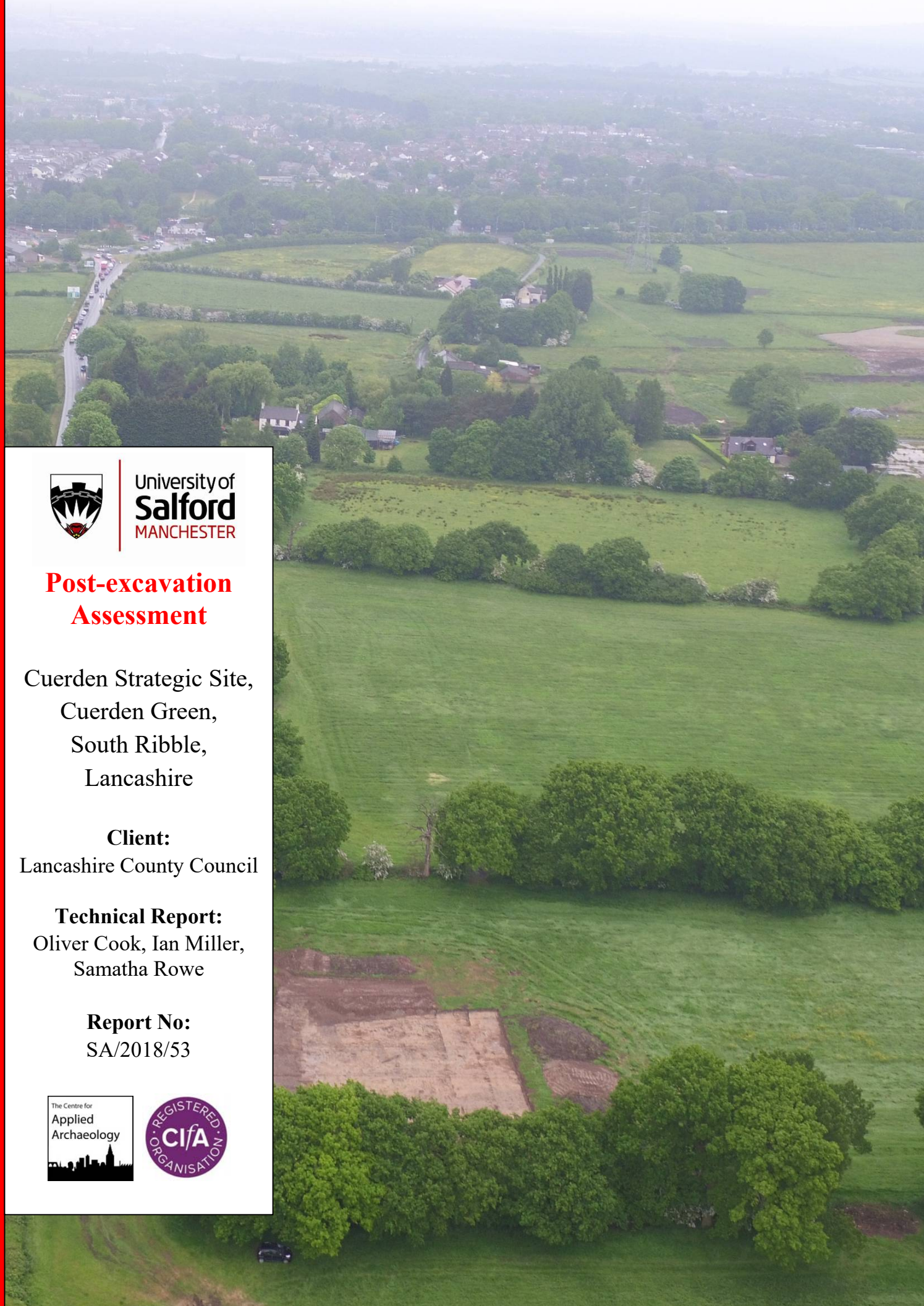

University of Salford MANCHESTER

Post-excavation Assessment

Cuerden Strategic Site,
Cuerden Green,
South Ribble,
Lancashire

Client:
Lancashire County Council

Technical Report:
Oliver Cook, Ian Miller,
Samatha Rowe

Report No:
SA/2018/53

The Centre for Applied Archaeology

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

Site Location:	The site is bounded by Stanifield Lane (A5083) to the west, the A582 to the north, the M65 terminus and Wigan Road to the east, encompassing the hamlet at Cuerden Green in South Ribble, Lancashire
NGR:	Centred at SD 55526 24603
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Summary

Lancashire County Council and Maple Grove Development Limited have obtained planning consent for a major mixed-use development at Cuerden, in the Central Lancashire borough of South Ribble. The study area extends to 65 hectares and comprises land to the south of the M65, to the west of A49 Wigan Road, and east of Stanifield Lane (centred on NGR SD 55526 24603). The hybrid planning application comprises a wide range of residential and commercial premises, car parks and roads (Planning Ref: 07/2017/0211/ORM).

The potential for archaeological remains to survive across the development site was highlighted in a desk-based assessment that was prepared to support the planning application, and demonstrated that intrusive site investigation to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains was merited. In the light of this conclusion, Lancashire County Council commissioned Salford Archaeology to devise an execute an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation which, in the first instance, comprised the excavation of 15 evaluation trenches that aimed to establish the presence, extent, date and significance or any below-ground remains.

Trenches placed across the northern part of the site revealed physical remains of Pinfold House, a former medieval/post-medieval farmstead, together with evidence for post-medieval agriculture. Trenches placed across a series of cropmarks to the south of Pinfold House exposed several ditches and gullies that diverged from the existing pattern of field boundaries and appeared to be remnants of ancient field systems, potentially representing prehistoric or Romano-British activity or settlement in the area. It was concluded that the north-western part of the site had potential to contain buried archaeological remains of sufficient research interest to warrant more detailed investigation, and six discrete areas were subject to 'strip and record' excavation to fully understand the survival and extent of the archaeological resource in advance of development. The complexity of archaeological remains identified during the 'strip and record' investigation led to the more detailed excavation of three of the targeted areas. This work was carried out by Salford Archaeology between April and May 2018, and was intended to offset the harm of development on the site's archaeological resource, in accordance with the policy guidance provided by the National Planning Policy Framework.

The earliest phase of archaeological activity encountered during the excavation may date potentially to the prehistoric period, and was represented by a pit that contained a worked flint blade that has been dated to the Mesolithic to early Neolithic period.

Remains deriving from the Romano-British period included a well-preserved section of the Wigan to Walton-le-Dale road, which was revealed adjacent to the western boundary of the site (Area 6). A penannular gully and circular post-built structure and group of associated structural features were also nearby, and were probably contemporary with the Roman road.

Medieval finds were collected across the site but the greatest concentration of stratified pottery came from a group of ditches, gullies and furrows excavated in the centre of the Cuerden Green hamlet (Area 1). The features correspond to a field system spanning the late 11th to 16th century. These features were complemented by additional remnants of ridge and furrow farming to the north (Area 2 and 4) and the remains of Pinfold House farmstead, which was occupied until the mid-19th century (Area 5).

Following completion of the fieldwork, an assessment has been made of the project archive, with a view to defining the costs of completing an appropriate programme of post-excavation analysis and publication. This assessment examined the results of the excavation, and assessed the potential for further analysis of each category of data with regard to the project's research aims. The process has been designed to correspond to the objectives laid out in the guidance document (*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*; Historic England 2015).

The results obtained from the assessment have concluded that the elements of the dataset have considerable potential for further analysis, specifically the stratified assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery, and some of palaeo-environmental samples recovered from the medieval ditches in Area 1 and the deposits associated with the Roman road in Area 6. An updated project design is therefore presented, and an appropriate programme of analysis outlined. It is recommended that, after analysis, the results are published in an appropriate academic journal(s), such as *Britannia*, *Medieval Archaeology* or *Post-Medieval Archaeology*. It is also recommended that the results are used to inform the design and content of a permanent information board that should be installed on the site to celebrate its heritage.

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

In June 2018, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Lancashire County Council to undertake an archaeological excavation of land at Cuerden Green, in the Central Lancashire borough of South Ribble (Plate 1). The archaeological work was required to inform and support a planning application for a major mixed-use development. The excavation followed on from a desk-based assessment of the site carried out in 2016 (Salford Archaeology 2016), and first phase of trial trenching, which confirmed that buried remains of archaeological interest survived within the development area.

Plate 1: Aerial view across the Cuerden site, marking the development area boundary

In the light of the significant results obtained from the initial evaluation, it was recommended that a programme of further archaeological investigation was carried out, comprising a 'strip and record' exercise of six targeted areas, followed by controlled detailed excavation where extensive archaeological remains were exposed. Three of the six areas (Areas 1, 5 and 6) were ultimately subject to detailed excavation, which focused recording the surviving remains dating to the medieval, post-medieval and Romano-British periods respectively. The work was carried out between April and May 2018 in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (*Appendix 4*).

Following completion of the fieldwork, an assessment has been made of the project archive, with a view to defining the costs of completing an appropriate programme of post-excavation analysis and publication, in accordance with guidelines provided by the National Planning Policy Framework. This assessment examined the results of the excavation, and assessed the potential for further analysis of each category of data with regard to the project's research aims. The process has been designed to correspond to the objectives laid out in the guidance document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*; Historic England 2015).

2. Original Research Priorities

2.1 Research Aims

The main research aims of the archaeological 'strip and record' investigation and, where merited, detailed excavation, as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (*Appendix 4*), were to excavate and record any surviving archaeological remains, and to obtain a full range of artefactual and environmental materials that would enable the stratigraphic sequence to be characterised, dated and interpreted. In particular, it was hoped to:

- advance understanding of prehistoric and Roman occupation and land-use in this part of Lancashire;
- advance understanding of medieval/post-medieval occupation and land-use in this part of Lancashire;
- advance understanding of the processes of settlement formation and abandonment with particular attention paid to Pinfold House and the agricultural hinterland of Cuerden Green.

In addition, it was anticipated that the archaeological investigation might address several of the initiatives for archaeological research of the Medieval and Post-medieval periods and the industrial and modern periods stated in the current *Archaeological Research Framework for North West England* (Philpott and Brennand 2007; Newman and McNeil 2007; McNeil and Newman 2007). In particular:

- *Initiative 6.15:* 'Excavations of abandoned farms and cottages should be a high priority, especially where the ownership or tenancy is documented, in order to study the material culture of individual households';
- *Initiative 6.1:* 'The available data set should be greatly enlarged. Stratified artefact sequences from both small towns and rural settlements need to be collected, in order to establish the character of ceramic use throughout the region and to create the basis for socio-economic interpretation';
- *Initiative 6.2*: 'Unpublished ceramic groups, especially those from areas with no previous evidence should be published as a priority. The relevant grey literature should be made generally available';
- *Initiative 6.14:* 'Regional survey of farmstead creation and abandonment would help refine the regional settlement pattern identified by Wrathmell and Roberts, as well as improve county based characterisation programmes'.

2.2 Objectives

In order to meet the aims stated above, the following objectives were devised:

- to determine the presence, character, and extent of any buried remains pertaining to prehistoric settlement or activity;
- to establish a date or series of dates for the negative features exposed during the initial evaluation trenching;
- to determine the presence, character, and extent of any buried remains pertaining to Romano-British settlement or activity, particularly the Wigan-Walton-le-Dale road;
- to determine the presence and nature of medieval and post-medieval settlement and farming remains;
- to investigate the dwelling known from historic maps as Pinfold House and create a record that will enable further research to be conducted into its origins, use and abandonment;
- to make a full record of any archaeological remains to mitigate their damage or destruction during the proposed development;
- to carry out a programme of post-excavation assessment, which provides recommendations for further analysis and publication;
- to prepare a project archive for long-term deposition.

3. The Setting

3.1 Location, Topography and Land use

The study area (centred on NGR SD 55526 24603) lies within the dispersed historic settlement of Cuerden. This rural settlement occupies a position to the south of the River Lostock, and is encompassed by a wide range of ecosystems being close to the historic Farrington Moss, drained wetland, wooded and open pasture, arable land and woodland. The study area occupies land bounded by the M65 to the north, the A49 Wigan Road to the east, and Stanifield Lane to the west (Plate 1), and lies at a height of approximately 36m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). At the time of the archaeological investigation, the site comprised a mixture of pasture and plantation (Plate 2).

Plate 2: Aerial view across the western part of the Cuerden Strategic Site, showing the remains of the Roman road being excavated in the foreground

The natural topography of the area has been little altered by modern development, excepting the construction and widening of nearby roads and motorways, and the extensive extraction of sand in an area beyond the southern boundary. Archival sources and cartographic evidence allow some reconstruction of the natural landscape to be made.

The earliest detailed maps, tithe and estate maps from the 18th and 19th century, highlight a great deal of continuity in the division and use of land and concentration of settlement. The available mapping does make clear a trend of localised population decline in the hamlets of Lower and Higher Green from the mid-19th century, reflected in the disappearance of crofts around Cuerden Nook and the abandonment of Pinfold House. Nevertheless, the area has retained a rural prospect and continues to support pastoral farming.

3.2 Geology

The solid geology over most of the site is the Sidmouth Mudstone Formation – Mudstone and Halitestone, although there is a small area within the eastern part of the site that consists of Hambleton Mudstone Member – Mudstone geology. The solid geology is overlain by till and glacio-fluvial deposits of sands and gravel. There is a small area of clay over towards the eastern part of the site (www.bgs.ac.uk).

4. Historical Background

4.1 Historical Background

4.1.1 Prehistoric Period

Very little direct evidence for prehistoric settlement has been found locally. Known Mesolithic activity within Lancashire (10,000 – 3500 BC) has been mapped to lowland areas close to rivers and the coast, partially using the extent of wooded areas as an indicator of human activity (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 28). The interface between different ecological zones is frequently highlighted as being favourable for prehistoric subsistence and occupation (Reader 2016). A range of artefacts found around Farrington Moss attests its habitation/exploitation throughout prehistory.

It is thought that people moved from seasonal occupation to more permanent settlement during the Neolithic period in England (3500 – 2200 BC), occupying a landscape characterised by ceremonial and funerary monuments. The degree of the permanence varies from area to area across the country (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 29). Wider woodland clearance and increase in evidence for cereal pollen indicates a more intensive use of the landscape, although known Neolithic sites tended to be close to those known from the Mesolithic period in Lancashire. The nearest known Neolithic site to Cuerden is a chambered cairn on Anglezarke Moor, which lies some 10km to the south-east (Howard-Davis 1996). Firm evidence for Neolithic activity is markedly absent in the immediate environs of the site, although there have been many individual artefactual finds within a 10km radius.

On the whole, physical evidence from the periods spanning the Mesolithic to Iron Age is similarly poorly represented. Hallam (1980) suggested that Cuerden could have been occupied during the Iron Age, based on the identification of a cropmark in the present study area, which Hallam interpreted as an antenna enclosure of prehistoric origin. However, no intrusive investigation was carried out to corroborate this interpretation, and the site was damaged subsequently by the erection of an electricity pylon. The feature is visible on aerial photographs taken during the 20th century, which also show several curvilinear cropmarks visible in the northern half of the site.

4.1.2 Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

There is stronger evidence for Romano-British activity in the North West, much of which is related to the Roman military, such as the supply depot and settlement at Walton-le-Dale, occupying a strategic site at the confluence of the rivers Ribble and Darwen, some 3.5km to the north of Cuerden. A Roman road connected Wigan and Lancaster, via Walton-le-Dale. As yet, this road has not been found archaeologically, and it is possible that it may lie underneath or close to the A5083 for some of its route. Two potential routes of this Roman road were targeted by Trenches 6, 7 and 8 during the archaeological evaluation. Despite the more permanent Roman additions to the landscape, however, no identifiably Roman sites have been found around Cuerden.

4.1.3 Early Medieval (AD 410 – 1066)

Evidence from the early medieval period is similarly scarce. However, place-name studies, hoards, isolated finds, and geography suggest that Lancashire would have seen activity during this time, particularly related to Hiberno-Norse culture and Irish Sea trading network (Griffiths 2010, 33). While archaeological evidence for activity in the early medieval period around Cuerden is sparse, spectacular finds such as the 10th-century Cuerdale hoard shed some light on activity during this period in and around the Ribble Valley.

4.1.4 Late Medieval (AD 1066 – 1540)

The name Cuerden is first recorded as *Kerden* in *c* 1200 and appears to derive from *cerddin*, which is Welsh for Mountain Ash (Ekwall 1922; Breeze 1999, 193). This suggests that a settlement may have existed in the Cuerden area in the early medieval period. It was one of nine townships within the Leyland Hundred administrative district, and is briefly mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Morgan 1978). It is also mentioned in the 13th century when the lordship passed from the Molyneux family to the Banastres of Walton-le-Dale and Newton-in-Makerfield. It appears to have passed through to several families over the next few centuries, including the Charnocks, the Langtons and the Banastres again by the 17th century (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 23). The present Cuerden Hall dates to the 18th century, although there is reference to an 'original' house on the site (*op cit*, 24), but with no reference to when it originates from.

Cuerden lies 5km to the south-east of Penwortham, which was an important settlement during the medieval period. It had a castle as well as a monastic cell and occupied a strategically important site overlooking the River Ribble. There were also moated homesteads closer to the study area, likely established around 12th-13th century, such as at Clayton Hall and Farrington Hall (Hallam 1980) (2.6km to the south and 2km to the south-west of the study area respectively). Excavation at Clayton Hall yielded fragments of pottery dating to the 14th century (OA North 2008).

Part of the study area is named Cuerden Green, which was a part of the Walton-le-Dale township. Lostock Hall, now a village in its own right, was originally part of Cuerden Green, and the manor is first mentioned in the 14th century as belonging to James de Lostock. Through marriage, it passed to the Banastres during the 15th century before changing hands several times and ending up with the Dandies during the 17th century (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 295). Within the study area itself, the 1839 tithe map and the first edition Ordnance Survey map show small areas of fossilised field boundaries which could be medieval in date, and ridge and furrow cropmarks are also known from aerial photography. LiDAR data also shows ridge and furrow ploughmarks, characteristic of medieval agricultural practice, across several fields within the study area.

4.1.5 Post-medieval (AD 1540 – c 1750)

The wider area cemented its association with textile manufacturing during the post-medieval period, particularly in Preston to the north. This is also when the study area begins to develop beyond just agricultural use. Different landowners are documented at this time within the Cuerden township, including the Woodcocks who are mentioned from the 16th century onwards. They lived at Woodcock Hall, which was built in the 17th century. The Dandy family came to own Lostock Hall during the 17th century, and it is to this family that one of the earliest known buildings in the study area is dedicated. Although the dedication is dated 1690, Andrew Dandy left money to found a school in Cuerden in 1673 (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 29), so it was probably built around this time. The earliest survey of the area is provided by an estate map dating to *c* 1700, which shows a few of the fields with names corresponding to the 19th-century tithe map and Walmsley Farm. It is not clear for what purpose this map was drawn up, although the fields coincide with the land tenanted by John Walmsley and owned by Susanna Hoghton on the tithe mapping and schedule.

The next available map is Yates' map of Lancashire, dating to 1786, and although not completely accurate, it depicts several isolated buildings within the study area, with a focus around the junction of Old School Lane and Stony Lane. It also shows several buildings around Cuerden Nook or Higher Green to the south, and a possible moss/wasteland to the north-east of the site and where the M65 is now located. This moss extended into the north-western part of the study area, although this was reclaimed for agriculture in 1804. The Wigan-Preston road that ran along the eastern boundary of the site was established as a turnpike road in 1727.

A number of buildings depicted on Yates' map can be seen on Hennet's map of 1830 (Plate 3), the 1839 tithe map and first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1848, including Cuerden School, Pinfold House and Stoney Lane House (Plate 4). Two buildings shown near the junction of Old School Lane and Stoney Lane on both maps are not labelled, but one is possibly Blackhurst Farm. The field pattern shows that much of the area has changed little since *c* 1700. Although not labelled, there are several circular features on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, and others have been recorded within the study area, which have been interpreted as marl pits (OA North 2002a). These were pits that tended to have an elongated square end with a rounded end, normally dug to a depth of 1-2m. The marl (a loose earthy deposit containing a mix of clay and calcium carbonate) was then spread over agricultural fields.

By the late 19th century, a few minor changes can be seen from the first edition 25": 1 mile Ordnance Survey map of 1893. Pinfold House has been demolished, a building shown to the south of the school appears to have also gone, Walmsleys is first named as such on this map, and another building appears to have gone which was located to the south of Stoney Lane. Some of the field boundaries have been swept away to create larger fields, new marl pits are shown and others have been infilled.

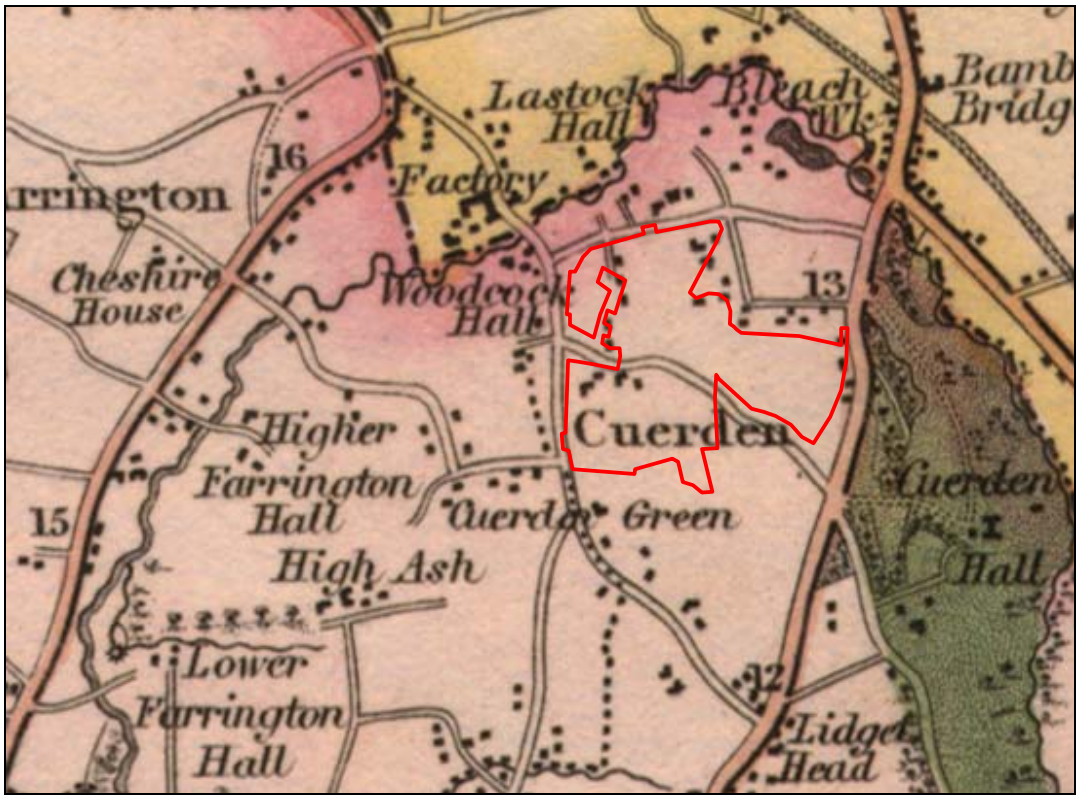

Plate 3: Boundary of the Cuerden Strategic Site superimposed upon Hennet's map of Lancashire, 1830

Plate 4: Plan of the township of Cuerden in the Parish of Leyland, dated 1839, showing the footprint of Pinfold House

Despite the industrialisation of nearby towns, Cuerden retained a rural prospect, which is reflected in the 19th-century Census Returns for the residents of Cuerden Green (*Appendix 3*). However, the impact of industrialisation had far-reaching implications for the socio-economic climate of the surrounding rural districts, and may have contributed to the decline in the rural population of Cuerden. The most significant changes to settlement patterns occurred in the 19th century when the hamlet of Cuerden Nook and many others around Farington simply disappeared (Hallam, 1980, 79).

