



**Land off Simmondley Lane,
Glossop
Derbyshire**

**Written Scheme of Investigation
for Archaeological Watching Brief**

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Land off Simmondley Lane, Glossop, Derbyshire

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Figure 1: Site and proposed watching brief area.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by ESE Project Management (The Client) to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief on land off Simmondley Lane, Glossop, Derbyshire in advance of the construction of two dwellings (hereafter 'the Site'). The Site, is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 402069, 393266 (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The High Peak Borough Council has approved planning permission under certain conditions (Planning Reference HPK/2016/0010). Condition 16 states:

No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for archaeological work and/or historic building recording has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.

1.1.3 Consultation with Steve Baker, Development Control Archaeologist (DCA) for Derbyshire County Council (DCC) highlighted the potential for archaeological remains to survive within the Site in an area associated with the course of a Roman Road.

1.1.4 This document will require the approval of the DCA of DCC prior to any groundworks commencing on Site.

1.2 Scope of document

1.2.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) sets out the strategy and methodology by which the archaeological contractor will implement the watching brief. In format and content it conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2015), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014) excepting where it is superseded by statements made below.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Location, topography and geology

2.1.1 The Site, (Figure 1), is situated on the south-west outskirts of Glossop and in the Village of Simmondley. It comprises an irregular parcel of land covering approximately 0.2 hectares outside the west edge of Simmondley Conservation area. It is bounded to the north by post 1900 housing development, to the south-east by early 19th century development, to the west by late 20th century housing development and to the south by open ground.

- 2.1.2 The east side of the Site lies at approximately 199 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) the ground then slopes moderately to the north-west. The underlying natural geology of the Site lies on the Millstone Grit Group with superficial deposits of ice age sand and gravel moraine deposits (Geological Survey of Great Britain web site).
- 2.1.3 The area on which the houses are to be located appears to have missed all modern development and replaces a Victorian Mill and Mill Pond. The area to the east of the Site and access onto the Site has a number of gardens and walls constructed over the past 100 years. Recently ground has been built up and terraced in the garden of Sycamore Cottage, and a small building removed. The ground along the North Boundary changes from the natural cross fall of land and appears to have been built up to provide a level access.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Prehistoric

- 3.1.1 The area around Glossop is rich in evidence of prehistoric activity (Stroud 2001). Of particular importance is the evidence for Mesolithic occupation, represented by surface scatters of flints. To the north-east of Glossop, chert and flint microliths, small blades and flint scrapers have been recovered from erosion areas around Smallden Clough.
- 3.1.2 Flint artefacts ranging in date from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age have been recovered from Whiteley Nab to the south-west of Glossop. Several prehistoric burials are also known from the area. In 1958, during the building of a bungalow at the eastern edge of the town, an inverted collared urn was recovered containing the cremated remains of a female.

3.2 Roman

- 3.2.1 Although there is no evidence of Roman settlement at Glossop itself, the town lies within a couple of miles of the Roman fort of Ardotalia, more commonly known as Melandra (SMR 6102; SAM 8). This fort was sited on elevated ground at the confluence of the Glossop Brook and the River Etherow, and guarded roads from Manchester, Brough and Buxton. It has been excavated on numerous occasions from 1899 until very recently. Not surprisingly, a number of Roman artefacts have been discovered in the area. To the south-west of the fort, a Roman bronze plate with an incised pattern, together with three Roman coins, were found before 1905 (SMR 6113). Just to the east, a stone sarcophagus and a coin of Domitian were discovered in 1841 during the cutting of a goyt associated with Brookfield Mill (SMR 6112, SMR 6103). To the north of the fort, pottery described as 'a beautiful Roman sepulchral urn of red earthenware' (Hamnett 1899, 18) was found in c. 1800 by workmen digging foundations for a mill at Woolley Bridge (SMR 6111).
- 3.2.2 Closer to Glossop itself, several Roman finds have come from the Mouselow Castle and Padfield area. These include a small black glass bead found in the late 1970s by the junction of North Road and Cemetery Road, and provisionally dated to the late Romano-British or early Saxon period (SMR 6165), a Roman terret, found at Bettenhill Farm (SMR 6166) and a spearhead of possible Roman date which was unearthed at the turn of the century in a ploughed field in the Mouselow Castle area (SMR 6164). The findspot of the latter is not known, and it is therefore not marked on Figure 1. In addition, various Romano-British finds are said to have come from fields around Little Padfield farm (SMR 6155), including a Roman lead watertank now supposedly in the British Museum. These finds may indicate a small settlement site.

