

**Zion Methodist Church
Simmondley Lane
Simmondley, Glossop, Derbyshire
SK13 6NS**



**Written Scheme of Investigation
for Archaeological Evaluation**

North Star Archaeology

For Mr Matthew Sharp, Mellor Homes Ltd

August 2023

Job no 8/23

SK 02207 94158

Planning application reference: HPK/2022/0353

1. Introduction

1.1.1. Mellor Homes Ltd has proposed the residential development of land at Zion Methodist Church, Simmondley, Glossop. The planning application (ref HPK/2022/0353) comprises the erection of eight residential buildings with associated landscape situated to the west of former Zion Methodist Church, Simmondley Lane. These proposals are reproduced at Figure 10.

1.1.2. High Peak Borough Council Historic Environment Officer has recommended a programme of archaeological works to reduce the impact of the proposed development on the cultural heritage resources. The work is being carried out to fulfil a condition that was attached to outline planning consent for the residential development of the site (Condition 11).

(a) No development shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing, and until any pre-start element of the approved scheme has been completed to the written satisfaction of the local planning authority. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and

1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording

2. The programme for post investigation assessment

3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording

4. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation

5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation

6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation

(b) No development shall take place other than in accordance with the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (a).

(c) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation reporting has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (a) and the provision to be made for publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

Reason:- In the interests of preserving archaeological assets in accordance with Local Plan Policy EQ7 and relevant paragraphs under Chapter 16 of the NPPF.

1.1.3. Mellor Homes Ltd invited North Star Archaeology to conduct the requisite work in August 2023. This document comprises a written scheme of investigation setting out the schedule of works. This document is tailored to satisfy the requirements of High Peak Borough Council and their archaeological advisors. It has been prepared in accordance with current best archaeological practice as defined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2019), and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b), along with the procedural documents,

Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (HE 2015b). This document sets out the project aims, fieldwork methodology, post-fieldwork methodology and archiving proposals.

2. Planning background

- 2.1.1. In July 2021 the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (HCLG) issued the Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (HCLG 2021). Chapter 16 of this document sets out policies for the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment.
- 2.1.2. The NPPF indicates planning decisions should be made based on the significance of Heritage Assets. These are defined as buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions.
- 2.1.3. The following paragraphs of NPPF were considered relevant to the planning application:
- 194. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.
 - 195. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.
 - 199. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.
 - 205. Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible⁶⁹. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.
- 2.1.4. The relevant development plan framework is provided by the High Peak Local Plan (2016). The document contains one policy for considering development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage assets:
- Policy EQ 7: The Council will conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. This will take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and will ensure that development proposals contribute positively to the

character of the built and historic environment in accordance with sub area strategies S5, S6 and S7.

- 2.1.5. In considering any planning application for development the Local Planning Authority (LPA) is High Peak Borough Council. High Peak Borough Council take archaeological advice from Derbyshire County Council County Archaeologist, who requested the evaluation in line with NPPF and policies held in the High Peak Local Plan.

3. Site description

3.1. Location

- 3.2. The development is a 0.31-hectare site located approximately 1 mile west of Glossop town centre. The site is situated to the northern edge of Simmondley residential area, bordered on two sides by existing residential accommodation, with both Dinting Scout Centre and Dinting Cricket Club beyond the western boundary. Further north past Dinting Vale and Glossop Brook there is an industrial estate.

3.3. Topography

- 3.4. The site, which is broadly L-shaped slopes away fairly steeply in a northern direction down to Dinting Vale. The east part of the site is presently occupied by the buildings of the former Zion Methodist Chapel. The grassed area to the rear of the chapel and the overgrown area to the north have not been developed.
Ground level ascends from c. 134m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north part of the site to c. 144m aOD in its south part.

3.5. Geology

- 3.5.1. The bedrock geology of the site consists of Marsden Formation - Mudstone and siltstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 321.5 and 320 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. (BGS, 2023). The superficial deposits consist of Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.



alignments, each with slight course corrections to cope with obstacles encountered. A total of 30 full and several partial sections were cut along the course of the road and these show two main periods. The road was completely rebuilt once and, judging from some of the sections, the first road was overgrown and therefore disused. This could perhaps imply a re-occupation of one or both of the forts. There is also a third period when the second road was in commission but suffering from wear and tear. Several of the sections show that a shallow top dressing was the last work carried out. Part of the road over the moors now lies beneath 8 feet (2.4m) of peat. The line of the Roman road between the fort at Brough and Melandra Castle has been investigated in some detail, with some sections being dug across it in places. The course of the road cannot be identified with certainty along its whole length. In some places it has probably been destroyed by erosion, landslips, forestry work and peat accumulation. Two alternative approaches to Melandra are possible, leading to and from either the south entrance or the east entrance to the fort.

