

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

Land off Carr Lane, Prescott

August 2023





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Issue Sheet

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Archaeological Desk-based Assessment:

Land off Carr Lane, Prescott

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Non-Technical Summary

Lanpro Services Limited was commissioned by Partner Construction Ltd and Torus 62 Ltd to produce an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) to inform proposals for a residential development at land off Carr Lane, Prescott, Merseyside NGR SJ 46093 92045 (centred). It is located within the administrative boundary of Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

The archaeological DBA addresses the information requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and provides the proportionate response sought by the NPPF. It draws together the available archaeological, historical, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the significance and archaeological potential of the study site.

This archaeological DBA does not consider built heritage assets.

The study site lies beyond the focus of the settlement of Prescott and the available HER records do not contain any evidence for archaeological assets from the early and later prehistoric, Roman, early medieval, later medieval and post-medieval periods. A review of HER records, historic mapping and historic aerial photography indicates that prior to the 18th century, the study site is likely to have consisted of open fields.

There are just two HER records of industrial and 20th century period activity within the study site, comprising the site of The Carrs, a 19th century house adjacent to Carr Lane (MME6326) and the site of Old Carrs Colliery, started in 1769 (MME21743). The Carrs is first shown on Piercy's map of 1809 and is described as a 'House and Garden' occupied by a William Lyon on the 1842 Plan of the Township of Whiston.

Should any remains of The Carrs and the colliery survive within the study site boundary, they would be of local significance due to their potential archaeological and historic interest regarding early 19th century housing and Prescott's mining history. The colliery could also have group value due to its relationship with other mines in the area.

In the early 20th century and by the time of the 1937 Ordnance Survey map, the whole of the northern half of the study site was occupied by a sewage works. This would have impacted upon any remains from earlier periods and resulted in the removal of Carr House. The sewage works would also likely have impacted upon any remains associated with coal mining and later open cast mine workings at Old Carrs Pit would have impacted upon any remains from earlier periods, including earlier mining.

This assessment has concluded there is a very low potential for any archaeological remains of periods earlier than the industrial and 20th century periods. There is a medium potential for the discovery of archaeological remains from the industrial and 20th century period. However, there has been significant development within the industrial and 20th century period and any survival may be fragmentary at best. If any sub-surface remains are discovered within the study site, it is considered likely that they would be no greater than of local significance.

1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of land off Carr Lane, Prescott, Merseyside (hereafter referred to as the 'study site') has been prepared by Lanpro Services Limited on behalf of Partner Construction Ltd and Torus 62 Ltd. This assessment has been undertaken to inform proposals for residential development of 88 houses and associated infrastructure within the study site.
- 1.1.2 This document provides an assessment of the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the study site and assesses the potential impacts that the proposed development could have on these and other archaeological assets in the vicinity. This assessment solely examines the impact upon potential below-ground remains with impacts to built heritage is not considered.
- 1.1.3 The assessment has been undertaken to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework's Section 16: 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (MHCLG 2021) and is in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidelines *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CIfA 2020).

2 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by current legislation, the policy framework set by government planning policy, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

2.2 Current Legislation

- 2.2.1 The applicable legislative framework for this archaeological desk-based assessment relates to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (AMAAA) 1979.
- 2.2.2 The AMAAA largely concerns to Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and designated archaeological areas, detailing in particular what can and cannot be undertaken on archaeological grounds.

2.3 National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.3.1 Section 16 of the NPPF (MHCLG 2021), entitled 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets.
- 2.3.2 Overall, the objectives of Section 16 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:
- Delivery of sustainable development
 - Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment, and
 - Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance
- 2.3.3 Section 16 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 194 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset (and any contribution made by its setting), and that 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 upon their significance*'. This is supported by paragraph 195 which states that LPAs should take this into account when considering applications.
- 2.3.4 Paragraphs 199-201 consider the impact of development proposals upon the significance of designated heritage assets. Paragraph 199 states that where a development is proposed that would affect 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 this weight should be)*'. Paragraph 202 emphasises that '*where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits*' of the scheme, bearing in mind the great weight highlighted in Paragraph 199.
- 2.3.5 Heritage Assets are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: '*a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing)*'.
- 2.3.6 Annex 2 also defines 'Archaeological Interest' as a heritage asset which '*holds or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point*'. Heritage Assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.

2.3.7 A Designated Heritage Asset comprises a ‘*World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.*’

2.3.8 In short, government policy provides a framework which:

- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets (which include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas)
- Protects the settings of such designations
- In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk-based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions.
- Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not significant enough to merit in situ preservation.

2.4 Planning Practice Guidance

2.4.1 The Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG 2019) is a web-based resource which is to be used in conjunction with the NPPF. It is aimed at planning professionals and prescribes best practice within the planning sector. The relevant section is entitled ‘Conserving and enhancing the historic environment’. The guidance given in this section sets out the best practice to applying government policy in the NPPF. It provides an interpretation for each of the interests assigned to heritage assets in understanding significance: archaeological, architectural and artistic, and historic (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 18a-006-20190723).

2.5 Local Planning Policy

2.5.1 The Knowsley Local Plan comprises several documents, including the Core Strategy (KMBC 2016), which sets out the strategic framework for the growth and development of Knowsley up to 2028 and beyond. The following policy relevant to heritage contained within the Core Strategy is as follows:

Policy CS20 – Managing the Borough’s Historic Environment

1) Development proposals in Knowsley should preserve or enhance the borough’s historic and architectural assets, including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens and archaeological remains, together with other local areas, buildings and structures of historic importance. The Council will:

- a) Require preservation of the local distinctiveness and character of historic assets through sensitive design of new development, including appropriate integration with their setting and immediate landscape;*
- b) Prevent demolition and/or development which would result in substantial harm or the loss of a designated historic asset or its setting, unless the proposal would result in substantial public benefits which clearly outweigh the harm or loss;*
- c) Where a development proposal will result in less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset or its setting, assess such harm against the benefits of the proposal;*
- d) Facilitate long term conservation and enhancement of local assets and areas of historic importance, including through the preparation of Conservation Area Management Plans.*

2) The re-use of vacant or underused historic assets will be encouraged, with favourable consideration given, where appropriate, to proposals which will:

- a) *Enable a use for a purpose sympathetic to its conservation;*
 - b) *Retain or introduce public access; and*
 - c) *Enhance the importance of the asset for local tourism, leisure or the economy.*
- 3) *Development proposals on sites which include, or are considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets or comprising archaeological interest, should be accompanied by a heritage impact statement.*
- 4) *Locally important historic assets which are no subject to statutory designation will be identified in a local list and will be afforded consideration in the decision making process.*

2.6 Professional Guidance

- 2.6.1 This assessment has been produced in line with the guidelines set out within the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service's (MEAS) Guidance on Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments (MEAS 2019).
- 2.6.2 The ClfA *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2020) provides guidelines and recommendations for best practice in undertaking archaeological desk-based research and assessment.
- 2.6.3 Guidance on the implementation and interpretation of historic environment policy has been provided by the Historic England publications *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment* (GPA2, 2015) and the *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition): The Setting of Heritage Assets* (GPA3, 2017).
- 2.6.4 Historic England's GPA2 outlines a seven-stage process for the assembly and analysis of relevant information relating to heritage assets potentially affected by a proposed development:
- Understand the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment,
 - Understand the significance of the affected assets,
 - Understand the impact of the proposal on that significance,
 - Avoid, minimise and mitigate impact in a way that meets the objectives of the NPPF,
 - Look for opportunities to better reveal or enhance significance,
 - Justify any harmful impacts in terms of the sustainable development objective of conserving significance and the need for change, and
 - Offset negative impacts on aspects of significance by enhancing others through recording, disseminating and archiving archaeological and historical interest of the important elements of the heritage assets affected.
- 2.6.5 In order to understand the nature, extent and level of significance GPA2 advocates considering the four types of heritage value an asset may hold, as identified in *Conservation Principles* (English Heritage 2008): *aesthetic, communal, historic* and *evidential*. However, NPPF (2021) has since provided a definition of significance dependant on the following four interests: *archaeological, architectural and artistic*, or *historic* (para 2.4.1, above). The following assessment of significance results from a combination of any, some or all of these values and interests.

- 2.6.6 Historic England's GPA3 recognises that whilst setting is not a heritage asset, elements of a setting '*may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral*' (para. 4). Setting is described as being distinct to curtilage, character and context. This guidance also notes that the contribution of setting to the significance of a heritage asset is often expressed by reference to views, although the importance of setting lies in what it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset, and this can be influenced by a number of other factors.
- 2.6.7 The Historic England advice note, *Statement of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets. Historic England Advice Note 12* (HEAN 12, 2019), brings together all of the above guidance in an analysis of an appropriate approach for applicants for heritage and other consents in providing an understanding of the significance of heritage assets in line with NPPF. It emphasises the level of detail required in support of both planning and listed building consent applications, which should be no more than is necessary, i.e. proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected, to reach an informed decision.

3 Methodology

3.1 Information Sources

- 3.1.1 MEAS was consulted in advance of compiling this assessment, wherein it was recommended that a study area radius of 500m is used around the study site. MEAS also recommended consideration of the Carrs (MME6326) and that the focus of the assessment should be Carrs Colliery (MME21743) in the context of historic coal mining in the region.
- 3.1.2 Records held on the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Historic England National Heritage List for England (NHLE) within the 500m search area are illustrated on Figure 1 and listed in Appendix 1.
- 3.1.3 The holdings of the Liverpool Archives, Lancashire Archives and the Archive Resource for Knowsley together with on-line repositories for historical and modern maps, plans and relevant documentary sources including the Coal Authority, were consulted in accordance with guidelines laid down by the ClfA (2020) and MEAS.
- 3.1.4 A range of published and unpublished material has been consulted, including the North West Regional Research Framework (Research Frameworks 2023).
- 3.1.5 A geo-environmental appraisal was undertaken by Groundtech Consulting in August 2023 (Groundtech Consulting 2023). This was also consulted.

