angular edges. It cut into the mid brown sandy silt deposit (08) below (Plate 4). It also appeared to cut the sandy deposit (02) although (02) also appeared to overlie the cut [07] and fill (03), thus indicating it post- dated this burnt area (03) and the cut [07]. The sandy silt deposit (08) below this feature also had flecks of orange brown sandy silt with <5% rounded pebble inclusions (40mmx 20mmx 25mm) and measured 0.33m in depth. The top of the deposit was 0.34m below the surface, and measured 2.0m in width and 2.5m in length. A piece of Roman samian pottery <5> was recovered from this context at the north end of trench (9.3 N/1.2E). However it is possible that the pottery was redeposited as it was recovered from a context which also had modern domestic waste (e.g glass). The pottery was found at depth of 0.55m below the modern ground surface.

### Tree Bole

Adjacent to the burnt area (03), on the north- east side of the trench was an area of loosely compacted dark brown silty clay with c. 2% inclusions of rounded pebbles measuring 10mm x 10mm x 10mm. The deposit measured c. 1.0m x 1.3m, and was interpreted as an oval shaped tree bole (04), within the sandy deposit (02). As such this deposit (04) also overlay the sandy silt (08), recorded beneath the burnt area (03). The sandy silt (08) was removed to reveal a layer of

compacted reddish orange sandy clay (12), which measured 1.2m x 2.0m at a depth of 0.60m below the surface. A single piece of coarse Medieval pot (s.f. no. <06>) was recovered from this context at 6.7N/0.86E at a depth of 0.70m.

### **Pipe**

A linear northeast- southwest feature which measured 2.64m in length and 0.25m in width was recorded within the sandy clay (12). The cut [13] which defined this feature was observed at a depth of 0.80m, and had parallel sides. The cut [13] had been made into the sandy clay (12) and was filled by a pipe (15) and filling deposit (14). The pipe (15) was steel cast and recorded at depth of 1.06m below the modern ground surface. The surrounding fill (14) comprised light mid-brown loosely compacted silty clay with mottles of orange brown silty clay. Around the pipe (15) the deposit had been stained rusty- orange. The deposit filled cut [13] and measured 90mm on both side of the pipe (15) and 25mm (filling the cut) above the pipe (Plate 8).

Directly below the pipe (15) and sandy clay (12), natural light greyish blue gritty clay sand silt (11) was observed. Excavations ceased in this area at this point as it was not certain whether the pipe (15) was still in use.

### **Sondage (see plate 6)**

This natural light greyish blue gritty clay sand silt (11) had also been observed at the base of the sondage test pit 1.10m below the surface (Plate 6). This test pit measured 1.70m N-S and 0.75m E-W, and was located mid way along the west side of the trench. The initial aim of the sondage was to ascertain the nature of cut [05]. This cut [05] appeared to truncate the sandy deposit (02) however further investigation, facilitated by the sondage, revealed that what had appeared to be a cut was an artificial line left by excavations with the mechanical digger at 5.7N. Below the sandy deposit (02) a dark brown clayey silt (06) (initially thought to be the fill of [05]), with lighter reddish brown flecks was revealed. This deposit (06) produced inclusions of modern blue and white, and patterned pottery.

Below this clayey silt (06), recorded toward the south end of the sondage, was a dark brownish grey clayey sand (10) with inclusions of sub- rounded pebbles (c. 200x 100x 100mm). This lay directly on top of the natural (11).

### **Southern end of trench (see plates 3 and 7)**

The natural light greyish blue gritty clay sand silt (11) was also observed at the south end of the trench, below a series of deposits (Plate 7). Initially, after the removal of the topsoil (01) and sandy deposit (02) a 0.7m thick layer of loosely compacted orange sandy clay (18) was observed in the south west corner of the trench, from a depth of 0.50m below the modern ground surface. A rectangular cut [17] intruded into this deposit (18) at the east side. The same cut also intruded into the dark brownish grey clayey sand (10) on the south east corner of the site. The cut [17]

was rectangular and oriented NE- SW measuring 0.48m x 1.17m. It was observed at a depth of 0.92m below the modern ground surface. The cut [17] had been filled by a dark grey blue very loosely compacted organic material (16) comprised degraded leaves and twigs. The south edge of the deposit (16) was defined by a very dark 10mm wide strip of organic material. The deposit was located at the south end of the trench, and extended into the east section. A large piece of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century pottery <7> was recovered from the base of this deposit, just above the sandy clay (18). This sandy clay (18) lay directly above the natural light greyish blue gritty clay sand (11).

Excavations continued through the natural light greyish blue gritty clay sand (11) at the south end of the trench in order to check that this was, indeed, natural. This investigation revealed a layer of clean compacted orange yellow clay with grey blue mottles (19). The type of clay and lack of finds from this level supported the conclusion that the excavations had reached natural ground.

## INTERPRETATION

Large areas of the site appear to comprise of made-up ground dating to a relatively modern period. The range of pottery (from Roman, medieval to modern) found within these deposits indicates that they may have been redeposited. The range of modern pottery recovered from the site also suggests that the area may have been used relatively recently for dumping domestic waste. The modern pipe (15) supports this late date, as none of the deposits recorded in the north end of the trench, with the exception of (12), appeared to have been cut for the insertion of the pipe, thus leading to the conclusion that they were laid down after the steel pipe.