- 4.1.2. The proposal site is just to the north of the postulated line of the Melandra to Brough Roman road as suggested by Peter Wroe (Derbyshire Archaeological Journal 1982). The line shown on Derbyshire HER (MDR11569) is indicative and the line suggested by Wroe is more properly on the line of the lane to Adderley Place which lies just south of the proposal site and can be seen to be embanked as it runs further west.

Wroe has recently reviewed his work however and is of the opinion that the true line may lay slightly to the north, and that there may be two alignments – one earlier and one later – either of which could potentially run across the current proposal site.

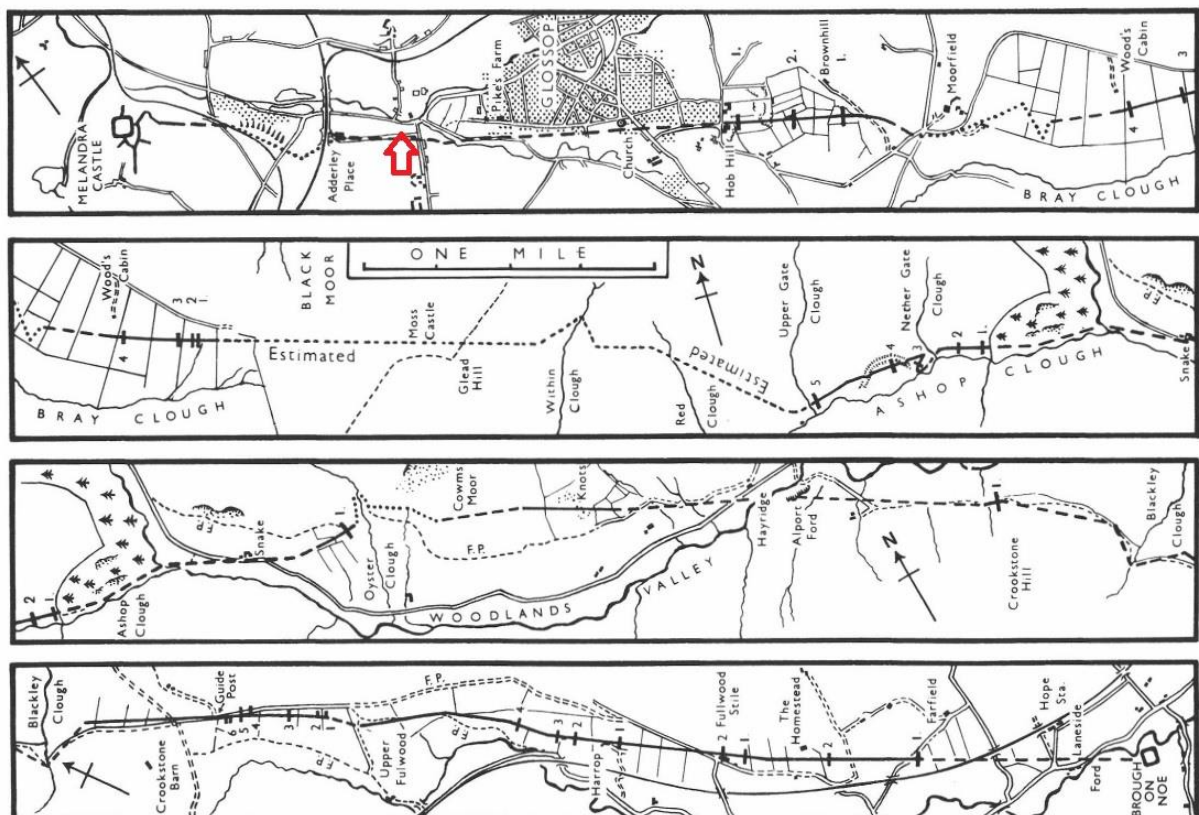


Figure 2 Postulated line of Melandra to Brough (Wroe)

4.2. Map regression

- 4.2.1. The development site is currently occupied by a former Zion Methodist Chapel. This building is named as a Methodist Chapel (New Connexion) on the 1st edition 25" OS map (Figure 3).