- 3.2.3 At the easternmost edge of Glossop a coin of Constantine II was found in 1958 during the laying of a lawn near Shire Hill, close to the Bronze Age burial noted above, but not associated with it (SMR 3618). In addition to the above material, some seventeen or more stone heads are entered on the SMR as having been recovered from the town and the surrounding area. Some, at least, are thought to be of Roman date, some are Celtic in style and yet others of probable medieval date. In view of this their findspots have not been marked on figure 1. It has been suggested that there may have been some form of cult centre or Romano-British shrine somewhere in the area.
- 3.2.4 Extensive research has been carried out on Roman roads in the Derbyshire Peak District. Work carried out by P. Wroe and P. Mellor in 1970 traced the course of the Roman Road from Buxton to Melandra Castle. Their work followed previous records of the road made by W. Thompson Watkin (1886, p. 212) and W. Turner (1903, p. 162).
- 3.2.5 The course of the Roman road was traced from just north of Buxton to within three miles of the Roman fort of Melandra Castle. Wroe and Mellor traced the course until Higher Plainsteads to the south of Simmondley. North of this point the course is more conjectural but possibly links to Green Lane after passing through the south-west corner of the Site (Figure 1).

3.3 Saxon/medieval

- 3.3.1 Simmondley is not named in Domesday (1086) but given the characteristic Anglo Saxon nucleated shape of the settlement, and the derivation of the name, it seems most likely that it was in existence. Towards the end of the middle ages, the Abbot leased all of his rights in Glossopdale to the Talbot Earls of Shrewsbury. Then as a consequence of the Dissolution of the Monasteries the manor and its land was sold to the Talbots (ca. 1536) (Stroud 2001).

3.4 Post medieval

- 3.4.1 A significant change in the local economy took place between 1740 and 1765, during which time there was a 30% increase in the population of Glossopdale. The reasons for this are directly attributable to the growth of the cotton industry in the area surrounding Manchester, although cotton mills were only first established in the immediate area from the 1780s.
- 3.4.2 The hamlets and villages of Glossopdale gradually expanded during the Industrial Revolution and combined together in one conurbation known as Glossop. The peak demand for housing was probably in the first decades of the 19th century when the mills were growing but industrialised villages had yet to be created. The initial demand is reflected in existing villages, where more people were crammed into existing houses, some were sub-divided and several were newly built onto small plots. A number of these smaller terraced dwellings in Simmondley were demolished in the 20th century.
- 3.4.3 The earliest map evidence we have of Simmondley is the Poor Law map of 1857 (not shown in this report). There was no enclosure map, as the land had already been largely enclosed by the estate. The village had a small mill which appears on the 1857 map (identified as a cotton mill on the 1879 OS map), and purportedly built by Joseph Lyne in 1800, although George Booth of Simonly (cotton manufacturer) was named in 1784 (RYCH/2424). This building was divided into two at the time of the survey. There was a separate building devoted to rope making, for which there was a separate Rope Walk. This probably produced cotton rope for the mill drive ropes. By 1879 these were powered by the small brook running through the village (Storth Brook). The head of water from the millpond provided only a small amount of power for short bursts of activity and the scale of

the cotton mill operation must have been small (the location of the Mill pond is along the west side of the Site boundary), It may have been unpowered originally. James Mitchel's occupation identified in the 1851 census was "Cotton Room" – he was presumably the proprietor of this small cotton mill, which was in existence at the time of the Poor Law map in 1857. The site of these buildings was developed with the construction of Spring Rise, off Storthmeadow Road. There is a small fragment of the group surviving at the junction of Simmondley Lane and Storthmeadow Road, some distance outside the conservation area (Stroud 2001).

4 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

4.1 General

4.1.1 The general aims and objectives of the archaeological works are to:

- clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be disturbed by development;
- identify, within the constraints of the investigation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site;
- assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and
- produce a report which will present the results of the fieldwork.