The loosely compacted orange sandy clay deposit (18) observed in the south area of the trench, 0.50m below the surface, may be the same as the compacted reddish orange sandy clay (12) observed at the north end of the trench at a depth of 0.60m below the surface. Both of these deposits lay above the natural grit (11). Beneath the grit (11) the compacted orange yellow clay with grey blue mottles (19) has been interpreted as natural, and appears similar in description to the natural 'reddish brown sandy clay with grey mottling' (Neil 1999:10), noted as the natural boulder clay.

No archaeological features of any antiquity were recorded during this evaluation. The evaluation did not expose any remains which may have related to the four small structures shown on the 1967 Ordnance Survey map. It is possible that these structures were just outside the area of excavation, or that their foundations were so insubstantial that they have left no archaeological trace.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the archaeological evidence from nearby sites, such as Bee Mill and Ribblesdale Mill, it was thought that the land adjacent to Ribchester Police Station may exhibit evidence of Roman activity. The aforementioned site of Ribblesdale Mill has produced timber buildings exhibiting military characteristics (Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000), whilst excavations at Bee Mill exposed Roman soil horizons (Neil 1999). The location of the site, adjacent to the suggested course of a Roman road '*parallel and south-west of the modern Preston Road*' (Neil 1999:17), also indicated that it may produce evidence of Roman activity. The centre of modern Ribchester has produced abundant evidence of Roman activity, most notably the Roman fort of *Bremetanacum*, and the surrounding *vicus*, or civilian settlement.

The purpose of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the application area. It was expected that these archaeological features and deposits may have been Roman, due to the evidence from the surrounding area.

Excavations within the 10m x 2m evaluation trench revealed a series of deposits, with a burnt feature dating to the modern period in the upper deposits, and an iron or steel pipe located 1.06m below the modern ground surface, directly above the natural ground. The deposits above this pipe produced a range of pottery, including a single Roman piece. The southern end of the trench also produced a variety of pottery, including a green glazed fragment, dated to the Medieval period. Due to the variations in date between the pottery found within the same deposits, it was interpreted that these contexts had been redeposited, and so did not represent direct evidence of Roman or Medieval activity on the subject site. The location of these contexts, overlying a modern pipeline, supports their late date.

It is possible that intact Roman and medieval deposits may survive either side of the 2011 evaluation trench away from the iron pipe disturbance. It is also possible that the 2011 finds could have derived from truncated deposits on the subject site, being redeposited in the iron pipe trench backfill.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that within the proposed development site an archaeological watching brief is maintained during any excavation of areas either side of the 2011 evaluation trench.

## **REPORT & ARCHIVING**

This report has been produced in accordance with the archaeological brief and project design (see **appendix 1 and 1a**).

An archive has been prepared in accordance with the recommendations set out in English Heritage's *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed. 1991. In addition to working notes and scale drawings this includes a full photographic record comprising 35mm black and white negatives and digital photographs. The archive will be deposited with the Lancashire County Archive Service, Preston, in a format to be agreed with the Archives Officer and within a timescale to be agreed with the Archaeological Officer at Lancashire County Hall, Preston. A copy of the evaluation report will be deposited with the Client, the Lancashire Historic Environment Record at Preston, and the Ribchester Museum Library. A copy of the non-technical summary will be sent to the OASIS website.

### **Contents of the Site Archive**

#### **Drawings on dimensionally stable media:**

Plan of excavation area

Drawing no...

Sketch plans and sections

1) Photographs

Monochrome and Digital (See catalogue at **appendix x**)

2) Context Sheets (See index at **appendix 2**)

3) Client report

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## APPENDIX 1

LCAS RESPONSE TO  
RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

GFT



John Macholic  
 Building and Development Control  
 Manager  
 Ribbles Valley Borough Council  
 Council Offices  
 Church Walk  
 CLITHEROE  
 BB7 2RA

DIRECTOR OF  
 DEVELOPMENT

11 FEB 2011

FOR THE  
 ATTENTION OF

Phone: (01772) 531734  
 Fax:  
 Email: douglas.moir@lancashire.gov.uk  
 Your ref:  
 Our ref: 3/A1 PJB/ASP/DM  
 Date: 11 February 2011

For the attention of Graeme Thorpe

Dear Mr Macholic

**PROPOSED: Erection of 1no. residential unit. Preston Road, Ribchester (3/2011/0049)**

Ribchester is the site of a Roman fort (Lancashire Historic Environment Record PRN 4210) with an associated *vicus* or civilian settlement, parts of which are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Ancient Monument No. 14255). The area of the *vicus* seems to correspond fairly closely with the modern settlement limits, with archaeological deposits having been discovered in excavations and evaluations as far out as the area now covered by Sarmation Fold (PRN 15109), formerly the Ribblesdale Mill site. The cemeteries associated with the settlement have not yet been located. Under Roman law, it was forbidden to bury the dead within the limits of a settlement and cemeteries were usually established along the roads leading away from the edges of towns and villages. These could extend for considerable distances outside the settlement boundaries.

Preston Road follows the line of one of the main roads from the fort, to Lancaster (PRN 26147 & Margary 704). The site of the proposed house is just beyond the supposed limits of the settlement. It is possible therefore that there may be cemetery deposits relating to the Roman period in the area of the proposed development. Such remains would be considered to be of national importance. I would therefore recommend that, prior to the determination of the application, an archaeological evaluation of the site be carried out to determine if any such deposits do exist. The results of the evaluation will allow a property informed decision to be made.