The Zion Methodists were an offshoot from Spring Street, Hollingsworth, and began Sunday School activities in a large room over the Logwood Mill, Dinting Vale. The room could be used for all School purposes but not as a preaching place. Until the opening of the present Chapel, preaching services were held in cottages that were lent by friends. The laying of the foundation stone took place in August 1860. The Chapel was opened for Divine Worship in February 1861. In 1869 a large vestry was added to the Chapel, with a gallery over the top for an organ. Land for a School was secured in 1883, and it was finished by 1885. In 1888 a public elementary Day School was commenced (Derbyshire HER).

The building has doubled in size by the 1898 25" to one mile OS map with the addition of an associated school (Figure 5). A new footpath running to Adderley Place has been established to the south of the chapel. Later OS mapping show very little change to the chapel and school buildings and their surroundings.

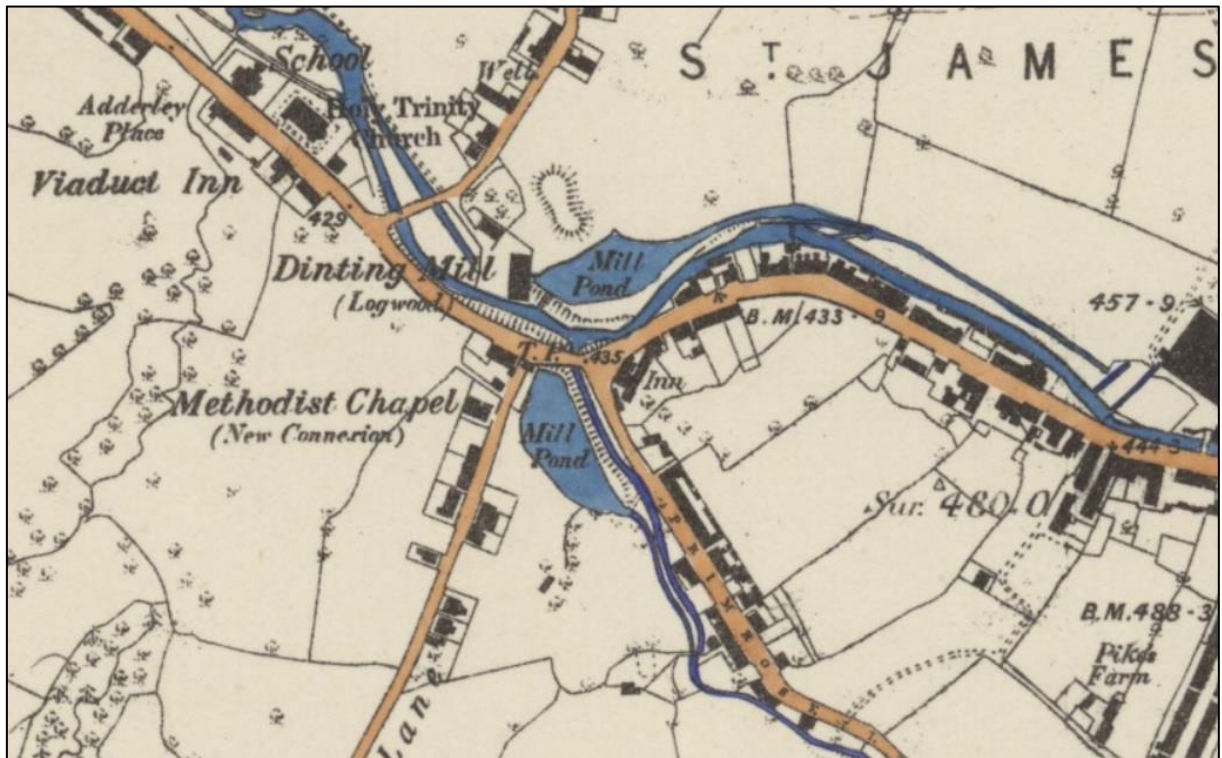


Figure 3 Extract from the 1882 OS map





Figure 6 Extract from the 1898 OS map

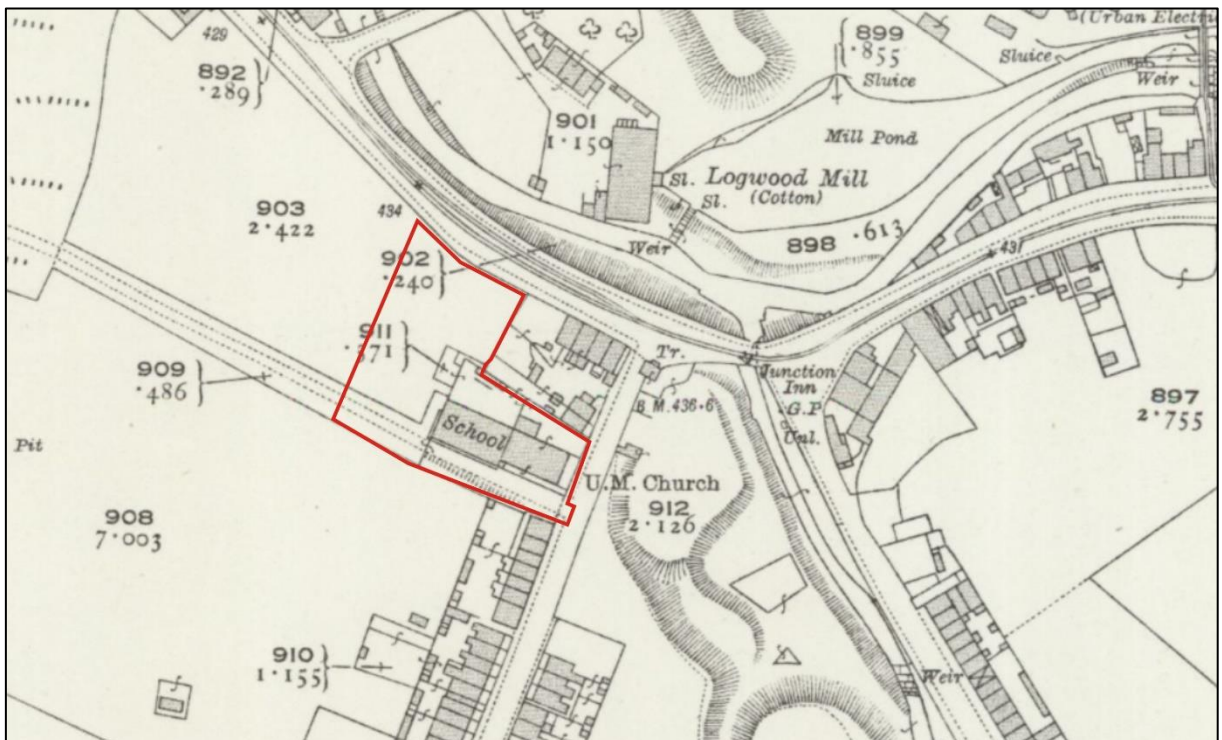


Figure 7 Extract from the 1921 OS map

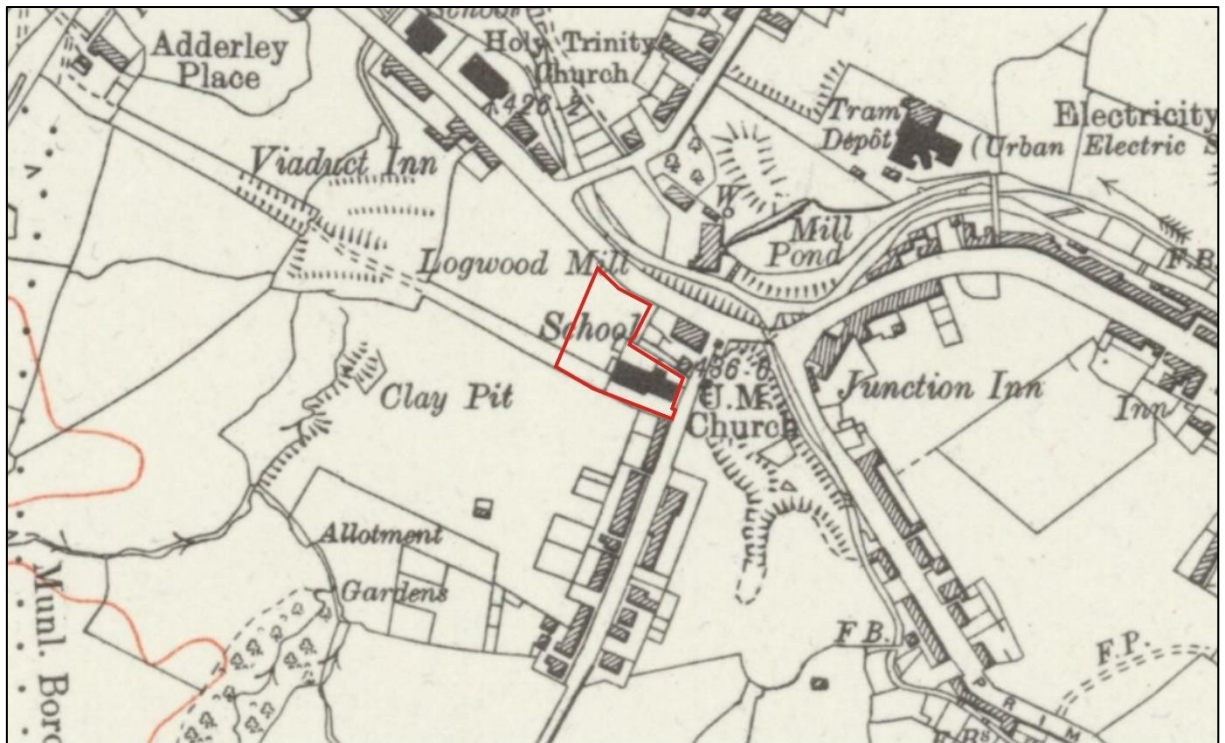


Figure 8 Extract from the 1924 OS map



Figure 9 Extract from the 1950 OS map

5. Project context

The proposals involve demolition of the Methodist chapel and construction of eight houses with the associated landscaping. The postulated line of the Roman road from

Brough to Melandra runs to the south of the development site, although according to the latest research there may be two alignments – one earlier and one later – either of which could potentially run across the current proposal site (Wroe 2000).

