

Land to the rear of Dutton Brook House, Ribchester, Lancashire

NGR SD 6486 3516



Archaeological Evaluation

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Client: Harvest Housing Group

**REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LAND TO THE
REAR OF DUTTON BROOK HOUSE, RIBCHESTER LANCASHIRE.**

For Harvest Housing Group

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the rear of Dutton Brook House over 3 days commencing July 2nd 2008 prior to a planning decision. It is intended that the land will be developed into social housing by Harvest Housing Group.

The site is centred at NGR SD 6486 3516 and is located on the western side of Ribchester opposite the public playing fields and at the western end of the public car park.

An auxiliary Roman fort lies on the south-west edge of the village with remains surviving under the present St. Wilfred's Church. Excavations in 1990 by Lancaster University Archaeology Unit (currently, Oxford Archaeology North) suggested that a timber fort was established in the early AD70s during the governorship of Petillius Cerialis (AD71-74).

The Lancashire County Council Archaeology Service (LCAS) advised that there is reason to believe that archaeological remains may exist on the site where the development is planned to take place. Excavation prior to the construction of Dutton Brook House in 1980 uncovered evidence of a large timber building of a non-military type demolished in the post-Hadrianic period. Late Antonine occupation of the site was indicated by pits and ditches and industrial residues. Five Bronze Age cremation burials (in collared urns) and a section of a ring ditch survived *in situ* below the floor of the Roman building (Edwards 1987, 60-64).

The evaluation has provided evidence for archaeological activity extending beyond the areas excavated at Dutton Brook House in 1980. Roman structural components are represented by two small post pits [5 & 7] in trench 1, possibly representing a structure associated with pre-Hadrianic industrial activity in the northern corner of the civilian settlement.

The archaeology in trench 2 was characterised by a cobbled path or yard located behind the large Roman building excavated immediately north of the trench in 1980.

Despite evidence of Roman destruction to the eastern half of the Bronze Age cemetery, it is possible that Bronze Age cremations and Roman deposits may still survive in unexcavated areas to the north-west.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Carl Sprowell at Harvest Homes and Steven Gallagher (Halsall Lloyd Partnership) for commissioning and funding the archaeological evaluation. I am grateful to Doug Moir at the Lancashire County Archaeology Service for guidance in advance of the project. I would also like to thank Steven Price for digitising the original plans and sections and for producing the AutoCAD drawings used to illustrate this report.

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2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A planning application is to be submitted to Ribble Valley Borough Council in respect of proposed new development on land to the rear of Dutton Brook House. The Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS) advised that there is reason to believe that archaeological remains may exist on the site where the development is planned to take place. However as little is known of the extent and state of preservation of any such remains LCAS recommended that an archaeological field evaluation be undertaken so that archaeological implications of the proposal can be adequately assessed and an appropriate mitigation strategy formulated if necessary. Archaeological Consultant: Stephen John Baldwin was instructed by Mr Carl Sprowell of Harvest Housing Group to carry out the archaeological evaluation. An archaeological specification document was prepared by LCAS and the subsequent evaluation was carried out over a period of 3 days (commencing Tuesday 1st July 2008) in accordance with the LCAS specification.

3. LOCATION, GEOLOGY & SOILS

- 3.1 Ribchester is located in the Ribble Valley flood plain, and stands on the north bank of the river near a crossing point. The rural Ribble Valley is mainly pastoral in character, with small to medium sized fields bounded by hedgerows and mature trees (LEUS 2004, 10).
- 3.2 Dutton Brook House is located c.200 metres north-west of St. Wilfred's Church on the western side of Ribchester village at the end of Parsonage Avenue, and immediately to the west of the Public Car Park opposite Ribchester Playing Fields.
- 3.3 The solid geology consists of the 'Sabden Shales' formation, previously part of the Millstone Grit Group but now belonging to the Arnsbergian and Cholkerian episodes of the Namurian phase of the Upper Carboniferous (Bridge 1989, quoted in Lancashire Extensive Urban Survey: Ribchester Archaeological Assessment 2004, 10). The village stands on a second terrace of the River Ribble, which rises to c.3-4m above the floodplain. Soils of the second terrace comprise 0.6 to 0.8m of unmottled sandy loams, overlying slightly mottled sandy clay loams. These soils are classified as Flint Association, while the alluvial soils closer to the river are Alun Association, and the soils over glacial till lying further from the river, over most of the presumed extent of the *vicus*, are Salop Association (*op cit*).

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Ribchester is located in the Ribble Valley flood plain and stands on the north bank of the river near an ancient crossing point. The village had seen human activity in the middle Bronze Age and possible settlement into the Iron Age as demonstrated by archaeological finds uncovered during excavations in 1977 and 1980 (Hodge and Ridge 1997, 1).
- 4.2 The Ribchester placename derives from the latin for a fort or camp (castrum) on the Ribble (Harrington 1984, 102). Ribblecastra is found in the Domesday Book, but by AD1202 became Ribbecestre (Eckwall 1922, 144-5).
- 4.3 The Roman fort lies on the south-west edge of the town with remains surviving under the present St. Wilfred's Church. Excavations in 1990 by Lancaster University Archaeology Unit (currently, Oxford Archaeology North) suggested that a timber fort was established in the early AD70s during the governorship of Petillius Cerialis (AD71-74). The fort was rebuilt in stone early in the 2nd century and remained in use into the 4th century. It was initially garrisoned by the VI and XX Legions (Brennand 2006, 67) and in the later 1st century - 2nd century by a detachment of Asturian cavalry (Ala II Asturum) from Northern Spain. By the late 2nd century until the early 4th century the fort was garrisoned by Sarmatian cavalymen (Numerus Equitatum Samatarum and Cuneus Samatarum) from modern-day Hungary.
- 4.4 Excavations in 1973 (LHER PRN 1848) in advance of the construction of the car park adjacent to Dutton Brook House encountered evidence for a number of buildings dated to the late 1st and 2nd centuries, suggesting a ribbon development along the road north during the height of the Roman occupation (LCAS 2008, 2).
- 4.5 Soon after AD 175 a civilian settlement (or vicus) was firmly established outside the north gate of the fort. Excavation in the playing field immediately to the south of Dutton Brook House in 1969 demonstrated that the early settlement consisted of low status single storey timber framed buildings and that these were probably pulled down to make way for a cobbled parade ground for the Sarmatian cavalry unit (Edwards 1981, 12-14). There appears to be no evidence to show how the settlement developed into the 3rd and 4th centuries.
- 4.6 Excavation prior to the construction of Dutton Brook House in 1980 uncovered evidence of a large timber building of a non-military type demolished in the post-Hadrianic period. Late Antonine occupation of the site was indicated by pits and ditches and industrial residues. Five Bronze Age cremation burials (in collared urns) and a section of a ring ditch survived *in situ* below the floor of the Roman building (Edwards 1987, 60-64). To the north and west of the subject site evidence for a timber-laced rampart, palisades and a ditch suggested the possibility of a defended perimeter enclosing part of the civilian settlement. The defences were finally demolished and levelled in the 4th century (*op cit* 76).

- 4.7 Before the Norman Conquest, the whole of the parish of Ribchester lay within Amounderness hundred, but during the twelfth century the townships of Ribchester, Dutton (to the east), and Dilworth (to the north-west) were transferred to Blackburn hundred. These formed part of earl Tostig's fee of Preston, and were assessed as two ploughlands in the Domesday Survey, by which time they had been granted to Roger de Poitou. They were later granted to the de Lacy family as part of the Honor of Clitheroe, descending to the Earls and Dukes of Lancaster, and then to the Crown (LEUS, Ribchester 2004, 13).
- 4.8 In the post medieval period a succession of famous travellers and diarists visited Ribchester. William Camden the author of *Britannia* visited in the 16th century as did Henry VIII's antiquary John Leland who noted: '*the inhabitants regularly used to find coins and squared stones*'. Academic interest was maintained throughout the 18th century with visits by William Stukely and Thomas Pennant (Edwards 1992, 3).

5. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aims of the evaluation were to gain information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence or absence, character and extent, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality in order to make an assessment of its worth in the appropriate context. It is understood that the results of the evaluation will be used to formulate an appropriate response to a planning application for the site.

The objectives of the evaluation as laid out in the project specification were as follows:

1. To record archaeological deposits
2. To establish, wherever possible, the depth of any archaeological remains
3. To establish, wherever possible, the condition of any archaeological remains
4. To recover artefactual material, especially any that can be used for dating purposes

Definition and purpose of a field evaluation as defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA):

“...a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate” (IFA, 1994, rev. 1999)

6. STAFFING

- 6.1 The evaluation project was undertaken by Stephen John Baldwin, Land Use and Heritage Consultant, based in West Lancashire at: 1st Floor Offices, Towngate Works, Dark Lane, Mawdesley, Lancashire L40 2QU. The Consultant was assisted on site by Ron Gurney who also provides metal detection equipment and a finds identification service. The documentary research and desk- based assessment was compiled by Stephen John Baldwin.

7. METHODOLOGY

7.1 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with 'General Conditions for Appropriate Archaeological Contractors in Lancashire' (LCAS Brief, Appendix One). The contractors adhered to the Code of Conduct and Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology issued by the IFA, at all times during the course of the investigations.

7.2 The archaeological evaluation consisted of two trenches measuring: 5 x 3 metres. The trenches were located in the positions shown in **figure 2** and placed in order that the locations of archaeological features discovered in 1980 were appropriately sampled for archaeological evidence.

7.3 A 3 ton rubber-tracked machine with a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket was used to remove overburden (in 200mm spits) under the supervision of the archaeological contractors. Machine excavation continued until the top of any suspected archaeology was encountered, manual excavation then followed. The following procedures were then adopted:

- A representative number of excavation contexts were cleaned by hand
- All excavation was undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological feature or deposits which appeared to be worthy of preservation in situ.
- The stratigraphy of each trial trench was recorded even where no archaeological deposits were present.
- Spoil heaps were scanned for non-ferrous metal artefacts using a discriminating metal detector operated by experienced personnel.
- All archaeological features were drawn in plan and section on dimensionally stable media at scales of 1:20 and 1:10.
- All archaeological deposits were levelled to Ordnance Datum by means of a temporary bench mark and reduced levels provided by the developer.
- A photographic record of the evaluation was prepared and involved the use of digital images using a Fuji 6 mega pixel model camera. Monochrome photographs and colour slides were taken using a Canon EOS 500, 35mm SLR Camera. The photographic record includes images illustrating in both detail and general context, the principal features and finds discovered. The record also includes working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.
- All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using pro-forma based on the standard National Museums Liverpool context and masonry recording sheets.
- On conclusion of the excavation, the trenches were backfilled and the surface levelled and firmed.

8. TRENCH STRATIGRAPHY

- 8.1 The proposed locations of the evaluation trenches were determined after discussion with Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS), and consultation of the Cumbria and Lancashire Archaeology Unit 1980s excavation plan of land at Dutton Brook House (Edwards 1987, 59). Two 5 x 3 m trenches were proposed by LCAS and these were placed adjacent to important features and deposits unearthed in 1980 (**Appendix 3**, figs 2 and 5).
- 8.2 The archaeological stratigraphy for the proposed development area, and observations of features/deposits excavated is discussed below. Context 'cut' numbers appear in square brackets while layer and fill numbers appear in standard brackets. Where a feature is discussed, it is referenced with its cut and associated fill number.

Trench descriptions

- 8.3 **Trench 1** was located in the north-west corner of the site in order to investigate survival of Roman deposits associated with a ditch, palisade and rampart excavated in 1980. Turf was removed by hand and topsoil (1) was stripped by machine down to a mid-brown clay silt subsoil (2). The base of the trench comprised mottled orange brown clay (3) thought to represent natural glacial till. Two small pits [5 and 7] were cut into the clay in the northern half of the trench. Both were filled with mid greyish brown silty clay mixed with small tabular and sub-angular pebbles (4 and 6). Pit [5] was oval, c.800mm in diameter and c.200mm deep, it had gently sloping slides and a flattish base. Pit [7] was c.900mm in diameter and c.200mm deep, it had gently sloping sides and a relatively flat base. Both of the cut features contained Roman pottery and tile within their fills. (see appendix 3, fig3)
- 8.4 **Trench 2** was located c.2m south-west, and to the rear, of a Roman timber building and Bronze Age cremation burials excavated during 1980. The trench was opened in order to investigate survival of any remaining Bronze Age burials and Roman deposits which were thought likely to survive in previously unexcavated areas. The trench was machine excavated to a depth of 0.5m through topsoil (11), orange brown silty sand subsoil which contained Roman pottery and tile (12). Below the disturbed subsoil were dark bluish grey silts (14) which were stony and compact in the north-western half of the trench, and much softer on the opposite side. The softer silts were half-sectioned in the north-eastern corner of the trench where they rested above a layer of small greyish-white river worn pebbles mixed with charcoal and what appeared to be lumps of industrial waste (15). A well defined cobbled layer was subsequently observed extending 4 metres along the north facing section (appendix 3, fig 4). A thick layer of redeposited rust-coloured irregular stones and gravels (16) rested below the cobbles. Nine large pieces of ornately decorated Roman samian ware, a mortarium rim and Roman tile (appendix 5, find nos. 14, 15 & 16) were found in the stony gravel matrix below the cobbles. The base of the trench at 1.2m comprised iron stained gravels (13) which were very similar to layer (16). Roman pottery and tile was not evident at this depth and excavation ceased.

9. FINDS

- 9.1 Finds from the evaluation trenches comprised mostly Roman material. Only a few pieces of unstratified 17/18/19 and 20th century pottery were recovered from the spoil. Two of which were identified as being seventeenth or eighteenth century slipware.
- 9.2 The samian assemblage comprised nine pieces of Dragendorf type 37 decorated bowls (appendix 5, find nos. 13, 14, 15 & 16). These were from the kilns at Lezoux in Central Gaul (modern day, Puy-de-Dôme, France). Lezoux was the most important producer of Gaulish terra-sigillata during the second century AD, and the supply of Lezoux samian ware ceased in Britain by the end of the second century which corresponds with the conventional view of the end of production at Lezoux. One of the Ribchester sherds decorated with a Lion motif with ovolo and tongue banding (see appendix 4, plate 8) was made between 115 and 160AD (sources of identification: Oswald 1937 index of figures and types) and provides a *terminus post quem* for the laying of the cobbled surface (15) in trench 2.
- 9.3 Metal detecting over the spoil heaps resulted in the discovery of a single heavily corroded bronze Roman coin from trench 2. The coin was received at the AES conservation unit and found to be located within a small mass of its surrounding matrix to preserve its integrity in accordance with established on-site find management practises.

Further examination of the coin revealed that the coin was an 'AS' most likely minted during the reign of Marcus Aurelius and dated to c. A.D.140-160.

R Minerva stg. Left (pers comm.. Ron Gurney F.R.N.S.)

