

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Blackwood Road, Stacksteads, Lancs

NGR SD 8524 2164



Prepared for P & D Properties Ltd

June 2010

Report Ref. 10/10

Archaeological Excavation Services

Towngate Works

Dark Lane

Mawdesley

Lancashire

L40 2QU

CONTENTS

1. Introduction and Non-Technical Summary.....2

2. The Development Area.....2

3. Geology.....2

4. Archaeological and Historical Background.....2

5. Areas of Archaeological Potential.....3

6. Aims and Objectives.....3

7. Location of Watching Brief Areas.....3

8. Methodology.....3

9. Results4

10. Finds.....4

11. Conclusions.....4

12. Confidentiality and Publicity5

13. Copyright.....5

14. Acknowledgements.....6

15. Bibliography.....6

Appendix 1 Figures

Appendix 2 Plates

Appendix 3 Photography Register

Appendix 4 Context Catalogue

Appendix 5 Specification

Appendix 6 Project Design

Appendix 7 Archive Contents

1. Introduction and Non-Technical Summary

- 1.1** Archaeological Excavation Services were approached Mr D, Tattersall of P & D Properties Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief on groundworks prior to the construction of four mews style dwellings on land off Blackwood Road, Stacksteads. The investigations were undertaken in accordance with an archaeological condition on outline planning permission (Application No. 14/2009/0469) during early June 2010. This condition follows the advice given by central government as set out in *Planning Policy 5: Planning and the Historic Environment* (PPS5), which has replaced (PPG15) and (PPG16) issued by the Department of the Environment. Although the area was to be mainly piled, the amount of buried foundations made excavation a necessity at the northern end of the site. These subsequently revealed an underpass with station platform and signal box (HER PRN 13524), belonging to the railway opened in 1852 and closed in 1966. The area was found to consist of made up soil levelling the land surface when the retaining walls of the River Irwell were constructed, this would appear to have been the around the same time as the introduction of the railway. The remains of an earlier Wesleyan chapel (HER PRN 24003) constructed to the north of the site in 1838 and demolished when the railway was built, were not encountered.

2. The Development Area

- 2.1** The site covers approximately 800 sq. m. and is situated off Blackwood Road at NGR SD 8524 2164 (Fig. 3). The area is currently waste ground and was once the site of Stacksteads railway station, prior to the railway station a Wesleyan chapel stood on ground to the north of the site and was demolished when the railway was constructed in the early 1850s.

3. Geology

- 3.1** The solid geology of the area consists of millstone grit of the carboniferous era (IGS 1969). Above this lie the lower coal measures which occur in association with sandstones, mudstones and shales and Haslingden flags. No faults are seen within 500m of the site. To the south and west the millstone grit of the Rossendale anticline protrudes through the coalfield. The drift cover consists primarily of the soils of the Rivington Association, medium to coarse-textured head and till associated with carboniferous sandstones and shales. Below 600-700 feet these are under permanent grass suitable for dairying and livestock rearing, but higher up they are only suitable for rough grazing. The soils are acidic and strongly leached, requiring frequent liming to prevent surface mat formation (Hall and Folland 1970,47-54).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1** There is no record of the area being populated before the Norman Conquest and the earliest references found are in the medieval period, as the area was part of the Forest of Rossendale in the Honor of Clitheroe, a large estate granted to the de

Lacys soon after the Norman Conquest. The area generally mostly open moorland was initially used as a hunting preserve. Farms for purely raising cattle known as vaccaries, centred on Bacup and Tunstead, quickly became established. The commonality of the placename suffix *booth*, meaning cow-house or herdsman's hut, attests to this. The resultant groups of cottages and the main steadings gradually developed into villages, the nearby name of *Bacupbothe* (*Bacup*) entered the historical record in 1464. In 1507 the effective deforestation of Rossendale came about by royal decree which resulted in and the leasing out of land on copyhold tenancies; During the sixteenth century the east of the forest became sprinkled with tiny hamlets, of which Bacup was one. There were also dispersed steadings extending north up the Irwell valley. A chapel of ease was built at Newchurch in 1511 (Lancashire Historic Town Survey 2005,1).

4.2 The area known today as Stacksteads stretches from Thrutch Gorge to the east of Waterfoot to approximately a mile before Bacup. The origin of the name is unknown but is thought to refer to the place of the 'stag' or 'slack'. When the turnpike road was cut from Stacksteads to Rawtenstall in 1826 numerous skeletons of stags were discovered in the ground, it is thought that these animals had drowned in the area which was thought to have been an ancient bay around the Thrutch. In this area by the beginning of the nineteenth century, textile manufacturers had begun to diversify into cotton production and steam engines had just been begun to replace water power.. These technological changes had repercussions in the power loom riots of 1826 which resulted in over 1000 machines being destroyed across east Lancashire, including those at Old Clough and Irwell Mills in Bacup and Tunstead and Waterbarn Mills in Stacksteads. (Bowden 1994, 35). In 1889 the Thrutch was described as a very dangerous place with frequent rockfalls falling on the road below (Lord 2000, 46). By 1879 the railway line had been widened and both the tunnels at Thrutch and Stubbylee were almost completed. During the 19th century with the expansion on the mill operations in the area, poor quality housing grew up around these centres of employment. The need for proper sanitation was not considered important as one the mill owners stated that '*houses were not made for living in: the mill was where they lived, houses were only for sleeping in*'. A newspaper report of 1869 paints a very bad picture of Stacksteads describing it as "not a very safe or pleasant place to live". At this time the population of Stacksteads was made up mainly of, what at the time were called 'low Irish families' described as far from peace-loving and law-abiding. As a consequence the well disposed inhabitants of Stacksteads were in fear of their own lives (Lord 2000, 4).

4.3 The railway station at Stacksteads opened to the public on Sunday August 15th 1880 and at first caused some confusion to the locals who unfamiliar with the American style subway access to the platform, rushed across the level crossing to get over the lines. The railway line was subsequently closed during the 1960s when cuts were made after a report by Richard Beeching More than 4,000 miles of railway and 3,000 stations closed in the decade following the report, a reduction of 25 per cent of route miles and 50 per cent of stations. Known as the 'Beeching Axe' it was seen as necessary and was a reaction to significant losses, which had

begun in the 1950s as the expansion in road transport began to attract passengers and goods from the railways.