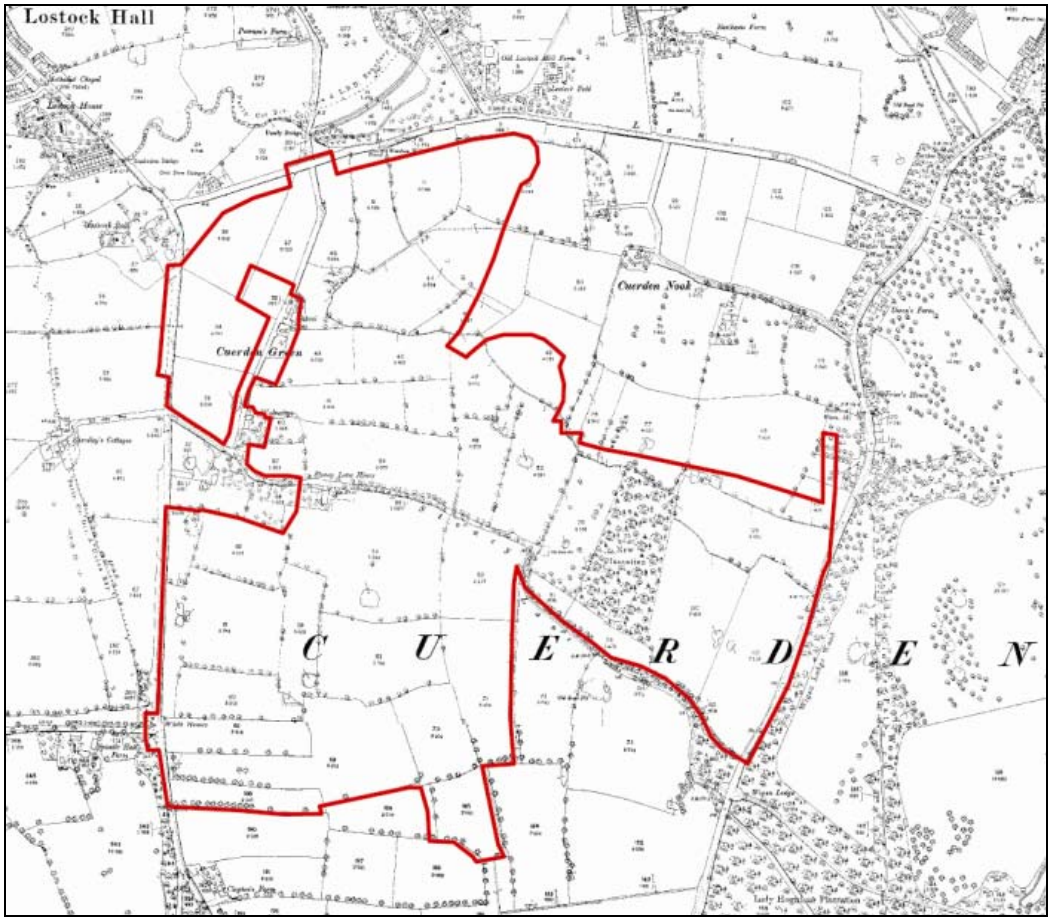

Plate 5: Boundary of the Cuerden Strategic Site superimposed upon an extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1893

The area changed little during the 20th century; the school was discontinued in 1909 and allowances made to sell the buildings, which eventually happened in 1912. The charitable foundation continued to exist and held the leasehold over the property, to continue to educate the children of Cuerden, and this still appears to be the case. The farmsteads remain although some buildings have been demolished and new ones constructed. The field patterns remain broadly the same, although some amalgamation has taken place but, in general terms, little new development has taken place.

5. Summary of the Fieldwork Results

5.1 Phasing

Each of the features, deposits and structures encountered during the investigation has been ascribed to one of six general phases of activity. This phasing – based on the site matrix and artefactual evidence – is both broad and provisional, as is appropriate for an assessment of the site, and will undoubtedly be refined in the light of evidence produced from detailed analysis of the dataset:

- *Phase 1:* Prehistoric
- *Phase 2*: Romano-British
- *Phase 3*: Medieval
- *Phase 4*: Late Medieval/Early Post-Medieval transition
- *Phase 5*: Post-Medieval
- *Phase 6:* Modern

A summary of the results obtained from the excavation is presented below. This narrative is divided into six sections, which consider the archaeological development of each area (Areas 1-6). Additional contextual information is provided in *Appendix 2* in tabular form. Site plans and principal sections are presented in *Appendix 1*.

5.2 Area 1

5.2.1 Overview

Area 1, located in the central part of the site close to the east of the junction of Stoney Lane, extended to an area of 55 x 25m. The excavation aimed to contextualise an enigmatic ditch uncovered during the initial evaluation and establish whether it belonged to part of a wider field system. The field in which the excavation took place was delineated by extant ditches – part of an existing system of field boundaries dividing the landscape – on its northern and eastern sides, the line of Stoney Lane to the south and a modern walled boundary separating the site from an adjacent property to the west.

The geology comprised stiff boulder clay overlain by deposits of silty clay subsoil and loamy clay topsoil. The archaeological features exposed comprised a series of cut negative features, which were dug into the natural geology and sealed by the subsoil, at approximately 0.50 – 0.70m below ground level.

5.2.2 Phase 3 (Medieval)

Enclosure 1

The earliest activity identified in Area 1 was of an agricultural nature and was best preserved in the eastern half of the excavation. The demarcation of an inverted T-shaped plot was represented by a series of east/west- and north/south-aligned ditches cut into the natural clay.

An east/west-aligned ditch (***1004/1006/1021/1066/1070***) was revealed in the south-east corner of the excavation area, extending for 20.13m before returning south. Its continuation was identified in a southern extension of the trench, extending towards Stoney Lane. At its maximum extent this feature measured 22m long, 2m wide and 0.48m deep (Plate 6). It showed signs of being in use for a prolonged period and was re-cut at least three times. Allowing for erosion and truncation this feature may originally have been *c* 1m in depth. A significant assemblage of medieval pottery, with a broad date range spanning the 12th and 13th centuries, was recovered from the fills of this ditch.

The shape of the aforementioned boundary was clearly mirrored by broadly contemporary ditch to the west of these features (***1056***=***1058***). At its maximum extent this feature measured 18m long, 1.20m wide and 0.55m deep. A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the fill (***1057***) of ditch ***1056***.

The northern limit of this plot appears to be demarcated by the east/west-aligned ditch that was identified during the initial evaluation trenching. This was in-line with another section of ditch (***1159***), which had been truncated by a later boundary. At its maximum extent, ditch ***1159*** survived to a length of 0.70m, width of 0.40m and depth of 0.25m.

Within the interior of Enclosure 1 were a series of thin, shallow linear features; at least 13 were visible. These ranged in width from 0.15 – 0.30m and were as shallow as 0.04m in depth, appearing as little more than scars cut into the natural geology with shallow tapering sides and flat bases. These ran across the width of the excavation area from east to west. These have tentatively been ascribed to 'lazy bed' agriculture, a technique more prevalent in Ireland and Scotland but with precedence in north-west England, and may have functioned as drainage furrows for horticulture.

*Plate 6: Ditch **1004** looking east*

Structure 1

An L-shaped cut feature (measuring a maximum of 4.98 x 3.70m) formed by two broadly linear trenches (***1095***=***1097***) was exposed in the south-east corner of the excavation. Four nodular protrusions in the corners of the feature could relate to terminal ends of beam slots or post-holes. The feature was filled by a loose-friable fill (***1096=1098***) with a preponderance of medium to large sub-rounded stones. Two excavated sections revealed the base to be very flat and regular with a surviving depth of 0.08m.

Gully ***1093***, perhaps contiguous with the structure, could have functioned as drainage. This ran broadly parallel to the structure and continued both east and west beyond the limits of excavation, running for *c* 18m. An excavated section through the feature revealed a U-shaped profile, widening at the top to 0.75m in width; the maximum recorded depth was 0.18m. A large group of medieval Gritty Ware pottery with a date range spanning the 12th and 13th centuries was collected from above and around this structure and the adjacent gully.

Structure 2

An additional building or structure can be postulated from a group of eight post-holes (***1008/1143/ 1145/ 1147/ 1149/1151/1153/1155***) aligned in two parallel lines found in the eastern part of the excavation. These formed a rectangular shape in plan and possibly formed an agricultural building or barn, measuring 4.25 (east/west) x 2.90m (north/south). This building was located on an east/west alignment. This lay approximately 10m north of the main east/west-aligned medieval ditch. The structure can be dated to the medieval period from the inclusion of several sherds of Gritty Ware pottery recovered from the fills (***1146***, ***1148*** and ***1149***) of several of the post-holes. A shallow gully (***1157***) transected the two rows of post-holes before curving to the south, merging with ***1046***, one of the east/west-aligned drainage features. This feature could represent an open drain associated with the structure.

Anomalous Features

A circular pit (***1019***) was exposed and half-sectioned in the central part of the excavation area. The pit measured 0.60 x 0.52m, and had a maximum depth of 0.21m. Although the pit was stratigraphically isolated it did contain several sherds of Gritty Ware pottery indicative of 12th- and 13th-century activity.

Finds and Environmental

A significant assemblage of late 11th- to late 14th-century pottery was collected from Area 1, deriving mainly from the Phase 3 ditches. These tended to be Northern Gritty wares, with occasional splashed-glazed, shell-tempered, Sandy wares and Partially Reduced Grey ware fabrics also encountered. A small portion of residual medieval pottery was found in Phase 4 features, and as unstratified finds from the topsoil/subsoil. Two spot samples were taken of charcoal-rich soil from Structure 2 and the primary fill of the ditch belonging to Enclosure 1.

5.2.3 Phase 4 (Late Medieval/Early Post-Medieval)

Enclosures 2 and 3

The next phase of agricultural activity was manifested by a series of north-west/south-east and south-west/north-east-aligned enclosure ditches, deriving from the medieval/post-medieval transitional period (Phase 4). These were stratigraphically isolated from the previous phase of medieval activity, which was concentrated in the eastern half of the excavation.

The ditches in the western part of the trench delineated the edge of two adjoining plots or enclosures. These were rectilinear in shape and extended beyond the western limit of excavation. The extraordinarily high density of unabraded pottery sherds from the ditch fills suggests incidents of domestic dumping or manuring; this material perhaps derives from nearby dwellings such as those shown on historic maps flanking Old School Lane.

The north-western enclosure (Enclosure 2) was formed by ***1082*** (recut by ***1085***), which extended north-west/south-east for *c* 14m before returning in a south-westerly direction (Plate 7). The south-western return was represented by ditch ***1111***.

The south-western enclosure (Enclosure 3) was formed by a substantial linear cut (***1060/ 1099/ 1133/ 1139/ 1062/1072***). The bend in the arm of the ditch was revealed in one of the sections, and it appeared to continue in a south-westerly direction as ***1107/1101***. These features were first excavated by hand and latterly subject to machine excavation to maximise finds retrieval.

Anomalous Features

Two additional gullies (***1119*** and ***1125***) were exposed within Enclosure 3. These were similar in size and profile to the agricultural features in the eastern part of the trench. Gully ***1119*** was cut by a sub-circular pit ***1121=1123***. Gully ***1119*** was ascribed to this phase on the basis of its parallel alignment with the enclosure and its truncation by pit ***1121***. No finds were recovered.

Two sub-circular pit features were found in the western part of the trench. Pit ***1121*** was excavated in quadrants and revealed a large 1.80m wide concave profile, extending to 0.35m in depth in the middle. It contained a rich, dark organic fill and produced a few undiagnostic sherds of pottery.

Finds and environmental

The ceramic assemblage from these features contained fragments of Reduced Greenwares, yellow-glazed and Midlands Purple derivatives, with a date range spanning the late 14th to 16th centuries. The majority of this pottery was recovered from the main cuts of ditches forming Enclosures 2 and 3.

A large fragment of coprolite containing fish bones was collected as an environmental sample from the top of ditch ***1060=1072*** and has considerable potential to yield data on past diet or provide a date for the closure of the ditch.

*Plate 7: Re-cut late medieval/post-medieval transitional period ditches **1082/1085**, looking north-west*

5.2.4 Phase 5-6 (Post Medieval/Modern)

The last phase of activity relates to two linear features, ***1030=1050*** and ***1076=1078***, running north/south and east/west respectively. These features were assigned to this phase of activity, on the basis of their stratigraphic position and relationship to earlier features. The east/west-aligned ditch appears to correspond with a boundary shown on early 19th-century mapping. This interpretation is backed up by the morphology of their fills, considerably softer and more humic, which deviates from the nature of deposition elsewhere on site. The finds retrieved from the fills of both features similarly suggest an 18th- or 19th-century date.

The excavation area was also traversed by a series of east/west-aligned field drains and post-medieval furrows. These were similarly interpreted as agricultural features dating to the 18th or 19th century.

5.3 Area 2

5.3.1 Overview

Area 2 measured approximately 20 x 20m and was located to the north of Area 1 and east of Old School Lane, and was targeted on undated features that were identified during the initial evaluation trenching. The excavation area was placed in the southern part of the field close to an extant water-filled ditch. The excavation revealed a series of equally spaced furrows relating to medieval/post-medieval arable farming (Plate 8). The results of the excavation in Area 2 are complimentary to those in Area 1 and Area 4, providing a proxy for the extent and nature of farming activity from the medieval period onwards.

The geology comprised stiff boulder clay overlain by deposits of silty clay subsoil and loamy clay topsoil. The archaeological features exposed comprised a series of cut negative features, which were dug into the natural geology and sealed by the subsoil, at a depth of approximately 0.50m below ground level.

Plate 8: General view across Area 2 during excavation

5.3.2 Phase 3 (Medieval)

The earliest phase of activity was represented by three furrows (***0204***, ***0206*** and ***0208***). The features were flat-bottomed and shallow and aligned east/west. Their form deviated from the agricultural features encountered in Area 1; they were considerably wider and less uniform, ranging in width from 1.34 to 1.55m in width and up to 0.10m in depth. This may either suggest they are not contemporary or a deviation in the type of cultivation being practised in these areas. It is probable that Area 1 being closer to the core of the extant hamlet may have been used for small-scale horticulture, whereas the outlying fields were farmed more intensively using ridge and furrow technique.

No finds or samples were collected.

5.3.3 Phase 6 (Modern)

The last phase of activity was ascribed to the modern period and was defined by a series of regular, parallel scars found cut into the subsoil, either resulting from mechanical ploughing or harrowing. These features are of limited archaeological interest.

5.3.4 Finds and Environmental

Finds from the topsoil/subsoil were collected to characterise post-medieval - modern activity.

5.4 Area 3

5.4.1 Overview

Area 3 was situated to the west of Area 2 and Old School Lane and east of Stanifield Lane. The area measured 20 x 20m and was situated over the eastern end of an evaluation trench that revealed part of an undated ditch of potential archaeological interest. The larger excavation area revealed this to be less regular in plan; one of a number of natural hollows. These hollows were filled with spongy – firm peaty clay deposits within the natural sand. These correspond with the occurrence of peat nearby and attest to parts of the site being considerably wetter in antiquity, prior to modern drainage and reclamation of Farington Moss.

The natural geology comprised coarse sands and gravels punctuated by patches of sandy clay. This was sealed by 0.16m of sterile silty sand subsoil (***0302***) overlain by 0.31m of loamy topsoil. No features of archaeological significance were encountered.

5.5 *Area 4*

5.5.1 Overview

Area 4 was located close to the putative antennae enclosure in the northern part of the site, and measured 18 x 25m. A single prehistoric pit was found (Plate 9). Further evidence of ridge and furrow farming was encountered, and dated to the medieval period (Phase 3) by ceramic finds. This together with Area 1 and 2 allows the extent of historic farmland to be mapped and categorised.

The natural geology was exposed at a depth of 0.6m below ground level, and comprised stiff boulder clay with fissures and elongated depressions containing clean sandy fills, which were tested and proved to be natural in origin.

Plate 9: A section excavated across the probable prehistoric pit in Area 4

5.5.2 Phase 1 (Prehistoric)

A sub-ovoid pit (***0412***) was revealed in the middle of the excavation area. Its fill comprised sterile clayey sand. The sterility of the fill (***0413***) suggested initially that this was a natural hollow or tree bole. However, a single worked flint blade was recovered from its fill; the size and typology implies a Neolithic or Mesolithic date.

Finds and Environmental

The flint blade recovered from fill ***0413*** is the only find dated to this period. No samples were collected.

5.5.3 Phase 3 (Medieval):

Further evidence of ridge and furrow was encountered with a preponderance of thinner, closely-spaced, furrows, suggestive of medieval farming (***0404/0406/0408/0410/0414/0416/0418***). This was backed up by the recovery of a small assemblage of Gritty Ware pottery fragments from the fills of these features (***0405***, ***0409*** and ***0415***), roughly coeval with the assemblage found in Area 1.

Finds and Environmental

A small amount of medieval pottery was retrieved from furrows excavated in Area 4. In addition, a sample of the post-medieval ceramics was collected from the topsoil/subsoil to characterise settlement associated with later farming activity.

5.6 Area 5

5.6.1 Overview

Area 5 was successful in establishing and characterising the below-ground remains of Pinfold House, which was shown to have been constructed in several phases in both stone and brick. The area measured 30 x 30m, and revealed a multi-phased complex situated close to the northern boundary of the site.

The natural geology in Area 5 comprised mottled silty sand with patches of gravel. The earliest elements of the building were cut into the natural. Most features were stratigraphically above the subsoil and sealed by the modern topsoil. Consequently, the survival of the built remains was partial, with significant damage or robbing of the walls and floors.

5.6.2 Phase 4 (Late Medieval/Early Post-Medieval)

Building 1

The earliest below-ground elements of the building were situated in the eastern part of the excavation. These comprised two parallel trenches (***0532*** and ***0535***) cut into the natural sand on an east to west alignment. These were clearly foundation trenches for the building, and housed remnants of stone walls (***0534*** and ***0537***).

Wall ***0534*** was of rubble-core construction and survived as a line of rubble and rounded stones in the middle of the construction trench (Plate 10). Traces of a sandy mortar were also visible. This was housed in wall cut ***0532***, which survived to a maximum length of 7.19m, width of 1.45m and depth of 0.20m. The core of the wall was visible as a spread of stones running the full length of the feature.

Wall ***0537*** was comprised of roughly cut, unbonded stone blocks and measured 0.85 x 1.18m. This was housed in trench ***0535***, which was 8.83m long, 1.09m wide and 0.36m deep. This was on the same alignment and construction as wall ***0526*** (0.60 x 0.50m), exposed initially during the evaluation trenching.

These structures were covered by a series of occupational deposits including remnants of what appeared to be clay and cobbled floors (see below).

Finds and Environmental

A small assemblage of medieval and early post-medieval pottery was collected from the topsoil/subsoil, along with the stratified material. This was complimented by a number of metal artefacts, including a lead spindle whorl found in the spoil from this part of the excavation.

*Plate 10: Wall **0534** during excavation*

5.6.3 Phase 5 (Post-Medieval)

Building 2a

The earliest of the post-medieval phase was found at the eastern end of the complex. The structural remains were exposed below the modern topsoil and had evidently been truncated extensively by modern farming. It is possible these features relate directly to the underlying foundation trenches (*Building 1*) assigned to the late medieval/early post-medieval period (Phase 4), but this will require further scrutiny of the survey results.

A putative L-shaped stone wall (***0524***) in a very fragmented condition was defined. This survived as two wall lines connected by disturbed spread of stone. The north/south-aligned element of this wall measured 1.90m long and 0.45m wide; the northern part of the wall survived to a similar 1.90 x 0.44m. A sporadic cobbled surface (***0525***) was found to the south and east of wall ***0524*** and was spread over a wide area. A well-defined spread of stones extended over an area of 1.20 x 0.60m. To the west and south of surface ***0525*** below the cobbles were make-up deposits of redeposited clay ***0541***, which may have been laid intentionally as floor surfaces and were stratigraphically above the infilled trenches ***0532*** and ***0535***.

This building, which was aligned east to west, is likely to have formed part of the eastern range of the complex visible on early to mid-19th-century mapping.

Several linear (east/west), clay-filled features were also recorded. Although recorded originally as in-filled/robbed out wall trenches, these may have actually been remnants of earthen or daub walls.

Building 2b

The central part of the complex survived in isolation to the structural remains to the eastern and western parts of the trench. Wall ***0522*** formed the back wall of the property and respected the alignment of other elements of the complex, including walls ***0505*** and ***0524***. Wall ***0522*** was constructed of large rectangular gritstone blocks. Whilst most of the structure had been robbed out, 4.3m of the east/west-aligned wall were exposed. The wall was 0.27m wide and survived to a height of 0.19m. It is possible this element of the structure may have formed a dwarf stone wall for a timber-framed building.

A stone-built internal division (***0520***) ran perpendicular to wall ***0522***. Wall ***0520*** was constructed of faced stone blocks and was bonded with a hard lime mortar. The wall was a maximum of 1.94m long and 0.34m wide, surviving as a foundation course (0.16m in height).

Vestiges of internal surfaces comprised of broken brick and cobbles survived either side of wall ***0520***.

Building 2c

The latest addition to the building, perhaps deriving from the late 17th or early 18th century was built in brick. This survived as three walls, constructed of hand-made bricks bonded with sandy lime mortar. Wall ***0505***, forming the western and northern sides of the house was best survived and formed an L-shape (4.5 north/south x 4.45m east/west). This survived to three courses in height. Remnants of an internal wall ***0508*** (3.46m l x 0.12m w) also survived. A well-preserved cobbled surface ***0506*** was also recorded and belonged with the later post-medieval elements of the complex in the western part of the excavation. This surface extended over an area of 3.5 x 1.6m and probably represents an internal surface within a room or outbuilding formed by walls ***0505*** and ***0508***.

Yard

The extent of the later buildings (*Buildings 2b and 2c*) was defined by a stretch of regularly laid rounded cobbles (***0514***). Cobbled surface ***0514*** extended over an area of 23.2 x 1.80m (Plate 11). This formed a narrow yard and shallow open-drain leading to ditch ***0528*** in the western edge of the excavation area. An assemblage of 17th- to 19th-century finds from the ditch fill (***0529***) is consistent with the buildings presence throughout the post-medieval period and abandonment in the 19th century.

*Plate 11: Cobbled surface **0529** during excavation*

Finds and Environmental

A relatively large assemblage of finds was collected from the site of Pinfold House, including a range of material categories. An ornate bone knife handle was found in trampled occupational deposit above the external yard. Lead weights and a spindle whorl were found in the topsoil/subsoil above the building. The ceramic assemblage is dominated by 16th - 18th century material, but does contain material from either side of this timeframe. The ceramics and metal items will be important in dating elements of the building and provide an idea of the span of occupation.

Plate 12: Reconstructed plan of Pinfold House

5.7 Area 6

5.7.1 Overview

This area measured 30 x 40m and aimed to reveal and contextualise a partially exposed ring gully that was identified in the initial evaluation trenches. The excavation revealed not only a probable Romano-British dwelling, but a well-preserved section of the Roman road from Walton-le-Dale to Wigan, and an array of associated roadside activity, including an additional metalled surface, post-hole structure and pitting.

5.7.2 Phase 1/2 (Prehistoric / Romano-British Period)

Initial assessment of the dataset has concluded that the earliest stratigraphic unit provisionally comprised a single undated pit feature, possibly a storage pit. This sub-circular pit was cut by the penannular gully and suggests it predates its construction.

A penannular gully and contingent curvilinear gullies were interpreted as the drip gullies or enclosure ditch for a roundhouse (Plate 13). A charcoal sample was collected from the feature for possible radio-carbon assay, which will help to determine a date and establish a chronology for this activity.

A series of post-holes (***0672/0674/0676/0668/0664/0666/0670***) within the interior of the enclosure were seen to form a circular shape in plan and were grouped in the western interior of the drip gully or enclosure.

Two post-holes or small pits (***0678*** and ***0680***) immediately east of the roundhouse gully or enclosure may have related to the internal structure or have delineated an external boundary (Plate 14).

Two further post-holes (***0653*** and ***0656***) were found close to a shallow linear feature ***0660***, and sunken metalled surface ***0657*** may relate to other domestic or roadside structures.

Sunken metalled surface ***0657***, lining the base of a shallow, elongated linear depression, was uncovered between the roundhouse gully and the Roman road, and perhaps formed remnants of an external path or yard (Plate 15). This feature measured maximum of 6.68 x 2.70m. The surface had a sweeping crescent shape in plan, widening from south to north. It lined a hollow depression with a broad, shallow concave profile. The hollow was filled with a dark silty clay fill (***0658***) above the metalled surface. The actual surface (***0659***) was composed of well-sorted small-medium sized rounded pebbles, similar in size to those used in the adjacent road. It is possible this functioned simply as a yard or external work space. This hard, durable surface may have been necessitated by the traffic of people, wagons and animals or alternatively provided an area of hard standing for domestic activity taking place beyond the circular enclosure to the east. The latter interpretation is supported by the presence of two post-holes with post-pipes and short length of gully or slot to the south of the metalling, perhaps traces of an external, post-built wooden structure.

Plate 13: Roundhouse and associated features highlighted on the ground

*Plate 14: Post-holes or small pits **0678** and **0680** during excavation*

Finds and Environmental

A single possible flint core of prehistoric date was recovered from the fill of the roundhouse. No ceramic finds were recovered from or around the roundhouse structure or negative features. Two charcoal samples were retained.

*Plate 15: Sunken metalled surface **0657***

5.7.3 Phase 2 (Romano-British Period)

Road

Remnants of an undated metalled surface or road (***0616***) were exposed in the western part of the excavation, and comprised a gravel surface and north/south-aligned ditch. The two features appeared contiguous, with the surface partly extending into the cut of the ditch.

