

Land at Higher Standen Farm, Clitheroe, Lancashire
Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation
October 2025

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Report

Archaeological Evaluation
Written Scheme of Investigation

Site

Land at Higher Standen Farm, Clitheroe, Lancashire

Client

Applethwaite Ltd

Planning Authority

Ribble Valley Borough Council

Grid Reference

SD 74679 40689

Prepared By

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Approved By

Dr Rob Smith

Report Status

FINAL

Date

October 2025

Orion Reference

PN4853/Eval WSI/3

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1.0 Introduction

Background

- 1.1 This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for undertaking a programme of archaeological evaluation at land at Higher Standen Farm, Clitheroe, Lancashire (hereinafter referred to as the 'Site').
- 1.2 The site is located to the south-east of Clitheroe, comprising a grassed field and is centred on SD 74679 40689. The solid geology comprises the mudstone of the Clitheroe Limestone Formation and Hodder Mudstone Formation which is overlain with superficial deposits of Devensian till. The site generally rises south-westwards and is located c. 93m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south-west and rising to c. 101m aOD in the south-west.
- 1.3 An application for the residential development will be forthcoming.
- 1.4 Consultation has been undertaken with the Lancashire County Council Planning Officer (Archaeology) (hereinafter referred to as the "Archaeological Advisor") in relation to the scope of intrusive archaeological investigations across the site, which confirmed a limited programme of evaluation trenching is required.
- 1.5 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Civic Heritage 2024) and geophysical surveys (Archaeological Services Durham University 2011 & 2012) have been carried out for the site. These reports provide comprehensive archaeological baseline data and should be read in conjunction with this WSI.
- 1.6 In summary:
- The desk-based assessment concluded that there was a limited potential to contain archaeological remains as a result of later activity, although any remains which may survive with the site may relate to Bronze Age activity, evidence of the route of the Ilkley to Ribchester Roman road (PRN26145) and later agricultural activity.
 - Geophysical surveys identified anomalies which likely relate to the Roman road (PRN26145) and a review of LiDAR data identified a linear feature which also likely relates to the road.
- 1.7 The scope of any mitigation works will be informed by the evaluation trial trenching results. A separate Mitigation Strategy will be prepared to scope those works, should they be required.
- 1.8 This document conforms to the requirements of current national and local planning policy (including *National Planning Policy Framework 2024*). It has been designed in accordance with current best archaeological practice, and the appropriate national and local standards and guidelines, including:
- *Management of Recording Projects in the Historic Environment: MORPHE* (English Heritage 2006);
 - *Code of Conduct* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [‘CIfA’] Revised October 2022);
 - *CIfA 2023 Standard for Archaeological Evaluation*

2.0 Aims and Objectives

2.1 The principal aims of the archaeological investigation are to:

- Determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains relating to the Ribchester to Ilkley Roman road (HER reference: 26145) which is recorded as crossing the western part of the site;
- Determine the character, extent, date, complexity, integrity, state of preservation and quality of any archaeological remains present, therefore ensuring their preservation by record; and
- To provide robust baseline information to inform the scoping of a mitigation strategy, should this be required.

2.2 The general objectives are to ensure:

- The protection and recording of archaeological assets discovered during the archaeological works;
- That any below-ground archaeological deposits exposed are promptly identified; and
- The recording of archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available.

2.3 Further, more detailed, research aims may be generated from the results of the evaluation and specifically in relation to *The North-West England Regional Research Framework*, which will be reviewed during an on-site meeting with the Archaeological Advisor:

- R11 – How can we identify typologies and the development of military sites and Roman road systems?

