



# Ashton Park, Ashton-on-Ribble, Preston, Lancashire

## Rapid Desk-based Research, Topographic Survey and Watching Brief



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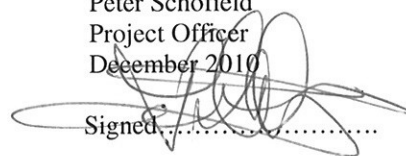
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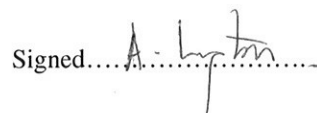
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## SUMMARY

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Preston City Council proposed the construction of an Adizone (a recreational area) in Ashton Park, Lancashire, Lancashire (SD 51250 30450). The provision of rapid desk-based research, archaeological survey and watching brief was a condition of planning permission and a verbal brief for recording the landscape was provided by Doug Moir of Lancashire County Council Archaeology Section. Subsequently, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) were commissioned to undertake the programme of investigation. A topographical survey took place during on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010 followed by a watching brief during groundworks undertaken between 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August 2010.

Ashton Hall was built in 1810 by Thomas Starkie Shuttleworth and a little later in 1820 James Pedder, the son of the founder of Preston's first bank, bought the house. It remained in the Pedder family until 1861, but subsequently had many different owners. Edmund Robert Harris, another of Preston's most famous names, owned the house between 1861 and 1877. The mansion was sold to 'English Electric' at the end of World War One, and then to Preston Town Council in 1937. Preston Council retained the park but sold the mansion on to Lancashire County Council, who, for a number of years ran the house as a care home for the elderly. The house was sold again in the 1990s, and was used as a nursery.

Documentary research and field survey by Dr T C Welsh demonstrated pre-nineteenth century earthworks, which possibly included ridge and furrow, field boundaries, a golf course, and a former road. There is also the potential for farm buildings and a pond, some of which are shown on the tithe, and early OS mapping also shows a lane and associated buildings.

The topographic survey has achieved the preservation by record of a relict landscape comprising post-medieval agricultural and possible ornamental features as well as more modern structures, within the park. The agricultural sites ranged from four main areas of ridge and furrow cultivation, to a marl pit/pond, water tank and scoop. Other features included a possible ornamental tree mound and relict elements of both a football pitch and aerial mast.

A watching brief was undertaken during the topsoil strip for the construction of the Adizone, but revealed no significant archaeological features or deposits.

As a mitigative record of the surface remains has been undertaken and a watching brief maintained during the topsoil strip, no further archaeological works are recommended.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Preston City Council for commissioning the project.

Peter Schofield undertook the documentary research and archaeological topographic survey survey. Jon Onreat undertook the watching brief. Vicky Bullock, Peter Schofield and Jon Onreat wrote the report and the drawings were produced by Anne Stewardson. Jamie Quartermaine, managed the project, and also edited the report.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Preston City Council have proposed the construction of an Adizone (a recreational area) in Ashton Park, Lancashire, Lancashire (SD 51250 30450). The provision of an archaeological survey and watching brief was a condition of planning permission and a verbal brief for recording the landscape was provided by Doug Moir of Lancashire County Council Archaeology Service. Subsequently, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) were commissioned to undertake a programme of investigation and submitted a project design outlining the works to be carried out. The project design specification outlines the objectives for this investigation and provides a method statement demonstrating how these objectives can be met (*Appendix 1*).
- 1.1.2 The topographical survey took place on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010, the results comprising a series of outline detail and hachure plans that included additional features in proximity to the pre-targeted sites. In addition, a photographic record was made of specific features highlighted by the previous works, undertaken by TC Walsh. The watching brief was undertaken between 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> August 2010. This work was informed by the results of the topographic survey.

### 1.2 OBJECTIVES

- 1.2.1 The primary purpose of the project was to provide a mitigative record of exposed earthworks in advance of the development and to link those into available cartographic and documentary sources. A watching brief was required to identify any below ground remains affected by the development.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was produced for, and accepted by, Preston City Council for the rapid documentary research, topographic survey and watching brief elements of the archaeological programme of work within Ashton Park. The project design was adhered to in full, except where outlined below, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

### 2.2 RAPID DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

- 2.2.1 A basic search of documentary records and cartographic sources was undertaken in advance of the survey during which the repositories outlined below were consulted:
- 2.2.2 ***Lancashire Historic Environment Record:*** the Historical Environment Record, maintained by Lancashire County Council in Preston, holds records of archaeological sites within the county, and is held as both paper and digital information (database and GIS combined).
- 2.2.3 ***Lancashire Record Office:*** the County Record Office in Preston was visited to consult historic maps of the study area, including the tithe map and relevant Ordnance Survey (OS) maps. A search was also made for any relevant historical documentation. Several secondary sources and archaeological or historical journals were also consulted, and the results have been incorporated into the historical background (*Section 3*).
- 2.2.4 ***Aerial Photography:*** historic 1940s and 1960s aerial photographs of the area are held on the MARIO website maintained by Lancashire County Council. These were consulted and negated the requirement of consulting the National Monuments Record in Swindon as outlined in the Project Design (*Appendix 1*).
- 2.2.5 ***OA North Library:*** OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

### 2.3 TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 2.3.1 The detailed survey provides a full record of all the earthworks within the extent of the proposed development and was conducted with Leica differential GPS equipment, using real-time (RTK) corrections and equipped with mobile SmartNet technology to achieve an accuracy of  $\pm 0.02\text{m}$ . The digital survey data was transferred, via Leica Geo Office (V.3), as dxf drawing files into a CAD system (AutoCAD 2004), and was superimposed onto the embedded digital Ordnance Survey data. The resulting drawings provide a record of the extant archaeological features, annotated with hachures, to create an accurate topographical record. Descriptive hand-written records were compiled for each

surveyed feature. A photographic record was maintained in 35mm black and white print format, colour slide and digital photography.

## **2.4 WATCHING BRIEF**

- 2.4.1 This programme of field observation accurately recorded the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits within the course of the topsoil strip within areas of open country. The work comprised the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 2.4.2 All groundworks on the site were conducted under constant archaeological supervision and comprised stripping of topsoil and subsoil to a maximum depth of 0.4m. These works were enacted by a 360° mechanical excavator using a 2m wide ditching bucket. All exposed soil horizons were examined and described and spoil heaps were carefully checked for any unstratified finds.
- 2.4.3 A daily record of the nature, extent and depths of groundworks was maintained throughout the duration of the project. All archaeological features were recorded on OA North's *pro-forma* sheets, using a system based on that of the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A monochrome and colour slide photographic record was maintained throughout and, where appropriate, scaled plans and sections were produced to locate the presence of archaeological features as accurately as possible.

## **2.5 ARCHIVE**

- 2.5.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, Preston.



### 3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

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#### 3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Ashton Park is situated in Ashton-on-Ribble, approximately 2.5km to the west of Preston town centre, Lancashire (NGR SD 51250 30450), bounded on the north by the A5085 Blackpool Road and to the east by Pedders Lane. Residential housing surrounds the park, with the River Ribble a short distance to the south.
- 3.1.2 Ashton is situated on the low-lying Lancashire and Amounderness Plain, but is now urban in character (Countryside Commission 1998, 88) with the landscape lying at 21m AOD on both the east and north sides of Ashton Park. The solid geology of the area consists of red and green mudstones, obscured by a thick covering of glacial drift (*op cit*). The drift consists of boulder clay and the soil in the area is of the Salop series, and is a typical stagnogley (Lawes Agricultural Trust 1983).

#### 3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Prehistoric Period:** evidence for Mesolithic hunter-gatherer activity in the Preston area includes a mattock, fashioned from red deer antler, found on the bank of the Ribble and dated to *c* 5400 BC (Hunt 2003, 15). Finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic date from Walton-le-Dale, to the south-east of the proposed development, highlight the importance of the River Ribble as a communication route during the prehistoric period (Lancashire County Council 2006, 17). Further evidence from excavations in the nineteenth century at Preston Dock also shows extensive prehistoric activity in the locale of the River Ribble, with recent radiocarbon dates ranging between *c* 3820 BC to AD 890. The finds were made over 6m below the modern ground surface and include a Neolithic greenstone axe and Bronze Age spearhead, together with finds of human skulls, and the bones of deer, cattle, horse and sheep. Two log-boats were also recovered from the vicinity (Fishwick 1900, 3ff; Hunt 2003, 16-7) although their date is uncertain.
- 3.2.2 **Romano-British period:** there is considerable evidence of Roman military activity within the general environs of Preston, most notably to the south of the city centre is the Walton-le-Dale site. Excavations have revealed a series of large rectangular buildings, constructed from large timbers with evidence of doors opening out onto a main road through the complex. There is evidence of furnaces and pottery kilns indicative of the site being a large industrial complex. It was possibly a manufacturing and distribution depot serving the Roman forts, and was located at the intersection between the River Ribble and a north/south Roman road and may have functioned as a part of a network of supply bases, being well situated to exploit the navigable River Ribble and the overland road network (Philpott 2007, 70 and 75).
- 3.2.3 In addition, across the wider region there are also important Roman forts at Ribchester and Kirkham, which were built in the first century AD, probably as part of the military conquest of the North West (Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000; Howard-Davis and Buxton 2000).

