



University of
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MANCHESTER

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Woodcock Estate,
Farington, Lancashire

Client:

Eric Wright Construction
Ltd on behalf of
Lancashire County
Council

Technical Report:

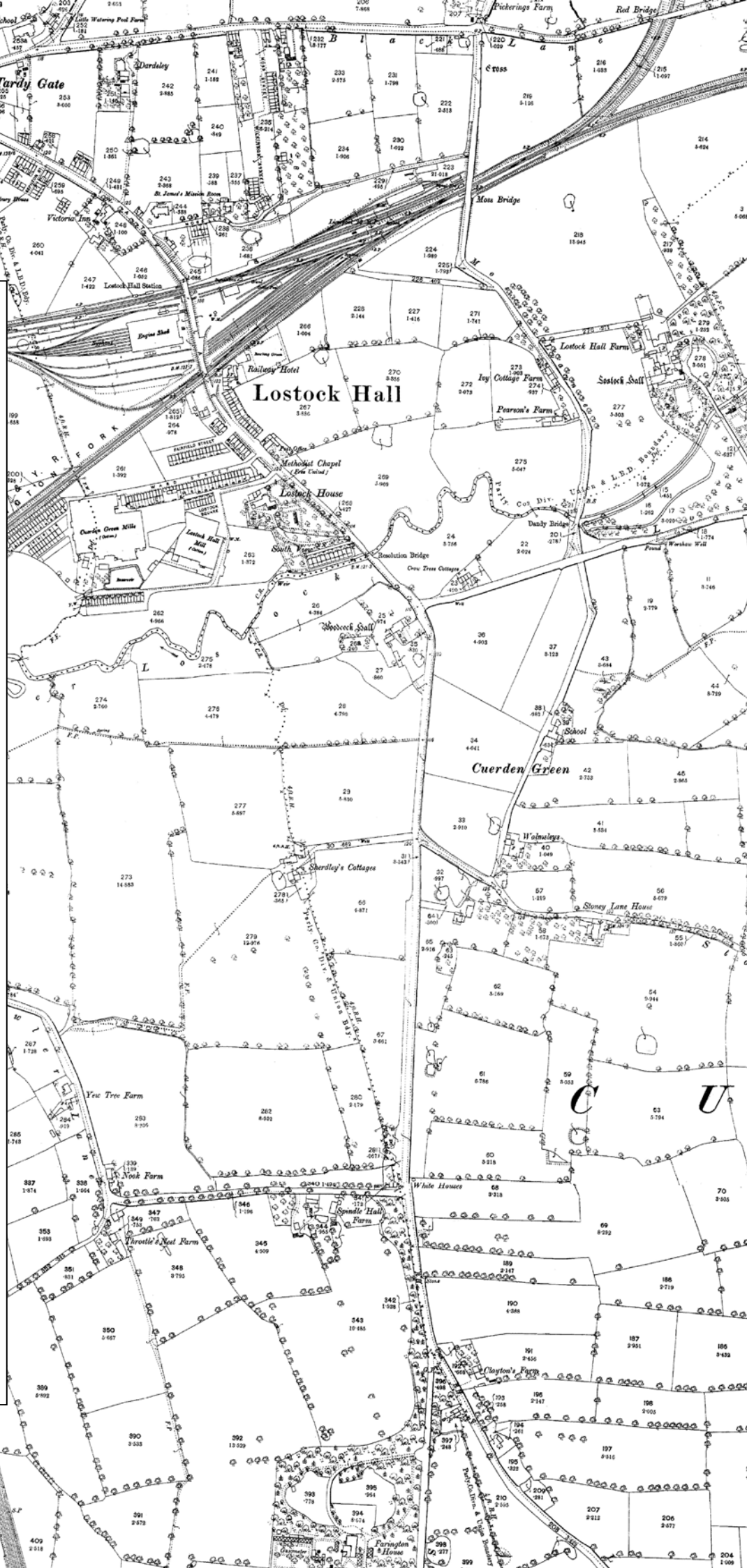
Salford Archaeology

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Report No:

SA/2021/78



Site Location: The development area is located to the north of Fowler Lane, to the east of Fowler Avenue, to the south of Farington Road and to the west of Stanifield Lane, Farington, Lancashire.

NGR: Centred at NGR 354718 424623

Prepared for: Eric Wright Construction Ltd on behalf of Lancashire County Council

Prepared by: Salford Archaeology

Document Title: Woodcock Estate, Farington, Lancashire

Document Type: Desk-based Assessment

Report No: SA/2021/78

Version: Version 3

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Date: March 2022

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Position: Heritage Management Archaeologist
Date: March 2022

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Summary

Lancashire County Council have prepared a planning application for the development of land located to the north of Fowler Lane, to the east of Fowler Avenue, to the south of Farington Road and to the west of Stanifield Lane, forming part of the Woodcock Estate, Farington, Lancashire. The proposed development comprises 2No. cricket ovals and associated pavilion building and spectator seating, covered cricket nets, access, parking, landscaping and associated works (including temporary event overlay facilities on ticketed match days), realignment of Public Right of Way Ref 9-12-FP 1, 7-4-FP 6 and Public Right of Way Ref 9-12-FP 2, 7-4-FP 5. In order to support the planning application, Salford Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed development site. This was intended to establish, as far as possible, the nature and significance of the sub-surface archaeological resource in order to enable informed recommendations to be made for the future treatment of any surviving remains.

The proposed development site mostly lies in Farington however, the east edge of the site lies within the former hamlet of Cuerden Green, in the area now known as Lostock Hall. It primarily comprises enclosed agricultural land. Several routes of considerable antiquity are located within the immediate vicinity, including Stanifield Lane, Old School Lane, which is reminiscent of a medieval hollow way, and Stoney Lane, first documented in 1509 but is almost certainly considerably older. In addition, a Roman road was recently excavated 340m to the south-east of the Site.

No known prehistoric activity has taken place within the Site, however, a cropmark identified by aerial photography could potentially represent the earliest archaeological feature within the proposed development site. A range of cropmarks were recently excavated off Old School Lane (500m to the north-east of the Site) revealing ditches and gullies, which represented ancient field systems that have been provisionally dated to the Mesolithic to early Neolithic period.

Desk-based research and recent archaeological excavations indicate the area has been farmed since at least the medieval period. Extraction pits are also prevalent in the area and were predominantly used to extract marl as a soil fertiliser during the post-medieval period.

By the early 19th century, two buildings had been established within the proposed development site. The buildings were aligned north-east/south-west and ran parallel to each other in the south-west part of the site. Almost ten years later, these buildings seem to have been cleared and a new building, aligned north/south, had been erected close to the Fowler Lane frontage, in the south-west of the proposed development site. By the mid-19th century, this building also seems to have been demolished and two new buildings had been erected in a slightly different location off Fowler Lane. These buildings had been cleared by the late 19th century.

Most of the Site remained undeveloped throughout the 20th century. A notable development includes the establishment of Woodcock Estates, though the proposed site boundary skirts around these buildings. Around the same time, Fowler Avenue

had been established along the course of a former field boundary in the east proposed site boundary.

The potential for the site to contain buried archaeological remains is considered to be high, though modern farming techniques may have impacted the survival of *in-situ* buried archaeological remains. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that archaeological remains may include prehistoric deposits or finds, evidence of buried medieval and post-medieval field systems, and potential structural remains associated with 19th-century farm buildings.

The exact scope and extent of any further investigation of the proposed development area will be agreed with Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Team (LCCHET). It may be anticipated, however, that archaeological investigation via a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching may be required to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains and, if present, their extent and significance.

Should significant archaeological remains be encountered during the archaeological evaluation, further excavation may be required to offset the harm of the development to the buried archaeological resource, in line with the guidance provided by the National Planning Policy Framework.

1. Introduction

Lancashire County Council have prepared a planning application for the development of land within the Woodcock Estate, Farington, Lancashire (referred to herein as 'the Site'). The proposed development comprises 2No. cricket ovals and associated pavilion building and spectator seating, covered cricket nets, access, parking, landscaping and associated works (including temporary event overlay facilities on ticketed match days), realignment of Public Right of Way Ref 9-12-FP 1, 7-4-FP 6 and Public Right of Way Ref 9-12-FP 2, 7-4-FP 5. The delivery of these proposals will necessitate earth-moving works that have potential to damage or remove any below-ground archaeological remains.

In order to support the planning application, Eric Wright Construction (on behalf of Lancashire County Council) commissioned Salford Archaeology to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the Site, which was intended to establish, as far as possible, the nature and significance of the archaeological resource, in order to enable informed recommendations to be made for the future treatment of any surviving remains.

1.2 Government and Local Planning Policies

1.2.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The significance of the archaeological resource identified within this report has been assessed as recommended in the revised *National Planning Policy Framework* (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, revised July 2021). The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies and outlines the presumption in favour of sustainable development, which is defined by three principles: economic, social and environmental. Of the core planning principles underpinning 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 existing and future generations' is one. Section 16 specifically deals with this historic environment (paragraphs 189-208), and local planning authorities should consider:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

Paragraph 194 states that local planning authorities, when determining applications, should require the applicant to describe the significance of any affected heritage assets, including any contribution made by their setting. 'The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary.

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'.

Paragraph 203 states that the effect of a proposal on non-designated heritage assets (designated assets are covered in paragraphs 199-202) should be taken into account in determining a planning application.

Paragraph 205 states that local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of any heritage assets to be lost, in a manner appropriate to their importance and impact, and to make this evidence publicly accessible.

1.2.2 Local Development Framework

The NPPF outlines the need for local planning authorities to create local plans and frameworks to implement the NPPF at a local level. The future use and development of land and buildings in the borough is currently guided by Central Lancashire Core Strategy adopted 2012. This document sets out a framework of policies to: To enhance the character and local distinctiveness of the built environment in Central Lancashire by encouraging high quality design of new buildings and to protect, conserve and enhance Central Lancashire's places of architectural and archaeological value and the distinctive character of its landscapes.

The heritage strategy is outlined in *10: Design Strategy Objectives* (DPD 2012, 100) and summarises the approach the local authority will take in determining planning applications which may affect the historic environment.

Policy 16 refers to Heritage Assets and states that it will:

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

- a) Safeguarding heritage assets from inappropriate development that would cause harm to their significances.*
- b) 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.*
- c) Identifying and adopting a local list of heritage assets for each Authority*

Policy 17 refers to the design of new developments and states that: *The design of new buildings will be expected to take account of the character and appearance of the local area and that it 'is important that new developments take account of layout, landscaping and accessibility in order to be sympathetic to their location, as well as enhancing the area where previous opportunities may have been missed'.*

South Ribble Local Plan, adopted in 2015 refers to the heritage-led policies stated in the Central Lancashire Core Strategy DPD 2012 in paragraphs:

- 10.6 *The importance of the historic environment is confirmed in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It states that Local Plans should set a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment including the protection of heritage assets. Ensuring that development makes a positive contribution to the character and distinctiveness of the local heritage, and that this Plan accommodates the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring (South Ribble Local Plan 2015, 74).*
- 10.7 *The Core Strategy seeks to enhance Central Lancashire's places of architectural and archaeological value and the distinctive character of its landscapes (South Ribble Local Plan 2015, 74).*

Policy ENV17 refers to *Development & Archaeological Sites*:

- 7.115 *'Other structures, features and sites of archaeological significance and their surroundings will be safeguarded from destruction or damage caused by new development and from unsympathetic designs of new proposals.'*
- 7.119 *'When development affecting important sites is acceptable in principle, the Council will seek to ensure mitigation of damage through preservation of the remains in situ as a preferred solution. Where development is so important or physical preservation "in situ" is not justified, the Council will ensure that satisfactory arrangements for excavation and recording of remains have been made prior to granting planning permission. Planning obligations or other similar powers, will be used. If arrangements cannot be secured by voluntary agreements the local planning authority will consider granting planning permission subject to conditions which provide for excavation and recording before development commences.'*

Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Team (LCCHET) advise on archaeological matters within the County.

2. Method Statement

The assessment considers the potential impact of the proposed development upon any buried archaeological remains within the Site, and comprises a desk-based study and site inspection. The production of the assessment followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standard and guidance for undertaking archaeological desk-based assessments (*Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*, 2017).

2.1 Research Sources

The desk-based assessment made use of the following sources:

- Published and unpublished cartographic, documentary and photographic sources;
- Lancashire Historic Environment Record;
- Lancashire Archives and Record Office in Preston;
- The North West England Regional Research Framework;
- The National Heritage List for England;
- Salford Archaeology's extensive library of archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the Site.

The aim of the research was to provide the relevant historical and archaeological background relating to the development of the Site. The available sequence of historical mapping was the principal source of information, as this provides evidence for the development of the Site since the late 18th century. The results of the historical and archaeological research will be analysed against the current framework for the region, *The North West England Regional Research Framework*, in order to identify whether there is potential for the Site to contribute to the current initiatives and research questions listed within the agenda.

2.2 The Document

The following presents the historical and archaeological evidence for the Site. A gazetteer (Chapter 5) is presented of heritage assets and sites of potential archaeological interest identified within the Site and this information, along with map regression (Figs 3-6), is used to assess the significance of the remains (Chapter 6) and impact of the proposed development (Chapter 7). A mitigation strategy is outlined in Chapter 8, based on the assessment presented in the previous chapters.

3. The Setting

3.1 Location

The Study Area (centred on NGR 354718 424623) is situated on land to the north of Fowler Lane, to the east of Fowler Avenue, to the south of Farington Road and to the west of Stanifield Lane, forming part of the Woodcock Estate, Farington, Lancashire (Plate 1; Fig. 1). The Site is bordered by a mixture of trees, hedgerows, shrubs, property boundaries, fields, and roads.