3.2 Site Visit

- 3.2.1 A site visit was undertaken on 30th August 2023, in showery conditions, to provide an assessment of the character of the study site and appraise the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological or heritage assets (Plates 1-7).

3.3 Assessment Criteria

Significance

- 3.3.1 NPPF defines significance as:
The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.
- 3.3.2 Historic England's *Conservation Principles* (previously English Heritage, 2008) identified four high level values: evidential, historic, aesthetic and communal. NPPF (2021) defines significance in the planning context as resulting from the heritage interest of an asset determined by the following:
 - Archaeological Interest: the potential of an asset to yield evidence of past human activity that could be revealed through future investigation. Archaeological interest includes above-ground structures, as well as earthworks and buried or submerged remains.
 - Architectural and Artistic Interest: derives from a contemporary appreciation of an asset's aesthetics. Architectural interest is an interest in design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures. Artistic interest can include the use, representation or influence of historic places or buildings in artwork. It can also include the skill and emotional impact of works of art that are part of heritage assets or assets in their own right
 - Historic Interest: the way in which an asset can illustrate the story of past events, people and aspects of life (illustrative value, or interest). It can be said to hold communal value when associated with the identity of a community.

- 3.3.3 These values or interests encompass the criteria that Historic England are obliged to consider when statutorily designating heritage assets.
- 3.3.4 There are no single defining criteria that dictates the overall asset significance; each asset has to be evaluated against the range of criteria listed above on a case-by-case basis. These values are not intended to be restrictive but are identified in order to help establish a method for thinking systematically and consistently about the heritage values that can be ascribed to a place and contribute to a heritage asset's significance.
- 3.3.5 Assessment of significance has been undertaken in accordance with the Historic England's *Statement of Heritage Significance. Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (2019).
- 3.3.6 The relative contribution of the heritage values to the significance of the heritage asset(s) are graded as either high, medium, low, neutral/negligible (informed by ICOMOS (2011) and Historic England guidance) and illustrated in Table 2, below.

Table 1: Significance of a heritage asset

Heritage significance	Description
Very High	World Heritage Sites (WHS)
High	Scheduled Monuments (SM), Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, Grade I and II* Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
Medium	Grade II Listed Buildings Grade II Registered Historic Parks and Gardens Conservation Areas
Low	Locally Listed Buildings Non-designated heritage assets
Negligible/nil	Heritage assets with very little or no surviving research value

Setting

- 3.3.7 The NPPF defines the setting of a heritage asset as:
- The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.*
- 3.3.8 Historic England's GPA3, *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (2017), was used to inform the methodology for this assessment. The guidance recommends that a systematic and staged '5-step process' to assessment should be adopted, to which this HS has adopted steps i) to iv):
- identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected,
 - assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated,
 - assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it,
 - explore the way to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm,

v. *make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.*

- 3.3.9 The production of this assessment has taken into account the physical and sensory surroundings of the asset, in order to understand the contribution ‘setting’ makes to the heritage significance of the asset(s). This has included topography and intervening development and vegetation. It also considers how the asset is currently experienced and understood through its setting, in particular views to and from the asset and the site, along with key views, and the extent to which setting may have already been compromised.

Definition of Harm

- 3.3.10 Current guidance by Historic England is that ‘change’ does not equate to ‘harm’. The NPPF and its accompanying PPG effectively distinguish between two degrees of harm to heritage assets – substantial and less than substantial (paragraphs 201 and 202).

- 3.3.11 In determining the effects of the proposed scheme this assessment is cognisant of case law. In particular, that for Flag Station, Mansel Lacy, Herefordshire [22/09/2015] Case Number EWHC 2688, wherein it emphasised the primacy of the 1990 Planning Act and the fact that it is up to the decision makers in the planning system to ‘*have special regard to the desirability of preserving the [listed] building or its setting*’. HH Judge David Cooke stated, in regard to an impact on the setting of a listed building, (Court of Appeal (PALMER and HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL & ANR) in 2016 (Case No: C1/2015/3383) para.34):

It is still plainly the case that it is for the decision taker to assess the nature and degree of harm caused, and in the case of harm to setting rather than directly to a listed building itself, the degree to which the impact on the setting affects the reasons why it is listed.

- 3.3.12 The judgment was agreed by Lord Justice Lewison at the Court of Appeal, who stated that:

It is also clear as a matter both of law and planning policy that harm (if it exists) is to be measured against both the scale of the harm and the significance of the heritage asset. Although the statutory duty requires special regard to be paid to the desirability of not harming the setting of a listed building, that cannot mean that any harm, however minor, would necessarily require planning permission to be refused.

4 Site Appraisal

- 4.1.1 The study site extends to some 3.42ha, which lies approximately 1km to the south-west of the town of Prescott, within the Knowsley District of Merseyside (NGR SJ4608292017) (Figure 1). The site is sandwiched between the M57 Liverpool Outer Ring Road in the south-west and Carr Lane/Prescot Parkway in the north-east where the main entrance is located (Plate 1). Immediately to the north-west is Carr Lane Woods, within which is Carr Lane Lake, listed as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) Site 11 (Knowsley Council 2013). Immediately to the east and south-east of the study site is a modern housing estate.
- 4.1.2 The whole site is ringfenced with modern steel fencing with a high bund along the east and south-east boundary separating the site from the housing estate (Plate 2). Prescott Brook follows a course immediately to the west of the north-west boundary (Plate 3).
- 4.1.3 The interior of the site is nearly wholly overgrown with apparently self-seeded trees and shrubs with some clearings and evidence of previous site investigations (Plates 5 – 6).
- 4.1.4 There was no evidence for any previously unknown archaeological features within the study site and there was no visible surface evidence for the site of The Carrs (HER MME6326). The only visible evidence for Old Carrs Colliery (HER MME21743) was the capped mineshaft (Plate 7), which lies very close to the M57 motorway.
- 4.1.5 The recorded bedrock geology consists of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation which comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. Superficial deposits consist of Till, Devensian – Diamicton (BGS 2023). The soils are classified as slowly permeable seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils at the northern end of the study site and slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Cranfield University 2023).

5 Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section reviews existing archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological and historical background of the surrounding area, based on a consideration of evidence in the Merseyside HER and the NHLE. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the study site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with the NPPF.

5.2 Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.2.1 There are no designated heritage assets within the study site.
- 5.2.2 The NHLE records one designated heritage asset within the 500m search area, which is the Grade II listed, 6 and 6a Beesley Road (NHLE 1075499).
- 5.2.3 The Merseyside HER records a single designation within the search area, which is Prescott Town Centre Conservation Area (DME3436). The very southern end of the Conservation Area lies within the north-east extent of the 500m search area.
- 5.2.4 A list of these designated heritage assets can be found in Appendix 1 and are illustrated on Figure 1.

5.3 Non-designated Heritage Assets

- 5.3.1 The Merseyside HER records two monument records within the study site, the former site of The Carrs (HER MME6326) a house, possibly shown on a plan of 1809, and the site of Old Carrs Colliery (HER MME21743), started in 1769.
- 5.3.2 There are 21 HER monument records within the wider 500m search area (Figure 1, Appendix 1). The monuments date to the post-medieval, industrial and 20th century periods.
- 5.3.3 Pre-application advice from MEAS was issued as below:

There is one non-designated heritage asset recorded on the Merseyside Historic Environment Record within the proposed development: MME21743 - Site of Old Carrs Colliery. Yates's map of 1786 shows coal pits in this area. A plan of 1809 shows buildings on this site labelled as Car colliery. A shaft and two associated structures are shown on the 1894 six inch Ordnance Survey mapping. Therefore, the proposed site lies in an area considered to have the potential to contain archaeological remains associated with historic coal working from the eighteenth century.

NPPF paragraph 194 states: "In determining applications local authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected including any contribution made by their setting." "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."

To comply with the NPPF and policy CS20 of the Local Plan Core Strategy, a desk-based assessment (DBA) which determines the significance of any archaeology present and assesses the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological potential of the site, is required prior to determination. It is recommended that the scope of the DBA should be agreed with the MEAS Planning Archaeologist.

The results of the DBA should be used to inform further advice and action to avoid or mitigate, loss or damage to any significant archaeological remains. This might include requirements for further investigation of the site, whether by means of non-intrusive (i.e., geophysical survey) or

intrusive (trial trenching) archaeological techniques. MEAS will be able to provide further advice once the DBA has been submitted. The Desk Based Assessment (DBA) should be produced by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist and contain an account of the archaeological and historical character of the location, the significance of any known archaeology; an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on archaeology; and recommendations for further investigation or mitigation of potential effects on archaeology arising from the development proposals. In compiling the DBA, the Merseyside Historic Environment Record must be consulted.

- 5.3.4 MEAS was duly consulted in accordance with the pre-application response on 18th August 2023 and the scope of the DBA was agreed including the 500m study area.

5.4 Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 5.4.1 There is one event recorded on the Merseyside HER, a desk-based assessment of Land North of Cables Way, Prescott compiled by Orion Heritage (EME3106) (Orion Heritage 2019). Its location is illustrated on Figure 1.

5.5 Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 5.5.1 The Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project (MHCP) was consulted. The study site is characterised as comprising Broad Character Type Rough Land. Rough Land covers some 298.71ha of land in Knowsley which is 10% of the total HLC units for Knowsley (National Museums Liverpool and Historic England 2011a).