3.0 Archaeological Background

- 3.1 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Civic Heritage 2024) has been completed for the site which utilised data from the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER). The bracketed numbers below refer to the HER reference numbers.
- 3.2 Archaeological investigations identified the site of a Bronze Age cremation cemetery, c. 380m to the north-east of the site, with evidence including sherds of early Bronze Age pottery sherds and nine cremation burials. The find spots of axeheads (PRN40767, PRN41535 & PRN41714) and part of an arrowhead (PRN32002) have also been recorded within the search area utilised in the production of the desk-based assessment.
- 3.3 The route of the Ribchester to Ilkley to Roman road (PRN26145) passed through the site, the line of which is indicated on historic mapping and is visible in the landscape as earthworks, field boundaries and tracks. Whilst parts of the road have been recorded along its route, including cobbled surfaces and evidence of its construction, archaeological investigations along other parts of the route have indicated that it has been truncated and impacted by later agricultural activities.
- 3.4 Further evidence of Roman activity across the search area included a burial (PRN720) and the find spots of artefacts including coins (PRN31912), copper alloy objects (PRN31913, PRN31916 & PRN31917) and a stone relief figure (PRN1869).
- 3.5 Place-name evidence suggests that Clitheroe has Saxon origins. Although there is a lack of archaeological evidence of settlement, the find spots of a possible hairpin (PRN41050) and sword pommel (PRN41426) date to this period. A grange belonging to the lords of Clitheroe (PRN18024) was located at Standen from at least the mid-13th century, although its precise location is no longer known. The vast majority of evidence dating to the medieval period comprises the find spots of artefacts, including a scatter along the route of the Roman road (PRN26145) likely relates to the continuing use of it during the Saxon to medieval periods.
- 3.6 Expansion of settlement at Clitheroe corresponded with a growth in the town's economy, although agricultural remains the main employment during the post-medieval period, with traces of ridge and furrow noted within the site. A number of records dating to this period relate to buildings and structures (e.g. PRN1810, PRN17792, PRN17831, PRN13670 & PRN5620) and the find spots of artefacts.
- 3.7 Early historic mapping evidence indicates that the site comprised undeveloped, likely agricultural, land on the outskirts of Clitheroe. The 1847 Ordnance Survey (OS) map shows the study site in detail as two fields with the projected route of the Roman road (PRN26145) indicated as a dotted line.
- 3.8 A desk-based assessment has previously been produced for the site (ELA2156) which also included a wider area. Geophysical surveys undertaken within the site in 2011 (ELA2157) and 2012 (ELA3207) (Archaeological Services Durham University) recorded anomalies which may indicate remains of the Roman road (PRN26145), with one indicating the likely course of the road lay slightly east of the road indicated on historic OS maps. Evidence of former agricultural practices was also identified within the geophysical survey.

3.9 A review of LiDAR data was undertaken as part of the desk-based assessment, which shows a linear feature which likely represents the route of the Roman road (PRN26145) and largely aligns with the feature identified on geophysical survey.

4.0 Methodology

Programme of Archaeological Works

- 4.1 The archaeological programme of works will comprise:
- An archaeological trial-trench evaluation comprising the excavation of three trenches, each measuring 20m long x 1.8m wide; the trench locations are shown on Figure 2a and 2b;
 - Post-excavation research, analysis, report and archive production.
- 4.2 The trenches have been placed across various projections of the Roman road (PRN26145), utilising evidence from historic mapping, LiDAR data and the results of geophysical surveys.
- 4.3 If required, prior to implementation of the archaeological programme of works, the appointed archaeological contractor will produce a detailed document specifying the methodology, including for example the sampling strategies and specialist personnel to be employed. All work will be undertaken to the satisfaction of Ribble Valley Borough Council's archaeological advisor.

Recording

- 4.4 The areas subject to archaeological investigation will be accurately tied into the National Grid, preferably by GPS and will be accurately tied into the National Grid preferably by an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM) or Total Station and located onto a 1: 2,500 map of the area.
- 4.5 Topsoil and subsoil will be machine-excavated using a flat toothless bucket under continuous archaeological supervision to expose the uppermost horizon of archaeological remains or, where absent, the upper interface of geological deposits. Topsoil and subsoil will be stockpiled separately and trenches will be backfilled in reverse order.
- 4.6 The excavated trenches will be cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features and a base plan using mapping to include all detail to allow the site to be located and understood will be produced at a suitable scale using a Global Positioning System ('GPS').
- 4.7 All structures, deposits and finds will be recorded according to accepted professional standards.
- 4.8 Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features exposed or excavated will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets. Sample recording sheets, sample registers, finds recording sheets, access catalogues, and photo record cards will also be used.
- 4.9 Plans indicating the location of all archaeological features encountered will be drawn at an appropriate scale. The location and extent of archaeological features will be recorded by GPS.

- 4.10 Archaeological features will be plotted on an overall plan at a scale of either 1:100 or 1:50. Areas of significant remains or areas of complex stratigraphy will be planned in greater detail at 1:20 or 1:10 scale as appropriate. Plans and sections will include context numbers and Ordnance Datum ('OD') spot heights for all principal strata and features.
- 4.11 A photographic record of the project will be maintained in accordance with English Heritage guidance (Digital Image Capture and File Storage, Guidelines for Best Practice [English Heritage 2015]). This will include black and white colour prints, and digital images, illustrating the detail and context of the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the progress of the programme of archaeological works.