- 3.2.4 An important east/west road was located on the northern side of the River Ribble, running eastwards from the fort at Kirkham towards Ribchester, before continuing to York (Philpott 2007, 60; 87; Margary 1957, road 703, 106–7). The line of this projected line is less than a kilometre from the northern edge of the development site. The main north/south Roman road follows the line of the A6 road and is to the east of the development site. Despite the proximity of these sites relating to the Roman military infrastructure there are relatively few Roman period sites within present day Preston and those that known are mainly restricted to finds of coins and ceramics (Lancashire County Council 2006, 17). They include part of a *mortarium* vessel found in a pit on New Hall Lane (Hunt 2003, 16) and coin finds, such as those recently discovered at the Ladywell Shrine, Fernyhalgh Lane (Fishwick 1900, 7-8; Hunt 2003, 18; OA North 2004).
- 3.2.5 **Early Medieval Period:** the post-Roman period is not well evidenced in Lancashire. The etymology of waterways in the region, including the Savick Brook and River Ribble, suggest an initial occupation by indigenous British populations. Subsequent Anglo-Saxon cultural influence in the early medieval period (sixth to ninth centuries), if not actual population displacement, is suggested by place-names, including Preston, ‘the town of the priest’ and Fishwick, ‘fish market’ (Hunt 2003, 31). ‘Walton’ is also derived from the Old English ‘*wahl*’ and ‘*tun*’, meaning the farmstead of the Britons (Ekwall 1922, 68). In AD 670, grants of ‘the lands by the Ribble’ were made to Wilfrid’s Abbey at Ripon, which may have included the Preston region, which by this time was part of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Northumbria (Fishwick 1900, 8; Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 72).
- 3.2.6 There is some documentary evidence to suggest that the River Ribble formed an important communication route inland for the tenth-century Scandinavian communities in Dublin and York (Hunt 2003). Physical evidence for a Scandinavian presence in the area has been provided by the Cuerdale Hoard, thought to represent the treasury of a war band, which was discovered close to Walton-le-Dale (Graham Campbell 1992). However, there is no evidence for archaeological remains of this period in the vicinity of the present study area, although it is possible that the Roman site on The Flats (Walton-le-Dale) continued in use into the fifth and sixth centuries AD (Gibbons *et al* forthcoming).
- 3.2.7 Preston’s regional significance by the time of the Norman Conquest is attested by its position as the head of the Amounderness Hundred (Farrer and Brownbill 1912, 99ff). The Hundred is first recorded in King Aethelstan’s gift of land to St Peter’s church, York, dated *c* 930 (Fishwick 1900, 10). At the time of the Domesday survey in 1086, the Hundred was registered as part of Yorkshire (*op cit*, 11).
- 3.2.8 **Medieval Period:** Ashton or ‘*Estun*’ is first mentioned in the Domesday Book (1085-6) (Faull and Stinson 1986), comprising ‘two carucates, and Lea, one carucate’ (a carucate being roughly 100 acres). There is a suggestion (Welsh 1993), that there are the earthwork remains of a deserted settlement (LRO PRN 15208) within the study area and this is discussed further in *Section 3.5*. The name *Estun* is possibly derived from a family of that name, of unknown provenance. Eventually, during the fourteenth century the manor passed to the Houghton family.

- 3.2.9 **Post-Medieval Period:** Fishwick (1900, 433-5) states that the Hearth Tax records of 1663 list a total of 32 hearths for Ashton, with 22 residents. In 1831 the population of the township of Ashton, Lea, Ingol and Cottam was 687. During the nineteenth century Ashton, which had been entirely rural in character, became an area favoured by the middle classes as the industrialisation of Preston increased dramatically with the accompanying rapid development of workers housing. By the late nineteenth century development had gradually covered the fields between Ashton and Preston.
- 3.2.10 A major impact on the area was the construction of the Preston and Wyre Railway between 1837-40, and there were also major changes to the riverside when the channel was widened and the river dredged in the 1830s and 1840s by the Ribble Navigation Company (Dickson 1887; Hardwick 1857). This allowed larger vessels to sail into the harbourage to cope with the increasing commercial interests changed the area from a rural, agricultural area, to one at the heart of industrial and commercial activity. In 1885 Preston Dock, to the south of Ashton park, was constructed and during its short active life provided a major focus for port activity, with the construction of warehousing, connecting roads and rail links (*ibid*).
- 3.2.11 **Ashton Park:** the house, once known as Ashton Lodge (Plate 1), dates back to 1810 when it was built of Longridge stone by Thomas Starkie Shuttleworth who died only 9 years later. This gave one of Preston's most famous families, the Pedders, the opportunity to buy the house and the surrounding lands. James Pedder, the son of the founder of Preston's first bank, bought the house in 1820 (Moxon 1990); the family would eventually give its name to nearby Pedders Lane and Pedders Way. James Pedder lived at the house for 26 years until his death in 1846. During his time at the house, he contributed to the cost of building St Andrew's church, inviting residents to his house as part of the opening celebrations in 1835: 'Mr James Pedder gave an invitation to the gentlemen present to call at his seat, Ashton Lodge [...]. At Ashton Lodge the band continued to play lively and popular airs, and all present were regaled with a glass of excellent porter' (Cochrane 1956).
- 3.2.12 James' son, Edward Pedder, inherited Ashton House in 1846. He extended the house around 1850, adding a grand hall and two pavillioned wings. A new porch was built and the house's grounds were remodelled, creating the ha-ha, which can still be seen today. During this period another grand house was built in Ashton House's grounds for one of Edward's younger brothers - The mansion, Whinfield House, which was a much more Victorian construction and overlooked the River Ribble. It was, unfortunately, demolished in the mid-twentieth century (Cochrane 1956). Edward Pedder died suddenly in 1861 at the worst possible time, just as a cotton famine was devastating the cotton industry throughout the North West. Shockwaves were sent round Preston when the books of the bank Edward Pedder partnered were scrutinised. It soon emerged that the bank, although not unsuccessful, was severely overdrawn to Edward Pedder and the brother who lived in Whinfield House. With no other solution immediately available, Ashton House, along with many other Pedder possessions, was sold off to pay the bank's debts (Moxon 1990).



Plate 1: Ashton Lodge c 1938 (reproduced with kind permission of Lancashire County Council)

3.2.13 After the Pedders the house has had many owners over the years, including another of Preston's most famous names, Edmund Robert Harris, who owned the house between 1861 and 1877 (Johnson 1994); Harris most famously gave his name to the Harris Museum in the centre of Preston. Ashton Park Estate was auctioned in 1887 (LRO DDX 1460) and after the Harris family sold the estate, Ashton House and its grounds changed hands many times. Another mill-owning family, the Calverts owned Ashton House for a while (*ibid*), but the mansion was eventually sold to 'English Electric' at the end of World War One. The house was subsequently sold to Preston Town Council in 1937. Preston Council retained the park, but then sold the mansion on to Lancashire County Council in the 1970s, who, for a number of years ran the house as a care home for the elderly. The house was sold again in the 1990s, and was used as a nursery ([www.ashtononribble.com](http://www.ashtononribble.com)).

### 3.3 MAP REGRESSION

3.3.1 **Early county maps:** historic mapping was consulted to trace the development of the study area. Yates' map of 1786 (Plate 2) shows 'Ashton' at a crossroads, and the lettering denotes a township. The present study area is immediately south of the east/west road towards Five Lane Ends and immediately to the west of the north/south aligned road that runs to the River Ribble. The ancient King's Highway followed a somewhat devious route via Lea and Clifton but as early as 1648 tolls were being paid for the privilege of crossing Lea Marsh and the Savick Brook. In 1781 Thomas Clifton and Sir Henry Houghton built new roads at their own expense with toll gates at Savick Brook, hence the name Lea Gate, and at Newton and Freckleton. This road remained as a private toll road until 1902 when part of it was incorporated into the road to Blackpool that was built by Lancashire County Council and Fylde Rural District Council, and declared a 'Main Road'. Although so indicated on some maps, this was never a turnpike road, but it is probable that the '20' denotes a toll point.



Plate 2: Extract of Yates' Map of Lancashire, 1786 showing Ashton

3.3.2 A 'Customs House' is marked to the south of the study area on the northern bank of the River Ribble that at this time also formed a township/parish boundary. In the wider area, Tulketh Hall is marked to the east and Cottam Mill to the north along with a large building, that is probably Cottam Hall. A pair of buildings are shown on the south side of the east/west road, immediately to the west of the cross roads and two further buildings further south, also on the west of the north/south road. Two buildings are also shown on the east side of Pedders Lane, which extends south from the east/west road.



