

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

**LICKERS LANE
WHISTON
MERSEYSIDE**

**PREPARED BY LANPRO SERVICES
ON BEHALF OF
VISTRY PARTNERSHIPS NORTH WEST**

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Non-Technical Summary

This historic environment desk-based assessment of land south of Lickers Lane, Whiston, Merseyside (henceforth referred to as the study site) has been prepared by Lanpro Services Limited on behalf of Vistry Partnerships North West, and forms part of a full planning application for a residential development that comprises part of the wider Halsnead Garden Village masterplan.

This report has been produced to provide an assessment of the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the approximately 2.6ha study site and assesses the direct impacts that the proposed development could have on any below-ground assets that may survive within the study site. This assessment also provides an initial assessment of the potential impact the proposed development may have upon the setting of designated and non-designated heritage assets.

This assessment has identified the potential for below-ground, non-agricultural archaeological remains to be low for the prehistoric and Roman periods. The site is located within Halsnead Park, part of the wider Halsnead Estate which likely had medieval origins. It is possible that the park itself originated as a smaller, medieval park to the south-west. The current post-medieval parkland boundaries were established in the late-17th century, with the naturalistic landscape and built heritage elements established and developed throughout the late-17th-mid-20th century. It is considered that there is the low-medium potential for medieval remains and the low-medium potential for post-medieval remains to survive within the study site.

Historic mapping from 1894 (not illustrated) has indicated that there is the possibility that mine workings extended into the western portion of the study site. However, a geoenvironmental site assessment and geophysical survey within the study site indicate that there is no evidence for shallow coal workings or historic mining activity. It is therefore considered that there is low potential for industrial/mining remains to be found within the study site. During the 20th century, the majority of the study site was included within the Halsnead Park Nursery complex, with the site the former location of a number of agricultural/landscape features associated with this business. There is the medium potential that remains associated with this operation will be found within the study site.

The assessment has shown that there are no archaeological constraints to the promotion and subsequent deliverability of the study site.

This report has concluded that the proposed development will not impact upon the significance nor settings of the Grade II Listed Sandfield House or Church of St Nicholas.

There will be no impact to the significance and setting the Grade II Listed North East Lodge (NHLE 1253429) and Gate Piers beside North East Lodge to Halsnead Park (NHLE 1253429) possesses due to their illustrative historical, aesthetic and design values, as well as their architectural interest, and their group value as a result of their direct relationship with one another. However, there will be a minor impact upon the more significant relationships these assets retain due to their group value, that is their visual and physical relationship with the non-designated elements of the former Halsnead landscape, specifically the non-designated Halsnead Park and boundary walls.

The proposed development will result in the further suburbanisation of the Halsnead Park landscape, a cumulative impact resulting from the wider Halsnead Garden Village Masterplan. Whilst this suburbanisation will not impact upon the significance and character of the individual elements of the former parkland landscape, it will have a slight impact upon the significance these assets possess as a result of their *group value*. However, this impact will be *minor*, as the study site contains no known landscape elements, and due to its location along the northern boundary of the former parkland, is not historically and presently included within any significant views across the parkland.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This historic environment desk-based assessment of land south of Lickers Lane, Whiston, Merseyside (henceforth referred to as the study site) has been prepared by Lanpro Services Limited on behalf of Vistry Partnerships North West, and forms part of a full planning application for a residential development that comprises part of the wider Halsnead Garden Village masterplan.
- 1.2 This report has been produced to provide an assessment of the potential for archaeological remains within the approximately 2.5ha study site and assesses the direct impacts that the proposed development could have upon below-ground assets that may survive. It also provides an assessment of the indirect potential impact the proposed development may have upon the setting of designated and non-designated heritage assets.
- 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 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.

Current Legislation

- 2.2 The applicable legislative framework is summarised as follows:
 - Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (AMAAA) 1979;
 - Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (P(LBCA)) Act 1990
- 2.3 The AMAAA largely relates to Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and designated archaeological areas, detailing in particular what can and cannot be undertaken on archaeological grounds.
- 2.4 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (the 1990 Act) provides for the protection of listed buildings and Conservation Areas and is largely expressed in the planning process through policies in regional and local planning guidance, as outlined below. This act is the primary legislative instrument addressing the treatment of listed buildings and Conservation Areas through the planning process.
- 2.5 Section 66 of the 1990 Act states that '*...in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, 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*'.

2.6 Section 72 then adds that '*...with respect to any buildings or other land in a Conservation Area, of any powers under any of the provisions mentioned in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area*'.

2.7 As far as Section 72 is concerned, it has previously been established by the Courts that development which does not detract from the character or appearance of a Conservation Area is deemed to be in accordance with the legislation. In other words, there is no statutory requirement to actively 'enhance'.

2.8 Buildings on the list are graded to reflect their relative architectural and historic interest, based on the below:

- Grade I buildings are of exceptional interest;
- Grade II* buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest;
- Grade II buildings are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them.

2.9 In addition to the statutory criteria for listing, i.e. architectural and historic interest, and group value, the following general principles are also considered by the Secretary of State when determining if a building is suitable for addition to the list of building of special architectural and historic interest:

Age and rarity: the older a building is, and the fewer the surviving examples of its kind, the more likely it is to have special interest. The following chronology is meant as a guide to assessment; the dates are indications of likely periods of interest and are not absolute. The relevance of age and rarity will vary according to the particular type of building because for some types, dates other than those outlined below are of significance. However, the general principles used are that:

- before 1700, all buildings that contain a significant proportion of their original fabric are listed;
- from 1700 to 1840, most buildings are listed;
- after 1840, because of the greatly increased number of buildings erected and the much larger numbers that have survived, progressively greater selection is necessary;
- particularly careful selection is required for buildings from the period after 1945;
- buildings of less than 30 years old are normally listed only if they are of outstanding quality and under threat.

Aesthetic merits: the appearance of a building, both its intrinsic architectural merit and any group value, is a key consideration in judging listing proposals, but the special interest of a building will not always be reflected in obvious external visual quality. Buildings that are important for reasons of technological innovation, or as illustrating particular aspects of social or economic history, may have little external visual quality.