SEAR 1300

COHEN 639

R.I.C 1305b

B.M.C 1918

10. CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1 The evaluation has provided evidence for archaeological activity extending beyond the areas excavated at Dutton Brook House in 1980 (see appendix 3, fig 5). In trench 1, Roman structural components are represented by two small oval pits [5 & 7] filled with Roman pottery and tile and interpreted to be post-pits for timber uprights. Their location in the north corner of the Roman annex (or civilian settlement) may suggest a structure related to industrial activity thought to have been carried out here in the early 2nd century AD (Edwards 1987, 61).
- 10.2 The archaeology in trench 2 was characterised by **(1)** a ditch-like feature [17] revealed during removal of soft silts [14] in the north-east corner of the trench. **(2)** a cobbled surface (15) interpreted to be a path or yard to the rear of the late-1st/early 2nd century timber building discovered immediately north of the trench in 1980 (*ibid* 61-63). **(3)** a make-up layer of gravels and industrial waste (16) used as rubble to fill cut feature [17] and for hard core below the cobbled surface (15). On ceramic evidence (see appendix 5, find no 15) these layers are considered to represent deposits sealed in the mid-to-late 2nd century.
- 10.3 Ground disturbance in the late 2nd century makes survival of Bronze Age archaeology (see section 4, para 4.6) unlikely on the east side of the proposed development site. Roman truncation has almost certainly destroyed part of the Bronze Age cremation cemetery in this area.
- 10.4 Despite evidence of truncation and deliberate Roman destruction of the eastern half of the Bronze Age cemetery, it is possible that cremations and other related features and deposits may still survive in unexcavated areas to the north-west.

11. REPORT & ARCHIVING

- 11.1 This report has been produced in accordance with the archaeological brief and project design (see appendix 1).
- 11.2 An archive has been prepared in accordance with the recommendations set out in English Heritage's *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed. 1991. In addition to working notes and scale drawings this includes a full photographic record comprising 35mm black and white negatives and contact prints and digital photographs. The archive will be deposited with the Lancashire County Archive Service, Preston, in a format to be agreed with the Archives Officer and within a timescale to be agreed with the County Archaeological Officer. A copy of the evaluation report will be deposited with the Client, the Lancashire Historic Environment Record at Preston, and the Ribchester Museum Library. A copy of the non-technical summary will be sent to the OASIS website.

Contents of Site Archive

Drawings on dimensionally stable media:

Plan of excavation area

Drawing no.1 Trench 1

Drawing no. 2 Trench 2

Sketch plans and sections

1) Photographs

Monochrome and digital (see catalogue at appendix 5)

2) Context and Masonry Sheets (see index at appendix 2)

3) Pottery assemblage (see appendix 6)

4) Client Report

12. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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IGS	Institute of Geological Sciences
LHER	Lancashire Historic Environment Record
LEUS	Lancashire Extensive Urban Survey

Maps

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

LCAS BRIEF AND SPECIFICATION

SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

ON LAND AT DUTTON BROOK, RIBCHESTER (SD 6486 3516)

Specification prepared at the request of the Mr Stephen Gallagher on behalf of Halsall Lloyd Partnership

1. Summary

1.1 It is proposed that the area to the rear of Dutton Brook House, Ribchester is to be used for social housing. Part of the site was excavated by Cumbria and Lancashire Archaeology Unit in 1980. The excavation encountered evidence for a Bronze Age circular enclosed cremation cemetery as well as Roman industrial pits, a timber building as well as the fort's defensive ditch and rampart.

1.2 A limited amount of archaeological work consisting of geophysical survey and trial trenching is proposed to help establish the extent of surviving archaeological deposits that lie outside the area excavated in 1980. This specification has been written by Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS), the holders of the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER). Depending upon the results obtained, LCAS may recommend that archaeological deposits be preserved in situ, or that additional archaeological work may need to be carried out. Any additional work will be governed by separate specifications.

2. Planning Background

2.1 Hlp Design have been advised by English Heritage, that due to its proximity to the current Scheduled Area of Ribchester Roman Fort and vicus (civilian settlement) that the site should be the subject of an archaeological field evaluation, and the results of that work should be used to inform the nature and extent of the proposed development of the area to the rear of Dutton Brook House.

3. Site Location

Grid Reference: SD 6486 3516 (see attached location plan)

3.1 The site (*c.* 0.07 hectares) lies on the western side of Ribchester, at the end of Parsonage Avenue, and immediately to the west of the Public Car Park located opposite Ribchester Playing Fields

4. Archaeological Interest

4.1 Part of the eastern and northern edges of the site were excavated by Cumbria and Lancashire Archaeology Unit in 1980 (Lancashire Historic Environment Record PRN 4219); The earliest occupation of the site was prehistoric, as excavation revealed the remains of a Bronze Age ring ditch and several cremations in collared urns dated to the first or second millennium B.C. The burials were divided into two phases, on pottery fabric analysis. Earliest Roman occupation of the site was indicated by pits and ditches and industrial residues. There was evidence of a single phase timber building of a non-military type demolished in the post-Hadrianic period. Late Antonine occupation of the site was indicated by a series of pits and

gullies. Evidence was forthcoming for a timber laced rampart, with palisades and ditch around the vicus.

4.2 Excavations in 1973 (PRN 1848) in advance of the construction of the adjacent car park encountered evidence for a number of buildings dated to the late 1st to 2nd centuries, suggesting a ribbon development along the road north during the height of the Roman occupation. Further evidence for Roman activity has also been found in the area of the Playing Fields (PRNs 3434, 4222, 11119, 18849 & 25473).

5. Aim of the Evaluation

5.1 The aim of the evaluation is to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the application area. The information gained will allow the Planning Authority to make a reasonable and informed decision on the planning application with regard to whether archaeological deposits should be preserved in-situ, or may more appropriately be recorded archaeologically prior to destruction (whether this be a summary record from a salvage excavation or watching brief, or a detailed record from full open area excavation).

6. Evaluation Methodology

6.1 General Instructions

6.1.1 Health and Safety

The archaeologists on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations, and the contractor must ensure that all relevant requirements are met with regard both to site personnel and to members of the public. This work may require the preparation of a Risk Assessment of the site, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations prior to submission of the tender. **LCAS and its officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may occur to outside contractors engaged to undertake this work while attempting to conform to this specification.**

6.1.2 Confirmation of Adherence to Specification

Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor must confirm adherence to this specification in writing to LCAS, or state (with reasons) any proposals to vary the specification. Should the contractor wish to vary the specification, then written confirmation of the agreement of LCAS to any variations is required prior to work commencing. Unauthorised variations are made at the sole risk of the contractor (see para. 11.2, below). **Modifications presented in the form of a re-written project brief will not be considered by LCAS.**

6.1.3 Confirmation of Timetable and Contractors' Qualifications

Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor should provide LCAS **in writing** with a projected timetable for the site work, and with details regarding staff structure and numbers. The names and *curriculum vitae* of key project members (the project manager, site supervisor, any proposed specialists *etc.*), along with details of any specialist sub-contractors, should also be supplied to LCAS (if *C.V.s* have not previously been supplied). All project staff provided by the archaeological contractor must be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles. The timetable should be adequate to allow the work to be undertaken to the appropriate professional standard, subject to the ultimate judgement of LCAS.

6.1.4 Documentary research

Prior to the commencement of *fieldwork*, the HER should be visited by either the project manager or the site supervisor, in order to gain an overview of the archaeological/historical background of the site and environs. In addition to providing a knowledge base for the work in hand, the results of this assessment may be incorporated into the contractor's report where

they are considered to contribute to that report, but any extraneous material should be omitted. Please note that the HER makes a charge for consultations of a commercial nature. The results of this exercise should be used to inform the whole project. **Please note, however, that a formal desk-based report is not required and the results of this stage of work should be incorporated in the final report.**

7. Geophysical survey

7.1 Geophysical survey contractors are expected to adhere to the English Heritage *Research & Professional Services Guideline No.1: Geophysical survey in archaeological field evaluation* (1995), but also see para. 7.2 below.

7.1.1 The area of the proposed development to be subject to a magnetic (gradiometer) survey recording data at 0.5m. intervals. Data is to be recorded at 0.5m. stations on 1.0m. spaced traverses. Data may be acquired by rapid survey measuring to (nominally) 0.1nT or better in the first instance. If during the survey, it appears that useful results might only be obtained by higher resolution measurements, and if this would add significantly to the survey time, then the client and LCAS should be contacted and the matter discussed and agreed before implementation.