4.2 Specific

4.2.1 The specific aims of the archaeological watching brief are to:

- record any features which may be encountered during the course of groundworks, in particular those which may help to locate, characterise and inform the spread, density and nature of the Roman activity specifically the course of the Roman road.

4.2.2 In addition to the aims of this piece of fieldwork, There are overarching research questions identified for the Glossop area set out in the Derbyshire Extensive Urban Survey Archaeological Assessment Report (Stroud 2001), including:

- Early medieval settlement of the area is evident but where exactly is it, was it dispersed or was there some nucleation already evident at the time. Were settlements abandoned or destroyed;
- The extent and form of medieval settlement is not known;
- Similarly, the nature and extent of pre-industrial Glossop is not known.

5 WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following methodology is proposed in order to meet the aims and objectives of the fieldwork. All works will be carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological*



Watching Brief (ClfA 2014) excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

- 5.1.2 A copy of the agreed WSI must be made available to the site director/supervisor to enable the adequate interpretation of exposed features/deposits during fieldwork and that the agreed programme of works is understood and undertaken.

5.2 Fieldwork

- 5.2.1 The fieldwork will consist of the monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of two dwellings (Figure 1). Specifically archaeological monitoring will be required upon:

- any topsoil and subsoil strip for the two development plots; and
- the cutting of any foundation trenches for the development.

- 5.2.2 The results of the watching brief on the groundworks outlined above will inform the need for archaeological monitoring on the cutting of any service trenches and/or landscaping associated with the development. The final decision on the need for the additional archaeological works will be decided by the Archaeological Officer for Derbyshire County Council (DCC).

- 5.2.3 Where practicable and without causing unreasonable delay to the groundworks programme, excavations will be halted whilst investigations are carried out by the archaeological contractor. If archaeological features and/or deposits are uncovered they will be excavated by hand, with recording and sampling to be undertaken (as a minimum).

- 5.2.4 In the event archaeological deposits and features, including human remains (see below) are revealed, these will be identified and the DCO and/or coroner informed. Identified remains will also be made clear to the ground work contractor who will allow reasonable access to archaeological staff facilitating the excavation and recording of the archaeology present. Areas of archaeological interest will be marked up and suitably protected in advance of their investigation and clearance.

- 5.2.5 Should extensive and well preserved remains be found during groundworks that require a contingent excavation it will be necessary to agree with the Client and Derbyshire County Council a programme for this, extending the scope of archaeological works.

5.3 Survey

- 5.3.1 Significant archaeological features and deposits identified during the watching brief will be surveyed using GPS and tied in to the Ordnance Survey.

5.4 Recording

- 5.4.1 All exposed archaeological deposits will be recorded using the archaeological contractor's *pro forma* recording system.
- 5.4.2 A complete drawn record of excavated archaeological features and deposits will be compiled. This will include both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels will be calculated and plans/sections will be annotated with OD heights.



- 5.4.3 A full photographic record will be maintained during the watching brief using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

6 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery of artefacts and environmental samples will be devised and implemented by the archaeological contractor's Finds and Environmental Specialists.
- 6.1.2 The principle aim of finds and environmental sampling and assessment will be the collection of data to meet the watching brief's objectives. The strategy used will be to determine the general potential of the Site and experience gained from work on other similar sites in the vicinity will be drawn upon. All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date. In such circumstances, sufficient artefacts will be retained in order to elucidate the date and/or function of the feature or deposit.
- 6.1.3 Should significant archaeological remains be identified then a detailed sampling strategy will be agreed with DCO and the Historic England Regional Science Advisor.

6.2 Finds

- 6.2.1 Excavated spoil will be visually scanned for artefacts. Where appropriate, a suitable metal detector will be used to enhance artefact recovery.
- 6.2.2 All artefacts from excavated contexts will be retained, except those from features or deposits of obviously modern date.
- 6.2.3 Animal bone recovered by hand during excavation will be processed as part of the finds assemblage. Animal bone recovered from bulk samples will also be retained for analysis.
- 6.2.4 All retained artefacts will, as a minimum, be washed, weighed, counted and identified. All artefacts recovered during the excavations on the Site are the property of the landowner. They are to be suitably bagged, bowed in accordance with the *United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, Conservation Guidelines nos.2* and, on completion of the archaeological post-excavation programme, will be deposited with the relevant museum. Any artefacts requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Ironwork from stratified contexts will be x-rayed and stored in a stable environment along with other fragile and delicate material. Other conservation needs will be assessed by a qualified Conservator.