Selectivity: where a building qualifies for listing primarily on the strength of its special architectural interest, the fact that there are other buildings of similar quality elsewhere is not likely to be a major consideration. However, a building may be listed primarily because it represents a particular historical type in order to ensure that examples of such a type are preserved. Listing in these circumstances is largely a comparative exercise and needs to be selective where a substantial number of buildings of a similar type and quality survive. In such cases, the Secretary of State's policy is to list only the most representative or most significant examples of the type.

National interest: the emphasis in these criteria is to establish consistency of selection to ensure that not only are all buildings of strong intrinsic architectural interest included on the list, but also the most significant or distinctive regional buildings that together make a major contribution to the national historic stock. For instance, the best examples of local vernacular buildings will normally be listed because together they illustrate the importance of distinctive local and regional traditions. Similarly, for example, some buildings will be listed because they represent a nationally important but localised industry, such as shoemaking in Northamptonshire or cotton production in Lancashire.

State of repair: the state of repair of a building is not a relevant consideration when deciding whether a building meets the test of special interest. The Secretary of State will list a building which has been assessed as meeting the statutory criteria, irrespective of its state of repair.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.10 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.
- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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 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.
- 2.13 A 'Heritage Asset' is 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)'.

- 2.14 Annex 2 also defines 'Archaeological Interest' as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold, 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.
- 2.15 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.
- 2.16 Significance is defined as: *'The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance.'*
- 2.17 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.

Planning Practice Guide

- 2.18 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 its significance; archaeological, architectural and artistic, and historic.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.19 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 not subject to statutory designation will be identified in a local list and will be afforded consideration in the decision making process.

Professional Guidance

- 2.20 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).
- 2.21 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (CIfA 2020) provides guidelines and recommendations for best practice in undertaking archaeological desk-based research and assessment.
- 2.22 The Historic England publication *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment* (2015) 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.
- 2.23 In order to understand the nature, extent and level of significance the note 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. Significance results from a combination of any, some or all of the values.
- 2.24 The Historic England publication *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition): The Setting of Heritage Assets Setting* (2017) 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.
- 2.25 In order to assess the contribution made by setting to the significance of a heritage asset, and the implications of new developments, the guidance recommends that a systematic and staged approach to assessment should be adopted, namely:
- i) identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
 - ii) assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
 - iii) assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;
 - iv) explore the way to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm;
 - v) make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.
- 2.26 This report therefore follows steps (i) and (ii) to identify the local heritage assets and their

settings and then makes an assessment of the potential impact of the proposed development having regard to steps (iii) and (iv).

- 2.27 The Historic England advice note, *Statement of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets. Historic England Advice Note 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. This is aimed at providing assistance for owners, applicants, local planning authorities, planning and other consultants in the implementation of not only the guidance but also historic environment legislation and policy. 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

Information Sources

- 3.1 All records held by the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 1km search area for information regarding designated and non-designated heritage assets and details of previous archaeological investigations. A gazetteer of these results is provided in Appendix 1 and their locations illustrated on Figure 1.
- 3.2 The Historic England National Heritage List for England (NHLE) for information regarding designated heritage assets within a 1km search area. A gazetteer of the results is provided in Appendix 1 and their locations illustrated on Figure 1.
- 3.3 The Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project (MHCP), which was carried out in 2012 by staff within the former Merseyside Archaeological Advisory Service (MAAS) and made available via the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The broad types within the study area have been illustrated on Figure 2.
- 3.4 Historic England's Aerial Photo Explorer for historic aerial photographs of the study site.
- 3.5 Various on-line repositories for historical maps and plans and other relevant documentary sources.
- 3.6 The Environment Agency website for LiDAR data published on the DEFRA Data Service Platform was also consulted in order to identify any previously unrecorded earthworks or other surface remains within the study site. No unknown archaeological earthwork or cropmark remains were identified within the study site (Figure 11).
- 3.7 A phase II geoenvironmental site assessment (E3P 2023) was consulted, which included the results of previous investigations including a ground investigation report (Mott Macdonald 2018) and a coal mining risk assessment (Wardell Armstrong 2021).

Site Visit

- 3.8 Two site visits were undertaken, the first on 10th May 2022 and the second on 15th June 2022, both in sunny, warm and dry conditions with good overall visibility. These site visits were carried out to provide an assessment of the character of the study site and to appraise the potential physical and visual impacts of the proposed development on any heritage and archaeological assets (Plates 1-30).

Assessment Criteria

- 3.9 The purpose of a historic environment desk-based assessment is to meet the relevant guidance given in the NPPF and any local plans. This outlines the need to inform the planning decisions when considering proposals that have the potential to have some impact on the character or setting of a heritage asset. It is not concerned with other planning issues.
- 3.10 The degree of impact a development could have on such heritage assets is variable and can sometimes be positive rather than negative. The wide range of possible impacts can include loss of historic fabric, loss of historic character, damage to historic setting, and damage to significant views.
- 3.11 Under the requirements of the NPPF and of other useful relevant guidance, such as English Heritage's *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance* (English Heritage 2008) and Historic England's *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (Historic England 2019), as well as its various Good Practice Advice in Planning Notes (GPAs), the process of desk-based assessments can be summarised as involving three parts:
1. understanding the heritage values and significance of the designated and non-designated heritage assets involved and their settings;
 2. understanding the nature and extent of the proposed developments;
 3. making an objective judgement on the impact that the proposals outlined in Part 2 may have on the information outlined in Part 1.

Definition of Significance

- 3.12 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'* (MHCLG 2021. 71-72).
- 3.13 In order to understand the nature, extent, and level of significance, the Historic England (2015) document *Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment*. *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2* 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, as defined below.

- *Evidential value*: derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.
- *Historical value*: derives from the ways in which people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be *illustrative* or *associative*.
- *Aesthetic value*: derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.
- *Communal value*: derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. Communal values are closely bound up with historical (particularly associative) and aesthetic values but tend to have additional and specific aspects.