Plate 3: Extract of Hennet's Map of 1830

3.3.3 Hennet's map of 1830 (Plate 3) shows the township of Ashton and the large, irregular-shaped Ashton Lodge is also marked. Ashton House at this time was situated further to the north, across Lane Ends. There appears to have been an expansion of settlement to the north of the toll road, as a further four structures are shown within this area. In the wider area, a road had been constructed

running westwards along the northern bank of the River Ribble towards Sidgreaves Lane (as shown on Yates' map) and the Customs House is no longer marked. To the north of the present study area the Lancaster Canal is shown and the small Preston 'Dock' is marked to the south-east of the study area.

- 3.3.4 **Ashton Tithe Map, 1838:** Ashton Lodge is shown as a U-shaped building owned by J Pedder Esq, with a ha-ha on the south side of the property, a complex of buildings to the east, and a pond in the north-west corner of the yard (Plate 4). A network of driveways/paths crosses the woodland surrounding the house on its west, east and northern sides. There is also a pond to the north-east and an open area to the north that is devoid of trees. In the wider area, to the south 'The Willows' is shown. The park is edged by shelter belt planting along Pedders Lane, in the east, and also along Blackpool Road, which was intended to shield the views from, and to, the house, although the southerly aspect was not planted in order to preserve the view over the River Ribble. To the north the farm, later known as Ashton Park Farm, is shown, with a possible lane depicted to the west of the farm buildings. The farm comprises two detached structures, an orchard and a pond or possible marl pit (usually located at the edge of a field) to the south, with an irregular-shaped, open field between the farm and Ashton House. The accompanying tithe apportionment lists Field 182 as Moor Hey, Meadow; Field 183 as Great New Sides, Pasture and Field 184 as Plantation, Wood.



Plate 4: Extract of the Ashton Tithe Map, 1838

- 3.3.5 **Ordnance Survey 6" to one mile map, 1849 (Plate 5):** Ashton Lodge is shown with a slightly shorter eastern wing protruding northwards, surrounded by woodland, a ha-ha to the south and a curving drive. This driveway joins Pedders Lane at Pinfold to the north-east of the house. Several buildings are shown to the east of Ashton Lodge but are not named. A squared, and presumably walled, garden has been laid out with a building, probably a gardeners cottage, to the north of Ashton Lodge and it has been planted with rows of trees and paths. Ashton Lodge is shown surrounded by woodland on the eastern, western and northern sides with several irregularly-shaped parcels of woodland set within the wider park. The line of trees, aligned north-west/south-east, in a large field to the north-east of the house may respect a former field boundary, but there is no boundary depicted on the tithe in this area. An additional structure has been built immediately to the east and within the yard of Ashton Park Farm (not named).

The large pond further north towards Ashton Park Farm and the orchard to the east are also shown. The possible remains of an earlier road shown on the tithe to the west appear to have been incorporated into the yard.



Plate 5: Extract of Ordnance Survey First Edition 6'' to one mile map, 1849

- 3.3.6 **Ordnance Survey 10 feet to one mile edition map, 1892 (Plate 6)**; this is a very detailed map showing Ashton Park and grounds and Ashton Park Farm to the north. Ashton Lodge had been renamed Ashton Park by 1892 and Ashton Park Farm was also named to the north. The complex of buildings to the east of the house is smaller and named Lodge. The remodelling work undertaken by Edward Pedder in 1849 is evident on this map, and he added a grand hall, two pavilioned wings and a new porch. The house's grounds were remodelled, creating the ha-ha, which can still be seen today. To the north-west of the house a maze was constructed, with a fishpond immediately to the north. The large detached building, probably a gardener's cottage, to the north of the house, noted on the previous map, has been demolished and the rectangular area is lined with rows of trees and a number of glass houses, in keeping with its function as a walled kitchen garden. The smaller buildings to the west have also been demolished. A square area to the south of Ashton Lodge appears to have been defined by earthwork banks and several field boundaries have been altered to the west and north-west of the house. In the wider area, to the south of Ashton Park 'Whinfield' had been constructed for one of Edward Pedder's younger brothers. Although not shown on earlier maps, a county and Parliamentary Borough Boundary is shown running along the west side of Pedders Lane. The 'Lodge' is shown on the west side of Pedders Lane. Several small areas of planting are shown in front of the house and a sundial is marked adjacent to the ha-ha. To the south-west of the house there appears to be a pond in an area of open parkland, which extends down to Watery Lane in the south. Within this area, several field

boundaries that were shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map (1849) have been removed to create an uninterrupted landscape. Whinfield and The Willows are both shown as large detached properties within their own grounds.

- 3.3.7 Further north, Ashton Park Farm is shown, with a slightly altered layout and additional outbuildings to the west. The complex of outbuildings is set within two distinct courtyard areas. Within the more southerly yard, a chimney and steps are marked on the east/west aligned structure, with possible kennels/small outbuildings to the west and a tank and two ponds to the east, the larger of which may have been a marl pit. The farm complex also has a large walled garden and orchard immediately to the east, with a rockery and some formal planting. To the south-west of the farm are five rows of trees aligned north-east/south-west.

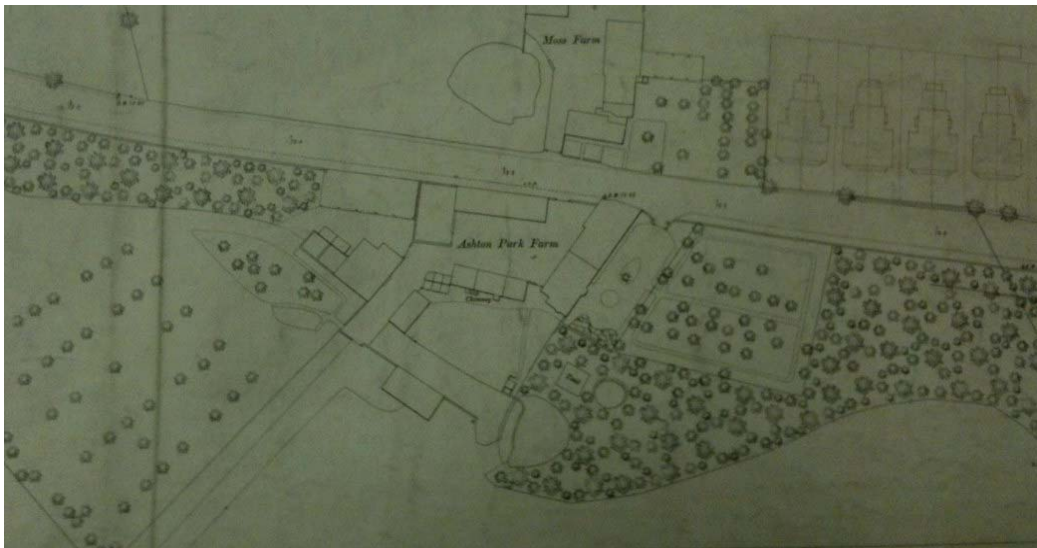


Plate 6: Extract of Ordnance Survey 10 feet to one mile map, 1892 showing area of Ashton Park Farm

- 3.3.8 **Ordnance Survey Second Edition 25" to one mile map, 1912:** this map is very similar to the 1892 edition and there are few notable changes although an additional orchard has been planted to the west of Ashton Park Farm.
- 3.3.9 **Ordnance Survey Third Edition 25" to one mile map, 1931:** a number of changes have taken place within the park including the construction of a golf course to the west of Ashton House, which has become the clubhouse, and the construction of a football ground to the south-east of Ashton Park Farm, which by 1931 had a stand on its western side. The farm is extant, although the orchard to the west has been removed and the residential housing has encroached on the land. Immediately to the north of Ashton House, a Bowling Green has been constructed. These changes reflect the transition from private estate and park, to public recreational area.
- 3.3.10 **Ordnance Survey 25" to one mile map 1961 Edition:** Ashton Park Farm is shown as extant on the 1961 map, but the farm had been demolished by 1961. This conflicts with the evidence of the aerial photographs (*Section 3.6*), as the farm is not present on the late 1940s aerial photograph covering Ashton Park. A playground had been built to the south and by 1961 a health centre was constructed to the south of the site of Ashton Park Farm.



### 3.4 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION (HLC)

3.4.1 Ashton Park is defined within the Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) as Modern Recreation. This HLC type includes golf courses, larger playing fields and parks and other amenity land; all these recreational facilities post-date the Ordnance Survey First Edition mapping. Favoured locations include either areas adjacent to or within towns (their original location reflecting the urban limit at the time of construction). Typical historic attributes specific to the type include sports grounds and stadia, historic golf buildings and potentially common land. Much of the areas of Modern Recreation extend over areas of prior agricultural use and may, therefore, contain significant time-depth in terms of the retention of earlier landscape features or buried archaeology. Golf courses may retain boundaries or earlier features associated with early agrarian regimes, such as ridge and furrow, although construction of sports and recreation facilities, and landscaping of golf courses may disturb or destroy some of this information whilst drainage may have degraded it (Ede and Darlington 2002, 131).

