

*North West Region*  
**LANCASHIRE**

**Chorley**

2/641 (C.30.A003)

SD 5646 2205

**CLAYTON HALL****Clayton Hall, Lancashire. Archaeological Evaluation and Fabric Survey****Report No.:2001-2/125**

McPhilips, S &amp; Ellsworth, D     Lancaster : Oxford Archaeology North, 2002, 63pp, colour pls, figs, tabs, refs

*Work undertaken by:* Oxford Archaeology North

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of a programme of landscaping. The site contained a moat, moated platform, feeder channels, and two fishponds, all of which were components of a SAM. Within the moat was the ruined remains of the former Clayton Hall, which was constructed in the late 16th or 17th century and was demolished in 1976. Earlier evaluation had furnished important details of the site, but a number of questions remained, particularly in respect to the southern side of the moat. In order to address these questions four evaluation trenches were excavated placed across the projected line of the moat. The moat was identified in three of the trenches, and the evaluation was able to establish the course of the moat in this southern sector. In the fourth trench, in the south-eastern section of the course of the moat, no moat or ditch was identified. The trench was, however, approximately adjacent to a tree-lined avenue leading towards the moat and it was believed that this was the location of an original causeway across the moat. A programme of clearance, fabric recording, and consolidation of the demolished hall was undertaken. A fabric survey of the exposed plan of Clayton Hall was undertaken after site clearance. The building plan and exposed elevations were recorded and the results were subject to basic analysis. Following the fabric recording, a programme of consolidation was undertaken, which was intended to stabilise the masonry exposed by the clearance, to make the structure safe, and to protect the ruins from damage resulting from visitor pressure. During the latter part of the consolidation programme, a further two trenches were excavated in order to investigate the foundations of the building and the potential for earlier structures on the site. They revealed the foundations of an earlier structure against the southern section of the east wall, but no earlier structural remains were found beneath or adjacent to the northern section of the same wall. [Au(abr)]

*Archaeological periods represented:* , MD, PM

2/642 (C.30.A002)

SD 5710 1690  
SD 5680 4170**GILLIBRANDS LINK ROAD, CHORLEY****Interim Report on the Archaeological Evaluation at Gillibrands Link Road Between Coppull New Road and Moor Road and Copperwood Way/Ackhurst Road, Chorley, Lancashire**

University of Manchester Archaeological Unit     Manchester : University of Manchester

Archaeological Unit, 2001, 8pp, colour pls, figs

*Work undertaken by:* University of Manchester Archaeological Unit

Following a desk-based assessment of the proposed route of a new road and associated land designated for residential development, an evaluation was undertaken to investigate two earthwork sites identified in an earlier assessment. A Total Station plan of the earthworks and railings followed by the excavation of four trial trenches was undertaken. Excavation across the line of the possible driveway revealed a simple construction to the earthworks beneath the topsoil cover common to the site. All the trenches revealed a central core of sandy clay with a covering of clay loam suggesting a uniform date to its construction. The recovery of two pottery sherds in stratified deposits within two different trenches which initial assessment suggested were of late medieval date was also of importance in understanding the origin of the earthworks. Although not conclusive due to the limited areas investigated by trenching, the lack of any post-medieval/modern finds from within the units that made up the construction of the earthworks did offer support to a probable medieval origin to these features. No

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artefactual evidence was recovered during excavation from the linear bank adjacent to the iron railings, and its poor survival within the area to be affected by the development offered no further insight into the origin or purpose of this feature. [Au(adp)]

*Archaeological periods represented:* MD, UD

**Lancaster**

2/643 (C.30.A004)

SD 4770 5950

**FORMER ROYAL ALBERT HOSPITAL, LANCASTER**

**Former Royal Albert Hospital, Lancaster. Archaeological Evaluation and Watching Brief**

**Report No.:2000-01/066/8051**

Bates, A & Hughes, V Manchester : University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, 2001,

*Work undertaken by:* Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, University of Manchester

Archaeological Unit

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on a greenfield site, the aim of which was to establish reliably the continuation of the Roman road in the area and to determine the existence of any features associated with the road. This was followed by an archaeological watching brief undertaken during early 2001. The work was carried out as a condition of the planning permission for residential development. This added to the previous evaluation trenches located across the middle of the present site. During the watching brief of access road 7, a cobbled surface was exposed comparable to that of the earlier evaluation. This may have indicated a surface on the approximate projected alignment of the Roman road, but its date remained questionable. A cobbled surface in Trench 5, exposed by the evaluation, appeared to be post-medieval in date. A substantial stone deposit north of access road 7 may have been the remains of a clearance cairn, again of unknown date. [Au(abr)]

*Archaeological periods represented:* MD, MO, PM, RO, UD

2/644 (C.30.A001)

SD 6000 7620

**OLD RECTORY, WHITTINGON**

**Old Rectory, Whittington, Lancashire. Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No.:2000-2001/(056)/AUA**

Wild, C Lancaster : Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, 2001, 26pp, figs, refs

