



Knowsley Council

HALSNEAD PARK BOUNDARY WALL

Heritage Statement





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Heritage Statement

HERITAGE STATEMENT (VERSION 2) CONFIDENTIAL

PROJECT NO. 70057126

OUR REF. NO. 70057126-A19

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2022

WSP

First Floor
3 Wellington Place
Leeds
LS1 4AP

Phone: +44 113 395 6200

Fax: +44 113 395 6201

WSP.com

QUALITY CONTROL

Issue/revision	First issue	Revision 1	Revision 2	Revision 3
Remarks	First issue			
Date	07-10-2021	16-09-2022		
Prepared by	Victoria Anderton-Johnson	Csenge Markus		
Signature		Markus, Csenge (UKCXM088) Digitally signed by Markus, Csenge (UKCXM088) DN: cn=Markus, Csenge (UKCXM088), ou=Active, email=Csenge.Markus@wsp.com Date: 2022.09.21 14:22:05 +01'00'		
Checked by	Reider Payne	Payne Reider		
Signature		Digitally signed by Payne, Reider (UKRCP001) DN: cn=Payne, Reider (UKRCP001), ou=Active, email=Reider.Payne@wsp.com Reason: Reviewer. Date: 2022.09.21 12:50:53 +01'00'		
Authorised by	Natasha Powers	Helen Maclean		
Signature		Maclean, Helen (UKHXM026) Digitally signed by Maclean, Helen (UKHXM026) DN: cn=Maclean, Helen (UKHXM026), ou=Active, email=Helen.Maclean@wsp.com Reason: I am approving this document Date: 2022.09.21 11:05:50 +01'00'		
Project number	70057126			
Report number	1			
File reference	\\ser01brm1uk.corp.pbwan.net\environment\Environmental Planning Team\ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM FOLDER\Projects\MERSEY\70057126-A19 Windy Arbor\B Report			

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WSP has been commissioned by Knowsley Council to produce a Heritage Statement for the north-west boundary wall at Halsnead Park, Whiston, Knowsley. This is in advance of the proposed car park at the corner of Windy Arbor Road and Lickers Lane, which is located within the north-west corner of Halsnead Park (referred to throughout as the site). The boundary wall of the park is a non-designated heritage asset which surrounds the non-designated parkland of Halsnead Park.

The proposed works comprise the redevelopment of an existing car park, including construction and resurfacing of the hardstanding to form 38 vehicular parking spaces, the installation of four cycle stands, the widening of existing access to provide separate vehicular and pedestrian access gates, boundary treatments including installation of pedestrian access gate to Lickers Lane landscaping and other associated works.

This Heritage Statement provides an understanding of the heritage significance of the west boundary wall and its contribution to Halsnead Park and considers how setting contributes to its significance. The Heritage Statement assesses the likely impact of the proposals on that significance, in support of a planning application to undertake the proposed works. The assessment has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act.

The nearest designated heritage asset to the site boundary is the Grade II listed Church of St Nicholas (NHLE ref 1261894), located approximately 55m to the south-west. There are two designated heritage assets connected to Halsnead Park and one other locally listed asset close to the site. These are:

- North East Lodge to Halsnead Park (listed Grade II, NHLE ref: 1253249): described by Historic England as 'Georgian', it is the former lodge to Halsnead Park located approximately 1km to the south-east of the site boundary
- Gate Piers beside North East Lodge to Halsnead Park (listed Grade II, NHLE ref: 1253429): presumably contemporary with the former lodge, the gate piers are located approximately 1km to the south-east of the site boundary
- Barn and Outbuildings at Prince's House Farm, near Cock Glade's Lane, Whiston (non-designated heritage asset, HER MME6857): The buildings date from the 19th century, potentially from 1818. The buildings were owned and occupied by Richard Willis Esq at the time of the Whiston Tithe (1842) and are located approximately 220m south-east of the site

The wall at Halsnead Park is a post-medieval non-designated heritage asset of local significance and has been assessed as having low value. It is believed the wall was constructed when the parkland was developed in the 18th century.

The proposed scheme would provide a public benefit through the creation of a formal car park to the playing fields. The inclusion of estate style gates would see a positive benefit as they will be more in keeping with the overall style of the wall. There would be a permanent, major impact in the removal of a section of the wall (approximately 1.5m) and expansion of the widening vehicle entrance (over a 12m area) which would result in less than substantial harm. There would be no impact to the significance of any designated heritage assets through impacts to setting.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1. WSP has been commissioned by Knowsley Council to produce a Heritage Statement to support a planning application for the proposed works to the north-east boundary wall at Halsnead Park, National Grid Reference/NGR SJ 46867 90532 (Figure B-1).
- 1.1.2. The proposed development would result in physical alterations to the wall in two locations. One alteration is to widen the existing access to provide separate vehicular and pedestrian access, the second is the installation of a pedestrian access gate to Lickers Lane. The wall currently contains a vehicular access gate and pedestrian access along Lickers Lane.
- 1.1.3. This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990, updated 2015).

1.2 AIM AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.2.1. The aim of this report is to understand the heritage significance of the asset and to assess the impact of the proposed scheme to that significance, in order to support a planning application). Professional expert opinion has been used to assess heritage significance, based on evidential, historic, aesthetic and communal values as set out in Historic England's *Conservation Principles* (2008).
- 1.2.2. The aim is achieved through the following objectives:
 - Provide a summary historical background of the boundary wall and its contribution to Halsnead Park
 - Describe the current condition of the asset as determined from a site visit
 - Interpret the significance of the asset and the contribution of setting to this significance, based on values set out in Historic England's *Conservation Principles* (2008) and *Statements of Heritage Significance* (2019)
 - Assess the likely impacts upon the significance of the asset arising from the proposals
 - Provide recommendations where appropriate

1.3 STATEMENT OF LIABILITY

- 1.3.1. This document is for the exclusive benefit of the Client (Knowsley Council). It may not be assigned to or relied upon by a third party without the agreement of WSP UK Limited ('WSP') in writing. WSP retains all copyright and other intellectual property rights in the document and its contents unless transferred by written agreement between WSP and the Client.
- 1.3.2. The findings and opinions expressed are based on the conditions encountered and/or the information reasonably available at the date of issue of this document (or other date e.g. date of inspection) and shall be applicable only to the circumstances envisaged herein.
- 1.3.3. No person except the Client shall have the benefit of this document by virtue of the *Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999*.