5. Areas of Archaeological Potential

- 5.1** As the current land occupies an area once the site of Stacksteads railway station, it was envisaged that excavation, although limited due to piling operations, would reveal aspects of the local railway history and the possibility of the remains of the Wesleyan chapel located to the north of the site.

6. Aims and Objectives

- 6.1** The objective of the watching brief is, where possible, to identify and record the presence, absence, nature, extent, and date of any archaeological deposits or features which are disturbed or revealed during the construction of the proposed development

7. Location of Watching Brief Areas

- 7.1** The area of the watching brief is shown on Fig. 1 & 2.

8. Fieldwork Methodology

- 8.1** The watching brief was undertaken on the groundworks at the site on 8th June 2010. The site photography was carried out using digital format and 35mm Black & white film. A 0.5, 1 or 2-metre scale was used where possible. Proforma Record Forms were used to record the site stratigraphy in combination with site notes to produce the final record contained within this report and will form a component of the archive. The project fieldwork conforms to the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (IFA 1995 revised 2001,2008).

9. Results

- 9.1** The watching brief was carried out on the 8th June 2010. Initially three pits were dug to a depth of approximately 2m on the southern perimeter of the area in the made up ground to the north of the River Irwell. These were found to consist of a homogenous mixture of soils with little stratification resulting from the ground being made level with topsoil at the time of the construction of the railway. A similar excavation method was initially employed on the northern edge of the site where several foundations were uncovered including a rectangular signal box previously recorded as (HER PRN 13524), a tiled subway structure and the remains of a stone built platform running west. In the north of the site removal of topsoil revealed the basal courses of the signal box, this consisted of three walls constructed of machine made brick (3), (4) and (5) along with the west wall which was constructed of stone rubble (6). Further excavation resulted in the uncovering of the lower levels of a platform constructed to a depth of 3m and consisting of two walls (7) & (8) converging to the west and constructed of stone rubble

bonded with lime mortar. Between the platform structure and the signal box foundation, a low level structure was encountered, this consisted of a subway construction running north–south and curving east-west. The walls (9) & (10) were constructed of white ceramic faced brick and the whole structure originally ran under the railway line allowing passengers to access the opposing platform and to exit the railway station. A manhole/inspection hatch was located in the floor (11) of the subway to provide drainage and access to any below ground services.

10. Finds

- 10.1** Finds consisted of broken fragments of 19th & 20th century pottery and modern material, all recovered from context (01) & (02).

11. Conclusions

- 11.1** The watching brief was successfully carried out according to the methodology stated in the project design (see Appendix 5). The test pits excavated in the southern area of the site were found to consist of fill at least 2 metres deep from the making up of the river bank to form a level surface. On the northern side of the site, the remains of the signal box (HER PRN 13524) were discovered along with the remains of a platform and an underground tiled passage that originally linked the south side of the station with the north side. The area had been disturbed and truncated by various 19th & 20th century activity necessitated by the railway construction and subsequent destruction. Although originally piling was envisaged, the northern area of the site was excavated more fully to reveal the various features uncovered.

12. Confidentiality and Publicity

- 12.1** The archaeological sub-contractor will not disseminate information or images associated with the project for publicity or information purposes without the prior written consent of the client.

13. Copyright

- 13.1** Copyright in all reports and documentation/images produced as part of this project to reside with Archaeological Excavation Services who retain the right to be identified as the author/originator of the material. This applies to all archaeological aspects of the project.

14. Acknowledgements

- 14.1 The author would like to thank Mr D.Tattersall of P & D properties Ltd who commissioned the report and Steve Price for drawing the archaeological plans, also the staff at the Lancashire Record Office.

15. Bibliography

Abbreviations

IFA - Institute for Archaeologists
 LCRO - Lancashire County Record Office
 OS - Ordnance Survey
 EUS – Extensive Urban Survey
 HER – Historical Environment Record (formerly SMR)
 OS – Ordnance Survey
 Nd – Not dated
 PRN – Primary Record Number
 CHME – Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England

Maps

OS, 1849, 1:10560 Scale Lancashire sheet 72, Southampton
 OS, 1894, 1: 2500 Scale Lancashire sheet 72-15, Southampton
 OS, 1910, 1: 2500 Scale Lancashire sheet 72-15 Southampton
 OS, 1932, 1: 10560 Scale Lancashire sheet 72-SE, special emergency edition

Published Sources

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Farrer W. & Brownbill J. 1911 *A History of the County of Lancaster*: Volume 6, pp. 437-441.

Hall, BR and Folland, CJ 1970 *Soils of Lancashire*, Soil Survey of Great Britain Bulletin 5, Harpenden

IGS 1969 *Geological Map of the British Islands*, 5th ed.

Lancashire County Council and Egerton Lea Consultancy 2005. *Lancashire Historic Town Survey – Bacup*.

Lord W.A. 2010. *Owd Stacksteads* pub. W.A. Lord.

Appendix 1. Figures

Figure 1. The site highlighted on the 1844-47 1:10000 O.S. edition

Figure 2. The site highlighted on the 1889-92 1:2500 O.S. edition

Figure 3. Current map showing the site with area of development coloured in red

Figure 4 Overall plan of site (not to scale)

