Manchester Road Phase 2, Heywood, Greater Manchester

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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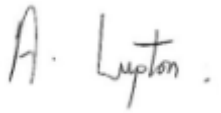
Signature:	

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Manchester Road Phase 2, Heywood, Greater Manchester

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Written by Charlotte Howsam

Illustrations by Mark Tidmarsh

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Summary

In September 2022, Oxford Archaeology (OA) North were commissioned by The Environment Partnership (TEP), on behalf of Anwyl Homes, to undertake an archaeological trial-trench evaluation on the Phase 2 residential development site south-east of Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale Greater Manchester (NGR: SD 85670 08596).

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, which was completed in three days; 27th to 29th September 2022.

All four trenches were successfully excavated in their intended locations. None were found to contain archaeological remains of any significance. The south-western trenches (Trenches 3 and 4) contained extensive modern made ground deposits, containing modern debris, and were likely associated with the construction of the M62, which borders the southern site boundary.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North would like to thank Amir Bassir of The Environment Partnership (TEP) for commissioning this project on behalf of Anwyl Homes. 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 OA North by Paul Dunn. The fieldwork was directed by Aidan Parker, who was supported by Selina Dean. The illustrations were produced by Mark Tidmarsh, whilst the report was written by 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 Anwyl Homes, to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the site of a proposed phase 2 residential development to the south-east of Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (NGR: SD 85670 08596).

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 Archaeological 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, which was completed in three days; 27th to 29th 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 85670 08596; Fig. 1). The *c* 6.3ha proposed Phase 2 development site occupies a sub-rectangular area of land comprising two fields of rough pasture partially separated by a hedgerow. It is bounded by Manchester Road to the west, an unnamed lane to the north and east, and the M62 and commercial properties to the south.

1.2.2 The geology of the area is mapped as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation (BGS 2022). The overlying superficial deposits are recorded as diamicton, Devensian Till (*ibid*). The soils within the site are recorded as slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils to the north and freely draining slightly acid sandy soils to the south (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 TEP WSI (*Appendix A*), 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. At the north-west site boundary, 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 to the south-west of the site is recorded in the Greater Manchester HER. Several post-medieval farmsteads and culverts directly to the east and south-east of the site are shown on mid nineteenth-century Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping.

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.

1.1.1 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?
- GS24: How do we ensure topographic, geology and geomorphology information is used appropriately to protect favoured locations for rural sites.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The full methodology is outlined in the WSI (*Appendix A*) 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.

2.2.2 The topsoil, and any surviving subsoil, were removed by an 13-tonne 360° tracked excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit or natural geology, under direct archaeological supervision at all times. 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.

2.2.3 The trenches were located 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 of the trenches were excavated in their intended locations (Fig 2).

2.2.4 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.

2.2.5 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).

2.2.6 A full professional archive has been complied in accordance with the WSI, and in accordance with current CIfA (2020b) and Historic England (2015) guidelines. The archive will be deposited with 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 evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in *Appendix B*. No archaeological remains were identified in any of the trenches; as such, they will be discussed no further other than to describe the soils identified.

3.2 Evaluation results

3.2.1 The soil sequence in Trenches 1 and 2 in the north of the site were fairly uniform. The natural geology of light yellow-orange silty sand with clay patches was overlain by a subsoil, *c* 0.18–0.20m thick, which in turn was overlain by topsoil, *c* 0.23–0.30m thick (Plates 1 and 2).

Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south-west (1m and 2m scales)

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

3.2.2 In the south of the site, Trenches 3 and 4 revealed a similar sequence of topsoil, *c* 0.25–0.30m thick, overlying subsoil, *c* 0.20–0.35m thick (Plates 3 and 4). However, the natural deposits were not encountered directly underlying the subsoil. Instead, excavation revealed a modern made ground deposit, below which was a disturbed layer of redeposited natural.

Plate 3: Trench 3, looking south-east (2m scale)

Plate 4: Trench 4, looking west-south-west (2m scale)

3.2.3 Three sondages were machine-excavated in Trench 3, one at the centre and at both ends of the trench (Plate 5). This revealed made ground ***303*** to be up to 2m thick. In Trench 4, made ground ***403*** was *c* 1.20m thick. Modern debris was also identified within this deposit in both trenches, though to a lesser extent than the overlying made

ground. In Trench 4 a late post-medieval/modern land drain was identified crossing the western half of the trench on a north-north-west alignment, cutting into deposit ***403***.

Plate 5: North-east-facing section of sondage through centre of Trench 3 (2m scale)

3.2.4 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. The natural geology, were exposed, appeared to be fairly uniform.

3.3 Environmental and finds summary

3.3.1 No environmental samples were taken as there were no suitable deposits uncovered and no archaeological finds were recovered during the evaluation.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches provided a good coverage of the site, targeted on areas that had greater potential to reveal archaeological remains. The ground conditions were generally good throughout the course of the evaluation and the machining was carried out cleanly providing good visibility of the deposits in the trenches.

4.1.2 While the WSI (*Appendix A*) highlighted the archaeological potential of the site, particularly for prehistoric and Roman remains, the investigations demonstrated the absence of any significant archaeological features, with the only remains identified on site indicating late post-medieval/modern agriculture and extensive modern truncation. 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 established the overall absence of archaeological remains on site. The only feature encountered was a single late post-medieval/modern land drain in Trench 4. Extensive modern made ground deposits and mixed/disturbed redeposited natural containing modern debris were revealed approximately 0.50–0.60m BGL in Trenches 3 and 4 and were *c* 2.0–2.9m thick in total.