5.6 Early, Later Prehistoric and Roman Periods (c. 14,000 BC – c. AD 410)

- 5.6.1 There are no records for prehistoric or Roman period activity within the study site or surrounding 500m search area.
- 5.6.2 There is a scarcity of evidence for the prehistoric and Roman period across much of north-west England, with remains of the early-prehistoric hunter-gatherer groups primarily occupying seasonal camps along the Mersey and Sefton coast and largely restricted to lithic scatters. One such scatter was identified c. 3.5km south of the study site at Ochre Brook, where Mesolithic and some Neolithic worked flints, were recovered including cores, blades, flakes, and a possible scraper. A peat deposit found at Warrington Road, to the south-east of Prescott and adjacent to the old Prescott Moss, contained evidence of human use including cultivation stretching back to the Neolithic in the form of cereal pollen and evidence of de-forestation (NML & English Heritage 2011b).
- 5.6.3 South-west Lancashire was thought to have had no major urban or military sites, with the main Roman road in the region extending from the important Roman town at Deva (Chester), crossing the river Mersey near Warrington, before extending northwards to the fort at Bremetennacum Veteranorum (Ribchester), approximately 12km east of the study site. Whilst even smaller farmsteads sites are scarce within this region, work carried out as part of the A5300 (Knowsley Expressway) project revealed evidence for Roman rural settlement within the wider Whiston area. A rectilinear enclosure, internally sub-divided, was identified c. 3km south of the study site at the junction of the M62 and A5300. Large quantities of pottery and tile were found during its excavation, dating the enclosure to the early 2nd century AD, with consular stamps found on several sherds associating the site with the 20th Legion based at Deva. There is no evidence for Roman occupation in the Prescott area and later intensive activity may have eradicated any remains (NML & English Heritage 2011b).
- 5.6.4 Based on the above evidence, it is considered that there is low potential for prehistoric and Roman activity within the study site.

5.7 Early and Later Medieval Periods (c. AD 410– c. 1540)

- 5.7.1 There are no records for early or later medieval Period activity within the study site. There is one record for early medieval activity within the surrounding 500m search area, St Mary's Churchyard (MME6312), which may be of 11th century or earlier origin but was extended to the west and south in the 19th century.
- 5.7.2 Prescott is not included in the 1086 Domesday Survey but is believed to be one of the oldest settlements in the modern county of Merseyside (Knowsley Council 2012). The name Prescott (*Prestecota* 1178), derives from the Old English *preost* + *cot*, priest(s) cottage (Mills 2011). 'Cot' in this instance may mean a parsonage (NML & English Heritage 2011b).
- 5.7.3 It is believed that an early Christian church was established in the 7th century but documentary evidence for the settlement first appears in the 12th century (Knowsley Council 2012). The churchyard of St Mary's, the Parish Church (MME6312), which largely dates to the 17th century, is circular suggesting an Anglo-Saxon date. A holy well, Lady's Well, that once stood nearby, supports this conclusion
- 5.7.4 The town is first recorded in 1140 when a document details the appointment of a rector and in the 12th and 13th centuries, it was divided into two settlements, Prescott and Churchley. The Dacre Family owned Prescott Manor, based at Prescott Hall in the 13th century. By the 14th century, both settlements were simply called Prescott (Knowsley Council 2012). In 1391, the Manor was sold to John of Gaunt and was inherited by his son, who became King Henry IV. He established what was to become King's College Cambridge, whose arms were adopted as the Coat of Arms of Prescott. The King naturally, did not reside in Prescott and the Manor was run the King's appointed steward, a member of the Stanley family (latterly the Earls of Derby).
- 5.7.5 The study site lies outside of the boundaries of the settlement and was within the agricultural hinterland. Based on the evidence, is considered that there is low potential for medieval activity within the study site. Any remains dating to the period are likely to have been truncated/removed by later activity particularly Industrial and 20th century activity.

5.8 Post-Medieval Period (c. 1540-1750)

- 5.8.1 There are no records of post-medieval activity within the study site. There are nine records of post-medieval period activity within the 500m search area. Six of these records comprise the former sites of post-medieval coal pits including pits at the site of Rye Hay (MME6314), Jonathan Case's Colliery, Whiston (MME6331), Liverpool Road (MME17926), Prescott Wood (MME17575), Clay Hay (MME17577), and the Hough (MME17586). The remaining three sites include the site of the 16th century Prescott Hall (MME6562) a windmill at Manchester Road (MME17049), and a watermill at Rindlebrook (MME20551).
- 5.8.2 Prescott Hall (MME6562), was rebuilt in 1562 and subsequently leased to a John Layton of Prescott (NML & English Heritage 2011b, Knowsley Council 2012). A hunting park may have been situated at the western end of the township.
- 5.8.3 Coal mining is first recorded in Prescott in the 16th century, the earliest of which recorded within the 500m study area are the coal pits at Prescott Wood (MME17575), possibly dating to 1586 when the lease of Prescott Hall estate of 10th December, included mention of coal mining in the glebe lands. Coal mining was initially used to assist salt-making industry in Cheshire, and later to provide power for the pottery industry, glass and sugar factories (Knowsley Council 2012). The seams were quite near the surface and the workings were moved regularly as the old one flooded, probably accounting for the number of recorded coal pits in the study area. A windpump drained the mines at Manchester Road (MME17049) and a Newcomen engine was installed at Jonathan Case's Colliery (MME6331) to drain the mine and was probably operating

in 1719. The plotted location of MME6331 lies immediately to the east of the study site but the HER entry states that there is lack of clarity as to its location and there no substantial evidence to suggest it was in this location.

- 5.8.4 Prescot had a monopoly on the sale of coal to Liverpool in the early 18th century but with the construction of the Sankey Canal in 1757, meaning that coal could be transported to Liverpool from St Helens at similar rates, the importance of the industry declined.
- 5.8.5 The watch making industry developed in the 18th century aided by the town's high population of artisans, craftsmen and victuallers (NML & English Heritage 2011b). Indeed, unlike other towns in the region, only 19% of the population of Prescot were directly associated with agriculture. Prescot became the horological centre of the region as Liverpool expanded in the 18th century.
- 5.8.6 Pottery manufacturing was another significant industry in Prescot and, at its height in the 1750s, there were five potteries with their distinctive skyline of kilns operating in the town (Knowsley Council 2012). In the post-medieval period, coarse pottery was produced, including earthenware storage jars, cooking pots and drinking vessels. In the mid-18th century, the construction of the Sankey Canal allowed the export of pots to Liverpool, although there are records as early as 1702 detailing the export of Prescot pottery to America (Knowsley Council 2012).
- 5.8.7 Based on the evidence, is considered that there is low potential for post-medieval activity within the study site. Any remains dating to the period are likely to have been truncated/removed by later activity particularly industrial and 20th century activity.

5.9 Industrial and 20th Century Period (1750-present)

- 5.9.1 There are two records of industrial and 20th century activity within the study site, comprising the site of The Carrs, a 19th century house adjacent to Carr Lane (MME6326) and the site of Old Carrs Colliery, started in 1769 (MME21743). There are 11 records of Industrial and 20th century activity within the surrounding 500m search area, including three collieries, (the site of Prescot Brook Colliery (MME6122), the possible site of a coal pit, Whiston Lane, Whiston (MME21877), and the location of a coal pit, Whiston (MME21896)), six houses, (MME6104; MME6123; MME6323; MME20843; MME20853; MME21203; and MME20853), a George V Pillar Box (MME17968) and the Huyton to St Helens Railway (MME18084).
- 5.9.2 In the 19th century, due to increased competition from St Helens, many of the coal mines around Prescot were closed, including Prescot Manor mine in the mid-19th century, Whiston Colliery in 1897 and Halstead in 1900, although this reopened between 1900 and 1984 (Knowsley Council 2012). Old Carrs Colliery (MME21743), at the southern end of the study site, was started in 1769 and was first known as 'Carrs Colliery', later 'The Colliery' and finally, 'Old Carrs Colliery'. The pumping station was advertised for sale in 1897 (The Whiston Collieries Company Ltd. Liverpool Mercury 13/07/1897) and the colliery was disused by 1907.
- 5.9.3 The watch making industry continued to grow in the locality and by 1800 had become the main centre for production in the United Kingdom, with around 10% of the population engaged in the industry by 1861 (Knowsley Council 2012). Foreign competition from Switzerland and America led to a decline in the industry in the later 19th century, and prompted the creation of the Lancashire Watch Company in 1888-9 in an attempt stave off the competition. This ultimately failed and the company closed in 1910 (NML & English Heritage 2011a).
- 5.9.4 The pottery industry suffered a similar fate to watch making and the last potteries were closed by 1893 (Knowsley Council 2012). The job losses were tempered somewhat by the creation, in 1891, of the British Insulated Wire Company on a former open-cast mining site to the south of the town. The town became famous for cables and the company became BICC, the largest

employer in the town. The factory closed in the late 1980s and ultimately became Cables Retail Park (Knowsley Council 2012).