5.1.1. The grass area to the rear of the chapel and school appears to have never been built on or subject to any major groundworks so there is the possibility of survival of the archaeological remains in that area.

5.1.2. The development will potentially affect the integrity of buried remains. The programme of archaeological mitigation has been recommended in consultation with Derbyshire Council County Archaeologist.

This document concerns the archaeological investigations required. The investigation comprises trial trenching in order to assess the archaeological potential and determine the need for further mitigation works. Thereafter, if subsequent excavation becomes necessary, a more detailed separate WSI should be submitted to Derbyshire Council County Archaeologist in draft form so they can provide comments prior to submission of the finalised document to planning.



Figure 10 Proposed development (drawing produced by JDA Architects).

6. Project aims and objectives

6.1. General

- 6.1.1. The principal aim will be to carry out a field evaluation on the site of former Zion Methodist Church in line with current standard and guidance (ClfA 2020), in order to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality.
- 6.1.2. It may be possible to offer objective statements regarding the survival, extent, nature, character and location of any remains, dependent on the nature of observations made during the evaluation. This proposed programme of archaeological mitigation will enable the preservation by record of archaeological deposits encountered during the works.
- 6.1.3. In order to address the main aim, the general objectives of the archaeological evaluation are to:
- identify the location, extent and character of archaeological remains within the site.
 - provide information that will enable an assessment of the impact of the development on any potential archaeological remains identified.
 - ensure that any below-ground archaeological deposits exposed are promptly identified.
 - ensure the recording of archaeological remains, to place this record in its local context and to make this record available.

6.2. Specific

- 6.2.1. Within the parameters of the general aims of the project and the relevant research agenda, the evaluation of this site presents an opportunity to address the following objectives:
- to observe and record any features associated with postulated line of the Melandra to Brough Roman road.
 - To observe and record any potential remains associated with the construction and functioning of the Zion Methodist Chapel located within the site.
 - To provide sufficient information to enable the formulation of a mitigation strategy (if necessary).
- 6.2.1. If significant archaeological remains are identified, reference will be made to East Midlands Regional Research Framework: Research Agenda so that the remains can, if possible, be placed within their local and regional context.
- 6.2.2. The scope of the evaluation will not be focused exclusively on the main objectives outlined above; all archaeological features will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. Wherever necessary Derbyshire Council County Archaeologist will be consulted if other avenues of investigation arise.
- 6.2.3. Where physical preservation is likely to be considered as a mitigation option, the primary factors affecting the present state of preservation and the direct and indirect effect of the proposed development should also be considered.