2 LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING FRAMEWORK

2.1 STATUTORY PROTECTION

- 2.1.1. The assessment has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act (1990, updated 2015).
- 2.1.2. *The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* sets out the legal requirements for the control of development and alterations which affect listed buildings or conservation areas, including buildings of heritage interest which lie within a conservation area. Grade I are buildings of exceptional interest. Grade II* are particularly significant buildings of more than special interest. Grade II are buildings of special interest.
- 2.1.3. Section 66 states that the LPA (or the Secretary of State) 'shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.'

2.2 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 2.2.1. The Government issued a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in July 2021 (MHCLG 2021) and supporting revised Planning Practice Guidance in 2019 (MHCLG 2019).
- 2.2.2. The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, and the NPPF has a presumption in favour of such, where it meets needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development is achieved within the context of economic, social and environmental objectives.
- 2.2.3. Section 16 of the NPPF deals with 'Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment'. The NPPF recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource which 'should be conserved 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' (para 189).
- 2.2.4. Section 16 of the NPPF deals with 'Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment'. Relevant paragraphs are presented below:

***189.** Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance, such as World Heritage Sites which are internationally recognised to be of Outstanding Universal Value. These assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be conserved 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.*

Proposals affecting heritage assets

***194.** In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, 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.

195. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise any conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

196. Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect of, or damage to, a heritage asset, the deteriorated state of the heritage asset should not be considered in any decision.

197. In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

198. In considering any applications to remove or alter a historic statue, plaque, memorial or monument (whether listed or not), local planning authorities should have regard to the importance of their retention in situ and, where appropriate, of explaining their historic and social context rather than removal.

Considering potential impacts

199. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

200. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;
- b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

201. Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and

b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and

c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and

d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

202. *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 proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.*

203. *The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be considered in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.*

204. *Local planning authorities should not permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset without taking all reasonable steps to ensure the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.*

2.3 LOCAL PLANNING POLICY: KNOWSLEY LOCAL PLAN

2.3.1. The Knowsley Local Plan: Core Strategy was adopted on the January 2016. Policy CS20, Managing the Borough's Historic Environment covers the Historic Environment.

Development proposals in Knowsley should preserve or enhance the borough's historic and architectural assets, including Listed Building, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens and Archaeological remains together with other local areas, buildings and structures of historic importance.

The Council will:

- *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;*
- *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;*
- *Where a development proposal will result in less than substantial harm to designated heritage asset or its setting, assess such harm against the benefits of the proposal;*
- *Facilitate long term conservation and enhancement of local assets and areas of historic importance, including through the preparation of Conservation Area Management Plans.*

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

- *Enable a use for a purpose sympathetic to its conservation;*
- *Retain or introduce public access; and*
- *Enhance the importance of the asset for local tourism, leisure or the economy.*



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.

Locally important historic assets which are not subject to statutory designation will be identified in a local list and will be afforded consideration in the decision-making process.

3 METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES

3.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 3.1.1. This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (MHCLG 2021, MHCLG 2019) and to standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA Dec 2020a, 2020b) and Historic England (HE 2016, HE 2017).
- 3.1.2. A range of data sources were used in the research for this report, all of which are referenced in the text and detailed in full in the bibliography in Appendix A. The principal sources comprise:
- Historic England National Heritage List for England – statutory description of the listed buildings
 - Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service – primary repository of archaeological and historic information.
 - Groundsure – historic maps
 - Google Maps – general mapping information
 - Internet – historical background, local planning policy information, conservation area information
- 3.1.3. This report sets out the history of the site and assets (Section 4), its significance (Section 5) and assesses the impact of the proposed works in relation to relevant policy (Section 6).

3.2 SITE VISIT

- 3.2.1. A site visit was undertaken on the 23rd of September 2021 by a member of the WSP Cultural Heritage and Archaeology team. The site visit included the assessment of the boundary wall, including its setting and the assessment of the designated heritage assets in the immediate surroundings. During the visit, photographs were taken.
- 3.2.2. It should be noted that at the time of the site visit, there were significant, temporary traffic management measures in place, due to roadworks at the Windy Arbor Road and Lickers Lane junction. The measures included three-way control, temporary traffic lights and some areas of the road being unusable, alongside the associated signage. It is understood that these measures are unusual and temporary, and therefore the setting assessment was undertaken discounting them.

3.3 CONSULTATION

- 3.3.1. The Principal Conservation and Design Officer at Knowsley Council provided a detailed response to the Proposal on the 1st of September 2021 via email. The response included a request for further information and proposed changes to the current design in order to provide alterations more in keeping with the architecture of the wall.
- 3.3.2. In 2022, the initial plans were re-designed in line with the recommendations of the Principal Conservation and Design Officer and the Principal Landscape Architect for Knowsley Council. A number of stone samples were also analysed, and it was recommended to use a mixture of Elswick Grey and the Longridge sandstone when constructing the new sections of the wall.
- 3.3.3. Overall, the Principal Conservation and Design Officer for Knowsley Council concluded that the proposed development would have a positive impact on the area and that the proposed estate style gates on Windy Arbor Road, similar to those already present on Main Drive, would enhance the character of the historic site.

3.4 ASSESSING HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

- 3.4.1. The NPPF defines significance as 'The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic.' The determination of the significance is based on statutory designation and/or professional judgement against these values (they are also identified in Historic England's Statements of Heritage Significance 2019).
- 3.4.2. Historic England's *Conservation Principles* (2008) identifies four high level values: evidential, historic, aesthetic and communal. The determination of the significance of these assets is based on statutory designation and/or professional judgment against the following values referred to in Historic England's *Conservation Principles* (2008):
- *Evidential value*: the potential of physical remains to yield evidence about past human activity. This might consider date; rarity; state of preservation; diversity/complexity; contribution to published priorities; supporting documentation; collective value and comparative potential.
 - *Historical value*: the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place and/or heritage asset to the present. This tends to be illustrative or associative.
 - *Aesthetic value*: the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place and or heritage asset, considering what other people have said or written.
 - *Communal value*: the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.
- 3.4.3. These values encompass the criteria that Historic England are obliged to consider when statutorily designating heritage assets. The assessment also considers the contribution which the historic character and setting makes to the overall significance of the asset.
- 3.4.4. Value has been described to above ground heritage assets in Table 2, with reference being made to criteria detailed in Table 6.1 of the superseded Volume 11, Section 3, Part 2 of the DMRB (HA208/07).