Road ***0616*** was composed of a layer of gravel (***0617***) above a clayey sand bedding layer. The camber appeared to be achieved by a greater amount of clay levelled in the middle of the road to create an agger, presumably deriving from the adjoining ditch, which ran alongside the eastern edge of the road. The gravel surface was composed of rounded, well-sorted river cobbles and gravel, presumably extracted from a nearby watercourse, perhaps the River Lostock. These survived to a greater thickness in the middle of the road.

The road survived to a maximum extent of 18.32 x 11.40m, and the rammed pebble surface survived to a maximum thickness of 0.34m in the southern part of the excavation, thinning out to the northern edge of the excavation, where it had been truncated horizontally by post-medieval and modern agricultural activity.

The surface was partially truncated by a continuation of a medieval/post-medieval furrow running east/west at the southern end of the exposed stretch of road. This revealed the natural clay below. A further furrow was exposed during the mechanical excavation of a slot at the clearly disturbed northern end of the trench. This feature was back-filled with a mixed loam and re-deposited clay fill. The western roadside ditch had been truncated by a later enclosure ditch, which is probably medieval in date but last infilled in the mid-20th century. The fill of the later ditch contained pantile, field drain fragments and hewn stone building blocks, perhaps deriving from a nearby demolished building. The most recent, though less intrusive/more discrete truncations were made by a series of modern field drains, which ran north/south and east/west across the eastern half of the road. The termination of these drains close to the former field boundary beyond the road implies they post-dated its cutting and respected the boundaries of the field and probably were mid-/late 20th century in date.

The roadside ditch survived as negative feature on the eastern side of the exposed surface. It had a total recorded length of 18.94m, ranging in width from 0.65 – 1.31m and in depth from 0.25 to 0.31m. It was excavated in various segments (***0604***, ***0606***, ***0608***, ***0610***, ***0612***, ***0618***, ***0620***, ***0622*** and ***0624***). There was considerable variation in the profile of the ditch, but it was broadly concave widening in places to accommodate a flat base. The fill was fairly uniform and generally sterile with few anthropogenic inclusions. Occasional charcoal flecks and angular stones were noted amongst its inclusions along with several fragments of iron-rich slag or ore (retained as a sample).

*Plate 16: Road **0616** and roadside ditch, looking north-west*

Plate 17: One of two sections excavated across the Roman road and roadside ditch

5.7.4 Phase 5 (Post-medieval Period)

The most significant post-medieval feature was a large, sub-rectangular, round-ended marl or extraction pit in the northern part of the excavation, exposed and tested during the initial strip and record. This was shown to have truncated the sunken metalled ***0657***.

6. Material Assessed

6.1 Introduction

The entire paper and material archive generated from all stages of the fieldwork was examined to ascertain its potential for further study. The method of assessment used varied with the class of information examined, although in each case it was undertaken in accordance with guidance provided by English Heritage in *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition (English Heritage 1991a) and updated subsequently by MoRPHE (Historic England 2015). All classes of finds were examined in full, with observations supplemented by the records generated during the course of the fieldwork and maintained within the project archive. Quantifications are incorporated within the individual assessments. A breakdown of the paper and photographic archive appears in Table 1.

Total Contexts	310
Drawings	50
Palaeo-environmental Sample Records	15
Total Digital Photographs	487

Table 1: Quantification of the paper/digital archive

6.2 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the assessment was to evaluate all classes of data from the excavation, in order to formulate a project design for a programme of further analysis appropriate to the potential demonstrated by the site archive. A statement of the significance of the results from each element of the archive is given below. The quantification and assessments represent an amalgamation of the total body of work undertaken in 2018.

The objectives of this assessment correspond to *Appendix 4* of *Management of Archaeological Projects,* 2nd edition (English Heritage 1991a). They are:

- to assess the quantity, provenance and condition of all classes of material: stratigraphical, artefactual and environmental;
- to comment on the range and variety of that material;
- to assess the potential of the material to address questions raised in the course of the project;
- to formulate any further questions arising from the assessment.

This assessment will present:

- a factual summary, characterising the quantity and perceived quality of the data contained within the site archive;
- a statement of the academic potential of the data;
- recommendations for the storage and curation of the data.

6.3 Stratigraphic Data

6.3.1 Assessment

The paper archive represents a percentage of the overall data gathered during the course of the excavation (Table 1). In total, 310 contexts were recorded. The context record has confirmed the identification of features and structures of various periods. Overall, the main features of significance can be grouped into medieval activity in the central part of the site area, and with earlier activity present around the surviving section of Roman road in the south-western part of the site. The stratigraphic sequences are simple, but could be understood in greater depth.

Well-stratified post-medieval phases are limited to Areas 1 and 5, where features and structures of this date cut and overlay earlier features.

6.3.2 Potential

Analysis of the stratigraphic data has the ability to refine the site sequence and to add value to the artefact analysis. A thorough appraisal of the context sheets, drawing, digital plans and site matrices would allow nuances and sub-phasing to be devised for the field systems identified during excavation.

6.4 Photographic Data

6.4.1 Assessment

In all, there are 487 site images, with an additional body of aerial images. The site photographs cover the whole of the excavation works.

The images are an invaluable aid in all aspects of post-excavation analysis. They provide a general and detailed pictorial record of the site throughout all phases of its excavation and recording.

6.4.2 Potential

The images include archaeological features and finds, and record how the site was excavated. They will undoubtedly aid the stratigraphic analysis. The images could also be integrated with the site database to provide a visual element, which is helpful when dealing with a large corpus of information, and also have the ability to add valuable illustrative material to the final report and publication.

6.5 Digital Data

6.4.1 Assessment

The digital data include all the records of survey undertaken using the total station theodolite, and the digital photographic archive. This is complimented by rectified Aerial photography for Areas 1, 5 and 6.

6.6 The Finds Evidence

6.6.1 Introduction

The artefactual assemblage comprises finds from various material categories, mainly pottery (medieval and post-medieval), ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipes, glass, metalwork and palaeo-environmental data. An assessment of each class of artefact/ecofact is provided in the following sections. The aim of the finds assessment is to evaluate all classes of archaeological material from the initial evaluation trenching and the excavation to assess their research potential and significance.

6.6.2 Methodology

Finds were collected using a 100% collection policy on site during the evaluation and excavation. Most metal finds were recovered from the spoil heap by metal detector once excavation had ceased. All finds were returned to the Salford Archaeology finds laboratory in sealed and labelled polyethylene bags. All finds were washed, except metal and organic material, which were dry brushed, and grouped by material for assessment.

6.6.3 Overview of the Assemblage

The finds assemblage was recovered from 65 contexts and unstratified deposits from Areas 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6. The assemblage comprises a mixture of materials dating from the Mesolithic to modern period, with a total finds count of 881, weighing 30.86kg (Table 2). The assemblage is in fair condition, with little signs of abrasion noted and the pottery collection contains numerous re-fitting sherds. Pottery comprises 85.1% of the assemblage, totalling 750 individual sherds. The pottery represents phases 4-6, with medieval, post-medieval and modern sherds present. Several clusters of pottery were derived from sealed medieval ditch/gully contexts representing a rare instance of stratigraphically sequenced medieval pottery from the county of Lancashire.

Material	Number of contexts	Count	Weight (g)	Percentage of total assemblage (%)	Date
Bone	6	12	40	1.4	Unknown
Brick	2	6	7173	0.7	17th-19th century
Coal	5	10	87	1.1	Unknown
Copper	2 + U/S	14	78	1.6	17th-20th century
Flint	2	2	35	0.2	Mesolithic-Neolithic
Glass	3	12	328	1.4	17th-20th century
Iron	3 + U/S	7	337	0.8	17th-20th century
Lead	1 + U/S	7	806	0.8	16th-20th century
Metal (other)	U/S	1	43	0.1	17th-20th century
Clay tobacco pipe	7 + U/S	44	254	4.9	17th-20th century
Pottery	57	750	20013	85.1	12th-20th century
Silver	U/S	1	6	0.1	17-19th century
Stone	2	15	1663	1.7	Unknown
Total		881	30863		

Table 2: All finds recovered from the Cuerden Strategic site by material, count, weight and period

6.6.4 Overview of the Pottery

The pottery assemblage recovered from the site consisted of a total of 750 sherds weighing 20kg. In total, 49.1% of the sherds date from the medieval period (Phase 4), with the remaining pottery dating to the post-medieval and modern period (Chart 1). The pottery was sorted and catalogued by pottery class and fabric, identifying inclusions, vessel forms present and any decoration. Where possible, sherds from the same vessels were catalogued together. No formal attempt to devise a detailed fabric series has been made at the assessment stage, although the practicality and validity of this exercise has been assessed.

In general terms, the pottery was in good condition and, despite the large number of small sherds, few were heavily abraded or rolled and the breaks were clean, suggesting little post-depositional disturbance. In some cases, this was corroborated by the recovery of closely-dateable groups with little, or no, intrusive material. Several pottery forms could also be identified from the recovered sherds, and numerous re-fitting sherds were yielded from stratified contexts, indicating little post-depositional disturbance.

The pottery types identified in the assemblage are presented in Table 3. The major pottery types include medieval Northern Gritty ware, Partially Reduced Grey ware, Reduced Greenware, and post-medieval Midlands Purple ware, Redware, and dark-glazed coarseware. However, the medieval assemblage is the most significant aspect of this collection as very little well stratified medieval pottery has previously been uncovered in Lancashire, and presents a huge potential for research into vessel forms, fabric types and dating evidence. The occurrence of some of the pottery in stratified contexts that also contained carbonised material, moreover, provides a hugely important opportunity for independent dating.

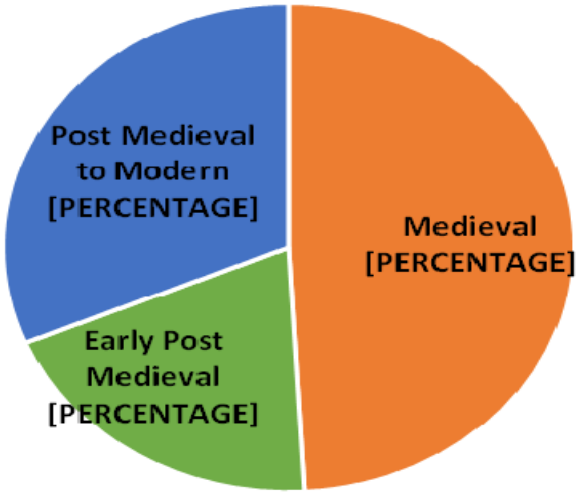

Chart 1: Percentage of pottery assemblage by general period

Pottery Class	Number of contexts	Count	Weight (g)	Percentage of pottery assemblage (%)	Date (century)
Medieval					
Northern Gritty Ware	34 + U/S	297	3374	39.6	12th-13th
Sandy Ware	8	11	113	1.5	13th-14th
Partially Reduced Grey Ware	24 +U/S	60	1283	8	13th-14th
Early Post Medieval					
Reduced Greenware	4 + U/S	11	719	1.5	15th-16th
Midlands Purple Ware	15 + U/S	76	5222	10.1	15th-16th
Cistercian Ware	5	13	336	1.7	15th-16th
Redware	11 + U/S	40	1168	5.3	15th-17th
Yellow Ware	3	7	1026	0.9	16th-17th
Late Post Medieval to Modern					
Blackware	1 + U/S	3	124	0.4	17th-18th
Self-coloured Ware	3	5	148	0.7	17th-18th
Dark-glazed coarseware	20 + U/S	104	4264	13.9	17th-20th
Mottled Ware	5	11	401	1.5	17th-18th
Slipware (plus industrial)	5 + U/S	32	324	4.3	17th-20th
Tin-glazed earthenware	1 + U/S	3	7	0.4	18th
Pearlware	3 + U/S	6	160	0.8	18th
Creamware	2	3	12	0.4	18th-19th
Stoneware	6	13	330	1.7	18th-20th
Transfer-printed Ware	4	15	200	1.9	18th-20th
Brown/black-glazed earthenware	4	10	373	1.3	17th-19th
White slip-coated ware	1	2	48	0.3	19th-20th
Unglazed earthenware	1	2	32	0.3	Modern
China (general undiagnostic)	5	21	205	2.8	Modern
Unidentified pottery	4	5	157	0.7	-
Total		750	20013		

Table 3: Pottery ware types present in assemblage

6.6.5 Provenance

Area 1 contained 64% of the pottery assemblage from the site, including the vast majority of medieval and early post-medieval wares. Area 1 comprised a series of gullies and ditches forming a set of field boundaries, some of which are medieval in date and relate to Phase 3 of the site. The most significant of these features include sealed contexts with fully stratified sequences of medieval pottery dating from the 12th-14th centuries.

The east/west-aligned ditch (***1004/1006/1021/1066/1070***), which included the fills ***1005*** and ***1071*** contain only Northern Gritty ware and Partially Reduced Grey ware, dating to the 12th-14th centuries. The fill (***1005***) of ditch ***1004*** contains 31 sherds of Northern Gritty ware including three profiles of bulbous jars which are the most complete Gritty ware vessels from the assemblage (Plate 18). Other ditch fills on the site also contain exclusively 12th-14th century pottery and so can similarly be dated to Phase 3 on the site (***1069***, ***1093***, ***1094*** and ***1095***).

Some ditch fills (***1062***, ***1090*** and ***1110***) in Area 1 can be dated confidently to the 15th-16th centuries (Phase 4) on the basis of ceramic evidence. Fill ***1110*** contains some of the most complete vessel profiles, including two Midlands Purple cisterns, a Redware jar, and two Cistercian ware cups which date the deposit to the 15th century. Two fills (***1083*** and ***1162***) contained sherds from matching vessels, and the contexts have clearly been redeposited on site.

Only one context from Area 2 contained finds (***2001***). This was the topsoil with redeposited material including a mixture of 17th- to 20th-century pottery sherds. As such, this material is essentially unstratified, and has little potential to contribute to a wider understanding on activity on the site.

No finds were retrieved from Area 3.

Area 4 yielded a small assemblage of Northern Gritty ware from a series of furrows (***409***, ***417*** and ***419***), which may indicate a medieval farming system dating to the 12th-13th century.

Most of the finds recovered from Area 5 were early post-medieval to modern in date, and collected from topsoils and subsoil deposits, although a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from a wall foundation trench.

6.6.6 Medieval Pottery

Nearly half of the pottery assemblage (49.1%) is medieval in date, which was derived from stratified features of several different types. and was dominated by fragments of Northern Gritty wares (39.6% of the pottery assemblage by count), Partially Reduced Grey ware (8%) and Sandy ware (1.5%). Some of the pottery was collected from redeposited fills and unstratified deposits, but most is derived from sealed fills of ditches and gullies, providing a very rare example from the Lancashire region where a full medieval pottery sequence can be established.

Northern Gritty ware was the most plentiful ware type on the site, with 297 sherds recovered (Plate 18). The fabric is very hard with moderate inclusions of sand and sub-angular quartz inclusions >2mm wide (Plate 19). The core ranges from reduced grey, partially reduced to oxidised pale orange, with an orange to grey body. Very few sherds have evidence of glazing, but there is some evidence of patchy olive to green glaze on the exterior of sherds. There are at least 12 examples of sooting on the exterior of vessels, indicative of use for cooking purposes (Plate 20). Vessel forms mainly comprise bulbous jars with flat rims with internal flanges.

Gritty wares were the dominant pottery fabric type in circulation throughout the north of England during the 12th century and, in broad terms, appear to have continued as such until the mid-13th century (McCarthy and Brooks 1992, 22). However, very few stratified groups discovered across the region have benefitted from independent dating, and such examples are limited largely to Carlisle.

Plate 18: Rim of Northern Gritty ware bulbous jar (fn 1)

Few examples of Sandy ware were identified, though in most instances sherds were discovered in contexts alongside Northern Gritty ware. This fabric is similar to Gritty ware, but is slightly softer and sandier, with moderate inclusions of sand and small pieces of quartz. The core is oxidised light to bright orange, with an orange to pinkish-buff body. No vessel forms were identified in the assemblage.

Sandy wares are characteristically fully oxidised, and range in colour from orange to buff/reddish-buff. Some fabrics appear to closely resembles the dominant 13th- to early 14th-century fabrics excavated in Wigan, and similar fabrics have also been recovered from excavations in South Lancashire, including a medieval pottery production site at Samlesbury (Wood *et al* 2009). In broad terms, however, the current poor understanding of medieval ceramic traditions in central Lancashire is exacerbated by a lack of knowledge of production centres.

In total, 60 sherds of Partially Reduced Grey ware vessels were recorded in the assemblage. This was identified as a fairly smooth fabric with sandy inclusions and occasional quartz inclusions. The core is often reduced with the outer surface an oxidised orange colour. Some variation is witnessed in overfired fabrics which have a hard very dark grey core. All sherds are glazed in a patchy olive, brown to dark green, sometimes with a brown speckled pitted effect on the interior surface. On overfired fabrics glazes can appear dark brown or dark green. No vessel forms were identified, though some larger sherds probably derive from jugs or jars (Plate 21).

Plate 19: Fabric of Northern Gritty ware (fn 1)

Plate 20: Sooting on exterior of Northern Gritty ware sherds (fn 1)

Plate 21: Partially Reduced Grey ware rim (fn 16)

The site produced a significant assemblage of medieval pottery from ditches associated with ancient field systems. Gullies and ditches contained sealed deposits of medieval pottery, providing a sequence of pottery types for the region, which will add to limited evidence available of medieval pottery from sealed contexts in the north-west of England (Wood *et al* 2009, 33). The sealed gullies contain profiles of 12th-14th century medieval ware types, which will aid in identifying the types of vessel forms and fabrics being produced during this period.

It is thus concluded the medieval pottery assemblage from the excavations at Cuerden is of regional significance, and there is considerable potential to further research this collection to produce a full sequence of medieval and early post-medieval pottery types from the region. The amount of medieval pottery and vessel forms provided by this site is rare for the region. Further study of the collection will enable reconstruction of medieval vessel forms, identify fabric types from the 12th-14th centuries and, pending the results obtained from radio-carbon assay, may provide key independent dating of medieval contexts on the site.

Comparisons also need to be made between the Cuerden medieval assemblage and the material found at Salmesbury which was identified as a 13th-15th century pottery kiln site, approximately 5km to the north-east of the Cuerden Strategic Site (Wood *et al* 2009). The majority of pottery from Salmesbury was Northern Gritty ware, and may be very similar to material from the Cuerden site.

6.6.6 Early Post-medieval Pottery

Some 19.5% of the pottery is early post-medieval in date (Phase 4). This consists of mainly Midlands Purple ware (10.1%), and also Reduced Greenware (1.5%), Cistercian ware (1.7%), Redware (5.3%), and Yellow ware (0.9%).

Midlands Purple ware was identified as a fine smooth fabric with moderate inclusions of sand. The fabric is partially reduced to reduced, ranging from dark red to dark purple, occasionally containing voids or air pockets in the fabric. Vessels are thinly glazed on the exterior with a patchy dark purple glaze which often falls over the rim to partially glaze the interior. At least six vessel profiles are present, including four cisterns with bungholes and two jars (Plate 22).

In total, 11 sherds of Reduced Greenware were recorded. It was identified as a reduced grey, very soft fabric, with few inclusions of sand. Occasional patches of oxidised fabric is present on the exterior of some sherds. The glaze is often olive green to olive brown (Plate 23). The fabric is similar to material identified from Kendal in Cumbria and Lancashire, including Silverdale where 'Silverdale Greenware' was identified (White 2000; Whitehead *et al* 2013).

This site presents an unusual example of Reduced Greenware occurring on the same site as Midlands Purple wares. Three contexts in Area 1 (***1090***, ***1100*** and ***1162***) contained both Reduced Greenware sherds and Midlands Purple sherds, which appear to be 14th-16th century contexts based on the ceramic evidence.

Midlands Purple ware is the dominant coarseware throughout the Midlands and north-west England throughout the 15th and 16th centuries, and is not found on sites north of the River Ribble. Reduced Greenware was similarly the dominant coarseware for the north of England and is rarely found south of the Ribble. Cuerden lies just to the south of the river and provides a rare instance of both wares occurring in the same assemblage in well-stratified 15th-century contexts. This site could represent an area that was utilising both ware types as trade occurred both north and south of the river.

In total, 13 sherds of Cistercian ware were collected from the site. The fabric is very fine and smooth with few inclusions of sand. The fabric ranges from a consistent reduced dark purple to oxidised orange. Glazing is very consistent metallic shiny and lead-based, appearing dark purple on reduced fabrics and dark brown on oxidised fabrics. Though the sample is small, most sherds are plain with no decoration present, though at least five cup or mug profiles are present (Plate 24). Similar material has been found at Wrenthorpe near Wakefield, Ticknall in Derbyshire, and Rainford in Merseyside (Boyle and Rowlandson 2009, Moorhouse and Roberts 1992, Philpott 2015).

A group of 40 sherds of Redware was recovered from the site. The fabric was identified as slightly sandy with moderate inclusions of sand and occasional grog. Fabrics range from oxidised bright orange to pinkish with a clear patchy glaze, firing orange or light brown. It appears that an external glaze was intended, though often patchy glaze is found on the inside of vessels.

Redware was found alongside Midlands Purple and Yellow ware in early post-medieval contexts. Redware has been identified in Yorkshire, though descriptive details vary, sometimes referred to as brown-glazed coarsewares (Cumberpatch 2003). At least one profile was identified of a jar in context ***1110*** alongside Midlands Purple cisterns in a 15th-16th century fill context.

Seven sherds of Yellow ware were retrieved from the site. The fabric is hard and smooth cream to buff in colour, with sparse inclusions of sand. Glaze is a consistent clear lead glaze on the interior and exterior, firing to yellow. No decoration is present in the assemblage, though one profile of a chafing dish was retrieved from the fill of early post-medieval ditch ***1083*** (Plate 25).

As with the medieval pottery, the early post-medieval pottery assemblage is also potentially of regional importance. The site has produced 15th-century ware types that have rarely been discovered in the same vicinity. The assemblage contains both Midlands Purple ware vessels alongside Reduced Greenware sherds in several ditch fills (***1090***, ***1100*** and ***1162***). Midlands Purple ware is the dominant coarseware throughout the Midlands and north-west England during the 15th and 16th centuries, whilst Reduced Greenware is the dominant coarseware for the North of England. Previous studies have indicated that the River Ribble may have formed a physical boundary for the distribution of these ware types. However, the site of Cuerden may provide crucial evidence for the utilisation of both ware types north and south of the river, and may represent an area of integration of both pottery types.

The assemblage presents a very rare opportunity to study an important group of pottery recovered from an area that is desperately lacking information of early post-medieval pottery production and supply. The assemblage may also have the potential to advance knowledge of trading patterns on a wider scale, particularly with the Midlands and even across the Pennines. It is thus clear that the assemblage merits further analytical work to assess vessel forms and fabrics. A number of vessels require reconstruction, as well as detailed photography, coupled with final publication in an appropriate format.

Plate 22: Midlands Purple bunghole cistern (fn 104)

Plate 23: Sherd of Reduced Greenware (fn 25)

Plate 24: Base of a Cistercian cup (fn 111)

Plate 25: Yellow ware chafing dish (fn 121)

6.6.7 Late Post-medieval to Modern Pottery

Some 30.7% of the pottery assemblage dates to the late 17th century or later. This mainly consists of dark-glazed coarsewares from the 17th-20th centuries, of which 104 sherds were collected, but also includes a variety of other ware types (see Table 3). Ware types identified include slipware, mottled ware, pearlware, stoneware, self-coloured ware and transfer-printed ware. The majority of modern pottery was very fragmentary and was retrieved from unstratified or unsealed contexts, representing later phases of activity on the site.

In view of the fragmentary condition and its recovery from unstratified contexts, the later post-medieval pottery is of limited significance and has little potential for further research. It would seem unlikely that further detailed study of the material could add significantly to the interpretation of the site, although a note of its presence or absence within excavated deposits should be made.

6.6.8 Clay Tobacco Pipes

A total of 44 clay tobacco pipe fragments were retrieved from the site, mainly associated with the post-medieval phase of Area 5 or from unstratified contexts (Table 4). A maximum of 19 pipe bowls were identified. Most bowls date from the period AD1630-90 (Plate 26), with six dating from AD1820-80.

Context	Count	Date	Description
1047	1 fragment	17th-18th century	One fragment of clay pipe stem with central bore
2001	1 fragments	1820-80	One pipe bowl fragment with leaf pattern decoration
0505	3 fragments	17th century	Three bulbous pipe bowls, two containing 'IB' stamp
0529	4 fragments	1820-80	Four complete pipe bowls
0531	6 fragments	17th-19th century	Five bowl and one clay pipe stem fragments. Four of the bowls date to 1630-90, and one bowl to 1820-80
01001	4 fragments	18th-20th century	Fragment of a briar pipe and clay pipe stems from evaluation Trench 1
0913	2 fragment	18th-20h century	One clay pipe stem fragment
10002	2 fragments	17th-20th century	Fragments of clay pipe bowls and stems
Unstratified	21 fragments	17th-19th century	Group of bowl and one stem fragment

Table 4: Quantification of the clay tobacco pipes

Several maker's stamps were present, including 'IB', 'HB', and a bordered stem reading 'no. 36 the proper pipe'. There is some limited potential for further research to establish the clay pipe manufacturers through the stamps that have been identified, although further detailed study of other aspects of the clay tobacco pipes is unlikely to add significantly to the interpretation of the site. However, a note of their presence or absence within stratigraphic deposits should be made, and the broad dating that has been attributed to individual fragments will need to be amalgamated with the stratigraphic narrative.