4.2.2 Given the absence of any archaeological remains predating the late post-medieval/modern period and the lack of any residual finds in overburden deposits, the results of the investigation 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 1 and 2) revealed a largely uniform stratigraphic sequence of topsoil and subsoil overlying the natural geology. In contrast, Trenches 3 and 4, in the southern half of the site, revealed extensive modern made ground deposits and mixed/disturbed redeposited natural underlying the subsoil. The absence of residual finds within overburden deposits also suggests the agricultural nature of the landscape.

4.3.2 The made ground and disturbed deposits revealed in Trenches 3 and 4 were most likely associated with the construction of the M62, which borders the southern boundary of the site. As a result of this, no evidence of the former watercourse and parliamentary boundary that once crossed the site, as illustrated on late nineteenth-century OS mapping, was identified.

4.4 Significance

1.1.2 The evaluation established the overall absence of any significant archaeological remains on site, with only a single land drain demonstrative of late post-medieval/modern agricultural land use. Extensive modern made ground deposits and truncation probably associated with the construction of the M62 were also identified. Together with the lack of earlier archaeological features and residual finds, the

evaluation results reflect the largely agricultural nature of the landscape during the post-medieval/modern period and the site's location away from known medieval settlements and earlier sites recorded within the wider landscape (see *Section 1.3*).

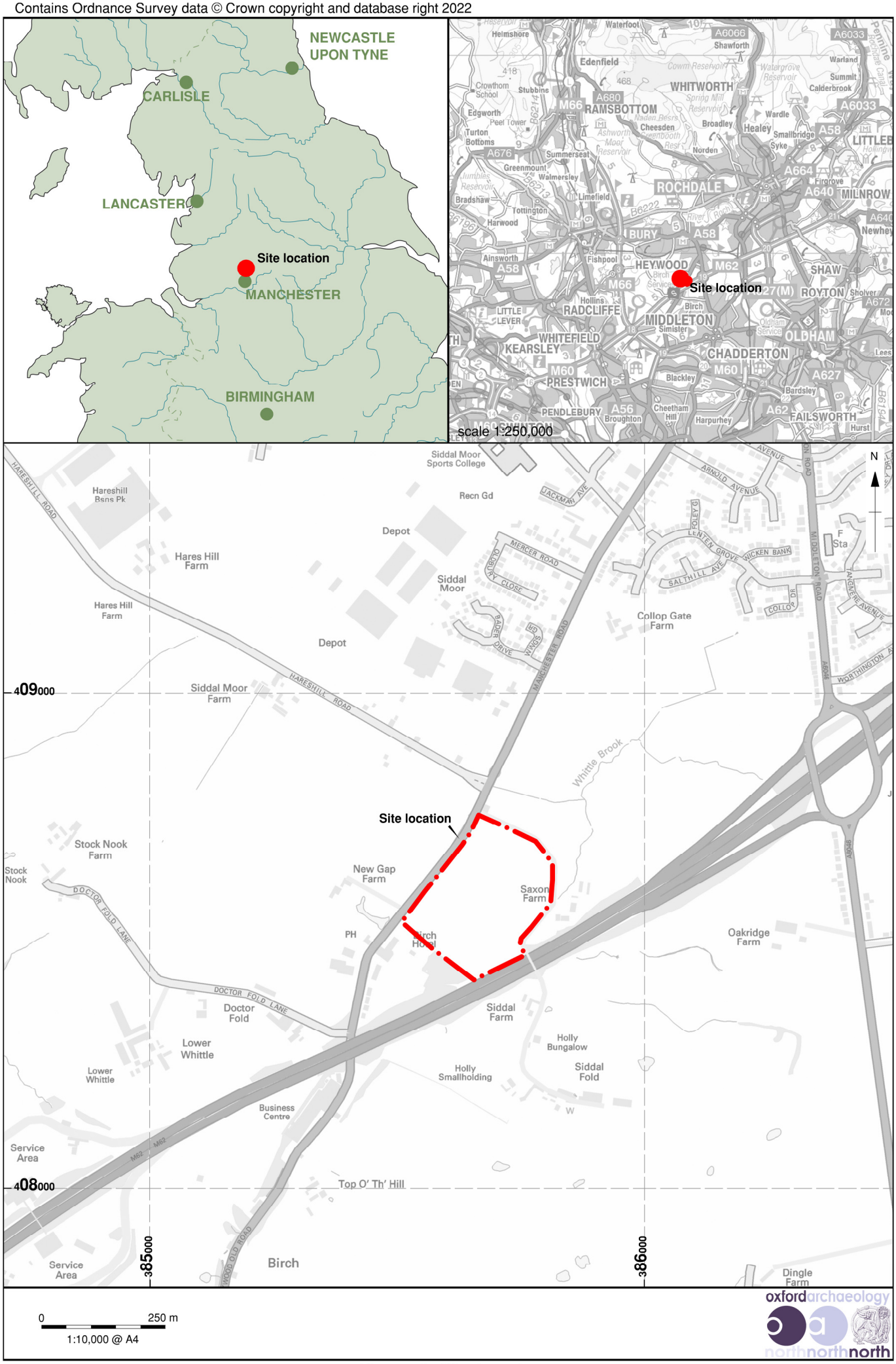
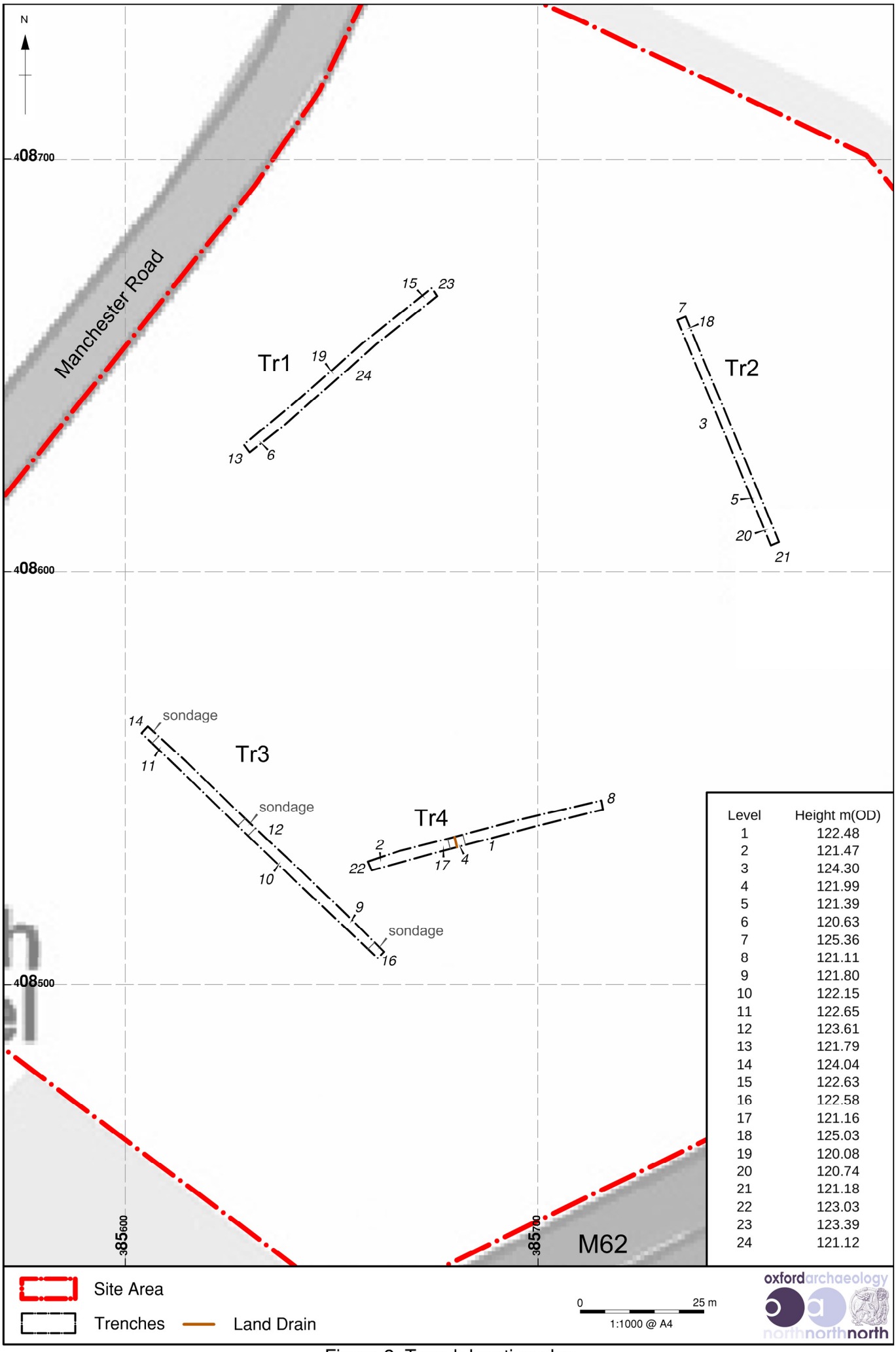