This is in accordance with PPS5 Policy HE6.1 – Where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation, and Saved Local Plan Policy ENV14.

Jo Turton • Executive Director for the Environment  
 Environment & Public Protection Services • Environment Directorate  
 PO Box 100 • County Hall • Preston • PR1 0LD



## APPENDIX 1a

### Written Scheme of Investigation for a 'Strip and Record' Programme of Archaeological Works Required by a Planning Proposal

**Prepared on behalf of Mr David Hardman, Newbuild** by Stephen John Baldwin, Land Use & Heritage Consultant, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Offices, B1B, Towngate Works, Dark Lane, Mawdesley, Lancashire L40 2QU

**Location:** Land adjacent to Ribchester Police Station, Church Street, Ribchester, Lancashire

**Proposal:** The erection of 1 residential unit

#### 1. Introduction

Planning permission has been applied for by Mr Hardman for the erection of 1 residential unit on land adjacent to Ribchester Police Station on Preston Road, Ribchester (Ribble Valley Borough Council reference no. 3/2011/0049).

Because the site of the present vacant plot lies within 1 kilometre of the village of Ribchester, a known Roman Fort and civilian settlement (Lancashire HER PRN No. 4210) Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) recommends that: prior to development a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) should be submitted to, and approved by, the Local Planning Authority detailing measures to be taken to ensure that historical and archaeological interests are properly recorded and protected.

Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) has recommended that a programme of archaeological works should be undertaken within the development area to: *“examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results, and disseminate them” (IFA 2008 revised)*. This written scheme of investigation has been prepared by Stephen John Baldwin, Land Use & Heritage Consultant to help the applicant provide information on the archaeological resource which may, or may not, underlie the subject site prior to Ribble Valley Borough Council determining a planning application .

This is in accordance with PPS5 Policy HE6.1 – where an application site includes, or is considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, Local Planning Authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk based assessment (dba), and where the dba is

insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation should be carried out as Saved Local Plan Policy ENV 14.

## 2. Site Location and Description

2.1 The development site is located c. 500m NW of Ribchester village centre at NGR SD 6473 3547. The development site is shown edged in red on the map enclosed as **Fig.1**. In order to comply with the RVBC planning condition it is intended to carry out an archaeological field evaluation within the development area. The trench proposal plan can be seen appended at Figure 2.

## 3. Planning Background

- 3.1 A proposal (Planning Ref: 3/2011/0049) was submitted to RVBC for 1 residential unit on land adjacent to Ribchester Police Station, Preston Road, Ribchester NGR SD 6473 3547 ac. The site is situated within an area of known archaeological interest and, as such, the site should be appropriately excavated and the remains recorded in accordance with the saved Ribble Valley Borough Council Local Plan.
- 3.2 A planning condition requires the developer to provide a WSI specifying the measures to be taken to ensure that any archaeological or historical interests are properly recorded and protected in accordance with Local Planning Authority requirements.

## 4. Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Ribchester is located in the Ribble Valley flood plain and stands on the north bank of the river near an ancient crossing point. The village had seen human activity in the middle Bronze Age and possible settlement into the Iron Age as demonstrated by archaeological finds uncovered during excavations in 1977 and 1980 (Hodge and Ridge 1997, 1).
- 4.2 A Roman fort lies on the south-west edge of the village (LHER PRN 4210) with remains surviving under the present St. Wilfred's Church. Excavations in 1990 by Lancaster University Archaeology Unit (currently, Oxford Archaeology North) suggested that a timber fort was established in the early AD70s during the governorship of Petillius Cerialis (AD71-74).
- 4.3 The area of the '*vicus*' or civilian settlement associated with the fort seems to correspond with the modern settlement limits with archaeological deposits

discovered in excavations and evaluations as far out as the area near the site of the former Ribblesdale Mill. The cemeteries associated with the settlement have not yet been located (*D.Moir, LCAS, written communication*). Under Roman law, it was forbidden to bury the dead within the limits of a settlement and cemeteries were usually placed along the roads away from the edges of the towns and villages. Preston Road follows the line of one of the main roads leading out of the fort to Lancaster 9PRN 26147 & Margary 704). The subject site is just beyond the supposed limits of the settlement and it is possible that a Roman cemetery may lie within, or close to, the development site. Such remains if found would be considered to be of national importance.

## 5. Aim of the Evaluation

5.1 The aim of the evaluation is to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the application area. The information gained will allow the Planning Authority to make a reasonable and informed decision on the planning application with regard to whether archaeological deposits should be preserved in-situ, or may more appropriately be recorded archaeologically prior to destruction (whether this be a summary record from a salvage excavation or watching brief, or a detailed record from full open area excavation).

## 6.4 Documentary research

Prior to the commencement of *fieldwork*, the contractor's researcher will visit the Lancashire HER, in order to gain an overview of the archaeological/historical background of the site and its environs. Appropriate aerial photographs and historic maps as available at either the HER or the Lancashire Record Office, Preston, would also be examined. The results of this exercise would inform the whole project.