- 5.9.5 Historic maps add to the understanding of the development of the study site and its subsequent use.
- 5.9.6 William Yates' 1786 map of the County Palatine of Lancashire (not illustrated) shows several circular coal pits to the south and south-west of the town of Prescott illustrating the already well-developed industry in this area.
- 5.9.7 Piercy's 1809 map of the Townships of Prescott and Whiston (not illustrated) is the first to label a collection of structures in the centre and south end of the study site as 'Car Colliery', while Sherriif's 1816 A map of the Environs of Liverpool in the Hundred of West Derby, and County of Lancashire, labels it as 'Carrs Works' and shows several pits across the area. Greenwood's 1818 Map of the County Palatine of Lancashire (not illustrated) labels a collection of buildings as 'Car Colliery'. Hennessey's 1828 Map of the County Palatine of Lancashire also depicts 'Car Colliery'. Buildings in the location of the house known as The Carrs is shown on these maps.
- 5.9.8 The 1842 Plan of the Township of Whiston (Figure 2) shows the study site in detail within which are three fields 145, 146 and 147. Plot 145 is tree covered, has no name but is described as 'Plantation', Plot 146 described as 'House and Garden', and the map depicts a building, a pond and an enclosed garden, while Plot 147 is called 'Coal Pit Hey' and is under 'Pasture'. There are no other features associated with Old Carrs Colliery depicted on this map.
- 5.9.9 The Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of 1850 (Figure 2) shows a similar layout to the 1842 Township Plan and both 'The Carrs' and a building labelled 'The Colliery' are depicted. The Carrs, is shown as a collection of three buildings at the northern end of the study site, while 'The Colliery' lies adjacent to the north-west boundary. A well is also shown within an enclosure close to the northern end of the east boundary. A track follows a snaking course south from The Carrs and there is an additional field to the south of the plantation.
- 5.9.10 The Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1893 shows the area within the study site in more detail (Figure 4). The plantation has reduced in size and The Carrs (not labelled) is depicted as a single building. The track snakes through the field to the south down to a collection of buildings, a 'Shaft' and mound labelled 'Old Carrs Pit (Pumping Station)'. The well is not illustrated and the formerly depicted location of 'The Colliery' is blank.
- 5.9.11 By the time of the Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1908 (Figure 5), an additional structure is shown in the north-east corner of the study site to the south-east of the existing building at The Carrs (not labelled). 'Old Carrs Pit' is now sub labelled 'Pumping Station Disused' and the buildings are no longer illustrated, only the mound and shaft remains (not labelled) . A pond is shown close to the south-east boundary.
- 5.9.12 The next map to show major changes is the 1937 25 inch Ordnance Survey map (Figure 6). The whole of the northern half of the study site is occupied by a sewage works, including filter beds, sludge beds, various tanks and small buildings. The Carrs has completely disappeared and the area to the north of 'Old Carrs Pit' is now enclosed with a rectangular building at the southern end. The mound is not depicted.
- 5.9.13 Aerial photographs dating to the 1940s (EAW017349, EAW017350, EAW021949, RAF_106G_UK_622_3421, RAF_CPE_UK_2471_RP_3121) show the same layout as the corresponding date maps.
- 5.9.14 The 1950 6 inch Ordnance Survey map (Figure 7) shows a similar layout but Old Carrs Pit is now labelled 'Pumping Sta. (Disused)'.

- 5.9.15 The following Ordnance Survey maps, 1955, 1966 and 1977 (Figures 9, 10, 11) all show the same layout, but the 1966 map omits the shaft, which reappears on the 1977 map. Aerial images from the 1960s (RAF_58_5162_F22_0078, RAF_58_5162_F22_0079) correlate with the mapping information. The whole area other than a boundary dividing the study site into two, some drains and the location of the shaft is empty on the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map of 1994 (Figure 12). Later maps show that there is no change to the study site.
- 5.9.16 Based on the evidence, is considered that there is medium potential for industrial and 20th century activity within the study site.

6 Assessment of Significance

6.1.1 Paragraph 194 of the NPPF states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the archaeological asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.

6.1.2 It is recognised that not all parts of an archaeological asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 194, NPPF 2021) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

6.2 Designated Heritage Assets

6.2.1 The study site does not contain any designated heritage assets.

6.3 Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

6.3.1 The study site lies beyond the focus of the settlement of Prescott and the available HER records do not contain any evidence for assets from the early and later prehistoric, Roman, early medieval, later medieval and post-medieval Periods.

6.3.2 There are just two HER records of Industrial and 20th century Period activity within the study site, the site of The Carrs, a 19th century house adjacent to Carr Lane (MME6326) and the site of Old Carrs Colliery, started in 1769 (MME21743). The Carrs is first shown on Piercy's map of 1809 and is described as a 'House and Garden' occupied by a William Lyon on the 1842 Plan of the Township of Whiston.

6.3.3 Old Carrs Colliery was started in 1769 and Yates' map of 1786 does show some coal pits in this area but not specifically Old Carrs. The colliery is first illustrated on the Ordnance Survey map of 1850 although the 1842 Township plan, describes the field around the location of the pit as 'Coal Pit Hey' so although not illustrated until 1850, there may have been coal pits within the study site from an earlier date. The coal seams in this location were close to the surface enabling relatively shallow extractions that were moved when pits became flooded. The shaft at Old Carrs is recorded reaching the Sir John Mine at 92? yards and the main Delf at 130? Yards (Lancashire Archives DDW Box 19, SME2357). There appears to have been at least two phases of substantial coal extraction within the study site, the final phase being at 'Old Carrs Colliery' at the very south end of the study site, where the shaft is still visible (Plate 7).

6.3.4 In addition to the visible mine shaft (Plate 7) at the south end of the study site (SHAFT346392-008), the potential locations of three recorded additional shafts were identified by the geo-technical assessment from Coal Authority records (Groundtech Consulting 2023) (Appendix 2), SHAFT346392-001, SHAFT346391-015, SHAFT346391-016. SHAFT316392-001 was identified through trial trenching, the top of the cap being 1.4m bgl and was similar to the visible cap. SHAFT346391-015 and SHAFT346391-016 were not identified during the geotechnical assessment and are either off site or below the large bund at the east side.

6.3.5 According to the geo-technical assessment, no unrecorded mine workings are present within the study site. This is probably due to opencast mining associated with Old Carrs Pit which has removed the Ravenhead Higher Delf Tenlands and Ravenhead Main Delf Coal.

6.3.6 Should any remains of The Carrs survive within the study site boundary, they would be of local significance due to the archaeological and historic interest they could possess regarding early 19th century housing.

- 6.3.7 Should any remains of the colliery survive within the study site boundary, they would be of local significance due to the archaeological and historic interest they could possess being part of Prescott's early mining history. They could also have group value due to their relationship with other mines in the area.

7 Impact Assessment

7.1 Proposed Development

- 7.1.1 The development proposals are for the erection of 88 no. affordable residential dwellings and associated infrastructure (Figure 15).

7.2 Previous Impacts

- 7.2.1 A review of HER records, historic mapping and historic aerial photography indicate that prior to the 18th century, the study site is likely to have consisted of open fields. Changes in the 18th and 19th century include the establishment of the colliery and Carr House and gardens. These, and most significantly, later open cast mine workings at Old Carrs Pit, would have impacted upon any remains from earlier periods, including earlier mining.
- 7.2.2 In the early 20th century and by the time of the 1937 Ordnance Survey map, the whole of the northern half of the study site was occupied by a sewage works. This would have impacted upon any remains from earlier periods and resulted in the removal of Carr House. The sewage works would also likely have impacted upon any remains associated with coal mining.

7.3 Designated Heritage Assets

- 7.3.1 The development proposals will have no impact on any designated heritage assets.

7.4 Potential Sub-surface Archaeological Remains

- 7.4.1 This assessment has concluded there is a very low potential for any archaeological remains of periods earlier than the industrial and 20th century periods. There is a medium potential for the discovery of archaeological remains from the industrial and 20th century period. However, there has been significant development within the industrial and 20th century period and any survival may be fragmentary at best. If any sub-surface remains are discovered within the study site, it is considered likely that they would be no greater than of local significance.
- 7.4.2 The development proposals include 91 houses, associated infrastructure and open space (Figure 15). The west side of the study site, including the mapped locations of The Colliery and Old Carrs Pit and the location of the extant shaft (SHAFT46392-008), are not being built upon and will remain as amenity spaces (Figure 15). SHAFT46392-001 also lies within an open area but SHAFT346391-015 and SHAFT346391-016 may be impacted upon by the development. Other, as yet unidentified mining activity and remains from earlier periods may be impacted upon by the proposed development but the previous impacts outlined above, may have already impacted upon such remains.
- 7.4.3 The site of The Carrs, shown on historic mapping until the 1937 Ordnance Survey map, lies partly within a proposed attenuation pond and a proposed access road into the development lies just to the south-east (Figure 15). This may impact upon the any surviving remains associated with this asset. However, as already mentioned, previous impacts may have resulted in the removal of any such remains.

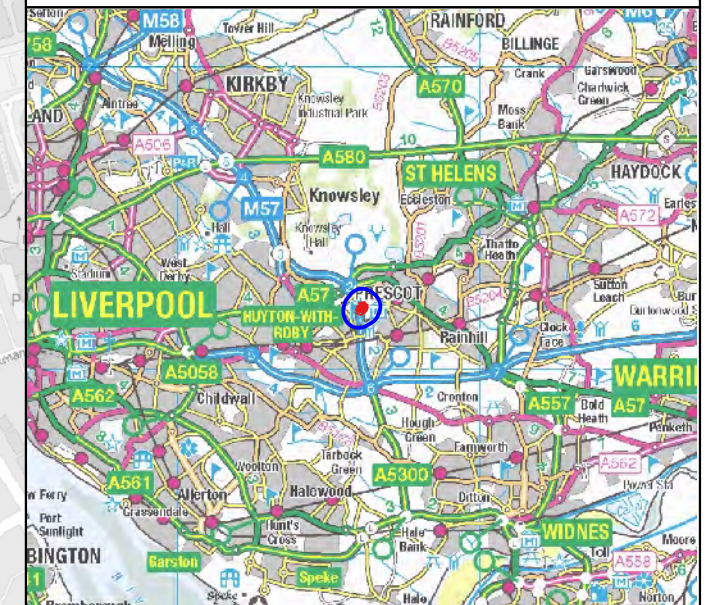
8 Conclusions

- 8.1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment draws together the available archaeological, historical, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the significance and archaeological potential of a site proposed for development at land off Carr Lane, Prescott. This assessment addresses the information requirements set out in the NPPF and provides the proportionate response sought by the NPPF.
- 8.1.2 This assessment has established there are no designated heritage assets in the study site and that the proposed development will have no impact on the setting and significance of any designated heritage assets within the surroundings.
- 8.1.3 Based on available archaeological records, combined with an analysis of historic mapping and other sources, it is considered there is a very low potential for the discovery of any significant (non-agricultural) archaeological remains of all periods prior to then industrial and 20th century which could be impacted by the proposed development. There is a medium potential for the discovery of archaeological remains of Industrial and 20th century date within the study site boundary. Any such remains are considered unlikely to be of greater than low/local significance.
- 8.1.4 Open cast mining and the development of the swage works is likely to have already had a significant impact on any below ground remains.