7.1.2 The gradiometer survey is to be carried out the whole of the application area.

7.2 Data Presentation

The results of the gradiometer survey should be processed and the results then discussed at a meeting between the contractor and LCAS (the client may also wish to attend). The results of the gradiometer survey should be presented in at least two different formats at a minimum 1:500 scale, one of which must be an X/Y trace plot. There must also be an accompanying interpretation drawing at an appropriate scale. **Not required for this project**

8. Trenching Methodology

8.1 Trench Size and Placement

The work is will involve the excavation of two areas 5m x 3m which can be machine-opened. The contractor should also allow for a contingency allowance of a further 10 sq m of the site. The use of the contingency will depend upon the results obtained in the initial trial trenching. The use of the contingency will be at the decision of LCAS, whose decision will be issued in writing, if necessary in retrospect after site discussions. **The location of the trenches is to be agreed with LCAS.**

8.2 Method of Excavation

The trial trenches may be opened and the topsoil and recent overburden removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits of a **maximum** 0.2m. thickness, by the use of an appropriate machine using a wide toothless ditching blade. **Under no circumstances should the machine be used to cut arbitrary trenches down to natural deposits.** Any machine work must be carried out under direct archaeological supervision and the machine halted if significant archaeological deposits are encountered. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon (pre-19th century) may be exposed by the machine, but must then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features and then dug by hand.

8.3 Method of Recording

The trenches are to be recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. The stratigraphy of each trial trench is to be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. No archaeological deposits should be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable in achieving the objectives of this evaluation, although generally a 50% sample of any features identified is expected to be half-sectioned and the depth of archaeological deposits must be assessed. Modern artefacts are to be noted but not retained (18th-century material and earlier should be retained.)

8.4 Use of Metal Detectors on Site

8.4.1 Spoil heaps are to be scanned for non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making this discrimination, operated by an experienced metal detector user (if necessary, operating under the supervision of the contracting archaeologist). Modern artefacts are to be noted but not retained (18th-century material and earlier should be retained.)

8.4.2 If a non-professional archaeologist is to be used to carry out the metal-detecting, a formal agreement of their position as a sub-contractor working under direction must be agreed in advance of their use on site. This formal agreement will apply whether they are paid or not.

8.4.3 To avoid financial claims under the Treasure Act a suggested wording for this formal agreement with the metal detectorist is: "In the process of working on the archaeological investigation at [*location of site*] between the dates of [*insert dates*], [*name of person contributing to project*] is working under direction or permission of [*name of archaeological organisation*] and hereby waives all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the Treasure Act 1996."

8.5 Environmental Sampling Strategy

Deposits must be sampled for retrieval and assessment of the preservation conditions and potential for analysis of all bioarchaeological remains. A sampling strategy must be agreed with a recognised bioarchaeologist, and the sampling methods should follow the procedures outlined by the English Heritage's Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2002/01). Provision should also be made for the specialist to visit the site and discuss the sampling strategy, if necessary.

8.6 Conservation Strategy

A conservation strategy must be developed in collaboration with a recognised laboratory. All finds must be assessed in order to recover information that will contribute to an understanding of their deterioration and hence preservation potential, as well as identifying potential for further investigation. Furthermore, all finds must be stabilised and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the receiving museum. As a guiding principle only artefacts of a "displayable" quality would warrant full conservation, but metalwork and coinage from stratified contexts would be expected to be X-rayed if necessary, and conservation costs should also be included as a contingency.

8.7 Documentation

The actual areas of trenching and any features of possible archaeological concern noted within the trenches, should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, summary scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report on the material. The site grid is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on the largest scale map available of the area (either 1:2500 or 1:1250).

8.8 Location of Services, etc.

The archaeological contractors will be responsible for locating any drainage pipes, service pipes, cables *etc.* which may cross any of the trench lines, and for taking the necessary measures to avoid disturbing such services.

8.9 Human Remains

Any human remains that are discovered must initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. If removal is necessary, this must comply with the relevant legislation, any Home Office and local environmental health regulations and English Heritage's and The Church of England's *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (2005) where relevant. Ethical guidance for burial grounds of non-Christian faiths should be sought from the appropriate religious authorities.

8.10 Treasure Act

The terms of the Treasure Act 1996 must be followed with regard to any finds that might fall within its purview. Any finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures as laid down in the "Code of Practice". Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

9. Commencement of work

9.1 Notification

The project will be monitored as necessary and practicable by LCAS, in its role as "curator" of the county's archaeology. LCAS should receive as much notice as possible and certainly one week of the intention to start fieldwork. This notification is to be supplied in writing, and copied to the relevant Museum (see para. 10.1 below). A copy of the contractor's risk assessment should accompany notification of intention to commence work.

10. Access/Monitoring Methodology

10.1 The representative of LCAS will be afforded access to the site at any reasonable time. It is usual practice that the visit is arranged in advance, but this is not always feasible. LCAS' representative will be provided with a site tour and an overview of the site by the senior archaeologist present and should be afforded the opportunity to view all trenches, any finds made that are still on site, and any records not in immediate use. It is anticipated that the records of an exemplar context that has previously been fully recorded will be examined. Any observed deficiencies during the site visit are to be made good to the satisfaction of LCAS' representative, by the next agreed site meeting.

11. Excavation Archives Deposition.

11.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the relevant museum archaeological curator to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. In this case the contact is Patrick Tostevin, curator, Ribchester Roman Museum, Riverside, Ribchester, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 3XS, Telephone: 01254 878261, E-mail: curator@ribchestermuseum.org. Agreement for deposition should be confirmed in writing by the archaeological contractor; this correspondence is to be copied to LCAS.

11.2 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with the Museum of Lancashire.

11.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet Ribchester Museum's requirements with regard to the preparation of excavation archives for deposition.

11.4 The museums officer named in 11.1 above should be notified in writing of the commencement of fieldwork at the same time as LCAS (see para. 9.1).

12. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

12.1 Should there be 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 this specification, then the archaeological contractor should urgently contact LCAS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter with the developer.

13. Post-Excavation Work

13.1 After Completion of Fieldwork

On completion of the fieldwork, any samples taken shall be processed and any finds shall be cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographic negatives and a complete set of labelled photographic prints. An index to the field archive is to be deposited with the LCAS (preferably as an appendix in the report). The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive (see para. 11.1 above). In the absence of this agreement the field archive (less finds) is to be deposited with LCAS.

13.2 Report Format and Content

A report should be produced, which should include background information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of results produced. It is not envisaged that the report is likely to be published, but it should be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers. Location plans should be produced at a scale which enables easy site identification and which depicts the full extent of the site investigated (a scale of 1:50,000 is not regarded as appropriate unless accompanied by a more detailed plan or plans). Site plans should be at an appropriate scale showing trench layout (as dug), features located and, where possible, predicted archaeological deposits. Upon completion of each evaluation trench all sections containing archaeological features will be drawn. Section drawings (at a minimum scale of 1:20) must include heights O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) must include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features. Where no archaeological deposits are encountered at least one long section of each trench will be drawn. Artefact analysis is to include the production of a descriptive catalogue with finds critical for dating and interpretation illustrated. Details of the style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, and as an appendix, a copy of this specification.

13.3 Publicity

If the project is to be publicised in any way (including media releases, publications etc.), then it is expected that LCAS will be given the opportunity to consider whether it wishes its collaborative role to be acknowledged, and if so, the form of words used will be at LCAS' discretion.

13.4 Consideration of Appropriate Mitigation Strategy

The report should not give a judgement on whether preservation or further investigation is considered appropriate, but should provide an interpretation of results, placing them in a local

and regional, and if appropriate, national context. However, a client may wish to separately commission the contractor's view as to an appropriate treatment of the resource identified.