*Plate 26: Selection of clay pipe bowls from demolition layer **0505**, Area 5, dating to AD1630-90 (fn 267)*

6.6.9 Ceramic Building Material

Six fragments of hand-made brick were collected from the initial evaluation trenching. They range from orange to dark red fabric and are irregular in shape, indicating they were hand-made. They are probably 17th-18th century in date.

The small assemblage of ceramic building material does not warrant further analysis, although the presence of ceramic building material should be registered in the archive catalogue.

6.6.10 Animal Bone

A small sample of animal bone was retrieved during excavation, together with ten fragments of burnt bone, as well as an animal tooth, all of which came from deposits in Area 1. All of the fragments were is poor condition, reflecting the acidic character of the local soil conditions. In addition, a fragment of a decorated bone knife handle was recovered from a deposit associated with a cobbled surface in a 17th or 18th-century building phase of Area 5.

The bone assemblage has little potential for further analysis, beyond adding a descriptive text to the site narrative. Unstratified animal bone may be discarded upon completion of the project.

6.6.11 Glass

A small collection of 12 sherds of glass was recovered from a total of three contexts. This included post-medieval green and blue bottle glass, with a probably date range spanning the 17th to 20th centuries, although the sherds were all too small to enable close spot-dating (Table 5).

Context	Count	Date	Description
1142	2 fragments	17th-20th century	Pale green bottle glass
0529	6 fragments	18th-20th century	Two fragments of pressed blue glass with fruit decoration, and four fragments of green bottle glass
2001	4 fragments	18th-20th century	Fragments of blue and clear glass vessels, some with a patterned base

Table 5: Quantification of the glass

The glass will contribute to the dating of a very small number of stratified deposits on the site, but its narrow range and fragmentary nature makes it unlikely that it will sustain any other detailed analysis.

6.6.12 Modified Stone

The small assemblage of modified stone recovered from the excavation comprises two flints, one of which was a worked 'plunged blade' dating to the Mesolithic to early Neolithic (Plate 27). This flint was recovered from the fill (***0413***) of pit ***0412***, whilst a second flint fragment was found in the fill (***0637***) of gully ***0636*** in Area 6.

Plate 27: Plunged blade dating to the Mesolithic to early Neolithic recovered from Area 4 (fn 274)

In addition, 15 fragments of burnt stone were recovered from gully fills in Area 1, probably relating to medieval / post-medieval activity. The burnt stones do not merit any further analytical work.

6.6.13 Ironwork

Four fragments of iron were retrieved from the excavation, all of which were in very poor condition and in a corroded state. They appeared to be the head of nails, and are probably post-medieval to modern in date.

The small group of iron objects is of restricted range and adds little to an understanding of the site. No further analytical work on this material category is merited.

6.6.14 Non-Ferrous Metalwork

This material category includes a few objects of copper alloy and lead, and a single pewter object. The copper alloy artefacts included three unstratified coins, including a George III penny '1799', a George V penny '1917', and an illegible coin. Other copper alloy finds included plain buttons, loops/fastens, a jetton, a buckle frame and a pin, which were all recovered by metal detector, and are thus unstratified.

Several lead items were also recovered, including a pressed bag seal (Plate 28), a decorated spindle whorl (Plate 29), a token, and two large weights (Plate 30), which are post-medieval in date. The head of a spoon was recovered from the spoil heap, possibly made from pewter with heavily corroded edges. A silvered plain button with copper loop was also recovered from the spoil heap.

Plate 28: Pressed lead bag seal (fn 289)

Plate 29: Spindle whorl (fn 278)

Plate 30: Two lead weights (fn 284)

Whilst adding to the dating evidence and providing some further indication of activities undertaken across the site during the post-medieval period. When considered alone the non-ferrous objects are of limited significance, and have limited potential for further analytical work; the distribution of the finds across the site is perhaps more significant.

6.6.15 Palaeo-environmental Remains

In total, 15 environmental bulk samples were taken from a variety of secure contexts excavated in Areas 1 and 6 for the assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains. It is hoped that the samples would provide information about the environment and economy of the site, plus material suitable for radio-carbon dating. The samples meriting further analysis are summarised in Table 6:

Sample No.	Context	Feature	Area	Comment
01	***1005***	Ditch	1	Fill of ditch ***1004***, containing fragments of 12th-14th-century pottery
02	***1063***	Ditch	1	Fill of early post-medieval ditch ***1062***.
03	***1083***	Ditch	1	Fill of early post-medieval ditch ***1082***.
04	***1148***	Post hole	1	Fill of posthole ***1147***, containing fragments of 12th-14th-century pottery
05	***0627***	Gully	6	Fill of linear feature ***0626***.
06	***0635***	Pit	6	Fill of pit ***0634***

Table 6: Summary of samples that merit further analysis

The archaeobotanical record in the north-west of England for the late medieval and post-medieval periods is very sparse (Hall and Huntley 2007, 207; Newman and McNeil 2007b, 148), and the current Archaeological Research Framework for the North West emphasises that more research is needed to reconstruct urban and rural environments. Information is also needed about the exploitation of plants and animals in this period (Newman and McNeil 2007a, 119).

For these reasons it is recommended that the samples from medieval ditch ***1004*** and post hole ***1148***, together with early post-medieval ditches ***1062*** and ***1082*** in Area 1, and samples from features ***0626*** and ***0634*** in Area 6, should be analysed, as the data may help our understanding of the pre- and post-industrial economy and environment of the site. In addition, samples that were taken specifically for radio-carbon dating were also recovered from ditch fills ***1005***, ***1083*** and post hole fill ***1148*** in Area 1, and the fill of linear feature ***0626*** and pit ***0634*** in Area 6.

7. Curation and Conservation

7.1 Recipient Museum

The finds, the paper archive and the electronic archive will be deposited within South Ribble Museum. Contact details are:

David Hunt
South Ribble Museum Curator
Civic Centre
West Paddock
Leyland PR25 1DH

7.2 Conservation

Most of the assemblage is well-preserved and in good condition, and thus the conservation requirement is low.

7.3 Storage

The complete project archive, which will include written records, plans, digital plans and photographs, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the guidelines set out in *Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites* (UKIC 1984, Conservation Guidelines 3) prior to deposition.

For long-term storage of the digital data, CDs will be used, the content including the reports, plans, scanned images and digital photographs. Each CD will be fully indexed and accompanied by the relevant metadata for provenance. The digital record should ideally be duplicated as a paper record for long-term archiving, including printouts of photographs and survey plots, labelled and summarised.

All dry and stable finds will be packed according to the museum's specifications, in either acid-free cardboard boxes, or in airtight plastic boxes for unstable material. The artefactual assemblage is predominantly stable, but should be packed carefully with bubble wrap protecting the bags to minimise movement and abrasion in the boxes.

7.4 Packaging

The assemblage is currently well-packaged and will require no further packaging. Box lists derived from the site database have been compiled and will be updated when the identification of objects is complete. The paper records will be presented in either ring binders or in acid-free storage, fully indexed, and with the contents labelled.

7.5 Discard Policy

A discard policy will be prepared, in consultation with the recipient museum. Material of no discernible long-term archaeological potential will be discarded, with the museum's agreement.

8. Statement of Potential

8.1 Introduction

The archaeological investigation undertaken on the Cuerden Strategic Site has provided a valuable opportunity to investigate rural settlement and landscape in central Lancashire, and the assessment of the individual elements of the project archive shows that it has some potential to contribute to research agendas at a local and regional level. The site produced interesting findings relating to several different periods, practices and types of land-use. Several interconnected themes have emerged, which inform an understanding of past habitation. The scale of the investigations means that the results provide general information on the surrounding landscape as a whole. It is, therefore, possible to make statements on the survival and visibility of past activity over a wider area, and also to develop the project methodology and its suitability for future investigations.

Overall, the results of the 2018 excavation are of significance and can be regarded as being of regional importance. Data pertinent to all of the original research themes was recovered, although in some cases no firm conclusions can be drawn.

The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the strategy set out in the original Written Scheme of Investigation, in order to address the aims put forward in that document (*Appendix 4*). Assessment of the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental data generated by the fieldwork is primarily concerned with the potential of the data to address these fieldwork aims (*Section 2* above), and to formulate new questions and research aims that can be addressed during the analytical phase of the post-excavation programme.

8.2 Principal Potential

8.2.1 Overview

The present section reviews the success of the fieldwork and post-excavation assessment in providing data to address the original research aims. Assessment of the primary stratigraphic records has established a sequence of activity on the site from the prehistoric (Mesolithic / Neolithic) period to the 20th century, including regionally rare physical evidence for apparent continuous occupation of a rural site from the 11th / 12th century, coupled with an important assemblage of ceramic fabrics spanning the 12th to 17th century. The sequence is summarised in *Section 5*, above.

Likewise, assessment of the artefactual and environmental assemblages recovered from stratified deposits on the site has highlighted those elements that have the greatest potential to advance archaeological knowledge, and which require further detailed analysis leading to the production of a full and detailed archive report and an appropriate level of publication.

8.2.2 Stratigraphy

The stratigraphic data will provide the framework within which the other analyses can take place. The archaeological stratigraphy is fairly simple but it has the potential for further, more in-depth description and discussion. The greatest potential for analysis in the various excavation areas lies in dating the sequence of structures and archaeological deposits, and confirming their phasing. This is particularly the case with the results obtained from the excavation of Area 1 (Plate 31) and Area 5, where a sequence of archaeological features were identified.

The stratigraphy will need to be revisited once the finds and palaeo-environmental assemblages have been analysed, in order to incorporate any new evidence and to test and revise the stratigraphic interpretations developed at assessment.

The features relating to farming are indicative of past land-use, and it is important that they are closely characterised and dated where possible. The remains are likely to be of considerable interest for future period studies and will require in-depth reporting.

Structural remains of Pinfold House offer some potential to suggest how the farm complex may have developed over time. The development of the farm in size and complexity reflects its changing use and status over time.

8.2.3 Artefactual Data

Elements of the artefactual assemblage recovered from the site have some potential for further analysis, such as the pottery, which furnishes some information on the lifestyle and material culture of the inhabitants of Cuerden Green. This is not true of all of the assemblage, however, since some of it is of limited potential and has little further value. In general terms, the material culture forms an important part of the archaeological record and makes a contribution to the regional corpus.

The assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery recovered from the excavations though relatively small by national standards, represents an important addition to the corpus of such material from central Lancashire, and indeed from the North West generally. In terms of national and regional research priorities, it is the well-stratified assemblages of pottery that perhaps hold the greatest potential for further research.

8.2.4 Palaeo-environmental Data

There is good potential for further analysis of the pollen and charred plant remains from a small number of key contexts. The latter will contribute to an understanding of the post-medieval farming economy in the immediate locale and in the region in general.

There is also considerable potential to obtain absolute dating for several of the ditch fills through radio-carbon assay of charcoal samples.

Plate 31: Aerial view across Area 1, situated at the junction of Stoney Lane and Old School Lane

8.3 National Research Priorities

In 1991, the English Heritage document, *Exploring Our Past*, included a strategy for dealing with the problems and opportunities which would be encountered during the following decade (English Heritage 1991b). Many of the ideas first raised in this document were developed further in a draft *Research Agenda* which outlined a series of research priorities (English Heritage 1997). The subsequent Historic England *Research Strategy* documents are *Exploring our Past Implementation Plan* (2003), *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future* (2005), and *The National Heritage Protection Plan* (2011), although these are, in effect, strategies for Historic England itself. The draft *Research Agenda* is no longer considered current, although the following research objectives remain pertinent:

- the study of Processes of Change (PC);
- Themes (T);
- Landscapes (L);
- Methodological and technical development (MTD).

Those perceived as being of relevance to the Cuerden site are listed below and supplementary comments have been integrated.

Processes of Change (PC): *PC7, transition from medieval to post-medieval traditions (c AD 1300-1700):* the excavation has the potential to determine the level of continuity of occupation and activity during this period and answer some of the issues surrounding such change, particularly using the stratigraphic data and the ceramic assemblage, once this has been closely dated.

PC8, The Industrial Revolution (c 1700-1850): the development of the Pinfold House farmstead provides a rural context for industries of this date.

Landscapes (L): *L1, cognitive landscapes:* the selection of an apparently marginal location for the settlement at Cuerden Green raises questions considering the positioning of farmsteads in the medieval and early post-medieval periods.

MTD3, sampling and retrieval: the strategy of sample processing proposed for the retrieval of palaeo-environmental remains will contribute to ongoing research, by allowing an assessment of the efficacy of these techniques.

MTD6, scientific techniques for analysis: the application of dating techniques and the study of the palaeo-environmental assemblage will make contributions to this field of study.

MTD12, fieldwork recording techniques: the techniques used during the archaeological investigation will be critically reviewed subsequent to the results of the analysis being known.

MTD13, refining archaeological chronologies through scientific dating techniques: radiocarbon dating will contribute to an understanding of regional and possibly national chronologies.

8.4 Regional Research Priorities

The publication of the *Archaeological Research Framework for North West England* (NWARF; Brennand 2006; 2007) has provided a region-specific agenda that includes several research topics that are relevant to the study of the archaeological remains excavated at Cuerden. As a detailed national research agenda for, in particular, the Roman period has been compiled, however, there is significant overlap between many of the research topics discussed in the regional and national research agendas, and the repetition of previously noted themes will be avoided.

The NWARF raised broad issues relating to the poor site visibility and chronology of prehistoric remains in the North West as a whole, and specifically the low density of recorded and investigated sites in the central area of Lancashire. Amongst the initiatives that were drawn up to address these issues:

- *Initiative 2.30:* 'Sites that have been identified through survey require further targeted work and characterisation, accompanied by programmes of dating.'
- *Initiative 2.69:* 'Many of the issues raised regarding Iron Age settlement' are shared with the previous prehistoric period and relate to poor site visibility and inadequate representation across the North West as a whole' (p39-40).

There is also the potential of further work to contribute to a more nuanced comprehension of early human activity at a local level, specifically relating to the paragraphs on settlement and land use in prehistory (Brennand 2007, 39–41, 51-52).

Whilst the discovery of the precise course of the Roman road on its approach to Walton-le-Dale provides welcome resolution to an issue that has been a subject of academic debate for many decades, the dataset from the Cuerden excavation does not address any of the specific research priorities for the Roman period that was raised in the NWARF. However, it is stressed that all excavated Romano-British sites should have an entry in *Britannia* in order to improve accessibility and awareness (Philpott and Brennand 2007, 55).

The excavated remains pertaining to medieval/post medieval rural settlement has the potential to contribute significantly to various research initiatives, ranging from household, to local and regional scales. The most relevant initiatives in the NWARF are laid out in *Chapter 6: Post-Medieval Agenda* in relation to rural settlement*:*

- *Initiative 6.15:* 'Excavations of abandoned farms and cottages should be a high priority, especially where the ownership or tenancy is documented, in order to study the material culture of individual households';

Initiative 6.15 is particularly relevant when the available documentary evidence in the form of Census Returns (*Appendix 3*) and historic mapping relating to Pinfold House is taken into account. A similar research initiative is laid out more broadly in relation to the study of historic buildings, pressing for the excavation of sites of well-preserved house remains and their environs (*Initiative 6.8).*

In addition, the artefacts found within and around buildings hold importance in their own right, and especially the ceramic materials:

- *Initiative 6.1:* 'The available data set should be greatly enlarged. Stratified artefact sequences from both small towns and rural settlements need to be collected, in order to establish the character of ceramic use throughout the region and to create the basis for socio-economic interpretation.'
- *Initiative 6.2*: 'Unpublished ceramic groups, especially those from areas with no previous evidence should be published as a priority. The relevant grey literature should be made generally available.'

At a macro-scale, the surviving archaeological evidence can be seen as an insight into settlement patterns. It is stressed that 'some types of settlement such as isolated farmsteads and hamlets are nationally less well studied than villages' and that furthermore, mapping and landscape characterisation has been over-reliant on available 19th-century mapping. This has led to distorted interpretations of settlement at various levels. Archaeological excavation combined with historical analysis offers an opportunity to add to the regional dataset, in turn ameliorating these shortcomings:

- *Initiative 6.14:* 'Regional survey of farmstead creation and abandonment would help refine the regional settlement pattern identified by Wrathmell and Roberts, as well as improve county based characterisation programmes'.

The paucity of medieval pottery produced from archaeological excavations in the North West was highlighted in the mid-1990s during a strategic review by English Heritage (Mellor 1994), and this persists as an issue for archaeological research. The dearth of medieval pottery recovered from rural sites in the North West is especially acute, and even where material has been excavated, poor stratification and an absence of any long occupation sequences containing pottery are a barrier in developing a ceramic sequence (Newman and Newman 2007, 96). The assemblage from Cuerden represents an important addition to the corpus of late medieval pottery from a rural site in the North West, and provides an important opportunity to furnish independent dating of the region's ceramic sequence from radio-carbon dating.

The transition from the medieval ceramic traditions to the finer wares of the post-medieval period is also under-represented in the archaeological record for Lancashire, and particularly in a rural context. The assemblage of post-medieval pottery from Cuerden can contribute to consideration of the range and sources of pottery available to the rural population, and will provide a useful comparator to material recently excavated in urban contexts, for example in Salford. Similarly, the assemblage allows comment on the general wealth and status of the occupants of the site, and any changes that might be perceived through time. The material culture of individual rural households during the post-medieval period is poorly understood and, as noted above, the excavation of rural farms and cottages has been identified as an archaeological research initiative of high priority (Newman and McNeil 2007, 121-2).

9. Updated Project Design

9.1 Aims and Objectives of the Programme of Analysis

This section follows the guidance of MoRPHE regarding the formulation of updated research aims (Historic England 2015). The original aims for the project remain valid (*Section 2.1 above*), but can be updated with new aims and objectives derived from the statement of potential set out in *Section 8*.

The updated research aims will consider the following:

- the development of the site from the prehistoric period to the 20th century, with particular focus on Romano-British, medieval and early post-medieval activity, including evidence for changes, both spatial and chronological, in the layout of individual landscape features, and the use of dating techniques to track these changes;
- changes in the nature of the community occupying the site through the medieval and post-medieval periods, including evidence for agricultural use.

Updated Research Aim 1: what are the occupation sequences of the site?

- *Objective 1*: what are the main periods of occupation on the site as shown by detailed stratigraphic analysis of the primary records, and is there any firm evidence for pre-medieval activity on the site?
- *Objective 2*: is it possible to refine the phasing of the site further through the identification and dating of stratigraphic sub-phases, and to attribute all contexts to these periods?
- *Objective 3*: what is the dating evidence for each of the refined periods and sub-phases of activity on the site?

Updated Research Aim 2: how did the site develop through the medieval period?

- *Objective 1*: can the date at which medieval activity commenced be established in detail?
- *Objective 2*: is it possible to characterise the nature of occupation on the site throughout the medieval period?
- *Objective 3*: to what extent do distribution patterns of artefactual and ecofactual material change during the course of the medieval period?
- *Objective 4*: is there any evidence that alterations to the layout of the site or changing patterns of artefact and ecofact deposition reflect changes in the character, status and function of the site through time?
- *Objective 5*: is there evidence that changes in the layout of the site were prompted by changes in the composition of the community through time?

Updated Research Aim 3: what can be learnt of the place of the Pinfold House farmstead in the wider medieval / early post-medieval world?

- *Objective 1*: is there any evidence that sequences of construction, refurbishment or abandonment recorded at other medieval / early post-medieval sites in the region are directly paralleled at Pinfold House?
- *Objective 2*: does the stratigraphic and dating evidence reflect episodes of apparently reduced activity on the site? Does this provide any new information on post-medieval activities in the region?

Updated Research Aim 4: what evidence is there for continuing use of the land into the post-medieval period?

- *Objective 1*: does the stratigraphic and dating evidence reflect in the material culture to show a decline use in the site through the post-medieval period until the present?

9.2 Presentation of Results

In accordance with the guidelines provided in *MAP2* and MoRPHE (English Heritage 1991; Historic England 2015), it is proposed that the results of the project should be presented as follows:

- *Project archive:* the completion of the project will result in an integrated project archive, which it is envisaged will be deposited with the South Ribble Museum in Leyland;
- *Publication:* appropriate dissemination of the results obtained from the analytical phase of the project will be required. As a minimum, a paper will be prepared for publication in an appropriate academic journal(s). It is proposed that an account of the Roman road from Wigan to Walton-le-Dale, presenting the evidence obtained from the excavation at Cuerden, coupled with the results from another recent excavation of the same road at Ashton-in-Makerfield, near Wigan, will be prepared for publication in Britannia. An article presenting the results of the analysis of the medieval and post-medieval ceramics will be prepared for publication in *Medieval Ceramics* and / or *Post Medieval Archaeology*;
- *Information board:* it is suggested that the results obtained from the analysis of the archaeological dataset could be used to inform the production of an historical information board. This should be a permanent installation on the site, and should be designed to inform the public of the heritage of the site.

10. Method Statement

10.1 Programme Structure

The post-excavation programme, designed to fulfil the research aims outlined in *Section 9*, will be divided into the following stages:

- full cataloguing of any data representatively sampled;
- analysis;
- synthesis;
- preparation of draft text and illustrative material;
- publication;
- archive deposition.

10.2 Management, Monitoring and Review

Task 1: management and monitoring tasks have been built into the project. These tasks will include project monitoring, advice and co-ordination, problem solving, and conducting meetings with project staff and all interested external parties.

Reviews of the project will include both the specialists and the Salford Archaeology staff who are undertaking the analysis, and will provide an opportunity for all involved to present and receive information, to discuss the research aims, and permit an exchange of ideas. All specialists will be consulted following editing and prior to publication of their reports. In addition, there will be regular project review meetings at appropriate intervals throughout the preparation of the report.

10.3 Stratigraphy, Analysis and Synthesis

Task 2: the stratigraphic data will need to be studied in greater detail in order to refine the provisional phasing. More detailed structural analysis will be undertaken on complex features. Existing matrices will require assimilation into one overall matrix for each investigation area, showing the amended periods and sub-phasing.

Once the data from all the areas have been analysed and a stratigraphic narrative completed, it will be possible to prepare phase plans. Such phase plans are a prerequisite for specialist analysis of the relevant artefact assemblages. Analysis and synthesis of the results of specialist analysis of some classes of finds, and especially the pottery, will, however, contribute to the site phasing.

The site will be considered in relation to other known archaeological sites in the area and in relation to its wider landscape and regional context. This will involve an element of library-based research and cartographic regression analysis.

10.4 Processing and Transport of Artefact Assemblage

Task 3: at an early stage in the analytical programme, arrangements will be made to transport all relevant assemblages to the appropriate specialists to facilitate analysis and reporting of the material. Conversely, on the completion of this work, material will need to be received from the specialist, and checked against database records.

10.5 Digital Data in the Analysis Phase

Task 4: at the start of the fieldwork in 2018, a basic Microsoft *Excel* database was set up to record finds and archaeological contexts, along with a CAD environment, in which all plans and sections could be placed to produce a composite view of the site.

Digital photographs: links to digital photographs will be embedded within the database where appropriate.

CAD Drawings: the majority of the fieldwork plans have been digitised to aid this assessment. However, in order that a detailed analytical text of the stratigraphic information can be produced, phase drawings, sections and other relevant illustrations, as required, will be drafted. These will provide detailed information on the periods and sub-phases of the site, and will indicate stratigraphically related groups. The draft text and phase drawings will form the basis both of the summary information to be supplied to specialists and of the stratigraphic section of the final published report.

10.6 Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery

Tasks 5: all the medieval pottery recovered from the site will be classified by fabric and quantified by weight and sherd count, detailed catalogues produced by means of the production of a database, and illustrated form and fabric series will be prepared for publication. Comparative material will be studied and a full bibliography will be compiled. Material for illustration will be selected and catalogued.

Further study of the pottery, with detailed identification of the fabrics and forms, will be crucial to refining the dating of the medieval occupational sequence, whilst analysis of the distribution of pottery types may disclose patterns of use across the site. Analysis of context groups will also allow changes in supply through time to be mapped, facilitating discussion of the significance of trade in material originating from outside the region, as well as regional distribution. Initial work on the ceramic assemblage suggests that it has domestic characteristics. Detailed comparison with other sites in the region will elucidate these aspects of the site and add significantly to our understanding of the precise character of the rural medieval landscape of the South Ribble district.

The pottery from stratified medieval contexts should be fully quantified by fabric and form, and by sherd count, weight and equivalent vessel estimate (EVE), and then entered onto the database. The data should include such general information as vessel class, burning, repair in antiquity and sherd joins. All the major ceramic forms from stratified contexts should be photographed, catalogued and published by context.

