Land off Peel Park Avenue, Clitheroe, Lancashire

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works

September 2018

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Prepared on behalf of: Applethwaite Homes

Compiled by: Ben Dyson

Planning Reference: 3/2018/0008

Local Authority: Ribble Valley Borough Council

Date of compilation: 18th September 2018

Site central NGR: SD 74806 40980
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation relates to the proposed development of land off Peel Park Avenue, Clitheroe, Lancashire, which consists of the demolition of an existing dwelling and the erection of 34 bungalows for the over 55s with associated access, parking, landscaping and open space.

1.2 A planning application (3/2018/0008) has been submitted to Ribble Valley Borough Council for the proposed development. In a letter from Peter Iles of the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service (8th February 2018) to John Macholc, Head of Planning Services at Ribble Valley Borough Council, the following planning condition was recommended:

‘Condition: No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agent or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation and recording works. This must be carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure and safeguard the recording and inspection of matters of archaeological/historical importance associated with the building.’

‘Note: The programme of investigation and recording works should include a scheme of trial trenching and any subsequent further excavation and recording merited by remains encountered. It should be undertaken by an appropriately experienced and qualified professional archaeological contractor to the standards and guidance set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).’

1.3 This document comprises a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) confirming the nature of the archaeological works to be undertaken initially in the form of trial trenching by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) and, depending on the results of the trenching, possibly further trenching and/or area excavation in accordance with the guidance from the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service (LAAS) which might need to be the subject of an addendum to this WSI.

1.4 The archaeological works will be carried out in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 199 (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2018, 56) to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost during the proposed development in a manner proportionate to their importance, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site Location and Geology

2.1.1 The proposed development area (hereafter PDA) is located less than 1km (c.880m) to the south-east of Clitheroe town centre. The site is centred at NGR SD 74806 40980 (Figure 1) and covers an area of c.1.97 ha. It is bound on the north-west, north and north-
east sides by existing residential properties on Peel Park Avenue, Claremont Drive and Dyke Nook respectively; to the west by a sports pitch and by agricultural fields to the south.

2.1.2 The PDA slopes up gently from the south-east to the north-west and is enclosed on all sides, accessed by a gate between numbers 30 and 32 Peel Park Avenue. The Pendleton Brook is situated c.600m to the south-west of the PDA, which drains south-westwards towards the River Ribble. A ditch that flanks the southern edge of the PDA and turns to run southwards towards Pendleton Brook is likely utilised for surface drainage between the PDA and land belonging to Higher Standen Farm to the south and south-east.

2.1.3 The underlying solid geology comprises Clitheroe Limestone Formation and Hodder Mudstone Formation (undifferentiated) – Mudstone. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 337 to 347 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow carbonate seas. This is overlain by superficial deposits of Till, Devensian – Diamicton, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions (BGS 2018).

2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

2.2.1 The site has been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (Miller 2017). The following summary is based upon the historical summary within that assessment, augmented with additional references.

Prehistory

2.2.2 There is no direct evidence from the HER for any prehistoric activity upon the application site, although a small fragment of a spear or arrowhead tip, probably late Bronze Age to Roman, was found by metal detector in the 1990s around 500 metres to the north-west off Peel Street, Clitheroe.

2.2.3 A geophysical survey undertaken on land associated with Higher Standen Farm to the east of the PDA (DUAS 2012) identified a ring-ditch feature that subsequent investigations by ARS Ltd proved to date to the Bronze Age. Initial evaluation trenching (Dyson 2017) ground-truthed the geophysics and a small quantity of Bronze Age pottery was recovered from part of the ring-ditch. Open area excavation over the ring-ditch exposed 75% of the 20m diameter ditch (the last quarter was protected under the protection zone of a large tree), which enclosed 9 cremation burials (4 urned (one with an additional accessory cup) and 5 un-urned) (Dyson, forthcoming). The ring-ditch is located just over 270m to the east of the central point of the Peel Park Avenue PDA.

Roman period (AD70 – 5th century)

2.2.4 The Roman road linking the forts at Ribchester (Bremetennacum Veteranorum) and Ilkley (Verbeia) is well-documented and its course through the site is clearly recorded on the first-series OS mapping of 1847 (Miller 2017, 9). Investigations have taken place in several areas along its length, the closest to the site being in relation to a proposed development near Higher Standen Farm, around 400 metres south-west. Section six of the road, from the A671 to Clitheroe, is generally evident as a series of hedges and tracks while a section of metalling can be seen south of the application site near Pendleton Bridge. A further area of metalling can be seen in the seventh section (Clitheroe to Worston) near Worston Brook.
Other evidence of Roman presence within the area has included a coin of Tetricus II (AD 270-273), half of a Roman seal box, part of a lock pin and a terret ring for a harness, all recovered during metal detecting within the proposed development area at Higher Standen Farm (DUAS 2012).