3.14 The Historic England document *Statements of Heritage Significance. Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets*. Historic England Advice Note 12 (Historic England 2019, 16) adopts the values terminology, or interest, for assessing the significance of a heritage asset, as identified within both the *NPPF* and *PPG*.

- *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.

3.15 These values or interests encompass the criteria that Historic England are obliged to consider when statutorily designating heritage assets. 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.

3.16 The relative contribution of the heritage values to the significance of the asset(s) are graded as either high, medium, low, neutral or detrimental.

Heritage significance	Description
Very High	World Heritage Sites
High	- Scheduled Monuments - 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 archaeological sites of local value, and/or potential to contribute to local research objectives
Negligible	Heritage assets with very little or no surviving research value

Definition of Setting

- 3.17 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’*
- 3.18 Historic England’s *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets Setting* (2017) was used to inform the methodology for this assessment which follows steps i) to iv) outlined in the guidance.
- 3.19 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.
- 3.20 The relative contribution of the heritage values to the significance of the asset(s) are graded as either high, medium, low, neutral or detrimental.

Definition of Harm

- 3.21 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. Paragraph 201 of the NPPF states that:

‘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...’

3.22 Paragraph 202 of the NPPF states 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 proposal...’

3.23 In determining the effects of the Proposed Scheme this assessment is cognisant of case law. Including the below:

- Flag Station, Mansel Lacy, Herefordshire [22/09/2015] Case Number EWHC 2688

3.24 This ruling has 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’. As stated by HH Judge David Cooke in a judgment of 22 September 2015 regarding the impact on the setting of a listed building:

‘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.’

- PALMER Appellant and Herefordshire Council and ANR [04/11/16] Case No: C1/2015/3383

3.25 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

Site Location and Description

4.1 The study site is an irregular shape and comprises approximately 2.5ha of open green space (centred at NGR SJ 47510 90372; Figure 1). The northern part of the study site is bounded by Lickers Lane, which lies at the southern edge of the town of Whiston, Knowsley. The eastern and southern parts of the study site are bounded by agricultural fields, whilst the western part is bounded by open green space and some scattered trees. Primary access to the site is obtained from Lickers Lane in the north.

4.2 The topography of the study site is undulating with gentle rises and slopes, rising slightly from the east towards the west, then dipping down again towards the tree-lined boundary

screening the area towards Windy Arbor Road. The site as a whole is well screened to the north, north-east and west, with the southern boundary of the site showing views across the former Halsnead Park and glimpsed views of the M62 to the south (Plates 1-12).

Geology and Soils

- 4.3 The recorded bedrock geology within the majority of the study site consists of sandstone of the Kinnerton Sandstone Formation, with an area of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measure Formation extending into the western part of the site. A small area of Pemberton Rock sandstone extends into the north-western boundary of the study site. This is all overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian Till – Diamicton (BGS 2022).
- 4.4 The soils of the study site comprise slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (CSAI 2022).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 5.1 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.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 5.2 The study site contains no designated heritage assets.
- 5.3 The NHLE records nine designated heritage assets within the 1km study area, all of which are Grade II listed buildings. Several of these listed structures relate to the former Halsnead Estate, including the former North-East Lodge of Halsnead Park (NHLE 1253249) and adjacent gate piers (NHLE 1253429) c. 330m east of the study site, and Old Halsnead (NHLE 1261787), located c. 690m to the south. The remaining structures primarily comprise vernacular and agricultural structures, apart from the Anglican Church of St Nicholas (NHLE 1261894), located c. 725m west of the study site.
- 5.4 Pre-Application response provided by Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC) noted that these designated heritage assets are located adjacent to or within the vicinity of the site and, therefore, their setting may be impacted upon by the proposed development. In addition to the nine designated assets within the 1km study area, KMBC has raised the identified the potential that the Grade II listed Carr House Farmhouse (NHLE 1253441) and The Paddocks and The Stables (NHLE 1253505), which are located c. 1.2km south-west of the study site, may be impacted by the proposed development.

- 5.5 The scoping opinion from KMBC have also highlighted that these assets (apart from Ropers Bridge) are historically associated with the Halsnead Park Estate, which has been confirmed through documentary research. An examination of historic mapping has shown that historically, views between many of these assets and the study site would not have existed, such as at the adjacent Carr Farm Farmhouse and The Paddocks and The Stables, which are shielded from the wider estate by mature belts of plantation (e.g. Paradise Covert) to the north and north-east, in addition to planting around Big Water and Halsnead Hall to the north-east.
- 5.6 Historically, some intervisibility may have existed between Old Halsnead and the study site. However, these views would have only been glimpsed, given the woodland bounding the north of this structure, in addition to various woodland 'clumps' (e.g. Fox Clump) and the former tree-lined eastern drive into Halsnead Park. This asset is now physically separated from the remainder of the parkland with the construction of the M62 in the late-20th century, with the site walkover showing some glimpsed views of this motorway from within the study site, but nothing of Old Halsnead c.90m further south.
- 5.7 A site visit has confirmed that there is no intervisibility between the study site and seven of the designated heritage assets, due to intervening built environment, topography and vegetation. Specifically, these are the Barn at Snape Gate (NHLE 1253250), Dean's Farmhouse (NHLE 1253345), Carr House Farmhouse (NHLE 1253441) and The Paddocks and The Stables (NHLE 1253505), Old Halsnead (NHLE 1261787), Range of Farm Buildings in L-shaped Plan (NHLE 1261893), and Ropers Bridge (NHLE 1392301). Therefore, using professional judgement, as well as the available documentary resources and the results of the site visit, it has been decided that the above assets will be scoped out of further assessment, as there will be no harm to their significance in terms of the heritage values which are embodied in their physical presence
- 5.8 The site visits have indicated that due to their proximity to the study site, there is the potential for intervisibility between the remaining four designated heritage assets and the study site, specifically those listed below. They have been included within sections 6 and 7 for further assessment.

