

**LAND AT WIGAN ROAD,
CLAYTON-LE-WOODS,
LANCASHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION REPORT
CP. No: 10586/13
18/07/2013**



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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology were instructed by David Wilson Homes North West, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Wigan Road, Clayton-le-Woods, Lancashire (NGR SD 5582 2288). This work follows a request from the Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Lancashire County Council, Doug Moir, for a phased programme of archaeological investigation prior to any future redevelopment of the site.

The first phase of this programme was an archaeological desk-based assessment (Blythe 2008), which identified the site to be of archaeological interest, potentially containing the projected route of a Roman road, as well as remains of post-medieval buildings associated with the Cuerdens farm complex. This was followed by a trial trench evaluation, specifically targeting the Roman road route, and summarised in this report.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over 3 days between the 16th July and 18th July 2013. The evaluation involved the excavation of 3 trenches, covering a total length of 105m, in the northern part of the development area. Despite the potential for encountering the route of a Roman road, as well as possible post-medieval building remains, no archaeological remains were noted from any of the 3 trenches.

The results of the archaeological evaluation suggest that the route of the Roman road may run further to the east or west than previously thought.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would like to thank Tim Farnworth of Taylor Wimpey, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would also like to thank David Brackley of David Wilson Homes North West, for all assistance throughout the work. Further thanks are extended to Doug Moir at Lancashire County Council, for all assistance throughout the project.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Ruttle Plant, Chorley, Lancashire, for their help during this project.

The archaeological evaluation was supervised by Ben Moore. The report was written by Cat Peters and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Senior Project Manager for WAA. The report was edited by Martin Railton, Project Manager for WAA.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In June 2013, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology were invited by David Wilson Homes North West, on behalf of their clients, Taylor Wimpey, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Wigan Road, Clayton-le-Woods, Lancashire (NGR SD 5582 2288; Figure 1), prior to the development of the site for housing. An earlier desk-based assessment (Blythe 2008) found the site to have high potential for encountering remains of the Roman and post medieval periods. As a result, Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Lancashire County Council requested a programme of archaeological investigation, prior to the development taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken following approved standards and guidance (IfA 2008), and was consistent with the specification approved by Doug Moir Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Lancashire County Council (Giecco 2013) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the evaluation works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works. Any further investigations on-site will be subjected to a separate project design, and will form a separate report.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in response to a request by David Wilson Homes North West and Taylor Wimpey, for an archaeological evaluation of the study area (Giecco 2013). Following acceptance of the project design by Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Lancashire County Council, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE FIELD EVALUATION

2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 3 trenches with a total length of 105m in the northern part of the proposed development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, the evaluation trenches being located to target the potential line of the projected route of a Roman road. All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).

2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.3.3 Turf and topsoil was removed by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recording according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2012).

2.3.4 No finds were recovered from the trenches.

2.3.5 All deposits encountered were deemed unsuitable for environmental sampling, and therefore no samples were retained.

- 2.3.6 The 3 evaluation trenches were backfilled under archaeological supervision, following excavation and recording in line with the Project Design (Giecco 2013) and Method Statement (Railton 2013).
- 2.3.7 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, 1991).

2.4 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited with Lancashire Archives, accessible under the unique project identifier WAA13, LWR-A, CP 10586/13. Copies of the report will be sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Lancashire County Council, where viewing will be available upon request.
- 2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, and Lancashire County Council, support the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The development area comprised a single plot located to the north of the village, and to the east of Leyland, on the east side of the M6 motorway (NGR SD 5582 2288). The site is bounded to the west by the A49, by housing to the south, and by agricultural land to the north and east.
- 3.1.2 The solid geology of the region comprises mostly Permo-Triassic sedimentary rocks with the Keuper Marls of the Lostock Hall area to the north-west being disrupted by the Great Haigh Fault, which runs north-west/south-east through Cuerden Gates Farm. The overlying drift geology is essentially post-glacial boulder clay deposits (Countryside Commission 1998). The soils, as mapped by the Ordnance Survey Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983), are predominantly of the Salop series, which are typical stagnogley soils, but there are also areas of the Enborne series along the river valleys, which are typical alluvial grey soils.
- 3.1.3 The development site lay within agricultural fields, to the immediate east of the A49 and consisted of 7 fields of varying size enclosed by hedges and wide ditches. The 3 trenches were located in the northernmost field, which contained a large pond within its southern area, with some natural gullies running into it. The field was grassed at the time of the evaluation.