Land to the south of the site, at Fowler Lane is located at 36m aOD. The ground level falls slightly along the course of Fowler Avenue to 35m aOD, to the west of the Site. The north end of Stanifield Lane is situated at 35.1m aOD, to the east of the Site. Land gradually rises along the southern course of the road to 42.1m aOD.

The Ordnance Survey maps from 1848 (Plate 5, p22) to 1965 (Figures 3-6) show that the boundary between the townships of Cuerden and Farington ran through the Site. The east part of the Site was therefore located within the former hamlet of Cuerden Green in the township of Cuerden, whilst most of the Site was located in the Farington township.



Plate 1: Recent aerial view looking north across the Study Area

Farington is a civil parish, within the Central Lancashire borough of South Ribble. The parish includes the villages of Farington, Farington Moss, parts of Lostock Hall and Whitesake. The Site is situated 4km south of Preston and was formerly part of Preston Rural District from 1894 to 1960. The Site is located 2.5km to the south-east of the important medieval settlement of Penwortham, and 2km north of Leyland.

Topographically, Central Lancashire is characterised by a gently rolling plain dissected by the Ribble and Douglas valleys, although the closest watercourse to Farington is the River Lostock. Rising near Withnell Fold, the River Lostock meanders west and north towards Bamber Bridge skirting around the northern edge of the Site before flowing south-west to join the River Douglas near Croston in West Lancashire.

3.2 Geology

The solid geology of the area comprises Singleton Mudstone Member. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 242 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic and Periods. The local environment was previously dominated by hot deserts (bgs.ac.uk).

3.3 Designations

The Site does not contain any heritage assets that are afforded statutory protection, such as Scheduled Monuments, listed buildings, or any Registered Parks and Gardens, and it does not fall within a conservation area.

There are, however, three statutory listed buildings within a 750m radius of the Site (Table 1). The scheme will not have a physical impact on these designated heritage assets, however, and they are therefore not considered further in this report.

List Entry No	Description	Grade	NGR
1073034	Old School House	II	SD 55216 24922
1204142	Farrington House	II	SD 54935 23784
1073032	Church of St Paul	II	SD 53824 25063

Table 1: Summary of listed buildings within a 750m radius of the Site

4. Historical Background

The following section provides a framework to the present study, working chronologically through the periods listed below (Table 2). Key sites are summarised in the Gazetteer of Sites (*Section 5*, below).

Period		Date Range
Prehistoric	Palaeolithic	Pre-10,000 BC
	Mesolithic	10,000 – 3500 BC
	Neolithic	3500 – 2300 BC
	Bronze Age	2300 BC – 700 BC
	Iron Age	700 BC – AD 43
Romano-British		AD 43 – AD 410
Early Medieval		AD 410 – AD 1066
Late Medieval		AD 1066 – AD 1540
Post-medieval		AD 1540 – c 1750
Industrial Period		c AD1750 – 1914
Modern		Post-1914

Table 2: Summary of British archaeological periods and date ranges

4.1 Prehistoric Period

4.1.1 Archaeological Evidence

Prehistoric activity in the historic country of Lancashire suggests that early settlements were situated on uplands areas and in caves. Barton (2009) provides a summary of Upper Palaeolithic finds from caves around Morecambe Bay, including Lindale Low, Bart's Shelter and Kirkhead in his national overview, and some of these sites are thought to have produced further (unpublished) lithics of this period (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>).

Research has suggested that existence throughout the Mesolithic Period (10,000-3500 BC) was based on subsistence, exploiting natural resources and occupying areas seasonally, utilising coastal base camps and inland hunting sites. Physical evidence for Mesolithic activity in the region is drawn largely from palaeo-environmental data and scatters of flint tools. The North West Wetland Survey of the mosses around Farington, about 1km west of the Site, has provided good evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of flint tools and debris as well as palynological sequencing (Middleton *et al* 2014). Archaeological excavations at Walton-le-Dale between 1981 and 1996 similarly yielded several Mesolithic and later flint tools, demonstrating sustained exploitation of the area, presumably attractive to hunter-gatherer groups and those exploiting relatively light soils and good seasonal grazing (Gibbons *et al* 2001).

A gradual increase in permanent settlement across Lancashire appears to have occurred during the Neolithic (3500-2200 BC), a period that is characterised by increased evidence for cereal pollen and the emergence of ceremonial and funerary

monuments, such as the chambered cairn known as Pikestones on Anglezarke Moor, some 11km to the south-east of the Site (Howard-Davis 1996).

Neolithic artefacts have been found on the moorlands around Rochdale, and bronze implements at Winmarleigh, Colne, and Pilling. Other evidence of Neolithic activity in the area has come from chance finds. A large flake of dark flint, probably debitage, which may have been shaped into a crude scraper was found in 2016. The find has been ascribed to the Neolithic period, ranging from 4000 BC to 3000 BC (HER PRN41846 - MLA39043).

Key Bronze Age sites in the Ribble Valley area include Montcliffe Quarry, Brockholes Quarry and Fairy holes Caves. Beaker pottery was yielded from two pits at Brockholes Quarry. The pits were possibly associated with a curvilinear feature thought to possibly be an eaves-drip gully of a building or the footings of a windbreak. The pits also produced bone fragments and charred hazelnut shells and wheat grain. Radiocarbon dating of the pits and the gully appear, however, to be somewhat too late for the Beaker pottery fragments (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf>).

The Bronze Age and Iron Age coincided with the intensification of woodland clearance, landscape exploitation and a probable increase in arable farming across Lancashire, together with the introduction of metal artefacts, although there is very little firm evidence that has been obtained from archaeological excavation. Hallam suggested that Cuerden Green could have been occupied during the Iron Age, a conclusion based on the identification of a cropmark to the east of Old School Lane (located 300m to the east of the Site). This seemingly represented a sharply defined circular ditch, approximately 25m in diameter, with some suggestion of an internal bank and an 'antennae' extending out to the west, leading to its interpretation as a prehistoric enclosure (HER PRN1438 - MLA1438). However, no intrusive investigation was carried out to corroborate this interpretation, and the site was damaged subsequently by the erection of an electricity pylon. Similarly, a cropmark has been identified at Sherdley's Cottages within the Site boundary. The undated cropmark was identified by aerial photography and has not been investigated further (HER PRN1557 - MLA1557). The lack of formal archaeological investigations across the wider area has hampered the understanding of human activity in Central Lancashire immediately before the Romano-British period.

A strip, map and record excavation carried out by Salford Archaeology in 2018 targeted six areas at the Cuerden Strategic site. A range of cropmarks indicative of early field systems and occupation, perhaps of prehistoric origin were targeted at land off Old School Lane (500m to the north-east of the Site). The excavation revealed ditches and gullies, which represented ancient field systems that pre-dated medieval/post-medieval activity or settlement in the area. The earliest phase of archaeological activity encountered was represented by a pit that contained a worked flint blade that has been provisionally dated to the Mesolithic to early Neolithic period (Salford Archaeology 1028; HER PRN26143 - MLA26).

A pennanular gully, circular post-built structure and associated structural features were exposed during an archaeological excavation at Cuerden in 2018 (Salford Archaeology 2018). The features were adjacent to remains of the Roman road from Wigan to Preston and were interpreted as probably being contemporary with it (HER PRN42290

- MLA39467). The excavation was undertaken at land to the east of Stanifield Lane, located 340m to the south-east of the Site.

A similar arrangement of features was excavated in the early 2000s in advance of pipeline construction at Potter Lane (5km to the north-east of the Site). The excavation revealed several ring gullies indicative of Iron Age or Romano-British round houses.

4.1.2 *Archaeological Potential*

Emerging evidence for prehistoric activity in the South Ribble indicates that there is moderate potential for buried archaeological remains to survive *in-situ* within the Site.

4.2 *Romano-British Period*

4.2.1 *Archaeological Evidence*

Romano-British activity in the North West is well-documented, although much attention has traditionally been directed towards military installations, and the extent and character of native rural settlements remain poorly understood. Nevertheless, the limited evidence available for indigenous settlement in the region implies a level of continuity, with the archaeological excavation of sites such as Dutton's Farm in West Lancashire demonstrating continuous occupation through the Iron Age and Romano-British period.

The nearest known Roman site lies 3km to the north-east, near to the confluence of the rivers Ribble and Darwen at Walton-le-Dale (Pickering 1957). This important settlement was established by the Roman military at the end of 1st century AD, with occupation continuing into the 4th century, and probably functioned as an industrial centre and supply base to nearby forts such as Ribchester. The settlement lay at a strategic crossing point of the River Ribble between the Roman military bases at Wigan and Lancaster on the main north/south road along the West Coast (PRN26143 - MLA26).

The precise route of this road between Wigan and Walton-le-Dale has, until recently, been a long-standing topic of debate. William Thompson Watkin traced the road from Wigan as far as Standish in the late 19th century, but could find little evidence for its route any further north, except for anecdotal evidence for its discovery in Worden Park near Euxton, where it was said to be '13 yards wide', and near Meanygate in Bamber Bridge (HER PRN26143 - MLA26078). Based on these latter references, it was postulated that the Roman road continued south from Bamber Bridge following the line of the modern A49 near Cuerden Hall, to the south-east of the Site.

An alternative route was proposed in 1996, however, when a well-preserved section of the road excavated at Walton-le-Dale appeared to head south in the direction of Leyland rather than Bamber Bridge, taking a projected course along Stanifield Lane towards Euxton, where it re-joined the A49. Whilst limited archaeological work along the route in 2014 was unsuccessful in locating the road, considerable weight to the veracity of this alternative route was provided more recently by careful analysis of LiDAR data (Ratledge 2017).

An excavation at the Cuerden Strategic site in 2018 (Salford Archaeology) exposed a well-preserved section of the Wigan to Walton-le-Dale road, 340m to the south-east of the Site. A group of associated structural features were also nearby and were probably

contemporary with the Roman road (HER PRN42290 - MLA39467), located 200m to the east of the Site.

4.2.2 *Archaeological Potential*

Although the Site is located 3km to the south-west of the nearest known Roman settlement at Walton-le-Dale, recent excavations suggest that the Site is located 340m to the north-west of the projected course of the Roman road from Wigan to Preston and a potential associated settlement. Therefore, there is potential for Roman buried archaeological remains to survive *in-situ* within the Site.

4.3 *Early Medieval Period*

4.3.1 *Historical and Archaeological Evidence*

After the collapse of the Roman Empire, many of the established urban centres and forts were abandoned, together with large-scale production. Lancashire is considered to have been a sparsely populated and isolated part of the country, demonstrated by a lack of archaeological evidence between the end of Roman occupation and the Norman Conquest (Miller 2015, 13), though it is known that the area came under the control of several kingdoms during this period. Throughout the 7th and 8th centuries, the area was occupied by Anglo-Saxons, but by the 9th century, it had become a province of the Danish-ruled kingdom of Northumbria.

Although there is a paucity of direct evidence for early medieval occupation (5th to 11th centuries AD) across Lancashire, a presence is testified by the discovery of several isolated coin hoards. The most remarkable of these was from Cuerdale, on the south bank of the River Ribble c. 5km to the north-east of the Site. This was the largest Scandinavian hoard to have been discovered in Europe, containing some 7250 coins and hacksilver that weighed around 40kg. It was buried sometime in the early 10th century AD, and its deposition close to the River Ribble reflects the importance of the valley as a trade route, and it has since been speculated that the River Ribble was an important Viking route between the Irish Sea and York. (Newman 2006, 111).

Place-name studies also provide vital clues of human activity during this period, culminating in the flourishing of the Irish Sea trading network and settling of Hiberno-Norse peoples across Lancashire in the late 9th and 10th centuries AD. The toponym, Cuerden, appears to pre-date these incursions, deriving from Cumbric, an ancient language akin to Welsh; this became extinct in the Ribble Valley in the 7th century AD. The persistence of this place-name (Kerden, derivative of *cerddin*, meaning mountain ash) implies that some form of native settlement – synonymous with the tree – existed in the area from this time (Ekwall 1922, 134).

Before the Conquest, the hundred and manor of Leyland were held by the King Edward. The place-name '*Farinton*' does not appear until after the Norman Conquest in 1149 and may derive from the Old English words *fearn* and *tun* meaning farmstead where ferns grow (Mills 2011). The settlement is referred to as Farington by 1249 and was known as Farrington during the 19th century.

4.3.2 Archaeological Potential

There is limited evidence for early medieval activity within the region, though chance finds such as the Cuerdale hoard indicate that early-medieval activity took place within the vicinity. There is some potential for buried remains to survive within the Site.

4.4 Late Medieval Period

4.4.1 Historical and Archaeological Evidence

Farington was located within the Leyland Hundred administrative district, which is mentioned briefly in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Roger de Poitou held the land between the rivers Ribble and Mersey, however, by 1086 much of the land held by Roger de Poitou was forfeited to Warine de Bussel. Warine was one of the barons of Roger de Poitou and held among his ample demesnes the parish of Leyland. He was the 1st Baron of Penwortham and is known to have been a considerable benefactor to the Abbey of Evesham, granting the abbey a plough-land in Farington 'being the whole of the vill' (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 61-5).