Table 2 - Criteria for Assessing the Value of Heritage Assets

Heritage asset description	Significance
Structures inscribed as of universal importance as World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites) Other buildings of recognised international importance	Very High
Scheduled Monuments with standing remains Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings Grade I and Grade II* registered parks and gardens Other listed buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations Conservation Areas containing very important buildings Undesignated structures of clear national importance	High
Grade II listed buildings	Medium

Heritage asset description	Significance
Grade II registered parks and gardens Scheduled Monuments without standing remains Historic (unlisted) buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations Conservation Areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character Historic Townscape or built-up areas with important historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures)	
Locally listed buildings Historic (unlisted) buildings of modest quality in their fabric or historical association Historic Townscape or built-up areas of limited historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures)	Low
Buildings of no architectural or historical note; buildings of an intrusive character	Negligible
Buildings with some hidden (i.e. inaccessible) potential for historic significance	Unknown

3.5 ASSESSING HARM

- 3.5.1. Professional judgement is used to consider the impact (the magnitude of change) of future development on the significance of a known or potential heritage asset. This is assessed in NPPF terms as ‘no harm’, ‘less than substantial harm’, ‘substantial harm’ or ‘total loss of significance’.

3.6 ASSESSING THE CONTRIBUTION OF SETTING

- 3.6.1. In relation to designated heritage assets, the assessment considers the contribution that setting makes to the overall significance of the asset.
- 3.6.2. Setting is the way in which the asset is understood and experienced. It is not an asset in itself. It differs from curtilage (historic/present property boundary); context (association with other assets irrespective of distance) and historic character (sum of all historic attributes, including setting, associations, and visual aspects).
- 3.6.3. The assessment has considered the physical surroundings of the asset, including topography and intervening development and vegetation. It also considers how the asset is currently experienced and understood through its setting, in particular through views to and from the asset and the site, along with key views, and the extent to which setting may have already been compromised.
- 3.6.4. Guidance produced by Historic England (2016) has been used to adopt a stepped approach for settings assessment. For a full explanation of the methodology used please refer to the Historic England Guidance.

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND ASSET DESCRIPTION

4.1 SITE LOCATION AND CONTEXT

- 4.1.1. The site comprises the boundary wall and the car parking area within the north-west of Halsnead Park (NGR SJ 46867 90532). The boundary wall runs along Windy Arbor Road and Lickers Lane and surrounds the car parking area to the north and west (Figure B-1).
- 4.1.2. The site currently is in use as a car park for the adjacent playing fields. The vehicular access to the car park is from Windy Arbor Road with Pedestrian Access to the fields to the east of the site is via Lickers Lane. At the points of current access, there have been alterations to the wall, including lowering of the wall at the point of vehicular access. The vehicle access leads to a building which is located to the south-east of the site.

4.2 HISTORIC BACKGROUND OF HALSNEAD PARK

- 4.2.1. The Halsnead Estate is recorded as early as 1246 through a conviction of Siward de Derwent who dispossessed an acre belonging to Halsnead. The area was in possession of the Wetherby family from 1422 until 1684 when it became associated with the Willis family (Farrer and Brownbill 1907). The Park was purchased by Thomas Willis from Ellis Hey in 1684, it continued through the Willis family until it was passed to Richard Earle in 1788. Earle adopted the Willis name and arms before the estate passed to his son, Richard, in 1790. It was later passed to Henry Rodolph De Anyers Willis (Merseyside Historic Environment Record 2021).
- 4.2.2. Halsnead Park is thought to have developed in the post-medieval period once it was bought by the Willis family. The park surrounded Halsnead Hall, which was constructed in the 17th century and demolished in 1932 (Barton Willmore 2011). The Hall was designed by Sir John Soane, but it is not known who designed the gardens (Harris 1954). The Park is not shown on the Yates' map of 1786 but is shown on Greenwood's map of 1818. The western boundary is incorrectly recorded on this map but correctly shown on Hennet's map of 1829 (Merseyside Historic Environment Record 2021). The landscape is known to have included pasture, water features and groups of woodland. It is not known who designed the parkland.
- 4.2.3. There are two designated heritage assets connected with Halsnead Park (Figure B-2). The Grade II listed North East Lodge to Halsnead Park, located 1km to the south-east of the site boundary, formerly served as an entrance point to the estate. It is described in the list entry as 'Georgian' and was designated in 1971 (NHLE 1253249). The Grade II listed Gate Piers beside North East Lodge to Halsnead Park, located 1km to the south-east of the site boundary are likely to be contemporary to the lodge itself. This asset was also designated in 1971 (NHLE 1253429).
- 4.2.4. The non-designated heritage asset Barn and Outbuildings at Prince's House Farm, near Cock Glade's Lane, Whiston (HER MME6857) dates from the 19th century, and potentially from 1818. The buildings were owned and occupied by Richard Willis Esq at the time of the Whiston Tithe (1842) and are located approximately 220m south-east of the site (Merseyside Historic Environment Record 2021).
- 4.2.5. The Halsnead Park Wall is thought date from the 18th century. The wall has been replaced, breached and several sections have been removed (Bradwell 2021). The first edition Ordnance Survey map, from 1850, shows thick vegetation along the north-west boundary of the park (Figure B-3). The second edition of the Ordnance Survey map, from 1894, clearly indicates a boundary wall,

which may indicate when the wall was constructed (Figure B-4). There is still vegetation shown along the edge of the wall and Main Drive has now been constructed. There are no changes to the area in the 1908 map (Figure B-5) although there is change shown in the 1951 map (Figure B-6), where the site is marked as containing a football field, something which is in keeping with the present use of the area. The wall shown as a continuous line with no break aside from that at Windy Arbor Road.

4.3 HALSNEAD WALL DESCRIPTION

- 4.3.1. Halsnead Park Wall is a non-designated heritage asset; it is catalogued within the Merseyside Historic Environment Record under MME15681. The relevant areas of the description are as follows:

“Park Wall (Georgian to 21st Century)”

“The park is shown on early 19th century mapping and it is assumed that the wall dates from the creation of the park, in the late 18th or early 19th century.”