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Figures



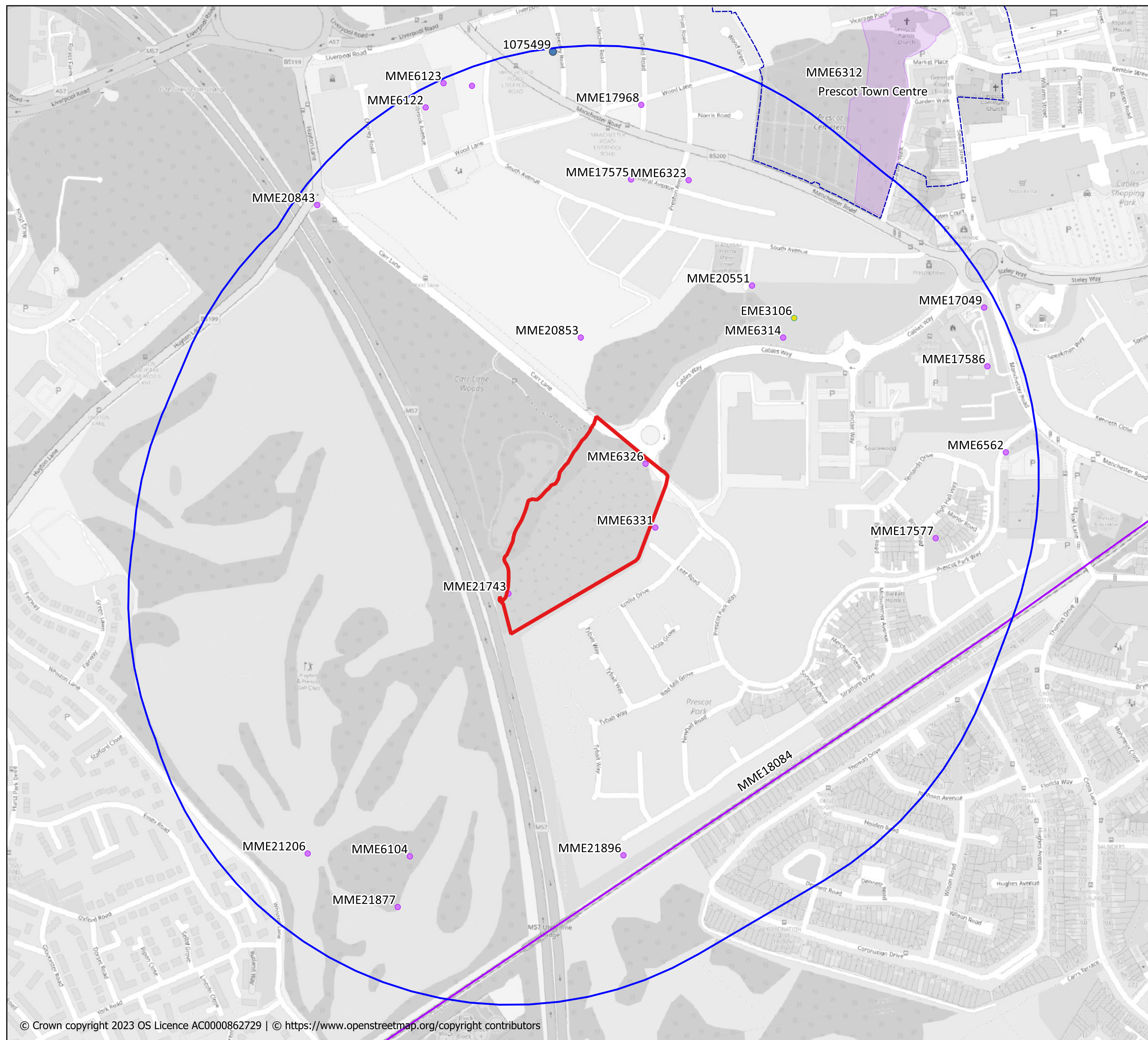
Listed Buildings

- II
- ▭ Conservation Area
- MHER Monuments Point
- MHER Monuments Line
- ▭ MHER Monuments Poly
- MHER Events Point



0 100 200 300 m

Figure 1. The study site and search area with the location of HER and NHLE records