7. Methodology

7.1. Programme of archaeological work

7.1.1. The programme of archaeological evaluation will comprise the following:

- the excavation of 4 trenches: 2x30m, 1x20m and 1x10m (see Figure 11). These have been positioned to give a general coverage of the site. The location of the trenches may need adjustment depending upon site circumstances. A contingency for up to 20m by length will be available should any archaeological remains be identified that require further investigation in order to fulfil the aims of the evaluation.
- The excavation of potential archaeological features within the trenches.
- Report production.

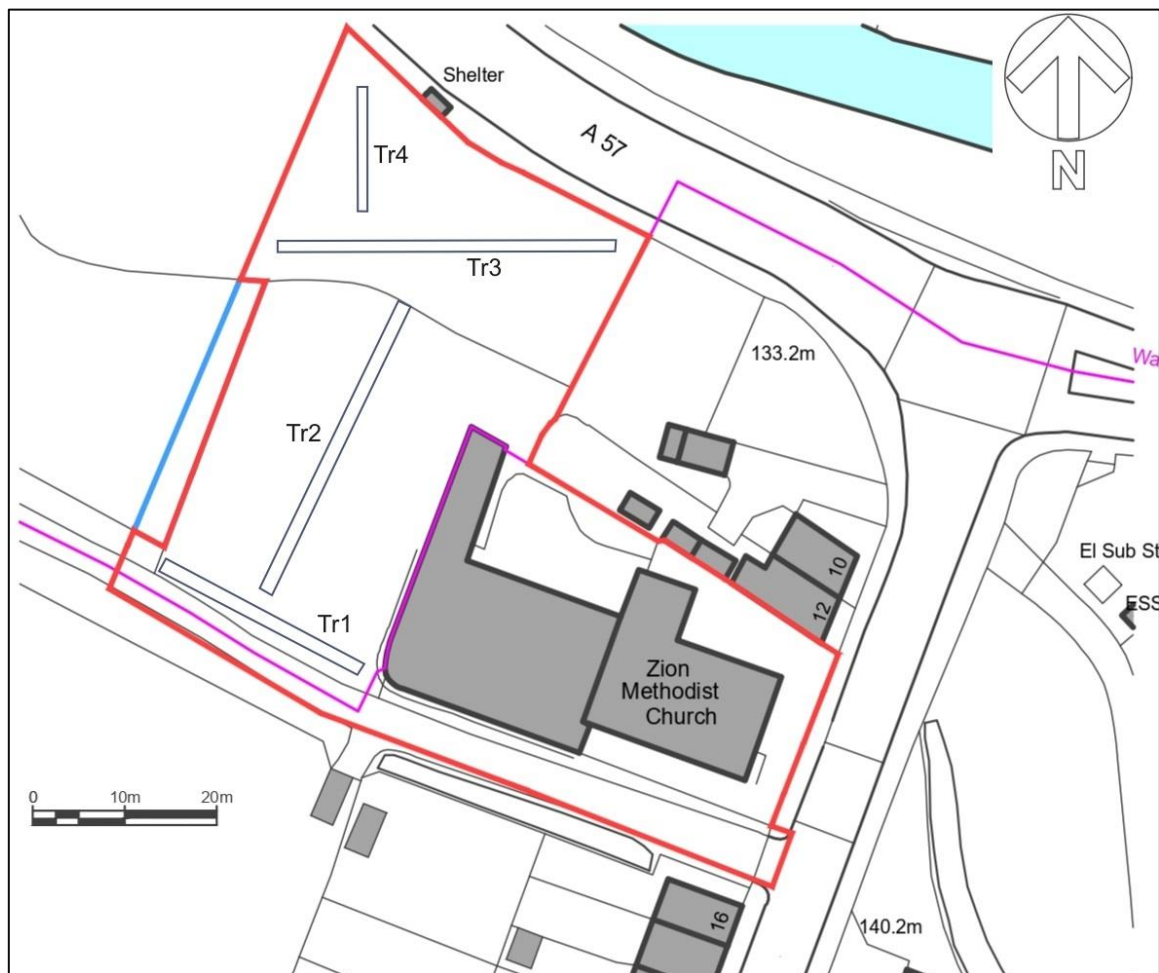


Figure 11 Proposed trench location.

