

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND AT CROW TREES FARM, CROW TREES BROW, CHATBURN,
LANCASHIRE**

Planning References: 3/20022/0966 and 0967
NGR: SD 76780 43955
AAL Site Code: CCTB 23
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-522582



Report prepared for Pringle Homes

By
Allen Archaeology Ltd
Report Number AAL2024019

February 2024



Allenarchaeology



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Cover image: General shot of the site, looking south

Executive Summary

- Pringle Homes commissioned Allen Archaeology Ltd (AAL) to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Crow Trees Farm, Crow Trees Brow, Chatburn, Lancashire, as a condition of planning consent for residential dwellings.
- The proposed development is within the vicinity of a prehistoric cairn and Roman road. The site is shown on historic mapping to be in strip fields in the 19th century, potentially the remains of a medieval town field, whilst Crow Trees Farmhouse is a late 17th century Grade II Listed Building.
- The evaluation entailed the excavation of 7no 50m long by 2m wide trenches. Only Trench 1 exposed any archaeology, an undated boundary ditch which formed the western border for the Crow Tree Farm property and is currently defined by trees.
- The trial trenching has demonstrated a negligible archaeological potential for the proposed development area.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Pringle Homes commissioned Allen Archaeology Ltd (AAL) to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Crow Trees Farm, Crow Trees Brow, Chatburn, Lancashire, as a condition of planning consent for residential dwellings.
- 1.2 The excavation, recording and reporting conformed to current national standards and guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 'Standard for archaeological field evaluation' (2023a) and 'Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation' (2023b), the Historic England document 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (2015) and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2023).
- 1.3 The archive will be compiled in line with 'Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation' (Brown 2011), 'Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives' (CIfA 2020) and local guidance in 'Guidance for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives' (LCCMS 2020). The project has no finds so does not require an accession number. The archive will be deposited with Lancashire Records Office within 12 months of the completion of the report, whilst the digital archive will be deposited with Archaeology Data Service (ADS) in accordance with guidance issued by ADS.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Chatburn is a village, civil parish and electoral ward in the Ribble Valley, East Lancashire. It is about 4km to the northeast of Clitheroe. Crow Trees Farm is located on the south side of Crow Trees Brow and is centred on NGR SD 76780 43955 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Chatburn Limestone Formation, a Limestone sedimentary bedrock formed during the Carboniferous period. No superficial deposits are recorded for the site (https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/?_ga=2.20119416.1539165628.1706779894-2134630569.1706779894).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 Planning permission was granted for 'erection of 39 affordable residential units with access, parking and landscaping. Conversion and extension of former dairy outbuilding to open-market residential unit and refurbishment/modernisation of Crow Trees Farmhouse (open-market dwelling) including reconfiguration, rooflights, side window and extension of two outbuildings to form garages.' (Planning reference: 3/2022/0966).
- 3.2 The Planning Officer (Archaeology) for Lancashire County Council requested that:

'No new development, site clearance/preparation, or demolition shall commence until the applicant or their agent or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority. The programme of works shall include an initial phase of field investigation to include trial trenching, as well as the compilation of a report on the work undertaken and the results obtained. These works should aim to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains and their nature, date, extent and significance. If remains are

encountered then a subsequent phase of impact mitigation (which may include preservation in situ by the appropriate design or siting of new roads, structures and buildings, formal excavation of remains or other actions) and a phase of appropriate analysis, reporting and publication shall be developed, and a further written scheme of investigation submitted to and agreed with the local planning authority before development commences. Copies of all reports should be deposited directly with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record. All archaeological works shall be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced professional archaeological contractor and comply with the standards and guidance set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed details.

Reason: To ensure and safeguard the investigation and recording of matters of archaeological/historical importance associated with the development.'