 Study Site

N

0 30 60 90 m

Figure 2. Extract from the 1842 Plan of the Township of Whiston

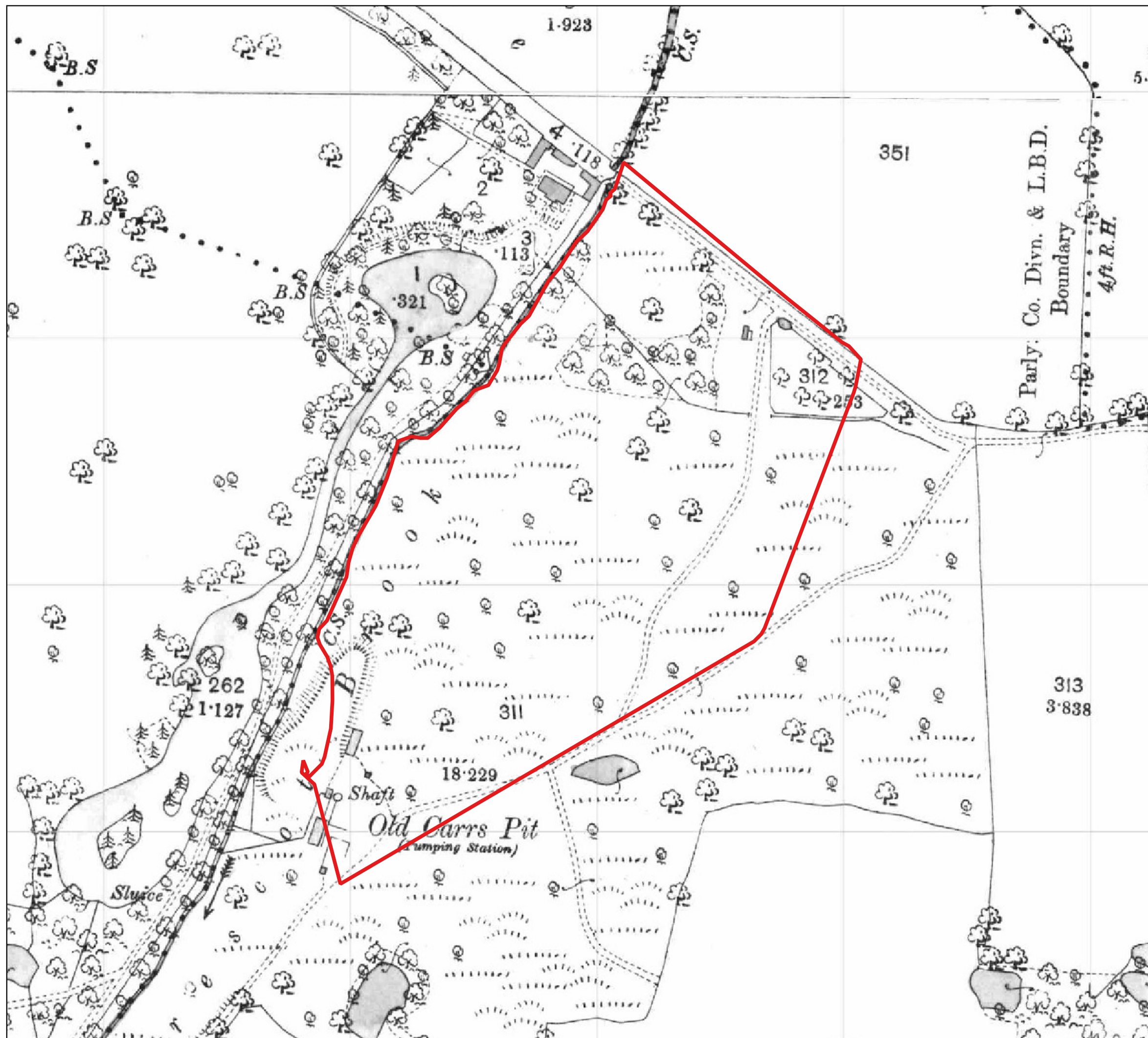
 Study Site



0 30 60 90 m

Figure 3. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of 1850





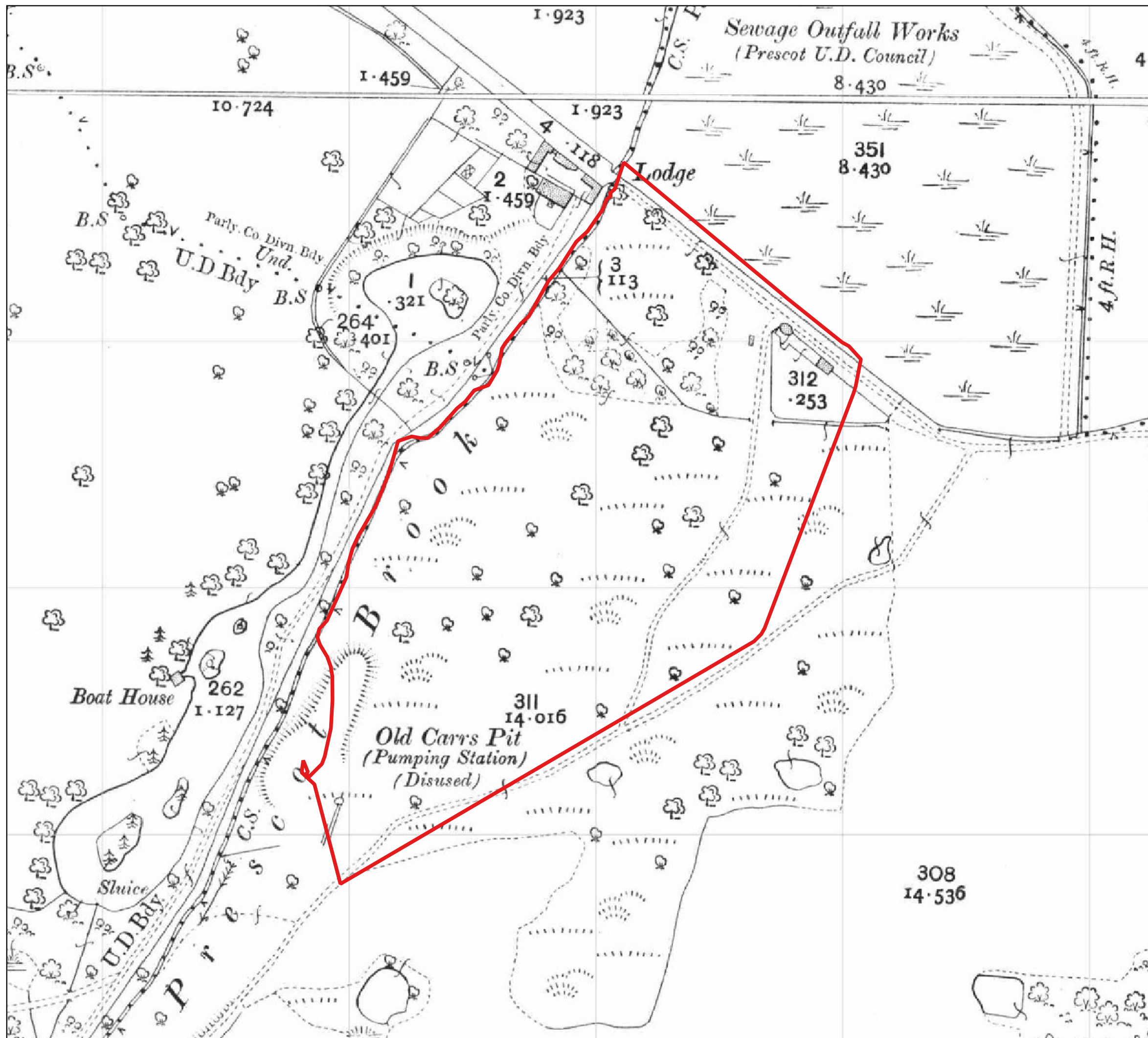
Lanpro»

Study Site



0 30 60 90 m

Figure 4. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1893



Lanpro»

Study Site

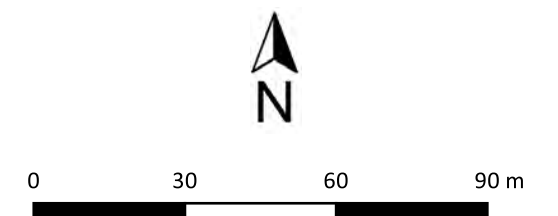
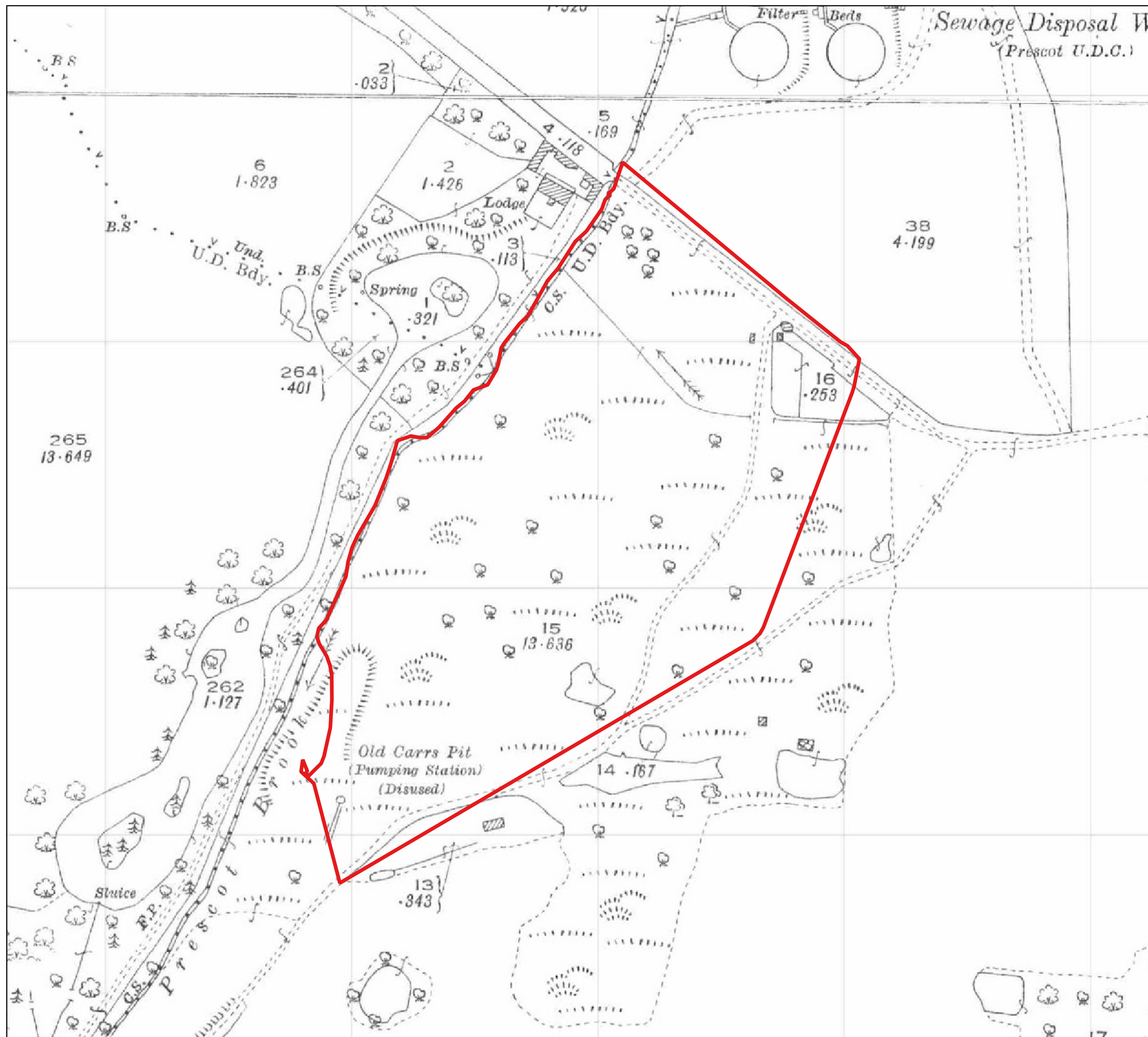