## 7.0 Trenching Methodology

### 7.1 Trench Size and Placement

The work would involve the excavation of one trench 10m long x 2m wide which will be machine-opened. If requested by LCAS, the client would also include a contingency allowance of 4 square metres. The use of the contingency will depend upon the results obtained in the initial trial trenching. The use of the contingency will be at the decision of LCAS, whose decision will be issued in writing, if necessary in retrospect after site discussions. **The location of the evaluation trench will be agreed with LCAS but is generally to be in accordance with the enclosed plan (Fig 2).**

### 7.2 Method of Excavation

The trial trench will be opened under direct archaeological supervision and any hardcore, topsoil and recent overburden would be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon. This will be done in successive level spits of a **maximum** 0.2m

thickness, by the use of an appropriate machine using a wide toothless ditching blade. **Under no circumstances would the machine be used to cut arbitrary trenches down to natural deposits.** The machine would be halted if significant archaeological deposits are encountered. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon (pre-19<sup>th</sup> century) would be exposed by the machine, and then cleaned by hand and inspected for features before being dug by hand.

### 7.3 Method of Recording

The trench will be recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. The stratigraphy of the trial trench will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. No archaeological deposits would be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable in achieving the objectives of this evaluation. A 50% sample of any features identified will be half-sectioned and the depth of archaeological deposits assessed. Modern artefacts would be noted but not retained (18<sup>th</sup>-century material and earlier will be retained).

### 7.4 Use of Metal Detectors on Site

7.4.1 Spoil heaps will be scanned for non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making this discrimination, operated by an experienced metal detector user (if necessary, operating under the supervision of the contracting archaeologist). Modern artefacts are to be noted but not retained (18<sup>th</sup>-century material and earlier should be retained.)

7.4.2 If a non-professional archaeologist is to be used to carry out the metal-detecting, a formal agreement of their position as a sub-contractor working under direction must be agreed in advance of their use on site. This formal agreement will apply whether they are paid or not.

### 7.5 Environmental Sampling Strategy

Appropriate deposits would be sampled for retrieval and assessment of the preservation conditions and potential for analysis of all bioarchaeological remains. A sampling strategy and the sampling methods would follow the procedures outlined by the English Heritage's Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2002/01). Provision would be made for a specialist to visit the site and discuss the sampling strategy, if necessary.

### 7.6 Conservation Strategy

A conservation strategy would be developed in collaboration with a recognised laboratory. All finds would be assessed in order to recover information that will contribute to an understanding of their deterioration and hence preservation potential, as well as identifying potential for further investigation. Furthermore, all finds would be stabilised and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the receiving museum. LCAS as a guiding principle recommend that only artefacts of a "displayable" quality would warrant full conservation, but metalwork and coinage from stratified contexts

would be expected to be X-rayed if necessary, and conservation costs should also be included as a contingency.

### **7.7 Post-excavation & Reporting**

The actual areas of trenching and any features of possible archaeological concern noted within the trench, should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, summary scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report on the material. The site grid is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on the largest scale map available of the area (either 1:2500 or 1:1250).

### **7.8 Location of Services**

The archaeological contractor and plant operator will locate any drainage pipes, service pipes, cables *etc.* which may cross any of the trench lines, and take the necessary measures to avoid disturbing such services.

### **7.9 Human Remains**

Any human remains that are discovered would initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. If removal is necessary, this would comply with the relevant legislation, any Home Office and local environmental health regulations and English Heritage's and The Church of England's *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (2005) where relevant. Ethical guidance for burial grounds of non-Christian faiths should be sought from the appropriate religious authorities.

### **7.10 Treasure Act**

The terms of the Treasure Act 1996 would be followed with regard to any finds that might fall within its purview. Any finds would be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures as laid down in the "Code of Practice". Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

## **8. Excavation Archives Deposition.**

8.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor would contact the relevant museum archaeological curator to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. The archaeological contractor would confirm agreement for deposition in writing; this correspondence is to be copied to LCAS.

8.2 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with the Local Museum.

8.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet the Museum's requirements with regard to the preparation of excavation archives for deposition.

8.4 The museums officer would be notified in writing of the commencement of fieldwork at the same time as LCAS.

## **9. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries**

9.1 Should there be unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, more detailed recording than is appropriate within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor would urgently contact LCAS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter with the developer.

## **10. Post-Excavation Work**

### **10.1 After Completion of Fieldwork**

On completion of the fieldwork, any samples taken would be processed and any finds cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. A fully indexed field archive would be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographic negatives and a complete set of labelled photographic prints. An index to the field archive would be deposited with LCAS (preferably as an appendix in the report). The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive. In the absence of this agreement the field archive (less finds) is to be deposited with LCAS.

### **10.2 Report Format and Content**

A report would be produced, which would include background information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of results produced. It is not envisaged that the report is likely to be published, but it would be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers. Location plans would be produced at a scale which enables easy site identification and which depicts the full extent of the site investigated. Site plans would be at an appropriate scale showing the trench layout (as dug), features located and, where possible, predicted archaeological deposits. Upon completion of the evaluation trench all sections containing archaeological features will be drawn. Section drawings (at a minimum scale of 1:20) would include heights O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) would include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features. Where no archaeological deposits are encountered at least one long section of the trench would be drawn. Artefact analysis is to include the production of a descriptive catalogue with finds critical for dating and interpretation illustrated. Details of the style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but would include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, and as an appendix, a copy of this approved WSI.