13.5 Report Deposition

An 'Adobe Acrobat pdf' copy of the report on CD-ROM is to be supplied to the HER held by LCAS within a period of two months following completion of fieldwork unless specialist reports are awaited. In the latter case a revised date should be agreed with LCAS. The report will be supplied on the understanding that it will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months, unless otherwise agreed). Copies should also be supplied to the relevant Local Planning Authority Planning Officer, as well as Jennie Stopford, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage, Canada House, 3 Chepstow Street, Manchester, M1 5FW.

13.6 OASIS

Archaeological contractors must complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact Lancashire HER prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Lancashire HER may place the information on a web-site. Please ensure that you and your client agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the case officer (Ken Davies) at Lancashire HER

14. General considerations

14.1 Authorised alterations to specification by contractor

It should be noted that this specification is based upon records available in the HER and on a brief examination of the site by LCAS. Archaeological contractors submitting tenders should carry out an inspection of the site prior to submission. If, on first visiting the site or at any time during the course of the recording exercise, it appears in the archaeologist's professional judgement that

- i) a part or the whole of the site is not amenable to recording as detailed above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results, and/or
- iii) any features which should be recorded, as having a bearing on the interpretation of the structure, have been omitted from the specification,

then it is expected that the archaeologist will contact LCAS as a matter of urgency. If contractors have not yet been appointed, any variations which LCAS considers to be justifiable on archaeological grounds will be incorporated into a revised specification, which will then be re-issued to the developer for redistribution to the tendering contractors.

14.2 Unauthorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained LCAS's consent in writing to any variation of the specification prior to the commencement of on-site

work or (where applicable) prior to the finalisation of the tender. Unauthorised variations may result in LCAS being unable to recommend determination of the planning application and are therefore made solely at the risk of the contractor.

15. Further details

15.1 Further information about the building and proposed development can be obtained from Stephen Gallagher, Halsall Lloyd Partnership, 3 West Road, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 8NR, tel: 01772 719 996, fax: 01772 712 587, Email: Steven.Gallagher@hlpdesign.com.

15.2 Any technical queries arising from the specification detailed above, should be addressed to LCAS without delay.

16. Valid period of specification

16.1 This specification is valid for a period of one year from date of issue. After that time it may need to be revised to take into account new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

Doug Moir
Planning Officer (Archaeology)

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Tel 01772 531734
Fax 01772 533423.
E-mail: Douglas.moir@lancashire.gov.uk

June 2008

APPENDIX 2. CONTEXT INDEX

Site: Land to the rear of Dutton Brook House
Ribchester in Lancashire

Trenches: 1 and 2

Context no.	Description	Trench
01	Turf and topsoil	T1
02	Mid brown clay silt subsoil	T1
03	Orange brown silty clay – stony clay basal layer	T1
04	Mid greyish brown silty clay – fills [5]	T1
05	Cut for (4)	T1
06	Mid greyish brown silty clay – fills [7]	T1
07	Cut for (6)	T1
11	Turf and topsoil	T2
12	Thin layer of sandy silt subsoil containing Roman pottery	T2
13	Loose rust coloured gravels and irregular stones forming base of trench	T2
14	Dark bluish grey silt layer below (2) and above (15)	T2

15	Strongly cemented greyish white river worn pebbles forming cobbled surface below (14) and above (16)	T2
16	Weakly cemented rusty brown stones and pebbles (similar to 13) with patches of bluish grey silt in upper layer. Contains decorated Roman samian ware bowl fragments	T2
17	Cut containing soft dark grey silts in north-east corner of trench. Thought to be post-Roman disturbance, possibly a ditch or drainage channel. Uncertain	T2