2.2.5 A LiDAR image (Figure 2) shows that the agger of the Roman road shows up clearly on a north-east/south-west alignment in the field directly to the south of the PDA, though inside the site boundary intensive ploughing on a west-north-west/east-south-east alignment has largely obscured any traces of the road or other features.

Medieval period (5th century – 1540)

2.2.5 There is minimal evidence of medieval activity within the immediate search area. A spindle whorl was discovered at Higher Standen in the 1990s by metal detecting, and fragments of a lead ampulla have also been found within the 500 metre radius of the site.

Post-medieval period (1541 – 1899)

2.2.6 The site lies within a landscape south-east of Clitheroe whose general appearance is that of a field system related to post-medieval agriculture. This is evident on the 1847 mapping which shows the site then comprised two small fields and belonged to a wider landscape of an irregular enclosure pattern characterised by small, hedgerow-defined fields and few settlements. Beyond the linear outer suburb of Clitheroe extending north-south along Whalley Road, the principal settlements in 1847 were the hamlet of Little Moor, consisting of a house and terraced cottages of late-18th – early-19th century date around 475 metres south-west of the site, and Higher Standen Farm at 500 metres south-east.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 Research topics identified for the Research Agenda in Research and Archaeology of North West England. An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England for prehistoric sites include further targeted work and characterisation of sites that have been identified through survey (Hodgson and Brennand 2007, 41), along with landscape analysis in the form of multidisciplinary analysis (including desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and targeted excavation) of areas of land to obtain a detailed occupation history from prehistory through to the present day (Brennand et al. 2007, 176 & 194).

3.1.2 For Romano-British sites there is a precedent in north west England for the identification of previously unknown rural settlement sites alongside known stretches of Roman road during development projects. Fieldwork along the A5300 corridor in Merseyside revealed three unknown sites within a 4km stretch. In areas where development has been less intensive, such as the Cumbrian fells or upland Lancashire, there have been fewer opportunities to investigate known sites, let alone possible new sites (Philpott and Brennand 2007, 57).

3.1.3 It should be noted that other research objectives may come to the fore should any archaeological features from other periods be identified as a result of the trenching or any further stages of evaluation/mitigation that are required.
3.2 Archaeological Fieldwork Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The aim of the programme of archaeological investigation is to recover and record through excavation any potential archaeological remains that may be encountered prior to the proposed development taking place.

3.2.2 The objectives of the programme of archaeological investigation are as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of archaeological features and deposits within the site, particularly in relation to the projected line of the Roman road and any traces of possible road-side settlement.
- To record all archaeological features and deposits encountered.
- To sample sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits to establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation.
- To gather sufficient information to establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of any surviving archaeological deposits with a view to evaluating their significance.

3.2.3 Achieving these objectives will involve a phased programme of investigation as follows:

- Evaluation trenching to confirm the presence of the road through the development area and to assess the presence of associated road-side settlement/activity.
- Further mitigation excavation work should significant archaeological remains be encountered.
- On completion of the on-site archaeological works, post-excavation analysis, reporting, publication and archiving to be carried out.

4 Archaeological Fieldwork

4.1 Coverage and further mitigation fieldwork

4.1.1 A total of 16 trenches (each measuring 30 x 2m), which equals 5% of the site area, will be excavated as illustrated in Figure 3. The trenching plan has been agreed in consultation with the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service, and has been designed to target the Roman road, to test road side areas where associated settlement or activity might be present and to characterise the archaeological potential of the wider landscape within the site boundary.

4.1.2 Any proposed changes to the evaluation trench locations previously agreed upon will be discussed with the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service prior to implementation.

4.1.3 Depending on the results of the trenching further phase(s) of archaeological mitigation fieldwork, for example open area excavation, may be required which would need to be the subject of an addendum to this WSI.
**4.2 Methodology**

4.2.1 The fieldwork will be carried out in accordance to the guidance laid out in Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ *Code of Conduct* (2014a) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2014b).

4.2.2 In each trench the topsoil will be removed mechanically by a machine using a wide toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. No machinery will track over areas that have previously been stripped until the area has been signed off by ARS Ltd.

4.2.3 The trenches will be appropriately cleaned using hand tools in order to expose the full nature and extent of archaeological features and deposits.

