



Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester

Archaeological Evaluation Report

November 2022

**Client: TEP on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd
(Manchester)**

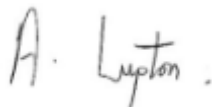
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Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Ashley Joynes and Charlotte Howsam

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Summary

In September 2022, Oxford Archaeology (OA) North were commissioned by The Environment Partnership (TEP), on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd (Manchester), to undertake an archaeological trial-trench evaluation and archaeological monitoring on the proposed site of a residential development north-west of Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (NGR: SD 85362 08730).

The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref: 16/01399/HYBR). Orion Heritage produced a desk-based assessment to accompany the planning application. Following discussions between TEP and the Heritage Management Director for Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service (GMAAS), a programme of four trial trenches across the development area was proposed. TEP subsequently produced a written scheme of investigation (WSI), and OA North were commissioned to undertake the fieldwork. Upon commencement of the works on 15th September 2022 it was found that due to the advanced state of development groundworks the original trenching strategy could not be carried out, restricting the works to two trenches (Trenches 1 and 2); which were also repositioned due to on-site constraints. No significant archaeology was identified in either trench.

Further discussions, including a site meeting, were held with the Heritage Management Director for GMAAS to agree a strategy for archaeological works. It was proposed that a further three trial trenches (Trench 5, 6 and 7) were to be excavated in undisturbed areas in the northern part of the site, two areas to be subject to hand-cleaning in the western part of the site, and the excavation of a manhole was to be monitored under watching brief conditions. TEP produced an additional WSI detailing the methodology to be implemented for these further works, which were undertaken over two days, 27th and 28th September 2022.

No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the archaeological works. A small number of late post-medieval/modern land drains were revealed crossing two trenches concentrated in the northern part of the site. The only other feature encountered was a natural tree-throw hole in Area 2 to the south. Variations in the natural geology were examined in these two areas and found to have most likely been caused by disturbance from machines and possible bioturbation. The archaeological monitoring identified a disturbed natural deposit. No residual finds were recovered from the site.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North would like to thank Amir Bassir of The Environment Partnership (TEP) for commissioning this project on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd (Manchester). Thanks are also extended to Ian Miller, Heritage Management Director for Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) who monitored the work on behalf of Rochdale Borough Council.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Paul Dunn. The first site visit was directed by Helen Stocks, assisted by Lauren Basnett and Selina Dean. The second visit was directed by Katie Sanderson, assisted by Selina Dean and Ashley Joynes. The illustrations were produced by Mark Tidmarsh, whilst the report was written by Ashley Joynes and Charlotte Howsam.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by The Environment Partnership (TEP), on behalf of their client Bellway Homes Ltd (Manchester), to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation and monitoring at the site of a proposed residential development to the north-west of Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (NGR: SD 85362 08730; Fig 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 16/01399/HYBR). Orion Heritage produced a desk-based assessment (Orion Heritage 2017) to accompany the planning application. Following discussions between TEP and the Heritage Management Director for Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service (GMAAS), a programme of four trial trenches across the development area was proposed. TEP subsequently produced a written scheme of investigation (WSI; *Appendix A*), and OA North were commissioned to undertake the necessary fieldwork. Upon commencement of the works on 15th September 2022 it was found that due to the advanced state of development groundworks the original trenching strategy could not be carried out, restricting the works to two trenches (Trenches 1 and 2); which were also repositioned due to on-site constraints. No significant archaeology was identified in either trench.
- 1.1.3 Further discussions, including a site meeting, were held with the Heritage Management Director for GMAAS to agree a strategy for archaeological works. It was proposed that a further three trial trenches (Trench 5, 6 and 7) were to excavated in undisturbed areas in the northern part of the site, two areas to be subject to hand-cleaning in the western part of the site, and the excavation of a manhole was to be monitored under watching brief conditions. TEP produced an additional WSI (*Appendix B*) detailing the methodology to be implemented for these further works, which were undertaken over two days, 27th and 28th September 2022. This document outlines how OA North implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the south of Heywood, a town in the Metropolitan Borough of Rochdale, Greater Manchester (centred on NGR SD 85362 08730; Fig. 1). The proposed development site occupies a roughly triangular block of land measuring c 5.5ha. It is bounded by Manchester Road to the east, agricultural land to the south and west, and properties and associated land off Hareshill Road to the north.
- 1.2.2 The central part of the site lies at c 122m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the land gradually slopes down to c 119m aOD in the west and c 120m aOD in the east towards Manchester Road (TEP 2021).
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation (BGS 2022). In the east of the site this is overlain by Devensian Till, which is recorded as Diamicton (*ibid*). In the central raised area of the site, the overlying superficial deposits are Devensian sand and gravel of Glaciofluvial Ice Contact Deposits (*ibid*). To the west the overlying deposits are sand