NHLE Ref.	HER Ref.	Name	Period
1253249	DME100 MME6862	North East Lodge to Halsnead Park	Post-medieval
1253251	DME103 MME6858	Sandfield House	Post-medieval
1253429	DME106 MME6861	Gate Piers beside North East Lodge to Halsnead Park	19th century
1261894	DME121 ME10891	Church of St Nicholas	19th century

- 5.9 Full details of all designated heritage assets are listed in a gazetteer in Appendix 1 and their positions illustrated on Figure 1.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

- 5.10 The Merseyside HER contains 87 non-designated heritage asset records within the 1km study area, the great majority of which date to the post-medieval and modern periods. One non-designated heritage asset falls within the study site. This is Halsnead Park (MME15147), the former landscaped park which surrounded the 17th century Halsnead House and extended both to the north and south of the present M62.
- 5.11 The pre-application response provided by KMBC has noted that that this former parkland landscape contains a number of notable features, namely:
- 'Set piece' of 19th century Lodge, stone gate piers and flanking walls at the entrance to Main Drive from Windy Arbour Road (MME18748)
 - Route of Main Drive
 - Built remnants of the 'Princes House Farm' (MME13083; MME6857)
 - Site of Halsnead Hall (MME6856)
 - Walled Garden and outbuilding
 - Woodland Clumps and Belts
 - Ponds and Streams
 - Designed and dynamic views across the landscaped formed by the open landscape between routes, water features and tree clumps//belts
 - Estate Walls (MME15681)
- 5.12 Five of these features (route of main drive; walled garden and outbuilding; woodland clumps and belts; ponds and streams; and designed and dynamic views across the landscape) comprise the more ephemeral elements of the non-designated Halsnead Park (MME15147).
- 5.13 Scoping opinion from KMBC highlighted that these assets are historically associated with Halsnead Park. However, site visits have confirmed that there is no intervisibility or historical connection between two of these sets of assets, specifically the walled garden and outbuilding and ponds and streams, and the study site due to intervening topography and vegetation. Therefore, using professional judgement, they have been scoped out of further assessment as there will be no harm to their significance in terms of the heritage values which are embodied in their physical presence.
- 5.14 The remaining three features and four non-designated built heritage elements will be included within the assessment of significance and impact of Halsnead Park (MME15147).
- 5.15 Details of all non-designated HER records are listed in a gazetteer in Appendix 1 and are marked on Figure 1.
- 5.16 These HER records, all of which relate to archaeological remains, built heritage, parkland, and findspots within the 1km search area, have been broken-down by period, as follows. It

should be noted that some records cover more than one period, so the earliest documented period for such assets have been noted below.

Period	Within Study Site	Within Search Area
Prehistoric	0	1
Roman	0	0
Medieval	0	6
Post-medieval/Modern	2	71
Undated	0	7

Previous Investigations

- 5.17 Nineteen archaeological events are recorded within the 1km study area (Figure 1), almost all of which are composed of non-invasive archaeological works (e.g. desk-based assessment and magnetometry survey). Seventeen of these events have been carried out within the former extent of Halsnead Park, which forms part of the wider Halsnead Garden Village development. The very southern edge of the study site, which extends into an agricultural field to the south, was included within two such events in 2018: a desk-based assessment (EME3090); and magnetometry survey (EME2953). The latter did not note any probable archaeological remains within the southern extent of the study site, with identified anomalies appearing to largely be of natural origin. Several discrete features may correspond to the sites 20th century use as a nursery, with a service pipe also documented, with this latter feature appearing to extend beyond the surveyed section into the south-eastern part of the study site (SUMO Geophysics Limited 2018).
- 5.18 Whilst not recorded by the Merseyside HER, the study site has been included within the extent of two additional desk-based assessments (Oxford Archaeology North 2008; L-P Archaeology 2020). Full details of archaeological investigations recorded by the Merseyside HER can be found in the gazetteer in Appendix 1 and are illustrated on Figure 1.
- 5.19 A magnetic geophysical survey was carried out in March 2023 (ASWYAS 2023). The responses detected primarily related to modern magnetic disturbance likely to be a result of post-medieval or modern land management activity including a modern service run. Geological anomalies were detected due to variations within the soils and overall, the archaeological potential of the study site was deemed to be low.
- 5.20 A phase II geoenvironmental site assessment was carried out by E3P (E3P 2023) and incorporated the results of previous site investigations including a coal mining risk assessment (Wardell Armstrong 2021) that highlighted that the western sector of the study site may be affected by shallow coal workings associated with the Lower Florida Coal Seam. The E3P borehole assessment did not identify any shallow coal seams or evidence of any historic mine workings within the study site. There was no evidence of coal workings and

sandstone was encountered to 40.00m below ground level (bgl) with no evidence of broken ground.

Historic Landscape Characterisation

- 5.21 The wider 1km study area includes parts of over 200 separate Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) units, over 100 of which are classified as part of the Residential broad type (Figure 2). The remaining units cover a wide range of broad types, including those representing different elements of urban development, including Civil, Commercial, Communications, Industrial, and Recreational and Ornamental Grounds. The study area also includes un-developed areas of within the landscape, including different styles of Field Systems, Rough Land, Water Bodies, and Woodland.
- 5.22 The study site itself falls within three separate HLC units of this latter category: 'Field Systems' (HLC 15340), 'Woodland' (HLC 15455), and 'Rough Land' (HLC 15456). Almost the entirety of the study site falls within the 'Field System' broad type, the land within the study site has been classified as regular/small fields that were created during parliamentary enclosures. These were carried out broadly between 1750 and 1850 and are the most important single factor in shaping the modern countryside. Within the study site, this unit appears to represent the enclosed remains of the former Halsnead Park, which was created during the late-18th or early-19th century.
- 5.23 The 'Woodland' broad type comprises just over 2% of the HLC units within Knowsley District, with plantations being the primary type within this unit. An area of plantation extends along and within the northern and north-eastern boundary of the study site, with the HLC noting that conifer plantations form parts of many large estates across the borough, including the Earl of Derby's estate in Knowsley (NML 2011, 63).
- 5.24 The part of the 'Rough Land' broad type, which extends into the north-western corner of the study site, comprises 'scrub', is noted within Knowsley district as being of largely 20th century origin. It is comprised mainly of small, semi-natural stands of brushwood and rough grassland plots, many of which are the result of residential and industrial demolition and clearance, although a few natural sites do occur (NML 2011, 223).