- 3.3 Application for Listed Building Consent for refurbishment/modernisation of Crow Trees Farmhouse including internal reconfiguration, rooflights, side window and extension of outbuilding to form garage(Planning reference: 3/2022/0967) has also been submitted and a separate report covering this Level 2 and 3 survey will be produced.
- 3.4 The approach adopted is consistent with guidelines set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the chapter of relevance being 'Section 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities 2023).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A Heritage Statement (Graeme Ives 2022) accompanied the planning application and the Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Team have noted that:

The proposed new build development is located in fields to the south of the farm, in an area shown on the OS 1847 mapping to have been former strip-fields extending beyond the railway to the parish boundary (approximately on the A59 line). These are subdivided by a northeast-southwest 'back lane' seen on that mapping and now represented by a boundary between The Royds (house) and Heys Brook, but it is not clear if this is an original feature of the field system as several strip boundaries continue past it. On balance it seems more probable that this 'lane' is a later insertion. The layout of the fields would suggest that they represent a medieval town field, with the boundaries shown representing fossilized agricultural strips, although they do not have the definitive 'reversed S' shape of classic medieval strips. A similar area of 'strip-fields', also possibly representing another town field can be seen to the northeast of the village. Both areas of strip-fields are noted in the Historic Environment Record and Historic Landscape Characterisation project as 'Ancient Enclosure'.

'As noted in the HS, it would appear that these fields have been open and in agricultural use for a considerable time. As such it seems possible that they could retain buried evidence of prehistoric or Roman activity in this vicinity, suggested by the cairn, Roman road and findspots recorded in the HER. Any such remains will have been impacted by ploughing (there are some suggestions of ridge and furrow earthworks on the OS aerial photography), but there may still be features surviving below ground.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The purpose of the evaluation was to gather sufficient information for the Planning Officer (Archaeology) for Lancashire County Council to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resource, specifically with the aim to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.
- 5.2 The evaluation aimed to provide an adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains were potentially threatened. These results were used to determine the character, economic evidence, date (including absolute dating), condition and significance of the archaeological resource in order to determine the nature and extent of any additional mitigation works that may be required.

6.0 Methodology

- 6.1 The trial trenching strategy comprised 7no. trenches measuring 50m long by 2m wide (equating to 4% of the development area), the locations of which were agreed with the Planning Officer (Archaeology) for Lancashire County Council prior to commencement of the evaluation (Figure 2).
- 6.2 The evaluation trenches were accurately located using a survey grade GPS receiving RTK corrections. Machine excavation was monitored at all times by an experienced field archaeologist from AAL.
- 6.3 In each trench all non-archaeological deposits were removed by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket in spits of 0.1m thickness until the first archaeological horizon or natural geology was reached, whichever was encountered first.
- 6.4 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique identifier (context number) consisting of three digits and accorded a written description, e.g., topsoil 101, with numbers in square brackets for cut features, e.g., ditch [106]. A summary of these is included in Appendix 1.
- 6.5 All excavated sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy and all photographs incorporated scales and directional arrow, as appropriate.
- 6.6 Fieldwork was undertaken on the 15th to 19th January 2024, supervised by Tobin Rayner of AAL.

7.0 Results

- 7.1 The general stratigraphic sequence was consistent throughout the site (Plate 1) and is recorded in Appendix 1. The earliest deposit was a natural geology of mid-yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments. This was sealed by a mid-brown silty clay with occasional small stones, possibly a former ploughsoil, between 0.06m and 0.17m thick. Above this was a dark greyish-brown silty sandy clay topsoil, which varied between 0.20 and 0.26m in thickness.



Plate 1: Trench 4, general stratigraphic sequence, looking southeast, scale 1m

Trench 1 (Figure 3)

- 7.2 A single linear feature was exposed in Trench 1. This ditch, [106] was 2.11m wide and 0.38m deep and had concave side and base (Plates 2 - 4). It contained two deposits, an initial silting of mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional small stones, 105, and a mid-grey silty clay upper fill, 104. No finds were recovered from either fill.



Plate 2: Trench 1 looking northeast, scales 1m



Plate 3: Trench 1, boundary ditch [106], looking south-southeast, scale 1m



Plate 4: Trench 1, section of boundary ditch [106], looking south, scale 1m

8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 8.1 Only a single feature was recorded, a linear ditch in Trench 1. This is shown on historic maps and survives as a tree lined boundary (See plate 2).