Discussion will be based around the significance of the assemblage as a whole to the interpretation of the site, and its implications locally and regionally. Assemblages will be compared to those from other sites in the region, including Salmesbury, Wigan, Salford and Manchester.

Post-medieval pottery recovered from the site should be subjected to the same standard of detail as that of the medieval assemblage to understand the sequence of occupation between these two periods.

10.7 Palaeo-environmental Analysis and Dating

Task 6: six of the bulk samples taken over the course of the project have been assessed for charcoal and charred plant remains (CPR). The assessment has demonstrated that there is reasonable potential for further analysis, and therefore further processing of samples should be undertaken to ensure that the full potential of the material is realised.

The analysis has the potential to provide a range of data on technological, social and economic activity of the site. It will hopefully provide information on the character of the environment and the manner in which people interacted with it.

The results of these analyses should be, integrated into the stratigraphic text. A full and accessible report, including a catalogue, will be included in the publication.

10.8 Integration of Datasets and Synthesis

Task 7: the information gathered from the analysis of the finds will be reviewed and integrated into the stratigraphic narrative. This will allow re-interpretation of the site using a thematic approach.

10.9 Illustrations

Task 8: during each part of the analytical programme, a selection will be made of appropriate material for illustration. This will include general plans and sections, phase plans, and illustrations of artefacts, as appropriate.

10.10 Production of Text and Publication

Task 9: following the completion of the analysis of the stratigraphic and artefactual evidence, an archive report will be produced. The results of the programme of archaeological works will also be synthesised and prepared for publication in a suitable academic vehicle, such as inclusion as an article(s) in national journals such as *Britannia*, *Medieval Ceramics* and / or *Post Medieval Archaeology.*

As specialist reports are received, information of relevance to the interpretation of the stratigraphic sequence will be integrated into the text. The discussion will incorporate an overview of the finds from the site. The report will be subject to internal revision, and will be submitted to all specialists after editing for their comments. It is also likely that some revision of the specialist reports will be required.

10.11 Archive Deposition

Task 10: Salford Archaeology undertakes to liaise throughout the project with the receiving museum to meet its deposition policies. On completion of the analysis, a discard policy will be implemented (*Section 7.5*). On submission of the completed text for publication, the archive will be updated as necessary and the receiving museum will be contacted to obtain the latest information on its deposition arrangements. Material in files and boxes will be checked, and indices and box lists will be compiled and appended.

The digital archive will be checked and indexed, and hard copies made of the data, if required by the recipient museum. The digital data will be accompanied by metadata, which will explain origin and accuracy.

11. Presentation of Results

11.1 Introduction

Following the analysis and interpretation of the data, the results should be placed in the public domain, in accordance with best practice. Given the importance of the material, it is anticipated that dissemination will consist of a full archive report, and synthesis as an article for publication in at least one academic journal.

11.2 Final Archive Report

It is proposed that an archive report is produced, formatted for limited distribution in paper copy to local libraries, the Lancashire County Record Office, and the Lancashire Historic Environment Record, in addition to its deposition with the site archive. This will include details of structural and stratigraphic elements of the site and associated activity, and analytical reports on the finds and palaeo-environmental sampling.

11.2.1 Archive Report Structure

A provisional breakdown of the contents of the proposed archive report is provided below. In advance of completion of the full post-excavation analysis, this synopsis can only be regarded as a draft, although it is anticipated that the archive report will work to the following general headings and content:

Summary and Acknowledgements

1 *Introduction*
- Site location
- Circumstances of project

2 *Archaeological Background*
- Documentary evidence
- Historical background

3 *Results of the Archaeological Excavations*
- Outline of the archaeological works
- Description of the development of the site

4 *The finds*
- Reports on the finds by category, with a brief comment on the significance of the overall assemblage

5 *General Discussion*
- Interpretation of the site, describing the results of the archaeological excavations and what they show about the conditions and changes through space and time within the study area

Bibliography

12. Resources and Management

12.1 Project Team

The team consists of internal Salford Archaeology staff and external consultants (Table 7). The project will be managed by Ian Miller.

Name	Organisation	Tasks
Ian Miller	Salford Archaeology	Project management; production of publication text and editing
Oliver Cook	Salford Archaeology	Stratigraphic analysis; production of publication text
Sam Rowe	Salford Archaeology	Ceramic petrology analysis and report
Richard Ker	Salford Archaeology	Illustration
Magdalen Faulds	Salford Archaeology	Archive
Charlotte O'Brien	Palalaeoenvironmental Archaeology Service, Durham University	Palaeo-environmental samples
Gordon Cook	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre	Radiocarbon assay

Table 7: Proposed project team

12.2 Management Structure

Salford Archaeology operates a project management system. The team is headed by the Project Manager, who assumes ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the Project Design and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary, or scheduling.

The Project Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Project Manager will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

Communication between all concerned in the post-excavation programme is of paramount importance and it is essential that the specialists involved liaise closely in order that comparable data are obtained. To this end, regular meetings and reviews are envisaged between all project staff and between particular groups of specialists. All information will be disseminated at regular intervals, thus ensuring that everyone is aware of current progress, strategy and thinking.

Salford Archaeology would also be able to provide updates on the progress of the work if required at regular intervals during the course of the project. To this end, a small advisory group would be convened as appropriate. Ideally, membership would comprise representatives from Lancashire County Council and the Salford Archaeology project team.

Salford Archaeology places importance on the tight and effective management of projects in order to deliver best value to our clients. An element of managerial time will be dedicated to on-going quality assurance and internal monitoring. This is part of our internal quality assurance system and ensures the prompt delivery of the agreed report or other deliverables on time and budget.

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Acknowledgements

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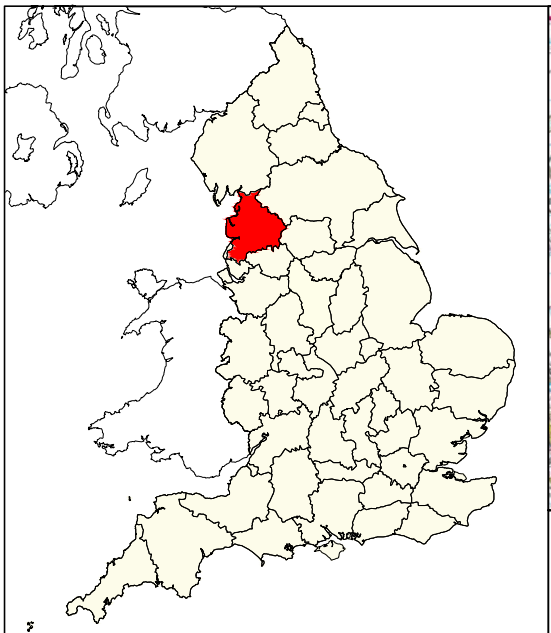
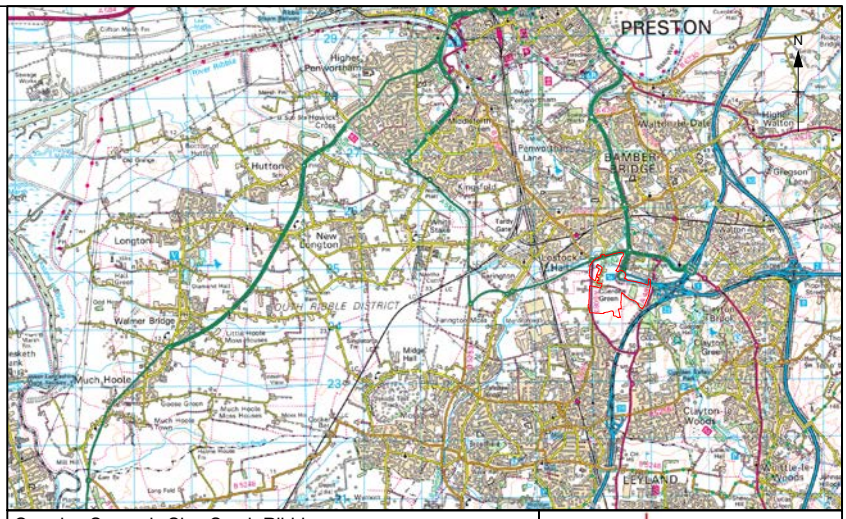
The fieldwork was directed by Oliver Cook and Andrew Radford with assisted by Katie Harvey, Rob Haworth and Lorraine McVinnie. Metal detecting was conducted by Russ Neale. The site survey was completed by Oliver Cook and Andrew Radford. The illustrations were produced by Richard Ker.

The report was compiled by Oliver Cook, with contributions from Ian Miller and Sam Rowe. The report was edited by Ian Miller, who was also responsible for project management.

Appendix 1: Figures



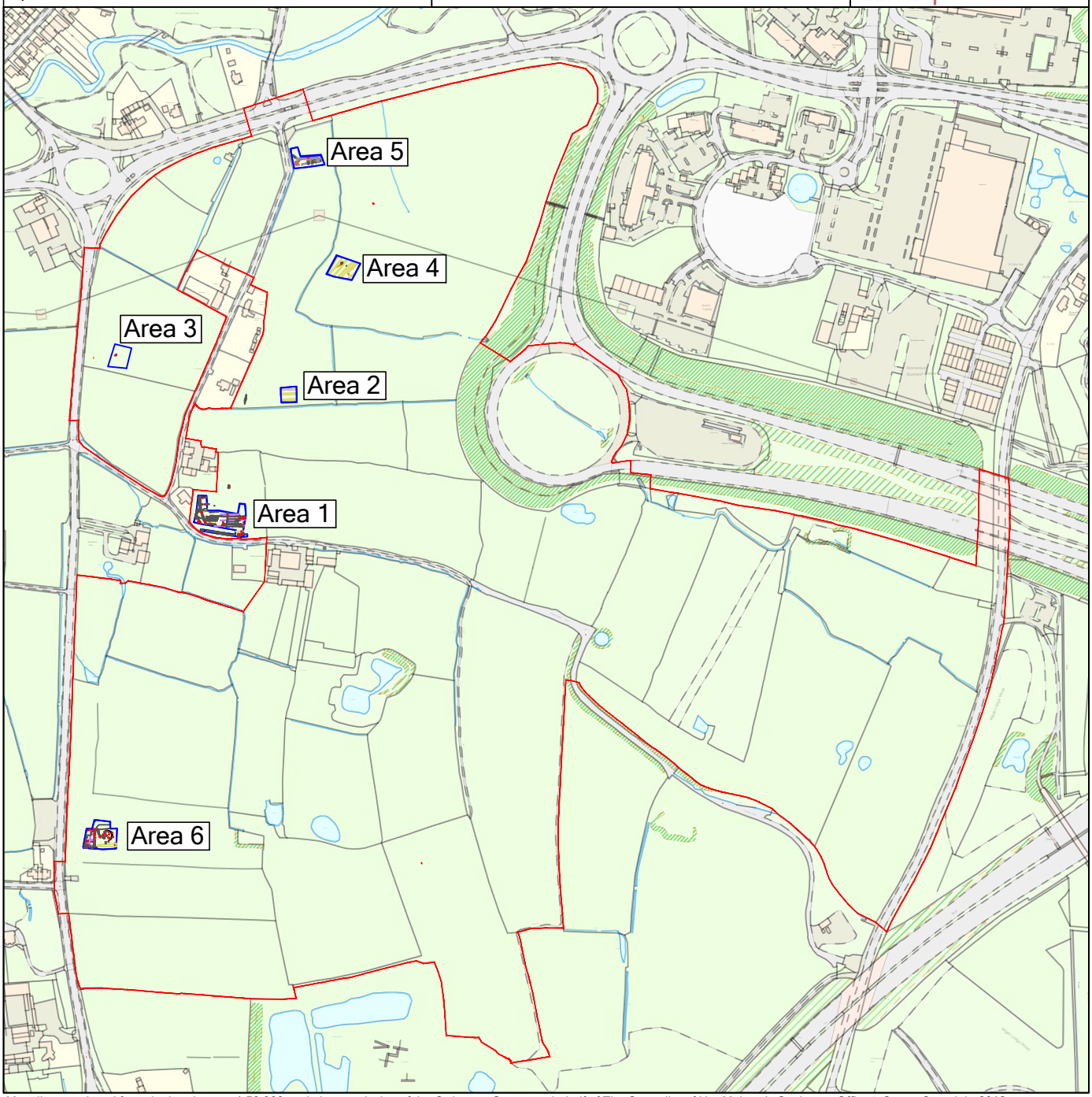


Cuerden Strategic Site, South Ribble

Site location

University of Salford MANCHESTER

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY



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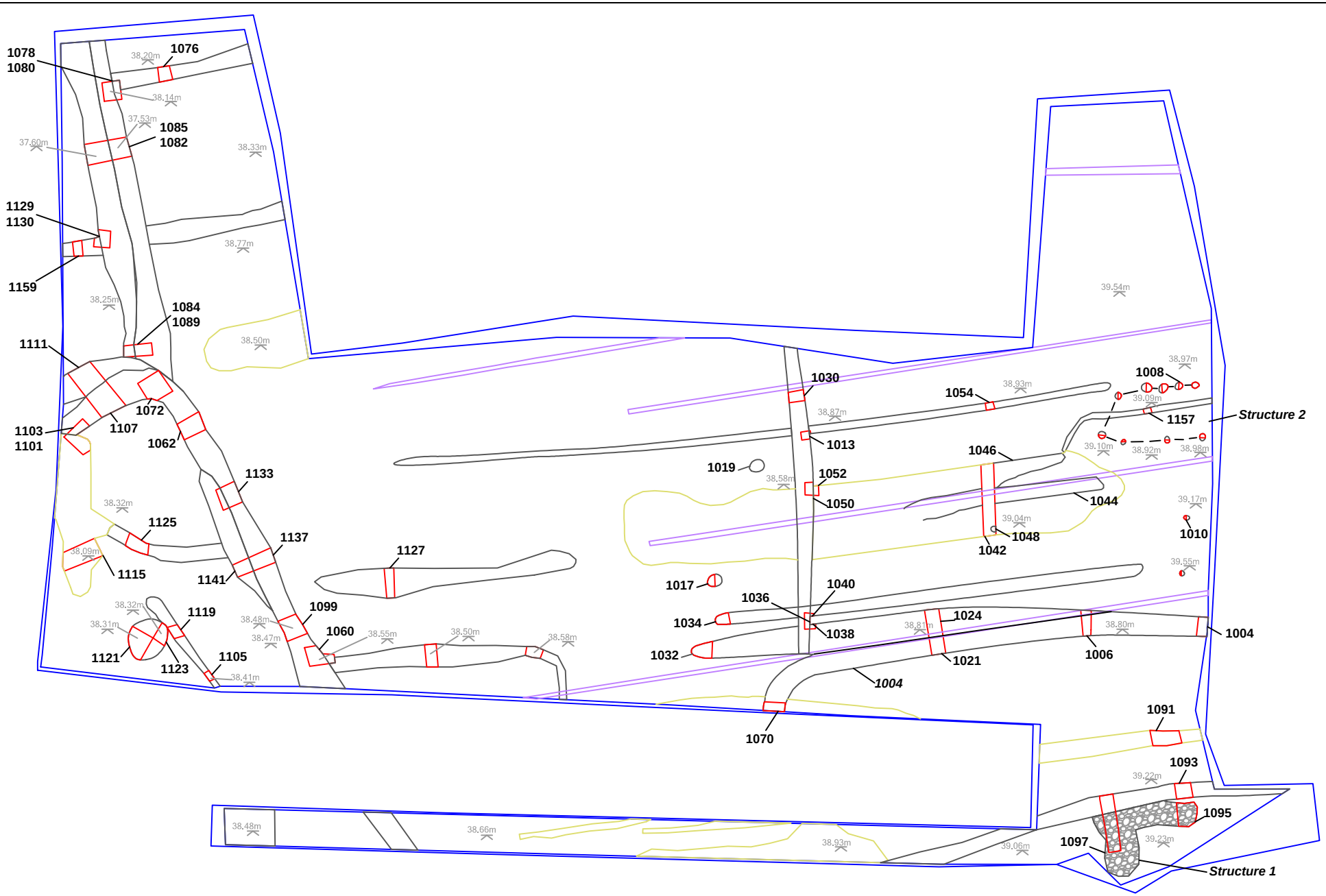
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Furrow
Intervention / sondage
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ARCHAEOLOGY
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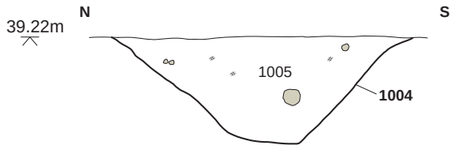
Drawing 1



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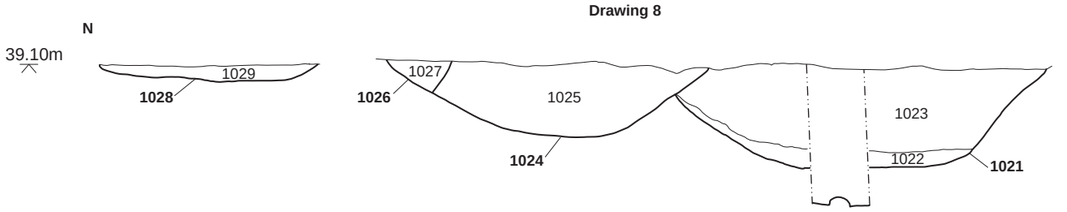

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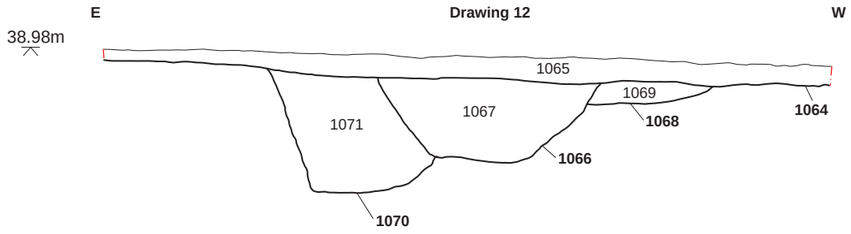

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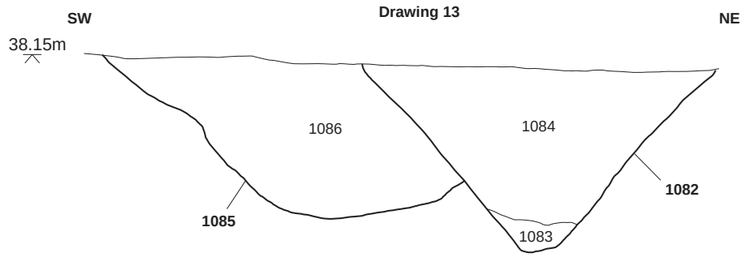

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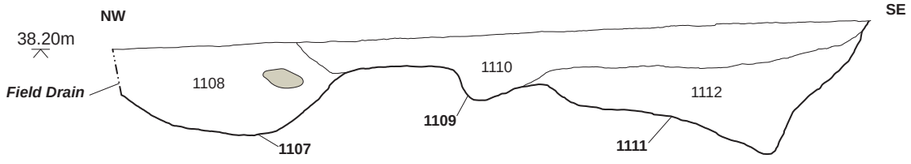

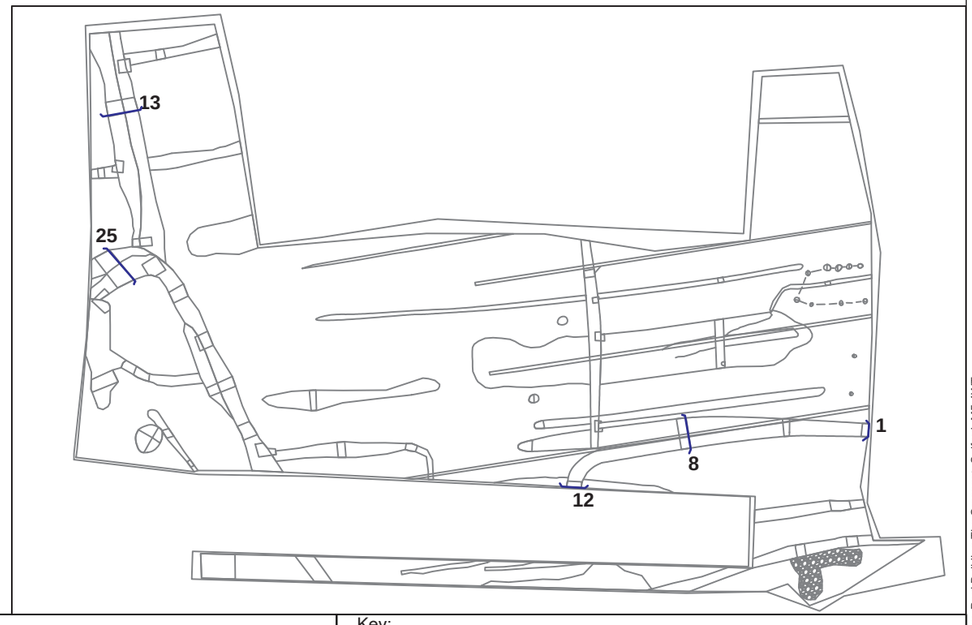

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Cuerden Strategic Sites, South Ribble

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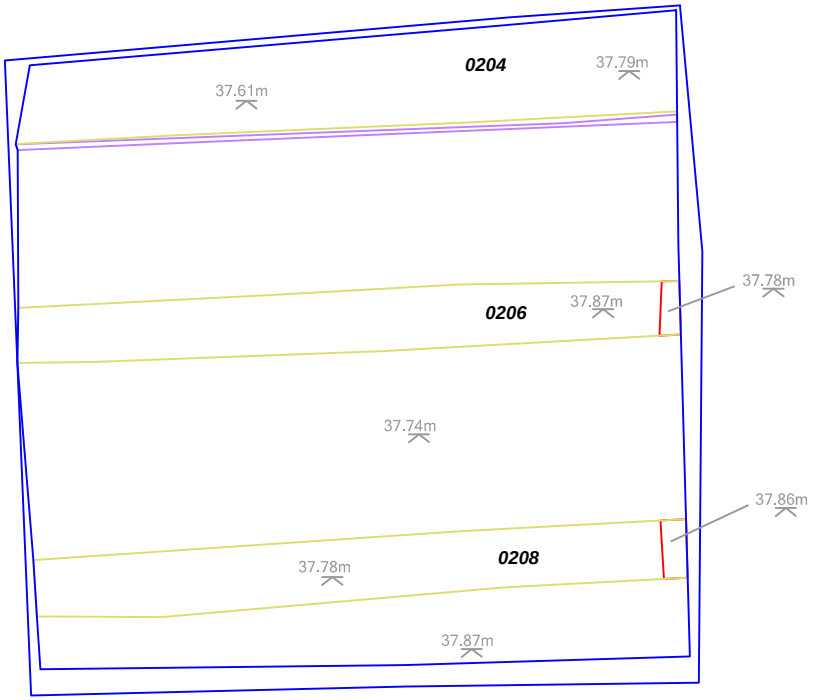

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Cuerden Strategic Sites, South Ribble

Area 2 archaeological excavation

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Key:

Intervention / sondage

Area of excavation

Field drain

Furrow

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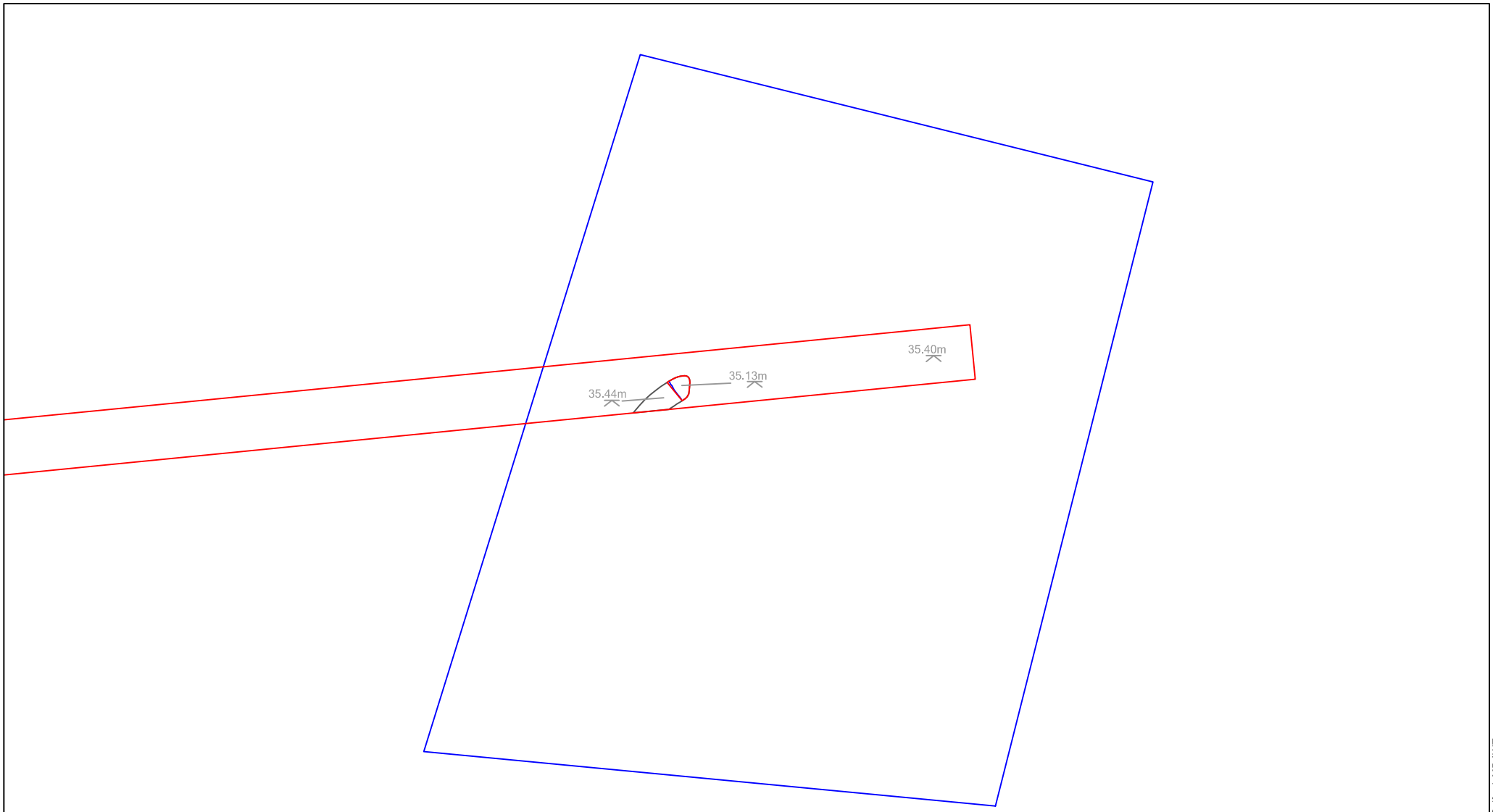

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Cuerden Strategic Sites, South Ribble

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- Archaeological excavation

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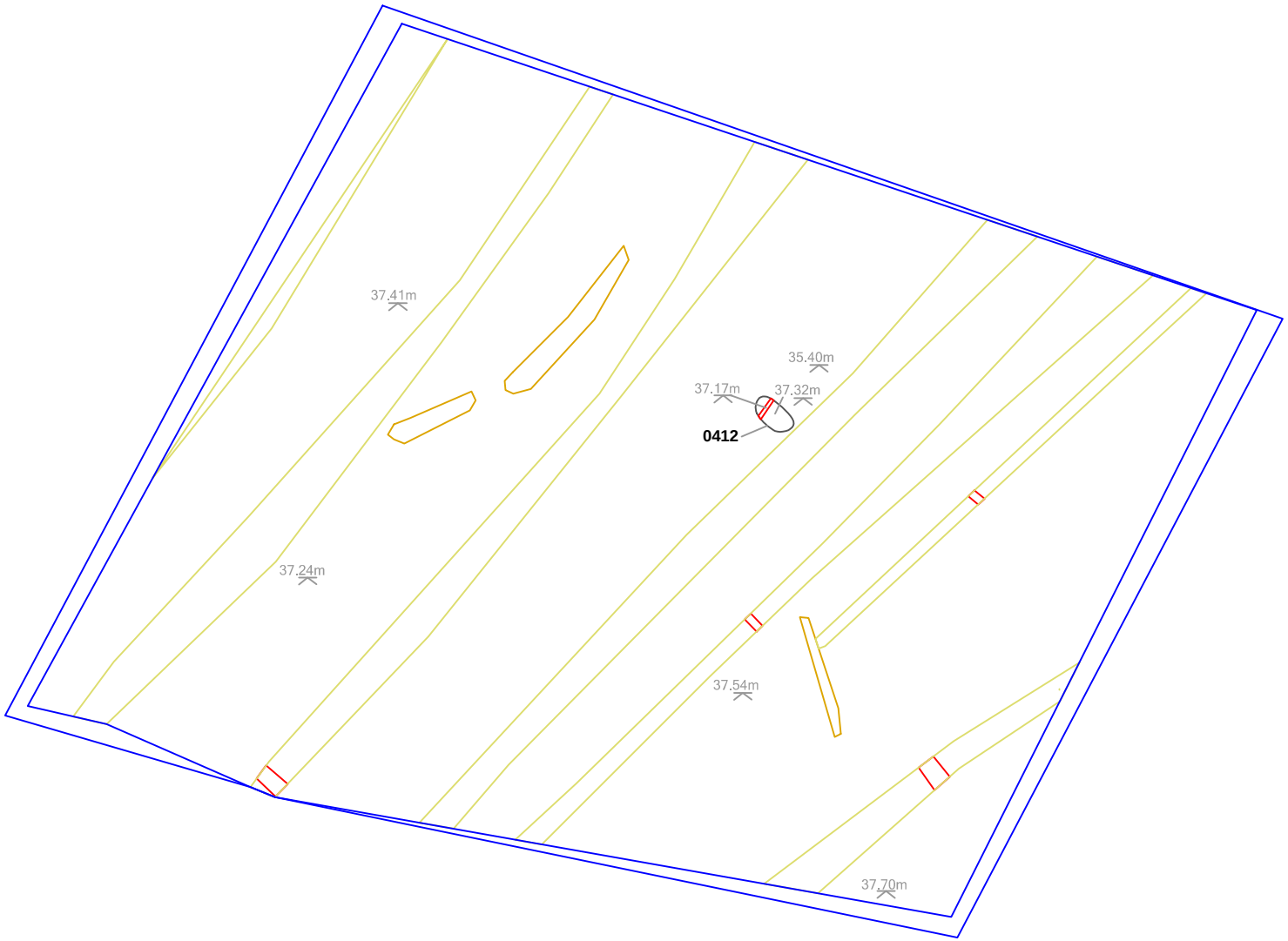

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Cuerden Strategic Sites, South Ribble

Area 4 archaeological excavation

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- Feature
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- Geology

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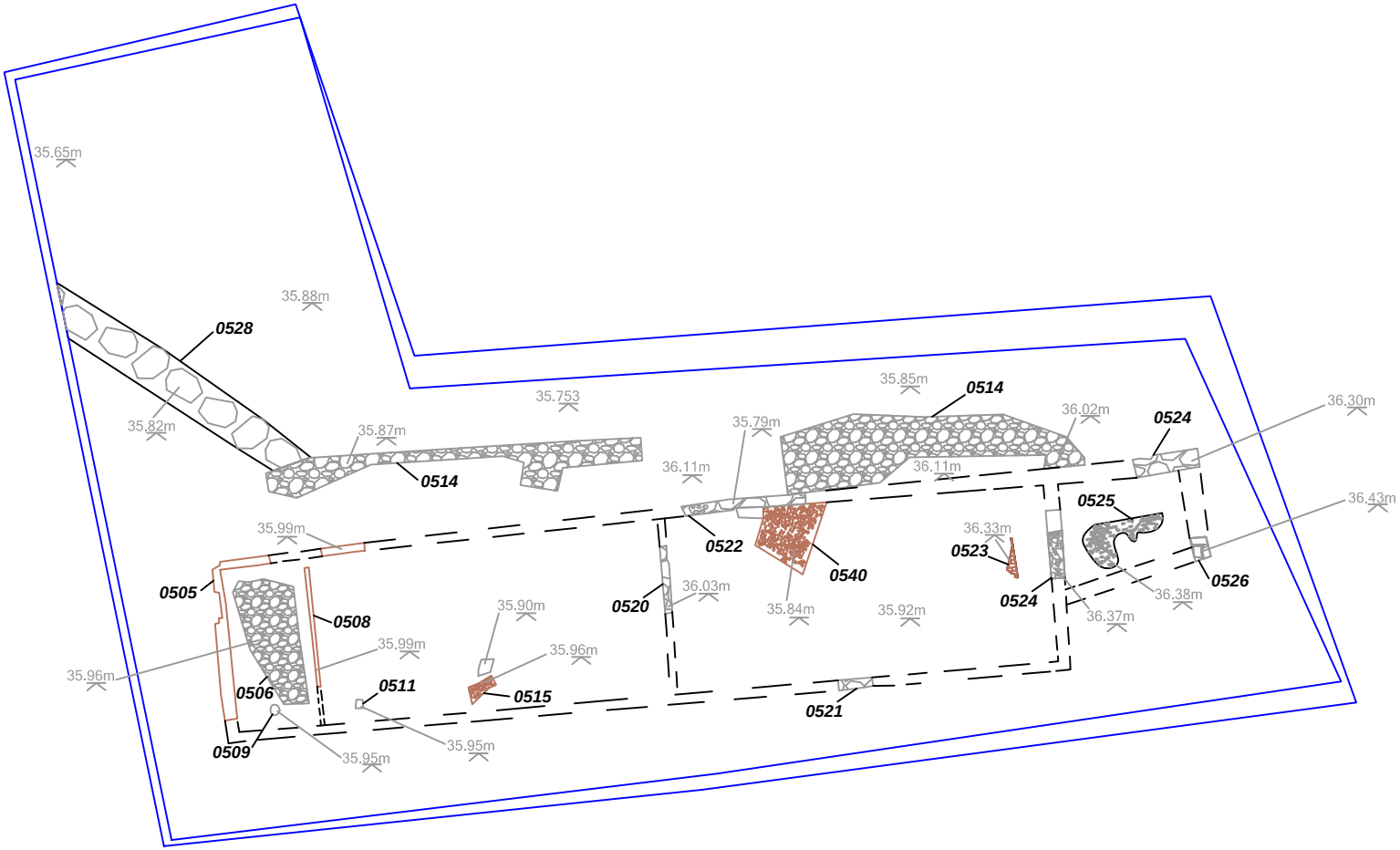

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Cuerden Strategic Sites, South Ribble

Area 5 archaeological excavation

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Key:

- Feature
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- Stone / stonewall

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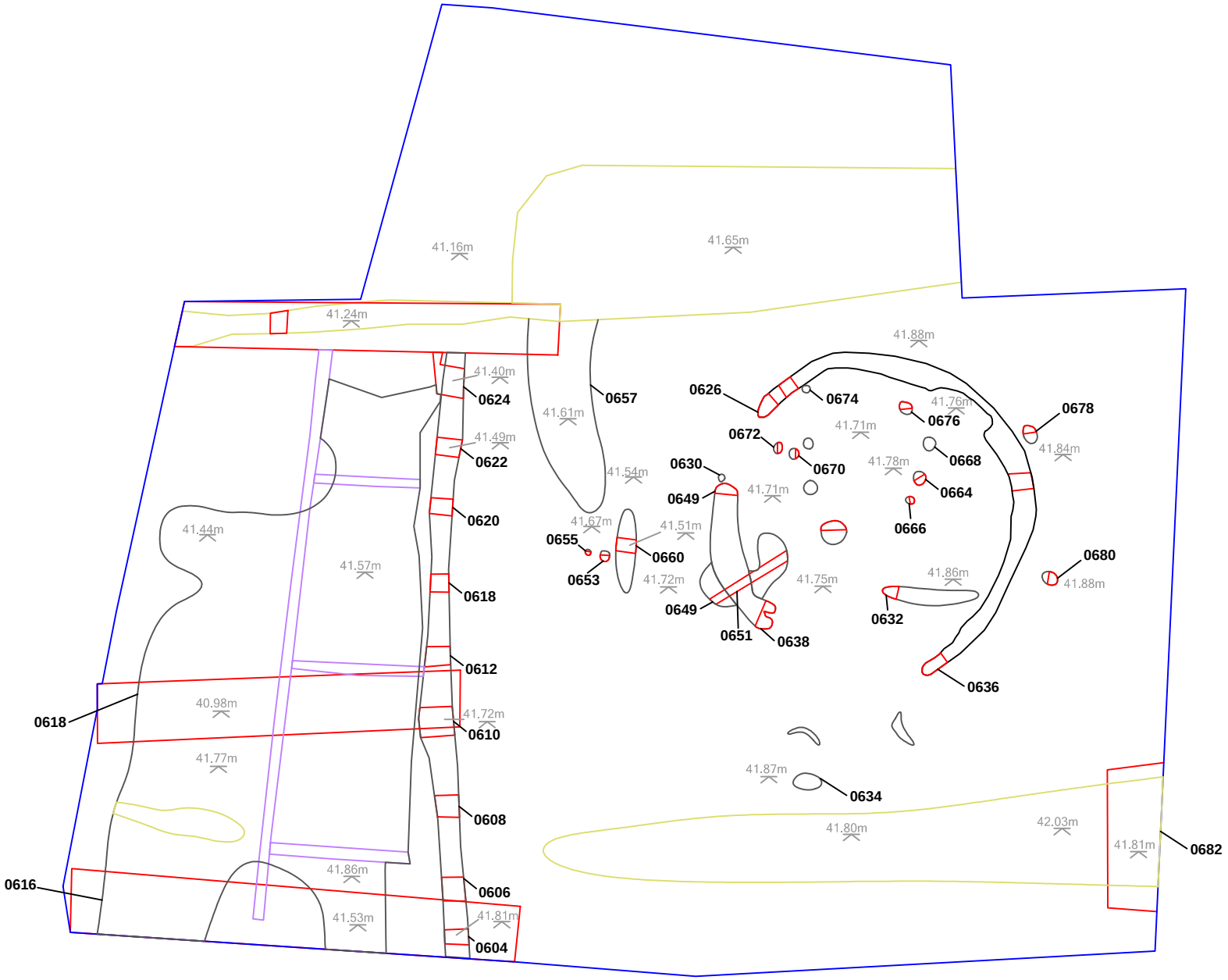

SA SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

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Scale at A4 1:200

Cuerden Strategic Sites, South Ribble

Area 6 archaeological excavation

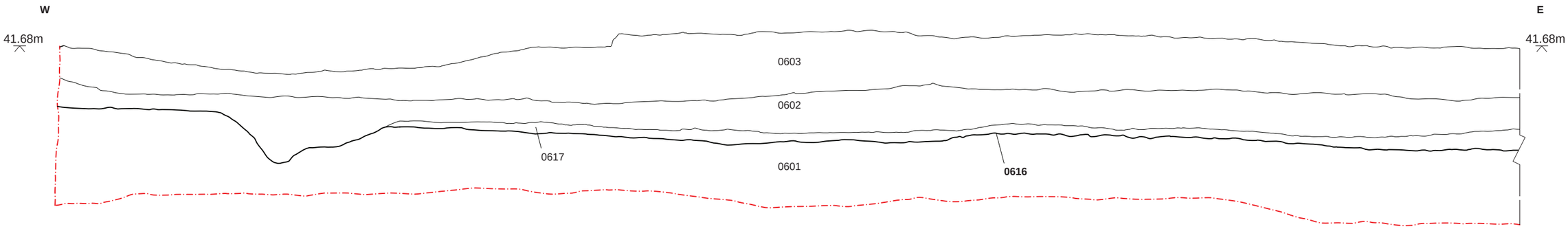
N

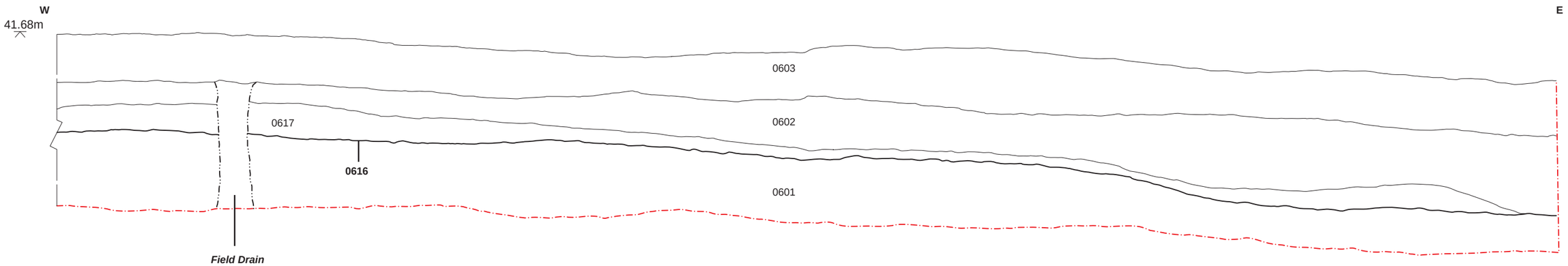
Key:

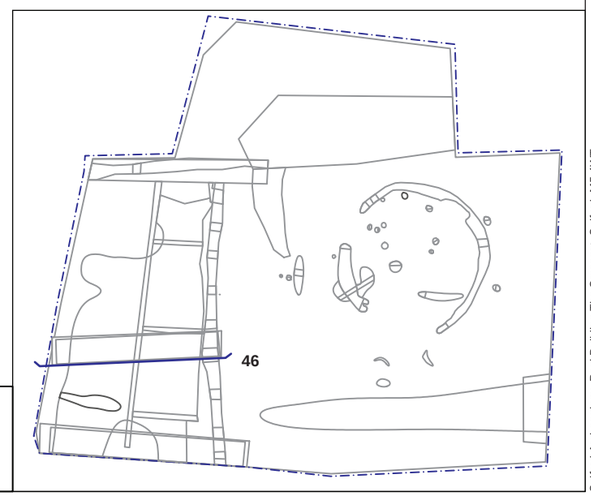
- Area of excavation
- Feature
- intervention / site boundary
- Field drain
- Furrow

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

Drawing 46







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Cuerden Strategic Sites, South Ribble

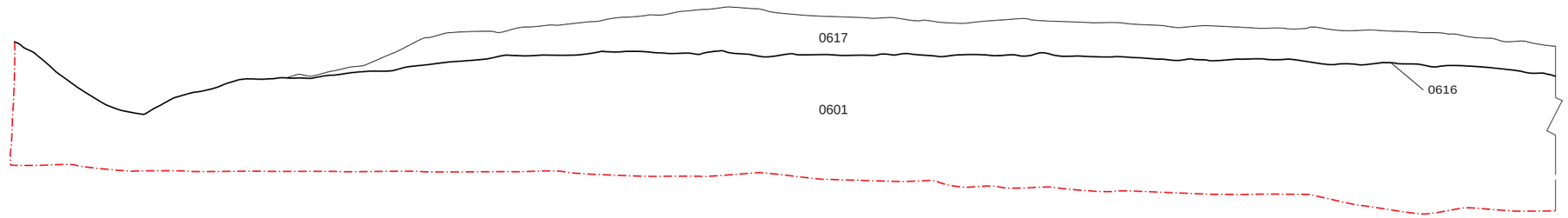
North facing section through Roman road

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

Drawing 44

W

E



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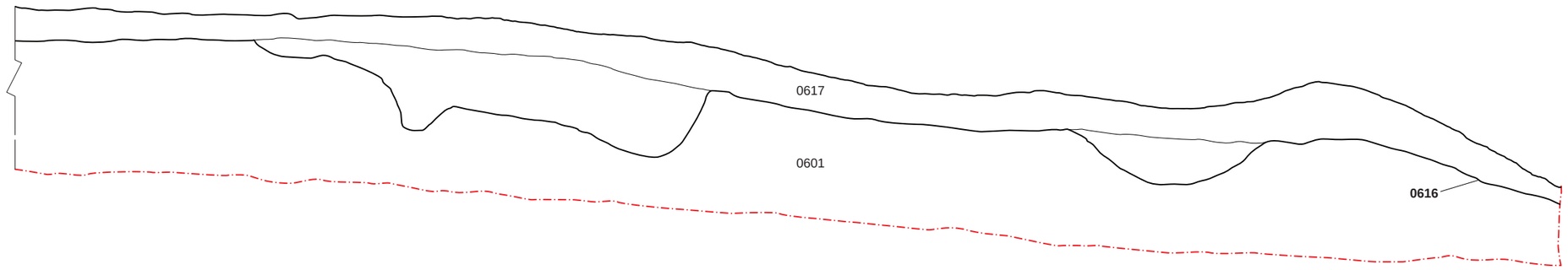

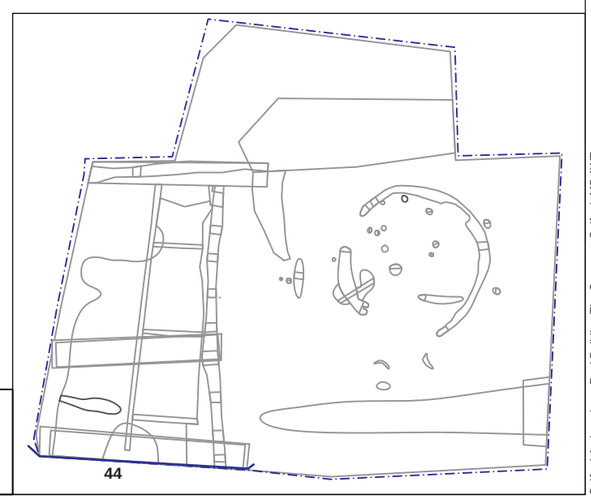

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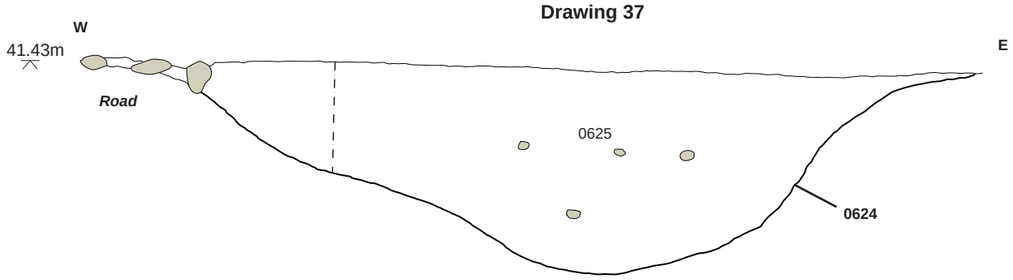
Title:

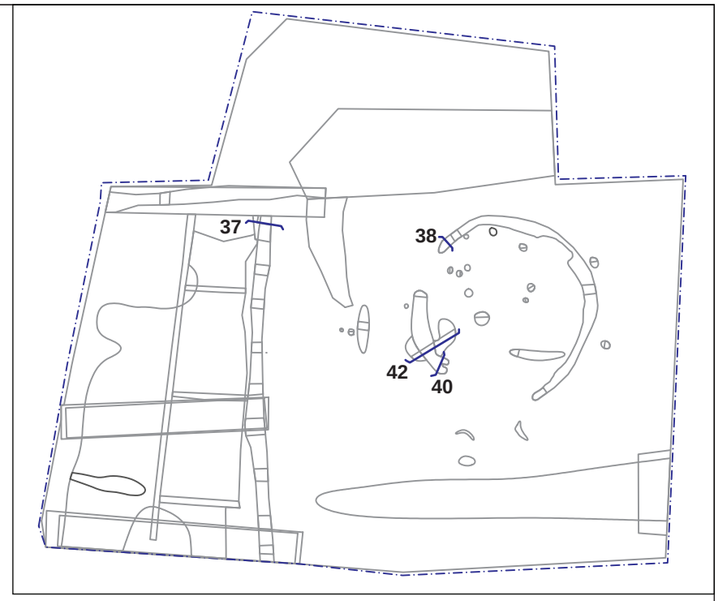
Cuerden Strategic Sites, South Ribble

North facing section through Roman road

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

Drawing 37





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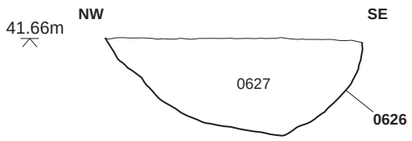

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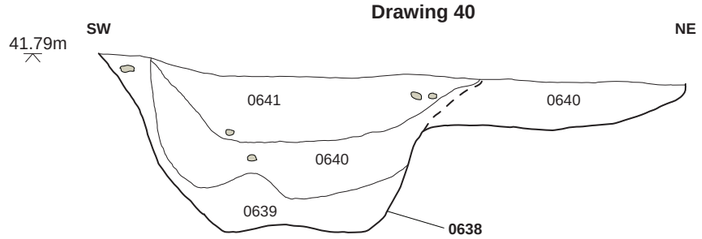
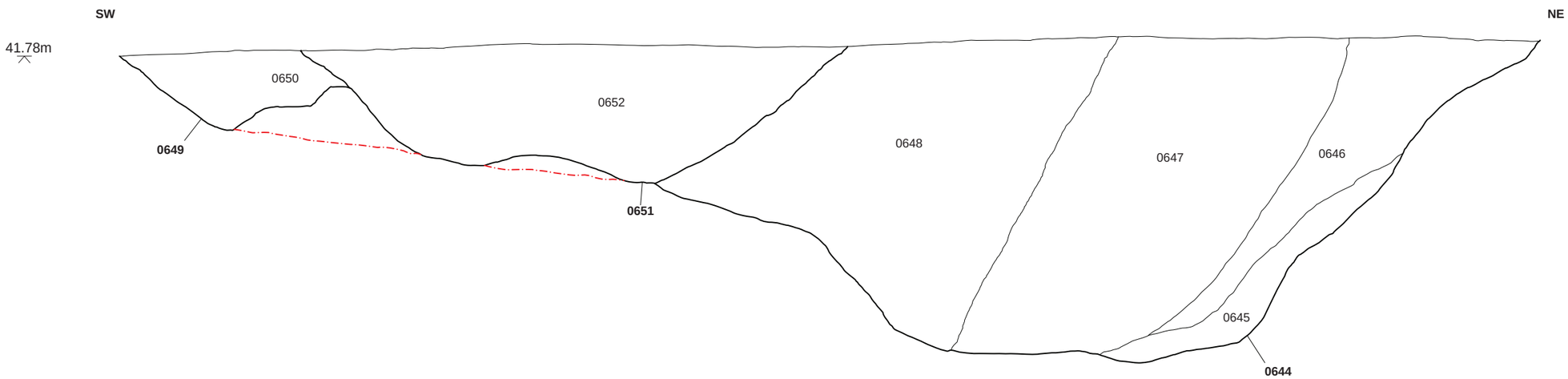