Figure 5 Plan of excavation @ 1:100

Figure 6 Aerial view of site

Figure 7 Photograph of Stacksteads underpass and signal box



Fig.1 The site highlighted on the 1844-47 1:10000 O.S. edition

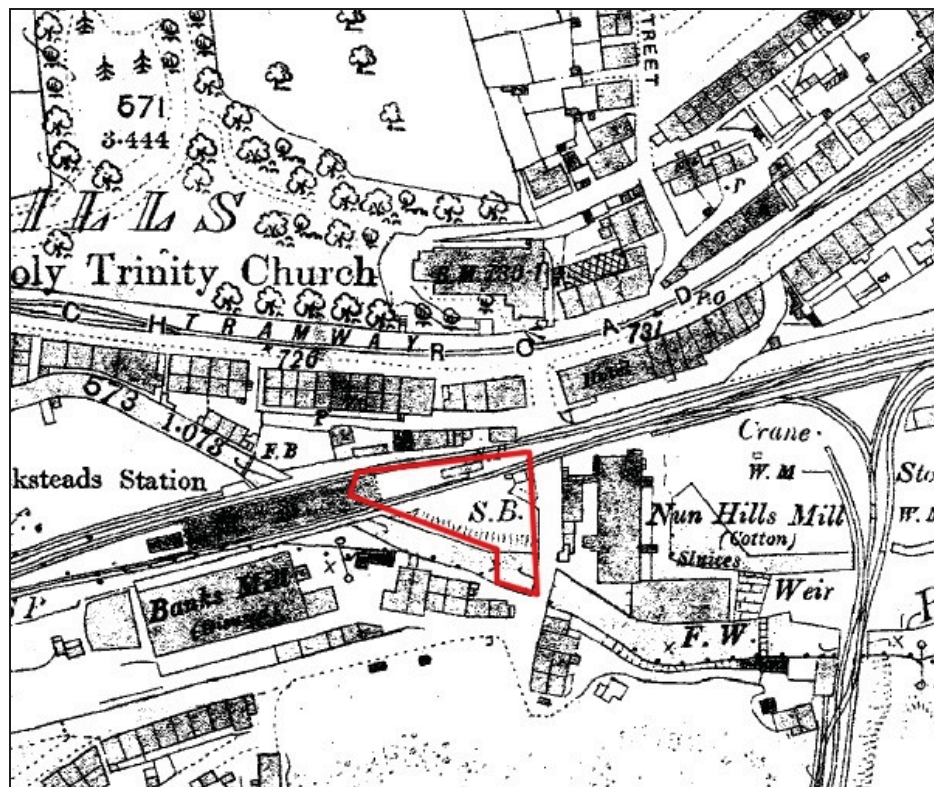


Fig.2 The site highlighted on the 1889-92 1:2500 O.S. edition

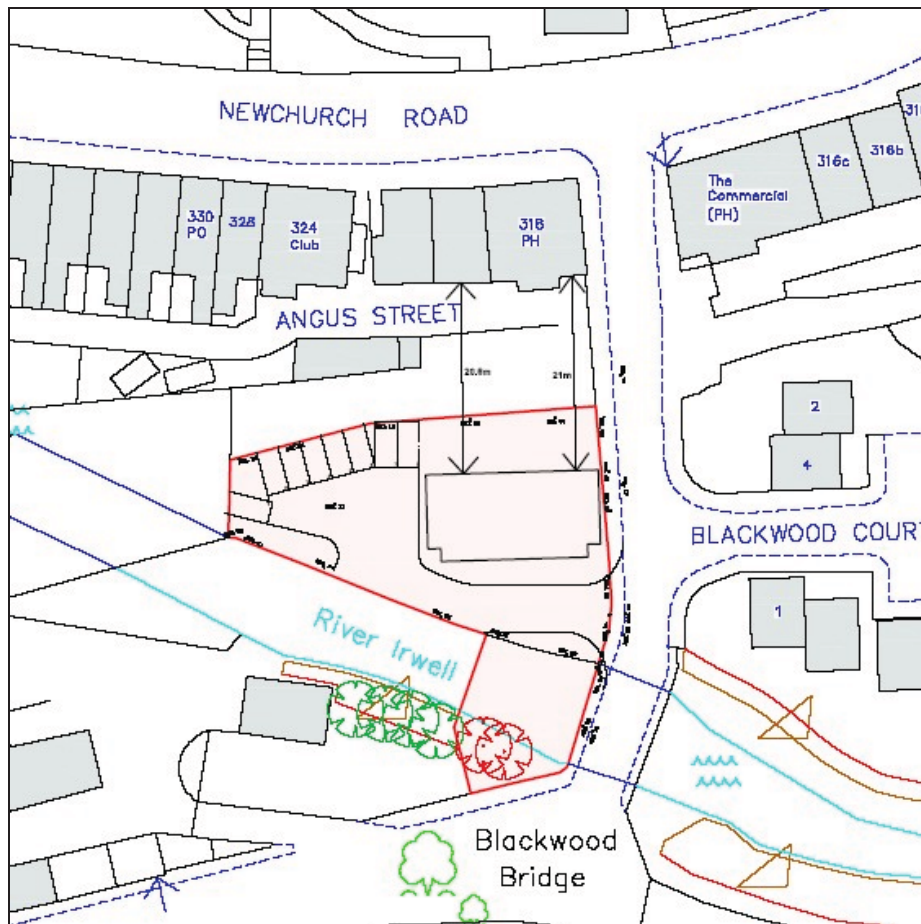
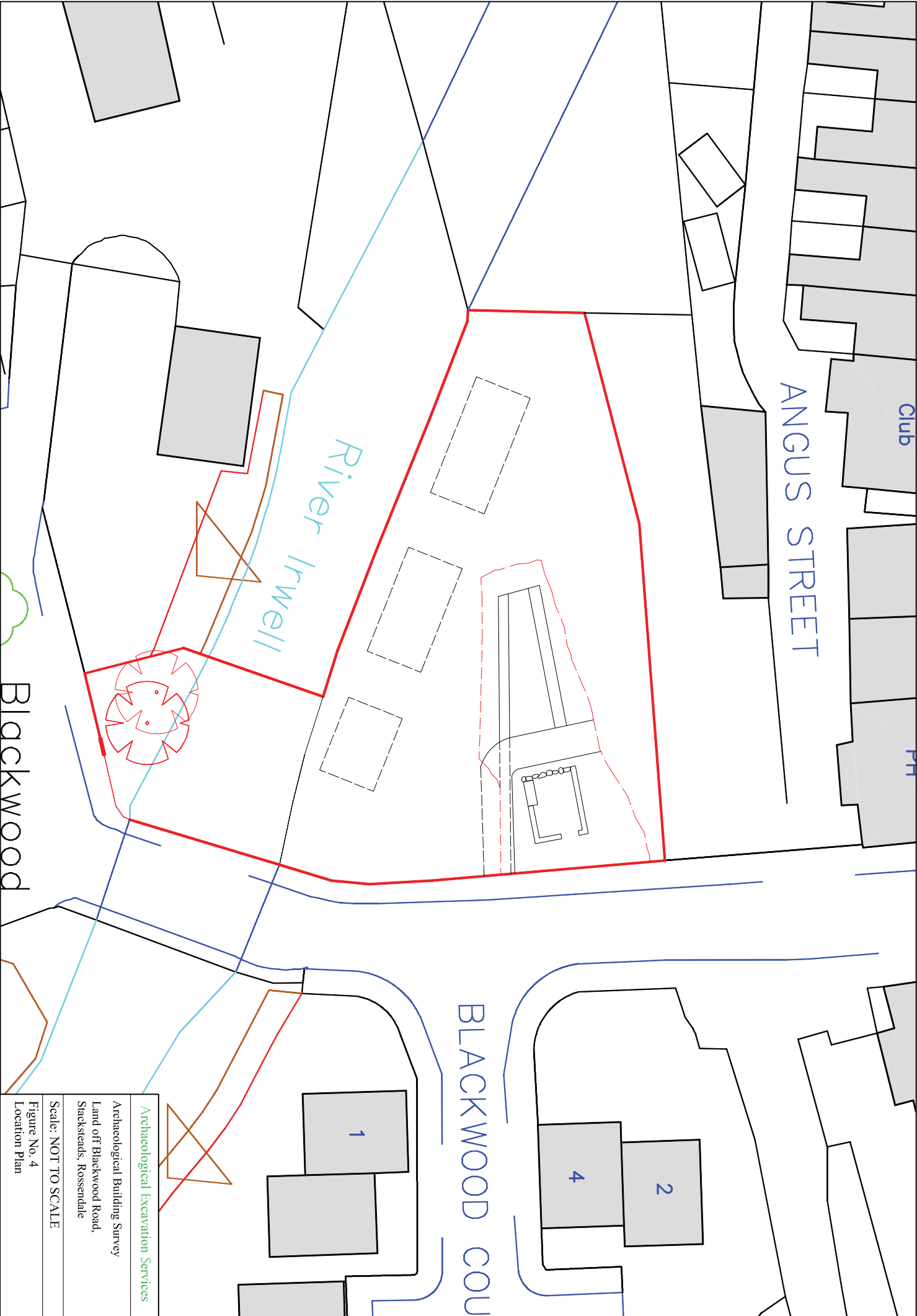
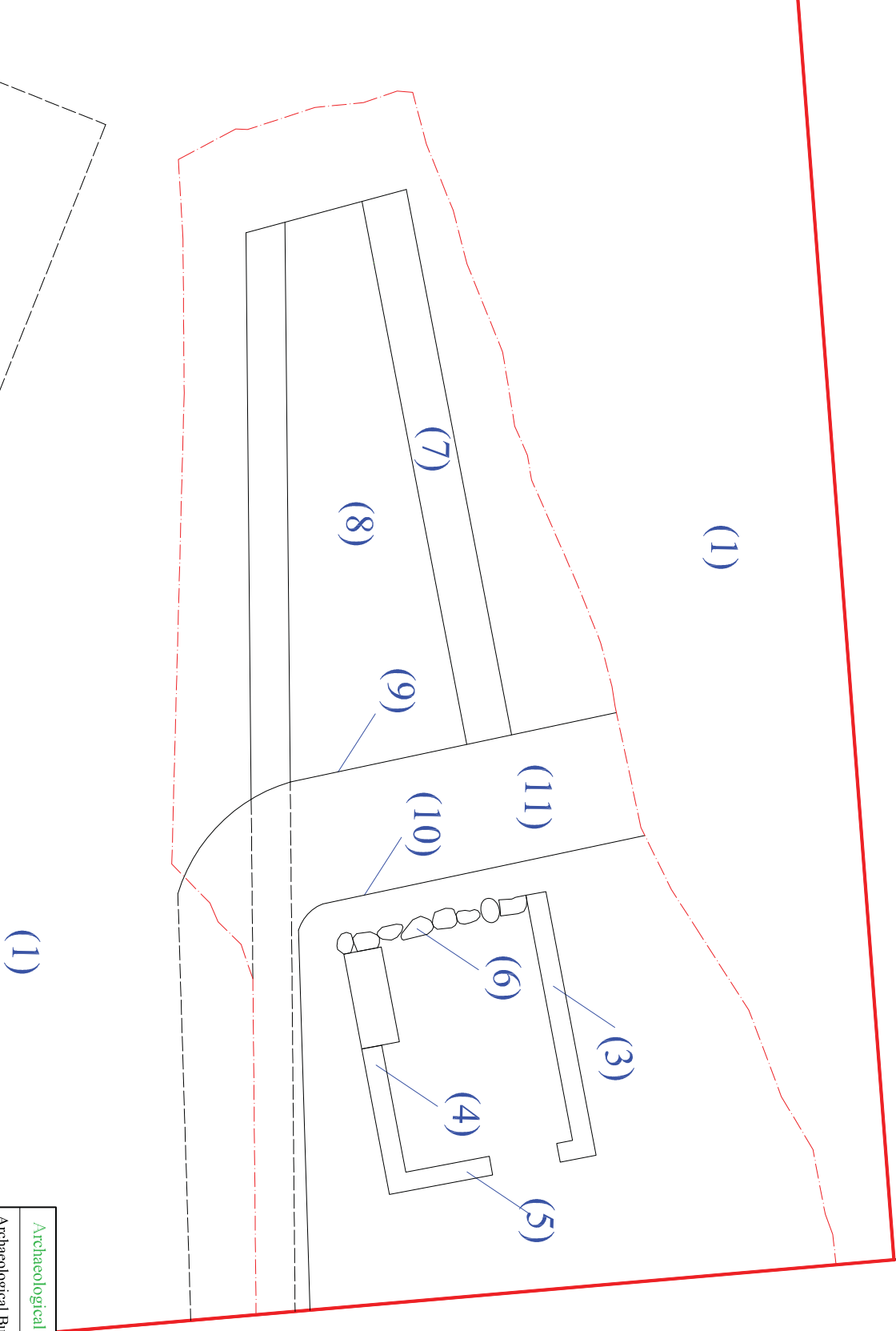


Fig.3 Current map showing area of development coloured red
O.S.Licence No. 100047948





Archaeological Excavation Services

Archaeological Building Survey

Land off Blackwood Road,
Stacksteads, Rossendale

Scale: 1:100 @ A4

Figure No. 5
detail plan



Fig. 6 Aerial view of site in centre of picture



Fig.7 Stacksteads underpass and signal box

Appendix 2 Plates



Plate 1. View of site from the west. (Photo No. DSCF1372)



Plate 2. View of site from the south-east. (DSCF1371)



Plate 3. View of site from the north-west. (DSCF1373)



Plate 4. Signal box north wall from the south. (DSCF1375)



Plate 5. View of signal box south wall from the north. (DSCF1376)



Plate 6. View of the signal box east wall from the west. (DSCF1377)



Plate 7. View of stone built western wall of signal box. (DSCF1378)



Plate 8. Overview of signal box foundations from the south-west. (DSCF1382)



Plate 9. View of platform foundations from the east (DSCF1381)



Plate 10. View of ceramic coated brick underpass from the west. (DSCF1383).