Figure 5. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1908



Study Site

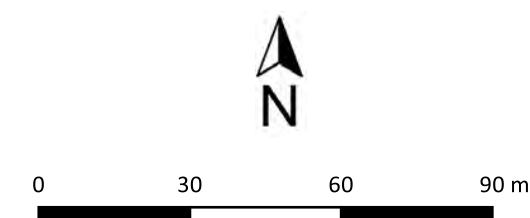


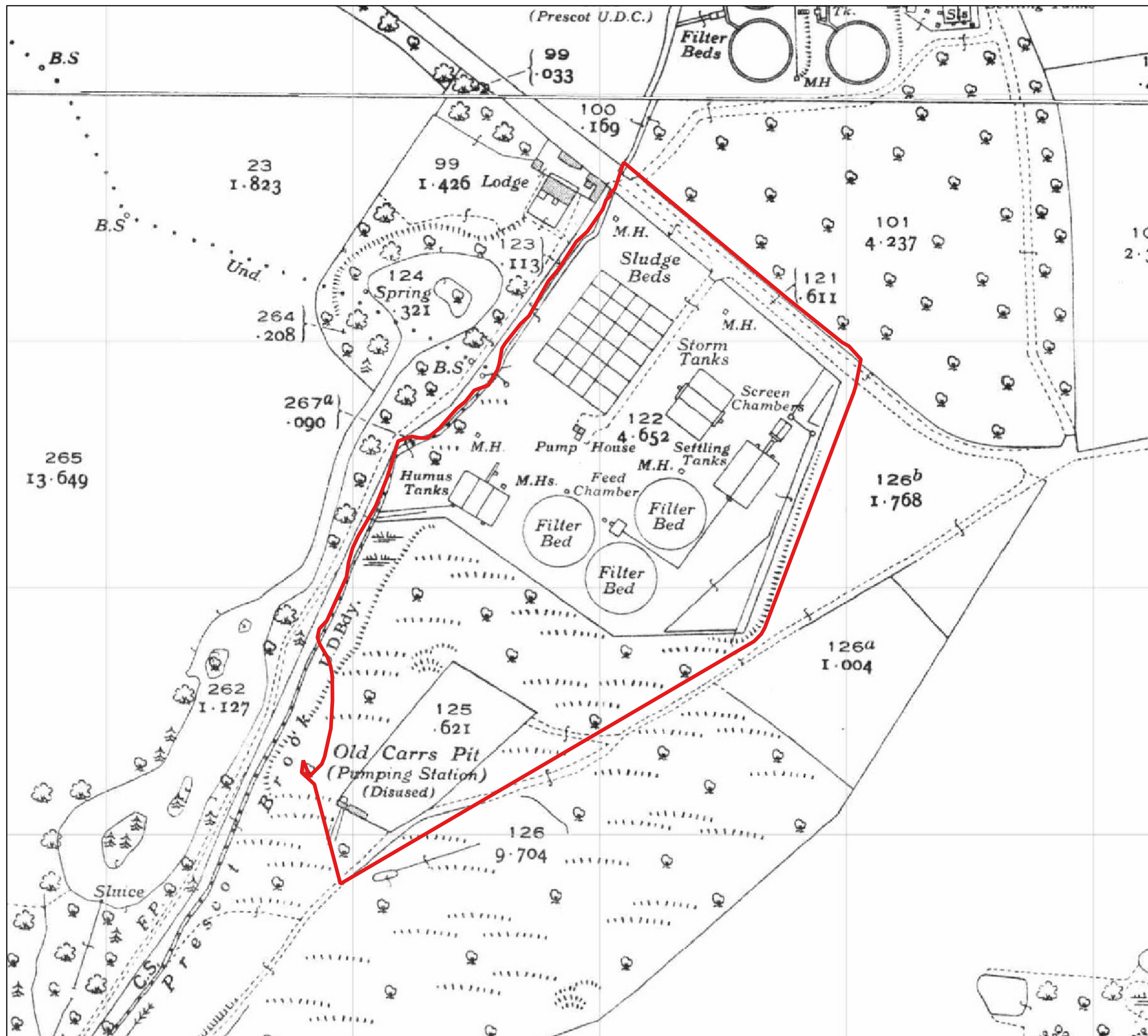
Figure 6. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1927

 Study Site



0 30 60 90 m

Figure 7. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1937





 Study Site

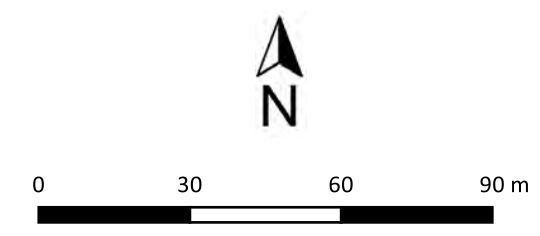


Figure 8. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of 1950



A north arrow pointing upwards with the letter 'N' below it. Below the arrow is a scale bar with markings at 0, 30, 60, and 90 m.

Figure 9. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1955

 Study Site



0 30 60 90 m



Figure 10. Extract from the Ordnance Survey
6 inch map of 1966



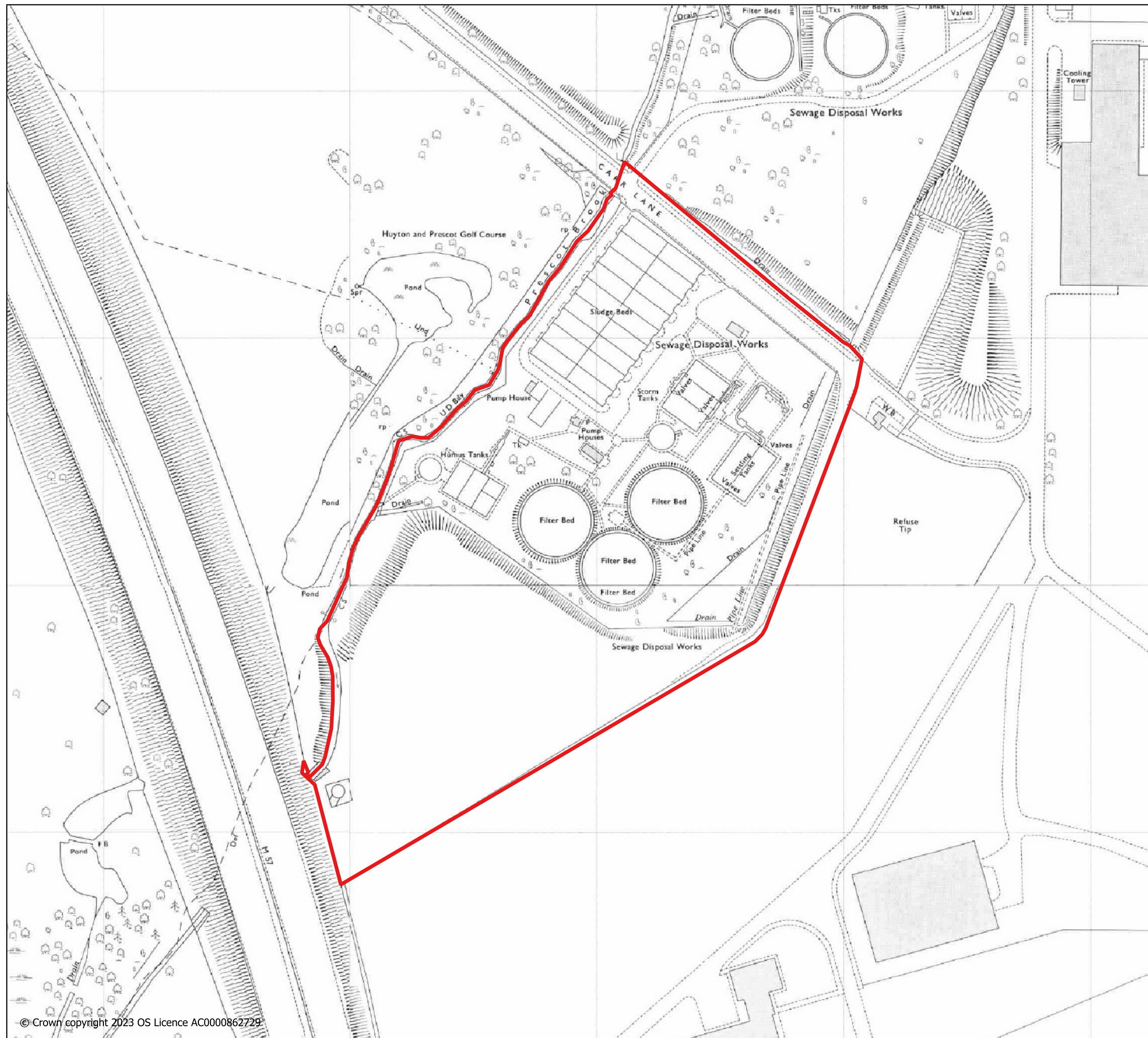
 Study Site



0 30 60 90 m



Figure 11. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map of 1977



 Study Site



0 30 60 90 m



Figure 12. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map of 1994





 Study Site



0 30 60 90 m

Figure 13. Extract from aerial view of 2000



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 Study Site

N

0 30 60 90 m

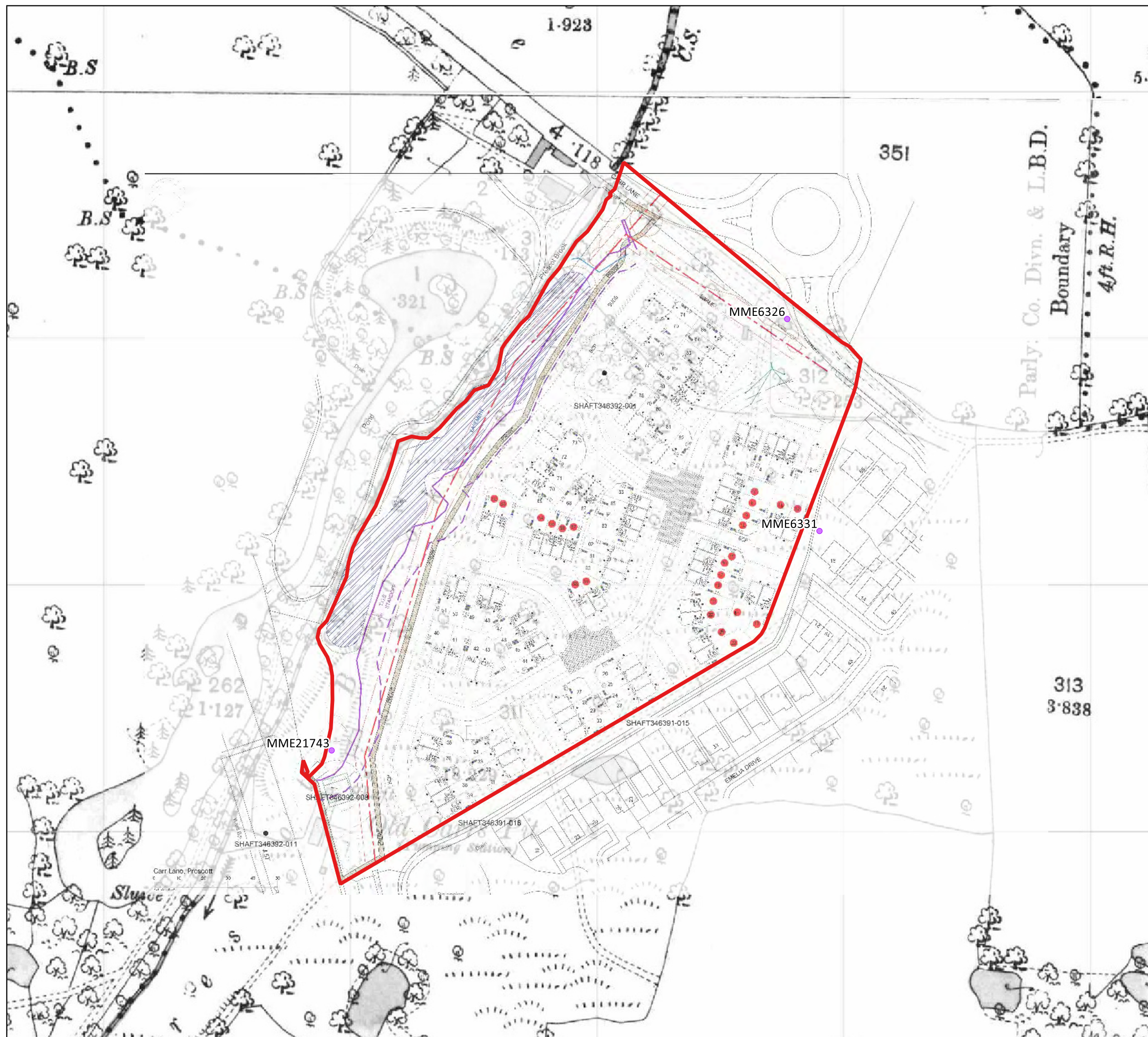
Figure 14. Extract from aerial view of 2023