“The wall has been replaced, removed or breached in numerous locations around the perimeter but survives well in others.”

“In 2007 National Museum Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit carried out a watching brief on the length of the road that cut through the wall near Junction 6 of the M62. The foundations were found to be nearly 2m deep.”

- 4.3.2. As the site is located in the most north-westerly corner of the Park, this assessment is focused on the wall from Main Drive to the Windy Arbor Road and Lickers Lane junction up to Cock Glade. At Main Drive and Cock Glade the wall has been replaced with metal fencing and housing respectively. Along Windy Arbor Road the wall is constructed of irregular grey sandstone with rounded red sandstone capping stones. The grey sandstone coursing is irregular whereas the red sandstone coursing is of a more regular pattern. The wall shows clear signs of restoration, such as repointing, where it has been necessary to support it (
- 4.3.3. Image 1).
- 4.3.4. There are also changes to the wall at the vehicular access point at NGR SJ 46851 90494, where there has been a lowering of the wall both sides of the access point (Image 2). This access point post-dates the wall's construction and although care has been taken to ensure the alteration was sympathetic and in keeping within the original style of the wall, the work appears to have been undertaken to a lower standard, resulting in instability.



Image 1 - Sign of restoration work at the wall along Windy Arbor Road facing north



Image 2 - Vehicular Access from Windy Arbor Road looking north

- 4.3.5. The boundary wall is situated along the north and western edge of a grassed playing field, in which a single storey brick structure is situated at the approximate centre. Green shipping containers used as storage facilitates are present to the immediate east of the boundary wall, by Windy Arbor Road. The vehicle access road into the field is fronted by a red steel vehicle gate, which is flanked by a gate post situated against the east face of the boundary wall (see Image 2). The primary purpose of the present parking area is to provide access into the sports fields, and it is not in daily use. The boundary wall is visible from the street but within the playing field the wall is covered by overgrown vegetation. To the north and east of the wall the townscape comprises a modern residential area, which grew in size in the mid to late 20th century.
- 4.3.6. Regarding the assets setting, Windy Arbor Road and Lickers Lane appear to be busy roads, probably due to the proximity to M62 junction 6 which leads to Windy Arbor Road. Noise, air pollution and lighting from vehicles and streetlights within the immediate vicinity of the wall were noted. The wall provides a clear boundary separating the field from the road and, due to its height, the view into the field is obscured, providing a sense of separation between the parkland and the modern residential area.

4.4 ASSET CONDITION

- 4.4.1. Presently, the wall does survive well in the north-east, with few breaches. The section along Lickers Lane is of red sandstone and that along Windy Arbor Road is a grey sandstone; both materials are irregular in shape with no uniformity. The join of the two walls sits along Lickers Lane at NGR SJ 46877 90532; the join indicates the grey sandstone wall is the original with the red sandstone being a later addition (Image 3). The wall contains rounded red sandstone coping, including where the wall has been lowered to accommodate the vehicular access. Areas of the wall have been subject to repointing; there does not appear to be any damage as a result of the repointing.
- 4.4.2. There have been losses to the landscaped park as well as ongoing changes including the construction of housing. A major change to the landscape was the intrusion of the M62, M62 Junction 6 and the A5080. These roads cut through the parkland, especially the M62, which split the parkland in the 1970s. Furthermore, a residential mobile park home has been constructed, which can be accessed from Main Drive. The parkland was removed from the greenbelt in the 2016 and since then there have been applications for housing, some of which are awaiting decision. Knowsley Council are proposing that the parkland becomes a Garden Village delivering 1,600 homes and at least 22.5 hectares of employment land to provide 900 jobs (Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council 2021).



Image 3 - The two walls joining on Lickers Lane facing west

4.5 CHURCH OF ST NICHOLAS

- 4.5.1. The Church of St Nicholas (NHLE ref: 1261894) is located approximately 55m to the south-west of the site boundary. It is included in this assessment due to its proximity to the wall at Halsnead Park, which is visually prominent in views out from the asset towards the site boundary.
- 4.5.2. Designed by G.E. Street and constructed in 1864–68, the church is constructed of coursed rubble sandstone with red sandstone dressings and with slate roofs. The asset is defined and experienced by its location on Windy Arbor Road and by its primary visual and historic relationship to its churchyard. Listed at Grade II in 1971 (NHLE 1261894).

5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

5.1 SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

- 5.1.1. The wall has some evidential and historical value as a surviving element of the former designed landscape at Halsnead Park. The wall marked a clear boundary to the parkland and would have helped to prevent people entering the park without the landowner's permission. The area is surrounded by modern residential housing alongside major highways such as the M62. The current use of the site is as a car park for the adjacent sport fields.
- 5.1.2. At the time of the visit, the site was in use as a temporary compound for the nearby roadworks. The wall contained several signs of repair alongside alterations such as at the vehicular access point on Windy Arbor Road. Overall, the wall appeared to be in a degraded condition along Windy Arbor Road and Lickers Lane. The condition could not be assessed from within the parkland due to overgrown vegetation. The wall's significance relates to Halsnead Park which is a locally important asset as well as by its relationship to the two Grade II listed buildings connected to Halsnead Park.
- 5.1.3. Ultimately the asset still provides its primary purpose of a boundary wall, however the parkland has been heavily altered by the intrusion of the mobile home park and M62. The wall has been altered in several places and no longer completely surrounds the original park area. The wall is of local importance and is a clear sign of the historic parkland which once contained Halsnead Hall. As it is of local importance, the wall is a heritage asset of **low significance**.
- 5.1.4. The setting of the wall has altered significantly since it was first constructed. It still has a historic relationship to the park and to the Grade II listed North East Lodge and the Grade II listed Gate Piers, although modern developments within the parkland have detracted from its setting. Taken overall, as the wall's significance is primarily derived from its relationship to Halsnead Park and the assets within it, setting makes a **high contribution** to the asset's significance.