Drawing 42



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Cuerden Strategic Sites, South Ribble

Area 6 sections

Key:

Stone

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

Appendix 2: Context List

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type
Area 1			
1001	-	Layer	Topsoil
1002	-	Layer	Subsoil
1003	-	Layer	Natural geology
1004	***1004***	Cut	Ditch
1005	***1004***	Fill	Ditch
1006	***1006***	Cut	Ditch
1007	***1006***	Fill	Ditch
1008	***1008***	Cut	Post-hole
1009	***1008***	Fill	Fill
1010	***1010***	Cut	Post-hole
1011	***1010***	Fill	Fill
1012	***1006***	Fill	Fill
1013	***1013***	Cut	Gully
1014	***1013***	Fill	Fill
1015	***1015***	Cut	Ditch
1016	***1015***	Fill	Fill
1017	***1017***	Cut	Pit
1018	***1017***	Fill	Fill
1019	***1019***	Cut	Pit
1020	***1019***	Fill	Fill
1021	***1021***	Cut	Ditch
1022	***1021***	Fill	Fill
1023	***1021***	Fill	Fill
1024	***1024***	Cut	Ditch
1025	***1024***	Fill	Fill
1026	***1026***	Cut	Gully
1027	***1026***	Fill	Fill
1028	***1028***	Cut	Gully
1029	***1028***	Fill	Fill
1030	***1030***	Cut	Ditch
1031	***1030***	Fill	Fill
1032	***1032***	Cut	Ditch
1033	***1032***	Fill	Fill
1034	***1034***	Cut	Furrow
1035	***1034***	Fill	Fill
1036	***1036***	Cut	Gully
1037	***1036***	Fill	Fill
1038	***1038***	Cut	Ditch
1039	***1038***	Fill	Fill
1040	***1040***	Cut	Furrow

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type
Area 1			
1041	***1040***	Fill	Fill
1042	***1042***	Cut	Furrow
1043	***1042***	Fill	Fill
1044	***1044***	Cut	Furrow
1045	***1044***	Fill	Fill
1046	***1046***	Cut	Furrow
1047	***1046***	Fill	Fill
1048	***1048***	Cut	Posthole
1049	***1048***	Fill	Fill
1050	***1050***	Cut	Gully
1051	***1050***	Fill	Fill
1052	***1052***	Cut	Furrow
1053	***1052***	Fill	Fill
1054	***1054***	Cut	Gully
1055	***1054***	Fill	Fill
1056	***1056***	Cut	Gully
1057	***1056***	Fill	Fill
1058	***1058***	Cut	Gully
1059	***1058***	Fill	Fill
1060	***1060***	Cut	Ditch
1061	***1060***	Fill	Fill
1062	***1062***	Cut	Ditch
1063	***1062***	Fill	Fill
1064	***1064***	Cut	Furrow
1065	***1064***	Fill	Fill
1066	***1066***	Cut	Ditch
1067	***1066***	Fill	Fill
1068	***1068***	Cut	Gully
1069	***1068***	Fill	Fill
1070	***1070***	Cut	Enclosure
1071	***1070***	Fill	Fill
1072	***1072***	Cut	Ditch
1073	***1072***	Fill	Fill
1074	***1074***	Cut	Furrow
1075	***1074***	Fill	Fill
1076	***1076***	Cut	Gully
1077	***1076***	Fill	Fill
1078	***1078***	Cut	Gully
1079	***1078***	Fill	Fill
1080	***1080***	Cut	Ditch
1081	***1080***	Fill	Fill
1082	***1082***	Cut	Ditch
1083	***1082***	Fill	Fill
1084	***1082***	Fill	Fill
1085	***1085***	Cut	Ditch

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type
Area 1			
1086	***1085***	Fill	Fill
1087	***1087***	Cut	Ditch
1088	***1087***	Fill	Fill
1089	***1089***	Cut	Ditch
1090	***1089***	Fill	Fill
1091	***1091***	Cut	Gully
1092	***1091***	Fill	Fill
1093	***1093***	Cut	Gully
1094	***1093***	Fill	Fill
1095	***1095***	Cut	Structure
1096	***1095***	Fill	Fill
1097	***1097***	Cut	Structure
1098	***1097***	Fill	Fill
1099	***1099***	Cut	Ditch
1100	***1099***	Fill	Fill
1101	***1101***	Cut	Gully
1102	***1101***	Fill	Fill
1103	***1103***	Cut	Furrow
1104	***1103***	Fill	Fill
1105	***1105***	Cut	Drainage
1106	***1105***	Fill	Fill
1107	***1107***	Cut	Ditch
1108	***1107***	Fill	Fill
1109	***1109***	Cut	Ditch
1110	***1109***	Fill	Fill
1111	***1111***	Cut	Gully
1112	***1111***	Fill	Fill
1113	***1113***	Cut	Furrow
1114	***1113***	Fill	Fill
1115	***1115***	Cut	Gully
1116	***1115***	Fill	Fill
1117	***1117***	Cut	Gully
1118	***1117***	Fill	Fill
1119	***1119***	Cut	Gully
1120	***1119***	Fill	Fill
1121	***1121***	Cut	Pit
1122	***1121***	Fill	Fill
1123	***1123***	Cut	Pit
1124	***1123***	Fill	Fill
1125	***1124***	Cut	Gully
1126	***1125***	Fill	Fill
1127	***1127***	Cut	Furrow
1128	***1127***	Fill	Fill
1129	***1129***	Cut	Ditch

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type
Area 1			
1130	***1130***	Cut	Ditch
1131	***1129/1130***	Fill	Fill
1132	***1129/1130***	Fill	Fill
1133	***1133***	Cut	Ditch
1134	***1133***	Fill	Fill
1135	***1135***	Cut	Furrow
1136	***1135***	Fill	Fill
1137	***1137***	Cut	Ditch
1138	***1137***	Fill	Fill
1139	***1139***	Cut	Ditch
1140	***1139***	Fill	Fill
1141	***1141***	Cut	Feature
1142	***1141***	Fill	Fill
1143	***1143***	Cut	Posthole
1144	***1143***	Fill	Fill
1145	***1145***	Cut	Posthole
1146	***1145***	Fill	Fill
1147	***1147***	Cut	Posthole
1148	***1147***	Fill	Fill
1149	***1149***	Cut	Posthole
1150	***1149***	Fill	Fill
1151	***1151***	Cut	Post
1152	***1151***	Fill	Fill
1153	***1153***	Cut	Posthole
1154	***1153***	Fill	Fill
1155	***1155***	Cut	Posthole
1156	***1155***	Fill	Fill
1157	***1157***	Cut	Gully
1158	***1157***	Fill	Fill
1159	***1159***	Cut	Gully
1160	***1159***	Fill	Fill
1161	***1161***	Cut	Ditch
1162	***1161***	Fill	Fill
1163	***1163***	Cut	Ditch
1164	***1163***	Fill	Fill
Area 2			
0201	-	Layer	Topsoil
0202	-	Layer	Subsoil
0203	-	Layer	Natural
0204	***0204***	Cut	Furrow
0205	***0204***	Fill	Fill
0206	***0206***	Cut	Furrow
0207	***0206***	Fill	Fill
0208	***0208***	Cut	Furrow
0209	***0208***	Fill	Fill

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type
Area 3			
0301	-	Layer	Topsoil
0302	-	Layer	Subsoil
0303	-	Layer	Natural
Area 4			
0401	-	Layer	Topsoil
0402	-	Layer	Subsoil
0403	-	Layer	Natural
0404	***0404***	Cut	Furrow
0405	***0404***	Fill	Fill
0406	***0406***	Cut	Furrow
0407	***0406***	Fill	Fill
0408	***0408***	Cut	Furrow
0409	***0408***	Fill	Fill
0410	***0410***	Cut	Furrow
0411	***0410***	Fill	Fill
0412	***0412***	Cut	Pit
0413	***0412***	Fill	Fill
0414	***0414***	Cut	Furrow
0415	***0414***	Fill	Fill
0416	***0416***	Cut	Furrow
0417	***0416***	Fill	Fill
0418	***0418***	Cut	Furrow
0418	***0418***	Fill	Fill
Area 5			
0501	-	Layer	Topsoil
0502	-	Layer	Subsoil
0503	-	Layer	Natural
0504	-	Structure	Wall
0505	-	Layer	Demolition
0506	-	Layer	Cobbled surface
0507	-	Structure	Wall
0508	-	Structure	Wall
0509	-	Structure	Post-pad
0510	-	Structure	Post-pad
0511	-	Structure	Post-pad
0512	***0512***	Cut	Gully
0513	***0512***	Fill	Fill
0514	-	Layer	Cobbled surface
0515	-	Layer	Brick floor
0516	***0516***	Cut	Post hole
0517	***0516***	Fill	Fill
0518	***0518***	Cut	Pit
0519	***0518***	Fill	Fill
0520	-	Structure	Wall

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type
Area 5			
0521	-	Structure	Wall
0522	-	Structure	Wall
0523	-	Structure	Wall
0524	-	Structure	Wall
0525	-	Layer	Cobbled surface
0526	-	Structure	Post-pad
0527	-	Structure	Cap stone
0528	***0528***	Cut	Drainage
0529	***0528***	Fill	Fill
0530	***0530***	Cut	Pit
0531	***0530***	Fill	Fill
0532	***0532***	Cut	Trench
0533	***0532***	Fill	Fill
0534	-	Structure	Wall
0535	***0535***	Cut	Trench
0536	***0535***	Fill	Fill
0537	-	Structure	Wall
0538	***0538***	Cut	Trench
0539	***0538***	Fill	Fill
0540	-	Layer	Brick floor
0541	-	Layer	Clay
0542	-	Layer	Trampled layer
Area 6			
0601	-	Layer	Natural
0602	-	Layer	Subsoil
0603	-	Layer	Topsoil
0604	***0604***	Cut	Ditch
0605	***0604***	Fill	Fill
0606	***0606***	Cut	Ditch
0607	***0606***	Fill	Fill
0608	***0608***	Cut	Ditch
0609	***0608***	Fill	Fill
0610	***0610***	Cut	Ditch
0611	***0610***	Fill	Fill
0612	***0612***	Cut	Ditch
0613	***0612***	Fill	Fill
0614	***0614***	Cut	Ditch
0615	***0614***	Fill	Fill
0616	***0616***	Cut	Ditch
0617	***0616***	Fill	Fill
0618	***0618***	Cut	Ditch
0619	***0618***	Fill	Fill
0620	***0620***	Cut	Ditch
0621	***0620***	Fill	Fill
0622	***0622***	Cut	Ditch
0623	***0622***	Fill	Fill

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type
Area 6			
0624	***0624***	Cut	Ditch
0625	***0624***	Fill	Fill
0626	***0626***	Cut	Gully
0627	***0626***	Fill	Fill
0628	***0628***	Cut	Gully
0629	***0628***	Fill	Fill
0630	***0630***	Cut	Posthole
0631	***0630***	Fill	Fill
0632	***0632***	Cut	Gully
0633	***0632***	Fill	Fill
0634	***0634***	Cut	Pit
0635	***0634***	Fill	Fill
0636	***0636***	Cut	Gully
0637	***0636***	Fill	Fill
0638	***0638***	Cut	Gully
0639	***0638***	Fill	Fill
0640	***0638***	Fill	Fill
0641	***0638***	Fill	Fill
0642	***0642***	Cut	Gully
0643	***0642***	Fill	Fill
0644	***0644***	Cut	Pit
0645	***0644***	Fill	Fill
0646	***0644***	Fill	Fill
0647	***0644***	Fill	Fill
0648	***0644***	Fill	Fill
0649	***0649***	Cut	Pit
0650	***0649***	Fill	Fill
0651	***0651***	Cut	Gully
0652	***0651***	Fill	Fill
0653	***0653***	Cut	Posthole
0654	***0653***	Fill	Fill
0655	***0655***	Cut	Posthole
0656	***0655***	Fill	Fill
0657	***0657***	Cut	Metalled feature
0658	-	Layer	Clay
0659	-	Layer	Metalled surface
0660	***0660***	Cut	Pit
0661	***0660***	Fill	Fill
0662	***0662***	Cut	Posthole
0663	***0662***	Fill	Fill
0664	***0664***	Cut	Posthole
0665	***0664***	Fill	Fill
0666	***0666***	Cut	Posthole
0667	***0666***	Fill	Fill
0668	***0668***	Cut	Posthole

Context	Cut	Category	Feature Type
Area 6			
0669	***0668***	Fill	Fill
0670	***0670***	Cut	Posthole
0671	***0670***	Fill	Fill
0672	***0672***	Cut	Posthole
0673	***0673***	Fill	Fill
0674	***0674***	Cut	Posthole
0675	***0674***	Fill	Fill
0676	***0676***	Cut	Posthole
0677	***0676***	Fill	Fill
0678	***0678***	Cut	Posthole
0679	***0678***	Fill	Fill
0680	***0680***	Cut	Posthole
0681	***0680***	Fill	Fill
0682	***0682***	Cut	Furrow
0683	***0682***	Fill	Fill
0684	***0684***	Cut	Ditch
0685	***0684***	Fill	Fill
0686	-	Layer	Gravel

Appendix 3: Census Data

1841 (Lancashire, Leyland, District 9, HO107/526/9)				
Address	**Name**	**Age**	**Profession**	**Where Born**
Lower Green	William Walmsley	65	Weaver	-
Lower Green	Thomas Eastham	30	Brick Moulder	-
Lower Green	Joseph Brewer	70	School Master	-
Lower Green	William Kenyon	35	Cotton Dresser	-
Stoney Lane	Richard Wearden	65	Weaver	-
Stoney Lane	Joseph Goulding	45	Farmer	-
1851 (Lancashire Cuerden, District 3, HO107/2262)				
Address	**Name**	**Age**	**Profession**	**Where Born**
School Lane	James Amond	35	Grocer	Walton le Dale
School Lane	William ?Kenyon	47	?	Walton le Dale
School Lane	Thomas Eastham	42	Tile Maker	Walton le Dale
Blackhurst	John Walmsley	39	Farmer of 38 acres	Walton le Dale
Cuerden School	James Altham	38	School Master	Downham
1861 (Lancashire, Cuerden, District 14, RG9/3117)				
Address	**Name**	**Age**	**Profession**	**Where Born**
Pinfold House	Thomas Eastham	51	Agricultural Labourer	Walton le Dale
School Lane	Richard Wilding	42	Cotton Spinner	Walton le Dale
School Lane	John Clarkson	59	Cotton Handloom Weaver	Longton
Stoney Lane House	Henry Cliffe	35	Farmer of 54 acres	Bretherton
Blackhursts	John Walmsley	48	Farmer of 35 acres	Walton le Dale
1871 (Lancashire, Cuerden, District 15, RG10/4195)				
Address	**Name**	**Age**	**Profession**	**Where Born**
Pinfold House	Thomas Eastham	63	Cotton Weaver	Walton le Dale
Stoney Lane [?cottage]	Isabella Waring	77	-	Farington
Stoney Lane House	Henry Cliffe	45	Farmer of 53 acres	Bretherton
Blackhursts	Nicholas Cliffe	77	Farmer of 54 acres	Hutton
School Lane	William Higham	36	Greengrocer	Ulnes Walton
School	James Altham	58	School Master	Downham

1881 (Lancashire, Cuerden, District 15, RG11/4216)				
Address	**Name**	**Age**	**Profession**	**Where Born**
Stoney Lane Farm	Henry Cliffe	55	Farmer of 53 acres	Bretherton
Cottage in Stoney Lane	Isabella Wareing	87	-	Leyland
Unihabited	-	-	-	-
Blackhurst	Margaret Cliffe	61	Farming 34 acres	Bretherton
Pinfold Cottage	John Bradley	38	Pointsman (Railway)	Preston
School House	James Altham	68	School Master	Downham
School Lane Cottage	Richard Bennett	45	Railway Plate Layer	Leyland
1891				
Address	**Name**	**Age**	**Profession**	**Where Born**
Blackhurst Farm	William Eastham	54	Farmer	Garstang
Stoney Lane Farm	Robert Bennett	35	Farmer	Leyland
Stoney Lane Cottage	William Hebblethwaite	27	Railway Stoker	Manchester
Walmsley Farm	Joseph Lancaster	59	Farmer	Blackburn
Cuerden Schoolhouse	John Mattison	56	Schoolmaster	Preston
1901 (Lancashire, Cuerden, District 8, RG13/3932)				
Address	**Name**	**Age**	**Profession**	**Where Born**
Cuerden School	Robert Arthur Holden	25	Schoolmaster	Norton, Derbyshire
Walmsley Farm	Joseph Lancaster	69	Farmer	Blackburn
Stoney Lane Cottage	Thomas Davies	33	Locomotive Stoker	Horsehay, Shropshire
Stoney Lane Farm	Henry Maudsley	44	Farmer	Clitheroe
Woodcock and Banister Farm	Hugh Bretherton	54	Farmer	Clayton le Woods
1911 (Lancashire, Cuerden, District 12)				
Address	**Name**	**Age**	**Profession**	**Where Born**
Walmsley Farm	Ephraim Livesey	60	Farmer	Bamber Bridge
Stoney Lane Cottage	James Lucas	31	Coachman	Blackpool
Stoney Lane Farm	Henry Maudsley	53	Farmer	Clitheroe
Stoney Lane Farm	Thomas Reynolds Nelson	33	Joiners Labourer	Lathom
Blackhurst Farm	Hugh Bretherton	65	Farmer	Clayton-le-Woods

Appendix 4: Written Scheme of Investigation

Cuerden Strategic Site, South Ribble, Lancashire

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation at the Cuerden Strategic Site, South Ribble, Lancashire

Project Name:	Cuerden Strategic Site, South Ribble, Lancashire
Project Code:	TBC
Site Location:	The site lies to the north-west of the village of Cuerden in Central Lancashire. The site is an irregular shape, bounded by Stanifield Lane (A5083) to the west, the A582 to the north, and the M65 terminus and Wigan Road to the east
Planning Ref:	07/2017/0211/ORM
NGR:	SD 55526 24603
Document Title:	Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation at the Cuerden Strategic Site, South Ribble, Lancashire
Document Type:	Written Scheme of Investigation
Version:	Version 1.0
Prepared for:	Lancashire County Developments Ltd and Maple Grove Development Ltd

Contact:	Ian Miller, Salford Archaeology, Centre for Applied Archaeology, University of Salford, Peel Building, Salford, Greater Manchester, M5 4DW
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Author:	Ian Miller	
Position:	Assistant Director	
Date:	24th March 2017	

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1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

Lancashire County Council Developments Ltd and Maple Grove Development Ltd has submitted a planning application for a major mixed-use development at Cuerden, in the Central Lancashire borough of South Ribble. The study area extends to 65 hectares and comprises land to the south of the M65, to the west of A49 Wigan Road, and east of Stanifield Lane, near Cuerden in Lancashire (centred on NGR SD 55526 24603). The hybrid planning application comprises detailed (full) submission for retail floorspace (Use Classes A1 & A3) and associated car parking, site access, highway works and strategic landscaping, together with outline submission for employment floorspace (Use Classes B1, B2 & B8), hotel (Use Class C1), health and fitness and leisure (Use Class D2), crèche/nursery (Use Class D1), retail (Use Classes A1, A2, A3, A4 & A5), car showrooms (Use Class Sui Generis), residential (Use Classes C2 & C3) and provision of associated car parking, access, public open space, landscaping and other works (Planning Ref: 07/2017/0211/ORM).

The planning application was supported by a raft of documentation, which included an archaeological desk-based assessment, produced by Salford Archaeology in 2016. This concluded that the proposed scheme will necessitate earth-moving works that have potential to impact on any below-ground remains of archaeological interest that may survive across the site. Whilst any buried remains of known sites will pertain to remains of local archaeological interest, it was concluded that the foundations of a medieval/post-medieval cottage/farmstead could potentially be of slightly greater interest. Several cropmarks were also identified, the significance of which could not be determined adequately from desk-based sources. In addition, two options of the route of a Roman road between the fort at Wigan and the industrial settlement at Walton-le-Dale are projected along the western and eastern edges of the site. It was thus concluded that further archaeological investigation was merited in advance of development to determine the extent, date and significance of the sites of potential archaeological interest, in accordance with the guidance provided by the *National Planning Policy Framework: Section 12*.

The conclusions drawn from the desk based study were accepted by South Ribble Borough Council (SRBC) taking into account advice from their archaeological advisors at the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service (LAAS). On this basis, SRBC resolved to put in place planning conditions requiring further archaeological investigation to take place in line with the recommendations of the desk-based assessment. Lancashire County Developments Ltd therefore commissioned Salford Archaeology to undertake an appropriate programme of archaeological evaluation, which was intended to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains, and thus inform a strategy to offset the impact of development on the below-ground archaeological resource. The evaluation was carried out in January 2018, and comprised the excavation of 15 trenches, which were targeted on the sites of potential archaeological interest that were identified in the desk-based assessment.

The results obtained from the evaluation demonstrated the survival of a suite of structural remains relating to the former Pinfold House, a medieval/post-medieval farmstead, together with several negative features of post-medieval date. The trenching of known or suspected cropmarks also produced positive results. The presence of ditches and gullies attest to ancient field systems, which diverge from the existing pattern of field boundaries. Such features appeared on the basis of their typology and stratigraphy to pre-date the medieval/post-medieval enclosures and, significantly, may potentially represent prehistoric activity or settlement in the area. Whilst it was not considered that any of these remains are of national importance that would necessitate preservation *in-situ*, the conclusion drawn from the initial evaluation trenching was that features encountered in the excavated trenches are considered to be of high local/borough or regional significance, particularly those features of potential prehistoric origin. In order to offset the harm of development on the archaeological resource of the site, it would thus be appropriate to implement a further stage of intrusive archaeological excavation in advance of development.

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) allows for an appropriate programme of archaeological excavation, which will comprise a 'strip and record' excavation of six areas across the site where potential remains are archaeological interest have been identified. The document has been prepared by Ian Miller, Assistant Director of Salford Archaeology at the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CfAA) on behalf of Lancashire County Developments Ltd and Maple Grove Development Ltd

1.2 Purpose of the Document

An Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is a comprehensive document detailing the requirements and methodological approaches of a programme of archaeological works. It is defined by Historic England as:

'Where development will lead to the loss of a material part of the significance of a heritage asset, policy HE12.3 [of PPS5, now paragraph 141 of the NPPF] requires local planning authorities to ensure that developers take advantage of the opportunity to advance our understanding of the past before the asset or the relevant part is irretrievably lost. As this is the only opportunity to do this it is important that:

1: Any investigation is carried out to professional standards and to an appropriate level of detail proportionate to the assets likely significance, by an organisation or individual with appropriate expertise;

2. The resultant records, artefacts and samples are analysed and, where necessary, conserved;

3: The understanding gained is made publically available;

4: An archive is created, and deposited for future research.'

1.3 National and Local Planning Policies

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2012) sets out the Government's planning policies and outlines the presumption in favour of sustainable development, which is defined by three dimensions: economic, social and environmental. Of the 12 core planning principles underpinning plan and decision making, conserving 'heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations' is one.

Section 12 specifically deals with the historic environment (paragraphs 126-41) and paragraph 128 states that local planning authorities, when determining applications, should require the applicant to describe the significance of any affected heritage assets. This should be sufficient so as to understand the potential impact on their significance and this should be done using the appropriate expertise where necessary. Paragraph 135 indicates that the effect of the proposal on non-designated assets (designated assets are covered in paragraphs 132-34) should be taken into account. Paragraph 141 requires developers to record and advance understanding of heritage assets to be lost, in a manner proportionate to their importance and impact.

The NPPF outlines the need for local planning policies to create local plans and frameworks to implement NPPF at a local level. South Ribble Borough Council adopted a local plan in 2015 (2012-2026), and the heritage strategy is outlined in Chapter G, Section 10 'The Historic Environment'. This summarises the approach the local authority will take in determining planning applications which may affect the historic environment. South Ribble, along with Preston and Chorley, adopted the Central Lancashire Core Strategy, which includes a more detailed policy (Policy 16) on heritage.