7.2. Fieldwork methodology

- 7.2.1. The trenches will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located onto a 1:2500 map of the area.
- 7.2.2. The topsoil overburden will be machine-excavated using a flat toothless bucket under continuous archaeological supervision to expose the uppermost horizon of archaeological remains or, where absent, the upper interface of geological deposits. Topsoil and subsoil deposits will be stored separately and backfilled in reverse order. Spoil kept at least 1m away from trench edges for safety, to enable appropriate cleaning, access and monitoring.
- 7.2.3. The trenches will be cleaned sufficiently to enhance the definition of features and a base plan produced at a suitable scale using GPS equipment. All structures, deposits and finds will be recorded according to accepted professional standards. All works will be carried out in accordance with the *Code of Conduct* as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2019).

1.1. Archaeological recording

- 1.1.1. The trenches will be plotted using GPS equipment in order to maintain a site plan. The levels will also be obtained using a GPS and measurements below-ground-level.
- 1.1.2. North Star Archaeology staff will use the appropriate *pro forma* recording sheets to retain all information for deposits, structures and features encountered during the watching brief. These have been developed from various examples used by contractors and university institutions across the UK and are principally designed to be used in conjunction with the Museum of London Archaeology Service's Excavation Manual (3rd edn).
- 1.1.3. Plans and section drawings drawn at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections) will be produced to illustrate and record the positions and relationships of individual features and deposits.
- 1.1.4. High quality digital SLR cameras will be used for archiving purposes, with photographs of each context (with clearly visible graduated metric scale) creating a full photographic archive. Digital recording will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England's 2015 *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice*.

1.2. Artifacts and samples

- 1.2.1. All archaeological material will immediately be retrieved and carefully stored in bags and boxes, numbered according to the originating context. All materials will be treated in

accordance with UKIC (1998) guidance and the *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2020B).

- 1.2.2. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, 'First Aid for Finds'. 3rd edition 1998 (LEIGH 1998). Any necessary, conservation and treatment of wood or metalwork will be arranged in conjunction with Derbyshire HER Officer and specialist conservators.

All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner and to ClfA standards (ClfA 2020B) and to English Heritage guidelines (Campbell et al. 2011).

- 1.2.3. Finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation "Conservation Guideline No. 2" (UNITED KINGDOM INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION 1983). Appropriate guidance set out in the Museums and Galleries Commissions "Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1992)" (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992) will also be followed, as will the current ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2020b).

No finds will be discarded without the prior approval of the archaeological advisor to the local authority or their specialist advisor.

- 1.2.4. Palaeo-environmental samples will be taken from any discrete deposits that have the potential to contain dateable material at extra cost to the client. Samples will be taken and processed in accordance with English Heritage's 2011 *A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (second edition).

As a minimum, provision will be made for the requirement of the following samples:

- Bulk samples of 30-60 litres, or 100% of the context, for process using a floatation tank for the recovery of charred plant remains from the 'flot' and artefacts such as small bones, mineralised plant remains, charcoal and hammer scale from the residues.
- Samples of 1-5 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of waterlogged plant remains. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples.
- Samples of 5-15 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of insect remains and other macroscopic artefacts. These may be taken as subsamples from bulk samples.
- Bulk samples of 100 litres for coarse sieving on site for specific artefacts such as animal bone.

The samples will be processed by a recognised specialist with guidance provided by Historic England regional Science Advisor, where necessary.

- 1.2.5. Any items which represent Treasure (including gold and silver objects or groups of coins or prehistoric metal objects) will be immediately retrieved if this does not conflict with either preservation in situ or damage the material. Where possible within the remit of archaeological watching brief the item(s) will be secured and immediately reported to

the Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

1.3. Human remains

- 1.3.1. Any human remains encountered must be treated with care, dignity, and respect. The Burial Act 1857, the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981, and local environmental health regulations must be considered. If found, human remains must be left in-situ, covered, and protected. The police, coroner, planning archaeologists and Historic England will be informed as soon as possible.

If it is agreed that removal of the remains is essential, North Star Archaeology will apply for an '*Authority to Excavate Human Remains for Archaeological Purposes*' licence from the Ministry of Justice. Given the probable antiquity of any burials it is considered likely that the Ministry of Justice may grant a removal licence with only the consent of the landowner as a requirement. The final placing of the remains after scientific study and analysis will be agreed beforehand. Furthermore, if removal is essential, such removal will be in accordance with the *Excavation and Post Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains* (McKinley & Roberts 1993) and the guidelines for the Standard for recording human remains as set out by CIfA (CIFA 2017).