6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 PROPOSALS

6.1.1. The Proposed Scheme comprises the following works:

- Removal of part of the wall to widen the existing vehicular access on Windy Arbor Road and create an estate style wall across an (approximately) 12m area;
- Adding four new pillars to replicate other vehicular entrances on the estate. The proposed gate piers (height of 1.8m) would be made of stone and sandstone to match the Halsnead estate style;
- Adding two new curved sections of wall for the entrances on Windy Arbour Road;
- Re-building of existing sections of the wall to full height to accommodate visibility splay;
- Removal of part of the wall to create a 1.5m pedestrian access on Lickers Lane; and
- Adding a 0.6m deep root barrier 0.2m from the wall along the inside boundary as well as planting of a hedge adjacent to the root barrier.

6.1.2. The methodology for the alteration and removal works will be set out by the main contractor. It is understood the widened vehicular access will include estate style gates to match the Halsnead estate style, similar to those on Main Drive.



Image 4 - Entrance pillar at the entrance to Main Drive

- 6.1.3. The works would provide better, safer access into the public area. The proposal would also see landscaping alterations with the inclusion of the root barrier and hedge along the inside of the wall. The Proposed Scheme also includes the planting of shrubbery, trees, and other proposed specimens as well within the boundaries of the development.

6.2 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.2.1. Removing any part of the wall is a permanent, direct physical impact to the asset. The expansion of the access at Windy Arbor Road would result in a small visual change to the wall.. The creation of a pedestrian access on Lickers Lane would also result in a physical impact to the wall. The asset is of low heritage significance, as a result of its condition, local value and alterations. The inclusion of the estate style gates would also result in the removal of the modern gate which currently detracts from the asset's overall significance. As the gates would be designed in keeping with the asset, this would improve the overall visual appearance of the wall.
- 6.2.2. Sections of the wall will be rebuilt on either side of the new vehicular access to accommodate visibility splay. Similarly, to the above, rebuilding any part of the wall is a permanent, direct physical impact to the asset.
- 6.2.3. The planting of the hedge may also cause a permanent, direct physical impact to the wall, specifically to its foundations. This will be mitigated by the inclusion of a 0.6m deep root barrier which will line the hedge. The root barrier will minimise the risk of the wall's foundations being impacted by the hedge. A 0.2m gap will also be included between the root barrier and the wall. It is assumed during the planting of the hedge that there would be no physical damage to the wall.
- 6.2.4. Taken overall, it is concluded that the Proposed Scheme would result in less than substantial harm to the asset.
- 6.2.5. The Proposed Scheme would not impact on the setting of the Grade II listed North East Lodge to Halsnead Park or to the setting of the Grade II listed Gate Piers beside North East Lodge to Halsnead Park North East Lodge. Although physical alterations to the wall would impact on a surviving element of Halsnead Park, the works would not impact on how these two designated heritage assets are currently defined and experienced. The works would also not impact on the visual and historic relationship of the two assets to each other or to Halsnead Park. Taken overall, the proposed works would not result in harm to these assets.
- 6.2.6. The proposed works would not impact on the setting of the Grade II listed Church of St Nicholas. Although there is a visual and historic relationship between the asset and Halsnead Park, and particularly to the site, its primary visual and historic relationships are with its churchyard and to Windy Arbor Road. The alterations to the wall would not impact on how the asset is currently experienced. Taken overall, the proposed works would not result in harm to the asset.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1.1. This Heritage Statement has been undertaken following the principles set out in the NPPF and in line with relevant local and national guidance and best practice. This Heritage Statement has assessed the impacts of the proposals on the wall at Halsnead Park.
- 7.1.2. The proposed works have been developed in line with national and local policies on the historic environment. They have been developed to minimise any potential harmful effects to the significance of the asset through use of appropriate methodologies and specifications that meet the requirements of good conservation practice, whilst achieving the required works to manage their long-term future.
- 7.1.3. The LPA Principal Conservation and Design Officer stated that the 'existing informal car park is not a positive feature, and improvement to the area are therefore welcome' (*sic.*). She also stated the open view 'acts as a window into Halsnead and offers an opportunity to showcase the area'.
- 7.1.4. It is concluded that the proposed works to the wall would be of public benefit. However, the proposed works would result in less than substantial harm to the asset due to the works causing permanent, direct physical impacts to the wall. There would be no alteration to the asset's setting.
- 7.1.5. The proposed works would not result in harm to the Grade II listed North East Lodge to Halsnead Park or to the Grade II listed Gate Piers beside North East Lodge to Halsnead Park North East Lodge.
- 7.1.6. The proposed works would also not result in harm to the Grade II listed Church of St Nicholas.

7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.2.1. It is recommended that all direct physical works to the wall are undertaken with the existing character of the wall in mind.
- 7.2.2. The conservation officer and the principal landscape architect for Knowsley Council have been consulted during the re-design of the Proposed Scheme and their input was incorporated into the new plans. On 20 April 2022, the Principal Landscape Architect for Knowsley Council recommended via email to use a mixture of the Elswick Grey and the Longridge sandstone for the new section walls.
- 7.2.3. On 18 March 2022, the Principal Conservation and Design Officer and the Principal Landscape Architect for Knowsley Council recommended via email using a lime-based mortar mix that has no cement which is not stronger than NHL 2.
- 7.2.4. These recommendations have been included in the Landscape Specification.