*Work undertaken by:* Lancaster University Archaeological Unit

Three 12m x 1.5m evaluation trenches were excavated as an evaluation in advance of the proposed construction of three houses. Other than a stone-filled soakaway in the western part of Trench 1 and a stone-lined and capped culvert in the northern part of Trench 2, no significant features were revealed. The evaluation suggested that the area was likely to have been open land throughout the development of the village of Whittington. The lack of subsoil in the northern end of Trench 3 suggested that this part of the site was truncated, quite possibly during the construction of the ha-ha of the Old Rectory, located immediately to the west. [Au(abr)]

*Archaeological periods represented:* MD, MO, PM

2/645 (C.30.A005)

SD 4960 7609

**YEALAND HALL, YEALAND STORRS**

**Yealand Hall, Yealand Storrs, Lancashire. Evaluation Report**

**Report No.:2000-01/112**

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McPhillips, S Lancaster : Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, 2001, 25pp, figs, tabs, refs  
*Work undertaken by:* Oxford Archaeology North

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to the proposed development of the site. The work consisted of two 15m by 1.6m trenches across the areas affected by the groundworks for the proposed new swimming pool and garage. The excavations revealed a series of natural clay and bedrock horizons, buried topsoils and late post-medieval drainage features associated with the Hall and the outlying land. No sensitive archaeological deposits were detected in either trench. [Au(abr)]

*Archaeological periods represented:* MD, PM

**Preston**

2/646 (C.30.A006)

SD 4810 3040

**RIBBLE LINK NAVIGATION 2001, MILL FIELD, LEE GATE****Ribble Link Navigations 2001. Archaeological Evaluation at Mill Field, Lee Gate**

Coxah, M Rugby : Environment Services, British Waterways, 2001, 5pp, figs, refs

*Work undertaken by:* Environment Services, British Waterways

The preliminary assessment of the archaeological potential along the line of the Ribble Link Navigation identified Mill Field as an area in which significant features, essentially a water mill, may have been located. The evaluation established that the field contained the abraded remains of a ridge and furrow field system. This feature partially survived as indistinct, but identifiable, earthworks covering the centre of the field. The remains of furrows found within the excavation trenches indicated that the field system originally covered a greater area. The evaluation indicated that the construction of the navigation should not conflict with the area in which the ridge and furrow survived as earthworks. However, the area where the field system was known to survive only as subsurface features would be affected by the excavations for the navigations. It may be possible to locate the eastern and western boundary ditches to the field system, if they exist, during the construction work. [Au(abr)]

*Archaeological periods represented:* MO, UD

**Ribble Valley**

2/647 (C.30.A012)

SD 6516 3532

**LAND ADJACENT TO 8A GREENSIDE, RIBCHESTER****Former Livestock Haulage Garage Adjacent to 8A Greenside, Ribchester, Ribble Valley****Borough, Lancashire. Report on an Archaeological Evaluation**

Neil, N R J Lancaster : Nigel R. J. Neil Archaeological Services, 2001, 63pp, colour pls, figs, tabs, refs

*Work undertaken by:* Nigel R. J. Neil Archaeological Services

An archaeological evaluation, comprising desk-based assessment and the excavation of a single trial trench, was undertaken in advance of the proposed erection of a new two-storey dwelling. The site lay within the vicus or extra-mural settlement adjacent to the Roman fort of Bremetanacum, and the undeveloped land lying between the rears of Greenside, Water Street, and Blackburn Road properties was one of five areas of the fort and vicus Scheduled as an Ancient Monument. The trial trench revealed no more than 20mm of truncated ploughsoil, overlying subsoil clay, which was cut by two groups of archaeological features. Parallel to the western 2.0m of the north baulk, extending below that baulk, and turning to form an L-shape also parallel to the northern c.1.2m of the west baulk, was a c.0.55m wide probable post-trench, filled by clay loam and a number of carbon deposits and burnt clay deposits. The eastern terminal of this feature was investigated, and found to represent more than one phase of use. A cut c.340m deep, with a fill including baud fragments, was cut by a later feature

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c.270mm deep, filled by clay-loam containing carbon flecks. This L-shaped cut feature was probably the construction trench for a timber building, which would probably have contained substantial wall posts with wattle and daub infill. It was not known where the inside and outside of the building were, nor whether the area east of the trench terminal was part of a structural gap (e.g. an entrance). The southern half of the trench revealed a linear feature filled by clay-loam that was indistinguishable from the ploughsoil, and into which the L-shaped linear feature in the north-west corner ran and merged. In the south-east corner of the trench was an area of cobbles, containing a large fragment of Roman alter. It was very likely that the feature in which the alter was found was a pit, cut into the subsoil clay. It was not known whether the pit containing the alter lay inside or outside of the structure represented by the post trench. The lack of dating evidence, indeed of any artefacts or ecofacts, in the pit fill - apart from the alter itself which may have been of late-second or early-third century date - left open to debate the date when the alter was buried. It was not known whether the pit was dug for the specific purpose of burying the alter or for another purpose altogether, nor how long an interval elapsed between its excavation and filling. [Au(adp)]