APPENDIX 3 - FIGURES

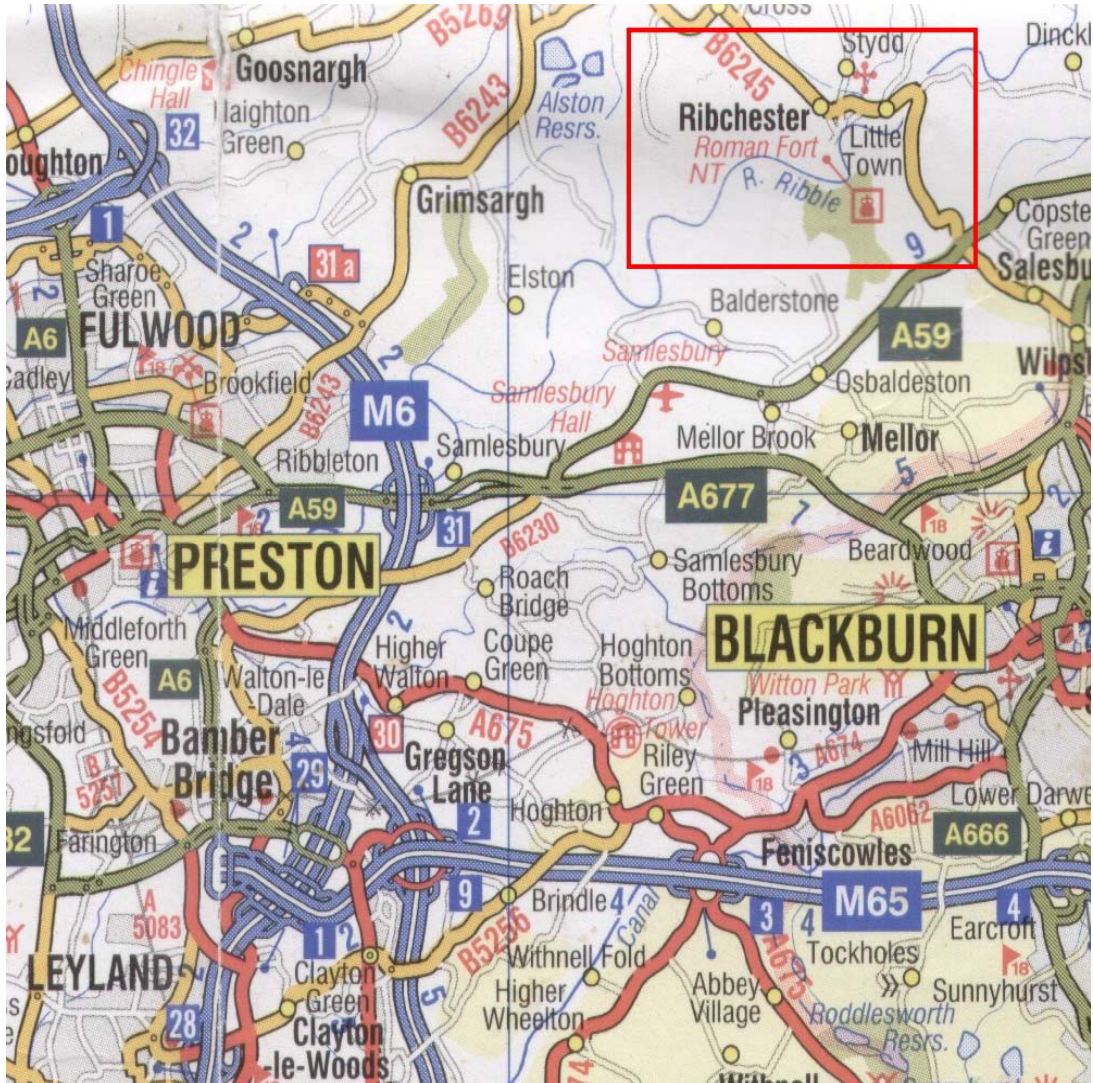


FIG 1. Site Location Map

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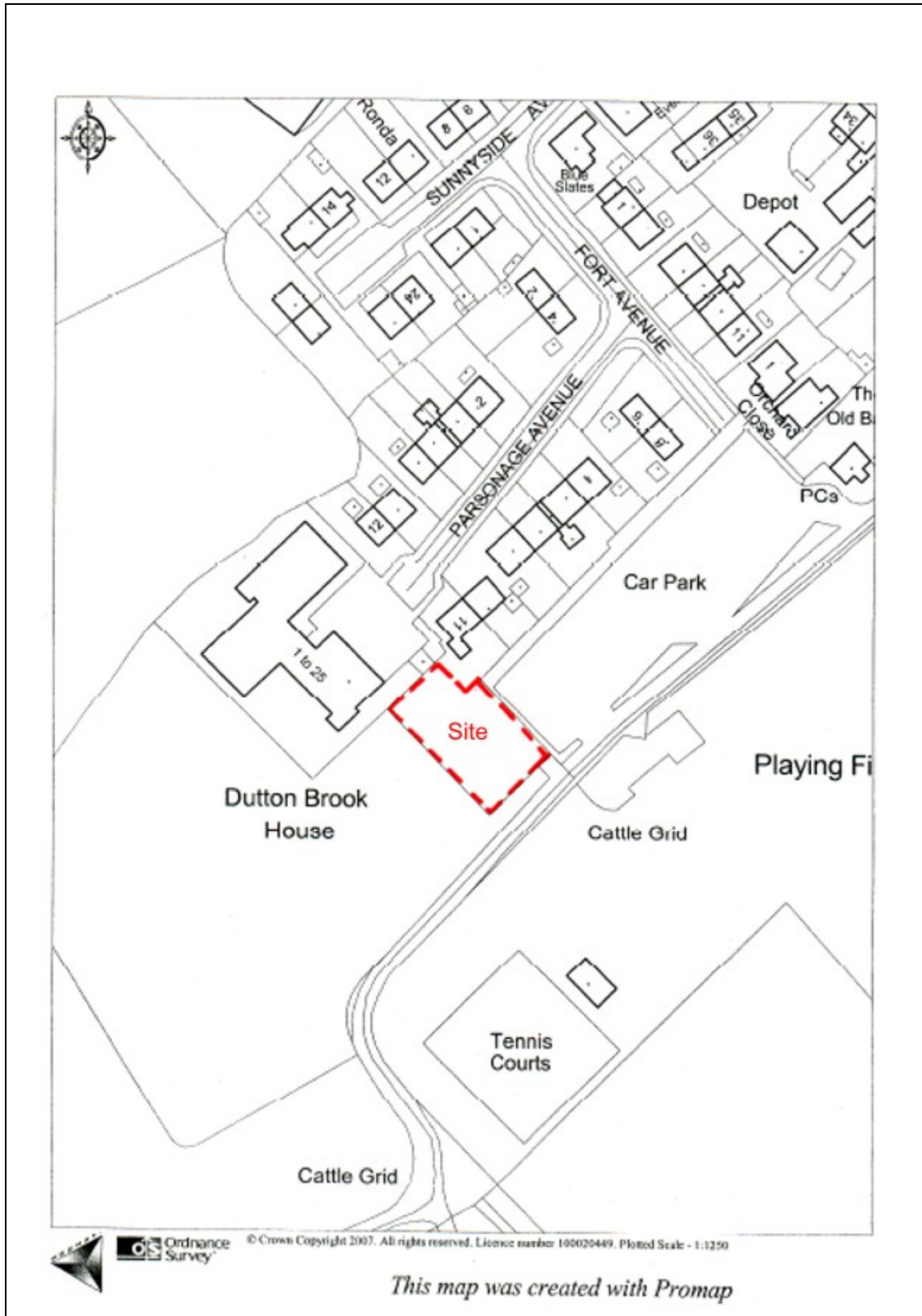


FIG 1a. SITE LOCATION (in relation to 2007 OS with proposed development site edged in red) based on 1:1250 scale plan provided by developer.