 Study Site



0 30 60 90 m

Figure 15. Proposed development overlaid on 1893 Ordnance Survey map and HER records



Plates



Plate 1. Site entrance from Carr Lane/Prescot Parkway, facing south



Plate 2. Tall bund forming the southern boundary to the study site, facing east



Plate 3. Prescott Brook to the north of the study site, facing west



Plate 4. Interior of the study site



Plate 5. Interior of the study site



Plate 6. Example of previous site investigation



Plate 7. Capped shaft of Old Carrs Colliery (HER MME21743), facing west

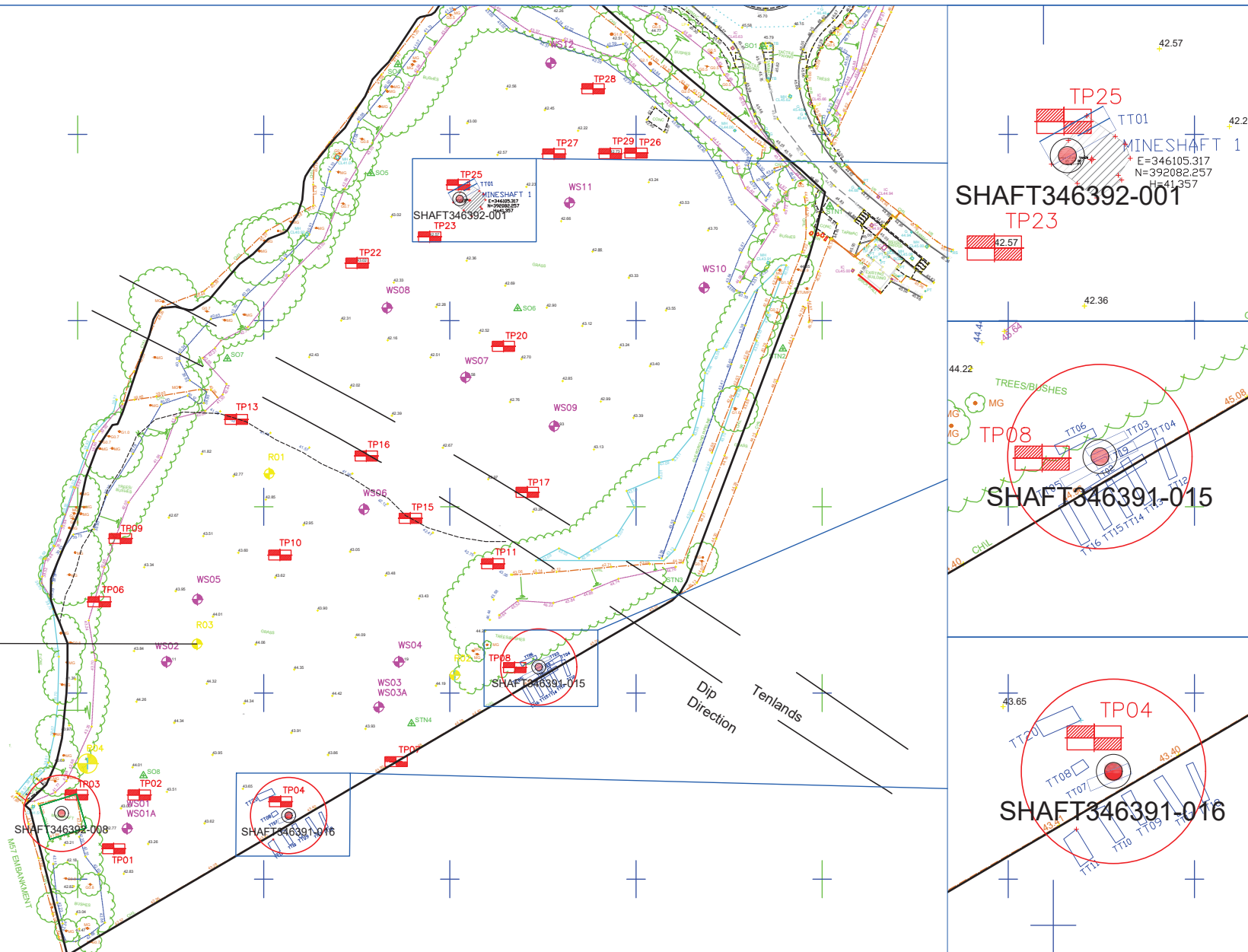
Appendix 1 List of Heritage Assets

Ref.	Name	NGR	Period
NHLE/LHER records			
1075499	6 and 6a Beesley Road	SJ 46053 92663	Industrial and 20 th century
HER records			
DME3436	Prescot Town Centre Conservation Area	-	-
MME6104	Site of Hole i'th' Wall, Whiston Lane, Whiston	SJ 4585 9157	Industrial and 20th century
MME6122	Site of Prescot Brook Colliery, Liverpool Road, Prescot	SJ 4588 9258	Industrial and 20th century
MME6123	Nos. 1 and 2 Brook Cottages, Knowsley	SJ 4590 9262	Industrial and 20th century
MME6312	St Mary's Churchyard	Centred SJ 4651 9258	Early Medieval – Industrial and 20 th century
MME6314	Site of Rye Hey, Cables Way, Prescot	SJ 4636 9227	Post-Medieval
MME6323	Site of King's Cottage, Preston Avenue, Prescot	SJ 4623 9248	Industrial and 20th century
MME6326	Site of The Carrs, Carr Lane, Whiston	SJ 4617 9210	Industrial and 20th century
MME6331	Location of Jonathan Case's colliery, Whiston	Centred SJ 4619 9202	Industrial and 20th century
MME6562	Site of the 16 th century Prescot Hall, Hall Lane, Prescot	SJ 4666 9212	Post-Medieval
MME17049	Site of a windmill, Manchester Road, Prescot	SJ 46633 92318	Post-Medieval
MME17575	Location of post-medieval coal pits, Prescot Wood, Prescot	SJ 46157 92490	Post-Medieval
MME17577	Location of post-medieval coal pits, Prescot	SJ 46568 92007	Post-Medieval
MME17586	Location of 18 th century coal pits, Prescot	SJ 46637 92239	Post-Medieval
MME17926	Location of post-medieval coal pits, Liverpool Road, Prescot	SJ 45943 92616	Post-Medieval
MME17968	George V Pillar Box, Wood Lane, Prescot	SJ 46171 92591	Industrial and 20th century
MME18084	Huyton to St Helens Railway	Centred SJ 48177 92955	Industrial and 20 th century
MME20551	Site of a watermill, Rindlebrook, Prescot	SJ 46320 92347	Post-Medieval
MME20843	Site of Woodside Cottages, Huyton Lane, Knowsley	SJ 45735 92456	Industrial and 20th century
MME20853	Site of a house, Carr Lane, Knowsley	SJ 46090 92277	Industrial and 20th century

Ref.	Name	NGR	Period
MME21206	Site of Hurst House Cottages, Whiston Lane, Huyton	SJ 45722 91582	Industrial and 20th century
MME21743	Site of Old Carrs Colliery, Carr Lane, Whiston	SJ 45992 91932	Industrial and 20th century
MME21877	Possible site of a coal pit, Whiston Lane, Whiston	Centred SJ 45843 91510	Industrial and 20th century
MME21896	Location of a coal pit, Whiston	SJ 46147 91580	Industrial and 20th century
EME3106	Desk-based assessment, Orion Heritage	-	2019



22.50m Possibly Tenlands Coal Seam or unmined seam (intact) 0.05m



GROUNDTECH
CONSULTING



CLIENT
PARTNER CONSTRUCTION LTD
PROJECT TITLE
CARR LANE, PRESCOT
PLAN TITLE
COAL MINING FEATURES PLAN

DATE
AUGUST 2023
SCALE
NTS
PLAN NUMBER
GRO-22463-P07

Rev.	Details	Date

Status	
Preliminary	
Draft	
Issued	
For Comment	
Approved	

Notes	
Window Sample Location	Old Carr Pit Opencast Quarry
Trial Pit Location	Mine Shaft Coordinates with maximum departure
Rotary Open Hole Location	
Trial Trench Location	
Mine Shaft Location	