Prehistoric – Roman Periods (c. 9500 BC – c. AD 410)

- 5.25 There is a scarcity of evidence for prehistoric and Roman period remains 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 largely restricted to lithic scatters. One such scatter was identified c. 1.7km south-west of the study site at Ochre Brook, where Mesolithic and some Neolithic worked flints, including cores, blades, flakes, and a possible scraper were recovered. Within the study area, the only asset positively dated to the prehistoric period is a Neolithic polished stone axe (MME6866), found within a garden c. 730m north of the study site. Two flint flakes (MME13386) were also recovered during a

fieldwalking survey (EME1938) c. 620m north-west of the study site, though they remain undated.

- 5.26 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 (MME6289) was identified c. 1.6km south-west of the study site at the junction of the M62 and A5300. Large quantities of pottery and tile (MME15640) 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*.
- 5.27 Whilst there is evidence from the surrounding landscape to indicate occupation and activity during the prehistoric and Roman periods, this does not appear to have been particularly intensive. Based on the above evidence, it is considered that there is a low potential for remains of prehistoric and Roman activity within the study site.

Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. AD 1540)

- 5.28 Whilst not included within the 1086 Domesday Survey (though coverage across Lancashire is incomplete), Whiston is thought to have early-medieval origins (MME18263), although this is largely based on place-name evidence rather than physical remains. *Quistan* is first recorded on a 1190 grant contained within the *Chartulary of Cockersand Abbey*, which documents a grant from Henry Travers of two shillings in yearly rent to the Abbey, paid out of his mill in *Quistan* (Farrer 1900, 603-4). The name itself is thought to mean ‘white stone’, likely in reference to a conspicuous white stone within the area (Mills 2011, 494). Halsnead is recorded in 13th century texts, with the latter part of this name deriving from the Old English *snæd*, or ‘small piece of land’. The earliest recorded form of this name, *Grewinton Halfsnede*, indicates that Halsnead likely once formed part, or half, of Cronton to the south (Ekwall 1922, 108).
- 5.29 The vill of Halsnead, as recorded in the 13th century, is thought to have been located within Halsnead Park, with the boundaries being given as east at the Wiggallache, which was the boundary between Halsnead and Rainhill, and following the syke to Longleigh Brook in the south; along this to the Spital House in the west, and following into the Deep Clough as far as the Casselache in the north; thence by the Hecseptese Gate to the cross upon the waste (Farrer and Brownbill 1907). Whilst Speed’s 1610 plan of *The Countie Pallatine of Lancaster* (not illustrated) does not show a park within this area, a possible medieval ditch (MME20871) was uncovered during recent archaeological trenching works (EME3227), c. 980m south-west of the study site, east of Windy Arbor Road, within the known post-medieval boundary of Halsnead Park. There was evidence for ploughing activity, in addition

to a clay floor and wall also having been identified at the aforementioned Ochre Brook site further to the south, at the junction of the M62 and A5300.

- 5.30 A medieval estate known as Shaw (MME16079), located c. 470m south-east of the study site within Cronton, has been identified in both documentary sources and by a continuous oval-shaped curvilinear enclosure surrounding Higher Shaw Farm (Cowell 1982, 18-19). Within the 1km study area, evidence for other medieval remains is scarce, with pottery having been recovered from within the postulated vill of Halsnead (MME15823) and Shaw (MME7129).
- 5.31 The most substantial physical evidence for medieval occupation within the immediate area can be found c. 1.3km east of the study site, where the scheduled remains of the moated Rainhill Hall and fishponds (NHLE 1017860) are located.
- 5.32 Woodland present within the post-medieval boundaries of Halsnead Park suggest that much of this area may have also been woodland during the medieval period, though the possible presence of the vill would also suggest some of this area would have been cleared for agricultural and settlement use as well. It is considered that the potential for the presence of significant (i.e. non-agricultural) medieval remains within the study site is therefore to be low/medium.

Post-Medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 - Present)

- 5.33 Throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, the ownership of both Whiston and Halsnead changed a number of times, with Thomas Willis, a merchant from Liverpool, purchasing the Halsnead estate in 1684. As noted earlier, the exact origins of Halsnead Park (MME are uncertain. Early-18th century leases document enclosed fields occupying the western and south-western areas of the known parkland, within the area of the possible medieval ditch (MME20871) uncovered during recent archaeological trenching works (EME3227) east of Windy Arbor Road, suggesting that this part of the site may have been emparked.
- 5.34 It would appear that upon his purchase of the Halsnead Estate, Thomas Willis had commissioned the construction of Halsnead Hall (MME6856) as his main residence. This Hall was partially rebuilt in 1727 by Daniel Willis, a descendant of Thomas Willis, with this rebuilt portion comprised a 'pedimented central feature, set slightly forward, flanked by narrow wings', built of local red sandstone, leading to the structure being known as the 'Red Hall.' Yates' 1786 *Survey of the County Palatine of Lancaster* (not illustrated) is the earliest available plan which shows this area in any detail. Whilst no park is specifically identified south of Whiston, the modern boundaries of Halsnead Park follow that of the surrounding roads (e.g. Lickers Lane in the north, Fox's Bank Lane in the east, Windy Arbor Road in the west, and modern Cronton Road/Dacre's Bridge Lane in the south), and this road layout is depicted by Yates' plan. It is likely Halsnead Park exists in full by this period, with the boundaries separated from the surrounding roads by a boundary wall (MME15681). This