Plate 11. View of ceramic coated brick underpass from the east. (DSCF1384)



Plate 12. View of manhole in floor of underpass building from the south. (DSCF1386)



Plate 13. View of underpass from the north. (DCSF1388)



Plate 14. View of depth of platform foundations from the north-east. (DSCF1387)



Plate 15. Detail of made-up ground on eastern edge of site from the north.
(DSCF1393)



Plate 16. Testing platform foundation depth. (DSCF1396)

Appendix 3

PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

SITE: Blackwood Road, Stacksteads, Lancs.

Date	View No.	Monochrome Film No/Frame No:	Colour Slide Film/Frame No:	Digital (9 M-pixels) File Name:	Description	View From	Photographer
8/6/10	1	Film 1/1		1371 (Plate 2)	View of site	SE	R. J. Gurney
“	2	2/1		1372 (Plate 1)	View of site	W	R. J. Gurney
“	3	3/1		1373 (Plate 3)	“ “	NW	R. J. Gurney
“	4	4/1		1374	View of west end of site	E	R. J. Gurney
“	5	5/1		1375 (Plate 4)	North wall of signal box	S	R. J. Gurney
“	6	6/1		1376 (Plate 5)	South wall of signal box	N	R. J. Gurney
“	7	7/1		1377 (Plate 6)	East wall of signal box	W	R. J. Gurney

8/6/10	8	8/1		1378 (Plate 7)	West rubble wall of signal box	E	R. J. Gurney
“	9	9/1		1379	Northern platform foundation	S	R. J. Gurney
“	10	10/1		1380	Southern platform foundation	N	R. J. Gurney
“	11	11/1		1381 (Plate 9)	Converging platform foundation	E	R. J. Gurney
“	12	12/1		1382 (Plate 8)	Signal box foundation walls	SW	R. J. Gurney
“	13	13/1		1383 (Plate 10)	East wall of underpass	W	R. J. Gurney
“	14	14/1		1384 (Plate 11)	Curved west wall of underpass	E	R. J. Gurney
“	15	15/1		1385	-----Spoilt -----		R. J. Gurney
“	16	16/1		1386 (Plate 12)	Manhole in underpass floor	S	R. J. Gurney

8/6/10	17	-----		1387 (Plate 14)	Excavation of platform structure	NE	R. J. Gurney
“	18	-----		1388 (Plate 13)	View of underpass & manhole	N	R. J. Gurney
“	19	-----		1389	Excavation of platform structures	E	R. J. Gurney
“	20	-----		1391	Overview of site	NE	R. J. Gurney
“	21	-----		1392	Detail of made up ground & platform structure	E	R. J. Gurney
“	22	Film 17/1		1393 (Plate 15)	Contexts (1) & (2)	N	R. J. Gurney
“	23	-----		1394	Site from the east partly filled	E	R. J. Gurney
“	24	-----		1395	Site from S.E.	SE	R. J. Gurney
“	25	-----		1396 (Plate 16)	Excavated platform areas (exploratory)	E	R. J. Gurney

Appendix 4.

CONTEXT CATALOGUE

Site: Blackwood Road, Stacksteads

Context No.	Trench No.	Description	Date
01	1	A layer of dark brown mixed topsoil	8/6/10
02	1	Mixed subsoil layer below	“
03	1	A brick wall running E-W at eastern edge of site	“
04	1	A brick wall running E-W south of (03)	“
05	1	A N-S running brick wall joining (03) + (04)	“
06	1	A rubble wall west and joining (03) + (04)	“
07	1	A large rubble stone wall foundation running E-W	“
08	1	A large rubble stone wall foundation running E-W south of (07)	“
09	1	A low level curving N-S running wall of glazed brick turning E-W (west wall of underpass)	“
10	1	A low level curving N-S running wall of glazed brick turning E-W (east wall of underpass)	“
11	1	Underpass flooring with manhole	“

Appendix 5.

**An Archaeological Watching Brief to
Land off Blackwood Road,
Stacksteads, Rossendale.
Lancashire**

Project Design

**Prepared for D.Tattersall
of P & D Properties.**

May 2010

**Archaeological Excavation Services
Towngate Works
Dark Lane
Mawdesley
Lancashire
L40 2QU**

CONTENTS

1. Introduction and Non-Technical Summary.....	2
2. The Development Area.....	2
3. Geology.....	2
4. Archaeological and Historical Background	2
5. Areas of Archaeological Potential.....	2
6. Aims and Objectives.....	3
7. Location of Watching Brief Areas.....	3
8. Methodology.....	3
9. Reporting	4
10. Publication.....	5
11. Archive Preparation and Deposition	5
12. Monitoring.....	5
13. Confidentiality and Publicity	5
14. Copyright	6
15. Resources and Timetable.....	6
16. Insurances and Health and Safety.....	6
17. References.....	7
18. Figures.....	8

1. Introduction and Non-Technical Summary

1.1 Archaeological Excavation Services have been approached by D. Tattersall of P&D. Properties to carry out an archaeological watching brief on groundworks prior to the construction of a four mews style dwellings on land off Blackwood Road, Stacksteads at NGR SD 8524,2164. The investigations are being undertaken in accordance with an archaeological condition on outline planning permission for the redevelopment of the site (Application No. 14/2009/0469).

1.2 This document defines the areas to be investigated and the methodologies to be used.

2. The Development Area

2.1 The site covers approximately 400 sq. m. and is situated at NGR SD 8524,2164 (Fig. 2). The land is currently waste ground located directly to the north of the River Irwell, with Angus St. to the north and Blackwood Rd, to the east.

