

**TRUB FARM,
ROCHDALE,
GREATER MANCHESTER**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

CP. No: 10829

06/06/2014



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DOCUMENT TITLE: Trub Farm, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
DOCUMENT TYPE: Archaeological Evaluation Report
CLIENT: S & E Lomax
CP NUMBER: CP10829/14
SITE CODE: TFR-A
PLANNING APP. NO: Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council 11/D543610
OASIS REFERENCE: wardella2-180174
PRINT DATE: 06/06/2014
GRID REFERENCE: SD 8825 1001

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 commissioned by S & E Lomax to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Trub Farm, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (NGR SD 8825 1001) This work follows a planning application (Planning Application No. 11/D54610) for a residential and commercial development of the site.

The Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) advised the granting of planning consent for the development, on the condition that two phases of archaeological mitigation were undertaken. This report deals with Phase 1, centred on the location of Wham Farm which was demolished in the late 19th century.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over two days between the 27th and 28th of May 2014. The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trenches, totalling 60 metres, across the possible site of Wham Farm as illustrated on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1848. The trenches were excavated through topsoil, subsoil and made ground onto natural sand and gravel. No archaeological remains were noted.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thanks S & E Lomax, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks Andrew Myles of Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) for his assistance throughout the project.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Ed Johnson and Ben Moore. The report was written by Ben Moore with the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey and the report edited by Richard Newman. The project was managed by Frank Giocco, Technical Director for WAA.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In May 2014, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology were invited by Richard Gee of Ronan Summer, on behalf of their clients, S & E Lomax to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Trub Farm, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (NGR SD 8825 1001) (Figure 1), prior to a residential and commercial development. The proposed works would impact on the possible remains of buildings associated with Wham Farm that is depicted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1848 (6" scale). As a result, Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director of Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service requested a programme of archaeological investigations 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 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken following approved standards and guidance (IfA 2008), and was consistent with the specification provided by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (Giecco 2014).
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the evaluation undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in response to a request by Richard Gee of Ronan Summer, for an archaeological evaluation of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director of Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, 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 three trenches totalling 60 metres across 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 establish the nature and extent of remains relating to Wham Farm. 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.

2.2.3 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).

2.2.4 No finds were encountered or retained.

2.2.5 All deposits encountered were deemed unsuitable for environmental sampling, and therefore no samples were taken.

2.2.6 The three evaluation trenches were scheduled to be backfilled at the discretion of the client, following the excavation and recording.

2.2.7 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, 1991).

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

2.3.1 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 within Salford Museum and Art Gallery, with copies of the report sent to Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director of Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory service available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA14, TFR-A, CP10829.

2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service 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 Trub Farm is in Castleton, approximately 3.5 km to the south-west of Rochdale town centre. Historically part of Lancashire, the town was once a township in the parish of Rochdale, before merging with the County Borough of Rochdale. Much of the development of Castleton was a result of its location on the main route of the Manchester to Rochdale railway line and Rochdale Canal. As a result of its development in relation to transport routes, the form of the settlement is linear (following the spine of Manchester Road) with the station and canal forming foci around which the townscape has developed (Sinclair Undated). The site of the evaluation lies at a height of approximately 129 m AOD, 20 metres west of the Rochdale Canal.
- 3.1.2 The underlying geology consists of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation, sedimentary bedrock which was formed approximately 314 to 316 million years ago in the Carboniferous period. Superficial deposits consist of glacial sand and gravel (BGS 2013).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled from a Desk Based Assessment undertaken by Wardell Armstrong in advance of this evaluation (Wooler 2013) 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.
- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric:* Whilst there is evidence for human activity around Rochdale during this period, particularly on the higher ground to the north and east of the town (Pearson *et al* 1985), there is presently no archaeological evidence for the area around Castleton, and there are no HER entries within a 1km radius of the evaluation which relate to this period.
- 3.2.3 *Iron Age and Roman:* There is some evidence for Roman activity in the area around Rochdale, particularly to the west where the Archaeological Data Service contains entries for sections of apparent Roman road at locations such as Clegg Hall Farm, Dig Gate Farm and Kingsway Business Park. The same source also records the findspot of a late 2nd century Roman coin hoard at Littleborough, and the discovery of a Roman silver statuette of Victory at Tunshill Farm, Milnrow (ADS 2013).
- 3.2.4 *Medieval:* There is no evidence for medieval activity on the site of the evaluation but there is a documentary reference to a 'mine' at Castleton in 1365. However it has been suggested that this may have referred to a stone quarry (Farrer and Brownbill 1966, 202). The exact location of this mine or quarry is unknown.
- 3.2.5 *Post-medieval and Modern:* The earliest large-scale map to show the area of the evaluation in detail dates to 1844. This map appears to show Wham Farm coloured