### **10.3 Archive**

10.3.1 An archive will be prepared in accordance with the recommendations set out in English Heritage's *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed. 1991. In addition to working notes and scale drawings this includes a full photographic record comprising 35mm black and white negatives and contact prints and digital photographs. The archive will be deposited with the Lancashire County Archive Service, Preston, in a format to be agreed with the Archives Officer and within a timescale to be agreed with the County Archaeological Officer. A copy of the evaluation report will be deposited with the Client, the Lancashire Historic Environment Record at Preston, and the Ribchester Museum Library. A copy of the non-technical summary will be sent to the OASIS website.

### **10.4 Publicity**

If the project is to be publicised in any way (including media releases, publications etc.), then it is expected that LCAS will be given the opportunity to consider whether it wishes its collaborative role to be acknowledged, and if so, the form of words used will be at LCAS's discretion.

### **10.5 Consideration of Appropriate Mitigation Strategy**

The report would not give a judgement on whether preservation or further investigation is considered appropriate, but would provide an interpretation of results, placing them in a local and regional, and if appropriate, national context. However, the client may wish to separately commission the contractor's view as to an appropriate treatment of the resource identified.

### **10.6 Report Deposition**

A copy of the report as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file on CD-ROM is to be supplied to the Historic Environment Record held by LCAS within a period of two months following completion of fieldwork unless specialist reports are awaited. In the latter case a revised date should be agreed with LCAS. A copy of any digital plans and surveys produced would be included on the CD, preferably as georeferenced ESRI shapefiles. Georeferenced AutoCad DWG or DXF files may also be acceptable. If acceptable to the client, the report will be supplied on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months, unless otherwise agreed in writing).

## **11. Staffing**

11.1 The evaluation project will be undertaken by Stephen John Baldwin, Land Use and Heritage Consultant, based in West Lancashire at: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Offices, Towngate Works, Dark Lane, Mawdesley, Lancashire L40 2QU. He will be assisted on site by Sally Evans BA (Hons) who also carried out the documentary research and desk- based assessment prior to the site work.

## **12. Valid period of specification**

12.1 This specification is valid for a period of one year from date of issue. After that time it may need to be revised to take into account new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

### **Sources consulted**

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LCAS 2011, Letter to RVBC from Douglas Moir re: planning application

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## Appendix 2

## CONTEXT INDEX

Site: Land adjacent to Police Station, Church Street, Ribchester

Site Code: RIB1- 11

Context No.	Description	Trench/Date
01	Layer. Greyish brown sandy topsoil measuring 0.10m in depth at the north end, and 0.20m in depth at the south end. Observed covering the whole 10.0 m x 2.0m trench.	Trench 1 18.04.11
02	Deposit. Light brownish yellow sandy deposit, originally interpreted as natural subsoil, further excavations revealed this not to be the case. Recorded at a depth of 0.20m at the north end and 0.60m at the south end of the trench.	Trench 1 18.04.11
03	Deposit. Originally recorded as the remains of an amorphous burnt timber root system in (02), toward the north-west side of the trench, measuring 0.85m x 0.40m x 0.07m. It was initially observed as a thin line of organic material around the edges of the deposit. Further investigations revealed the full deposit to be of very dark grey organic burnt/ charred wood. The deposit comprised large amounts of small burnt twigs, some of which retained their shape. Inclusions of burnt chicken bones were also recorded. Small finds of an iron nail <03> and copper wire <04> were recorded. Deposit was beneath (02) and filled cut [07].	Trench 1 18.04.11
04	Layer. Loosely compacted dark brown silty clay with c. 2% inclusions of rounded pebbles measuring 10mm x 10mm x10mm located on the east side of the trench at the north end. Deposit measured c. 1.0m x 1.3m, and was interpreted as an oval shaped tree bole.	Trench 1 18.04.11

05	Cut. This context was originally thought to be a cut, through the sandy clay (02) filled by (06), however further investigation revealed that what had appeared to be a cut was an artificial line left by excavations with the mechanical digger at 5.7N.	Trench 1 18.04.11
06	Layer. Dark brown clayey silt with lighter reddish brown flecks. Inclusions of modern blue and white, and patterned pottery were recorded. Originally thought to be fill of (05), further investigation revealed the deposit to be a layer beneath the sandy clay (02).	Trench 1 18.04.11
07	Cut. Irregularly shaped- cut with rounded base, gradually sloping sides, and angular edges. Measured 0.85m x 0.40m x 0.07m, and cut into (08) and (02) although (02) also appeared to overlie the cut [07] and fill (03).	Trench 1 18.04.11
08	Deposit. Mid brown sandy silt with flecks of orange brown sandy silt with <5% rounded pebble inclusions (40mmx 20mmx 25mm). Measured 0.33m in depth. The top of the deposit was 0.34m below the surface, and measured 2.0m in width as excavated and 2.5m in length, at the north end of the trench. Cut by [07]	Trench 1 18.04.11
09	VOID	Trench 1 18.04.11
10	Deposit. Dark brownish grey clayey sand with inclusions of sub-rounded pebbles (c. 200x 100x 100mm) observed in the middle of the trench, below (02). Also seen in section below (06).	Trench 1 19.04.11
11	Natural. Light greyish blue gritty clay sand silt observed at the base of the sondage test pit 1.10m below the surface, located below (10).	Trench 1 19.04.11