and gravel Lacustrine Deposits (*ibid*). The soils within the site are mapped as freely draining slightly acid sandy soils (Cranfield University 2022).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site and wider development area has been described in detail in the archaeological assessment produced by Orion Heritage (2017); it was reproduced in the two WSIs (*Appendix A* and *B*) and is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 Mesolithic settlement activity has been recorded across the region in a variety of settings and environments, and these sites have demonstrated several phases of occupation (Cowell 1996). However, the primary evidence from this period recorded in proximity of the site is largely in the form of lithic scatters identified during fieldwalking or incidentally during large-scale excavations (Hall *et al* 1995).
- 1.3.3 During the Neolithic period, the Lancashire climate appears to have shifted to a cooler and wetter environment. This, along with woodland clearance and the development of grazing land for animals, contributed to the formation of large areas of moss (blanket bog) across the region. These cooler waterlogged conditions are suggested to be the cause of limited settlement activity in the area during the Neolithic period (Hall *et al* 1995), and only one burial monument, comprising a cairn dating to the Neolithic–Bronze Age period, is recorded to the north-east of the site at Windhill (*ibid*).
- 1.3.4 Within the Heywood area, the Bronze Age is represented by a find spot of a Bronze Age stone axe to the north of the development site (ID: LVPL-48A638) and two found to the north-east adjacent to the Whittle Brook.
- 1.3.5 A possible Iron Age settlement was recorded at Rhodes Green to the south-west of the site and a beaded torque was found by workman in 1832 to the north-east at Calderbrook (GMAU 1990a). To the south-west at Salford along the Salteye Brook, a similar site in character to that of the development site, located on a natural low promontory with free draining sandy soils, revealed the remains of prehistoric and late pre-Roman Iron Age occupation/settlement that continued into the Roman period (GMAU 1998).
- 1.3.6 By AD 70, sometime after the initial Roman invasion, the region eventually formed the northern frontier of Roman Britain and soon after several Roman forts were established in Manchester, Lancaster, Ribchester and Castleshaw, the latter located 15km east of the site. The remains of a local Roman road are thought to cross through Rochdale, north of Heywood and across to Bury, some way from the site's location (GMAU 1990b).
- 1.3.7 After the departure of the Roman legions in the fifth century AD, the region eventually became part of the Kingdom of Northumbria. Æthelfrith, the king of Northumbria in the seventh century, is considered to have crossed through the area around the site with his troops on the way to Chester, where a battle is recorded by several sources including Bede as having taken place at some time between AD 605 and AD 616.

- 1.3.8 Heywood is not recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086; however, its name is derived from the Old English for 'high (or chief) wood' (Mills 2011), suggesting at least late Saxon origins. To the north of Heywood, at the site of Gristlehurst Hall, excavations in 2014 revealed a clay-lined pit with a stone foundation; its western side opened onto an area defined by boulders and a soot- and charcoal-filled hollow (BAG 2014). Charcoal provided a radiocarbon date of cal AD 987–1045.
- 1.3.9 The place name 'Heghwode' was first recorded in 1246 and was located in the parish of Hopwood (Morgan 1978). The development site likely fell within Siddal Moor, then part of Whittle, which was a detached portion of Bury Parish. The site was located north-east of the small settlement of Birch; however, several medieval features relating to agriculture are recorded within and adjacent to the site including remains of field systems, terracing and ridge-and-furrow cultivation. Prior to the fourteenth century, the climate had improved, making more land available for both arable and pasture farming. The watercourses in proximity of the site, such as the Whittle Brook, would have provided access to water for livestock and would have been able to supply the water for a possible homestead moat site at New Gap Farm to the south of the site. In addition, the site of the medieval settlement of Meadowcroft, Pilsworth, to the south-west, survives as earthworks and cropmarks. Limited excavation and fieldwalking revealed an industrial site with evidence of ironworking and smelting activities (GMAU 1998).
- 1.3.10 Further industrial activity in the area surrounding the site during the late medieval–post medieval period was recorded in a lease dated 1587 between Edmund Hopwood and Isabella Schoharie, referring to a 'Coleyfylde' at Siddal. Within the western end of the site and to the east of Manchester Road, some post-medieval features associated with coal mining are recorded in the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 1.3.11 Siddal Moor was recorded in a 1570 survey of the lands of Edward Hopwood and was described as comprising 500 acres with the right to turbary. Therefore, the peat on Siddal Moor was subject to cutting for fuel. A small area of peat is recorded in the Greater Manchester HER adjacent to the southern boundary of the site. The eighteenth-century farmsteads of Siddal Moor Farm to the north and New Gap Farm to the south are recorded on historic mapping predating the Siddal Moor Enclosure of 1815, following an Act of Parliament in 1812. Following the tithe awards in 1838 and 1840, the former moorland was also exploited for compost manufacturing due to peat's natural abilities to hold water and nutrients for use in gardening. Coal mining on the moor was also continued during this time by the Hopwood family, and some of the straight hedgerow boundaries from the 1815 moor enclosure remain extant on the development site to the present day.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of the archaeological features and deposits within the areas of interest. The results of the evaluation will allow GMAAS to make a reasonable and informed decision as to whether any archaeological remains on site would require a programme of mitigation works.