Appendix A

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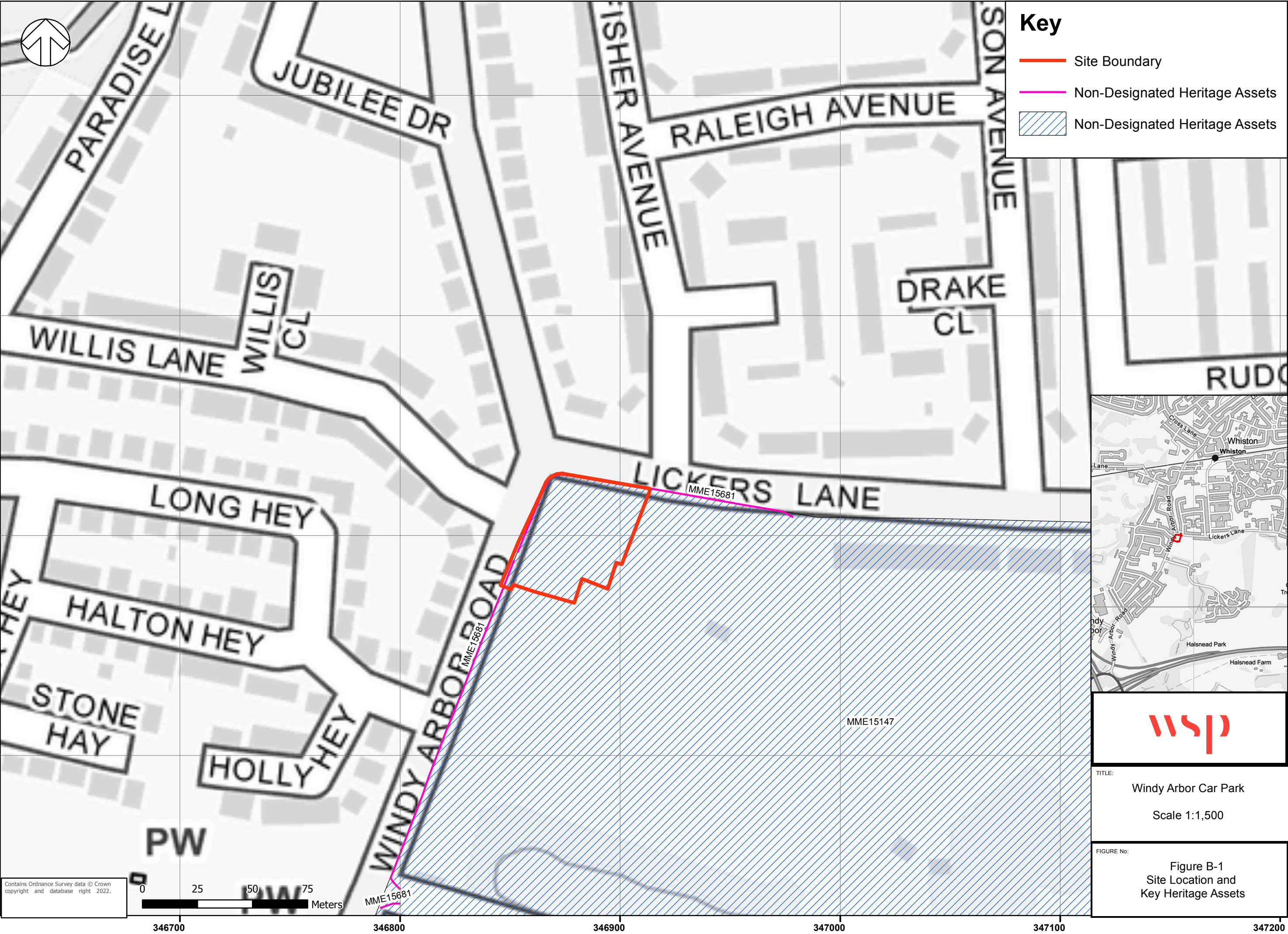
UK Government 1990, *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* UK Government

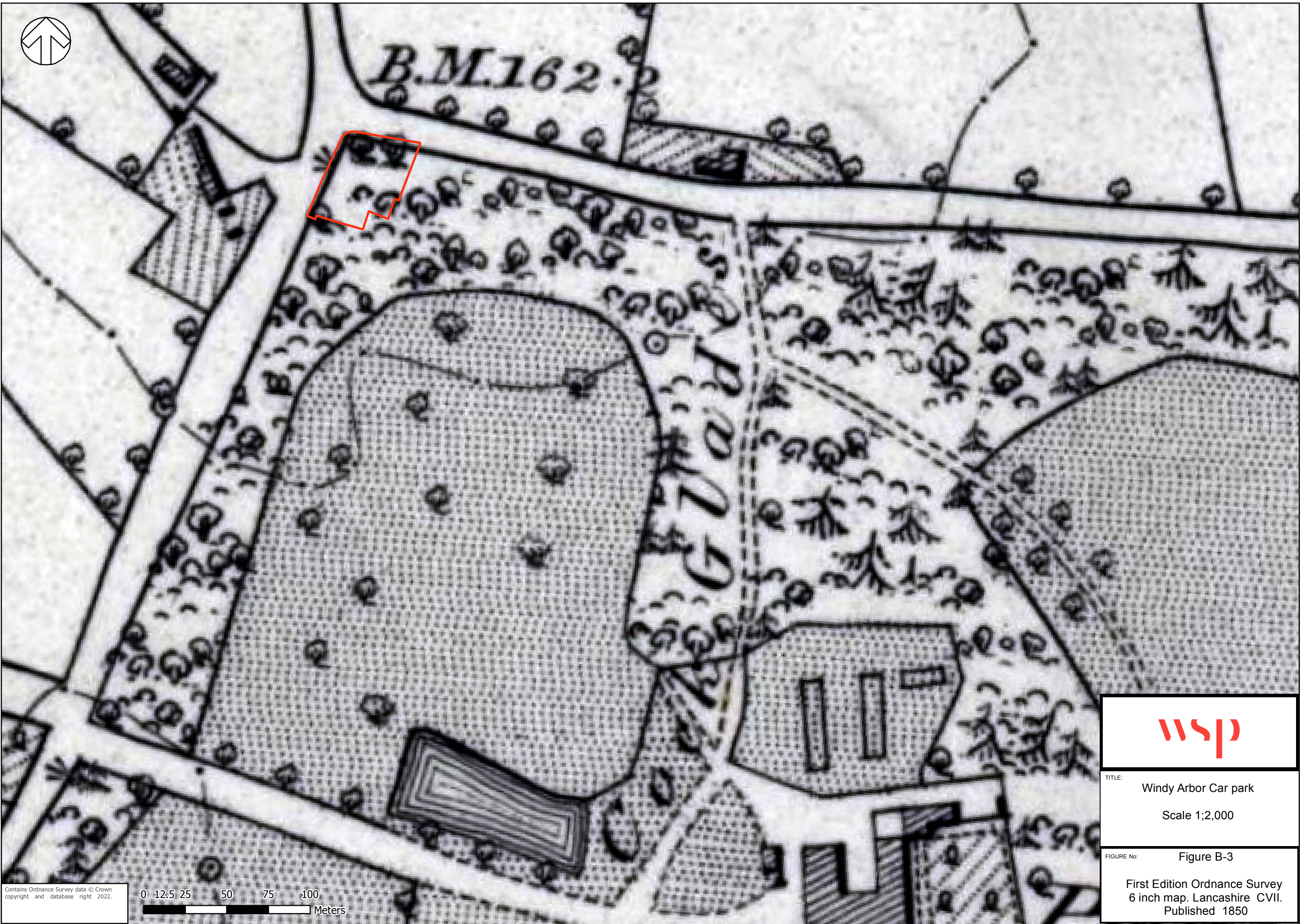
UK Government. 1990, updated 2015. *Town and Country Planning Act 1990* UK Governmen