pink, with other buildings coloured grey, with the site accessed by a track running from the south, and a towpath for the canal shown to the east. Wham Farm may have been in existence in the early 18th century (or even earlier), as suggested by reference to a date stone of 1710 (or 1701) being removed from the site, and although caution must be taken with regards to this reference, it is possible that the farm, or part of it, may have dated to this period. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (6" edition) shows Wham Farm to the west of the canal, with a 'well' labelled to its north-west side. By 1893 the farm had seemingly been demolished, with no trace shown on the 25" version of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map.

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.3.1 A desk based assessment was undertaken by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in advance of this phase of archaeological mitigation (Wooler 2013). No excavations or other archaeological surveys are known to have taken place within the immediate vicinity of this evaluation.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken over two days between the 27th and 28th May 2014 and comprised three trenches located to investigate the site of Wham Farm as recorded on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map (6th edition) of 1848.
- 4.1.2 The top and subsoils in all three trenches were excavated by a JCB 3cx with a backhoe. The trenches were then cleaned by hand and recorded.

4.2 RESULTS

- 4.2.1 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was located to the north of the evaluation area, and was aligned west south-west to east north-east. It was 25 metres in length and positioned to intersect possible walls and surfaces relating to Wham Farm.
- 4.2.2 The topsoil (100) comprised 0.18 metres of rich dark brown loam, and was present across the trench. Beneath the topsoil was a 0.2 metre deep layer of light greyish brown silt subsoil (101) sealing a 0.4 metre deep deposit of dumped material (102). This was made up of dark grey silty clay containing brick and wood fragments, occasional plastic and redeposited natural orange sand and gravels. It was present along the entire length of the trench.
- 4.2.3 The trench was excavated down to the top of natural sand and gravel (103) at a maximum depth of 0.8 metres. A gravel filled land drain crossed the trench at its east north-eastern end. No archaeological features were noted.



Plate 1: Trench 1 facing west south-west

- 4.2.4 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 ran south south-east for 15 metres from the middle of Trench 1, forming a T shape. As with the other evaluation trenches, it was located to investigate walls and surfaces relating to Wham Farm.
- 4.2.5 The topsoil (200) was a maximum of 0.2 metres deep and at the north north-western end of the trench, the sequence of deposits was identical to that in Trench 1, with top and subsoil (201) sat on top of 0.4 metres of mixed materials (202). This deposit became thinner towards the south south-eastern end of the trench where it was a maximum of 0.2 metres thick.
- 4.2.6 The trench was excavated down to the top of orange natural sand and gravel (203) including a linear spread of iron panning, suggesting that there had been standing water or waterlogging at the site. No archaeological features were encountered.



Plate 2: Trench 2, facing south south-east

- 4.2.7 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was located to the east of the evaluation area and ran 20 metres north north-west to south-south east. It was located to investigate the possible enclosure walls associated with Wham Farm.
- 4.2.8 The sequence of deposits was similar to that in Trenches 1 and 2 at the north north-western end of the trench, where 0.2 metres of topsoil (300) sat on 0.2 metres of light grey silty subsoil (301). This sealed up to 0.65 metres of mixed material including brick fragments and 20th century ceramic material (302) as seen in the other trenches. This deposit became thinner towards the south south-east before ending c. 2 metres from the end of the trench where 0.2 metres of topsoil and 0.2 metres of subsoil sat directly upon the orange sand and gravel natural (303). The same gravel filled drain seen in Trench 1 cut through the deposits at north north-western end of the trench. No archaeological features were noted.