- plan identifies the 'Red Hall' within the centre of this enclosed space, further noting that it is owned by Thomas Willis Esquire.
- 5.35 Yates' plan depicts several other structures within this area, including a building labelled 'Horselet' to the south-east. It is likely this structure represents the location of the Grade II listed Old Halsnead (NHLE 1261787). This structure dates to 1680 (though it may have once possessed a datestone of 1637) and whilst its relationship to the Halsnead Estate it largely unknown, it has been speculated that Thomas Willis resided here whilst Halsnead Hall was being constructed in the late-17th century. It is possible this two-storeyed stone building may have once been home to the previous owners of the estate.
- 5.36 Two additional buildings (MME20923) are depicted to the north-west of the 'Red Hall' on Yate's 1786 plan, both of which are unnamed. However, the southernmost of these structures appears to be what is later known as Prince's House (MME13083). The study site falls immediately inside the northern boundary of this possible parkland, though no structures are depicted within its extent.
- 5.37 In 1788, the Halsnead Estate passed to Richard Earle, who adopted the Willis name and arms. Upon his inheritance of the estate, the now Richard Willis had the south front of the 'Red Hall' redesigned, to the designs of architect Sir John Sloan, with this commission notable for being Sloan's only design within either Lancashire or Cheshire.
- 5.38 Greenwood's 1818 *Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster* (not illustrated) is the first plan to show Halsnead Park as a green, enclosed space, with various belts of woodland providing privacy from the surrounding landscape. The name of the hall appears to have changed to Halsnead sometime in the late-18th/early-19th century, with the house located within the north-central part of the enclosed parkland, accessed from a drive to the east. No features of interest are located within the study site, though a small pond is depicted immediately adjacent to the north-eastern boundary of the site, one of several depicted throughout the entire parkland.
- 5.39 The 1842 *Tithe Plan of the Township of Whiston* is the first map to show Halsnead Park and Whiston in detail (Figure 3), though it should be noted that the southernmost part of the park is not included on this plan, as it falls within the northern boundary of the Parish of Tarbock. Halsnead Hall is shown in detail to the south-east of the study site, comprised of a main house with a number of outbuildings to the west, and a walled garden with glasshouse. Prince's House and Old Halsnead, with their respective outbuildings are also depicted within the parkland, with all three properties connected by a number of driveways extending across the site. The accompanying tithe apportionment documents that Richard Ellis Esquire owns c. 420ha of the land within the township of Whiston, with c. 207ha of this land occupied by him, including all of Halsnead Park.
- 5.40 The study site itself includes parts of four separate plots, with the site largely within plot no. 422 known as North Park. Parts of the north-eastern and western boundary of the study site extend across areas of plantation, with the eastern plantation including an L-shaped pond.

Beyond this woodland and pond is the Grade II Sandfield House (NHLE 1253251). Whilst dated to the 18th century, it first appears on the 1842 Tithe plan as a rectangular structure fronting Licker's Lane, c. 80m north-east of the study site.

- 5.41 The 1850 Ordnance Survey (OS) plan (Figure 4) does not depict any significant changes from the earlier 1842 Tithe plan across Halsnead Park or within the study site. However, it is the first to depict the many collieries and coal pits that began to dot the Whiston landscape. The township of Whiston has been synonymous with coal mining since the 16th century, with a number of shafts sunk within the area throughout the post-medieval period. The opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway (MME9292) c. 500m north of the study site allowed for an increase in production, with Halsnead Colliery (MME6306), Stank Colliery (MME6877), and Hig Hey Colliery (MME6303) all present to the west of Halsnead Park by the 1850 OS plan, with a coal pit (MME6865) also shown immediately south of Prince's House, c. 430m west of the study site.
- 5.42 It is not until the 1891 OS plan (Figure 5) that some changes have been carried out within the Halsnead Estate boundary. Of particular note is the establishment of a main access extending east-west across the northern part of the park. Utilising existing earlier pathways, the eastern Fox's Bank Lane access now possesses a Lodge (NHLE 1253249) and four rusticated gate piers (NHLE 1253429) built into the existing park wall (MME15681). This access leads south-west to Halsnead Hall, turning northwards to Princes House before terminating at the western park boundary. The 1891 OS plan now depicts a second lodge (MME18748) here, at the Tarbock Road (Windy Arbor Road) access.
- 5.43 In 1864, the site of St Nicholas Church (NHLE 1261894) was purchased and donated by Reverend Ellis Ashton, vicar of Huyton, and the foundation stone was laid by Daniel Willis Esquire. Opened in 1868, the church was located south-west of the western lodge to Halsnead Park, east of Halsnead Colliery, as depicted on the 1891 OS plan. The 1891 OS plan does not depict any changes within the study site during this period.
- 5.44 An 1894 Map of the mine workings at Bug Mine (KA177/P/M1, not illustrated) shows the approximate location of mine workings within and outside the extent of Halsnead Park. This plan shows that mine workings may have extended into the western part of the study site, with an 'old shaft' also noted c. 130m west of the study site.
- 5.45 There appears to have been little change carried out within the Halsnead Estate during the late-19th/early-20th century as indicated by the 1906 OS plan (Figure 6). In 1913, the Willis family leased the southern part of Halsnead Park to the Hulton Colliery Company for Cronton Colliery. The new Cronton Colliery (MME10028) is first depicted on the 1925 OS plan (Figure 7), which shows an extensive industrial complex with three shafts south of Old Halsnead. A branch mineral railway has also been constructed, connecting the colliery to the Liverpool and Manchester Railway in the north-west. Coal extraction would be carried out within this complex for the next 70+ years.