3. Geology

3.1 The solid geology of the area consists of millstone grit of the carboniferous era (IGS 1969). Above this lie the lower coal measures which occur in association with sandstones, mudstones and shales and Haslingden flags. No faults are seen within 500m of the site. To the south and west the millstone grit of the Rossendale anticline protrudes through the coalfield. The drift cover consists primarily of the soils of the Rivington Association, medium to coarse-textured head and till associated with carboniferous sandstones and shales. Below 600-700 feet these are under permanent grass suitable for dairying and livestock rearing, but higher up they are only suitable for rough grazing. The soils are acidic and strongly leached, requiring frequent liming to prevent surface mat formation (Hall and Folland 1970,47-54).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 The 1st edition 6" O.S. map of 1849 shows the present proposed construction to be on the southern edge of a Wesleyan Chapel (H.E.R. PRN 24003) built in 1838 but subsequently demolished in the 1870s (Fig.1) and the former site of a signal box (H.E.R. PRN 13524), with east-west running railway lines lying to the north of the site. The rail routes along with the signal box are depicted on the 1st ed. O.S. 1:2500 edition (Lancs. Sheet LXXII-15) surveyed in 1894 (Fig. 2).

5. Areas of Archaeological Potential

5.1 The map evidence indicates that the ground works may reveal the southern foundations of the Wesleyan Chapel (see Fig.1) and the later signal box with other associated structures (Fig.2).

6. Aims and Objectives

- 6.1** The objective of the watching brief is, where possible, to identify and record the presence, absence, nature, extent, and date of any archaeological deposits or features which are disturbed or revealed during the construction of the proposed development

7. Location of Watching Brief Areas

- 7.1** The area of the watching brief is shown on Figs. 1 , 2. & 3

8. Methodology

- 8.1** All work shall be carried out in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and with the IFA Code of Conduct.
- 8.2** Monitoring will be undertaken in the locations specified and agreed with Lancashire County Council.
- 8.3** An archaeologist should be present on site as necessary and appropriate to monitor all excavation and/or soil disturbance. The archaeologist will monitor the area as groundworks proceed, and will, where possible and practicable, view any available trench sections after excavation is completed.
- 8.4** The archaeologist on site will record the date, time and duration of all visits and the nature and extent of the works being monitored.
- 8.5** If archaeological features or deposits are identified the area should be rapidly cleaned. The archaeological sub-contractor will be allowed sufficient time, where required, to record any archaeological deposits identified.
- 8.6** The Archaeological officer at L.C.A.S. will be notified by A.E.S. immediately significant/extensive archaeology is uncovered by the watching brief.
- 8.7** Any archaeological deposits/features identified will be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to meet the aims and objectives of the investigation.
- 8.8** The areas of excavation/ground disturbance (even if they reveal no archaeological features) will be recorded on a suitable base map/development plan and the stratigraphy and depth of the excavation will be recorded,
- 8.9** A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of general site photographs will also be taken to give an overview of the site and the scope of the works taking place.
- 8.11** All non-modern artefacts will be retained. If appropriate all 'small finds' will be recorded three dimensionally. Bulk finds will be collected by context. Finds will be treated in accordance with the English Heritage guidance document 'A strategy for the care and

investigation of finds' (1995) and stored in controlled conditions where appropriate. All artefacts will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines of the IFA. Conservation, if required, will be undertaken by approved conservators. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) guidelines will apply (UKIC1998). All ferrous objects and a selection of non-ferrous objects (including all coins) will be x-rayed.

- 8.12** Should significant archaeological deposits be encountered an appropriate soil sampling strategy will be implemented in accordance with Centre for Archaeology Guidelines (English Heritage 2002).
- 8.13** Should human remains be discovered during the course of the excavations the remains will be covered and protected and left in situ in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in accordance with the appropriate Home Office and Environmental Health regulations and the Burial Act 1857 and Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981. In such an event the contractor will notify LCCAS immediately.
- 8.14** Any artefacts which are recovered that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1997 will be reported to H. M. Coroner. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 8.15** The intention of the watching brief is not to delay unduly the work of other contractors on site. A.E.S. will make every reasonable effort to complete archaeological excavation and recording works without impacting upon the programme of other site contractors

9. Reporting

- 9.1** Immediately after the completion of fieldwork the finds and samples will be processed (cleaned and marked) as appropriate. Each category of find or environmental material will be examined by a suitably qualified archaeologist or specialist. The integrity of the site archive should be curated and maintained.
- 9.2** An assessment report will be submitted as soon as possible after completion of fieldwork. The report will include the following:
 - a non-technical summary
 - site location
 - archaeological and historical background
 - methodology
 - aims and objectives
 - results (to include full description, assessment of condition, quality and significance of the remains)
 - an appraisal of the results within their local, regional and national context
 - publication proposals if warranted
 - detailed plans and sections as appropriate (to a known scale) a cross-referenced index of the project archive
- 9.3** One copy of the complete report will be submitted to D. Tattersall of P & D Properties as a draft.

9.4 Further copies and a digital version of the report and illustrations will be provided as required within one week of the receipt of the clients comments on the draft report. (Digital text to be in Microsoft Word format and illustrations in AutoCAD and/or PDF format). Upon completion A.E.S. will submit details of the project to the HER (Historic Environment Record) via the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

9.5 A.E.S. will submit a copy of the report to the Archaeological Officer for Lancashire and a copy for deposition in the Lancashire HER.

10. Publication

10.1 Provision should be made for the publication of the results in an appropriate archaeological journal, if of regional or national significance.

11. Archive Preparation and Deposition

11.1 The archive of finds and records generated during the fieldwork will be kept secure at all stages of the project. All records and materials produced will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. The archive will be produced to the standards outlined by English Heritage 1991, Appendix 3;

11.2 The archaeological sub-contractor shall, prior to the start of fieldwork, liaise with the appropriate museum to obtain agreement in principle to accept the archive for long-term storage and curation. The sub-contractor shall be responsible for identifying any specific requirements or policies of the museum in respect of the archive (Guidelines on the Deposition of Archaeological Archives), and for adhering to those requirements.

11.3 The deposition of the archive forms the final stage of the project. The archaeological sub-contractor shall provide copies of the communication with the recipient museum and written confirmation of the deposition of the archive. The archive will be presented to the Archive Curator within 12 months of completion of the fieldwork, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed.

12. Monitoring

12.1 A.E.S. will liaise with LCAS to inform them of the commencement of site works and to offer them the opportunity to visit and monitor the work in progress.