Plate 3: Trench 3, facing north north-west

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.3.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the trenching.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The archaeological field evaluation at Trub Farm, Rochdale, Greater Manchester, consisted of 3 trenches excavated over the possible site of Wham Farm. 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 investigate Wham Farm as recorded on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (6" edition). All trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural substrate.
- 5.1.2 The three trenches were devoid of any archaeological remains. The area of the evaluation seems to have been subjected to levelling followed by the dumping of waste, in a spread of material deepest where the trenches were closest to the canal. It is therefore possible that the material is related to the recent realignment of the canal. The area was also heavily disturbed during the installation of the sewer pipe and related drain running north-south 10 metres to the west of the evaluation.
- 5.1.3 It seems likely that the remains of Wham Farm were removed or destroyed during groundworks associated with the sewer or the realignment the canal. It also possible that the location recorded on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map is not accurate, and the remains are elsewhere in the development area.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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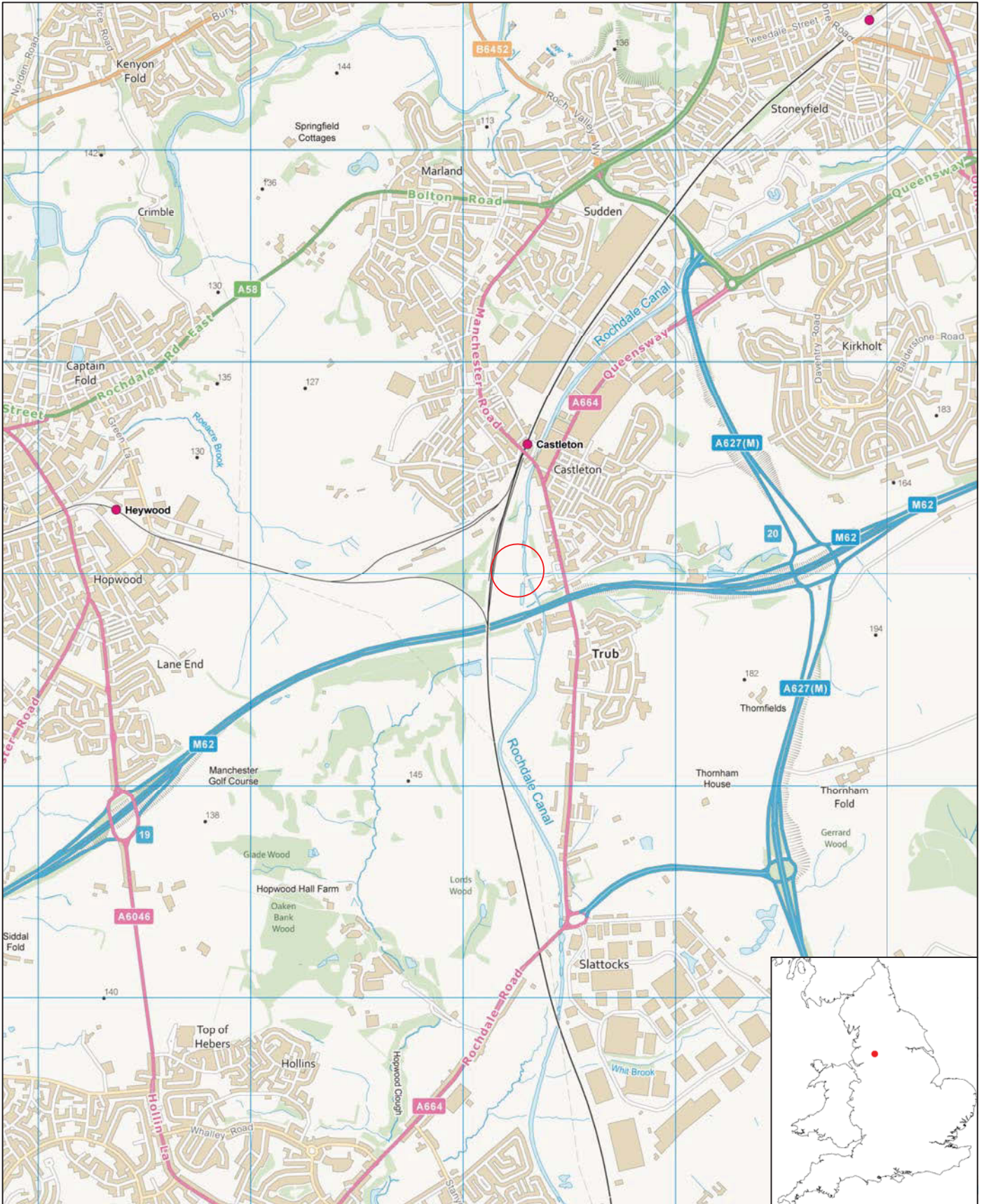
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APPENDIX 1: FIGURES