4.2.4 All spoil removed during ground works will be scanned visually to recover small finds. Any finds so recovered will be recorded and their location noted on a site plan at a relevant scale. The finds will be retained and recorded.

4.2.5 All archaeological features will be planned and sectioned as a minimum objective.

4.2.6 Isolated, discrete features such as pits and postholes not belonging to structure or industrial activities will be 50% sampled, although if they produce artefacts then provision is made for full excavation.

4.2.7 Sampling of linear features such as ditches or gullies will be sufficient to determine the character, stratigraphy and relationship to other features and attempts made to obtain dating evidence.

4.2.8 Any deposits relating to funerary/ritual activities, such as burials and cremation deposits will initially be left *in situ* and, if removal is deemed necessary, this will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations. Should it be deemed necessary to remove human remains then this will be done so in accordance with Historic England 2004; Historic England and The Church of England 2005; APABE/ Historic England 2013; Brickley and McKinley 2004.

4.2.9 Domestic/industrial activity (such as walls, postholes, floors, hearths) will be sufficiently excavated to understand their form and function and to recover potential dating evidence and artefact and ecofact assemblages.

4.2.10 Area deposits, such as buried soils, or middens, will be hand excavated at a minimum 10%. Subsequent excavation by machine will be considered. Large intrusions, such as reservoirs, will be sufficiently excavated by machine, within safe limits, to provide information on their character.

4.2.11 Limited representative samples of bricks from brick-built structures will be retained for specialist analysis where appropriate.

4.2.12 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act procedures. The Portable Antiquities Liaison Officer and the Lancashire Archaeological
Advisory Service will also be notified and a site meeting may be arranged to determine if further investigation in the vicinity of the findspot is required.

4.2.13 For deposits that have potential for providing environmental or dating evidence, a minimum of 40 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% if the sample is smaller. This material will be floated and passed through graduated sieves, the smallest being a 500µ mesh. Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Advice from the Historic England Scientific Advisor will be taken as appropriate. All environmental sampling will be undertaken in line with Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (Campbell et al. 2011).

4.2.14 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd’s health and safety policy. Deep sections, such as those across ditches or pits will be shored as necessary. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site. Work will be carried out in accordance with any health and safety regulations imposed by the primary contractor on site and field staff will only commence with archaeological works following a full site induction.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 The site will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. The site will be recorded in accordance with the ARS Ltd’s field recording manual and single context recording system, and will include as a minimum: context record sheets, an accurate site plan and record photography where no archaeological features are present.

4.3.2 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn where required at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales, as appropriate. In addition to relevant illustrations, provision for rectified photographic recording shall be made, if deemed necessary.

4.3.3 The stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

4.3.4 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded with above ordnance datum (AOD) levels.

4.3.5 A photographic record of all contexts will be taken using a digital camera, and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept. A selection of working shots will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation.

4.3.6 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a ‘Harris’ matrix will be compiled.
4.4 **Finds Processing and Storage**

4.4.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the CiF (2014c) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.

4.4.1 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.

4.4.2 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

4.4.3 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

4.4.4 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

4.4.5 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and the recipient museum prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.

4.4.6 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum, i.e. Clitheroe Museum.

4.5 **Report**

4.5.1 A report shall be produced to include background information, a summary of the works carried out and a description and interpretation of the findings. The report will also include the following:

- A non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Geological and topographical setting
- Methodology
- Discussion of archaeological and historical background
- Discussion on the results of the evaluation
- Specialist descriptions of artefacts or ecofacts
An indication of potential archaeological deposits not disturbed by the present development

Conclusions and recommendations

Sources

Copy of brief

A location plan showing all excavated areas with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads

Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections

4.5.2 A digital copy of the report in PDF/A format and separate digital (TIF/JPG/BMP) copies of all photographic images on a CD will be deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report will be uploaded as part of the OASIS record (see below) for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.

5 Monitoring Arrangements

5.1 Prior notice of the commencement of the archaeological fieldwork will be given to the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service:

Peter Iles: 07847 200073
Joanne Smith: 07729 551429
Email: Lancashire.archaeology@gmail.com

5.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service throughout the course of the work.

5.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service, or their representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological works.

6 Standards, Project Management, Staffing and Timetable

6.1 ARS Ltd is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). Registered Organisations are continuously assessed to ensure that the highest standards of work are carried out, in line with the Code of Conduct of the CIfA (2014a). In addition to our key management staff, who have achieved the highest grade of corporate CIfA membership, many of our field staff also hold corporate grade membership.