The nearby manor of Cuerden was granted to Roger de Poitou after the Norman Conquest, passing subsequently to the Molyneux family, and then to Henry de Kuerden. It was in the possession of the Banastre family of Walton-le-Dale and Newton-in-Makerfield by 1270, later passing to the Charnock and Langton families (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 295). Another local landowner of importance was the Woodcock family, who are mentioned in documentary sources dating back to the early 13th century, when Henry de Kuerden made several grants to them. Little is known about the development of the site throughout this period, though previous studies have suggested that the agricultural community was concentrated in a series of hamlets, namely Old Cuerden, Cuerden Green and Cuerden Nook (Hallam 1988).

Cuerden Nook was the chief hamlet of Cuerden but effectively disappeared in the 19th century (Hallam 1980). Cuerden Green survives as a name and relates to a small group of buildings at the corner of Old School Lane, Stoney Lane and Stanifield Lane. Old Cuerden, according to Hallam (1988, 111), was placed to the south-west of Stoney Lane. This location lies to the north of a cluster of medieval fields (town fields HER PRN19296 - MLA19258). At the northern end of Old School Lane, in Cuerden Green, was the site of a potentially medieval/post-medieval cross (PRN1428 - MLA1428).

Maps and aerial photography have revealed outlying areas of medieval farming, enclosure, and later parliamentary division in Cuerden. The communal arable fields, once formed of furlongs, were enclosed into strip fields, and these were amalgamated subsequently to create larger fields to use for grazing rather than arable. Areas of waste land and common were also enclosed, similarly reflecting an increased emphasis on pastoralism.

Medieval fields systems surround the Site, to the north, east and south. Town field, 330m south-east of the Site, has been identified as a medieval field system. The fields were formed by the enclosure of broad ridge and furrow within an open field, which is likely to have had an origin extending back to at least the medieval period (HER PRN19296 - MLA19258). In addition, two sub-rectangular medieval fields are situated

immediately to the south of the Site, to the west of Stanifield Lane and to the north of Fowler Lane (PRN19297 - MLA19259).

A field named 'Castle gate' is located 550m to the east of the Site (HER PRN19294 - MLA19). A desk-based assessment (OAN 2003) identified a series of three drainage ditches or field boundary ditches located in the field between 'Castle Gate' and 'Marld Field', 500m to the east of the Site, off Stoney Lane. Mid-19th-century mapping shows fragments of a treeline upon the easternmost ditch, possibly hinting that these were relict medieval strip-fields (HER PRN37362 - MLA33939). Hallam (1980) identified the same field and the smaller field to the north-west as the site of the 'Castle shooting lodge'. The field name Castle Gate is referred to in a grant by Adam de Charnock to Alexander de Cliff in 1325 as Long Castlegate and Short Castlegate (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 24). The name could indicate some form of structure or route way (OAN 2003). The 'gate' element refers to 'a road leading to' but the 'castle' element is problematic. The meaning might be a 'fortification', but no medieval castle is attested in Cuerden and it may instead refer to an earlier earthwork that has currently not been identified. Alternatively, the 'castle' element may be the Old English 'castel' meaning 'village'.

At Cuerden Strategic site (HER PRN42290 - MLA39467), stratified medieval pottery came from a group of ditches, gullies and furrows excavated to the north of Stoney Lane (240m to the south-east of the Site). The features correspond to a field system spanning the late 11th to 16th centuries. These features were complemented by additional remains of ridge and furrow farming to the north (300m to the east of the Site) and the remains of Pinfold House farmstead, which was occupied until the mid-19th century (Salford Archaeology 2018).

4.4.2 *The 'manor' of Farington*

A family bearing the local name 'Farington' are documented to have had possession of a moiety of the Manor of Leyland during the 13th century. The larger part of the moiety was surrendered to the Abbot of Evesham by Ameria and William de Wedacre in 1242 (*ibid*). The other moiety may have been held by Richard de Farington, who resigned all his lands and rents to Evesham (Penwortham Priory) at some point between 1211 and 1232. In 1242, William de Meols purchased 16 acres in Farington, whilst his son, John de Farington acquired a moiety of the Manor of Leyland through his marriage to Alice, daughter of Roger de Bussel. John and Alice's estate was also known as the 'manor' of Farington.

John's Grandson, William obtained a grant of free warren in his demesne lands of Leyland and Farington, and licence to enclose a hundred acres of land and wood in those townships and make a park, in 1348. William Farington's son, also William, acknowledged that he held lands of the Abbot of Evesham by the service of 14s. yearly, in 1474. He was subsequently made a Knight in 1482 and died in 1501 holding messuages and lands in Farington partly of the abbot and partly of the Earl of Derby, and also lands and burgages, in Walton, Leyland and Preston. William's heir, Henry was a commissioner for the suppression of the monasteries and was made a knight at Anne Boleyn's, coronation ceremony.

The Faringtons resided at Lower Farington Hall for over 350 years, a medieval moated site located 1.3km to the south-west of the Site. William was the first head of the family to reside at Old Worden Hall, a manor house built during the late 16th or early 17th century, located 3.8km to the south-east of the Site.

After Henry's death in 1551, the manor was granted to his daughter Joan, and later her daughter Dorothy Beconsaw, who married Sir Edmund Huddleston of Sawston. Farington appears to have been leased or mortgaged to a cousin, Anthony Huddleston, whose son Joseph in 1609 purchased it. Although Joseph Huddleston resided at Farington, the estate, not afterwards called a 'manor,' appears soon to have been sold to relatives, the Penningtons of Muncaster, who had held lands in the township for centuries. The younger branch of the Farington family held an estate called Little Farington, which descended to the five daughters and heirs of Peter Farington in the 17th century. Around 1655, a large part, or the whole was purchased by Richard Gardner of Leyland, and seems to have been acquired later by the Crooks of Abram.

4.4.3 Lostock and Woodcock Hall

Lostock Hall (located 560m to the north—east of the Site) was an estate that took its name from the River Lostock and was in the possession of a family bearing the same name during the reign of Edward II. The estate was in the township of Walton-le-dale and was in possession of James de Lostock, recorded in 1332 and 1350 (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 289-300). The hall seems to have passed through marriage to the Banastre family, presumably through James' daughter, named Margot or Margery. John Banstre was described as of Lostock from 1402-29 and the manor stayed in the family's possession until 1548, when Richard Banstre conveyed tenements in Walton, Preston and Lea to Thomas Fleetwood and his wife, Barbara. William Fleetwood, the son of Thomas, subsequently sold the manor with a free fishery in Lostock Water to Roger Burscough, who conveyed it in 1595 to Peter Burscough (HER PRN1435 - MLA1435).

By 1662, Andrew Dandy had acquired Lostock Hall and is recorded as paying a rent of 12d. to the lord of Clitheroe for his lands called Lostock (Farrer and Brownbill 1911: 1911, 289-300). In 1666, William Dandy paid tax upon three hearths in Lostock and was described as 'of Lostock' when he died in 1676 (HER PRN1435 - MLA1435). At some point, the land surrounding the estate, known as Cuerden Green, was renamed Lostock Hall. The hall burnt down in 1767 and was rebuilt. The current building is believed to be of late-19th-century date and is currently occupied by St Catherine's hospice.

A second high-status residence was Woodcock Hall, also known as the Crows or Crow Trees, which dates back to at least the 17th century, though the family can be traced to the early part of the 13th century, when Henry de Kuerden made several grants to them (HER PRN1452 - MLA145). The hall was said to have belonged to the Knights Hospitallers (HER PRN1435 - MLA1435). The hospitallers held land in Cuerden from as early as 1212, when they were granted plots in several places, some of which were called 'Walleschaw', 'Wetriding' and 'Wallgate'. About 1540 the tenants and rents included John Woodcock for two riddings on each side of smithy forge.

Thomas Woodcock died at Cuerden in 1602 holding 'the capital message called Lostock' in Cuerden, together with lands in Cuerden and Walton-le-Dale. In 1666, a later Thomas Woodcock, built Woodcock Hall at the junction of Stanifield Lane and Lostock Lane, in the area formerly known as Cuerden Green (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 23-9) situated immediately to the north-east of the Site. The hall was demolished in 1961, although some of the ancillary buildings are still in use as part of the farm that presently occupies the site.

In addition, several moated homesteads were established within the region, including Clayton Hall and Broughton Tower; most were built in the 13th to 14th centuries, and none were constructed after the 16th century (Hallam 1980). It is difficult to suggest what manorial holding these halls would have had at the time of their foundation (OA North 2003).

4.4.3 Archaeological Potential

The Site is surrounded by and may contain elements of former medieval field systems, therefore, the potential for buried remains to derive from this period is considered to be high.

4.5 Post-medieval and Industrial Period

4.5.1 Historical and Archaeological Evidence

During the post-medieval period, the landscape was also affected by the incorporation of land into a more organised form as a result of parliamentary enclosure. This was both gradual and small-scale during the 17th and 18th centuries and more wholesale in the 19th century. For the study area, there appears to have been relatively little change in field layout from c 1700 onwards (LCRO/DDGE (M)).

Elements of the post-medieval landscape include lynched banks, ridge and furrow, and linear depressions, which have been identified near the Site (HER PRN1992 - MLA1992; PRN1938 - MLA1938; PRN1860 - MLA1860; PRN37350 - MLA33927; PRN37352 - MLA33929; PRN37355 - MLA33). Several farmsteads and outbuildings would have been located in Cuerden such as Cuerden Gate Farm (HER PRN2213). Archaeological investigations at Cuerden Strategic site demonstrated the survival of a suite of structural remains relating to a medieval/post-medieval farmstead, together with several negative features of post-medieval date (HER PRN26143 - MLA26).

Other evidence of post-medieval agricultural activity is provided by the numerous ponds, the majority of which probably originated as marl pits, dug to extract clay which was then spread on the fields as a fertiliser (HER PRN1866 - MLA1866; PRN1992 - MLA1992; PRN37351 - MLA33928). The closest of these was known as Mountain Field, located 200m to the south-east of the Site (PRN37354 - MLA33931). A sand pit was located 670m to the south-west of the Site (PRN7159 - MLA7157).

In 1673, Andrew Dandy of Lostock Hall left money to establish a school in Cuerden, which had been erected on the east side of what is now known as Old School Lane by the end of the 17th century. A dedication stone on the building lists members of the Dandy family, together with the date 1690. Nevertheless, the school was probably built during the 1670s (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 29).

The school struggled after Andrew's grandson, also called Andrew, died in 1714 as the £5 per annum was not enough to supply a schoolmaster, and the charity was in arrears of £126 and 15 shillings by 1740. It appears a trust was set up, consisting of 12 members, including Daniel Dandy and Thomas Woodcock to settle the arrears and continue to provide for the poor. It was still run as a school into the 19th century, partly helped by a further endowment by Samuel Crooke in 1770, a local philanthropist and benefactor. According to a Commissioner's report of 1826, it still had a trust of 12 Governors and taught 20 fee-paying children and five 'poor free children'. Children were taught reading, writing, and casting accounts (summing columns of figures). The building survives and is now afforded statutory protection as a Grade II listed building, located 200m to the east of the Site.

4.5.2 Archaeological Potential

The possibility of post-medieval remains associated with agricultural activity should not be ruled out given the historic landscape. The potential for buried archaeological remains of post-medieval date is considered to be high.

4.6 Development of the Site

4.6.1 Historical Evidence

The development of the Site and its environs may be traced reasonably well from the sequence of available historic mapping. One of the first available maps of the Site is Yates' plan of 1786 (Plate 2). The map shows the arrangement of lanes in Cuerden towards the end of the 18th century. The road to the east of the Site was Stanifield Lane, which follows a route of considerable antiquity. Fowler Lane is also shown on Yates' map, running alongside the south and west boundary of the Site. It appears to have followed a slightly alternative course at the south-east end to adjoin Lydiate Lane, at the junction with Stanifield Lane. The north-west end of Fowler Lane crossed the River Lostock.

Other roads of antiquity surround the Site and are shown on Yates' map of 1786. This includes Old School Lane, which is reminiscent of a medieval hollow way, whilst Stoney Lane is referred to in a document of 1509 but is almost certainly considerably older. Together, these routeways connected the dispersed zones of rural settlement with their manorial seats and nearby markets in Leyland, Wigan, Penwortham and Preston (Salford Archaeology 2018).

Yates' map shows that ribbon development had taken place along the route of Fowler Lane, however, no development had taken place within the Site, which seems to have comprised fields. Woodcock Hall is not captured on Yates' map, though it is known to have occupied land immediately to the north-west of the Site boundary by 1666.



Plate 2: Extract from 'A Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster 1786', William Yates, showing approximately Site location

The next available map that captures the Site is Greenwood's map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, 1818 (Plate 3). A dotted line runs through the Site, which presumably marks the boundary between the townships of Farington and Cuerden, showing that that Site lies between the two townships. This boundary is shown on the sequence of later historic maps.

Greenwood's map shows that further development had occurred along Fowler Lane (Plate 3). Most of the buildings that had been erected were located beyond the Site boundary, along the southern and western course of the lane, however, two buildings, had been erected within the Site. The two buildings were aligned north-east/south-west and ran parallel to each other. The two buildings were set back from Fowler Lane, in comparison to other buildings erected along the route. The two buildings may have been a farmhouse and a barn or outbuilding.

A building is shown on the east side of Fowler Lane in the south-west Site boundary, which most likely represents Nook Farm. In total, two buildings are located at the end of a narrow track, which presumably marks the location of Sherdley's Cottages. The Site boundary skirts around the lane and Sherdley's Cottages. Both Nook Farm and Sherdley's Cottages are still standing.