2.1.2 With reference to the updated *North West Archaeological Research Framework* (Research Frameworks 2022), the evaluation aimed to address following relevant objectives from the prehistory and Roman agendas:

- PH23: How can we identify previously unknown prehistoric sites?
- PH26: What was the changing nature of the relationships between people and their environment during the prehistoric period?
- PH30: What can incidental, residual lithics tell us about Mesolithic activity and settlement locations?
- PH32: How can targeted survey and excavation address the issue of sparsity of Neolithic settlement in the North West?
- R20: How can we identify regional types and patterns of distribution, despite low levels of material culture across the region?
- R27: How can the analysis of the origin of stone for buildings, funerary structures and querns help to determine patterns of resource exploitation and trade?

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The full methodology is outlined in the WSIs (*Appendix A and B*) and was adhered to in full, and, as such, was fully compliant with prevailing guidelines and established industry best practice (CIfA 2020a; 2020b; 2022; Historic England 2015). A programme of field observation accurately recorded the character of the deposits within the evaluation and watching brief areas.

2.2.2 As development had commenced prior to the arrival of archaeologists on site, only two of the original four proposed evaluation trenches, were excavated (Trenches 1 and 2). These trenches were relocated to the south-west of their original positions (Fig. 2). Trench 2 was also repositioned on a north-west/south-east alignment. Following discussions between TEP and GMAAS, a further three trenches (Trenches 5–7) were excavated in areas that had not been stripped to the natural geology.

2.2.3 The trial trenches were laid out by the site engineers prior to excavation. The topsoil, and any surviving subsoil, were removed by 13-tonne 360° tracked mechanical excavators, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit or natural geology. Spoil was stored adjacent to, but at a safe distance from, the trench edges. Subsequent cleaning and investigation of all archaeological deposits was undertaken manually, using either hoes, shovel scraping,

and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions. All features of archaeological interest were investigated.

- 2.2.4 In addition to the extra trial trenches, it was agreed by TEP and GMAAS that two areas measuring c 8m² located towards the west of the site were to be hand cleaned to investigate any potential archaeological features or deposits exposed from the removal of the overburden deposits. Furthermore, a watching brief was carried out during the development groundworks. This involved monitoring the excavation of a c 10m by 2m trench associated with drainage installation in the north-west of the site.
- 2.2.5 The trenches were surveyed by use of a real-time kinematic (RTK) global navigation satellite system (GNSS), accurate to within 0.02m-0.03m, and altitude information was established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum. All information identified during the site works was recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the former Centre of Archaeology of English Heritage, with an accompanying pictorial record (plans, sections, and digital photographs). Primary records were available for inspection at all times.
- 2.2.6 Results of all field investigations were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. The site archive includes both photographic images and accurate large-scale plans and sections at appropriate scales (1:50; 1:20; 1:10).
- 2.2.7 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the WSI, and in accordance with current CifA (2020b) and Historic England (2015) guidelines. The archive will be deposited with the Touchstones, Rochdale in due course. An online access to the index of archaeological investigation (OASIS) form will also be uploaded, along with a digital copy of this report.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the fieldwork are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches and monitored areas, all of which were devoid of any significant archaeological remains. The full details of all trial trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in *Appendix C*. Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was aligned north-east/south-west and located in the south-east of the site (Fig. 2; Plate 1). The trench revealed a stratigraphic sequence comprising a made ground deposit (**100**) overlying a mid-yellowish grey clay silt subsoil (**101**), which in turn overlaid the natural clay (**102**). No archaeological features or residual finds were encountered within the trench.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north-east (1m and 2m scales)