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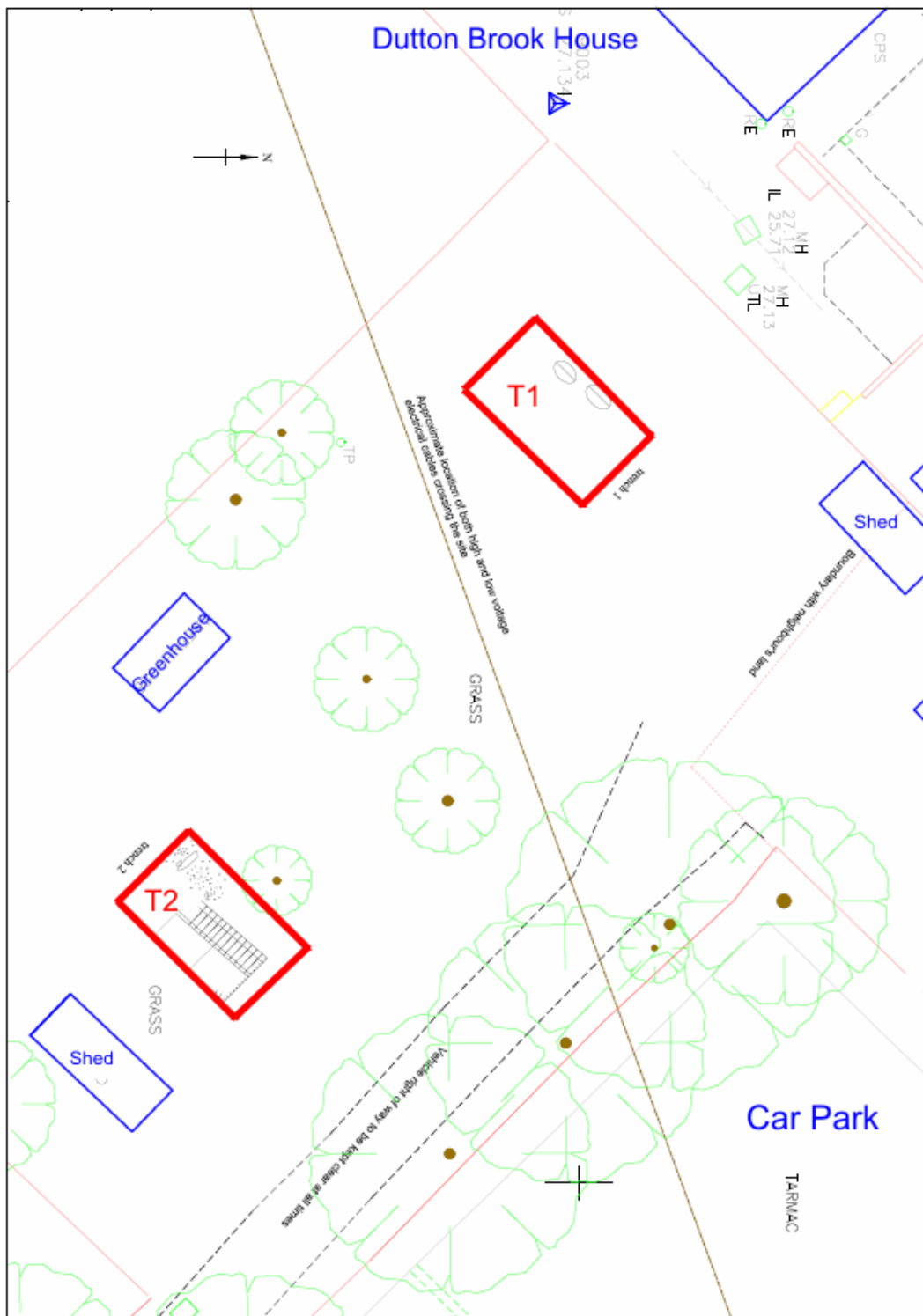
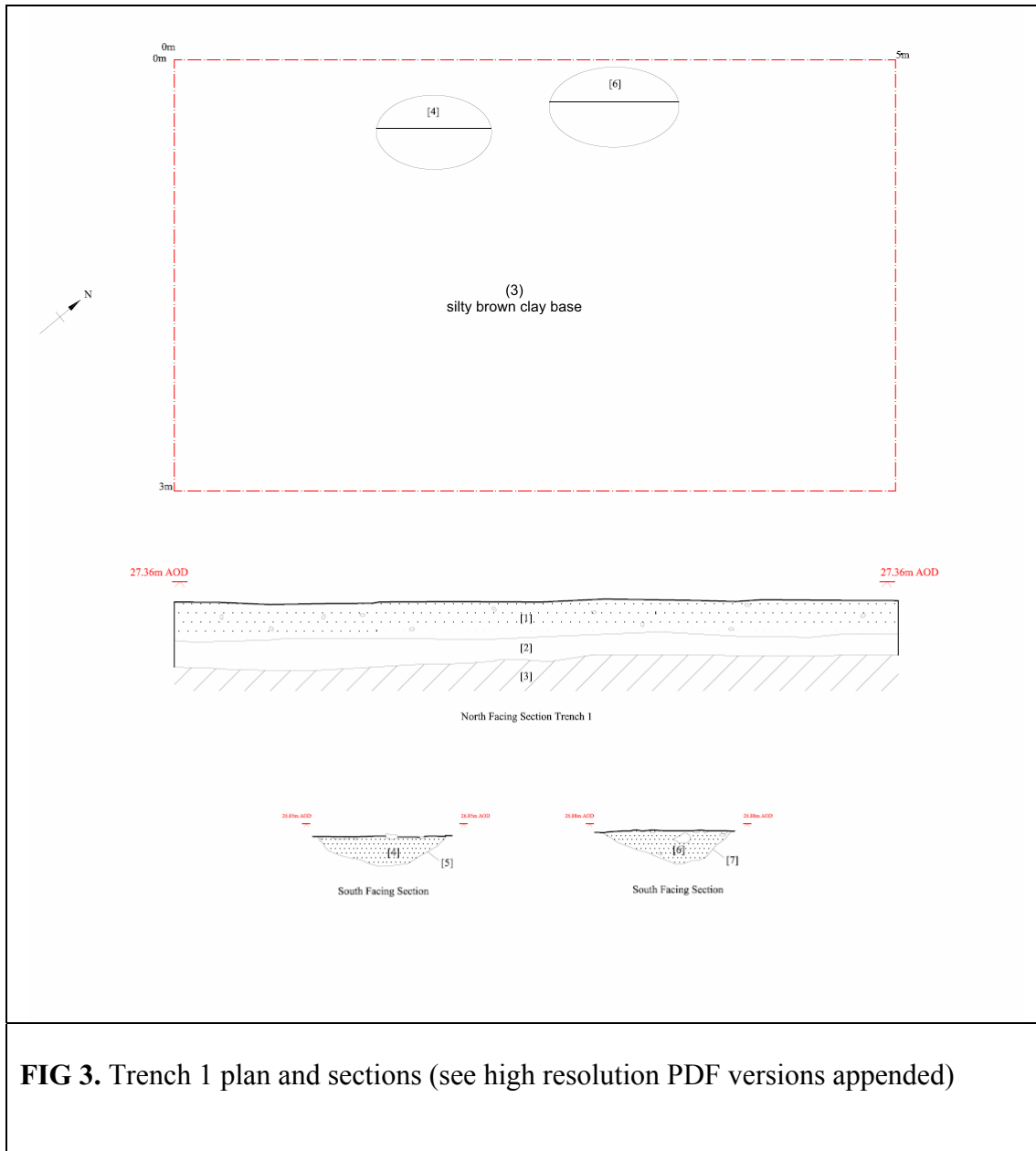
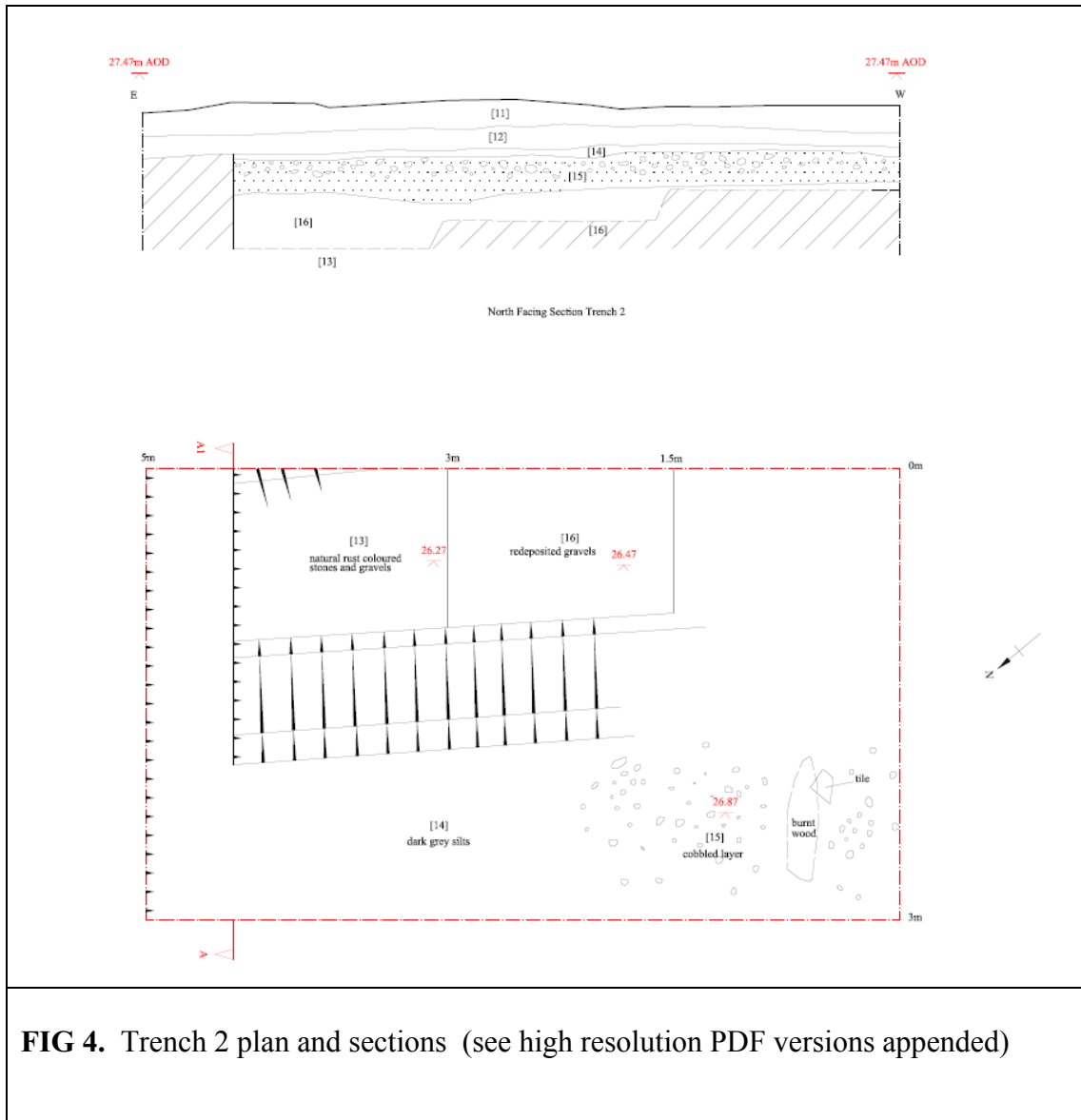


FIG 2. Trench Locations based on 1:100 scale topographical survey plan supplied by the developer