Figure 1: Site location



Level	Height m(OD)
1	122.48
2	121.47
3	124.30
4	121.99
5	121.39
6	120.63
7	125.36
8	121.11
9	121.80
10	122.15
11	122.65
12	123.61
13	121.79
14	124.04
15	122.63
16	122.58
17	121.16
18	125.03
19	120.08
20	120.74
21	121.18
22	123.03
23	123.39
24	121.12

Figure 2: Trench location plan

APPENDIX A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

LAND EAST OF MANCHESTER ROAD, HEYWOOD

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

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APPENDICES

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been commissioned by Anwyl Homes as part of a programme of archaeological works required in order to discharge Condition 7 of approved planning application 16/01399/HYBR for the development of land at South Heywood. The application includes the demolition of existing buildings, the construction of a new link road between Junction 29 of the M62 and Pilsworth Road and associated widening, landscaping and improvements. The hybrid application also includes mixed use development for up to 1,000 dwellings and employment uses, and associated landscaping and services.

1.2 Development of the outline site at South Heywood is to be taken forward in phases and this WSI deals with the land parcel east of Manchester Road which covers an area of 6.3 hectares at NGR SD 85670 08596. This is referred to throughout this WSI as the 'development site'.

1.3 Condition 7 is relevant to the development site, and states that:

No development shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological works has been secured. The works are to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The WSI shall cover the following:

a) a phased programme and methodology of investigation and recording to include:

- *A historic building survey*
- *Archaeological evaluation*
- *Informed by the above, more detailed targeted excavation (subject to a new WSI)*

b) a programme for post investigation assessment to include:

- *Analysis of the site investigation records and finds*
- *Production of a final report on the significance of the archaeological and historical interest represented*

c) dissemination of the results commensurate with their significance.

d) provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation.

e) nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.