The increase in farm buildings between the late-18th-century and mid-19th-century mapping may have been encouraged by improvements in agricultural that took place between 1750 and 1870 (Richardson 1986, 25). By 1870, British agriculture had been transformed by the growth in the average size of farms, and the introduction of many

new practices and techniques. These included improved breeds of cattle and sheep, improved sowing techniques, new types of manure, new crops in four-course rotation, new forms of drainage, better implements, and enclosure of common and waste land (GMAU 1999, 33; Mingay 1989, 941-5).

The land to the south of Sherdley's Cottages is recorded in 'A Survey of lands in the townships of Cuerden, Clayton-le-Wood, Walton-le-Dale and Farington in the Country Palatine of Lancaster belonging to R T Parker Esq' (Radcliffe 1817, 6). Fields were numbered 155, 156, 157 and 163 underneath the heading 'Part of Sherdley's'. Field 155 was named Nearer Charnock Meadow, field 156 was Further Meadow, field 157 was called Higher Meadow and field 163 was known as Thomason Croft. The numbers refer to their location on a plan in the survey. Buildings at Sherdley's were noted as 'part of house, barn, garden and fold'. Nearer Charnock Meadow and Further Meadow correspond to fields 122 and 123 on the tithe map of 1839 and were located within the Site.

The survey of 1817 records the fields and buildings at Nook (Radcliffe 1817, 10). It is unclear whether this includes the building later known as Nook Farm that borders the south-west Site boundary. Land in the 'Nook' mostly consisted of cottages, cowhouses, gardens and a croft. In total, two out of the nine entries refer to fields. These were named Nearer Goose Green and Further Goose Green. It is unclear whether the Nook referred to the area that had been developed at Fowler Lane to the south-west of the Site (Plate 3).

The survey also recorded the fields surrounding Woodcock Hall, some of which were located within the Site. This included the fields named Long Shoot, Lower Intake, Higher Intake, and part of Water Meadow (Radcliffe 1817, 9). The same field names at Sherdley's and Woodcock Hall appear in the later tithe records of 1839.



Plate 3: Extract from a map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, dated 1818 by Greenwood, showing approximate Site location

In contrast, Hennet and Bingley's map of 1830 (Plate 4) shows fewer buildings within the vicinity of the Site than the previous map of 1818 (Plate 3). The two buildings that were located within the Site on the earlier map are not shown on the mapping and fewer buildings occupied the west side of Fowler Lane. This may indicate that some of the smaller buildings captured on the earlier plan were either temporary structures such as stables, or that they had been demolished.

A rectangular building to the north of what was probably Nook Farm had been erected within the Site boundary. The building was aligned broadly north/south along the Fowler Lane frontage. The same dashed line runs through Site, marking the boundary of the Farington and Cuerden townships.



Plate 4: Hennet and Bingley's Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster 1830

The title map of 1839 (LCA/DRB/1/59) shows that the east part of the Site was in the township of Cuerden. Field numbers '122, 123, 125, 126 and 129' occupied land within the Site. All five plots were owned by Robert Townley Parker and were occupied by John Sumner.

Fields 125, 126, and 129 were located to the south and west of Woodcock Hall. Field 125 was described as meadow, field 126 was described as arable, and field 129 was described as meadow. Richard Barshall occupied field 127, which was named Water Meadow and described as a meadow. This field was located slightly north of Woodcock Hall, probably beyond the Site boundary. Woodcock Hall was numbered 128 and was

described as hall and gardens - grass and arable, lying just beyond the north-east Site boundary.

A group of fields numbered '95, 96, 122, 123 and 281' were located to the south and east of Sherdley's and were also tenanted by John Sumner. All these fields were described as meadows. Fields 95, 96 and 281 were located beyond the Site boundary.

The census returns of 1841 provide an insight into the residents of the area during the mid-19th century. The census returns do not record the house numbers, though 11 dwellings were recorded along Fowler Lane. The residents of Fowler Lane worked in a mixture of occupations, including farmers, agricultural labourers, weavers, a tailor, and a carter. The most popular occupations included farmers and weavers.

Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries farming and textile production went hand in hand. Structures such as a laithe houses were a type of farm building found in northern England, which were a dual-purpose dwelling, being house and agricultural building built in one range (Het 2003). The form was widespread from the late 18th century, being adopted as a convenient and compact smallholding for tenant farmers on newly enclosed land. The buildings were also particularly associated with textile manufacture, as tenants became increasingly dependent on this industry. The decline of the laithe house occurs in the late 19th century as textile manufacture was increasingly undertaken in mills (Westwood, 2010). It is unclear whether the weavers were domestic based or were employed at one of the mills that had been established to the north of the Site.

The census returns records two properties at Sherdley's, which corresponds with the number of buildings shown on Hennet and Bingley's map (Plate 4). Thomas Culshaw, a lawyer, aged 20 lived at one of the properties with his wife, May and their two young children. Next door was occupied by Henry (surname illegible), an agricultural labourer, aged 55, who lived with his wife, Isabella, aged 45 and their six children.

The first accurate map that captures the layout of the Site is the Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (Plate 5). The map shows that the eastern part of the Site was located in an area of Cuerden, known as Lower Green. The Site boundary is shown, skirting around the edge of Sherdley's, which comprised two buildings, a large pond, and gardens. The Site boundary also bordered land to the south-west of Woodcock Hall and land to the north-east of Nook Farm.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (Plate 5) is the first available plan that captures the layout of fields within the Site. It shows that the land was carved up into a grid of 17 fields. The field boundaries may have been delineated by hedge rows, fences, or walls. Grid-like, straight-edged fields are likely associated with large-scale 18th-century enclosure (HE 2011, 7-10).

A narrow, elongated field in broadly the centre of the Site may pre-date 18th-century enclosure and could represent a strip field that was part of the former medieval open field system. In addition, two similar shaped fields were situated in the south-east part of the Site. These were located immediately to the north of a group of medieval fields, to the west of Stanifield Lane and to the north of Fowler Lane (PRN19297 - MLA19259).

In addition, two irregular shaped fields are shown on the 1848 map (Plate 5), to the east of Fowler Lane. The southern field is tapered at its southern end and borders

Nook Farm. The northern field is likely associated with two small buildings. The shape of these fields could indicate that they also pre-date 18th-century enclosure.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (Plate 5) shows that the only development within the Site consists of two small buildings, an L-shaped building and a square building that were situated next to each other. The function of the two buildings is unclear. A shaded field was located on the north side of the buildings, potentially marking an orchard. An open culvert, that adjoins the River Lostock to the north-west of the Site, curved around the two buildings before it ran broadly east/west through the Site, returning southwards towards Fowler Lane. An avenue of trees borders the culvert to the east of the two buildings. A footpath aligned north-east/south-west runs from the east end of the avenue towards Sherdley's.

The only other feature marked on the 1848 map within the Site was a circular feature, located in the field to the north of the two buildings. The circular feature was presumably a small pond that may have been formed from the extraction of sand, clay or marl. Marl was regularly extracted to use as a soil fertiliser and was spread across fields.



Plate 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1848, surveyed 1844-6, showing the Site location

The Ordnance Survey map of 1893 (Plate 6; Figure 3) shows that the two small buildings within the Site had been cleared, though the avenue of trees and footpath to Sherdley's was still marked on the map. The culvert and circular feature were no longer visible and several former field boundaries had been infilled or removed to create larger fields that were easier to plough. The Ordnance Survey map of 1893 is the first plan to name the farmsteads surrounding the Site, annotating Sherdley's Cottages, Nook Farm, Yew Tree Farm, Spindle Hall Farm and Throstle's Nest Farm.

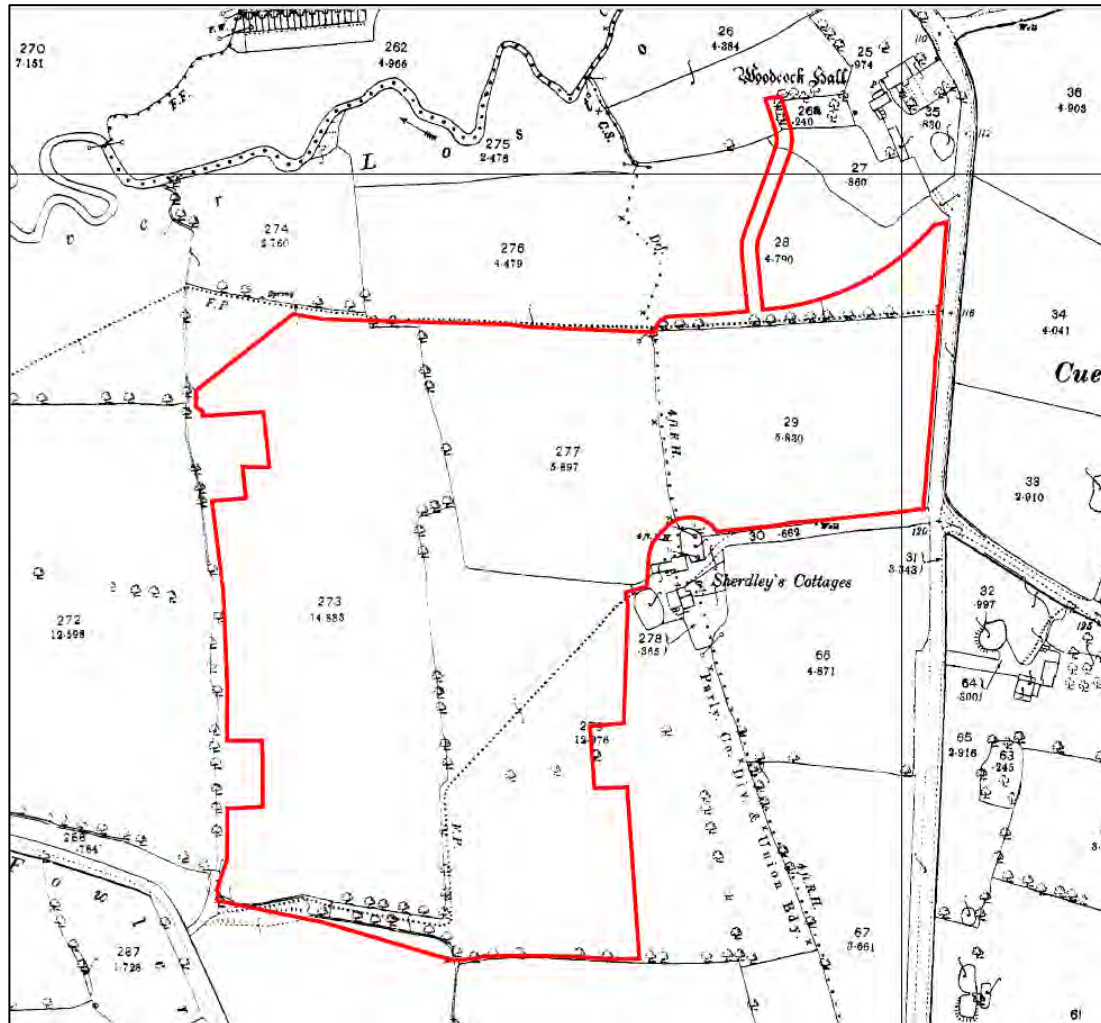


Plate 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1893, showing the Site boundary

The census returns provide an insight into the social history of the area surrounding the Site and a shift away from farming. The census returns for 1891 records that cotton weaving was the most popular occupation for the residents of Fowler Lane. Other occupations include farmers, farm servants, labourers, railway platelayers, a rubber worker, a stoker in cotton mill and an engine cleaner. Most of the residents were from the surrounding area, including Bamber Bridge, Lostock Hall, Cuerden, Preston, Clayton-le-Wood, Newton-le-Willow, Blackburn and Penwortham. Residents from slightly further afield included a handful of residents who had been born in Liverpool.

The residents of the two cottages at Sherdley's included Elizabeth Taylor, aged 72, who lived with her four children that were all employed as cotton weavers. The family were all born locally in Farrington and Hutton. The property next door was occupied by

John Suggett, aged 35, who worked as a railway pointsman. John lived with his wife and their four children. John was born in Bratton, Yorkshire, as were three of the children, whilst his wife had been born in Preston, and their younger child was born in Farington.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1911 (Figure 4) shows a similar layout of the Site. Similarly, the 1931 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 5) captures an almost identical arrangement of fields.

The next available map that captures the Site is the Ordnance Survey map of 1965 (Plate 7; Figure 6). The map shows that a network of field drains ran through the Site, one of which seem to have followed the course of an earlier culvert, marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (Plate 5, pp 22).