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area. References to the County Historic Environment Record (HER) are included where known. It cites evidence uncovered by the earlier desk-based assessment of the present development site, undertaken in 2008 (Blythe 2008).
- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric:* there are no known prehistoric sites within 0.5km of the development site.
- 3.2.3 *Roman:* the postulated route of a Roman road which once ran between the settlements of Wigan and Preston runs straight through the development area (Philpott 2006, 60). The present A49 route follows the approximate route of this Roman road.
- 3.2.4 *Medieval:* the possible location of a medieval shrunken village, Clayton Village (PRN 3960), identified by pre-1600 documentary sources lies to the east of the development site, just within 0.5km of the development site (Blythe 2008, 12).

3.2.5 *Post-medieval and Modern*: the farmstead of Cuerdens is likely to be first documented in 1622 when a 'cause in variance' was cited in the court rolls of that year between two closely located 'tenements' occupied by Thurston Leyland and Thomas Woodcock (Bolton 1985, 32). Cuerdens was originally occupied by the Leyland family and took the name of Cuerden from the early 18th century when a Matthew Cuerden was the tenant (*op cit*, 46). A hearth tax from 1664 records two farms with two hearths each, both within close proximity to the development site, and these are likely to have been part of the Clayton manor estate until 1677 (Blythe 2008, 13). These farmsteads could have formed 'Head' a small settlement located to the north of the development site and depicted on Yate's map of 1786, although annotated 'Lidget Head' by the publication of Hennet's map of 1830 (*op cit*, 15). The tithe map of 1838 indicates that the development site was part of the farmland for Cuerden farmstead and shows outbuildings within the development site. The desk-based assessment recommended an archaeological evaluation, in the form of a "*programme of strip and record*" for any features relating to the farmstead (Blythe 2008, 38).

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

3.3.1 Only two previous archaeological investigations have occurred in the immediate area around the development site. The first was an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey (NGR SD 555 246; OAN 2003) on a proposed development area approximately 750m to the north of the current development site. The proximity of the site to the putative line of the Preston to Wigan Roman road was highlighted, as well as the potential for medieval archaeology. Medieval sites included several areas of relict field system and post-medieval sites included several marl pits and grubbed-out sections of field boundaries relating to fields shown on a c 1700 estate map.

3.3.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken on the present development site was undertaken in 2008 (NGR SD 5582 2288; Blythe 2008), and has been summarized as appropriate in 3.2 Historical Context. The results led on to this present archaeological evaluation of 3 trenches to locate the postulated route of the Wigan to Preston Roman road. Furthermore, the desk-based assessment uncovered the potential for post-medieval farm structures to survive elsewhere in the development site, and recommended further mitigating works.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken between 16th July and 18th July 2013 within the northern area of the development site, and comprised the excavation of 3 1.7m wide and 35m long trenches by a JCB 3cx with a back-hoe (Figure 2).

4.2 RESULTS

4.2.1 *Trench 1:* Trench 1 was located toward the north-western corner of the northern area of the development site and was aligned west north west/ east south east (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.7m revealing orange compacted sand with darker clay patches, below c.0.32m of mid-brown silty clay subsoil with occasional stones and c.0.20m of dark brown silty loam topsoil with occasional rounded stones and which had been heavily bioturbated (Plate 1). No archaeological features were noted.



Plate 1: South-south-west facing sample section of Trench 1 (1m scale)

4.2.2 *Trench 2:* Trench 2 was located toward the northern boundary of the northern area of the development site on a west north west/ east south east alignment (Figure 2). It was located centrally over the postulated line of the Roman road. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m revealing orange compacted sand with darker clay patches, below c.0.42m of mid-brown silty clay subsoil with occasional stones and c.0.21m of dark brown silty loam topsoil with occasional rounded stones and which had been heavily bioturbated (Plate 2). No archaeological features were noted.



Plate 2: Trench 2 upon completion, facing west-north-west (1m scale)

4.2.3 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was located within the northern half of the northern area of the development site and was aligned west north west/ east south east (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m revealing orange compacted sand with darker clay patches, below c.0.21m of mid-brown silty clay subsoil with occasional stones and c.0.10m of dark brown silty loam topsoil with occasional rounded stones and which had been heavily bioturbated (Plate 3). No archaeological features were noted.