Reason: to record and advance understanding of heritage assets impacted on by the development and to make information about the archaeological heritage interest publicly accessible in accordance with the requirements of Core Strategy Policy P2 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Reason for pre-commencement condition: to ensure the opportunity for archaeological investigation is undertaken as part of pre-commencement works on site in the public interests of recording and advancing understanding of the archaeological heritage of the site.

1.4 The local planning authority is the Rochdale Borough Council. The Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) act as advisors to Rochdale Council on archaeological planning matters.

1.5 This WSI sets out a proposed methodology for trial trench evaluation and programme of reporting. There are no historic buildings within the development site, therefore this WSI does not cover historic building recording.

1.6 Email consultation was undertaken in July 2022 with the Heritage Management Director at GMAAS regarding the archaeological potential for the site, drawing on the initial comments received from GMAAS in December 2018 which state that "*In a region of challenging conditions for geophysics and a low level of material culture for earlier periods, targeted trenching on purely topographic grounds has been shown to be successful (for instance Barton Road, Salford City Reds development site where trenching found Mesolithic, Bronze Age and Roman remains)*."

Figure 1 OS six-inch County Series, 1888-1913 1:10,560, showing former water course and topographic variation and elevations within the site.

1.7 The proposed trench plan (Appendix A) has been confirmed as appropriate for targeting areas of archaeological interest including high points indicated on Ordnance Survey 6" first edition map contours, field boundaries of "ancient fields" and the line of a former watercourse meander through the site.

1.8 This WSI has been prepared by TEP, a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and has been authored by a full member of CIfA. The archaeological works will be undertaken by appropriately qualified archaeological contractor and Registered Organisation with CIfA.

Aims and Objectives

1.9 The aim of the trial trench evaluation is 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 information gained will allow the GMAAS to make a reasonable and informed decision as to whether the archaeological remains on site, should any be present, are to be subject to a programme of mitigation works, to be defined following the results of the evaluation.

1.10 The programme of work is designed in accordance with paragraphs 194 and 205 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021).

1.11 The research objectives of the programme of work will be determined by what archaeological remains are present within the development site. However, subsequent assessment and analysis will be in accordance with relevant objectives outlined in the updated North West Archaeological Research Framework (2007). Relevant objectives from the Prehistory and Roman Agendas may include:

- 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?
- GS24: How do we ensure topographic, geology and geomorphology information is used appropriately to protect favoured locations for rural sites.

2.0 Policy, Standards and Guidance

2.1 Section 16 of the National Planning Policy (NPPF), revised 2021, describes the provisions specifically relating to conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

2.2 Paragraph 194 advises local planning authorities to require and applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected by their proposal, including any contribution made by their setting, including "*where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation*". It states that the level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.

2.3 Paragraph 205 states that "*Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible*". The request for predetermination works attached to the planning application, and this corresponding WSI, are in accordance with this policy provision of the NPPF.

Guidance

2.4 The guidance most relevant to this WSI is provided in:

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation;
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials;
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives; and
- Historic England, 2015 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).

Monitoring

2.5 The implementation of the works outlined in this WSI will be monitored by the Heritage Management Director at Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA). GMAAS will be kept up to date with progress during all phases of the archaeological works.

2.6 All archaeological fieldwork will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist, working under the direction of a full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, or equivalently qualified project director.

3.0 Background

Geology and topography

3.1 The solid geology is recorded by the British Geological Survey as Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation, Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone. This is overlain by Devensian Till, which is recorded as Diamicton, indicative of former ice age conditions, with deposits left by meltwater. Historic mapping shows a former meander of Whittle Brook as passing through the development site during the 19th century, prior to its later diversion.

3.2 The soils on the development site are categorised as Soilscape 17 in the north, comprising slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils, and Soilscape 10 in the south, comprising freely draining slightly acid sandy soils. These soil types may limit the potential for recovery of any human or animal bone which may be associated with the archaeological remains of a settlement site, but it could also preserve other organic materials and ceramics.

3.3 As noted in the North West Archaeological Research Framework, and 2018 consultation comments from GMAAS, the topographic and geological conditions of the development site, which comprise an elevated area of land on free draining sandy soils close to watercourses and former mossland also indicates archaeological potential for prehistoric activity in the area.

Archaeological and Historic Background

Historic map evidence

3.4 Available historic mapping shows that the study area which includes the development site comprised open moorland in post medieval period until enclosure in the late-19th century. The character has endured until the present day.

Prehistoric

3.5 North West England has a number of recorded sites which provide evidence of changes in climate, relative sea level, and past vegetation in the early prehistoric period (North West Archaeological Research Framework 2007). This environmental evidence also provides a background to understanding the movement of people during this time, as a reaction to changes in the environment and this can be used to aid interpretation of the regions' early prehistoric sites. The main areas which retain direct evidence of human activity in the Palaeolithic period however are still cave sites, and there is still little evidence of settlement activities in this period within the study area.

3.6 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. However, the primary evidence from this period in the study area tends to be in the form of lithic scatters recorded during field walking or incidentally during large scale excavations. Within the wider study area, Mesolithic flints have been recovered in Ashworth Moor and Knowl Hill, and environmental evidence of woodland clearance has also been recorded. The climate appears to have supported hunter gatherer populations in Lancashire at this time, however settlement may have been seasonal, following the movement of game animals between the lowlands and Pennine hills.