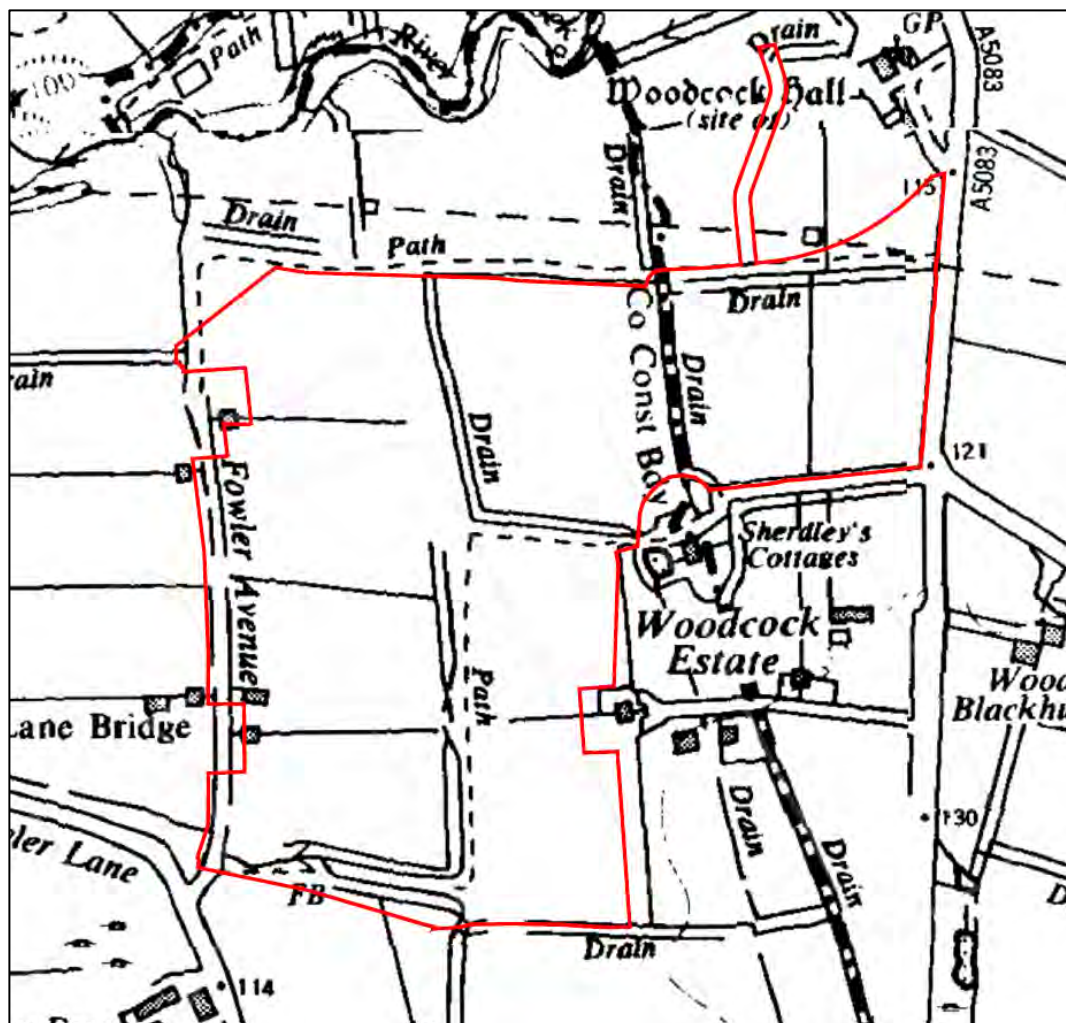


Plate 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1965, showing the Site boundary

Woodcock Estate had been established to the south of Sherdley's Cottages, which seemed to have consisted of five buildings that were access via a track that ran west from Stanifield Lane. The map of 1965 shows that a rectangular building associated with Woodcock Estate lay within the Site boundary.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1965 shows that Fowler Lane had been extended and now forked northwards along the line of a former field boundary. The route is annotated

as Fowler Avenue. In total, six buildings had been erected along the new route, two of which were located within the Site boundary, with a third potentially extending within the Site. The fields within the Site had also been divided into 20 smaller fields.

4.7 Previous Archaeological Works

Previous archaeological work in the area comprises a mixture of desk-based assessments (ELA3048; 2248; 269; 294;), a building survey (ELA650), an archaeological evaluation (ELA2992) and a subsequent strip, map, and record excavation (ELS3049).

The potential of archaeological remains at Cuerden Strategic site was initially highlighted in a desk-based assessment, 200m to the east of the Site (Salford Archaeology 2016; ELA3048). The desk-based assessment recommended a scheme of archaeological trial trenches to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains. The evaluation was undertaken by Salford Archaeology in 2018 and consisted of the excavation of 15 trenches, which confirmed that buried archaeological remains survived within the 65-hectare site (ELA2992).

Further archaeological works were recommended in the form of a strip, map, and record excavation in six areas across the Cuerden Strategic site (ELA3049; Salford Archaeology 2018). The earliest phase of archaeological activity encountered may date provisionally 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 in a field on the opposite side of Stanified Lane (300m to the east of the Site). A pennanular gully and circular post-built structure and group of associated structural features were also nearby and were probably contemporary with the Roman road (ELA3049; Salford Archaeology 2018).

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, 300m to the east of the Site). The features correspond to a field system spanning the late 11th to 16th centuries. These features were complemented by additional remains of ridge and furrow farming to the north (Areas 2 and 4, 270m and 370m to the east of the Site) and the remains of Pinfold House farmstead, which was occupied until the mid-19th century (Salford Archaeology 2018).

5. Gazetteer of Sites

The following gazetteer entries (GE) summarise the sites of potential archaeological interest within the Site (Plate 6). The identification of these non-designated heritage assets is drawn primarily from the map regression analysis and Lancashire HER.

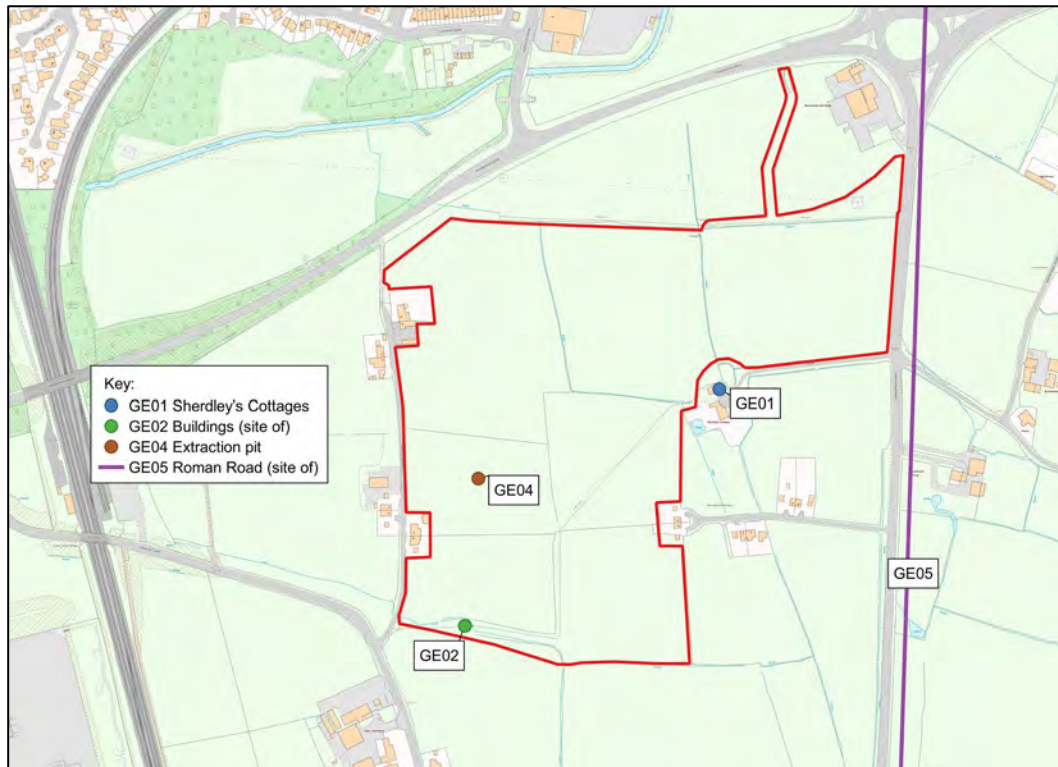


Plate 6: Location of gazetteer entries (GE01; GE02; GE04; GE05) superimposed onto modern mapping

Gazetteer Entry 01

Site Name	Sherdley's Cottages
Designation	No designation
HER Number	PRN1557 - MLA1557
Site Type	Cropmark (site of)
Period	Undated
NGR	354853 424745
Source	Greenwood's map of 1818; OS mapping
Description	First appears on Greenwood's map of 1818 as two buildings. The same arrangement of buildings is shown on later maps. Fields recorded to the south of Sherdley's in the 1817 (Radcliffe 1817, 6) survey and on tithe map of 1839 (LCA/DRB/1/59). The buildings at Sherdley's are still standing and are located beyond the Site boundary.
Assessment	The Site boundary skirts around Sherdley's Cottages. There is some potential for associated remains to survive within the Site <i>in-situ</i> .

Gazetteer Entry 02

Site Name	Buildings (site of)
Designation	No designation
HER Number	-
Site Type	Structure (site of)
Period	18 th /19 th century
NGR	354590 424517
Source	OS map of 1848; Greenwood 1818
Description	The OS map of 1848 shows two buildings to the east of Fowler Lane. The buildings consisted of a small L-shaped building with a small square building to the east. The function of the properties is unclear. It is possible that the buildings are the same as those shown on Greenwood's map of 1818.
Assessment	The Site boundary skirts around the buildings. There is some potential for associated remains to survive within the Site <i>in-situ</i> .

Gazetteer Entry 03

Site Name	Medieval field systems
Designation	No designation
HER Number	PRN19297 - MLA19259
Site Type	Field systems (site of)
Period	Medieval
NGR	SD 550 244
Source	OS map of 1848
Description	Medieval field systems off Stanifield Lane (PRN19297 - MLA19259) located immediately to the south-east of the Site.
Assessment	Evidence of agricultural activity during the medieval period has been identified near to the Site, therefore, the Site has potential to contain buried remains associated with this period, which would be of archaeological importance.

Gazetteer Entry 04

Site Name	Extraction pit
Designation	No designation
HER Number	-
Site Type	Extraction pit (site of)
Period	Post-medieval
NGR	354640 424656
Source	OS mapping
Description	A circular feature is visible on OS map of 1848 in the field, 140m to the north of the two buildings located within the west part of the Site. Several marl pits have been identified in the fields surrounding the Site and it is probably a remnant of a marl pit, which was for the extraction of clay once used on fields as a form of fertiliser. LIDAR Finder shows a large depression in the area of the potential pit.
Assessment	The feature lies within the Site and potentially indicates that post-medieval activity was undertaken within the Site. There is potential for remains associated with post-medieval activity to survive within the Site <i>in-situ</i> .

Gazetteer Entry 05

Site Name	Roman Road
Designation	No designation
HER Number	PRN26143 - MLA26078
Site Type	Roman Road (site of)
Period	Roman
NGR	355065 424208
Source	HER
Description	A well-preserved section of the Roman road from Wigan to Walton-le-Dale was excavated during a strip, map, and record excavation undertaken by Salford Archaeology in 2018 (exposed in Area 6, 340m to the south-east of the Site). The road was aligned north/south.
Assessment	Buried remains associated with the Roman road could potentially survive <i>in-situ</i> within the Site.

6. Significance

6.1 *The Policy Context of Heritage Assets*

The archaeological resource of an area can encompass a range of assets, including below-ground remains, earthworks, and standing buildings and other structures. Some of these remains may have statutory protection, such as Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings. Others do not, but may nevertheless be of archaeological significance. Under both national and local planning policy, as outlined below, both statutory and non-statutory remains are to be considered within the planning process.

The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policy and framework for England, and how these are expected to be implemented. The NPPF places particular emphasis on assessing the development proposals in line with an up-to-date local plan.

In determining applications, local planning authorities must be able to understand the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposed development in order to assess its impact. This enables the conservation of heritage assets in a manner suitable to their significance so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations, or else they can be recorded and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence publicly accessible (heritage assets are considered in Policy 16 (Central Lancashire Core Strategy 2012)).

6.2 *Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria*

An accepted methodology for assessing archaeological significance is the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments, outlined in Annex 1 of *Scheduled Monuments: identifying, protecting, conserving and investigating nationally important archaeological sites under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* (DCMS March 2010). These criteria have all been utilised in this assessment and are listed below:

- Period
- Rarity
- Documentation
- Group Value
- Survival/Condition
- Fragility/Vulnerability
- Diversity
- Potential

6.3 *Baseline Significance Conditions*

6.3.1 *Period*

No prehistoric or Roman activity is known to have taken place within the Site, although recent archaeological excavations have identified several prehistoric and Iron Age/Romano-British sites on the opposite side of Stanifield Lane. In addition, an undated cropmark has been identified within the Site. There are potential medieval field systems, and post-medieval sites within the Site and the surrounding area. Given the lack of development within the Site, there is potential for remains to be recovered from these various periods. Therefore, the Site may be considered significant due to period.

6.3.2 *Rarity*

Across the region archaeological settlement evidence from the Later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age is scarce and would be considered rare (North West Regional Research framework 2021). Therefore, any archaeological evidence pertaining to these themes would be considered rare.

Over the last ten years, the late medieval period of the region has seen a substantial body of archaeological investigations, analysis, and publication. Throughout the region, especially Cumbria, large scale surveys have revealed new sites and expanded our knowledge of land use. However, this needs targeted research and excavation programmes to further refine dating and usage patterns. This includes remains of old farming practices such as ridge and furrow and remnants of late medieval field systems. Remains of associated late medieval heritage assets such as former field boundaries (GE03) and extraction pits/ponds (GE04) within the Site would be considered rare (North West Regional Research Framework 2021).

Research on and recording of the archaeological remains of the agricultural industry has been extensive since 2006. Such research is focused primarily on the standing structures of the agricultural industry. Despite extensive research, there are still some gaps in the knowledge of rural settlements and farming techniques, particularly regarding change and development of the agrarian landscape, farming practices and farms in response to industrialisation and enclosure. Remains associated with the sequence of buildings (GE02) erected in the south-west part of the Site during the 18th/19th century, would not be considered rare.