*Archaeological periods represented:* , MD, PM, RO

2/648 (C.30.A011)

SD 6735 3565

**SALESBURY HALL****Salesbury Hall, Ribbles Valley Borough, Lancashire. Report on Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Watching Brief on Engineer's Trial Holes**

Neil, N R J     Lancaster : Nigel R. J. Neil Archaeological Services, 2001, 88pp, figs, tabs, refs  
*Work undertaken by:* Nigel R. J. Neil Archaeological Services

A programme of desk-based assessment and an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of structural engineer's trial holes was undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application for the demolition of the 1883 house and construction of a new mansion. The site was occupied by a manor house built in 1883 by Mr Henry Ward. Until 1883 there was 'an extensive cluster of buildings, placed to form a quadrangle', the earliest parts of which possibly dated from the 12th or 13th century. Other parts may have been built in 1578. The Hall was sacked and pillaged during the Civil War in 1643, perhaps resulting in some destruction. The South and West wings of the Hall, by then detached from one another and altered, survived until 1883, and the re-roofed and damaged shell of the former, lacking its timber framing, still stood, as did the piers of a stone-built gatehouse, mentioned in 17th century inventories. An earlier building, ruinous by 1834 (Rev. Allen sketches), abutted the north-west corner of the West Wing and was demolished before 1847. Abram says that 'the hall has been surrounded by a moat, some traces of which were left'. In the immediate vicinity of Salesbury Hall, Bronze Age artefacts had been recovered, including a socketed spearhead and canoe fragment. These could have indicated settlement at or near the Hall site. [Au(adp)]

*Archaeological periods represented:* MD, PM, UD

**South Ribble**

2/649 (C.30.A008)

SD 5410 2170

**TOWNGATE, LEYLAND****Towngate, Leyland, Lancashire. Archaeological Evaluation**

Heawood, R     Lancaster : Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, 2001, 46pp, figs, tabs, refs  
*Work undertaken by:* Lancaster University Archaeological Unit

Ten trial trenches were excavated in fulfilment of a condition placed on planning permission for a foodstore with associated facilities. Several red brick or red brick and sandstone foundations were revealed which correlated with buildings shown on historic maps. Other features found included an undated field boundary consisting of two parallel ditches, and several large pits, many of which

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contained moderate amounts of 18th century domestic pottery. No medieval remains were encountered. Despite the historically-attested importance of Leyland as early as the Anglo-Saxon period and the proximity of St. Andrew's Church, some 40m south-east of Trench 9A, suggesting that the development area lay close to the centre of the medieval settlement of Leyland, there was no cartographic evidence for medieval burgage plots fronting onto Towngate, and the settlement seemed to have remained relatively scattered until late in the 18th century. The lack of archaeological evidence for medieval pits or property boundaries seemed to suggest that Leyland retained a relatively rural character until this time. No significant remains worthy of further archaeological study were found, but it was impossible to complete the evaluation of the northern end of the eastern Towngate frontage. For this reason, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained in this area when groundworks are conducted. [Au(abr)]

*Archaeological periods represented:* MO, PM, UD

**West Lancashire**

2/650 (C.30.A009)

SD 4260 0810

**CROSSHALL SECONDARY SCHOOL, ORMSKIRK**  
**Crosshall Secondary School, Ormskirk, Lancashire. Archaeological Evaluation**  
**Report No.:915**

Burgess, A Leeds : Archaeological Services WYAS, 2001, 16pp, figs, refs  
*Work undertaken by:* Archaeological Services WYAS

The excavation of four trial trenches in advance of the proposed construction of new school buildings did not reveal any archaeological features or artefacts. [Au(adp)]

*Archaeological periods represented:* MO

2/651 (C.30.A010)

SD 4600 0700

**LAND AT FIRSWOOD ROAD, SKELMERSDALE**  
**Land at Firwood Road, Skelmersdale, Lancashire. An Archaeological Evaluation**  
**Report No.:2001(31)**

University of Manchester Archaeological Unit Manchester : University of Manchester  
 Archaeological Unit, 2001, 75pp, colour pls, figs, refs  
*Work undertaken by:* University of Manchester Archaeological Unit

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of proposed development. A series of 47 trenches were excavated throughout the development area, over zones discovered during previous investigations which were considered to be of high archaeological potential. These included areas possibly associated with prehistoric, Roman and medieval activity. Evidence from the excavated trenches, however, yielded limited archaeological evidence predominantly attesting to the agricultural and industrial development of the study area in the post-medieval period. This included ceramic finds, possible field boundaries, mining debris and the demolished remains of a saw mill/engine house. Limited evidence from the medieval period was attested in the pottery record, whereas deposits of peat found resting beneath the Shirdley Hill sands were probably associated with the development of a wetland environment during the Early Post Glacial period. No finds or features dating to the Roman period were discovered. Other archaeological evidence attested to the introduction of land drains possibly in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the modifications of the landscape in the recent past. [Au(abr)]

*Archaeological periods represented:* MD, MO, PM, UD