1.4. Contingency arrangements

- 1.4.1. If archaeologically significant features, deposits, artefacts, or structures are encountered which cannot be adequately dealt with within the remit of an archaeological evaluation excavation work may be temporarily suspended while High Peak Borough Council and Derbyshire County Archaeologist are notified. Any further works necessary to deal appropriately with the remains will not be covered by the scope of this document. In some cases, it may also be appropriate to preserve some classes of archaeological remains *in situ*. If possible, dendrochronological analysis could be required as part of the contingency arrangements at extra cost to the client.

1.5. Monitoring arrangements

- 1.5.1. The Derbyshire County Archaeologist will be given notice of commencement of field, of no less than fourteen days.

Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, Derbyshire County Council and County Archaeologist will be kept fully informed of the work and its results.

County Archaeologist will also be free to visit the site by prior arrangement and will monitor the implementation of the archaeological work on behalf of High Peak Borough Council Local Planning Authority and assess the work being undertaken on-site against the methodology detailed in this WSI. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with High Peak County Council in consultation with the client.

1.6. Post-excavation methodology

- 1.6.1. The paper, material and photographic archive will form the basis for an assessment of its implications for local, regional and national research objectives, where appropriate. Quantification and assessment of the finds and stratigraphic data will allow a summary of their research potential to be presented.
- 1.6.2. A full archive comprising the paper, photographic and artefactual material generated during the project will be collated and curated according to English Heritage MAP 2 (1991) and Brown (2011). The archive will be deposited with the local museum with the site owners' consent: the museum contacted as soon as practicable, in order that accession can be properly managed. A digital archive will be produced and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and will follow the ADS standards and guidelines for deposit. The project archive will be prepared in line with the ClfA Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIFA 2020).
- 1.1.1. Finds (artefacts and ecofacts) will be processed according to UKIC 1998, and examined by a recognised specialist, where necessary. Conservation of unstable object or material types will be discussed in advance with the recipient museum.
- 1.1.2. Artefactual material would be described in detail and photographed, and such information included as an appendix in the report. The finds would be retained by the owner, who would be offered advice as to how best to store them.

7.9. Report

- 7.9.1. An illustrated report will be produced according to ClfA guidelines. This will include, as a minimum:
- Non-technical summary
 - Introduction, to include acknowledgements, project circumstances, outline details of archaeological and geological background and site description
 - Location Plan
 - Historical and archaeological background
 - Aims and Objectives
 - Methodology
 - Objective statement of results
 - Conclusion and statements regarding confidence in the conclusion
 - Archive Location
 - Photographic or other illustrations as appropriate
 - Any supporting data in either tabulated or appendix form
 - References and Bibliography

- 7.9.2. Digital copy of the report will be initially submitted for review to the Derbyshire Council County Archaeologist. The final draft of the report will be sent to the client for submission to High Peak Borough Council and a copy to the Historic Environment Record within three months of completion of the project.

7.10. Publication and confidentiality

- 7.10.1. The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) database will be started once work begins on site and updated when the report is produced.
- 7.10.2. Pending the results of the evaluation and any subsequent excavation there may be the need for further dissemination of the findings in the form of a local journal or other publication and/or scheme of on-site heritage presentation. The appropriate level of dissemination would be commensurate with the significance of findings. If findings are not significant or do not merit wider dissemination, the report will be submitted to the HER and uploaded to the ADS through OASIS.

7.11. Copyright

- 7.11.1. North Star Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents, or other project documents, 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 such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the project design.

8. General items

8.1. Timetable and staffing proposals

- 8.1.1. It is envisaged that the evaluation will take up to 7 days to complete. The evaluation will be managed by Ric Buckle, who has considerable experience of managing and conducting projects of this nature. All staff will be suitably competent to undertake the tasks to which they are appointed. Details of the appointed archaeological team and specialist will be provided to the Derbyshire County Archaeologist in advance of fieldwork commencing.

8.2. Health and safety

- 8.2.1. North Star Archaeology provides a Risk Assessment for each project. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the A written risk assessment will need

to be read and understood by any site staff prior to the commencement of work, and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

9. References

9.1. Cartographic sources

Ordnance Survey 6 inch to one mile Derbyshire Sheet II.SE, surveyed 1879, published 1882.

Ordnance Survey 25 inch to one mile Derbyshire Sheet II.11, surveyed 1872 to 1878, published 1887.

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9.2. Secondary sources

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Wroe, P. 2000. A Roman Road between the Roman fort, Navio, at Brough-on-Noe and Melandra Castle, Glossop.

Wroe, P. 1982. 'Roman roads in the Peak District'. pp 56-58.