Finds and Samples

- 4.12 A high priority will be given to dating any finds exposed. All artefactual and ecofactual material revealed during the excavation will be retained for recording and assessment and, where appropriate, further analysis and will be treated in accordance with the ClfA *Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological material* ([revised edition] 2014).
- 4.13 Environmental samples up to 40 litres in volume will be taken from suitable deposits. A sub-sample of the most productive looking samples will be selected by the archaeological contractor's environmental specialist for processing, sorting, assessment and discussion in the evaluation report, with a statement as to the potential for further analysis. The Regional Science Advisor for Historic England will be consulted, as appropriate.
- 4.14 All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No 2* (1983). Appropriate guidelines set out in the Museums and Galleries Commission's *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1991) will also be followed.
- 4.15 Should finds and features be made that might constitute 'Treasure' under the definition of the *Treasure Act* (1996) and the *Explanatory Memorandum to the Treasure Act 1996: Code of Practice (3rd Revision)* (2023), these will, if possible, be archaeologically excavated and removed to a safe place. Such finds will also be reported immediately to the local coroner (within 14 days, in accordance with the Act).
- 4.16 Any human remains that are discovered will initially be left in-situ, covered and protected and the Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Team informed of their discovery. If removal is necessary, this will comply with the relevant legislation, any Ministry of Justice and local environmental health regulations, and the appropriate Historic England advice.

Report and Archive

- 4.17 Details of style and format will be determined by the archaeological contractor. In any event, it will include:

- A non-technical summary
- A summary of the project's background
- Description and illustration of the site location
- A methodology of the works undertaken
- Plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken
- A description of the project's results
- An interpretation of the results in the appropriate context
- A summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples)
- A site location plan at an appropriate scale on an Ordnance Survey, or equivalent, base-map
- A plan showing the location of the trenches and exposed archaeological features and deposits in relation to the site boundaries
- Plans of each trench, or part of trench, in which archaeological features are recognised along with adequate OD spot height information. These should be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features exposed to be shown and understood. Plans must show the orientation of trenches in relation to north; Section drawing locations will be shown on these plans. Archaeologically sterile areas need not be illustrated unless this can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy
- Section drawings of trenches and features, with OD heights, at scales appropriate to the stratigraphic detail to be shown and must show the orientation of the drawing in relation to north/south/east/west. Section drawings should also illustrate the stratigraphy adjacent to the feature for distance of at least 1m;
- Section drawings through features should be undertaken wherever possible at the edge of the trench to illustrate the overlying stratigraphy and depth below topsoil. If this is not possible then the depth of topsoil and over burden will need to be projected onto the section drawing
- Archaeologically sterile trenches need not be illustrated unless they can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy
- Detailed plans of areas in which archaeological features are recognised along with adequate OD spot height information. These should be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features exposed to be shown and understood. Plans must show the orientation of north. Section drawing locations must be shown on these plans
- Site matrices where appropriate
- Photographs showing the general site layout and exposed significant features and deposits that are referred to in the text. All photographs should contain appropriate scales, the size of which will be noted in the illustration's caption
- A consideration of evidence within its wider context
- A summary table and descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts recovered and soil profiles with interpretation
- Specialist assessment or analysis reports were undertaken
- An evaluation of the methodology employed and the results obtained (i.e. a confidence rating).

4.18 The report will include a finds report, including: all pottery, glass and clay tobacco pipes discovered during the works, as well as all other artefacts that may be discovered. A specialist report on all animal or human bone discovered during the

excavation will be included. Pottery and ceramic building material will be recorded by sherd count and weight, by ware type, and if appropriate, from within context groups, in line with the relevant fabric series.

- 4.19 The discussion of the archaeological potential of the site will include reference to the potential indicated by finds and environmental evidence.
- 4.20 A digital copy of the report will be submitted to the Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Team and the local planning authority to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the archaeological programme of works. Copies will also be uploaded as part of the ADS OASIS database record.
- 4.21 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the archaeological works, is to be prepared in accordance with guidance issued by the Archaeological Archives Forum ('AAF') (*Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* [Brown 2011]). An accession code from the relevant Museum will be obtained prior to the deposition of the archive. Arrangements with the Museum must be made prior to works commencing. All born digital data will be deposited with ADS in accordance with their "Instructions for Depositors".
- 4.22 The archive will also be prepared in line with the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* ([revised edition] 2020) and in consultation with the relevant Museums Service.