6.2 All elements of the archaeological fieldwork will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014a) and will follow the CIfA’s Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014b). All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified and experienced for their respective project roles and have practical experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff will be made aware of the archaeological importance of the area surrounding the site and will be fully briefed on the work required by this specification. Each member of staff will be fully conversant with the aims and methodologies of the evaluation and will be given a copy of
this WSI to read. All members of staff employed by ARS Ltd are fully qualified and experienced archaeologists, which will ensure that appropriate decisions will be made in the field.

6.3 The outline timetable for the works is mid-October for the fieldwork and November for the report and archive production. This will be updated by email as the project progresses.

6.4 The Project Manager for the archaeological works will be Reuben Thorpe, MCIfA, Senior Projects Manager at ARS Ltd. The fieldwork Project Officer will be Ben Dyson BA, MLitt, ACIfA, Senior Projects Officer, or Dr Rebecca Trow, ACIfA, Projects Officer at ARS Ltd.

6.5 Specialist analyses will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed (subject to availability):

- Flint and prehistoric pottery: Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
- Romano-British pottery: Dr Phil Mills MCIfA
- Samian Ware: Dr Gweladys Monteil
- Romano-British small finds: Alex Croom
- Medieval and post-medieval pottery: Dr Chris Cumberpatch or Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
- Post-medieval glass, clay pipes and metalwork: Mike Wood MCIfA or Gary Taylor MCIfA
- Plant macrofossils, charcoals, pollen and soils: Luke Parker
- Human and animal bone: Milena Grzybowska ACIfA
- Radiocarbon dating: Prof Gordon Cook (SUERC)
- Finds conservation: Vicky Garlick (Durham University)

7 Archive Deposition

7.1 Should the project produce no archaeologically significant finds, then it is not necessary to deposit an archive with a museum, which in this case is Clitheroe Museum.

7.2 If the project produces archaeologically significant finds, then the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service and Museum Curator will be notified at the earliest
opportunity, and an accession number will be produced for the site. In addition, a digital, paper and artefactual archive will be prepared by ARS Ltd, consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data (in a format to be agreed by Clitheroe Museum). The archive will be deposited in line with the ClifA (2014d) Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives and the Society of Museum Archaeologists’ (1993) Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and will be deposited within two months of the completion of the report. The Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service and Museum Curator will be notified in writing on completion of the fieldwork with projected dates for the completion of the report and deposition of the archive. The date for deposition of the archive will be confirmed in the report and the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.

7.3 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see 4.4 above).

7.4 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be deposited with the archive as digital images on a CD ROM.

8 **GENERAL ITEMS**

8.1 **Health and Safety**

8.1.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all our workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork and will be read and signed by all on-site operatives. ARS Ltd retains Citation as its expert health and safety consultants.

8.2 **Insurance Cover**

8.2.1 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability public liability, professional indemnity and all-risks cover.

8.3 **Further Investigation, Community Engagement and Outreach**

8.3.1 In accordance with the guidance from the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service there may be a need for further archaeological investigation in the form of further trenching and/or area excavation. An addendum to this WSI may then be required to outline the coverage and methodology for further agreed archaeological mitigation.

8.3.2 At the outset of any programme of further archaeological mitigation, a programme of community/schools engagement should be devised, potentially in conjunction with Clitheroe Castle Museum. This may include opportunities for participation in archaeological excavation and recording, a site open day with guided tours of the excavations and/or
updates of the progress of excavations and the dissemination of information via ARS Ltd’s website and local media.

8.4 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

8.4.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service.

8.5 Publication

8.5.1 If significant archaeological remains are recorded, a summary of the project with, if appropriate, selected drawings, illustrations and photographs will be prepared for publication online, in a journal or in monograph form as appropriate. Additional popular articles will also be produced for local and/or national magazines as appropriate. The final form of the publication is to be agreed with the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service and the client dependent on the results of the fieldwork.

8.6 Publicity and Copyright

8.6.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client. ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

9 REFERENCES


Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014b. Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Excavation. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

11

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014d. Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.


Dyson, B. Forthcoming. An Archaeological Excavation at Higher Standen Farm, Clitheroe, Lancashire. Archaeological Research Services Ltd.


10  FIGURES
Figure 2.

Lidar image of the site. Agger of Roman road clearly visible to the south-west of the site on a north-east/south-west alignment. Road not visible within the site boundary due to plough activity.

Scale: As shown.
Figure 3.
Trench plan overlain onto LIDAR image of the site.

Scale: As shown.

Key:
- Site boundary
- Overhead cables
- 10m wide buffer zone either side of cables
- Slip trench in location requested by client
- Trenches (30m x 2m)
- Projected line of Roman road

Metres 0 10 20 30 40 50