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

- 9.1 The trial trenching methodology was appropriate for the nature and extent of the proposed development and has identified a negligible archaeological potential within the proposed development area.

10.0 Acknowledgements

- 10.1 AAL would like to thank Pringle Homes for the commission.

11.0 References

AAL, 2023, *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation: Crow Trees Brow, Chatburn, Lancashire*, Unpublished document

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Appendix 1: Context Summary List

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
101	Layer	A dark greyish-brown silty sandy clay			0.21	Topsoil
102	Layer	A mid-brown silty clay with occasional small stones			0.13	Former plough soil?
103	Layer	A mid-yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments			0.06>	Natural geology
104	Fill	Mid grey silty clay deposit			0.25	Natural silting in ditch [106]
105	Fill	mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional small stones			0.13	Natural silting in ditch [106]
106	Cut	Linear feature with concave side and base	2>	2.11	0.38	Boundary ditch

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
201	Layer	A dark greyish-brown silty sandy clay			0.21	Topsoil
202	Layer	A mid-brown silty clay with occasional small stones			0.13	Former plough soil?
203	Layer	A mid-yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments			0.07>	Natural geology

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
301	Layer	A dark greyish-brown silty sandy clay			0.21	Topsoil
302	Layer	A mid-brown silty clay with occasional small stones			0.06	Former plough soil?
303	Layer	A mid-yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments			0.08>	Natural geology

Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
401	Layer	A dark greyish-brown silty sandy clay			0.23	Topsoil
402	Layer	A mid-brown silty clay with occasional small stones			0.16	Former plough soil?
403	Layer	A mid-yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments			0.08>	Natural geology

Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
501	Layer	A dark greyish-brown silty sandy clay			0.26	Topsoil
502	Layer	A mid-brown silty clay with occasional small stones			0.13	Former plough soil?
503	Layer	A mid-yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments			0.05>	Natural geology

Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
601	Layer	A dark greyish-brown silty sandy clay			0.20	Topsoil
602	Layer	A mid-brown silty clay with occasional small stones			0.17	Former plough soil?
603	Layer	A mid-yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments			0.07>	Natural geology

Trench 7

Context	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
701	Layer	A dark greyish-brown silty sandy clay			0.20	Topsoil
702	Layer	A mid-brown silty clay with occasional small stones			0.12	Former plough soil?
703	Layer	A mid-yellowish brown silty clay with frequent limestone fragments			0.06>	Natural geology