3.7 Into the Neolithic period the Lancashire climate appears to have shifted to a cooler and wetter environment. This, along with woodland clearance and the creation of grazing land for animals, contributed to the formation of large areas of moss (blanket bog) across the region. The development site appears to be located just within the former Siddal Moor (as evidenced on the 1786 map of Lancashire by Yates), which was likely an area of mossland and evidence of peat is known within the vicinity, although it has not been recorded within the site itself. These cooler waterlogged conditions are suggested to be the cause of limited settlement activity in the area during the Neolithic period, and only one burial monument, comprising a cairn dating to the Neolithic to Bronze Age period, is recorded in the north-east of the study area at Cheesden.

3.8 This wet climate in the study area is thought to continue into the Bronze Age with the abandonment of some formerly occupied sites, and this state of use continues into the Iron Age period. In the wider region there has been evidence of settlement and farming activity, as well as funerary sites on the Pennine fringes and also in lowland areas. In the study area, the Bronze Age is represented by a find spot of a Bronze Age stone axe in Heywood to the north, and two stone axes were also found in the wider study area to the north-east, adjacent to the Whittle Brook. These may represent votive deposits and their presence has informed the location of the trial trenching across a former meander of the Whittle Brook within the development site.

3.9 Recent archaeological investigations in the region have recorded that the typically Iron Age hillforts in North West England have their origins in the Late Bronze Age. The Iron Age period appears to develop upon field systems established elsewhere in the Bronze Age and farming activity intensified, which may have been a result of population pressures. In the south of the region, earlier settlement sites developed further in the later Iron Age and the number of lowland rural settlements also increased at this time. To the south-west of the study area a possible Iron Age settlement was recorded at Rhodes Green, and to the north-east at Calderbook, a beaded torque was found by workman in 1832.

3.10 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 to Romano-British occupation/settlement in this area, during an evaluation by UMAU in 2008. This settlement included the remains of postholes/pits and linear gullies and the archaeologists also recovered late Mesolithic worked flint, a quern fragment and fire cracked pebbles (University of Manchester Archaeological Unit 2008). Another similar site in topography and location, was partly excavated near Cadishead, close to Chat Moss, provided comparable results, but also included an enclosure with the remains of a number of hut circles (Salford Archaeology 2018).

Roman

3.11 It is thought that prior to the arrival of Roman troops into North West England, the area would have been part of the large northern territory belonging to the Brigantes tribe. This area stretched across northern Britain and was primarily focussed on Yorkshire, with its administrative centre east in what is now Aldborough, first recorded by its Latin name *Isurium Brigantum.* By 70 AD sometime after the initial Roman invasion, the region eventually became the northern frontier of Roman Britain and soon after a number of Roman forts were established in Manchester, Lancaster, Ribchester and Castleshaw, which is located 15km east of the development site. Continuing excavations at Castleshaw have revealed more about the life and functions of this site from 79 AD, including five Roman roads, gated entranceways, timber workshop buildings, industrial waste pits and also some Mesolithic flint finds, to indicate that the site has been in use almost continually since the prehistoric period. A local Roman road is thought to cross through Rochdale, north of Heywood and across to Bury, some way from the development site's location.

Early Medieval

3.12 After the departure of the Roman legions in the 5th century AD, the region eventually became part of the Kingdom of Northumbria, whose border with Mercia is thought to be to the east of the study area along the River Tame. Æthelfrith, the king of Northumbria in the 7th century is thought to have crossed through the study area with his troops on the way to Battle of Chester, which is recorded as taking place at some time between 605 and 616 by a number of sources including Bede.

3.13 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), therefore it is likely that there may have been some small woodland settlement in the study area by the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 - 1075. Hopwood to the north of the development site is recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles as '*Hopwode*', its place name meaning a 'wood in a small enclosed valley' and Rochdale was recorded in the Domesday Book later in 1086 as '*Recedham*', from the Old Norse meaning 'Valley of the River Roch' (Mills 2011) and included 9.5 leagues of woodland. Together this indicates that the study area was initially well wooded in the early medieval period and would have been cleared later in the early medieval and medieval period for agriculture and settlement expansion.

3.14 To the north at Heywood, at the site of Gristlehurst Hall, excavations in 2014 revealed a clay-lined pit with a stone foundation, which opened onto an area that included a soot- and charcoal-filled hollow. The dating evidence for the charcoal found in the kiln structure indicated a date of 987-1045 AD for this feature (North West Regional Research Framework 2007).

Medieval

3.15 The place name *'Heghwode*' was first recorded in 1246 and would have been in the parish of Hopwood at this time. The development site was likely within the edge of Siddal Moor, then part of Whittle, which was a detached portion of Bury Parish. The development site was located north-east of the small settlement of Birch, however several medieval features relating to agriculture are recorded in the wider area including field systems, terracing, and ridge and furrow cultivation remains. Prior to the 14th century the climate had improved, making more land available for agriculture and the free draining sandy soil would have been useful for both arable and pasture farming. The watercourses of the area 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-west of the development site. Many moated homesteads were constructed in the 13th and 14th centuries, possibly in response to increasing pressure on food supplies due to a change in climate to wetter, cooler conditions and a rise in taxes and consequently civil unrest, from which landowners sought security and protection from within their moated sites.