- 5.46 In 1929, the Halsnead Estate and other lands owned by the Willis family were sold in lots by auction, including Halsnead Hall, Princes House, and Sandfield House. Consequently, the parkland and study site underwent several gradual changes during the mid-late-20th century. In 1931, Halsnead Hall was demolished, with the 1938 OS plan (Figure 8), showing only several outbuildings and the remains of the garden walls still present within the landscape. Cronton Colliery within the southern part of the park has grown in size, now including a brick works to the west. Nurseries are now depicted within the eastern half of the park, with the eastern and southern edges of the study site falling within the northernmost nursery.
- 5.47 OS plans (Figures 9-12) indicate that the study site continues to fall within the boundaries of the Halsnead Park Nursery until the early 1990's. Aerial imagery from 1945 – 1962 (Historic England RAF_106G_UK_626_RS_42266; RAF_82_1146_F21_0009; RAF_58_5162_F22_0025) indicates that the nursery extended into the entire centre of the study site by 1962, with the site subdivided into a number of smaller plots. Modern aerial imagery shows that relic landscape features relating to the former nursery (e.g. pathways and boundaries) still survive within the landscape to the south and east, and whilst not visible within the study site boundary, may still be present as ephemeral features below-ground (Figure 13). This has also been confirmed by 2019 lidar imagery (Figures 14). No significant features of archaeological interest have been identified within the study site.
- 5.48 The study site appears to have been in use as parkland throughout the duration of the post-medieval period, with much of the site being utilised as part of a nursery in the early-mid-20th century when Halsnead Estate was dissolved. A number of features within the vicinity of the study site are still extant within the former Halsnead Park extent, including part of the parkland wall, which bounds the northernmost part of the study site, and a pond within woodland, which partly bounds the site to the north-east. Extensive coal extraction has taken place within the southern part of the parkland and, with the exception of the coal pit south of Prince's House, with mapping from the late-19th century suggesting mine workings may have extended into the western part of the site. It is considered that there is the low potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) post-medieval/modern remains to survive within the study site.

6 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 6.1 Paragraph 194 of the NPPF states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage 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.
- 6.2 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage 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 (MHCLG 2021, paragraph 195) is therefore fundamental

to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 6.3 The study site contains no designated heritage assets, nor is the site located within a Conservation Area.
- 6.4 As noted in Section 5.6, there is the potential for the proposed development to impact upon four Grade II listed buildings, all of which are located within or immediately adjacent to the former Halsnead Park boundary. Each of these designated heritage assets is considered potentially sensitive to future development on the study site in terms of impact to their setting. As noted within section 3 above, Grade II listed buildings are all considered to be *medium significance*. They have been individually assessed below.

North East Lodge to Halsnead Park (NHLE 1253429)

- 6.5 This designated heritage asset is located c. 330m east of the study site and is one of two gate lodges which formed the main entrances into Halsnead Park, with the second being the non-designated Church Lodge (MME18748) at the junction of Windy Arbor Road and Main Drive in the west. The North-East Lodge is located behind the former boundary wall to Halsnead Park (MME15681), with the northern and western boundaries of this asset formed by the former Halsnead Park, and the southern by a hedge-lined garden. The Historic England listing description (Historic England 2022a) dates this lodge to the Georgian period: however, neither lodge appears on historic maps until the 1891 OS plan (Figure 5).
- 6.6 This single-storey structure is constructed of red ashlar with rusticated quoins and a pyramidal slate roof. Originally built with a square plan, this lodge was extended to the south in the late-20th century. The northern and western elevations are the two most prominent of this structure, with the former possessing a central round-headed doorway with stone round-arched porch and two-light windows with round-headed lights and labels present on either side. The western elevation has a central projecting bay with gablet, below which a shield with a crest (possibly the Willis family crest) is mounted. Much like the northern elevation, this bay is bounded to either side by a pair of two-light windows and labels. Based on the above, it is considered that this asset derives significance from its *historic interest*, primarily its *illustrative historical* and *aesthetic value*, resulting in it possessing both *design value* and *architectural interest*.
- 6.7 This Grade II listed asset also possesses significance due to its *group value*, resulting from its *historic interest* and relationship with the Halsnead Estate. This includes the designated Gate Piers adjacent the Lodge (NHLE 1253429), and the non-designated Park (MME15147), boundary walls (MME15681), Halsnead Hall (MME6856), eastern driveway, and Church Lodge (MME18748).
- 6.8 Based on the above, it is also considered that this asset, in addition to all the assets which once formed part of the Halsnead Estate, possess *associative historical value* due to their

relationship with the Willis family, who owned and resided within the property for almost 250 years.

- 6.9 It is considered that the setting contributes to the lodge's *illustrative historical, aesthetic, design and group values*, in addition to its *historic* and *architectural interest*, but does not contribute to this assets' *associative historical value*.

Gate Piers beside North East Lodge to Halsnead Park (NHLE 1253429)

- 6.10 These Grade II listed piers are also located c. 330m east of the study site, north of the North East Lodge (NHLE 1253429), and provide the eastern entrance from Fox's Bank Lane into the Halsnead Estate. Whilst it is possible these assets were constructed at the same time the eastern entrance into the estate was established, that is by the early-19th century, it is more likely they are contemporary with the construction of the North East Lodge itself, with both structures creating a more formal entry into the parkland.
- 6.11 The Historic England listing description (Historic England 2022b) records the following about this designated asset: '*Four rusticated gate piers, square, with cornice and ball, flanked by convex wall of rusticated stone of the same height – two of the piers being beside the lodge, the others being on the roadside.*'
- 6.12 There is an inconsistency between the listing description and the asset as it currently exists. The listing description (Historic England 2022b) records four piers when there are actually seven square piers, topped with cornice and ball: two at roadside connected by convex wall to two wall end piers. Within the centre of the northern convex wall is an additional pier. The wall end piers are connected by decorative iron fences to a final set of piers, between which extends a pair of iron gates leading into the parkland. One set of gates have been inset into the piers themselves, suggesting the hinges (and possibly gates themselves) are original. A second set have been attached more recently to the eastern faces of these two piers. Based on the design of the seven piers, it is likely that they were all constructed at the same time and, as a result, they all possess *historic interest*, due to their *illustrative historical* and *aesthetic values*, resulting in them possessing *design value* and *architectural interest*.
- 6.13 It is also considered that, much like the North-East Lodge, all of these piers possess *associative historical value*, due to their affiliation with the Willis family. However, most of the significance of these assets appear to derive from their *group value*, resulting from their *historic interest* with the Halsnead Estate, specifically their direct visual relationship to the Grade II listed Lodge to the south, their direct physical relationship with the former park boundary walls, and their wider relationship with Halsnead Park and the former Halsnead Hall and eastern driveway.
- 6.14 Much as with the North East Lodge, it is considered that setting contributes to the pier's *illustrative historical, aesthetic, design and group values*, in addition to their *historic* and *architectural interest*, but does not contribute to the assets *associative historical value*.