### 3.5 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

3.5.1 In 1993, a documentary and field survey, undertaken by Dr T C Welsh (HER PRN 15208), demonstrated pre-nineteenth century earthworks which possibly included ridge and furrow, field boundaries, and a former road that presently lie within the present study area (Plate 7). There is also the potential for buildings and a pond, some of which are shown on the tithe map (Plate 4). The Ordnance Survey 25" to one mile map of 1892 also shows a possible lane and associated buildings.

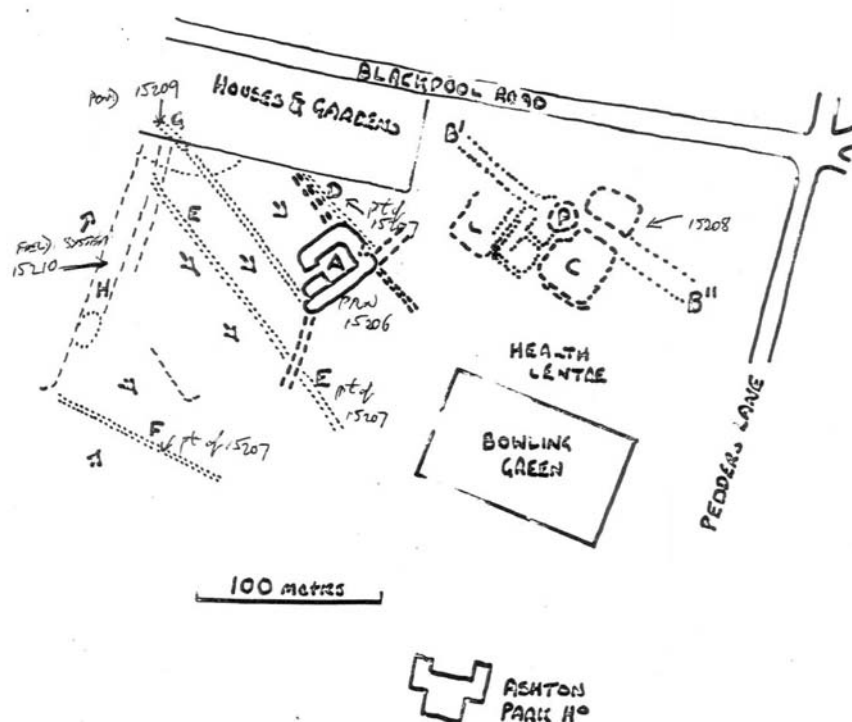


Plate 7: Earthworks and Settlement at Ashton Park (after Welsh 1993)

3.5.2 Welsh (1993) suggested that these were indications of a small deserted, dispersed settlement, elements of which show up on nineteenth century mapping. It includes an old road, which dictated the alignment of the farm buildings and plots before its realignment with Blackpool Road. Welsh noted a pond, shown on nineteenth century OS mapping, that seems to have been inserted into the possible road line, and suggests that the road line was earlier. Welsh also noted a number of plots bounded by ditches and banks to the south-west of the potential road, partly evident as parched ground crop marks, which he suggested, may indicate buildings or gardens. To the east of the pond was a raised mound, which Welsh suggests may have been an ornamental feature or flowerbed. Welsh also highlighted the presence of a series of banks, boundaries and ditches, a pond, a field system and a possible tannery, although such an industrial feature is not listed in the Ashton tithe apportionment for land immediately surrounding the farm.

### 3.6 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

3.6.1 Historic aerial photographs from the 1940s and 1960s were consulted on [www.mario.gov.uk](http://www.mario.gov.uk). Ashton Park Farm is not present on the late 1940s aerial photograph, in contrast to the map evidence of 1955. There are no outbuildings and no evidence of the former pond. A small copse partially covers the study area. A modern track leads to Blackpool Road and to the east of the former farm a track leads south to Ashton House. There are also faint traces of ridge and furrow in the fields to the south of the former farm. It would appear that the golf course is by this date no longer in use.



Plate 8: Extract of c 1960s aerial photographic coverage (© Mario, Lancashire County Council)

- 3.6.2 There are no notable changes to the study area illustrated on the 1960s aerial photo. Traces of ridge and furrow, mainly aligned east/west, are visible to the south of the small copse and there are also traces of possible former field boundaries and field drains. An aerial mast (and its shadow) can be seen in the centre of the area with circular features surrounding it that could relate to anchoring points. In the wider area, a series of long, narrow structures of unknown function have been constructed to the north of Ashton House, and are shown but not annotated on the historic maps of similar date.

## 4. TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 A Level 2b survey (OA North 2002) was undertaken of an area of relict parkland on the north side of Ashton Hall, Preston, and the survey area was limited to the footprint of the new development and immediate environs (Plate 7). The detailed descriptions of the identified features are presented within *Appendix 2* and a summary of the identified archaeological features is presented below (Fig 2).

### 4.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTION

- 4.2.1 The survey has identified remains relating to post-medieval / medieval agricultural practices and the more modern redevelopment of the park, and which clearly post-date the agricultural activity.
- 4.2.2 ***Agricultural Features:*** the main surviving earthwork features consist of three distinct adjoining areas of ridge and furrow cultivation (Sites **1-3** and **5**), which varied in width from 2.5m to 4.25m across. The width of the ridge and furrow is significant as it provides an indicator of the ploughing processes that formed it. The broader ridge and furrow typically reflects the use of ploughs pulled by large teams of oxen, which had large turning circles, resulting in the wide separation between the ridges, and also areas of headland, beyond the ridge and furrow, where the plough teams were turned. One effect of this technique was a tendency to twist the end of each furrow to the left; and left wide strips (over 4m ridge to ridge) which had a characteristic reverse ‘S’ shape (Eyre 1955). The use of oxen ploughing was more common in the medieval period. In the post-medieval period ploughing with smaller numbers of horses, or even steam ploughing, was more common and would result in ridge and furrow that had widths of 3m or less, reflecting that the turning circles for the plough and team was much shorter. Ridge and furrow between 3m and 4m width could belong to either technique.
- 4.2.3 At Ashton Park there are small areas of ridge and furrow of different widths and orientations. Some areas, such as Sites **1** and **5**, have very narrow ridge and furrow and are more consistent with later horse / steam ploughing, but Site **3** has relatively broad ridge and furrow (over 4m width) and could potentially reflect oxen ploughing. The short length of this area of ridge and furrow (c 43m) is not consistent with oxen ploughing, reflecting that the difficulty of turning the plough meant that farmers ploughed for as long as possible, typically a furlong (220yds or 201m), to improve the efficiency of ploughing. However, this area of ridge and furrow has been truncated by the football pitch (Site **4**) to the east and by an area of more recent ridge and furrow to the west (Site **2**), and may originally have been much longer.
- 4.2.4 The diverse areas of orientation and width would appear to reflect different phases of cultivation, potentially over an extended period, and the presence of relatively broader ridge and furrow, could reflect that the earliest of these cultivated areas was of an earlier date. Some of the later ridge and furrow, however, may reflect cultivation undertaken by the home farm of Ashton Park

Farm. The location of cultivation is unsurprising even in the parkland of the estate as this is at the rear of the hall.



Plate 9: Ridge and Furrow Cultivation (Site 1) in footprint of the development

4.2.5 The close proximity to Ashton Park Farm may also explain other features on the northern end of the surveyed area, particularly as some of these features were depicted on the 1892 OS 25" to 1 mile map, when the farm was still in operation. There is a large pond/marl pit (Site 9), where marled earth was removed for use in fertilising the ground and the subsequent pit was then used to water livestock. In addition, there is the site of a water tank platform and adjoining scoop (Sites 10 and 11), both shown on the OS 1892 map. There is also the edge of a small walled lane (Site 6), which corresponds to the edge of a walled corridor that shown on the OS 1892 map. The implication is that all of these features related to the use of the adjacent Ashton Park Farm.



Plate 10: Ridge and Furrow Cultivation (Site 2) and marl pit/pond in the trees (Site 9)

4.2.4 **Ornamental Parkland:** one feature in the area could possibly be a designed landscape component associated with the parkland of Ashton Hall. Site 12 is a relatively large mound located in a small copse on the northern side of the area. The mound could have been constructed as a tree-planting mound, located in what was a shelterbelt at the northern end of the park or, alternatively, was a part

of the gardens of Ashton Park Farm. It is one of the few features in this area that was not shown on the OS 1892 25" map.

- 4.2.5 ***Twentieth Century:*** there are several features of more modern origin reflecting the re-use of the parkland. A football pitch was built on the east side of the area and evidence of its outline was evident, as well as the footings of the former grandstand (Site 4); the earthworks for this clearly overlie the area of ridge and furrow (Site 3) to the west. The site of a now demolished aerial mast was identified; it had service trenches running to it and had surrounding anchoring points for tensioning wires (Site 8). Finally, an earthen bank on the southern edge of the area probably relates to earth moving in advance of the construction of the car park for a medical practice clinic to the south of the area (Site 7).