6.3 Environmental sampling

- 6.3.1 Industry guidelines for Environmental Sampling will be used for the sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (EH 2011).
- 6.3.2 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro fossils, small animal bones and other small artefacts will be taken from appropriate archaeological contexts.



6.3.3 Bulk environmental soil samples will be processed by flotation and scanned to assess the environmental potential of deposits, but will not be fully analysed. The residues and sieved fractions will be recorded and retained with the project archive. A statement on the environmental potential of excavated deposits will be appended to the watching brief report

6.3.4 If water logging should occur an appropriate environmental sampling strategy will be undertaken.

6.4 Human remains

6.4.1 In the event of discovery of any human remains, they will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. Following discussions the Client, Coroner and DCC, the need for and appropriateness of their excavation/removal as part of the works will be determined. Where deemed appropriate human remains will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the Site subject to compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence which will be obtained by the archaeological contractor.

6.4.2 Should human remains require excavation, all excavation and post-excavation will be in accordance with the standards set out in IfA Technical Paper 13 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains*. Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken by a suitably qualified osteologist. The final placing of human remains following analysis will be subject to the requirements of the Ministry of Justice Licence.

6.5 Treasure

6.5.1 In the event of discovery of artefacts covered or potentially covered by The Treasure Act, their excavation and removal will be undertaken following notification of the Client, Coroner and DCC.

7 POST EXCAVATION AND REPORTING

7.1 Content

7.1.1 Following completion of the archaeological works, a detailed report will be prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* as (ClfA 2014) except where superseded by statements below.

7.1.2 The report will include;

- *a non-technical summary;*
- *plans and sections at an appropriate scale locating the site, known and projected archaeological deposits and the extent and nature of colluvial and/or alluvial deposits, including OD heights;*
- *tabulation of finds data by context and by material type;*
- *a summary by category of the material types recovered during the watching brief;*
- *a summary of the palaeo-environmental evidence; and*
- *a consideration of the archaeological evidence from within the Site set in its broader landscape and historic setting.*

7.1.3 Wessex Archaeology shall retain full copyright of the client report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides

an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification.

- 7.1.4 The information will be deposited within the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER) maintained by the Derbyshire Archaeology Service where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or Development Control within the planning process.
- 7.1.5 If considered appropriate, a short report on the results of the programme of archaeological recording will be prepared for publication in an appropriate journal.
- 7.1.6 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the Derbyshire HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 The Site falls under the catchment area of Buxton Museum. However, following relevant guidelines, the Site archive comprising digital and paper records only will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service under the ADSEasy scheme.
- 8.1.2 The complete archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the ADS, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013, UKIC 2001).
- 8.1.3 All archive elements will be marked with the Site code and submitted to the ADS via ADSEasy. The physical archive comprises the following:
- 8.1.4 One file/document case of paper records & A3/A4 graphics.
- 8.1.5 A PDF/A copy of the final report will be supplied to the Derbyshire HER and uploaded to OASIS.

9 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES

9.1 Summary

- 9.1.1 The project will be managed in accordance with Historic England guidelines outlined in the document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015)*. At all stages the manager will carefully assess and monitor performance of staff and adherence to objectives, timetables and budgets, while the manager's performance is monitored in turn by the General Development Section Head who will ensure that the project meets quality standards and is adequately programmed and resourced
- 9.1.2 The work will be directed in the field by an appropriately experienced archaeologist who will normally be a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and a core member of the archaeological contractor's staff. Overall project supervision and monitoring will be undertaken by the Project Manager.

- 9.1.3 The appointed archaeological contractor is to be registered as an archaeological organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and will endorse the *Code of Practice and the Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- 9.1.4 All work will be carried out in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

10 HEALTH AND SAFETY

10.1 Policy and risk assessment

- 10.1.1 Health and safety considerations will be of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practises will override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 10.1.2 All work will be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 10.1.3 The archaeological contractor will supply a copy of their Health and Safety Policy and a Risk Assessment to the Client before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment will have been read and understood by all staff attending the Site before any groundwork commences.
- 10.1.4 The archaeological contractor will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992.