Post Medieval

3.16 Further industrial activity in the study area in the late medieval to post medieval period was recorded in a lease dated 1587 between Edmund Hopwood and Isabella Schoharie which referred to a '*Coleyfylde*' at Siddal (Orion Heritage 2017). This demonstrates that the potential for coal mining in the vicinity was known from at least the late-16th century, and if it was carried out, would have been in the form of bell pits and shallow workings. In the 16th century woodland traditionally used for fuel was in short supply, so it is likely that the early medieval woodland of the study area would have been cleared by this time and mining for coal as an alternative source of fuel began to increase in popularity. Within the north-west edge of the development site some post medieval features associated with coal mining are recorded in the Greater Manchester HER.

3.17 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 by the Greater Manchester HER in the south-west of the study area The post medieval farmstead site of Saxons to the east of the development site and Siddal to the south-east are recorded on the First Edition OS mapping published 1851. These settlements are located just to the north of several culverts which are also noted on historic mapping in the east of the development site. The development site may also contain the remains of post medieval land drains associated with the former culverts, built to improve the agricultural land for farming.

4.0 Programme of Archaeological Works

Archaeological Trial trench Evaluation

4.1 The development site comprises two adjacent fields of rough pasture demarcated by Manchester Road at the north and west, the M62 to the south, and an un-named lane to the east. A partial hedgerow separates the two fields.

4.2 The evaluation will comprise the excavation of four trenches, three measuring 60m x 2m, and one measuring 80m x 2m. The location of the trenches is shown on Appendix A. These trenches have been positioned with reference to the possible archaeological potential of the site, targeting elevated areas as well as the former water course and parliamentary boundary. The location of the trenches has been confirmed in consultation with the Heritage Management Director at GMAAS.

4.3 All field work will be carried out by an appropriately qualified archaeological contractor and CIfA registered organisation, working under the direction of a full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Method of Excavation

4.4 The trial trenches will be mechanically excavated using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Under instruction the topsoil and overburden removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits of a maximum 0.1m thickness.

4.5 All machine work will be carried out under direct archaeological supervision and the machine will be halted if significant archaeological deposits are encountered. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon can be exposed by the machine but will then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features and then hand excavated. At each soil horizon change, the supervising archaeologist will indicate to the machine driver that each stratum should be stored separately.

4.6 The archaeological works will provide an accurate record of any archaeological and paleo-environmental finds, features, artefacts or ecofacts identified.

4.7 Excavations will be undertaken by hand. Any archaeological surfaces that are present will be cleaned sufficiently to enhance any features, site levels will be related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum. The general site plans will be hand drawn at a scale of 1:50 or 1:100.

Method of Recording

4.8 Discrete features will be half-sectioned, or fully excavated if features are part of recognisable structures, contain deposits or artefacts of particular value, or likely to hold significant artefact or environmental assemblages. Intersections will be investigated to establish strategic relationships. Representative sections of linear and curvilinear features will be sample excavated away from intersections or other features or deposits, to obtain unmixed samples of material. Sections will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, as appropriate. Environmental bulk samples (usually 40 litres) will be taken where the deposit is likely to contain significant environmental assemblage. All records will be undertaken using pro form record sheets.

4.9 Sampling strategies will be in accordance with the archaeological sub-contractor fieldwork manual and described in their method statement as well as the requirements of GMAAS.

4.10 The archaeological contractor will make appropriate pre-and post-excavation site records. All finds and features will be accurately located and planned accurately at appropriate scales. All site photographs will be taken using a digital SLR camera with a sensor of a minimum of 12 megapixels. All photography will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidance, Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice, 2015.

Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

4.11 Should the works encounter unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, more detailed recording than is appropriate within the terms of the WSI, then TEP will contact the GMAAS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter with the client.

4.12 Should remains or features of possible national archaeological importance be observed, fieldwork will cease on the relevant part of the site until these remains have been inspected by GMAAS (as advisors to the Local Planning Authority) and the appropriate Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

General

Finds

4.13 All finds or environmental samples recovered during the archaeological works will be assessed and reported on by internal and external specialists of the archaeological contractor. A list of specialists for the project will be provided in a method statement from the appointed archaeological contractor prior to works commencing.

4.14 All finds will be treated in accordance with current best practice as set out in Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and Historic England guidance.

Human Remains

4.15 If human remains are encountered during the excavation, they will be left in situ and GMAAS and the coroner notified. If it is deemed appropriate to excavate human remains, this will be done in accordance with appropriate Historic England and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (e.g. CIfA Technical Paper 14 Excavation and Post-excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Remains). Excavation, removal from site, analysis and final placing will all be subject to the requirements of the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence and any local environmental health regulations.

Treasure

4.16 If any artefacts are encountered that would constitute 'treasure' as defined by The Treasure Act, 1996 and the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002, they will be reported to the local Coroner and relevant Finds Liaison Officer. Any artefacts deemed to be Treasure should be excavated on the day they are discovered and removed to a secure site. If this is impractical then appropriate security provided until full excavation and removal can occur.

Paleo-environmental sampling and analysis

4.17 The paleo-environmental assessment aims to identify areas within the development footprint where conditions are such that deposits suitable for the study of past environments are preserved. These most commonly occur in the form of subsurface peat layers, but are also taken to include all waterlogged deposits. The identification of any suitable areas will take place during the archaeological evaluation.

4.18 Should any such deposits exist within the area of impact, samples will be taken by a suitably qualified specialist sub-contractor.