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 This trench was positioned in the central-south of the site on a north-west/south-east alignment (Fig. 2; Plate 2). Excavation of the trench revealed a deposit of possible redeposited natural sand, or the natural geology (**200**), in excess of 1.2m thick. No other deposits or archaeological features were exposed within the trench.



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking east (2m scale)

3.4 Trenches 5, 6 and 7

- 3.4.1 Trenches 5, 6 and 7 were all located along the northern boundary of the site on a broadly north-west/south-east-alignment (Fig 2). All three trenches encountered the same stratigraphic sequence, natural sandy clay geology, overlain by subsoil, approximately 0.18m thick, which was, in turn, overlain by topsoil, approximately 0.28m thick (Plates 3 to 5). Trench 7 contained a thin alluvial deposit, **701**, which overlay subsoil **702**, and was approximately 0.18m thick.
- 3.4.2 No significant archaeological remains were encountered in the trenches, with the only features identified cutting the natural geology being post-medieval or modern field drains. There were also no finds or environmental samples recovered from these trenches as there were no suitable deposits.



Plate 3: Trench 5, looking north-west (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 4: Trench 6, looking south-east (1m and 2m scales)

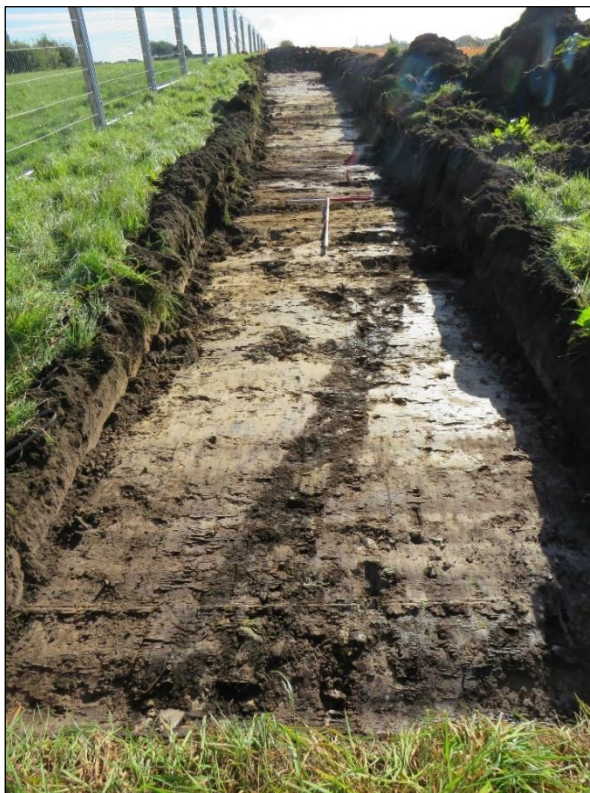


Plate 5: Trench 7, looking east-south-east (1m and 2m scales)

3.5 Areas 1 and 2

3.5.1 Areas 1 and 2 (Fig 2) were subject to hand-cleaning following their mechanical stripping (Plates 6 and 7), which was not subject to archaeological monitoring. Both areas were approximately 8m² in area, with the principal aim of being to investigate potential archaeological features cutting the surface of the natural geology, as identified during the site meeting held between TEP and GMAAS.



Plate 6: Area 1, looking west (1m and 2m scales)



Plate 7: Area 2, looking south-east (1m and 2m scales)

3.5.2 Both areas revealed the surface of the natural geology, with several potential features being excavated and, subsequently, identified as either disturbance from the mechanical excavation of the site or bioturbation. A tree-throw was recorded in Area 2 (Fig 2; Plate 8), located in the south-east corner of the area, the feature, **1**, was irregular in plan and profile, measuring approximately 1.13m by 0.79m and 0.23m deep, and contained a single sterile fill, **2**.