11 REFERENCES

British Geological Survey data available at:

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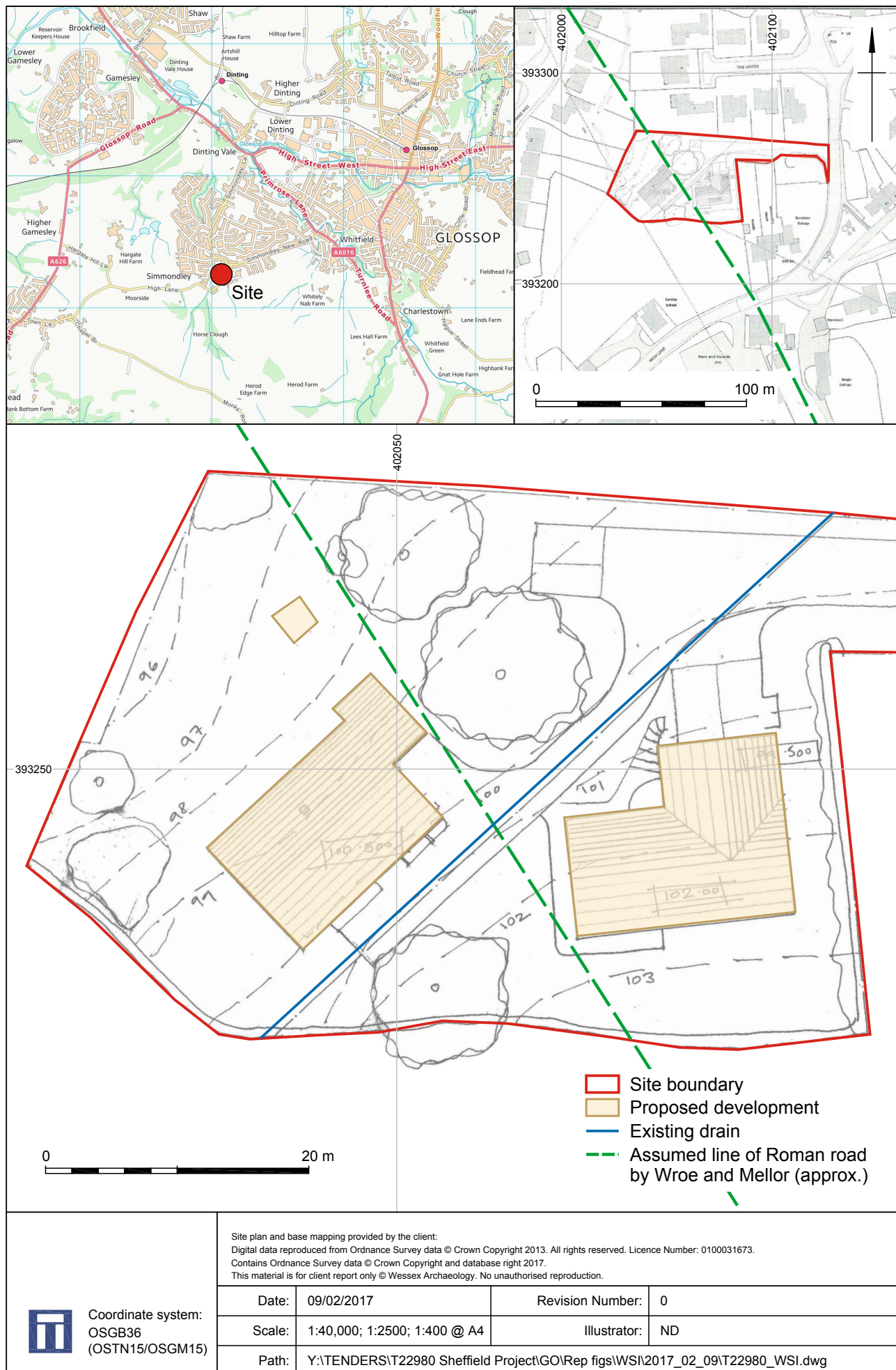
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Site location plan

Figure 1