12	Deposit. Compacted reddish orange sandy clay observed at the north end of the trench measuring 1.2m x 2.0m within limits of excavation, at a depth of 0.60m below the surface. Below (08) and above natural (11)	Trench 1 21.04.11
13	Cut. Construction cut for pipe (15). The cut measured 2.64m x 0.25m, at a depth of 0.80m below the surface; it had cut into (12), and lay directly above the natural (11). It was oriented NE- SW, and had parallel sides. Filled by (15) and (14).	Trench 1 21.04.11
14	Deposit. Light mid- brown loosely compacted silty clay with mottles of orange brown silty clay. Around the pipe (15) the deposit had been stained rusty- orange. The deposit filled cut [13] and measured 90mm on either side of the pipe (15), and 25mm (filling the cut) above the pipe. It measured 2.64m in length and was located 0.80m below the modern ground surface.	Trench 1 21.04.11
15	Masonry. Steel cast pipe, measured 2.64m in length (as excavated) and 0.08m in width, with a NE- SW orientation. The pipe was recorded at depth of 1.06m below the modern ground surface.	Trench 1 21.04.11
16	Deposit. Dark grey blue very loosely compacted organic material comprised degraded leaves and twigs measuring 0.48m x 1.17m, located within rectangular cut [17], oriented NE-SW. The deposit was located 0.92m below the modern ground surface. The south edge of the deposit was defined by a very dark 10mm wide strip of organic material. The deposit was located at the south end of the trench, and extended into the east section. A large piece of 18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery <7> was recovered from the base of this deposit.	Trench 1 21.04.11
17	Cut. Rectangular cut measuring 0.48m x 1.17m, filled by (16) and cut into (10) and (18). Observed at depth of 0.92m below the modern ground surface.	Trench 1 21.04.11

18	Deposit. Loosely compacted orange sandy clay observed in the south west corner of the trench, from a depth of 0.50m below the modern ground surface. Cut by [17].	Trench 1 21.04.11
19	Natural. Natural compacted orange yellow clay with grey blue mottles, below the natural grit (11). This was observed at the south end of the trench at a depth of 1.20m below modern ground surface.	Trench 1 21.04.11

## PHOTO REGISTER

Site: Land adjacent to Police Station, Church Street, Ribchester

Site Code: RIB1- 11

Date	Monochrome Film No/ Frame No:	Digital File Name	Description	Scale	View- from	Photographer
21.04.11	22		Pipe [13], (14), (15)		South facing north	S.E
21.04.11	21	Sally's camera 10	South end of trench showing natural grit following evaluation excavation. Natural grit (11) and clay (19) in foreground.	2m	South facing north	S.E
21.04.11	20	Sally's camera 11	South end of trench showing natural grit following evaluation excavation. Natural grit (11) and clay (19) in foreground.	2m	South facing north	S.E
21.04.11		Sally's camera 1	North end of trench showing (08) and (12)			S.E
21.04.11		Sally's camera 2	North end of trench showing (08) and (12)			S.E
21.04.11		Sally's camera 3	Section at north end of trench showing (01), (02) and (08)			S.E
21.04.11		Sally's camera 4	Pipe (15) in trench		West facing east	S.E

21.04.11		Sally's camera 5	Pipe (15) in trench		West facing east	S.E
21.04.11		Sally's camera 6	Close up showing pipe cut [13] into west facing section		West facing east	S.E
21.04.11		Sally's camera 7	Close up showing pipe cut [13] into west facing section		West facing east	S.E
21.04.11		Sally's camera 8	Close up of exposed pipe (15)		West facing east	S.E
21.04.11		Sally's camera 9	Organic fill (16) and cut [17] with orange sandy clay (18) in foreground.		West facing east	S.E