4.19 The samples would be assessed for their potential by internal or external specialists of the archaeological contractor, and suitable techniques applied to sub-sample from select cores to determine the preservation and taxonomic diversity within the samples. This is likely to include assessing for one or more of the following:

- Pollen (focussing on organic units)
- Diatoms (focussing upon lithological transitions within and at the base of the Holocene sediment stack)
- Foraminifera (focussing on mineral strata and in particular on transitions)
- Plant macro-remains (focussing on organic units)

4.20 Having assessed the potential for analysis a project design will be produced that will provide a detailed proposal for analysis (including, for example, C14 dating, loss-on-ignition to measure organic carbon content, humification and mass specific magnetic susceptibility) of any present selected samples.

4.21 If necessary and appropriate the advice of the Historic England Science Advisor for the North West will be sought.

Programme

4.22 It is anticipated that the works will happen in accordance with the following programme:

- July 2022 - submit WSI for approval by GMAAS
- August 2022 - undertake trial trench evaluation
- +4 weeks - report
- +8 weeks - deposit archive

Organisation and Key Personnel

4.23 TEP is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The heritage team is under overall management of **Jason Clarke BSc MA MCIfA, Principal Historic Environment Consultant (TEP).**

4.24 The archaeological works will be undertaken by appropriate qualified archaeologists from a CIfA Registered archaeological subcontractor.

5.0 Reporting

5.1 In accordance with the principles of Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015) and the Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd Ed (MAP2) (English Heritage 1991), a programme of assessment and reporting will be undertaken, following completion of the archaeological evaluation fieldwork.

5.2 In the event of negative, or non-complex findings, a report will be produced detailing the results of the fieldwork within four weeks of the end of the fieldwork and archived within six months. If archaeology is revealed with in the development site that requires further work, the results of the evaluation will be utilised to produce a project design for a mitigation strategy. The evaluation report will include;

- a front cover to include the NGR, and HER reference number
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results,
- the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken,
- description of the methodology, including the sources consulted,
- a very brief summary of the historical background of the study area,
- a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the impact,
- a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design,
- the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted,
- a site location plan related to the national grid,
- appropriate plans showing the location and position of features or sites located,
- plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds,
- illustrative photographs as appropriate,
- coordinates (latitude/longitude) of relevant sites if archaeological remains have been discovered.

5.3 In the event of archaeologically significant finds, the results of fieldwork combined with subsequent archaeological evaluation and mitigation will also be published in a relevant and appropriate journal, or other publicly disseminated publication, as appropriate.

5.4 Pottery reports will refer to the appropriate type series.

6.0 Archive

6.1 A copy of the report provided as a PDF on disk, and as hard copies, will be submitted to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.

6.2 An archive of the results of the archaeological work will be produced, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, 2nd edition, 1991) and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2020). The archive will contain any site matrices, and summary reports of the artefact record, context records, and any other records or materials recovered.

6.3 Greater Manchester HER will be informed of fieldwork commencing and of the arrangements made for deposition of the project archive.

6.4 The original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media), and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche), together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) will be deposited with the relevant local archive.

6.5 Any relevant archive generated will be deposited with an appropriate regional depository, it is understood that a charge may be made for this and that the depository will need to be contacted to agree to the deposition of any archive in advance.

6.6 Details of the work will be entered on the OASIS database at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis.

7.0 Health and Safety

7.1 The archaeologists on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. Where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose.

7.2 All work on site would be undertaken strictly in accordance with the project health and safety plan and task specific risk assessments. All companies working on the project will adhere to the client's required quality, health, safety and environment controls.

7.3 Access routes to working areas would be specified by the client and access would only be permitted to those routes and the area of the fieldwork.

7.4 All site staff, including subcontractors and visitors, will prove that they have attended a site induction and have the necessary competencies (e.g. CITB training for machine operators and CSCS cards) and any other necessary health and safety qualifications.

7.5 The archaeologists will maintain a record of site attendance for each day that they attend site for the archaeological works.

7.6 All site staff personnel will wear PPE consisting of gloves, goggles, hardhat, steel toe-capped boots with mid-sole protection and high visibility vest or jacket at all times. All equipment must be 'fit for purpose' and be maintained in a sound working condition that complies with all relevant Health and Safety regulations and recommendations, including;

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Government Guidance for Working Safely;
- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974; and
- Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

7.7 The Archaeological Contractor will have their own Health and Safety policies compiled using national guidelines, which conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation and best practice. The RAMS provided by the Archaeological Contractor will include a specific section covering Coronavirus (COVID-19) for working safely.