13. Confidentiality and Publicity

13.1 The archaeological sub-contractor will not disseminate information or images associated with the project for publicity or information purposes without the prior written consent of the client.

14. Copyright

- 14.1** Copyright in all reports and documentation/images produced as part of this project to reside with Archaeological Excavation Services who retain the right to be identified as the author/originator of the material. This applies to all archaeological aspects of the project.
- 14.3** The results of the archaeological work will be submitted to the client and Lancashire County Council Archaeological Service by A.E.S. and will ultimately be made available for public access.

15. Resources and Timetable

- 15.1** All archaeological personnel involved in the project will be suitably qualified and experienced professionals.
- 15.2** The timetable for the work will be dependant upon the ground works contractors programme.

16. Insurances and Health and Safety

- 16.1** A.E.S. is covered by public and professional indemnity insurance.
- 16.2** All on site work will be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974 and the regulations of the *Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM)* and identified hazards are set out in a risk assessment document, signed by all staff, prior to any work commencing. Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological issues.

17. References

Centre for Archaeology Guidelines Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999. Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief.

English Heritage, 1991. *Management of Archaeological Projects*

English Heritage, 2002. *Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*

Hall, BR and Folland, CJ 1970 *Soils of Lancashire*, Soil Survey of Great Britain Bulletin 5, Harpenden

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Society of Museum Archaeologists, 1995. *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive* United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990. Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage

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18. Figures



Fig.1 Overlay of approximate area of development on the 1849 1:10.560 O.S. edition

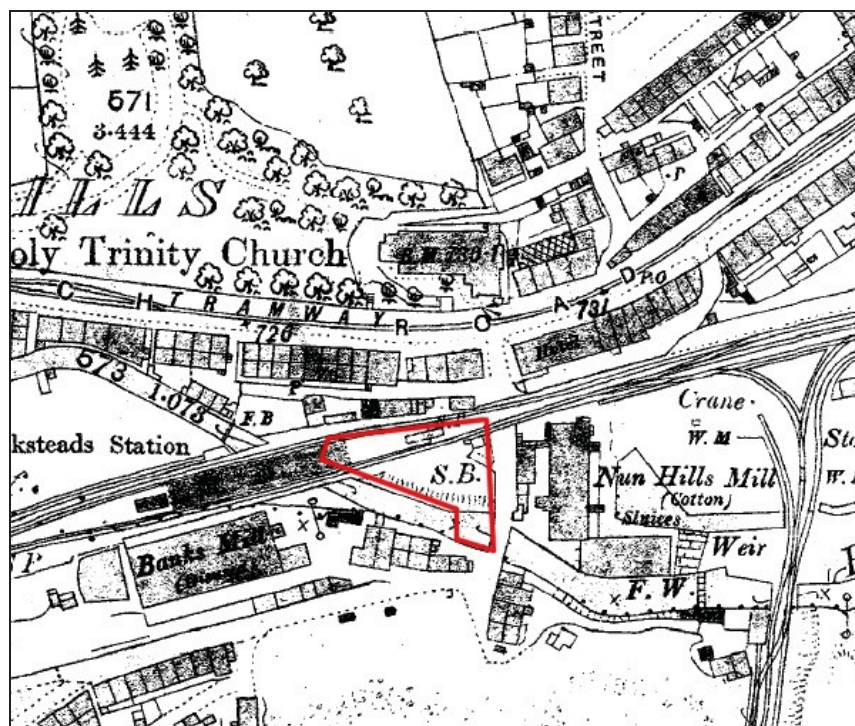


Fig.2 Overlay of approximate area of development on the 1894 1:2500 O.S. edition

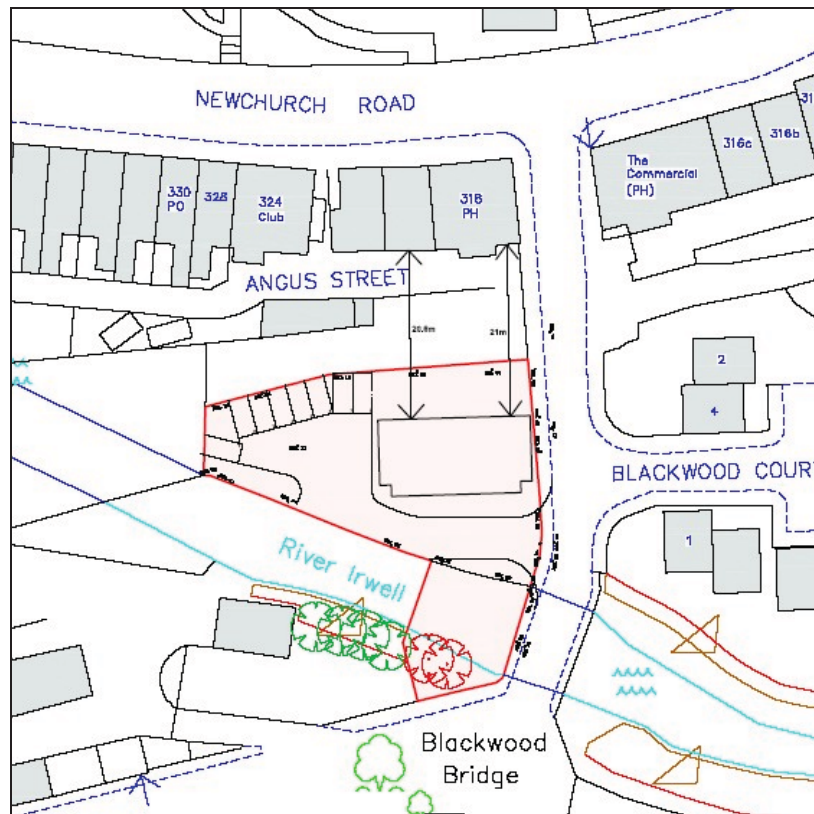


Fig.3 Current map showing area and proposed development within surrounding land
 Courtesy of James Campbell Associates

Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Land off Blackwood Road, Stacksteads SD 8524 2164

Prepared on behalf of South Ribble Borough Council for Mr D. Tattersall, PBS Northwest, Applicant.

1. Introduction

Planning permission (14/2009/0469) has been granted for the erection of 4 mews style dwellings at land off Blackwood Road, Stacksteads. It is a condition (no. 11) of the planning approval that the applicants undertake a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation.