## Appendix 3 – Colour Plates



Plate 1. Evaluation trench looking north



Plate 2. Evaluation trench looking south



Plate 3. Southern-half of trench



Plate 4. Evaluation trench looking south



Plate 5. Area of modern burning



Plate 6. Showing sondage with natural (11) at the bottom



Plate 7. Southern-end of trench after excavation



Plate 8. Modern cast iron or steel water pipe cut into base of excavation trench

## Appendix 4

## SMALL FINDS REGISTER

Site: Land adjacent to Police Station, Church Street, Ribchester

Site Code: RIB1- 11

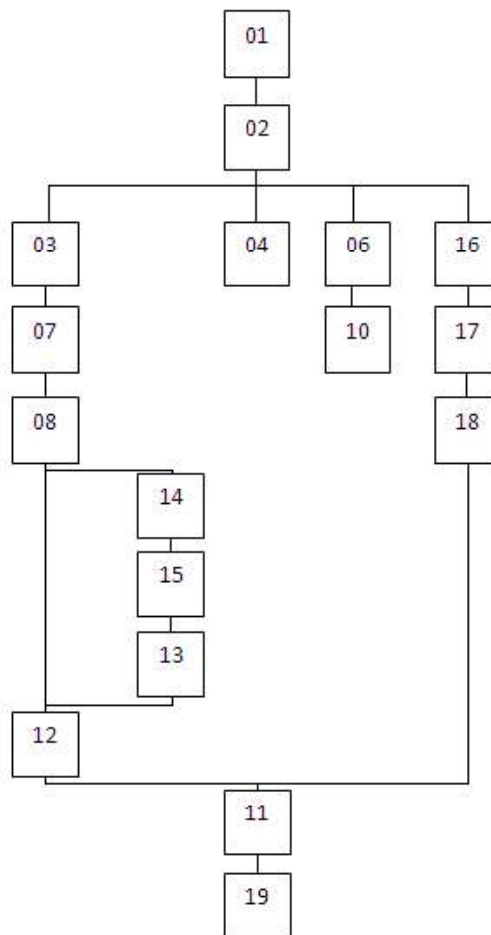
Small find no.	Description	Context
1	Pot. Medieval Pottery (?) from south end of trench (1N/1.8E)	
2	Slag and Industrial Waste (9N/0.13E)	02
3	Iron nail found at interface between (03) and (02), (8.8N/0.20E)	03/02
4	Copper wire	03
5	Pot. Roman (?) at north end of trench (9.3 N/1.2E). Possibly redeposited as it was recovered from a context which also had modern domestic waste (e.g glass). Found at depth of 0.55m below modern ground surface. Position marked on plan 1.	08
6	Pot. Reddish clayey pot (6.7N/0.86E) found at depth of 0.70m. Position marked on plan 2.	12
7	Pot. Large piece of 18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> century pot from base of (16), with dark glaze on inside.	16