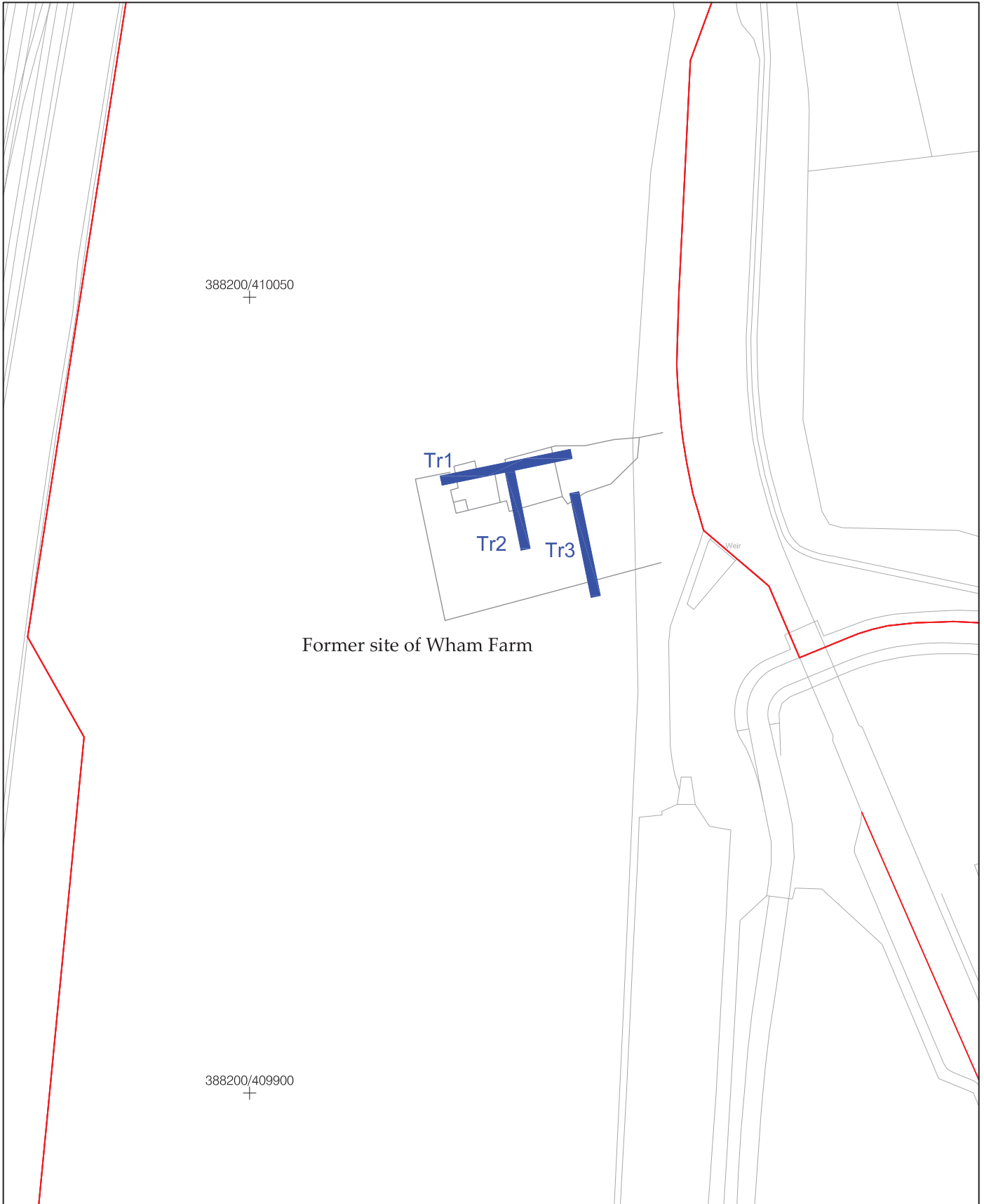
 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Trub Farm, Castleton, Rochdale, Lancashire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10829</p> <p>CLIENT: S & E Lomax</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: May 2014</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site location</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission 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 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Trub Farm, Castleton, Rochdale, Lancashire</p> <p>SCALE: 1:1,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10829</p> <p>CLIENT: S & E Lomax</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: May 2014</p> <p>FIGURE: 2</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site boundary</p> <p> Evaluation trenches</p>	 <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: Evaluation trench location plan.