6.3.3 *Documentation*

The historical development of the Site from the late 18th century can be traced reasonably well from cartographic and other primary sources. Further documentary research would undoubtedly furnish additional evidence, although this is unlikely to alter the outline and conclusions presented in this assessment.

6.3.4 *Group Value*

The potential archaeological remains within the Site do not share a group association and therefore do not hold group value.

6.3.5 *Survival / Condition*

The survival, extent and condition of any below-ground archaeological remains within the Site is presently unknown. The majority of the Site remains undeveloped, though recent farming activities may have had a minor impact on the below-ground remains of the sites identified in this assessment.

6.3.6 *Fragility/Vulnerability*

Any buried archaeological remains, should they be present and survive *in-situ*, are vulnerable to damage or destruction during any earth-moving works associated with the proposed development.

6.3.7 *Diversity*

The heritage assets within the Site are mostly associated with the development of Cuerden Green and Farington during the medieval, post-medieval and industrial periods, though remains associated with prehistoric activity may also exist. Therefore, the Site may be considered significant due to diversity.

6.4.8 *Potential*

There are no known prehistoric sites within the Site, however, recent excavations in the vicinity of the Site have identified areas of prehistoric activity, particularly off Old School Lane, 500m to the north-east of the Site. This comprised a range of cropmarks indicative of early field systems. An excavation revealed ditches and gullies, which represented ancient field systems that have been dated to the late Mesolithic to early Neolithic period (Salford Archaeology 1028; HER PRN26143 - MLA26). Prehistoric remains were also excavated 340m to the south-east of the Site and were likely associated with a Roman road. The survival of prehistoric evidence would have the potential to address several research agendas outlined in the current Archaeological Research Framework for North West England (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/prehistory/#section-2>):

PH18: What can palaeoenvironmental analysis of buried soils tell us about prehistoric environments?

PH25: How can we better understand the distribution of prehistoric archaeology across the landscape?

PH30: What can incidental, residual lithics tell us about Mesolithic activity and settlement locations?

Farming activities may have impacted the survival of buried remains, though most of the Site has remained undeveloped. Furthermore, aerial photography identified a cropmark to the south-east of Sherdley's Cottage, which may represent the remains of ancient field systems like those excavated off Old School Lane. Other prehistoric remains were also excavated *in-situ* to the south-east of the Site (Salford Archaeology 2018). Therefore, the Site has the potential to address the research aims listed above.

The extraction of clay and sand from land in the Site, and within the vicinity of the Site is evident from the large number of ponds and earthworks annotated as 'Old Clay Pit' and 'Sand Pit' on the available sequence of Ordnance Survey maps. The survival of pits has the potential to address several research agendas listed in the current North

West Regional Research Framework (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/sample-page/late-medieval/>):

LM02: What is our understanding of late medieval land reclamation, water management and exploitation of natural resources?

LM03: How did small settlements evolve and exploit environmental resources?

PM29: How do the extractive industries develop during this period?

A potential extraction pit is captured on the Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (Plate 5). The feature is sub-circular in plan and was marked in the west part of the Site, in a field to the north of two buildings marked on the map. Therefore, the Site has the potential to address the research aims listed above.

The Site primarily contains fields, the boundaries of which are shown on 19th-century mapping. It is likely that the fields were in use throughout the medieval, post-medieval and industrial periods. Several late medieval finds and field systems have been identified, some of which have recently been excavated, 340-500m to the east and north-east of the Site (Salford Archaeology 2018). The field systems were associated with deserted medieval settlements such as Cuerden Nook, Cuerden Green and Old Cuerden. Medieval field systems have also been identified immediately to the south-east of the Site boundary (PRN19297 - MLA19259). The survival of field boundaries has the potential to address several of the research aims listed in the current Archaeological Research Framework (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/sample-page/late-medieval/>):

EM15: How can archaeological methods be used to recognise domestic, farming and food provision sites?

EM17: What evidence is there for landscape change in the early medieval period?

EM18: How can the archaeological investigation of parish boundaries inform our understanding of the Early Medieval land use?

LM12: How do we improve our knowledge of the region's various agricultural practices, plant and animal husbandry, and how did these change and develop over time?

PM10: Where does pre-18th century enclosure survive in the region?

PM09: How did ecological changes linked to agricultural improvement impact upon the wider landscape?

PM15: How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes, field patterns, distributions of buildings and building types?

Ind05: How well understood is change and development of the agrarian landscape in response to industrialisation and enclosure?

Ind15: How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes and field patterns?

It is highly likely that below-ground remains pertaining to the fields will survive within the Site due to the lack of development that took place in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Therefore, there is potential for the Site to address the potential research aims listed above.

Buildings associated with potential farmsteads were located within the Site from the early 19th century. In total, two buildings are first captured on Greenwood's map of 1818 (Plate 3). The buildings seem to have been cleared by Hennet and Bingley's map of 1830 and a new building seems to have been erected on a different alignment, and much closer to the Fowler Lane frontage. By 1848, the building shown on Hennet and Bingley's map seems to have been demolished and two new buildings had been built in a slightly different location, east of Fowler Lane. The survival of below-ground structural remains has the potential to address several research agendas listed in the Archaeological Research Framework (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/sample-page/post-medieval/>):

PM02: How does the transition from timber to stone or brick differ according to building types and across the region?

PM15: How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes, field patterns, distributions of buildings and building types?

Ind06: How did the industrial farm evolve and farming practices develop during this period?

Ind09: How does the nature of rural settlement change during this period?

Ind18: How can we identify the impact of industrialisation on rural dwellings?

There is potential for *in-situ* buried structural remains to survive within the Site. Therefore, there is potential for the Site to address the above research aims.

6.5 Significance of Below-Ground Archaeological Remains

It can be concluded from the information gained from the desk-based research that the Site is of archaeological interest and has high potential to contain buried remains associated with prehistoric activity through to the industrial period.

Using the above criteria, the Site most likely contains non-statutory remains of local and regional significance. Remains associated with field boundaries and associated agricultural activity (GE03) and the sequence of farm buildings (GE01; GE03) would be of local significance. Buried archaeological remains associated with prehistoric activity, Roman activity (GE05) or medieval activity (GE03) may be of regional significance.

7. Impact of Development

7.1 Development Proposals

The proposed development comprises 2No. cricket ovals and associated pavilion building and spectator seating, covered cricket nets, access, parking, landscaping and associated works (including temporary event overlay facilities on ticketed match days), realignment of Public Right of Way Ref 9-12-FP 1, 7-4-FP 6 and Public Right of Way Ref 9-12-FP 2, 7-4-FP 5. The delivery of the proposals will involve ground-moving works that may have the potential to affect any surviving archaeological remains within the Site.

7.2 Impact of Development on Below-Ground Remains

This assessment has demonstrated that the Site has the potential to retain buried remains dating from the prehistoric period to the industrial period. Any such remains that do exist within the Site are likely to be of local, if not regional, significance. A programme of mitigation is therefore recommended to ensure that any remains which are present are not damaged or destroyed.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Heritage Assets

The NPPF makes clear that where the loss of the whole or a material part of a non-designated heritage asset's significance is justified by a development, the developer should be required to record that asset and advance understanding of its significance, and to make this evidence publicly accessible.

This assessment has demonstrated that there is potential for the buried remains of prehistoric activity, Roman activity (GE05), medieval and post-medieval remains (GE03) associated within agricultural activity and potential industrial-period farm buildings (GE01; GE02).

8.2 Recommendations and Further Investigation

Any ground-breaking works associated with the proposed development have the potential to remove any buried archaeological remains. Therefore, it may be anticipated that archaeological investigation via a programme of archaeological evaluation trial trenching may be required to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains and, if present, their extent and significance.

Should significant archaeological remains be encountered during the archaeological evaluation, further excavation may be required to offset the harm of the development to the buried archaeological resource, in line with the guidance provided by the National Planning Policy Framework. The scope and extent of any such further investigation will be agreed with the Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Team (LCCHET).

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Acknowledgements

Salford Archaeology would like to thank Laura Thorpe of Eric Wright Construction Ltd for commissioning the project. Further thanks also given to Joanne Smith of LCCHET for their advice and assistance.

The desk-based research and report was compiled by Katie Fletcher, and the illustrations were produced by Sarah Mottershead. The report was edited by Ashley Brogan.

Appendix 1: Figures

- Figure 1: Site location map
- Figure 2: Site boundary superimposed onto modern mapping
- Figure 3: Site boundary superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Town Plan of 1893
- Figure 4: Site Boundary Superimposed onto the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County Series Map of 1911
- Figure 5: Site Boundary Superimposed onto the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County Series Map of 1931
- Figure 6: Site Boundary Superimposed onto the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County Series Map of 1965

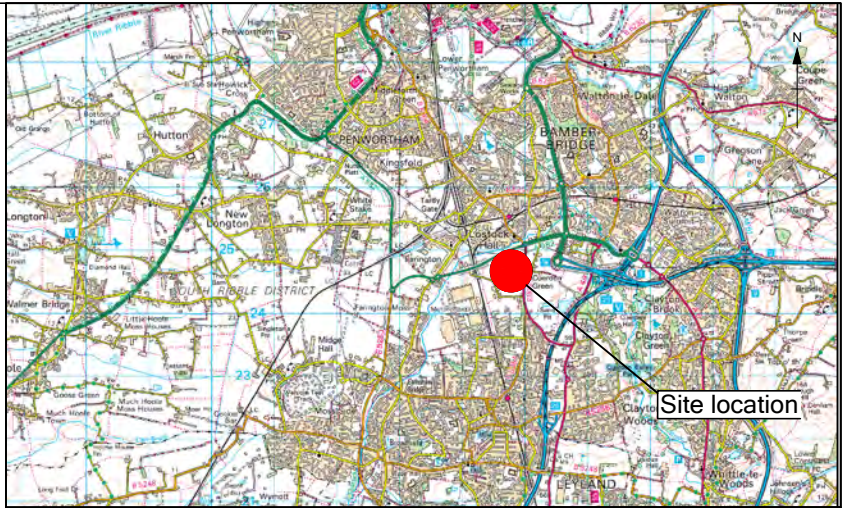
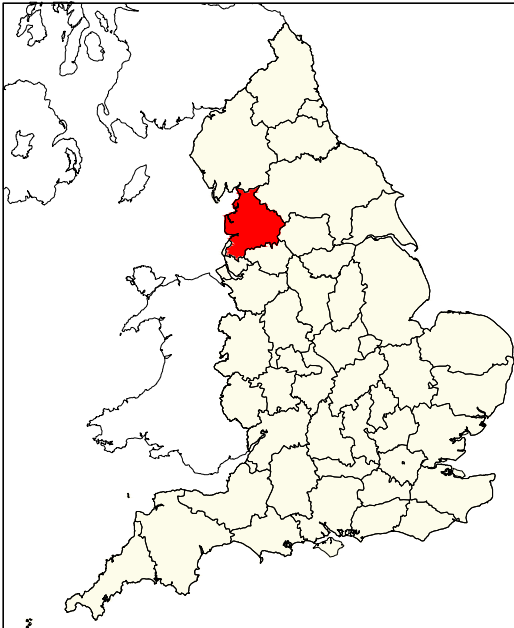


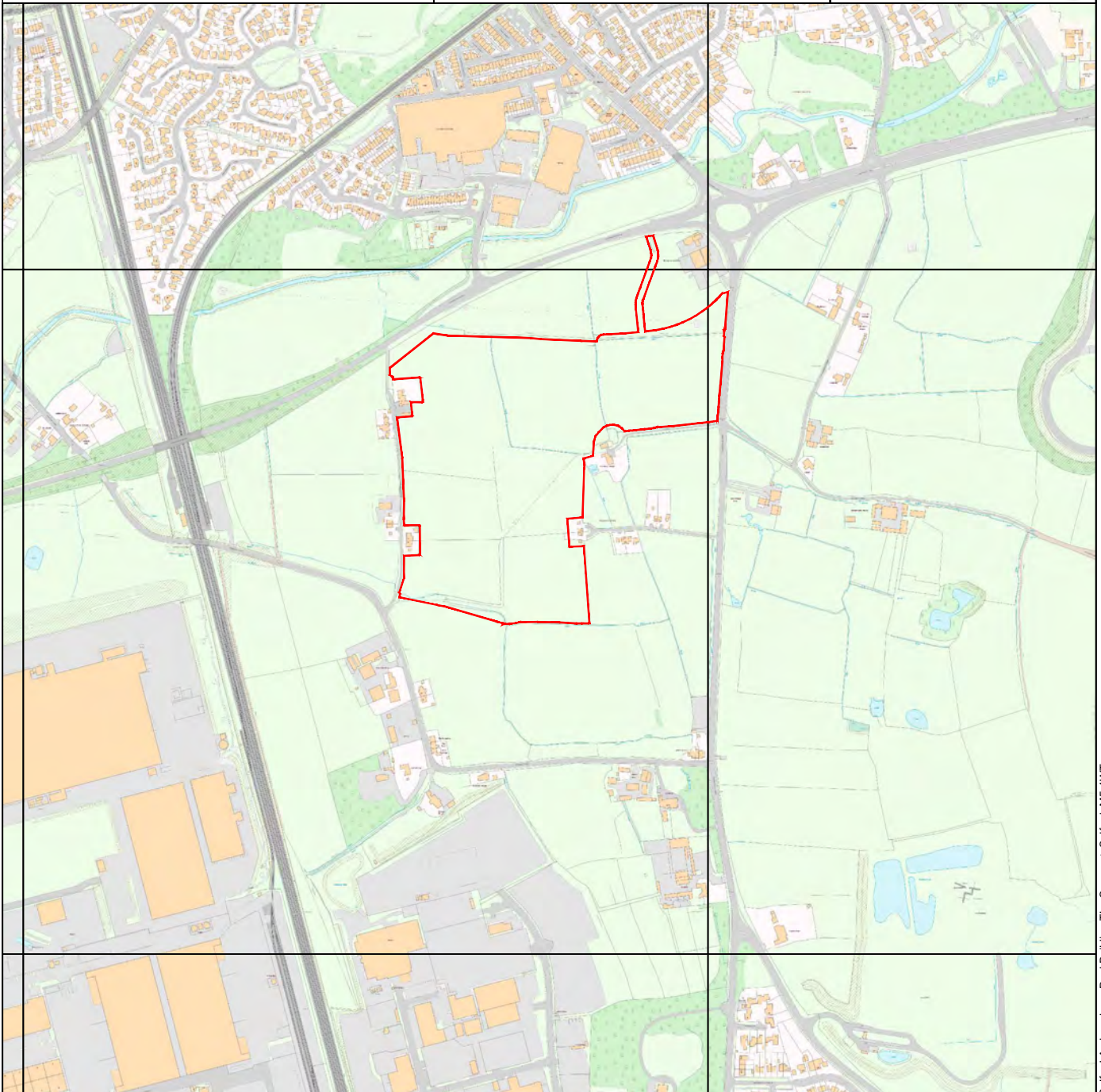
Figure 1:

Site Location

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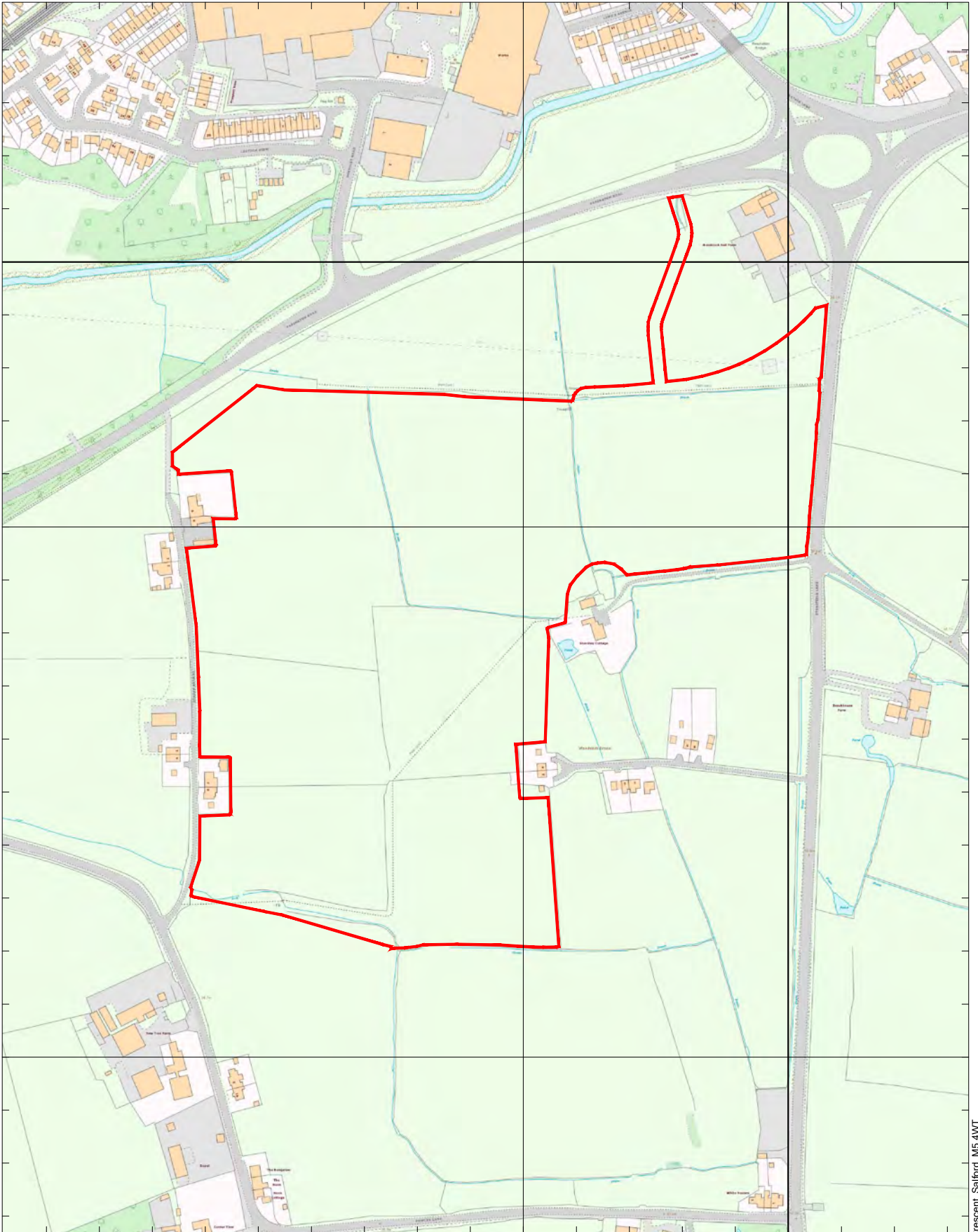


Figure 2:
 Site Boundary Superimposed onto Modern Mapping

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Key:
— Site Boundary



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0 200 m



Scale at A4 1:4000

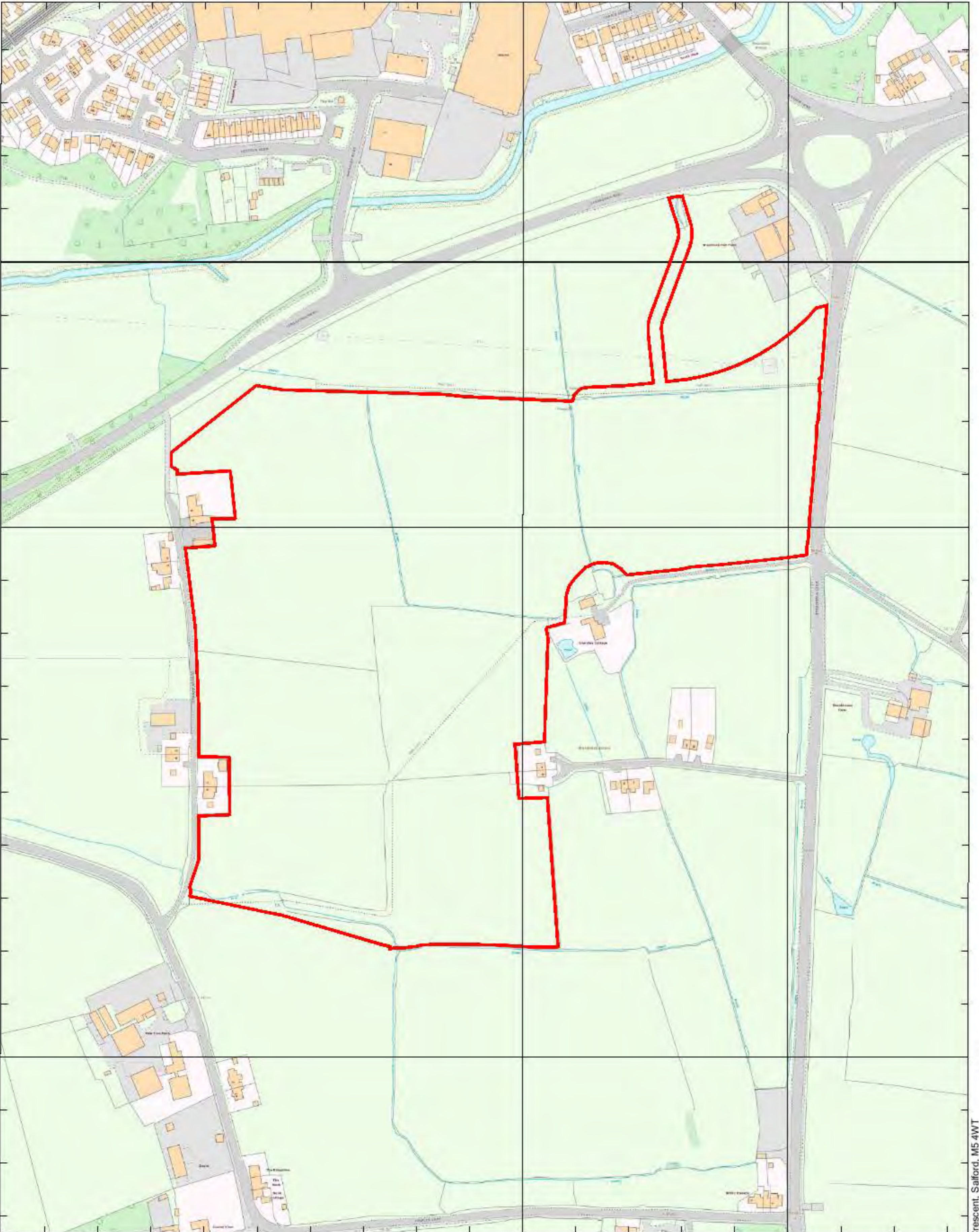


Figure 2:
 Site Boundary Superimposed onto Modern Mapping

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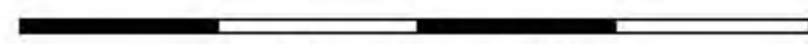


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█ Site Boundary

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Scale at A4 1:4000



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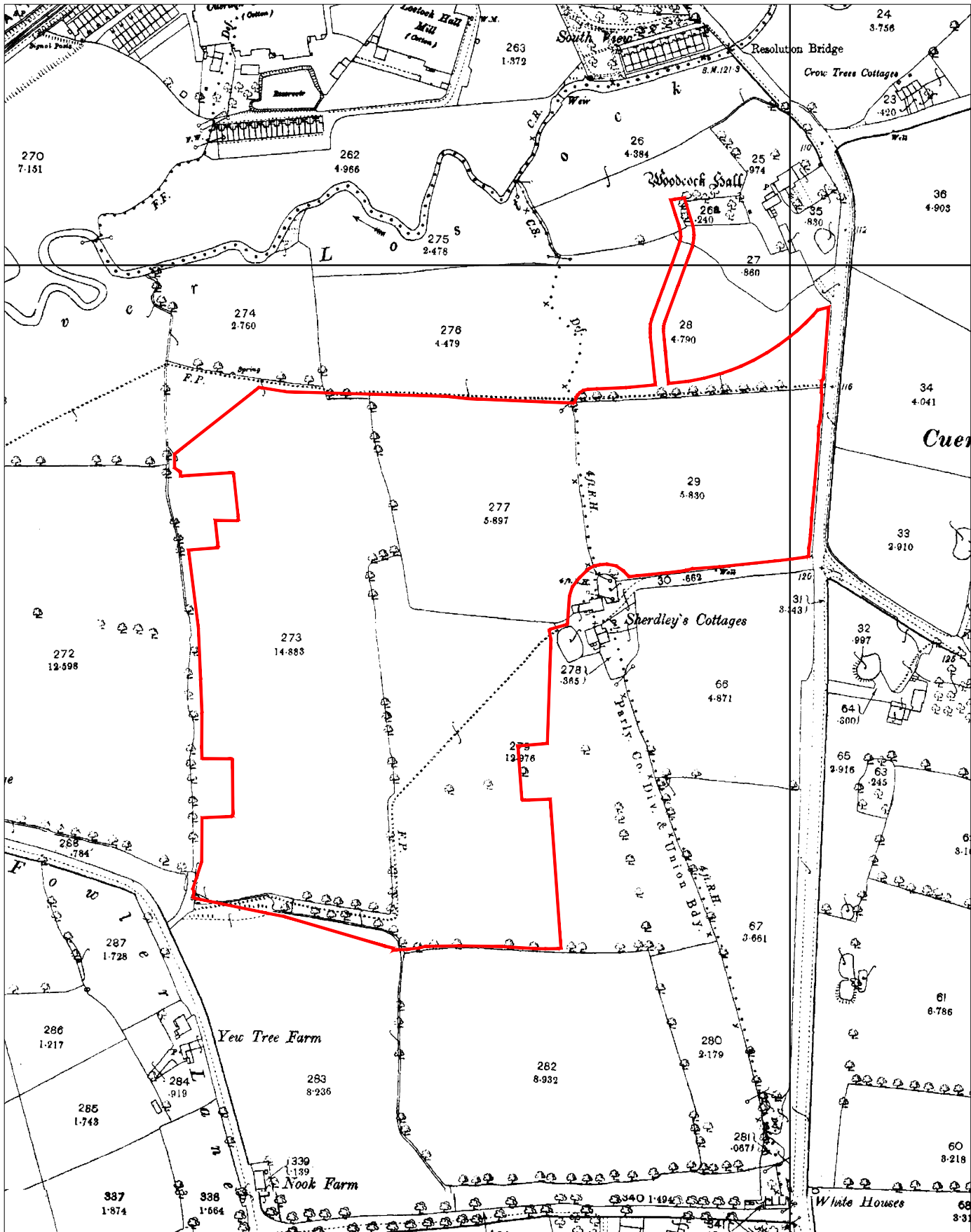
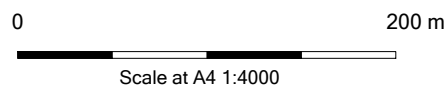