Plate 3: Trench 3 upon completion, facing east-south-east (1m scale)

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

- 4.4.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 During the archaeological field evaluation on land at Wigan Road, Clayton-le-Woods, Lancashire, 3 trenches were excavated in the northern part of the development area, with a total length of 105m. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, the evaluation trenches being located to target the projected line of a known Roman road. All trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural substrate.
- 5.1.2 All 3 trenches were devoid of any archaeological features or deposits. No traces of the Roman road could be seen during the archaeological evaluation. It is considered likely that the road may be some way to the east or west of the development site.
- 5.1.3 The results obtained during the present evaluation suggest that the study area has not been intensively used in the past other than for agricultural purposes.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

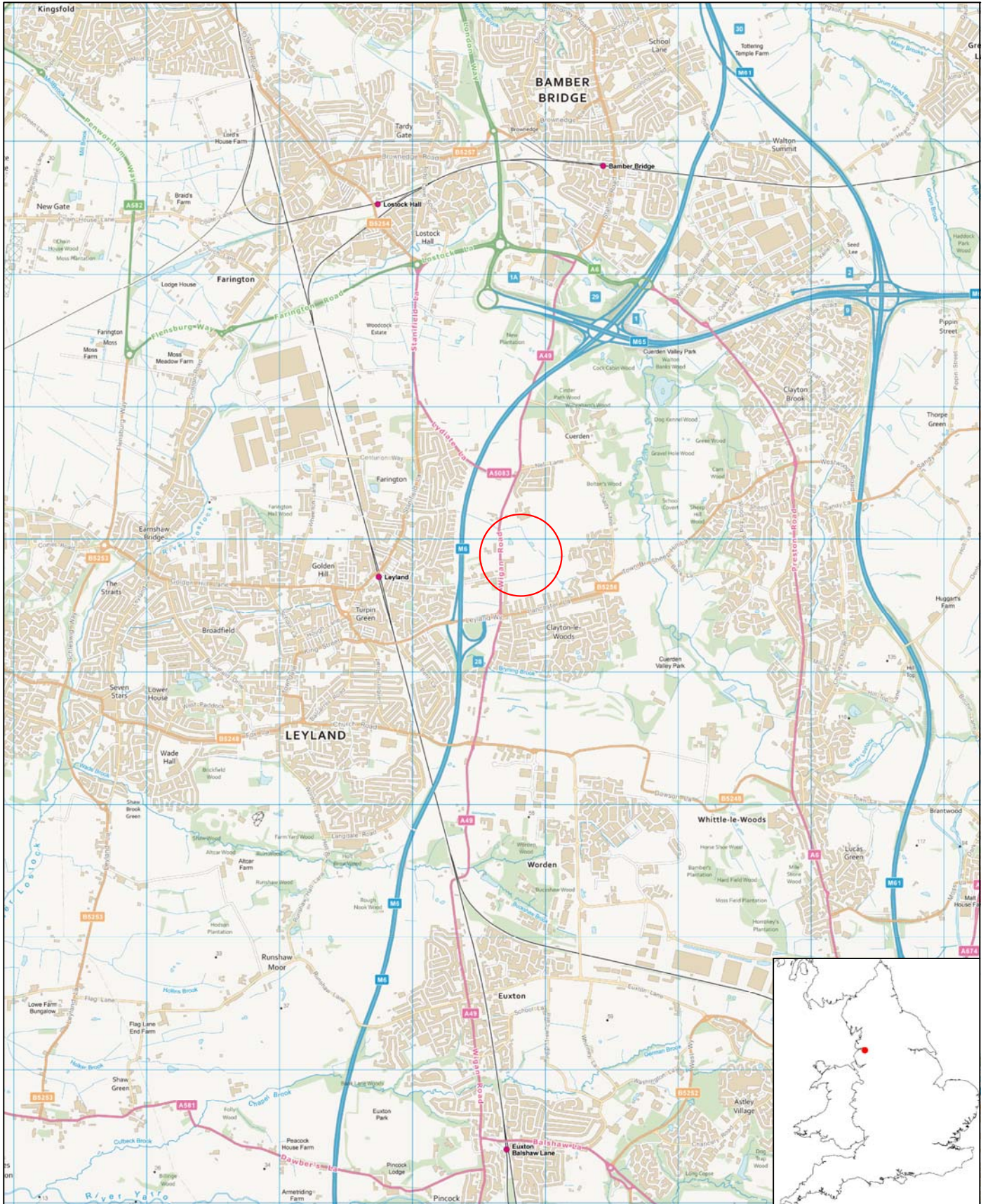
- 5.2.1 As the purpose of this archaeological field evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground remains relating to the Roman road, as specified by Doug Moir, Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Lancashire County Council, no further work is deemed necessary associated with the Roman road.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: FIGURES