Consideration of Outreach and Engagement

- 4.23 It is currently considered that outreach and engagement is not appropriate for this phase of archaeological investigation, however, this approach to outreach will be reviewed should archaeological remains be recorded on the site which require mitigation excavation.
- 4.24 Archaeological reports will be made publicly accessible via the County HER and via OASIS.

Public Benefit

- 4.25 Whether or not there is a public outreach programme or not for this piece of archaeological investigation, all archaeological investigation have an intrinsic public benefit through the furthering of archaeological knowledge and understanding. This even applies where an evaluation has negative results as the absence of archaeology is an important factor in understanding how people lived and interacted with the landscape in the past.

5.0 Timetable and Personnel

- 5.1 It is anticipated that fieldwork will commence in late 2025.
- 5.2 The archaeological works will be undertaken under the overall supervision of Becky Ryan (Technical Director, Orion Heritage). Becky Ryan is a ClfA Member and Orion Heritage is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with ClfA. The archaeological contracting organisation appointed to implement the works detailed in this WSI will be a Registered Archaeological Organisation with ClfA.
- 5.3 Curriculum Vitae of key personnel will be provided to the Archaeological Advisor in advance of the archaeological works commencing, if required.

6.0 Monitoring

- 6.1 The aim of monitoring is to ensure that the archaeological works are undertaken within the limits set out in this WSI, and to the satisfaction of Ribble Valley Borough Council.
- 6.2 Becky Ryan (Technical Director, Orion Heritage) will monitor the implementation of the archaeological works on behalf of the developers.
- 6.3 Representatives from the Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Team and Ribble Valley Borough will be free to visit the site by prior arrangement to assess the work being undertaken on site against the methodology detailed in this specification.
- 6.4 Any alterations to this document should be agreed in writing with the relevant parties prior to commencement of on-site works, or at the earliest available opportunity thereafter.

7.0 Other Matters

Contractor

- 7.1 The field team deployed by the contractor will include only full time professional archaeological staff. All staff in supervisory positions should be members of the CfA at the appropriate level.
- 7.2 The composition of the project team must be detailed and agreed in advance with Orion Heritage (this is to include any subcontractors).

Communication

- 7.3 All queries and communications are to be directed through Orion Heritage. No comment is to be made about this Specification or project to the media or other parties.

Copyright

- 7.4 It is recognised that the copyright of written, graphic and photographic records and the report rests with the originating body. However, Orion Heritage and their client require an agreement to facilitate the copying and use of any or all materials resulting from this project.
- 7.5 The submission of a copy of the report to the Lancashire HER should include the licencing of that report for its use and/or reproduction as part of the normal function of a HER.

Codes of Practice

- 7.6 The following statutory provisions and codes of practice are to be adhered to where relevant:
- All statutory provisions and by-laws relating to the work in question, especially the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974;
 - The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct; and
 - The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

Variations

- 7.7 Variations to the Specification or Project Design that the contractor may wish to make must be approved, in advance, by Orion Heritage and Archaeological Advisor.