## 5. WATCHING BRIEF

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 A watching-brief undertaken the 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010 was conducted during groundworks on land located between the NHS clinic car park and playground on the northern end of Ashton Park, Preston (Fig 2).

### 5.2 RESULTS

5.2.1 The area stripped on the 9<sup>th</sup> August measured 24.5m in length, 25.5m in width and reached a depth of 0.2m. The work was to allow for the construction of a rubber-surfaced floor for an outdoor gym. As the depth of the excavation was shallow, its impact on archaeological remains was minimal, and the excavations did not extend through the topsoil. The rubber floor was to be laid on a thin stone base with no walls or footings edging the area. Occasional field drains were visible and some nineteenth and twentieth century pottery fragments were found, along with some small brick fragments. A spread of cinder was found, measuring 2m by 2m, and was adjacent to the location of a large concrete block, measuring 0.55m by 0.55m, which had been removed. The concrete block was potentially an anchor point for the aerial mast shown in the 1960s aerial photography (Plate 8; Site 8).

5.2.2 The site visit on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010 observed the removal of the last of the topsoil from the excavated area. No further archaeological features or deposits were encountered archaeology present.



Plate 11: Area stripped during watching-brief on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010, looking north

## 6. DISCUSSION

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### 6.1 SYNTHESIS

- 6.1.1 The topographic survey has achieved the preservation by record of a relict landscape comprising agricultural and possible ornamental features, as well as more modern structures, within Ashton Park, Lancashire. The agricultural sites included four areas of ridge and furrow cultivation, which had varied orientations and widths and were potentially formed over an extended period. The earliest of these (Site 3) may be classified as broad ridge and furrow, and as such reflects oxen ploughing, which was prevalent in the medieval period but extended into the earlier post-medieval period. In addition there were other agricultural features including a marl pit/pond, a water tank and a scoop. Non-agricultural features included a possible ornamental tree mound and the relict elements of a football pitch and an aerial mast.
- 6.1.2 The study by Walsh (1993) had suggested the existence of a pre-nineteenth century settlement at the site, but this could not be confirmed by the present survey. While the present study only covered a small part of the wider area that had been examined by Walsh, the features identified by the present study were for the most part consistent with post-medieval activity, and no structural features, relating to domestic structures, were identified. The ridge and furrow is an indication of cultivation being undertaken at the site and has varied width, but was mostly narrow ridge and furrow, and as such is typical of later horse-drawn or steam-drawn ploughing. Significantly the orientation of the ridge and furrow is varied, suggesting that the cultivation was undertaken on a piecemeal basis, perhaps over an extended period. The line of a lynchet was identified, which possibly defined the line of a former track (Site 6), but this could relate to Ashton Park Farm and does not necessarily indicate the existence of a former settlement.
- 6.1.3 The watching brief programme revealed no significant archaeological features or deposits. An area of cinders and concrete block may relate to an anchoring point for the aerial mast.

### 6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 The survey has provided a mitigative record of the surface archaeological resource within the area affected by the development. This was followed by a watching brief during the top-soil strip which recorded no additional significant archaeological features and only impacted on one area of narrow ridge and furrow cultivation (Site 1). As such, no further work is recommended



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### 7.3 WEBSITES

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## APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

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**Oxford  
Archaeology  
North**

**August 2010**

**ASHTON PARK  
PRESTON**

**LANCASHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND WATCHING BRIEF**

**PROJECT DESIGN AND SPECIFICATION**

### ***Proposals***

*The following project design is offered in response to a brief from Michael Aitchison, Preston City Council. The proposed project involves a programme of survey to record the remains of a putative medieval settlement in advance of a development at Ashton Park, Preston.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preston City Council have invited Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake an archaeological survey of a part of Ashton Park, Lancashire, which is required as mitigation in advance of the construction of a proposed Adizone (a recreational area). The provision of a survey and watching brief is a condition of planning permission and a verbal brief for recording of the landscape has been provided by Doug Moir of Lancashire County Council.

### 1.2 ASHTON PARK

1.2.1 Documentary and field survey by Dr T C Welsh has demonstrated pre-C19 earthworks, which include ridge and furrow, field boundaries, a golf course, and a former road. There is also the potential for farm buildings and a pond, some of which are shown on the tithe map; the 1892 OS Map also shows a lane and associated buildings. There are indications of a small settlement, which is most probably a small dispersed settlement, and the fact that it shows up on nineteenth century mapping would suggest a post-medieval abandonment.

### 1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.3.1 OA North has considerable experience of the evaluation, survey and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 17 years. One of its particular specialisms is in the sphere of landscape recording and assessment. OA North has the professional expertise and resource to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North and all its members of staff operate subject to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct.

1.4.2 OA North has undertaken a large number of upland landscape surveys for a variety of clients (both private and national agencies such as English Heritage and Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHM(E)) and employs a qualified surveyor (James Quartermaine, BA, DipSurv, MIFA) who has many years experience of the identification and survey of upland landscapes, having worked closely with the RCHM(E) and the Lake District National Park Authority on a number of projects.

1.4.3 Since 1982 OA North has been undertaking extensive upland landscape surveys throughout Northern England but mainly in the Lake District. Surveys include the Lake District National Park Survey, the Torver Common surveys (Lake District), Haweswater and Thirlmere estate surveys (Lake District), Lyme Park (Peak District), most of the Forest of Bowland AONB, Lancashire, and a multitude of smaller landscape projects which include the Otterburn Range surveys in the Lake District National Park. OA North has undertaken archaeological field surveys of over 610sqkm of upland landscapes and has recorded over 21,000 field monuments. On the Arnside/Silverdale project, in 1992, OA North was the first archaeological organisation in Britain to use GPS (Global Positioning System) survey techniques and since then has considerably advanced its skills in this area. OA North can therefore claim to be one of the foremost specialists in the field of upland landscape recording.

### 1.5 PROJECT DESIGN

1.5.1 The following project design specification sets out the objectives of the project, provides a methods statement demonstrating how these can be met, defines the resource implications of the methods statement and links these to a timetable and costings. Details of quality standards and monitoring procedures are also included.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The primary purpose of the project is to provide a mitigative record of exposed earthworks in advance of the development and to link these into available cartographic and documentary sources. A watching brief is required to identify and below ground remains that will be impacted by the proposed development.

2.2 The following programme has been designed to provide an accurate archaeological survey of the earthwork remains at Ashton Park and to investigate and provide a record of any sub-surface remains within the extent of the development footprint.

## 3. METHODS STATEMENT

3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the objectives of the archaeological work summarised above. It is divided into three elements, plan survey, watching brief, and reporting. The study area incorporates the area of the proposed development. but also extends up to 100m from its boundary to provide a wider context for the remains.

### 3.2 DOCUMENTARY SEARCH

3.2.1 **Documentary and cartographic material:** a very basic search of documentary records will be undertaken in advance of the survey. It will also serve as a guide to the archaeological potential of the area. This work will include an appraisal of the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, as well as appropriate sections of County histories, early maps, and such primary documentation (tithe and estate plans etc.) as may be

available. Particular emphasis will be upon the early cartographic evidence which has the potential to inform the nineteenth land-use of the area, and will be essential to determining the development of the landscape.

3.2.2 Any photographic material lodged in the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (Preston) will also be studied; published documentary sources will also be examined and assessed. It will examine photographs and place name evidence for the site and its environs.

3.2.3 This work will involve consultation with the following:

- Lancashire Historic Environment Record
- Local Studies Library
- OA North Library

3.2.4 **Aerial Photography:** a survey of the extant air photographic cover will be undertaken. Aerial photographic collections to be consulted will include obliques and verticals held by the National Monuments Record based in Swindon, and photographs held by the County HER.

3.2.5 **Map Processing:** the historic maps will be scanned and will be adjusted with respect to the 1:2500 OS base map by a process of rubber sheeting within CAD / GIS.

3.2.6 **Archive:** where possible good copies of the plans, maps and illustrative material will be obtained from the sources; they will be illustrated within the final report and held within the project archive. Where possible large format copies of maps and plans will be obtained from the Record Offices.

### 3.3 Detailed Survey of the Earthworks

3.3.1 The detailed survey will provide for a full record of all built elements within the extent of the proposed development. This will be undertaken by means of GPS survey.

3.3.2 **GPS Survey:** a Satellite Global Positioning System (GPS) will be utilised to satisfy the Level 2 survey requirements. GPS uses electronic distance measurement along radio frequencies to satellites to enable a positional fix in latitude and longitude which can be converted mathematically to Ordnance Survey national grid. The GPS is a Leica 1200 differential system and uses Ordnance Survey base stations in conjunction with a roving station to correct the raw data with corrections transmitted by mobile phone. The accuracy of the OA North GPS system is capable of  $\pm 0.03\text{m}$  and provides for a quick and effective means of recording the detail of the features. It is proposed that this technique be used to record the earthwork features and topography.