8.0 References

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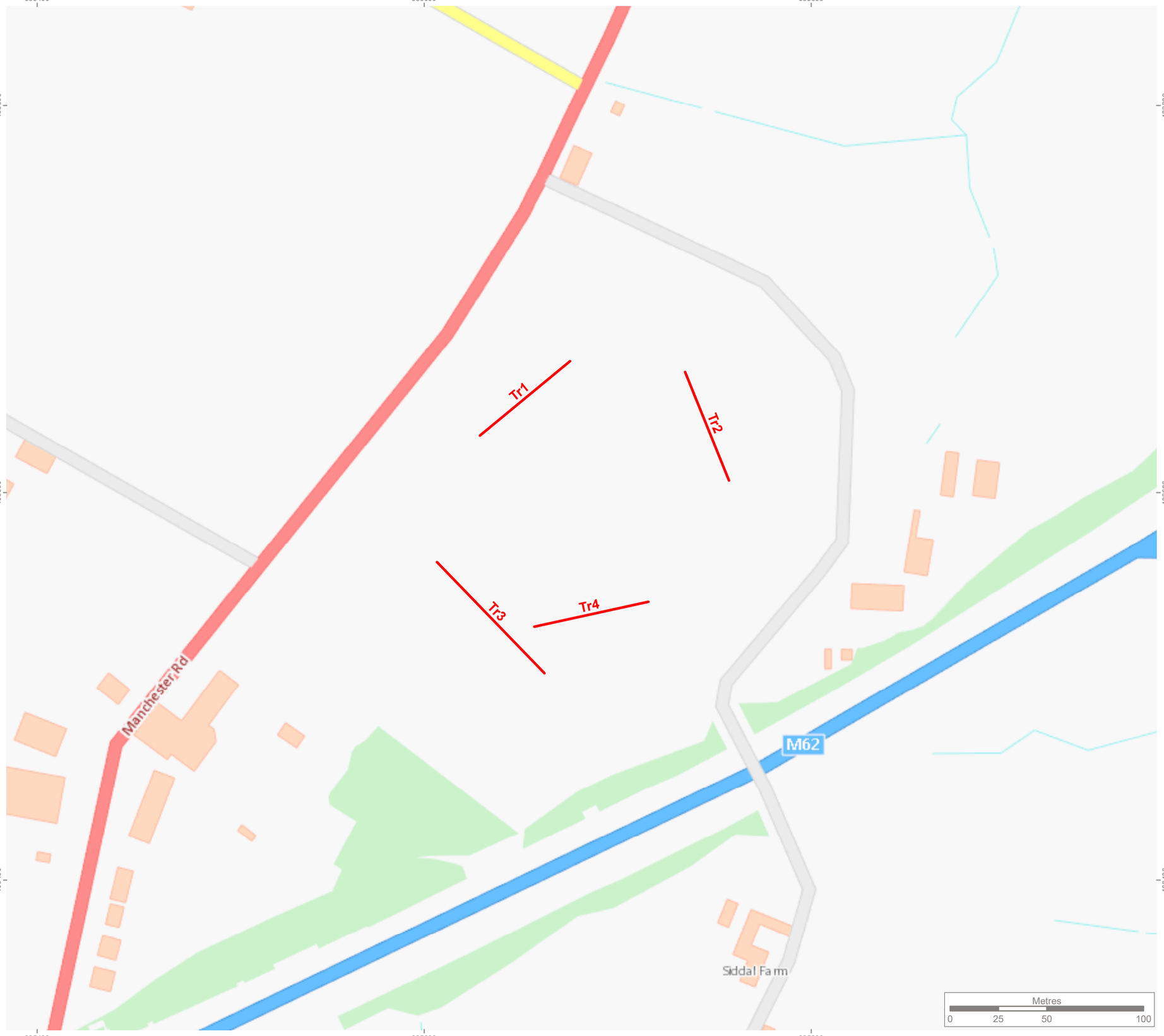
APPENDIX A: Archaeological Trial Trench Plan



KEY

Proposed evaluation trenches

Site Map

Rev	Description	Drawn	Approved	Date

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP
The Reynard Suite - First Floor Offices,
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Project
Manchester Road, South Heywood

Title
Location of Proposed Archaeological Evaluation Trenches

Drawing Number
G9535.001

Drawn	Checked	Approved	Scale	Date
AB	SA	JC	1:2,000 @ A3	07/07/2022

THE ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP

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APPENDIX B TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NE–SW
Trench contained no archaeology. Topsoil, overlying subsoil, overlying natural					**Length (m)**	60
					Width (m)	2
					Avg depth (m)	0.67
Context No	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
100	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light yellow-orange silty sand with clay patches	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW–SSE
Trench contained no archaeology. Topsoil, overlying subsoil, overlying natural					**Length (m)**	60
					Width (m)	2
					Avg depth (m)	0.49
Context No	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
200	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
201	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	-	Natural. Light yellow-orange silty sand, some clay patches	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NW–SE
Trench contained no archaeology. Topsoil, overlying subsoil, overlying made ground layer, overlying mixed redeposited natural. Natural geology not encountered within this trench					**Length (m)**	80
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.50
Context No	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
300	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil.	-	-
301	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil.	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.90	Other Layer. Made ground layer, dark brown clay with bricks, demolition rubble etc. Possibly relating to construction of M62 to south.	-	-
303	Layer	-	-	Other Layer. Mixed redeposited natural. Cleaner dark bluish black clay, but brick and demolition rubble still present.	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE–WSW
Trench contained no archaeology. Topsoil, overlying subsoil, overlying made ground layer, overlying mixed redeposited natural. Natural geology not encountered in this trench					**Length (m)**	60
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	1.30
Context No	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
400	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil.	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil.	-	-
402	Layer	-	0.80	Other Layer. Made ground, dark black-brown clay with large stones, bricks, demolition rubble, rubber tubing and rope. Most likely deliberate backfill from excavation of M62 to south.	-	-
403	Layer	-	-	Other Layer. Mixed redeposited natural. Dark bluish black clay, with brick and demolition rubble still present. Cleaner than layer above but still mixed.	-	-

APPENDIX C BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX D SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Manchester Road Phase 2, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
Site code:	MRH22
Grid Reference	SD 85670 08596
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	3 days; 27th, 28th and 29th September 2022
Area of Site	*c* 6.3ha
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:	All four trenches were successfully excavated in their intended locations. None were found to contain archaeological remains of any significance. The south-western trenches (Trenches 3 and 4) contained extensive modern made ground deposits, containing modern debris, and were likely associated with the construction of the M62, which borders the southern site boundary.

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