Appendix B

FIGURES

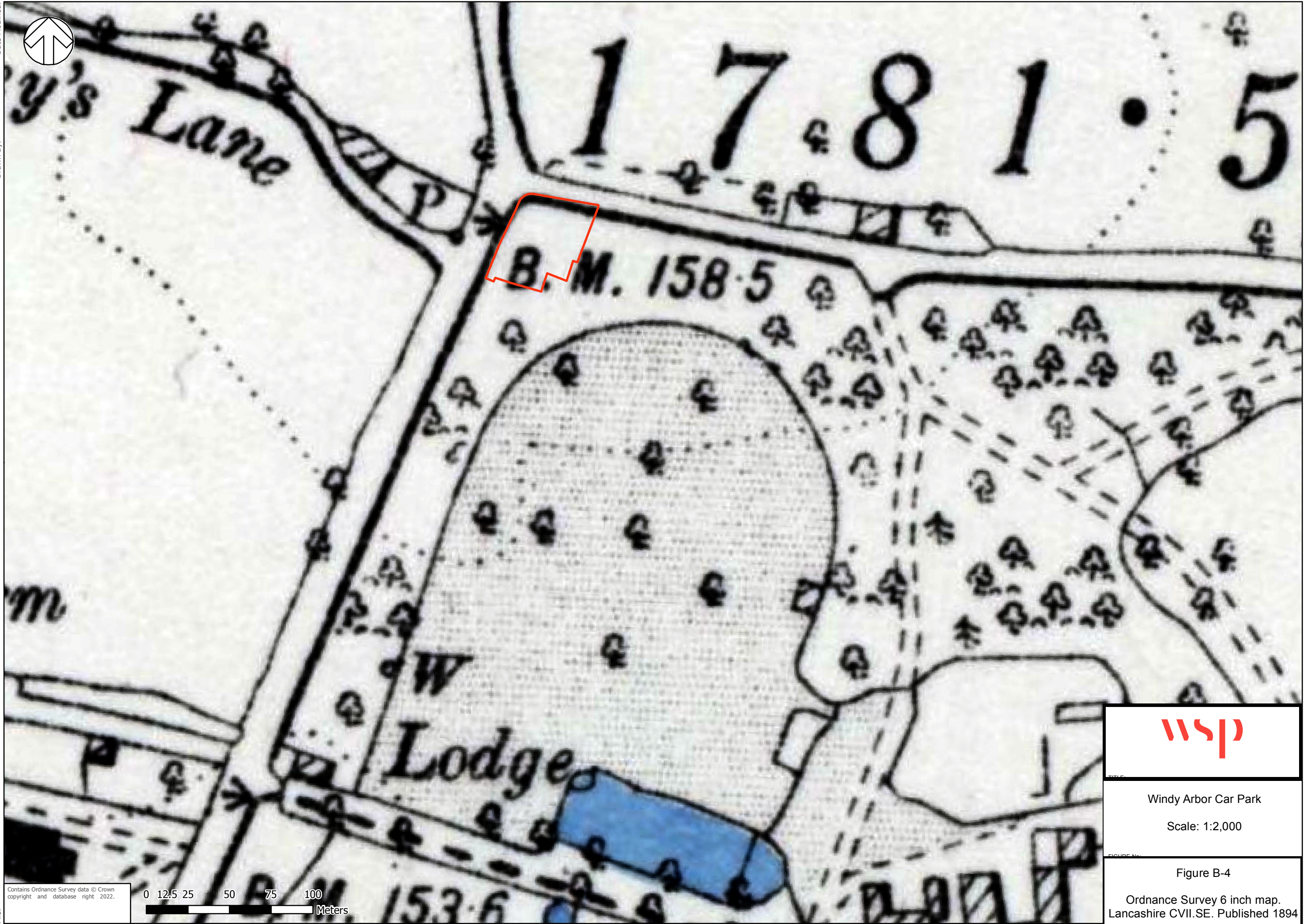






TITLE:
Windy Arbor Car park
Scale 1;2,000

FIGURE No: Figure B-3
First Edition Ordnance Survey
6 inch map. Lancashire CVII.
Published 1850