3.3.3 **Drawing Up:** the raw data from the total station and the GPS will be combined within a CAD system, and then plots will be generated to enable the drawing up of the sites within the field. The archaeological detail is drawn up in the field as a dimensioned drawing on the plots with respect to survey markers. On completion of the field survey the drawings will be enhanced within the CAD environment to produce the final drawings. The survey will record all pertinent archaeological detail.

3.3.4 **Photography:** in conjunction with the archaeological survey a photographic archive will be generated, which will record significant features as well as aspects of the general landscapes. It will record all principal vistas. This photographic archive will be maintained using black and white 35mm film and also using a digital camera with 8 mega pixel resolution. The use of a digital camera provides very effective manipulation of photographic images, and these will be used in the report. The use of photography in this way considerably enhances the usability of a database and greatly assists the analysis of the landscape.

3.3.5 **Description:** a descriptive record will be maintained of all the earthwork features identified. The descriptive entries will be input directly into a Psion palm computer, for subsequent incorporation into the project report.

### 3.4 WATCHING BRIEF

3.4.1 **Methodology:** a permanent programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features within the ground works for the proposed Adizone development. This work will comprise the observation of the process of excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of works, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.

3.4.2 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid coordinates where appropriate). All archaeological information collected in the course of fieldwork will be recorded in standardised form, and will include accurate national grid references. Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously. The recording

techniques and procedures employed by OA North for such detailed recording represent current best practice.

- 3.4.3 It is assumed that OA North will have the authority to stop works for a limited period to enable the recording of important deposits, and to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified. This would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and the Lancashire County Archaeologist and will require a variation to costing. In normal circumstances, field recording will also include a continual process of analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of the data, in order to establish the necessity for any further more detailed recording that may prove essential.
- 3.4.4 **Finds Processing:** finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (current IFA guidelines for finds work). All typologically significant and closely datable finds will be contextually recorded. All artefacts and ecofacts will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration. Finds storage during fieldwork and any post-excavation assessment and analysis (if appropriate) will follow professional guidelines (UKIC). All finds will be washed, marked and packaged as appropriate. Small finds will be individually packaged, in a manner appropriate to the find type.
- 3.4.5 The artefact assemblage will be examined by OA North finds specialists, and the potential for further examination will be assessed. A summary report on the significance, character and date range of the assemblage will be generated.
- 3.4.6 **Environmental Sampling:** subject to survival environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). Subject to the results of the watching brief an assessment of any environmental samples will be undertaken by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis. The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if good waterlogged deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of the Lancashire County Archaeologist and the client.

### 3.5 PROJECT ARCHIVE AND REPORTING

- 3.5.1 **Archive:** the results of the fieldwork will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork to the appropriate level. OA North conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and digitally. Digital survey data will be provided in a suitable format for incorporation into the MapInfo Geographical Information System (GIS). A synopsis (normally the index to the archive and the report) should be placed in the Lancashire HER.
- 3.5.2 **Digital Presentation:** the survey data will be digitally transferred into a CAD system (AutoCAD 2004). The drawings can be output at any required scale, although the accuracy of generation assumes that the drawings will not be reproduced at scales of greater than 1:500.
- 3.5.3 **Reporting:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client within five weeks of completion of fieldwork, and a further digital copy will be submitted to the Lancashire HER. The report will identify areas of defined archaeology and an assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the material, within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities, will be made. The report will make a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the individual sites within the study area. The report will include a copy of the agreed project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, with an assessment of the overall stratigraphy, together with appropriate illustrations, including detailed plans and sections indicating the locations of archaeological features. Any finds recovered from the watching brief will be assessed with reference to other local material and any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted and the potential of the site for palaeoenvironmental analysis will be considered. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived. Illustrative material will include a location map, section drawings, and survey plans.

### 3.6 CONFIDENTIALITY

- 3.6.1 The report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

### 4. OTHER MATTERS

#### **4.1 ACCESS**

4.1.1 It is assumed that the client will obtain access to undertake the survey from land owners and tenants.

#### **4.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

4.2.1 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services) during the excavation, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. The OA North Health and Safety Statement conforms to all the provisions of the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers) Health and Safety manual, as well as the OA Health and Safety Statement. Risk assessments are undertaken as a matter of course for all projects, and will anticipate the potential hazards arising from the project.

#### **4.3 INSURANCE**

4.3.1 The insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the Unit and arising in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of OA North in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of OA North or any of its employees there applies the insurance cover of £10m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.

#### **4.4 WORKING HOURS**

4.4.1 Survey works will be undertaken on the basis of a five day week, within daylight hours only. It is anticipated that because of the use of academic members of staff and volunteers for certain aspects of the project, some works will be conducted during weekends.

### **5. WORK TIMETABLE**

5.1 The phases of work will comprise:

#### **5.1.1 *Field Survey***

1 days will be required for the field survey

#### **5.1.2 *Watching Brief***

Subject to the duration of the ground works for the development

#### **5.1.2 *Archive and Reporting***

20 days would be required to complete this element.

### **6. OUTLINE RESOURCES**

#### **6.1 STAFFING**

6.1.1 The project will be under the management of **Jamie Quartermaine BA DipSurv** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. He will monitor the progress of the project ensuring adherence to all agreed programmes and timetables. He will also provide technical back-up, advice, and will have editorial control over the compilation of the full report. He has many years experience of surveying upland landscapes, particularly in the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. In particular he has considerable experience of recording industrial landscapes, which include the Wythburn Lead Mines and dressing floors, the Greenside Lead Mines and smelt mill, the Snailbeach Lead Mines and dressing floors and the Grassington lead dressing floors.

6.1.2 The field survey will be led by **Peter Schofield BA** who has considerable experience of field survey work, including prehistoric landscapes, and has undertaken considerable survey work throughout Cumbria and was a team leader on the recent major survey of the Northern Welsh Uplands. He undertook the recent surveys for the National Trust at Ennerdale in West Cumbria, and also at St Catherines, Windermere. He has completed a major boundary survey of an MOD training area, Holcombe Moor, in South Lancashire which has enabled us to develop GIS methodologies for analysing the results of the boundary survey.

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## APPENDIX 2: SITE GAZETTEER

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**Site Number** 01  
**Site Name** Ashton Park, Narrow Ridge and Furrow Cultivation I  
**NGR** SD 51169 30453  
**Ref no** HER 15208  
**Site Type** Narrow Ridge and Furrow  
**Period** Post-medieval  
**Source** HER; Archaeological Survey  
**Description** This site comprises the ephemeral traces of an area of north-west / south-east aligned narrow ridge and furrow cultivation, which typically dates to the post-medieval period. The area was marked as a series of plots/settlement in the HER. It measures 33m x 25m and has slight ridges measuring approximately 2.2m between ridge, and has crests that are only 0.15m high.

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**Site Number** 02  
**Site Name** Ashton Park, Narrow Ridge and Furrow Cultivation II  
**NGR** SD 51191 30441  
**Ref no** HER 15208  
**Site Type** Ridge and Furrow  
**Period** Medieval to Post-medieval  
**Source** HER; Archaeological Survey  
**Description** This site comprises the ephemeral traces of an area of north-west / south-east aligned ridge and furrow cultivation. The area was marked as a series of plots/settlement in the HER but is simply an area of historic cultivation. It measures 36m x 28m and has moderately well-defined ridges measuring approximately 3.2-4.0m between ridges with crests that are 0.2-0.3m high.

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**Site Number** 03  
**Site Name** Ashton Park, Narrow Ridge and Furrow Cultivation III  
**NGR** SD 51228 30433  
**Ref no** HER 15208  
**Site Type** Ridge and Furrow  
**Period** Medieval to Post-medieval  
**Source** HER; Archaeological Survey  
**Description** This site comprises the ephemeral traces of an area of north-west / south-east aligned ridge and furrow cultivation. The area was marked as a series of plots/settlement in the HER but is essentially an area of cultivation. It measures 41m square and has moderately well-defined ridges measuring approximately 4-4.5m between ridges with crests that are 0.2-0.3m high

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**Site Number** 04  
**Site Name** Ashton Park, Football Pitch  
**NGR** SD 51297 30429  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Football Pitch  
**Period** Modern  
**Source** OS 1912; Archaeological Survey  
**Description** The football pitch was constructed between the 1892 and 1912 editions of OS mapping. The pitch is still extant and two features survive in the surveyed area. Feature **4.1** is a shallow L-shaped earthwork conforming to the north-west corner of the pitch. It measures 25m then turns for a further 10m and is 3.6m wide by 0.25m high. The western edge of the pitch is overlain by a modern footpath but at the southern end, adjacent to the NHS clinic, is a feature, **4.2** that relates to the site of a grandstand as depicted on the 1912 OS mapping. The earthwork measures 45m long by 3.5m wide and is 0.4m high.