1.2 This specification has been prepared by Lancashire County Archaeology Service (LCAS).

2. Archaeological Interest

2.1 The recently completed Extensive Urban Survey volume for Bacup indicates the proposal site to have been occupied by 1800. The 1st Edition 1:10560 Ordnance Survey, surveyed 1844-7 (Lancashire Sheet 72) shows the site to have been built up at that time, and one of the structures is probably a Wesleyan Chapel (Lancashire Historic Environment Record PRN 24003) built in 1838 but demolished in the 1870s. The subsequent 1:2500 OS (Lancashire Sheet CXXII.15), surveyed 1891 also shows the site to have been occupied by a number of different buildings associated with Stacksteads Railway Station, including a Signal Box (HER PRN 13524).

2.2 The exact nature, function and date of construction of these buildings is not known, nor is the level of clearance of the site. There is therefore still a potential that below-ground deposits in the form of surviving structural remains associated with late 18th or early 19th century development in Stacksteads may be encountered by the development.

3. General Considerations

3.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor should confirm in writing adherence to this specification, 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. The archaeologist carrying out the watching brief should be appropriately qualified and experienced. Any technical queries arising from the specification detailed below should be addressed to LCAS *without delay*.

4. Fieldwork Methodology

4.1 An archaeologist should be present on site during the excavation of any area below a depth of 0.15m. (approximately six inches), whether this be

for foundation trenches, service trenches or landscaping. The archaeologist should view the area as it is being dug and any trench sections after excavation has been completed. Where archaeology is judged to be present, the excavated area should be rapidly cleaned and the need for further work assessed. Where appropriate, any features and finds should then be quickly hand excavated, sampled and recorded, within the confines of the excavated trench.

4.2 Excavated soil should be searched as practicable for finds. The presence and nature of 19th and 20th century material should be noted (quantified and summarily described) but finds of this date need not be retained for processing. Finds judged to be 18th-century in date or earlier should be retained.

4.3 The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of possible archaeological concern noted within these areas, should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings (including height above O.D.) and written description sufficient to permit the preparation of a report on the site.

4.4 The intention of the archaeological watching brief is not to unduly delay the work of other contractors on site. This work should not, therefore prejudice the progress of the main or subsidiary contractor's work, except by prior agreement and on-site co-operation.

4.5 The archaeologist on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. In this case, where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose. This work may require the preparation of a Risk Assessment of the site, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations. **LCAS and its officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may occur to outside contractors engaged to undertake this survey while attempting to conform to this specification.**

5. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

5.1 Should there be, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant more detailed recording than possible within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor is to urgently contact LCAS with the relevant information to enable the matter to be resolved with the developer.

5.2 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.

5.3 The terms of the Treasure Act, 1996 must be followed with regard to any finds, which might fall within its purview. Any such finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures 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.

6. Monitoring

6.1 The recording exercise 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 in writing** (and certainly not less than one week) of the intention to start the watching brief. **A copy of the archaeological contractor's risk assessment of the site should accompany the notification.**

7. Post-Excavation/Post-Recording Work and Report Preparation

7.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples shall be processed and all 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, and fully labelled photographs. Labelling should be in indelible ink on the *back* of the print and should include film and frame number; date recorded and photographer's name; name and address of site; national grid reference. Photographic prints should be mounted in appropriate archivally-stable sleeves. **A quantified index to the field archive should form an appendix to 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 Section 8.1 below).

7.2 A report should be produced to provide background information, a summary of the works carried out, a description and separate interpretation of any features and finds identified. Details of the report's style and format are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but it should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive and as an appendix, a copy of this specification. The report illustrations should include, as a minimum, a location map at a reasonable scale plus any drawings and photographs.

7.3 If nothing of archaeological interest is identified during the course of the watching brief, then a summary report will be adequate, as long as sufficient details are supplied for Historic Environment Record (HER) purposes. Illustrations would not be required, although it would be anticipated that black and white prints would form part of the archival record. A summary record should include: (1) details of the commissioning body; (2) the nature of the development and resultant ground disturbance; (3) the approximate position of any ground disturbance viewed with relation to adjacent existing fixed points; (4) the date(s) of fieldwork; (5) name(s) of fieldworker(s); (6) written observations on the nature and depth of deposits observed (this may include

annotated sketch sections); (7) the conditions under which they were observed (for example, details of weather conditions, ease of access and views, attitude of other organisations *etc.*); (8) a quantified index to the field archive; (9) details of the archives present location and intended deposition and (10) a copy of this specification.

7.4 The report should be produced within three weeks of completion of the fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed with LCAS. Copies of the report should be supplied to the client and the Lancashire HER. The report will become publicly accessible once deposited with the Lancashire HER. The report for the HER should be supplied in digital format, preferably as a single PDF file, but with any accompanying gazeteers, images, plans, etc. in their original formats, to allow it to be easily incorporated into the digital HER.

7.5 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.

8. Deposition of Archive

8.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the relevant District museum archaeological curator in writing (copied to LCAS) to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. In this case the contact is Stephen Bull, Curator of Military History and Archaeology, Museum of Lancashire, Stanley Street, Preston, PR1 4YP; telephone 01772 534080, fax: 01772 534079.

8.2 It is the policy of the Museum of Lancashire to accept complete excavation archives, including primary site records and research archives and finds, from all excavations carried out in the County, which it serves.

8.3 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.

8.4 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet the Museum of Lancashire's requirements with regard to the preparation of fieldwork archives for deposition.

8.5 The museums officer named in 8.1 above should be notified in writing of the commencement of fieldwork at the same time as the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record.

9. Further Details

9.1 Any queries about the contents of the specification should be addressed to Lancashire County Archaeology Service, Lancashire County Council, Highways & Environmental Management, Guild House, Cross Street, Preston PR1 8RD Tel 01772 531734, fax 01772 533423

10. Valid period of specification

10.1 This specification will remain valid for up to one year from the 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.

Lancashire County Archaeology Service

March 2010

Douglas Moir
Planning Officer (Archaeology)
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Appendix 7.

**Blackwood Road
Stacksteads
Lancashire**

Archaeological Watching Brief carried out 8th June 2010

Archive Contents:

**35mm monochrome labelled negatives and prints – 1 set 17
photographs**

Hard copy of report inc. plans

Pro-forma recording sheets

Copy of planning permission