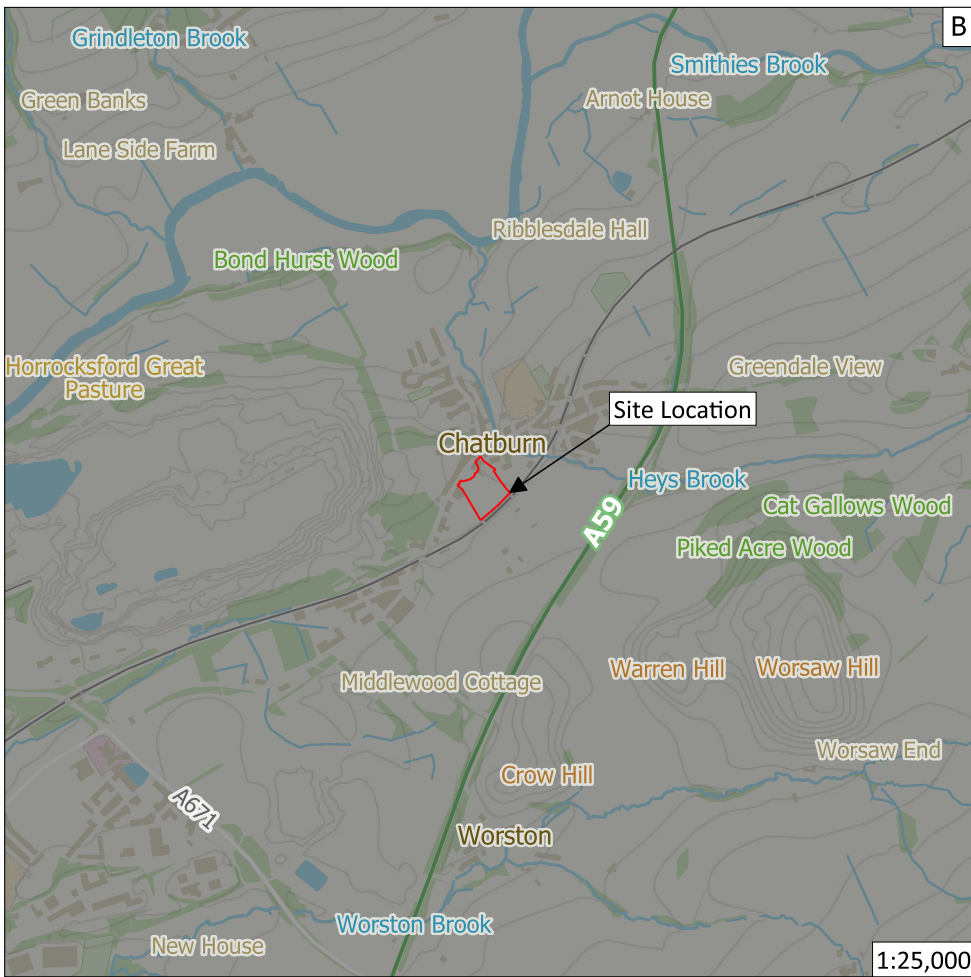
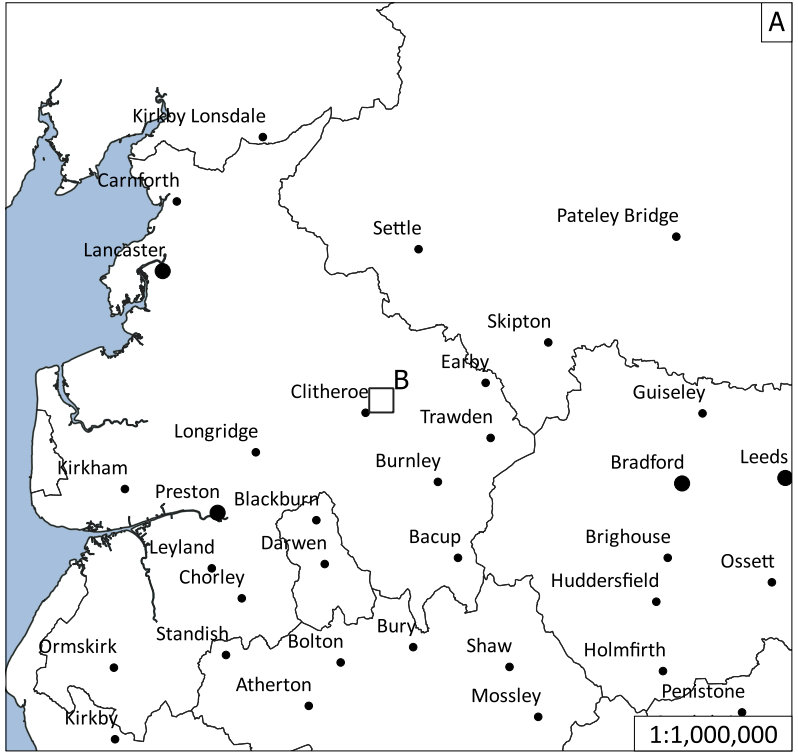
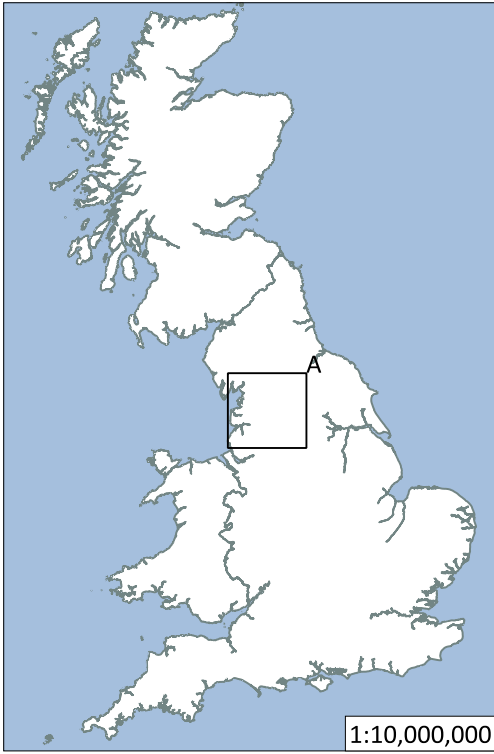