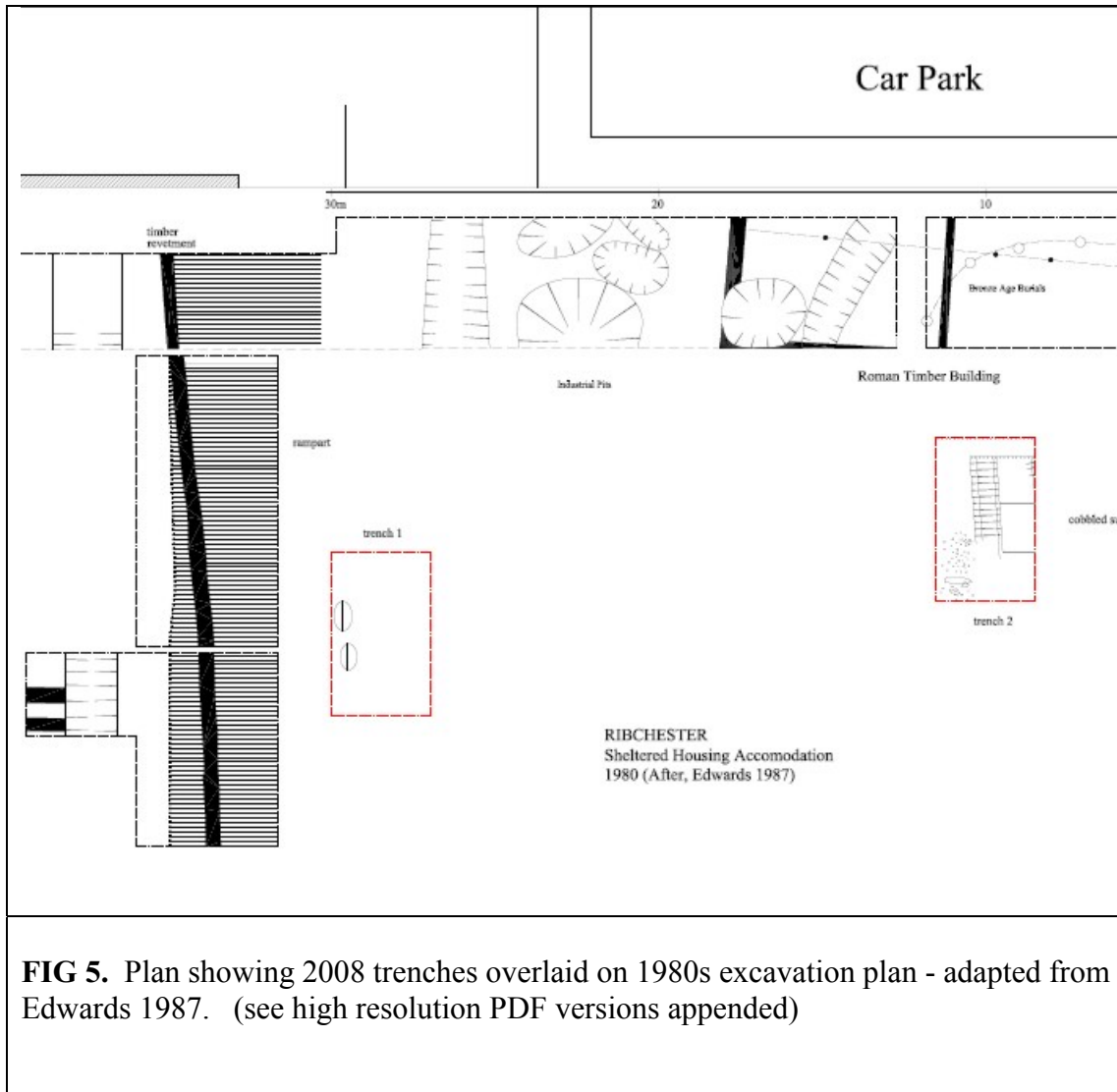


FIG 5. Plan showing 2008 trenches overlaid on 1980s excavation plan - adapted from Edwards 1987. (see high resolution PDF versions appended)

APPENDIX 4.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1. Trenching area, north-west corner of site with view of Dutton Brook House.



Plate 2. Trench 1 after removal of topsoil and subsoil (1 and 2) revealing stone filled pits [5 and 7] circled in red. Both pits contained Roman pottery and tile View looking West. *The photographic scale measures 2m*



Plate 3. Trench 1 showing half-section through pit [5]. View looking NW.
The photographic scale measures 0.25m.



Plate 4. Trench 1 showing half-section through pit [7]. View looking NW.
The photographic scale measures 0.25m.



Plate 5. Trench 2 pre-excavation. View looking north-east



Plate 6. Trench 2: south-west facing section showing a layer of topsoil (11) with an underlying layer of orange brown subsoil (12). A disturbed cobbled layer (15) can just about be discerned mixed in dark grey silts (14). Redeposited rust coloured gravels and stones below (14 and 15) contained decorated samian bowl fragments dated to AD115-160.



Plate 7. Trench 2: north-west facing section showing a layer of disturbed cobbles (15) which can be seen running throughout the long section. Redeposited rust coloured gravels and stones below (14 and 15) contained decorated samian bowl fragments dated to AD115-160. *Photographic scales 1 and 2 metres*



Plate 8. Decorated samian bowl from Lezoux dated to AD115-160. Context(16)



Plate 9. Decorated Central Gaulish samian bowl fragment dated to AD115-160. Context (16)

APPENDIX 5

PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Date	Monochrome Film No/Frame No:	Digital (6 Mega-pixels) File Name:	Description	Scale	View -to	Photographer
1-7-2008	Film 1	Plate 1	General working shot of trench 1.	2m	NW	Ron Gurney
2-7-2008	-	Plate 2	Trench 1 after removal of topsoil and subsoil (1 and 2) revealing stone filled pits (4 and 6)	2m	NW	RG
2-7-2008	-	Plate 3	Trench 1 showing half-section through pit (4).	0.25m	NW	RG
2-7-2008	-	Plate 4	Trench 1 showing half-section through pit (6).	0.25m	NW	RG
3-7-2008	-	Plate 5	Trench 2 pre-excavation.	2m	NE	SB
3-7-2008	FR 7	Plate 6	Trench 2: south-west facing section showing a layer of topsoil (11) with an underlying layer of orange brown subsoil (12). A disturbed cobbled layer (15) can just about be discerned mixed in dark grey silts (14). Redeposited rust coloured gravels and stones below (14 and 15)	2m	NW	SB

APPENDIX 6

Finds catalogue

Trench/ find no.	description	Context no	Period/date
1-1	Grey ware rim sherd from fill of pit	(4)	Roman
1-2	Black Burnish rim from fill of pit	(4)	Roman
1-3	Body sherd, grey exterior, orange interior	(6)	Roman
1-4	Body sherd, grey exterior, orange interior	(6)	Roman
1-5	Large tile fragment, possibly roof tile	(6)	Roman
1-6	3 x corroded iron nails	(6)	?
1-7	Bulk finds unstratified from spoil heap: pottery	-	Roman
1-8	Bulk finds unstratified from spoil heap: metalwork (bronze hinge)	-	?Roman
2-10	1x samian body sherd and 1 x grey ware rim	(12)	Roman
2-11	2 x mortaria body sherds	(14)	Roman
2-12	2 x tile fragments	(14)	Roman
2-13	Bulked finds – tile, pot including 1 x mortarium rim sherd	Lower (15) and (16)	Roman
2-14	Fragments of decorated samian bowl. Dr 37, probably central Gaul	Lower (15) and (16)	Mid to late 2 nd century
2-15	1 piece of decorated samian bowl. Dr 37, Lion motif. Lezoux in Central Gaul	Lower (15) and (16)	115-160AD
2-16	1 piece of decorated samian bowl. Dr 37, circle and bow motif. probably Central Gaul	Lower (15) and (16)	Mid to late 2 nd century
2-17	Bulk finds unstratified from spoil heap: pottery including C17/18 slipwares	unstratified	Roman and post medieval

APPENDIX 7

Samples index

Sample no	Purpose of sample	Trench/context
01	For C14 date and environmental assessment	T1 / (6)
02	For C14 date and environmental assessment	T2 / lower (15)