Core Strategy Policy 16 states that South Ribble Borough Council will:

Protect and seek opportunities to enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their settings by:

Safeguarding heritage assets from inappropriate development that would cause harm to their significances;

Supporting development or other initiatives where they protect and enhance the local character, setting, management and historic significance of heritage assets, with particular support for initiatives that will improve any assets that are recognised as being in poor condition, or at risk;

Identifying and adopting a local list of heritage assets for each Authority.

In addition, the proposed development site also had its own policy within the local plan (Policy C4 – Cuerden Strategic Site).

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1 Academic Aims

The main aim of the excavation will be to compile a detailed record of all the archaeological features/remains within each of the six areas targeted for investigation, and establish whether the linear ditch features revealed in the evaluation trenches represent ancient boundary or agricultural features, or associated with early settlement.

2.2 Objectives

The principal objectives of the archaeological investigation are:

- to expose, map and record a sufficient sample of the linear ditch features identified in Trenches 1, 3, 7, 8 and 15 to establish their date and function;
- to establish the character of a putative prehistoric antennae enclosure in the north-western part of the site (Site 11 in the Archaeological Assessment);
- to compile a detailed record of the late medieval/post-medieval farmstead identified as Pinfold House on the Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (Site 44 in the Archaeological Assessment);
- to provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the need for any additional archaeological mitigation;
- to carry out a programme of post-excavation assessment, which provides recommendations for further analysis and publication; and
- to make available the results of the work.

In addition to the objectives outlined above, the excavation has potential to inform several of the objectives outlined in the current Regional Research Framework for the North West. In particular, the excavation has potential to inform objectives for the prehistoric period that are stated in the Research Agenda, which stresses the low density of sites that have been recorded in Central Lancashire:

- *Initiative 2.30:* 'Sites that have been identified through survey require further targeted work and characterisation, accompanied by programmes of dating';
- *Initiative 2.69:* 'Many of the issues raised regarding Iron Age settlement are shared with the previous prehistoric period and relate to poor site visibility and inadequate representation across the North West as a whole' (p39-40).

There is also the potential of further work to contribute to a more nuanced comprehension of early human activity at a local level, specifically relating to the paragraphs on settlement and land use in prehistory (Brennand, 2007, 39 – 41, 51-2).

The survival of structural remains pertaining to medieval/post medieval rural settlement also has the potential to contribute to various research initiatives, ranging from household, to local and regional scales. The most relevant initiatives are laid out in *Chapter 6: Post-Medieval Agenda* in relation to rural settlement*:*

- *Initiative 6.15:* 'Excavations of abandoned farms and cottages should be a high priority, especially where the ownership or tenancy is documented, in order to study the material culture of individual households'. This is particularly relevant in view of the wealth of available documentary evidence in the form of Census Returns and historic mapping relating to Pinfold House.

In addition, the artefacts found within and around buildings hold importance in their own right:

- *Initiative 6.1:* 'The available data set should be greatly enlarged. Stratified artefact sequences from both small towns and rural settlements need to be collected, in order to establish the character of ceramic use throughout the region and to create the basis for socio-economic interpretation.'
- *Initiative 6.2*: 'Unpublished ceramic groups, especially those from areas with no previous evidence should be published as a priority. The relevant grey literature should be made generally available.'
- *Initiative 6.14:* 'Regional survey of farmstead creation and abandonment would help refine the regional settlement pattern identified by Wrathmell and Roberts, as well as improve county based characterisation programmes'.

The aims and objectives of the project will be achieved via the following stages:

- *Archaeological Excavation:* the strip and record excavation of a six open-areas, which will be targeted on the buried remains of archaeological interest that were exposed during the watching brief and initial excavation. Should this reveal a high density of archaeological remains, it is anticipated that further, more detailed excavation will be required;
- *Post-excavation and Report Production:* the site records, finds and any samples from the excavation programme outlined below will form a checked and ordered site archive as outlined in the Historic England's guideline document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE 2015). Following compilation of the project archive, a post-excavation assessment report will be produced;
- *Archive Deposition:* the results of the excavation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project;
- *Dissemination:* the information obtained from the excavation will be dissemination in a manner appropriate to the significance of the excavated remains.

3. Method Statement

3.1 Excavation Areas

The archaeological evaluation concluded that six separate parts of the site contained archaeological remains that merited further investigation in advance of the construction works required by the consented development. Most of the areas are targeted on linear ditch features, potentially of prehistoric date. These areas will be stripped of topsoil to the depth of the archaeological remains, which will be cleaned and mapped, and subject to sample excavation. The exact size of the excavation areas will be determined by the extent of the archaeological remains, although the maximum extent of each area is given below; each area will only be excavated sufficiently to enable firm conclusions to be drawn.

The excavation may reveal a low density of archaeological remains, as may be anticipated if the ditches found in the evaluation trenches represent ancient field systems. More complex remains, however, may survive if the ditches are associated with prehistoric settlement. In this instance, a further stage of more detailed and closely targeted excavation may be required. Any such additional works will be carried out in accordance with an Updated Written Scheme of Investigation, which will be devised in consultation with the Client and South Ribble Borough Council.

The excavation areas will be targeted in the north-western and western parts of the site. The precise location of these trenches will be determined by on-site conditions, and may thus be slightly different to the locations shown on Figure 1:

- Area 1 will be placed to the north of Stoney Lane, close to its junction with Old School Lane, and will be targeted on a linear ditch feature identified during the evaluation in Trench 1, corresponding to a cropmark visible on aerial photography. The area will be excavated to maximum dimensions of 60 x 20m;
- Area 2 will be placed approximately 100m to the north of Area 1, and will investigate a linear ditch feature identified during the evaluation in Trench 3. The area will be excavated to maximum dimensions of 40 x 20m;
- Area 3 will be opened adjacent to the western boundary of the site, and will investigate another linear ditch feature identified during the evaluation in Trench 7. The area will be excavated to maximum dimensions of 60 x 20m;
- Area 4 will be placed across the putative antennae enclosure in the north-western part of the site;
- Area 5 will expose the footprint of Pinfold House, adjacent to the north-west boundary of the site. The area will be excavated to maximum dimensions of 30 x 20m;
- Area 6 will be placed adjacent to the western boundary of the site, and will investigate a linear ditch feature identified during the evaluation in Trench 8. The area will be excavated to maximum dimensions of 60 x 40m.

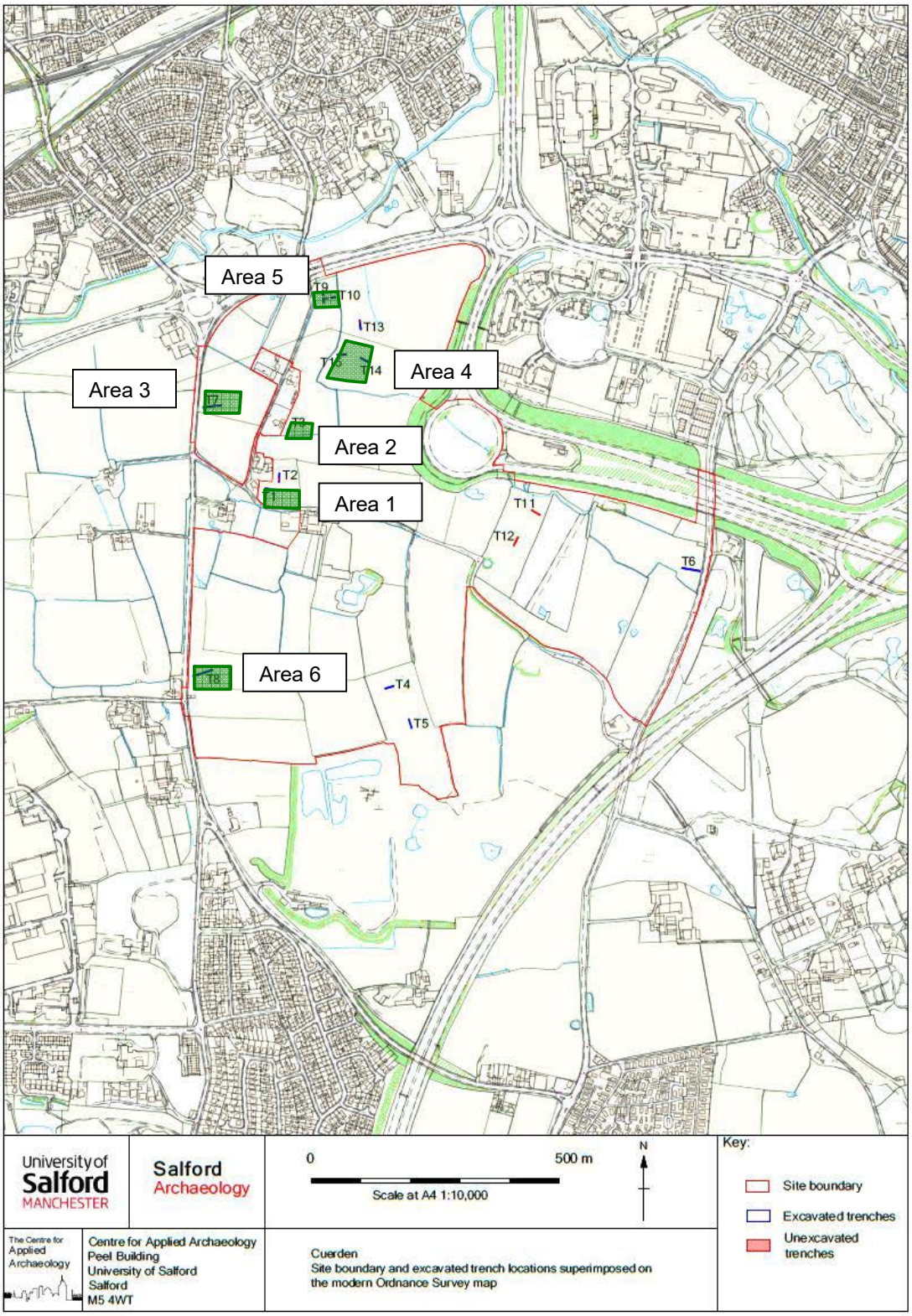


Figure 1: Location of the proposed excavation areas

General Methodology: all archaeological work shall be conducted following the CIfA Standards and Guidance for archaeological excavation. Prior to the commencement of any excavation works, the location of the areas targeted for archaeological investigation will be laid out accurately with respect to the Ordnance Survey national grid. The position of the areas will then be scanned for any live services using a cable avoidance tool. The excavations will be scanned regularly as work progresses.

Excavation of the modern ground surface will be undertaken by a tracked machine of appropriate power using a toothless ditching bucket to the top of the first significant archaeological level. All machine work will be supervised closely by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Thereafter, any archaeological remains will be cleaned manually and subject to sample excavation to define their nature, form and, where possible, date. If the excavation is to proceed below a depth of 1.2m, then the trenches will be widened to allow the sides to be stepped in.

Pits and postholes will be subject to a 50% by volume controlled stratigraphic excavation. Linear cut features, such as ditches and gullies, will be subject to up to a maximum of 25% by volume controlled stratigraphic excavation, with the excavation concentrating on any terminals and intersections with other features which would provide important stratigraphic information. Linear features with a uniform fill will be subject to 10% excavation.

Extensive linear deposits or homogeneous spreads of material will be sample excavated by hand to a maximum of 10-20% by volume (the size of the sample to be agreed following consultation with the Lancashire Archaeological Advisory Service). If features/deposits are revealed which need to be removed and which are suitable for machine excavation, such as large-scale dump deposits or substantial linear cut features, then they would be sample excavated to confirm their homogeneity before being removed by machine.

Structural remains will be excavated manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date. Any hearths and/or internal features will be 100% sample excavated to provide information on their date and function, and the extent of any associated floor surfaces will be determined.

All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically. Results of the evaluation will be recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets, and will be accompanied with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and high-resolution digital photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.

Context Recording: all contexts will be recorded using *pro-forma* sheets, and details will be incorporated into a Harris matrix. All written recording of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts will be cross-referenced from record sheets using sequential numbering.

Photography: a full and detailed photographic record of individual contexts will be maintained and similarly general views from standard view points of the overall site at all stages of the excavation will be generated. Photography will be undertaken using high-resolution digital cameras. All frames will include a visible, graduated metric scale. Photographs records will be maintained on photographic *pro-forma* sheets.

Planning: the precise location of all archaeological structures encountered will be surveyed by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a pen computer data logger. This process will generate scaled plans within AutoCAD, which will then be subject to manual survey enhancement. The drawings will be generated at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20 scale, but can be output at any scale required. All information will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.

Human remains: human remains are not expected to be present, but if they are found they will, if possible, be left *in-situ* covered and protected. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Ministry of Justice. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice and curator will be informed immediately.

Finds policy: finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (following current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines) and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines (UKIC).

Initial finds processing will be carried out on site, and batches of processed finds will be transferred regularly to Salford Archaeology's finds laboratory at the University of Salford. Metalwork recovered from stratified contexts will be subject to X-radiographic screening, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines.

Environmental Sampling: if archaeological features are identified, bulk samples (40 litre) will be taken from contexts in sealed plastic buckets from all secure deposits. These will be assessed for charred and waterlogged plant remains and other possible biological indicators for example invertebrate remains and fish bone.

If any waterlogged deposits are identified, either from archaeological features, such as ditch fills, wells, or ponds or natural deposits, such as peat or former lake deposits, they will be sampled for pollen and other biological indicators with cores or monolith tins. If buried soils are identified, they will be sampled with kubiena tins or other suitable containers, and will then be assessed for their potential for soil micromorphology and pollen analysis.

Subject to the results of the excavation an assessment of any environmental samples will be undertaken by appropriate specialists, who will examine the potential for further analysis. The assessment would examine the potential for macrofossil, arthropod, palynological and general biological analysis. The palaeoecological assessment will only be called into effect if good waterlogged deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of the Client.

4 Health and Safety

4.1 Health and Safety

Full regard will be given to all constraints during the course of the project, and all relevant Health and Safety legislation, CDM, COSHH regulations and codes of practice will be respected. The University of Salford provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Safety Policy. Salford Archaeology is advised on its Health and Safety matters by the University of Salford, who provide ongoing advice on health and safety matters to all departments in the organisation. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Federation of Archaeological Employers and Managers (FAME), and in accordance with current legislation, including:

- The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974);
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999);
- The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (2015);
- The Control of Asbestos Regulations (2006);
- Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations (1996);
- The Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (2002);
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (2002);
- The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations (1981);
- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (2005);
- The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (1998);
- Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (1998).

A risk assessment and will be produced by the archaeological contractor and submitted to the Client prior to the commencement of any onsite archaeological works. Once approved, this WSI will be used for the purposes of a method statement. All Salford Archaeology staff associated with the excavation will be given a copy of the method statement and the risk assessment prior to the beginning of the works and will be required to read both documents.

Salford Archaeology undertakes to safeguard, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of its staff and of others who may be affected by our work. This applies in particular to providing and maintaining suitable premises, and providing all reasonable safeguards and precautions against accidents. The University of Salford will also take all reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety of all persons not in their employment, such as volunteers, students, and members of the public.

At present the profession of Archaeologist is largely covered by the CSCS, Construction Related Organisation CRO White Card for Archaeological Technician (Code 5363); other cards are available for site visitors etc. For this all Salford Archaeology staff likely to undertake fieldwork must pass a CITB Health and Safety Test at least to operative level.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): all staff will wear PPE at appropriate times dictated as by the Senior Archaeologist on site. All Salford Archaeology staff are supplied with the following PPE:

- Safety Helmets (EN397);
- Ear Defenders (EN 352-3);
- Safety spectacles (EN166);
- Goggles (Chemical BSEN 166 Type 3);
- Dust masks plain and valved (EN149 2001);
- Disposable overalls (Type 5/6 disposable EN340);
- Hi-visibility vests (EN471);
- Gloves Nitrile and latex disposable, PVC, EN374;
- Heavy-duty nitron rubber gloves (EN420, 388);
- Safety footwear - steel toecap and mid-sole boots and Wellingtons EN345-47.

Services (Gas, Electricity, Water, Sewers, Telecoms): it is the duty of the Client to provide all information reasonably obtainable relating to any contamination or live services present on site prior to the commencement of the programme of archaeological works.

Service plans have been provided by the client and will be inspected closely prior to the commencement of any works. The excavation area will be scanned using a cable avoidance tool before any excavation commences, and will be scanned regularly throughout the mechanical excavation process.

No member of Salford Archaeology staff will touch or otherwise interfere with a live service even if declared 'safe'. In the event of the accidental disruption of a live service by archaeologists, the Salford Archaeology Senior Archaeologist will inform both their project manager and the Client and, when appropriate, call the relevant emergency number. Any underground service not previously identified which is encountered during excavation will be assumed to be live and will need to be made safe by the Client before further excavation. Any visible overhead cables, pipes, ducts, etc will be assumed to be live if there is no written substantiation that they are dead, and will immediately need to be made safe and/or isolated from further excavation. Where for whatever reason making safe of under- or over-ground services does not happen, Salford Archaeology may need to remove its staff from the site or an area.

Access: reasonable access to the site will be granted to representatives of the relevant archaeological curatorial body (LAAS), who may wish to be satisfied, through regular site inspections, that the scope and practice of the archaeological works are being conducted according to professional standards and in accordance with any agreements made.

5 Other Matters

Project Monitoring: the aims of monitoring are to ensure that the archaeological works are undertaken within the limits set by the Written Scheme of Investigation, and to the satisfaction of South Ribble Borough Council.

As a minimum requirement, South Ribble Borough Council will be given a minimum of one week's notice of work commencing on site, and will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general phasing of the site and results of the fieldwork can be assessed and to discuss the requirement of reporting or any further phases of archaeological work.

Salford Archaeology will notify the Client and South Ribble Borough Council of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed WSI will only be made in consultation with the Client and South Ribble Borough Council.

Working Hours: normal working hours are variable between 7.30 am and 6.00 pm, Monday to Friday. It is not normal practice for the University of Salford staff to be asked to work weekends or bank holidays, and should the Client require such time to be worked during the course of a project a contract variation to cover additional costs will be necessary.

Insurance: the University of Salford has professional indemnity to a value of £50,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £50,000,000 and public liability to a value of £50,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

6 Report and Archive

Report: the level of reporting will depend upon the archaeological significance of the results. If only locally important archaeological remains are discovered then only an archive report will be produced. If remains of regional or national importance are revealed, then an Historic England MoRPHE-style post-excavation assessment report will be compiled, and will define the resource implications of completing the post-excavation programme.

Archive Report for Locally Important Remains: one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, and a further two copies will be submitted to the Cheshire Historic Environment Record. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and present an assessment of the history of the site. The report will include the following:

- a summary;
- a description of the methodology;
- a description of the results;
- a list of the finds;
- a description of the collective assemblage;
- a table summarising deposits, features, artefacts, and spot dating of finds;
- specialist reports on the finds and environmental samples;
- a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.

Illustrative material will include a location map, site map, a trench location map, trench plans, trench sections, survey maps, palaeoenvironmental figures, and pertinent photographs.

Post-Excavation Assessment for Regionally / Nationally Important Remains: if the archaeological results are deemed to be of regional or national importance, then an assessment of the archive will be undertaken, and the resource requirements for analysis and publication will be defined; the process is in accordance with the guidelines of MoRPHE (Historic England 2015). This will involve an assessment of the dataset, followed by a review of the project archive to establish the potential for further analysis. The assessment will take place in close consultation with the Client, and the format for the final report will also be agreed at this stage of the work. The Harris Matrix, largely produced during the excavation programme, will be completed and checked as part of the assessment.

The assessment will involve the compilation of a brief archive report, outlining the significance of the structural, artefactual and environmental evidence, and presenting recommendations for further analysis, as appropriate. The report will also include a short summary of the stratigraphic history of the site.

The project assessment will include an updated project specification, which will comprise a full project design for a programme of full analysis and publication, and will be in accordance with MoRPHE (Historic England 2015). This document will be submitted to the Client within three months of the completion of the fieldwork.

Analysis and Publication: an appropriate programme of analysis should then be undertaken to prepare a research archive; the precise scope for this element will be defined within the updated project specification. Following the analysis of the excavation results, a report will be written which will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme and will incorporate specialist reports on artefact assemblages and environmental reports. It will include an index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, with an assessment of the site's development. It will incorporate appropriate illustrations, including copies of the site plans and section drawings all reduced to an appropriate scale. The archive report will be submitted within 12 months of the completion of the fieldwork.

The results of the programme of works detailed above should be placed in the public domain by a number of routes, firstly by publication and secondly by deposition of the archive in an appropriate museum. A synthesis of the work will also be forwarded to the Lancashire Historic Environment Record.

Archive: the results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines, and current CIfA standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archive (published October 2009). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. As part of the archiving process, the On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) form will be completed.

The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the Central Lancashire area. All drawn records will be transferred to and stored in digital format, in systems which are easily accessible. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained upon completion of the archaeological works with the archive ultimately being deposited with the South Ribble Museum and Exhibition Centre.

The archaeological archive will consist of the following:

- All original records created throughout the course of the project;
- All original drawings, whether created during fieldwork or post-investigation;
- Indexes to the drawings;
- Indexes to the photographic archive;
- All born digital material;
- Digital material created from written, drawn or photographed original records;
- The final project report;
- A list of contents of the archive.

7. Timetable

It is anticipated that the excavation of the six targeted areas will be completed within an eight-week period. The targeted areas will be excavated sequentially.

The final grey literature report (in the event of remains of only local significance being encountered) or post-excavation assessment report within three months of the completion of the fieldwork

8. Staffing Proposals

The project will be under the overall charge of **Ian Miller BA FSA** (Assistant Director, Salford Archaeology) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. Ian has over 28 years' experience of commercial archaeology. Ian is a member of the CBA North West Industrial Archaeology Panel, the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological Society Industrial Archaeology Panel, and a Co-opted Member of Council for the Association of Industrial Archaeology.

His role will be to ensure that the Written Scheme of Investigation is implemented within the framework of the Project Objectives. He will be responsible for all aspects of staff and resource logistics, ensuring the smooth running of the project programme. Ian holds a current valid SMSTS certificate.

Oliver Cook BA (Project Supervisor, Salford Archaeology) will fulfil the role of Site Director, taking responsibility for the day-to-day running of the excavation. Oliver has considerable experience of archaeological evaluations and excavations, including a recent excavation of an Iron Age / Romano-British site occupying a green-field area at Horspath, near Oxford. Oliver is a qualified first aider and holds current valid certificates in SSSTS, Cable Avoidance and Asbestos Awareness.

It is not possible to provide details of specific technicians that will be involved with the fieldwork at this stage, but all shall be suitably qualified archaeologists with proven relevant experience. It is anticipated that up to five technicians will be required for the excavation.

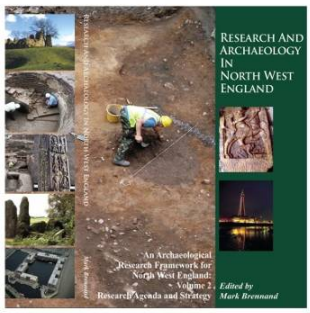
Assessment of the finds from the excavation will be undertaken under the auspices of Salford Archaeology's in-house finds specialist, **Samantha Rowe BA MA**. Samantha has extensive knowledge of all categories of artefacts, and has been involved with post-excavation assessments of finds assemblages recovered from recent excavations in Merseyside and Lancashire.

University of Salford MANCHESTER

The Centre for Applied Archaeology

REGISTERED CIfA ORGANISATION

CONSULTANCY



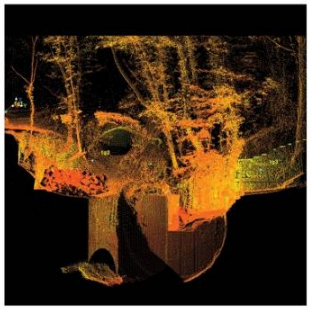
DESK BASED ASSESMENTS

WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION

EXCAVATION

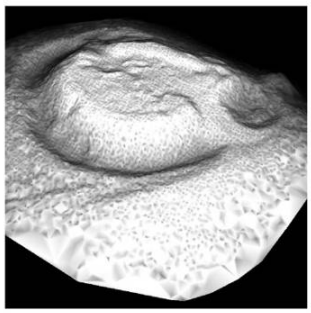
BUILDING SURVEY

3D LASER SCANNING



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

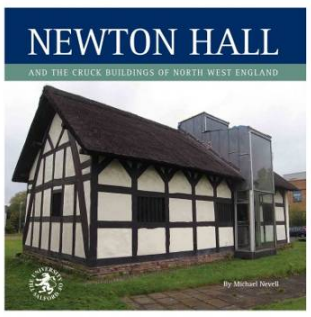
LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

WORKSHOPS & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS



SEMINARS, DAYSCHOOLS CPD EVENTS

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