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**Site Number** 05  
**Site Name** Ashton Park, Narrow Ridge and Furrow Cultivation IV  
**NGR** SD 51265 30465

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**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Narrow Ridge and Furrow  
**Period** Post-medieval - Modern  
**Source** Archaeological Survey  
**Description** This site comprises ephemeral traces of an area of east-north-east/west-south-west aligned narrow ridge and furrow cultivation which typically dates to the post-medieval/modern period. The site is not marked in the HER. It measures 28m x 12m and has slight ridges measuring approximately 2.5m between ridges that are only 0.15m high.

**Site Number** 06  
**Site Name** Ashton Park, Lynchet  
**NGR** SD 51205 30471  
**Ref no** HER 15208  
**Site Type** Lynchet  
**Period** Post-medieval  
**Source** HER; OS 1912; Archaeological Survey  
**Description** This site comprises a short linear section of lynchet bank, orientated north-west / south-east which measures 14.5m long by 2.5m wide and 0.5m high on the south side. The lynchet relates to the alignment of the southern wall of a lane on the south side of Ashton Park Farm, and which was still extant on the 1912 OS mapping. This may also have been part of the putative 'old road' described by Dr Welsh.

**Site Number** 07  
**Site Name** Ashton Park, Earthen Bank  
**NGR** SD 51169 30453  
**Ref no** HER 15208  
**Site Type** Earthen Bank  
**Period** Modern  
**Source** Archaeological Survey  
**Description** This site comprises an earthwork skirting the northern end of the NHS clinic car park. It is modern in origin and relates to earth moving operations prior to the construction of the car park (post-1960). It measures approximately 50m long by 5.3m wide and is up to 0.6m high

**Site Number** 08  
**Site Name** Ashton Park, Aerial Mast  
**NGR** SD 51204 30422  
**Ref no** HER 15208  
**Site Type** Telecommunication Structure  
**Period** Modern  
**Source** Aerial Photo 1960s; Archaeological Survey  
**Description** This site comprises the slight earthwork remains of a now demolished aerial mast. The mast was shown on the 1960s aerial photography and possibly on the 1940s photography. The site could relate to the Second World War use of the site, although this remains unknown. The features consist of the footprint of the mast base with two electrical service trenches running to the north **8.7** and four to six surrounding anchoring points **8.1-8.6**. The anchoring points may have been mistaken for golf course bunkers by Dr Welsh in his reference to the site

**Site Number** 09  
**Site Name** Ashton Park, Pond/Marl Pit  
**NGR** SD 51169 30453  
**Ref no** HER 15208  
**Site Type** Narrow Ridge and Furrow  
**Period** Post-medieval  
**Source** HER 15208; Tithe Map, OS mapping; Archaeological Survey  
**Description** This site comprises a large, oval, shallow-sided pit depicted on the south-east side of Ashton Park Farm on the historic mapping. It measures 19m by 17m and 0.6m deep. The pit is not a tanning pit as referred to by Dr Welsh as there is no reference in the tithe mapping for tanning pits as he had suggested. The pit is a livestock drinking pond created out of an earlier marl pit. The historic mapping

shows many such pits distributed at the edges of fields in the surrounding area.

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**Site Number** 10  
**Site Name** Ashton Park, Water Tank  
**NGR** SD 51169 30453  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Water Tank  
**Period** Post-medieval  
**Source** OS 1892; Archaeological Survey  
**Description** This site comprises a sub-square platformed earthwork located on the eastern side of Ashton Park Farm. The feature is on the site of a (?subterranean) water tank shown on the 1892 OS mapping. It measures approximately 7.5m square and is slightly scooped into the ground by up to 0.3m. There is a flat capping stone, possibly for an entrance hatch, that has been displaced on the south-western corner of the feature.

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**Site Number** 11  
**Site Name** Ashton Park, Scoop  
**NGR** SD 51238 30472  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Scoop  
**Period** Post-medieval  
**Source** Archaeological Survey  
**Description** This site comprises a sub-rectangular, sunken earthwork located on the eastern side of Ashton Park Farm. It measures approximately 7.7m x 7.1m and is slightly scooped into the ground by up to 0.3m on the eastern side. The site is likely to be a small quarry scoop.

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**Site Number** 12  
**Site Name** Ashton Park, Tree Mound  
**NGR** SD 51252 30471  
**Ref no** HER 15208  
**Site Type** Tree Mound  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** HER; Archaeological Survey  
**Description** This site is an amorphous earthen mound located on the east side of Ashton Park Farm. The feature measures approximately 22.8m by 15.3m overall but with a steeper section of mound on the north-eastern corner measuring 12.5m by 11.25m and which is up to 0.5m high. The mound was referred to by Dr Welsh and was suggested to be an ornamental feature. The feature could be a more mundane spoil heap or more likely a tree planting mound located within the shelter belt on the north side of the park.

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

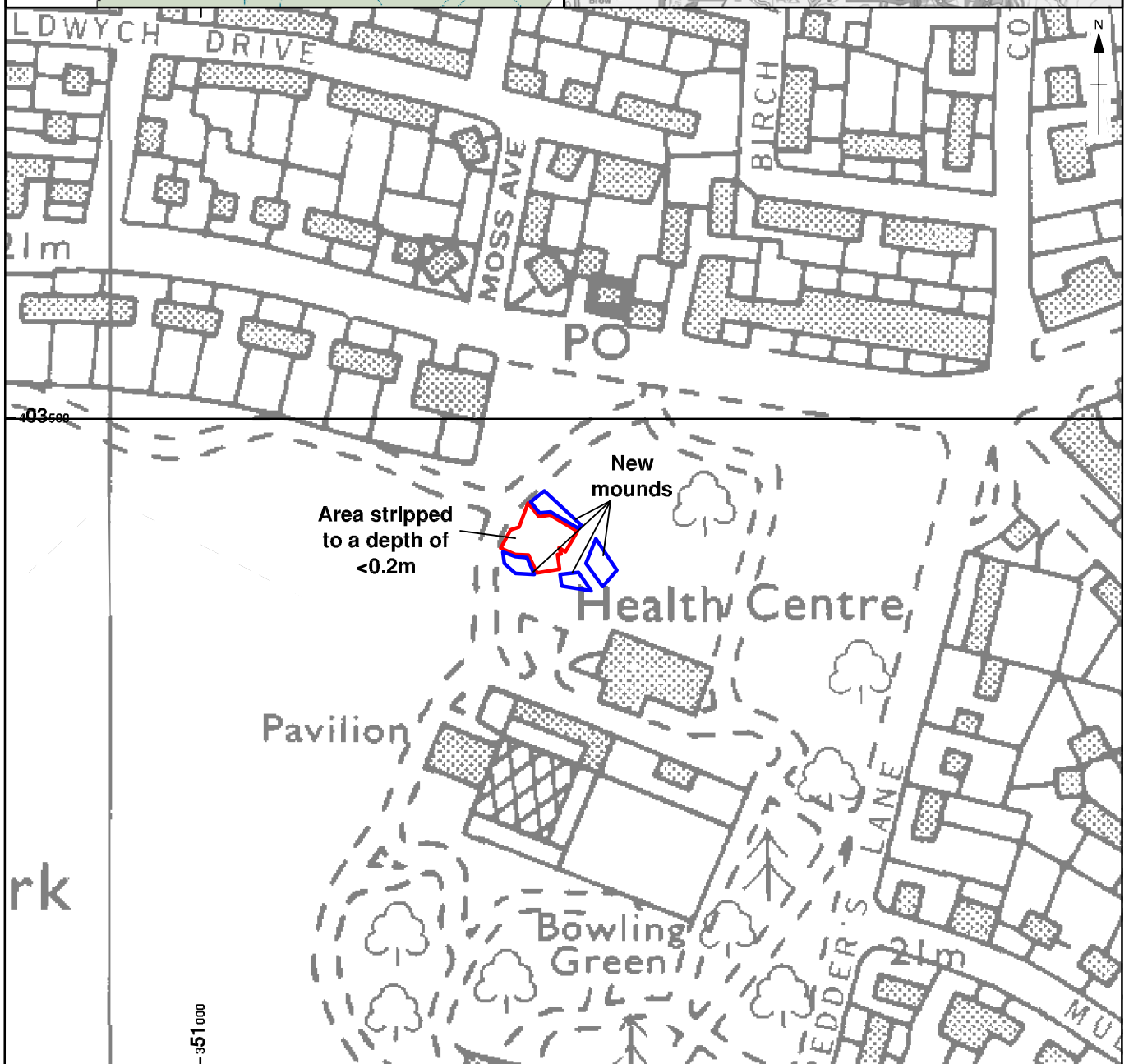
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### FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Topographic Survey of Archaeological Features within HER 15208
- Figure 3: Topographic survey overlain on the Ordnance Survey 1892, 25" to 1 mile map