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

Site Code	CTB 23
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	V Zoppi
Date	09/02/2024



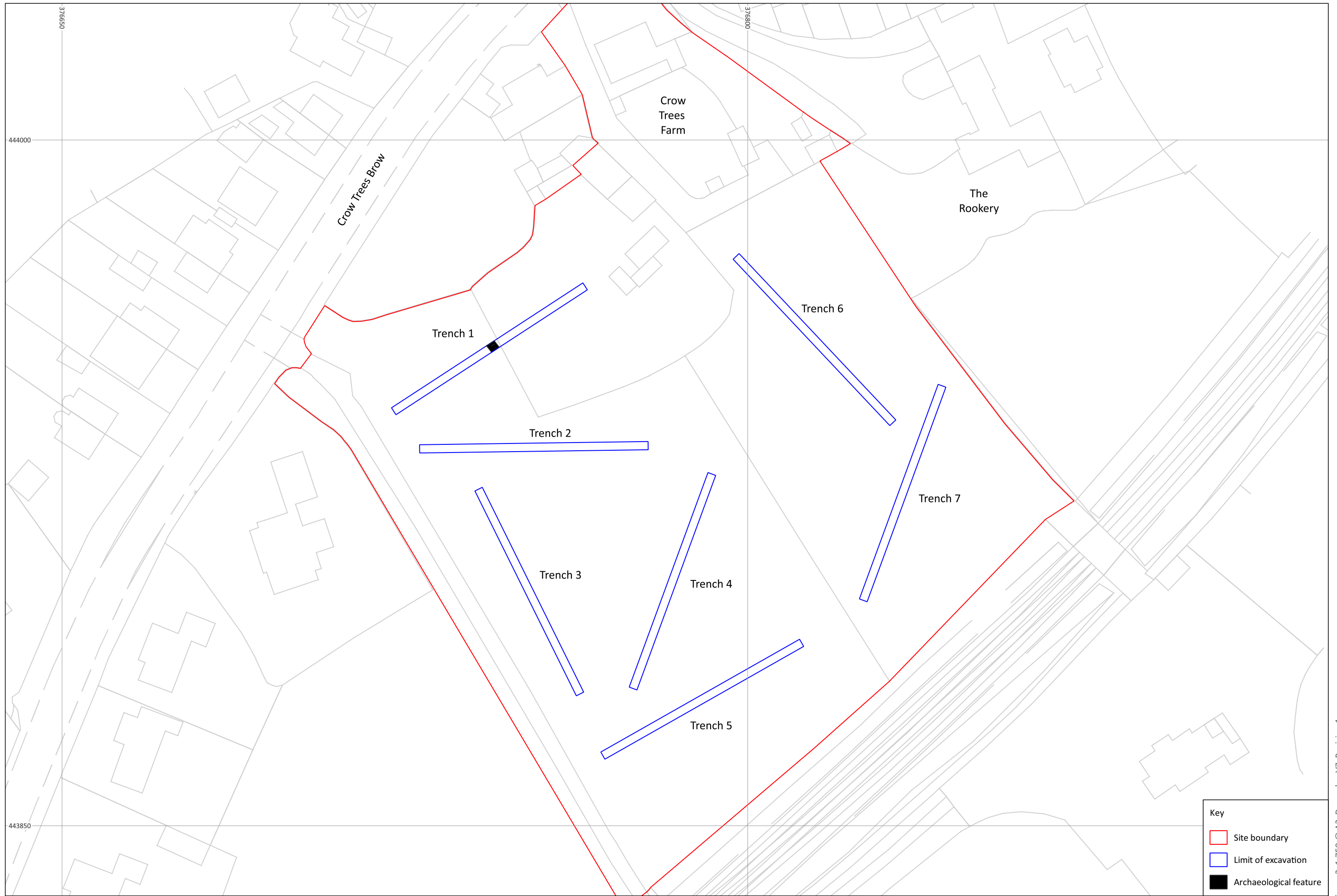
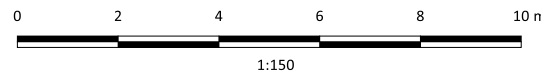
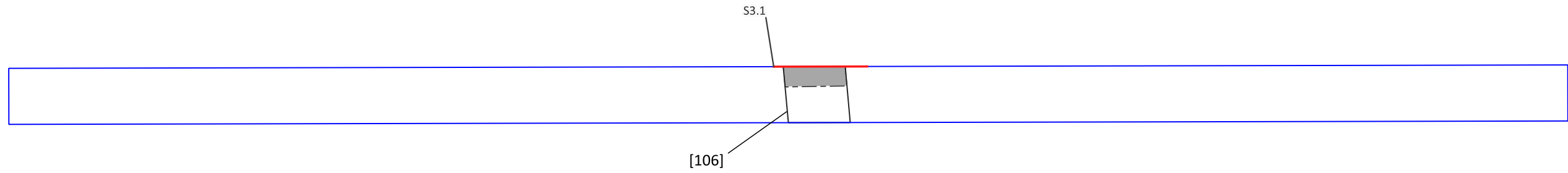