Plate 8: Tree-throw hole 1 in Area 2, looking south-east (0.2m scale)

3.6 Watching brief area

- 3.6.1 Archaeological monitoring was carried out during the excavation a c 10m by 2m trench associated with drainage installation located in the north-west of the site. It was orientated north-west/south-east, perpendicular to the western site boundary. The trench was excavated to a depth of c 0.5m and revealed a mid pinkish grey clay that appeared to have been a disturbed natural deposit (Plate 9). No archaeological remains were encountered within the trench.



Plate 9: Watching brief trench, looking north-east (no scale)

3.7 Environmental and finds summary

- 3.7.1 No environmental samples were taken as there were no suitable deposits uncovered and no archaeological finds were recovered during the archaeological monitoring.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 Given that much of the site had been stripped of overburden deposits prior to the arrival of archaeologists on site, the results of the trial-trench evaluation and watching brief are limited. Nevertheless, the excavation of additional trenches in undisturbed areas of the site and the investigation of anomalies identified in the surface of the natural geology in two stripped areas were undertaken in order to maximise the potential for exposing archaeological remains.
- 4.1.2 The ground and site conditions were generally good throughout the course of the evaluation and watching brief, and the supervised machining was generally carried out cleanly providing good visibility of the archaeological features and deposits in the evaluation trenches and monitored areas.
- 4.1.3 While the WSIs (*Appendix A and B*) highlighted the archaeological potential of the site, particularly for prehistoric and Roman remains, the investigations demonstrated the absence of any significant archaeological features, with only a small number of late post-medieval/modern land drains and a natural feature revealed. In addition, no residual finds were recovered from the excavated deposits.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.2.1 The archaeological investigation of the site is considered to have largely achieved its general aims (*Section 2.1.1*). The evaluation and watching brief established the overall absence of archaeological remains on site. The only features encountered were a small number of late post-medieval/modern land drains identified cutting into the natural geology in Trenches 5 and 7 in the northern half of the site and a sterile tree-throw hole was also encountered in Area 2, located towards west.
- 4.2.2 Given the absence of any archaeological remains predating the late post-medieval/modern period and the lack of residual finds in overburden deposits, the results of the investigations cannot inform on the nature of prehistoric and Roman activity on site or within the immediate area (*Section 2.1.2*).

4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 The trial trenches in the northern half of the site (Trenches 5–7) revealed largely uniform stratigraphic sequences of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial deposits. The stratigraphy in Trenches 1 and 2 in the southern half of the site were slightly different: a made ground deposit overlaid the subsoil, while in Trench 2 only the natural geology/redeposit natural sand was encountered. Disturbed natural was also revealed in the watching brief trench in the north-west of the site.
- 4.3.2 A natural tree-throw hole was investigated in Area 2. No finds or ecofacts were recovered from its single fill and so the feature cannot inform on a specific phase of activity or the nature of the past environment. Other potential features were investigated in Area 2, as well as those in Area 1, were found to be variations in the natural geology, most likely caused by disturbance from machines and possible bioturbation.

4.3.3 The only other features revealed on site were a small number of late post-medieval/modern land drains noted in Trenches 5 and 7, one of which was ceramic and another covered with red bricks. They provide evidence of the agricultural use of the landscape during the late post-medieval/modern period.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The archaeological works on site established the overall absence of any significant archaeological remains on site, with only a small number of land drains demonstrative of the agricultural nature of land use during the late post-medieval/modern period. Together with the lack of earlier archaeological features and residual finds in the investigated areas of the site, the results most likely reflect disturbance/truncation from agricultural activities carried out on site and within the immediate area throughout the post-medieval period and into the modern era, as indicated by historic mapping. In addition, the largely negative results may also demonstrate the site's location away from known medieval settlements and earlier sites recorded within the wider landscape (see *Section 1.3*).

APPENDIX A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (2021)

APPENDIX B WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (2022)

APPENDIX C TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench 1 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|---|---------------|-------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NE/SW |
| Trench contained no archaeology. Trench consists of an orange clay natural overlain by subsoil and make up. | | | | | Length (m) | 20 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2 |
| | | | | | Avg depth (m) | 1.2 |
| Context No | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 100 | Layer | - | 0.1 | Other Layer. Large grain hardcore, loose. | - | - |
| 101 | Layer | - | 0.25 | Subsoil. Mid yellowish grey clay silt | - | - |
| 102 | Layer | - | - | Natural. Mid reddish orange clay | - | - |

| Trench 2 | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------|---|---------------|-------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NE/SW |
| Trench contained no archaeology. Trench contained sand make up. Geological natural not exposed. | | | | | Length (m) | 25 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2 |
| | | | | | Avg depth (m) | 0.35 |
| Context No | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 200 | Layer | - | 0.1 | Other Layer. Sand, natural geology or possible redeposited natural. | - | - |