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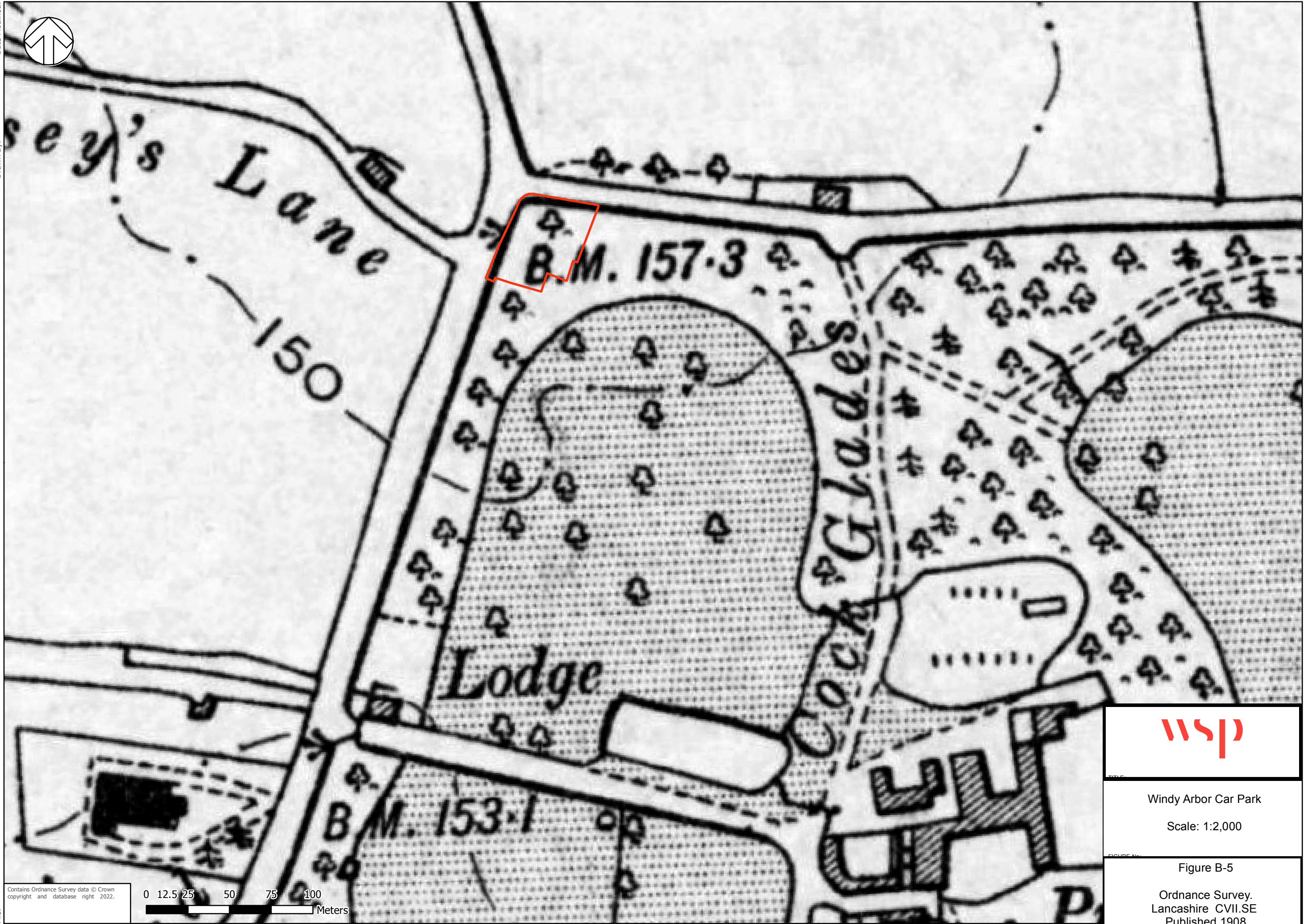
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Windy Arbor Car Park

Scale: 1:2,000

Figure B-4

Ordnance Survey 6 inch map.
Lancashire CVII.SE. Published 1894



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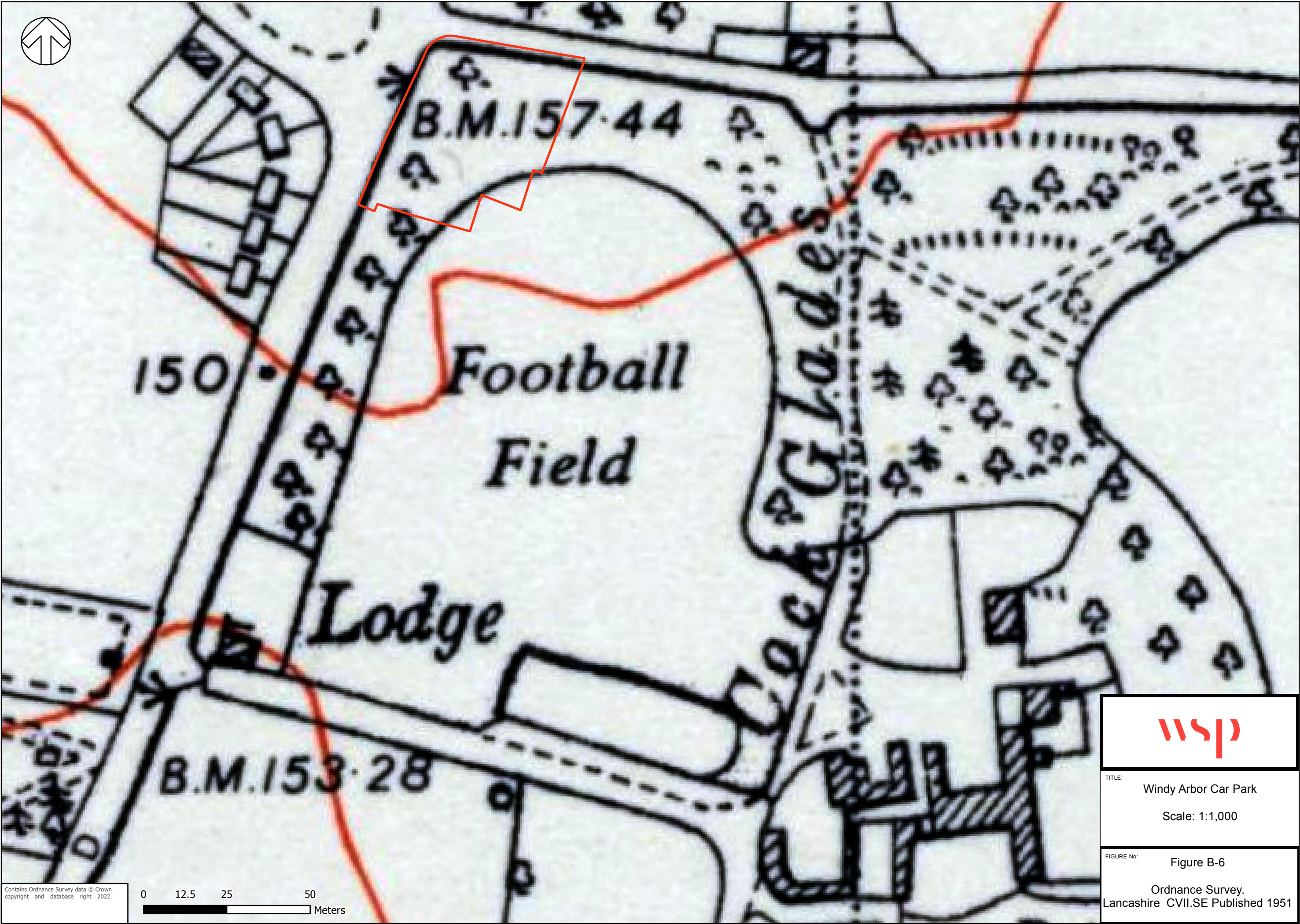
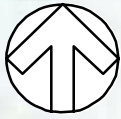
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Windy Arbor Car Park
Scale: 1:2,000

Figure B-5

Ordnance Survey.
Lancashire CVII.SE
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