### PLATES

- Plate 1: Ashton Lodge c 1938 (reproduced with kind permission of Lancashire County Council)
- Plate 2: Extract of Yates' Map of Lancashire, 1786 showing Ashton
- Plate 3: Extract of Hennet's Map of 1830
- Plate 4: Extract of the Ashton Tithe Map, 1838
- Plate 5: Extract of Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" to one mile map, 1849
- Plate 6: Extract of Ordnance Survey 10 feet to one mile map, 1892
- Plate 7: Earthworks and Settlement at Ashton Park (after Welsh, 1993)
- Plate 8: Extract of c1960s aerial photographic coverage (© Mario, Lancashire County Council)
- Plate 9: Narrow Ridge and Furrow Cultivation (Site 1) in footprint of the development
- Plate 10: Narrow Ridge and Furrow Cultivation (Site 2) and marl pit/pond in the trees (Site 9)
- Plate 11: Area stripped during watching-brief on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2010, looking north



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0 50 m  
1:2500 @ A4



Figure 1: Site location

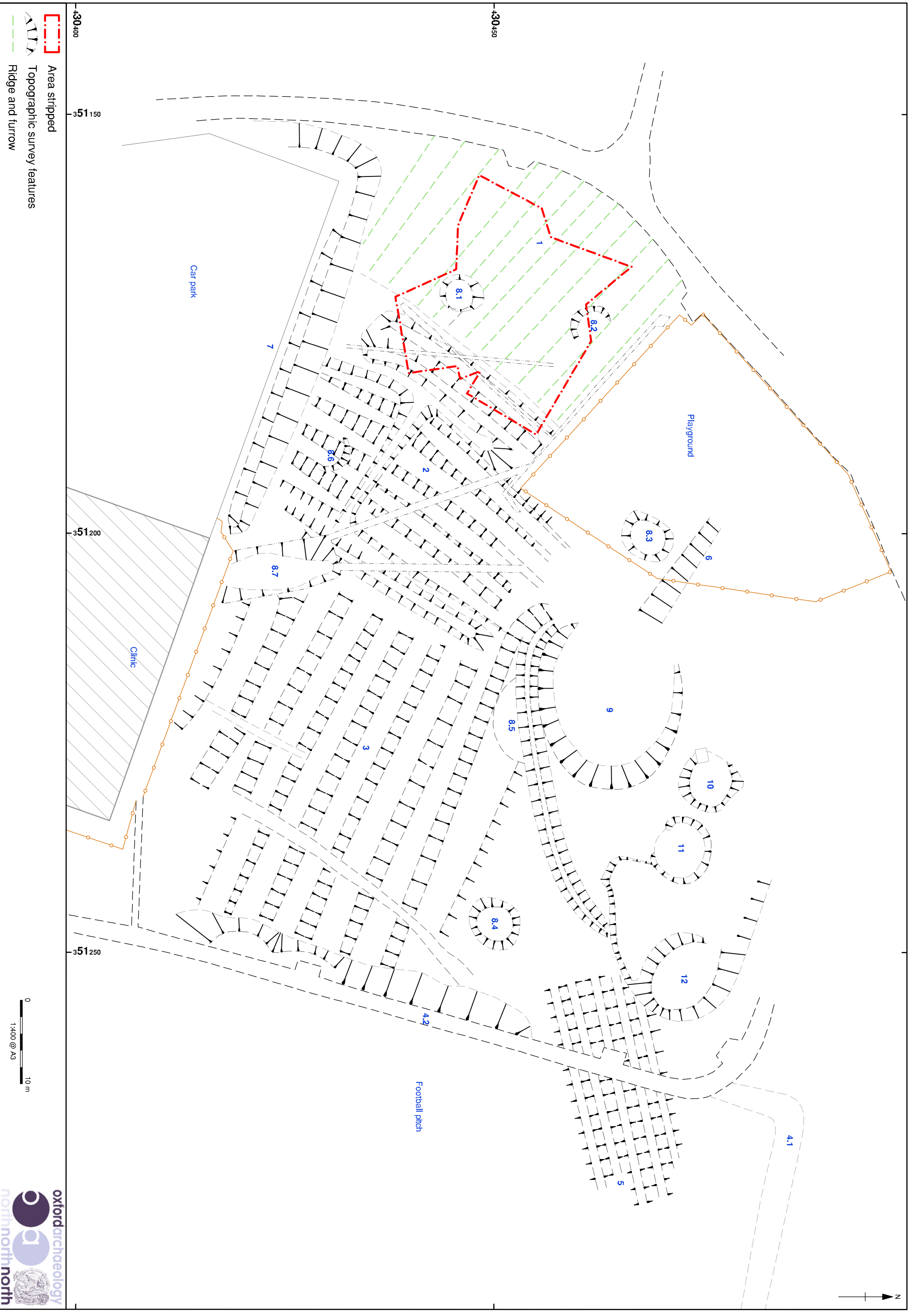


Figure 2: Topographic survey of archaeological features within **HER15208**

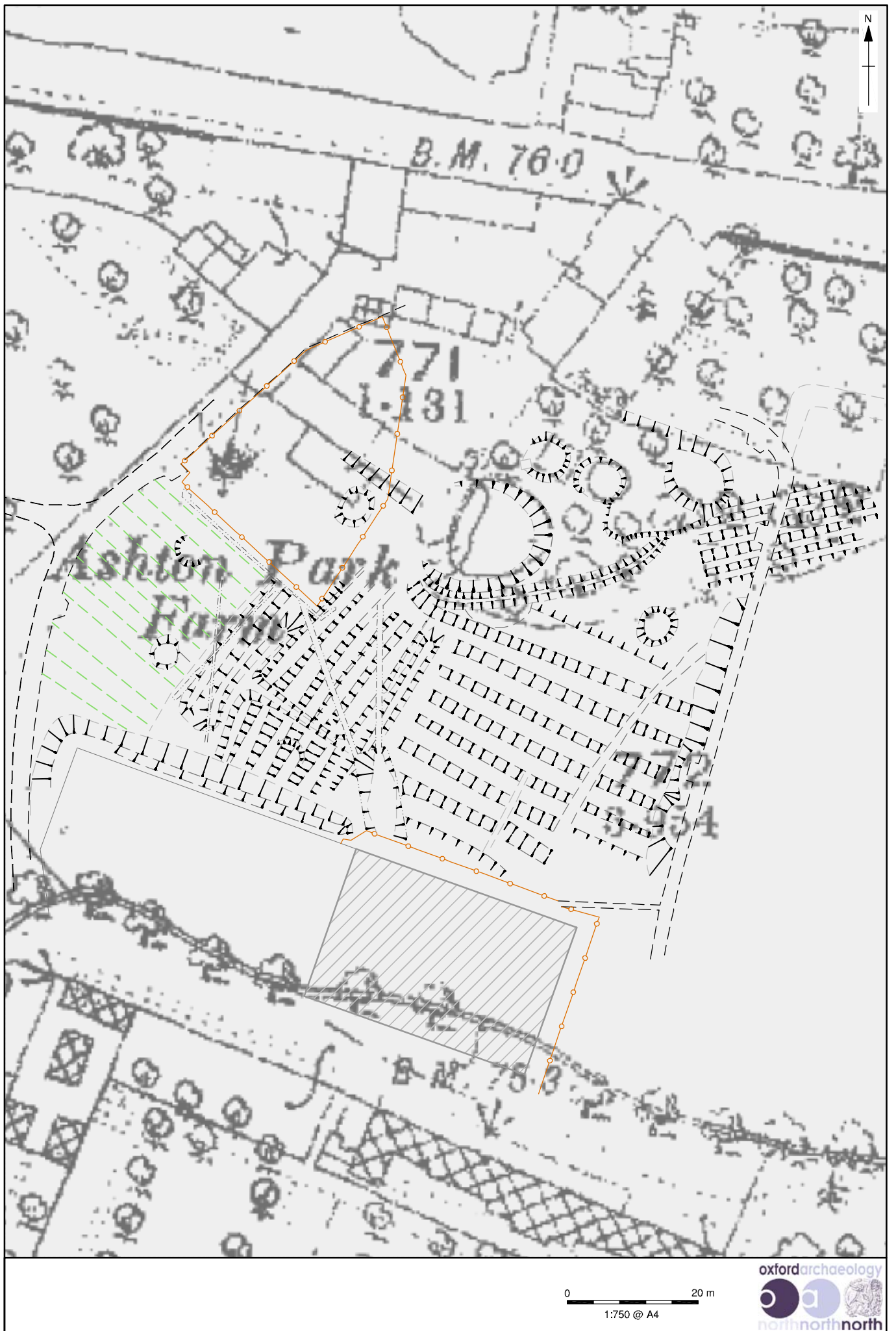


Figure 3: Topographic survey overlain on the Ordnance Survey map, 1892, 25" to 1 mile