Figure 2 Plan of excavation area

Chatburn, Lancashire
Site Code: CCTB23



Key	
	Archaeological feature
	Limit of excavation
	Sondage
	Section

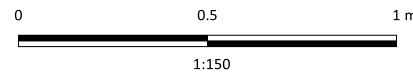
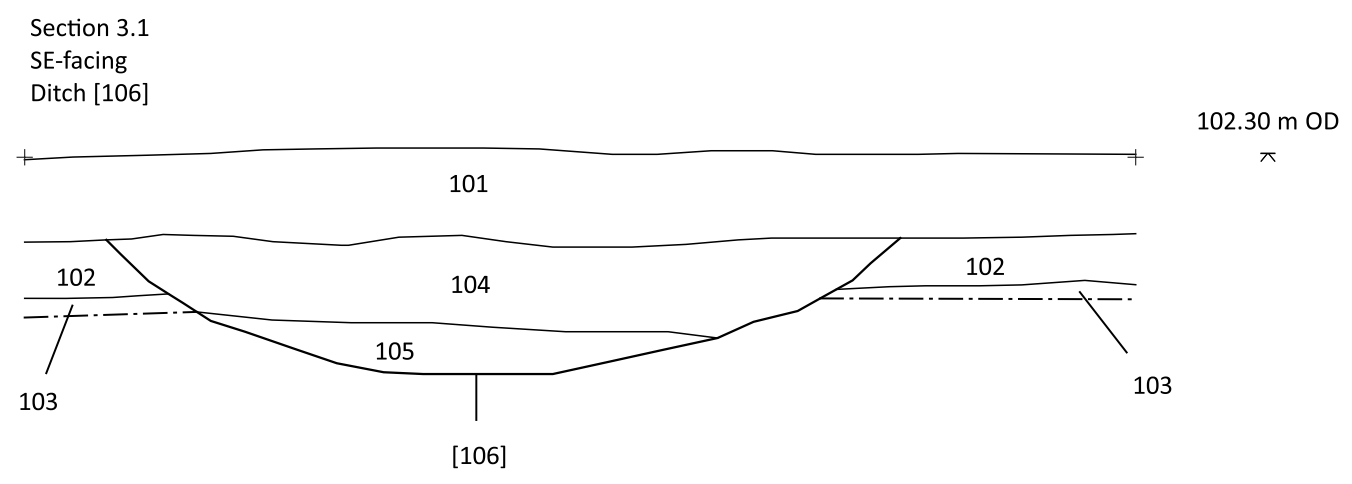


Figure 3 Plan and section of Trench 1



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