Appendix 5

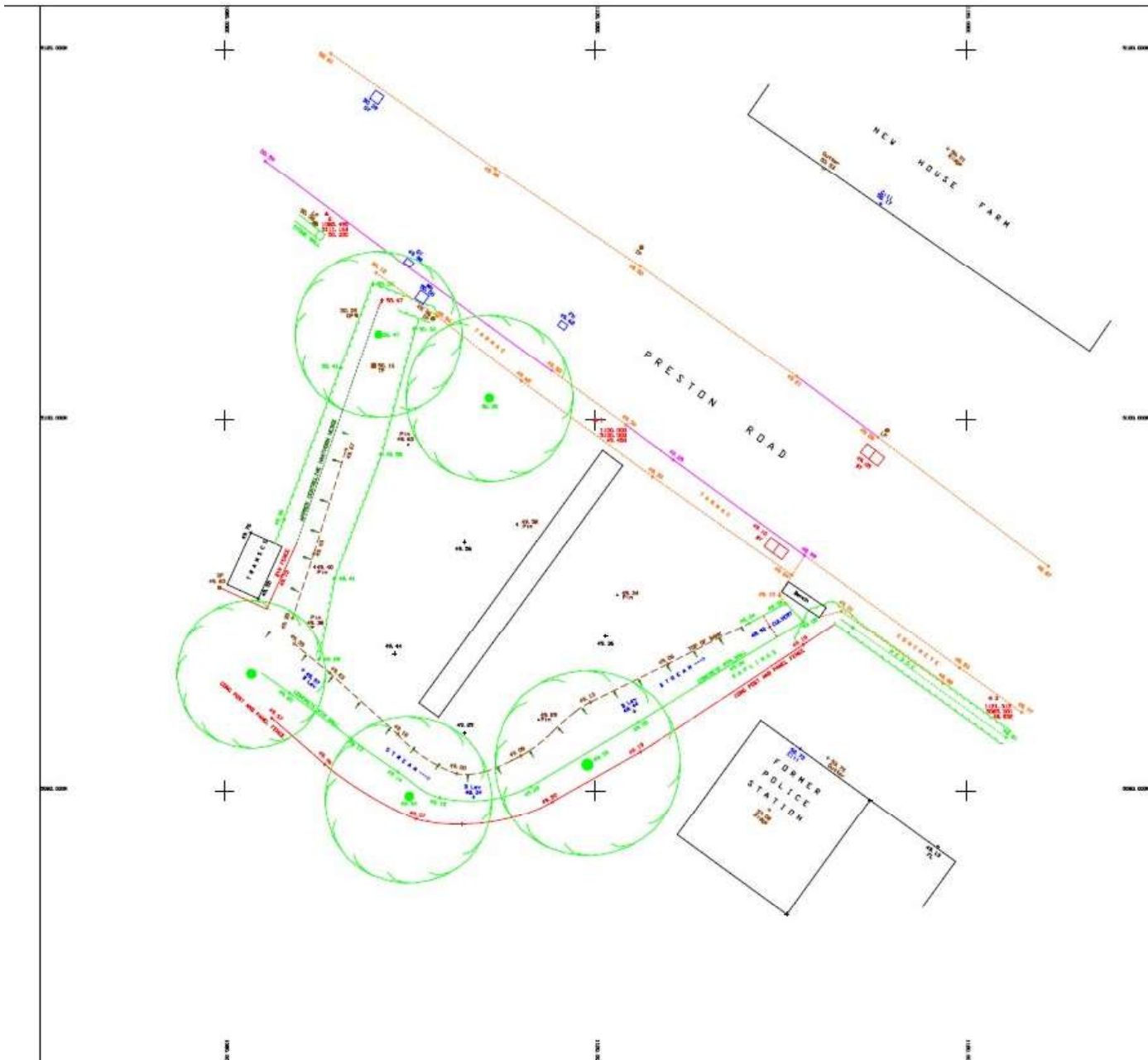
**HARRIS MATRIX**

Site: Land adjacent to Police Station, Church Street, Ribchester

Site Code: RIB1- 11

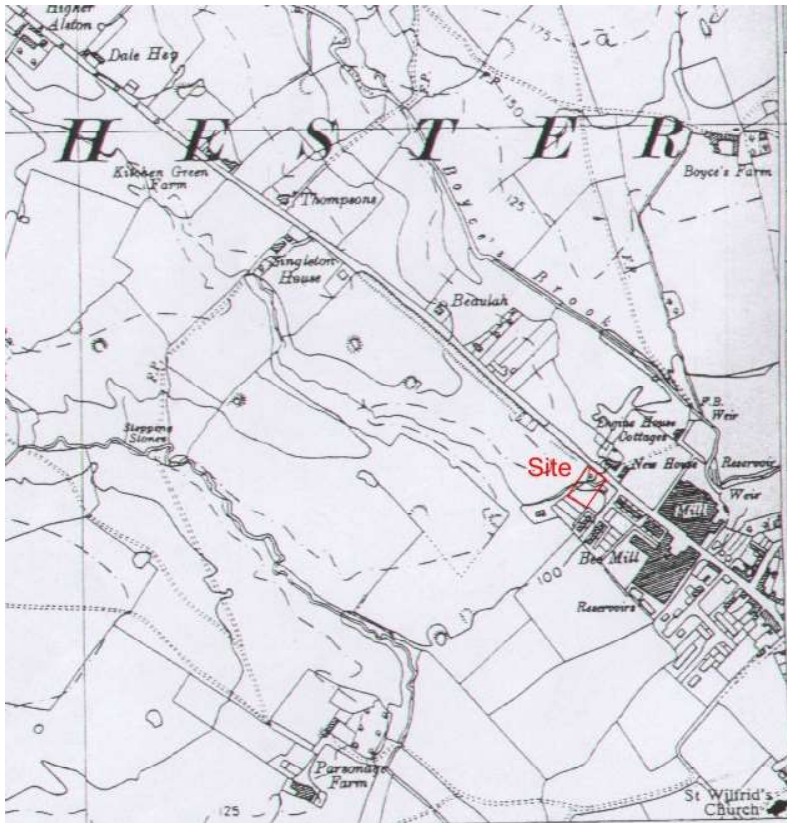


Appendix 6 – Location Map, Plans and Sections



SITE & TRENCH LOCATION



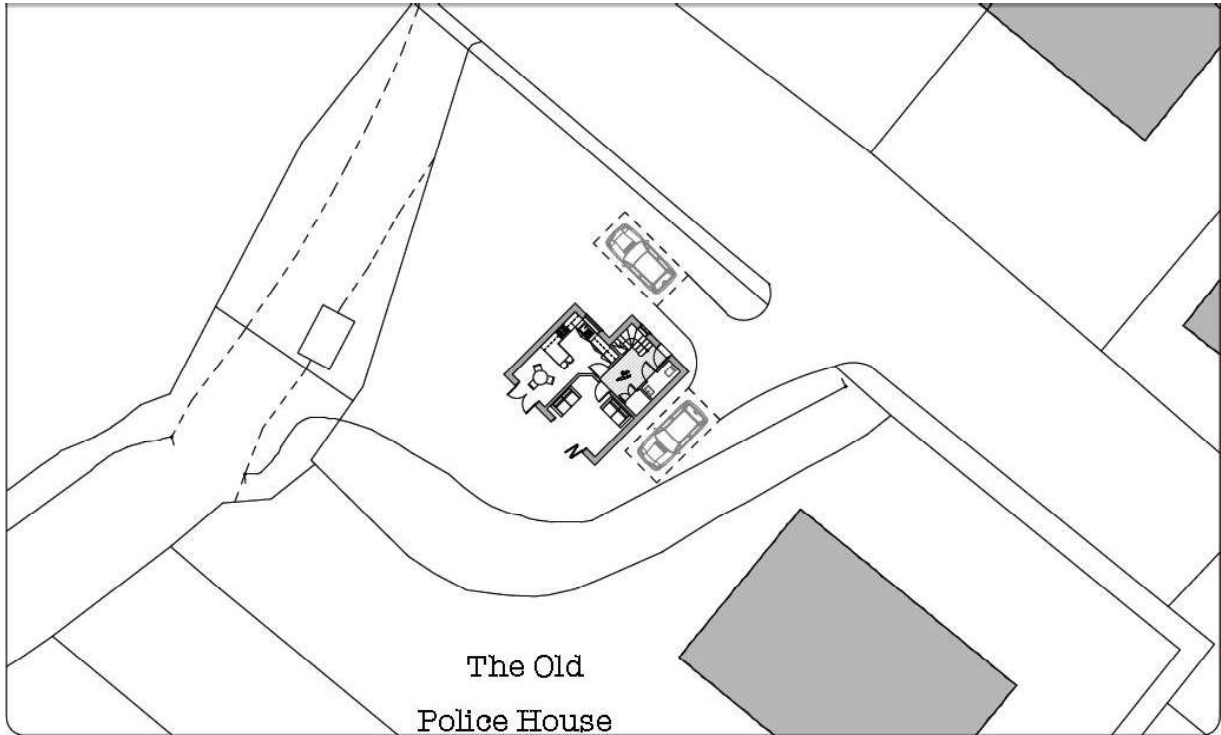


Historic OS Mapping 1895

↑N



Appendix 7 – Latest site plan showing proposed new building.



Proposed new build on Preston Road, Ribchester.    ↑N