| Trench 5 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|---|---------------|-------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NW/SE |
| Trench contained no archaeology, except three land drains. Consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil, overlying alluvium. | | | | | Length (m) | 16.5 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2.2 |
| | | | | | Avg depth (m) | 0.55 |
| Context No | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 500 | Layer | - | 0.28 | Topsoil. Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt. | - | - |
| 501 | Layer | - | 0.13 | Subsoil. Soft, light greyish brown sandy silt with rare (1–3%) small sub-rounded pebbles. Frequent (25%) rooting veins. | - | - |
| 502 | Layer | - | - | Alluvial Layer. Soft, mottled light yellowish brown to medium reddish yellow slightly silty sand with rare (1%) manganese inclusions and rare (1%) oxidised iron formation. | - | - |

| Trench 6 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|--|----------------|-------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NW/SE |
| Trench contained no archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil, overlying alluvium. | | | | | Length (m) | 12 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2.5 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.7 |
| Context No | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 600 | Layer | - | 0.18 | Topsoil. Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt. | - | - |
| 601 | Layer | - | 0.18 | Subsoil. Soft, light greyish brown sandy silt with common (10%) rooting veins and common (5%) medium sub-rounded pebbles. | - | - |
| 602 | Layer | - | - | Alluvial Layer. Firm, mottled, light greyish brown to reddish yellow clay sand with common (5%) manganese inclusions and common (5–7%) oxidised Fe formations. | - | - |

| Trench 7 | | | | | | |
|--|-------|-----------|-----------|---|----------------|-------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | NE/SW |
| Trench contained no archaeology, except three land drains. Consisted of topsoil overlying alluvium, overlying subsoil, overlying alluvium. | | | | | Length (m) | 25 |
| | | | | | Width (m) | 2 |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | 0.35 |
| Context No | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 700 | Layer | - | 0.28 | Topsoil. Friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt. | - | - |
| 701 | Layer | - | 0.18 | Alluvial Layer. Friable, light grey sandy silt with frequent (25%) rooting veins. This is a later alluvial event not seen in other trenches. | - | - |
| 702 | Layer | - | 0.18 | Subsoil. Firm, light yellowish brown silty sand with common (10-12%) rooting veins. | - | - |
| 703 | Layer | - | - | Alluvial Layer. Firm, mottled, yellow brown to medium reddish yellow slightly clay sand with occasional small sub-rounded pebbles and common (10%) oxidised Fe formation. | - | - |

| Areas 1 and 2 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------|------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| General description | | | | | Orientation | N/A |
| Two areas cleaned by hand following mechanical removal of topsoil and subsoil (unsupervised), both areas approximately 8m ² . Only one feature recorded as a tree-throw, 1 , remaining possible features appeared to relate to disturbance during mechanical excavation or bioturbation. | | | | | Length (m) | - |
| | | | | | Width (m) | - |
| | | | | | Avg. depth (m) | - |
| Context No | Type | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description | Finds | Date |
| 1 | Cut | 0.79 | 0.23 | Cut of tree-throw. Irregular in plan and profile | - | - |
| 2 | Fill | 0.79 | 0.23 | Dark brown black, sandy silt. | - | - |
| 3 | Layer | - | - | Alluvial Layer. Firm, mottled, light greyish brown to reddish yellow clay sand with common (5%) manganese inclusions and common (5–7%) oxidised Fe formations. | - | - |

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Site name: | Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester |
| Site code: | MRH21 |
| Grid Reference | SD 85362 08730 |
| Type: | Evaluation and watching brief |
| Date and duration: | 3 days; 15 th , 28 th and 27 th September 2022 |
| Area of Site | c 5.5ha |
| Location of archive: | The archive is currently held at OA, Mill 3, Moor Lane Mills, Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QD, and will be deposited with Touchstones Rochdale in due course. |
| Summary of Results: | No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the archaeological works. A small number of late post-medieval/modern land drains were revealed crossing two trenches concentrated in the northern part of the site. The only other feature encountered was a natural tree-throw hole in Area 2 to the south. Variations in the natural geology were examined in these two areas and found to have most likely been caused by disturbance from machines and possible bioturbation. The archaeological monitoring identified a disturbed natural deposit. No residual finds were recovered from the site. |



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