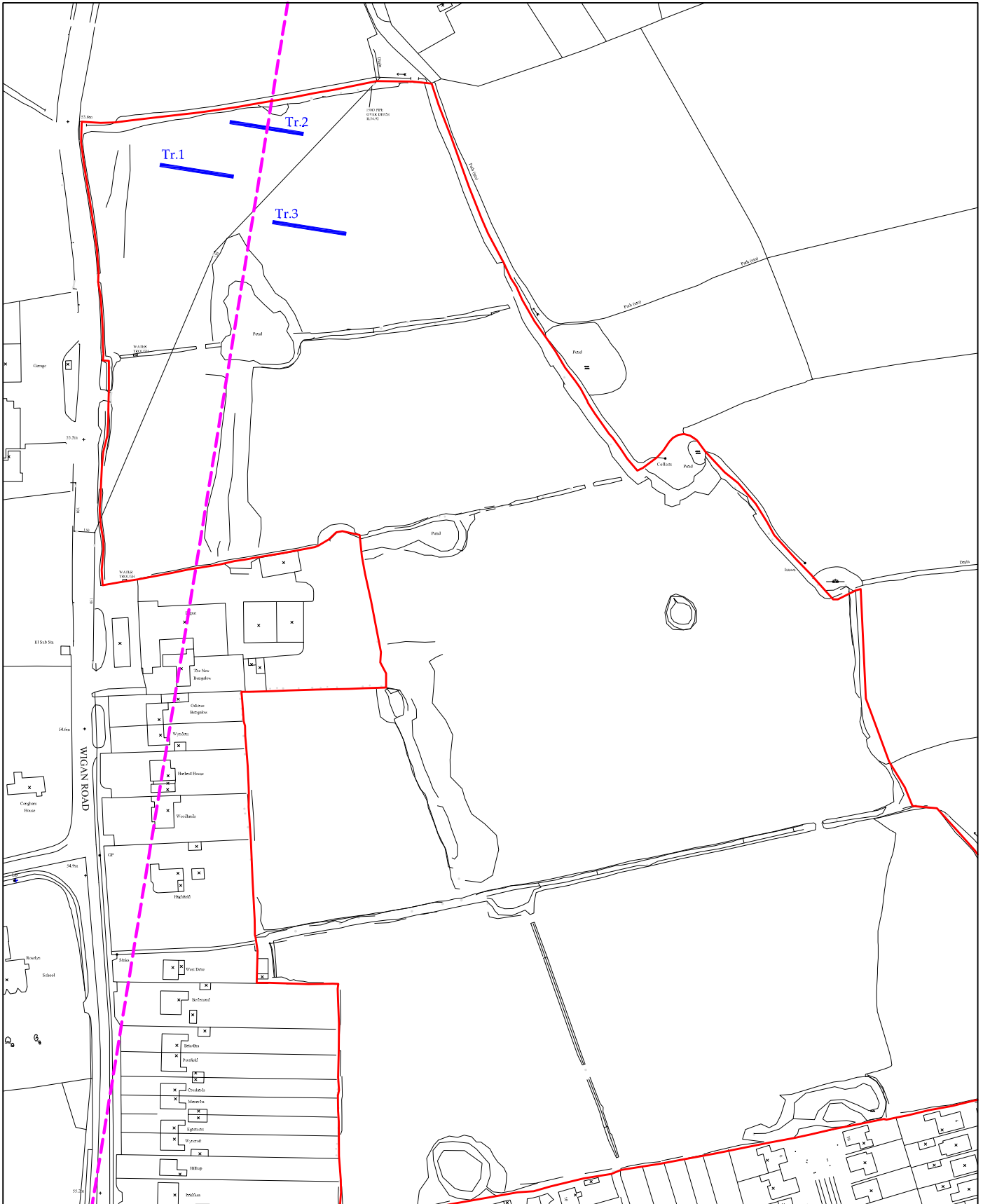
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2013</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land at Wigan Road, Clayton-le-Woods, Lancashire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:40,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10586</p> <p>CLIENT: David Wilson Homes North West</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: July 2013</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p>  Site location	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 1: Site location.








 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2013</p>	<p>PROJECT: Land at Wigan Road, Clayton Le Woods, Lancashire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:2,500 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10586</p> <p>CLIENT: David Wilson Homes North West</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: July 2013</p> <p>FIGURE: 2</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Outline of proposed development area  Projected line of the Roman Road  Evaluation trenches 	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 2: Location of evaluation trenches within the development area.