Figure 3:
 Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1898

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Key:
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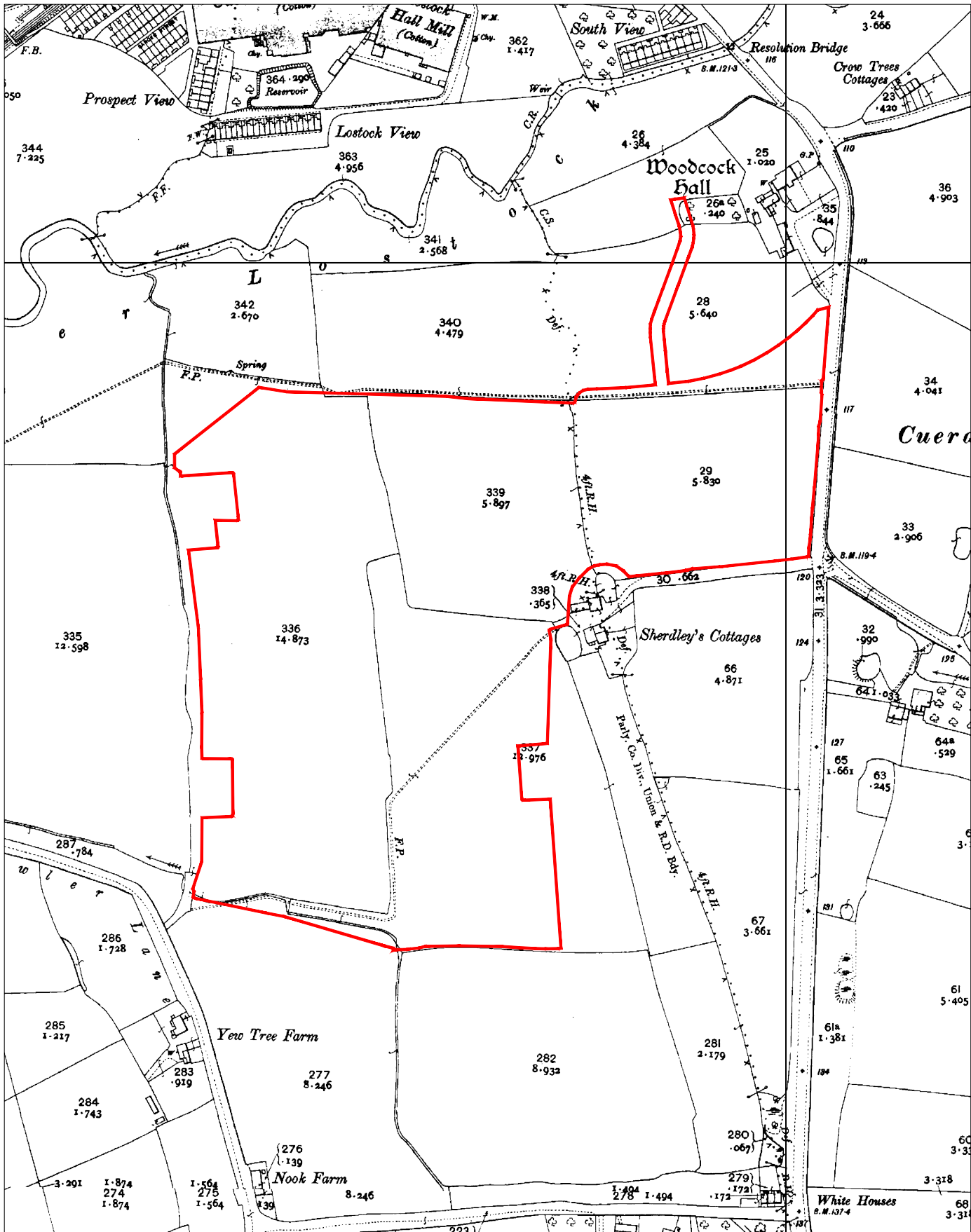


Figure 4:

Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1911

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Key:

— Site Boundary



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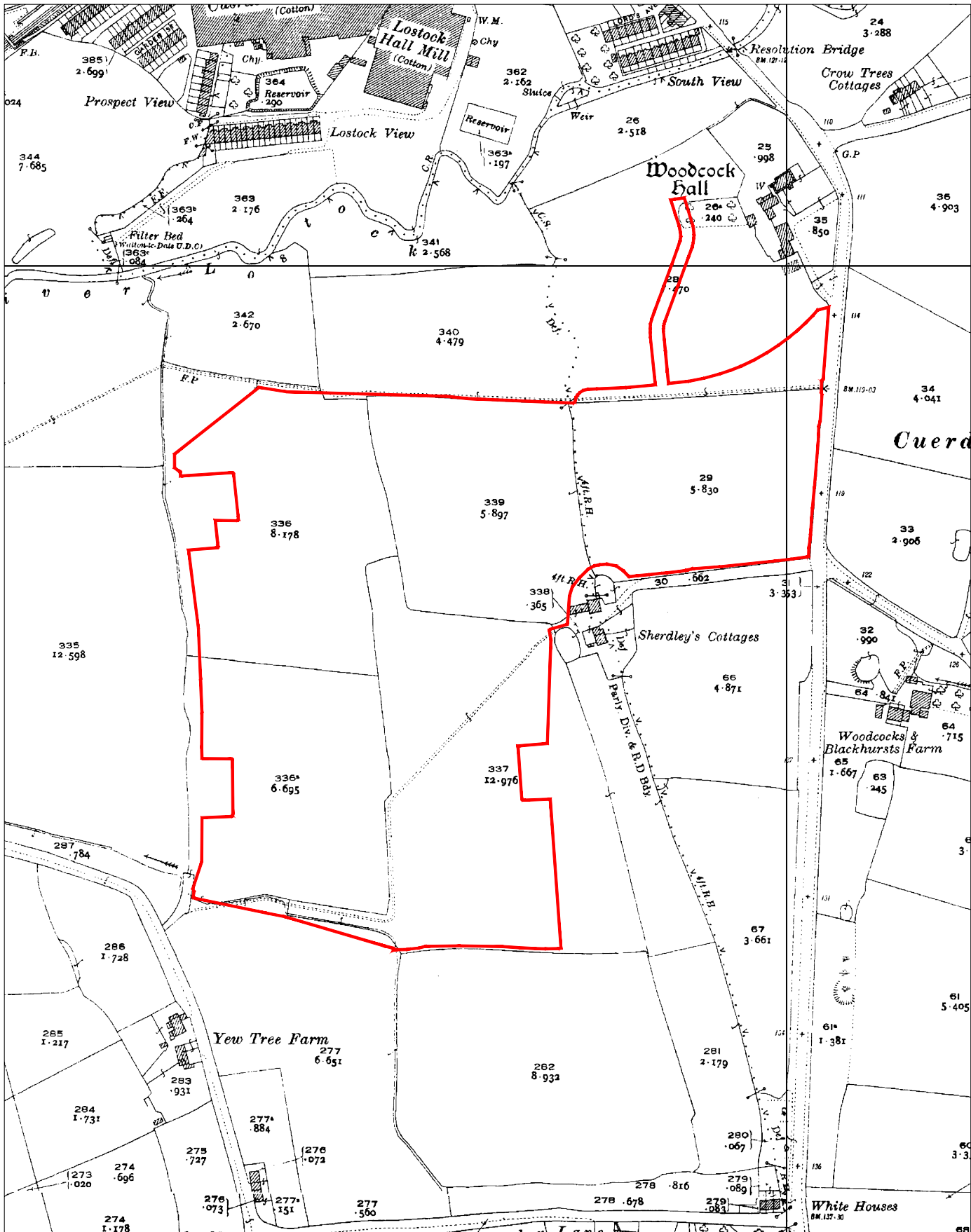
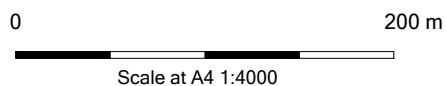


Figure 5:
 Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1931

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Key:

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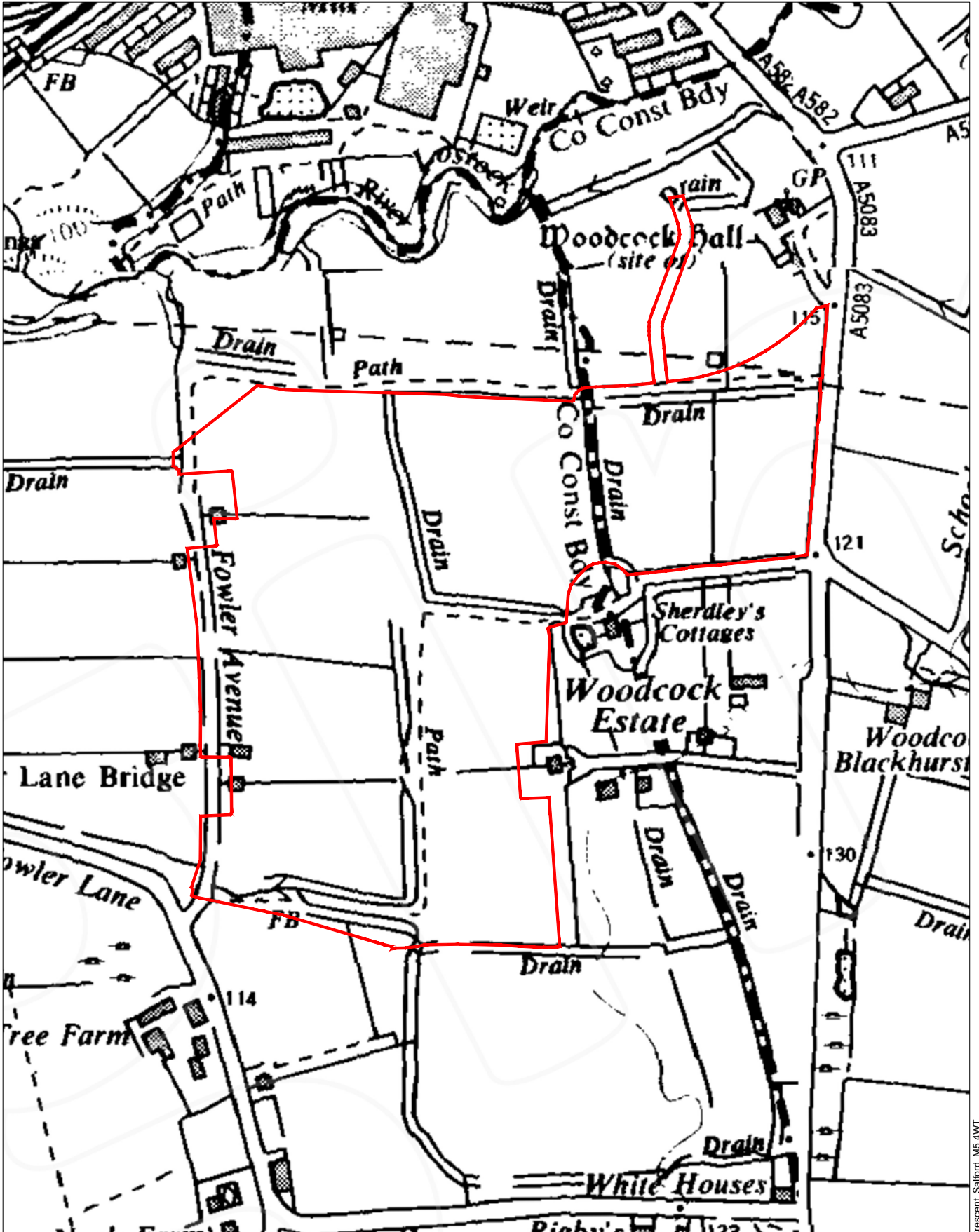


Figure 6:
 Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1965

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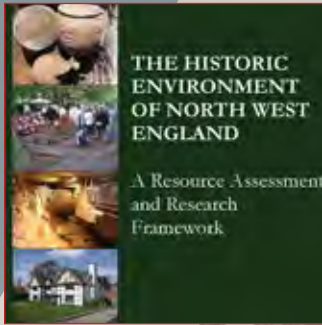
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CONSULTANCY



DESK-BASED ASSESSMENTS



WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION



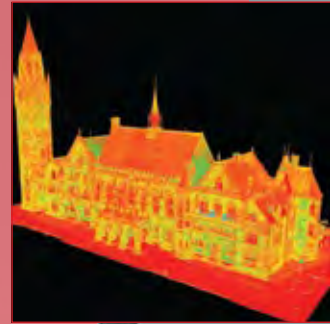
EXCAVATION



BUILDING SURVEY



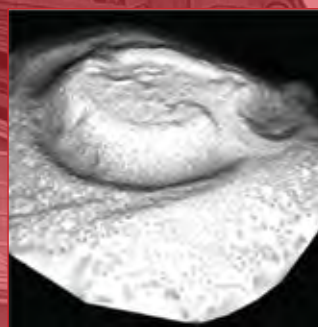
3D LASER SCANNING



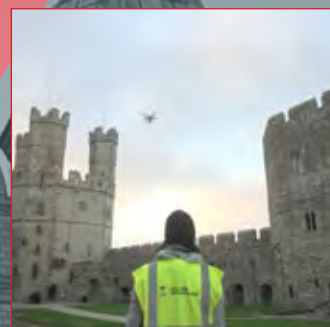
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



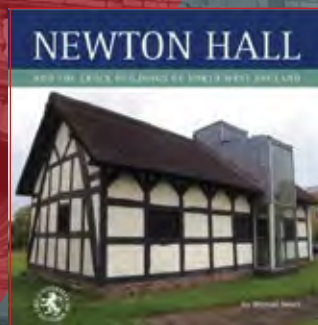
DRONE SURVEYS



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