Insurance

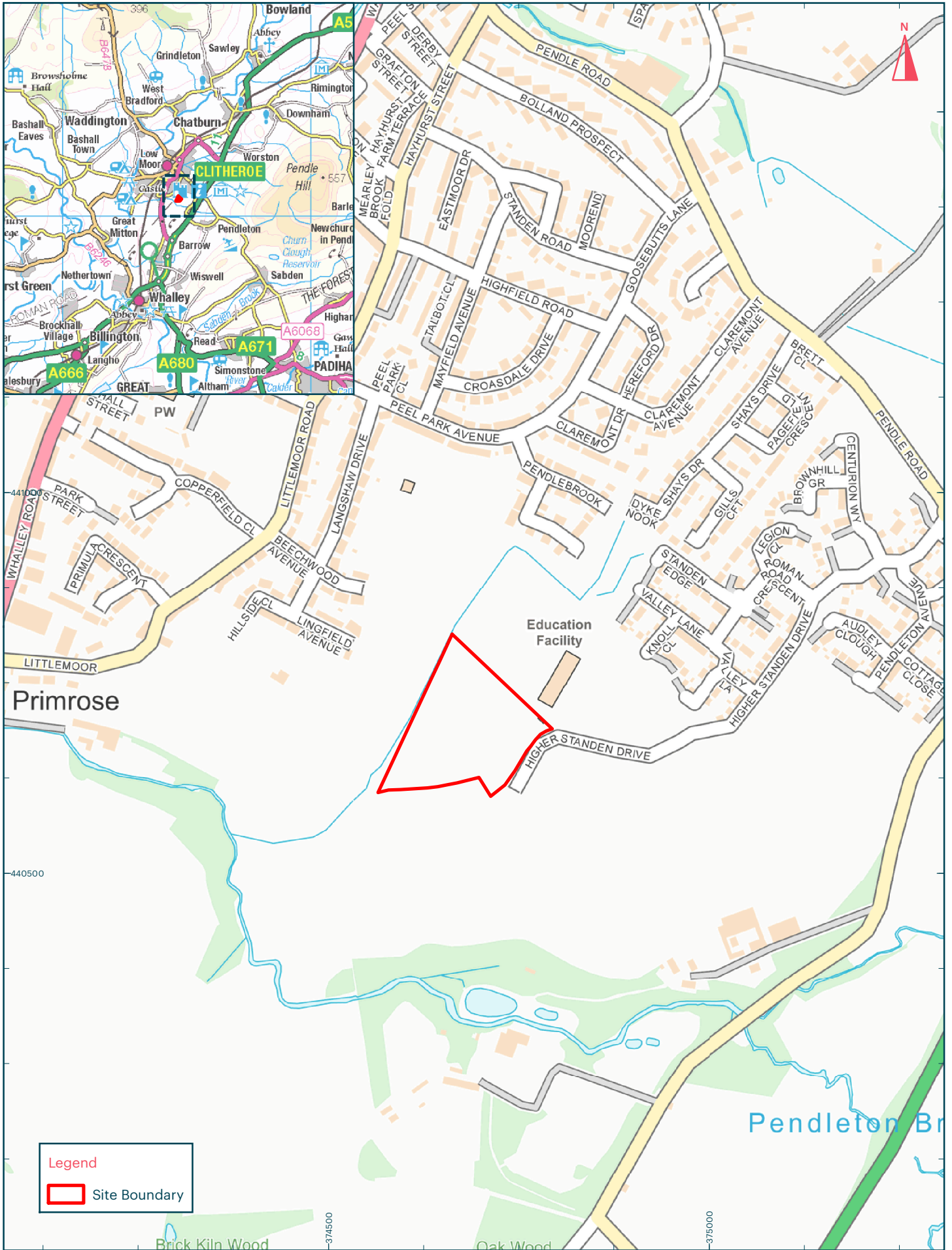
- 7.8 Both Orion Heritage and the nominated archaeological contractor can produce evidence of Public Liability, Professional Indemnity Insurance and/or general 'all risk' insurance.

Health & Safety

- 7.9 All works will follow the *Health and Safety at Work Act* (1974), applicable regulations and codes of practice.
- 7.10 All archaeological staff will undertake their operations with safe working practices.
- 7.11 All staff will be made aware of the hazards and any necessary measures which need to be taken regarding those hazards.

7.12 A site-specific Risk Assessment will be prepared and submitted, if requested.

- APABE 2017 Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England
- Archaeological Services Durham University. 2012. *Land at Higher Standen Farm, Clitheroe, Lancashire: Geophysical Survey*
- Brown D H 2011 Archaeological Archives A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation
- ClfA 2020 Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives
- ClfA, 2022 Code of Conduct.
- ClfA 2023a Standard for archaeological field evaluation
- ClfA 2023b Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation
- Civic Heritage. 2024. *Higher Standen Farm, Clitheroe: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*
- Historic England 2011 Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (2nd ed).
- Historic England 2015a Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment
- Historic England 2015b Digital Images Capture and File Storage
- Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993 Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections.
- The North West Research Framework - <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>
- The Roads of Roman Britain - <https://www.romanroads.org/gazetteer/lancspages.html>
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1983, Conservation Guidelines No.2
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation 1990, Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice

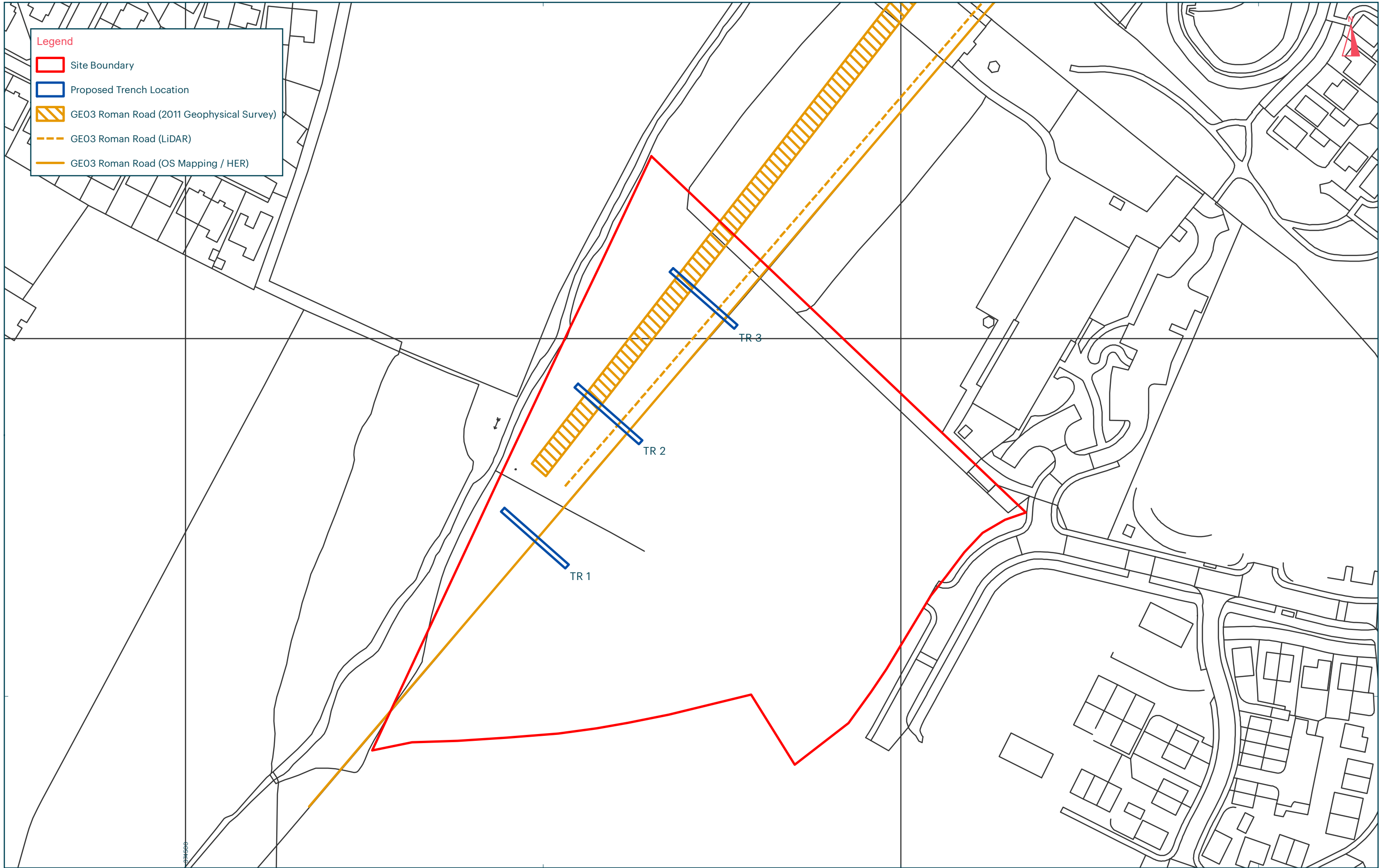


Title:
Figure 1: Site Location

Address:
Land at Higher Standen Farm, Clitheroe

Scale at A4: 1:6,500





Legend

- Site Boundary
- Proposed Trench Location
- GE03 Roman Road (2011 Geophysical Survey)
- GE03 Roman Road (LiDAR)
- GE03 Roman Road (OS Mapping / HER)

Title:
Figure 2a: Trench Layout
Address:
Land at Higher Standen Farm, Clitheroe

All trenches shown are 30m x 1.8m

Scale at A3: 1:1,200

0 50m





Title:
Figure 2b: Trench Layout
Address:
Land at Higher Standen Farm, Clitheroe

All trenches shown are 30m x 1.8m