Sandfield House (NHLE 1253251)

- 6.15 Sandfield House was one of several cottages included within the Halsnead Estate. Located c. 94m north-east of the study site, this house fronts Licker's Lane and is bound to the east by Sandfield Cottage, The Purlins and End Barn (MME15926), and to the south and west by woodland within the former Halsnead Parkland. This building is dated to the 18th century and first appears on Greenwood's 1818 *Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster* (not illustrated).
- 6.16 This two-storey building is composed of red brick, with the northern elevation of the middle structure possessing a central panelled door and fanlight, and Tuscan porch with cornice. There are two sash windows on the ground floor and three above, with flat brick arches, and a stone roof with moulded eaves. Flanking wings, slightly set back, possess two sash windows on each floor and hipped roofs. As a result of its age and design, this structure possesses some *historic interest*, largely due to its *illustrative historical* and *aesthetic values*, resulting in it possessing *architectural interest*.
- 6.17 The structure is currently utilised as a children's day nursery, with the nursey also operating a natural play centre within its associated enclosed gardens and adjoining woodland to the south and west of the main house. This current usage lends this structure a degree of *communal value*.
- 6.18 This cottage was one of 80 cottages which formed a part of the holdings of the Willis family, all of which were sold by auction in 1929 when the estate was broken up. It therefore possesses some *associative historical value*, due to this relationship with the Willis family.
- 6.19 Sandfield House possesses further significance due to its *group value*, foremost because of its' relationship with the adjacent Sandfield Cottage, The Purlins and End Barn (MME15926), once farm outbuildings for Sandfield House.
- 6.20 Whilst setting does not contribute to this structure's *associative historical value*, it does provide a contribution to the *historic* and *architectural interest* it possesses, as well as its *illustrative historical*, *aesthetic* and *communal values*.

Church of St Nicholas (NHLE 1261894)

- 6.21 The Grade II listed Church is located c. 725m to the west of the study site, fronting the western site of Windy Arbor Road. Set within a c. 1.57ha plot, the church is surrounding on three sides by its associated churchyard, with the southern boundary formed by a single residential dwelling. Primary access to the church is from Windy Arbor Road to the east, though secondary access to the church and wider churchyard is possible from Mire Close to the west.
- 6.22 The site for the Church of St Nicholas was purchased and donated by Reverend Ellis Ashton, vicar of Huyton. Designed by one of the pre-eminent ecclesiastical architects of the 19th century, George Edmund Street, the foundation stone was laid in 1864 by Daniel Willis Esq of Halsnead Estate, with the church consecrated on 30th July 1868. The church was designed

in an Early-English style, built of coursed rubble sandstone with red sandstone dressings and slate roofs. A 3-stage tower is located to the south-west of the nave, with a plain parapet and a flat, capped lead roof. Originally, this tower was designed to include a crenelated parapet and a spire, but due to concerns over mineshafts in the area, and the possible weight of a spire, these elements were never built (Historic England 2022c). An early-1980's extension abuts the southern and eastern sides of the nave and tower respectively.

- 6.23 Much of the significance of this structure derives from its *illustrative historical* and *aesthetic values*, resulting in it possessing both *design value* and *architectural interest*. The Historic England listing description (Historic England 2022c) notes that this asset is a 'well-designed and imposing Anglican Church' and despite the original designs never being fully realised, the building is still 'an effective, high quality composition highlighting Street's skills.' The listing entry further notes that the interior of the church possess particular special interest. Elaborate, painted reredos were installed c. 1876-77, whilst extensive tile work, including encaustic tiled floors, are present throughout the church. The structure further possesses a number of stained glass windows, including within the Lady Chapel, where the east window is by William Morris, the south windows by Morris & Co, with Morris & Co. further providing the glass for the lancets south of the Edward Burne-Jones rose window, set into the western elevation of the nave. All of these architectural features provide this structure with a great degree of *evidential value*, in addition to *associative historical value* due to the contributions by leading artists of the period.
- 6.24 This structure possesses further *associative historical value* due to its relationship with George Edmund Street. Having trained early in his career with prominent architects Owen Browne Carter and George Gilbert Scott, Street is primarily known for his designs in the Victorian Gothic revival style, largely for ecclesiastical structures, though is best known for designing the Royal Courts of Justice on The Strand in London. The church is located almost opposite the western entrance to Halsnead Park, which was owned by the Willis family. In addition to laying the foundation stone for the church, Daniel Willis Esq. also donated the red sandstone for the dressings from his stone quarry.
- 6.25 Finally, it is considered that this asset possesses *communal value*, which ecclesiastical structures in general possessing a high degree of *spiritual value*. The Incorporated Society for Buildings & Churches donated £250 towards the costs of the church in 1863 upon condition that many seats were reserved for the poor of the parish (Historic England 2022c). In addition to its weekly services, the church runs a number of programs for the wider community, including craft and film clubs.
- 6.26 Whilst it is considered that setting does not contribute to this assets *evidential, associative historical or communal values*, it does contribute to the structure's *illustrative historical, aesthetic, and design values*, as well as its *architectural interest*.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

Halsnead Park Landscape (MME15147)

- 6.27 Halsnead Park (MME15147) likely originated as a smaller, medieval park, possibly centred within the south-western part of the known post-medieval parkland boundaries. A parkland certainly was present by the late-17th century when Thomas Willis purchased Halsnead for use as a hunting estate. A number of structures were once located within the park itself, including Halsnead Hall (MME6856) and Prince's House (MME13083), each which possessed a number of outbuildings (MME6857) in addition to walled gardens. Across the parkland were numerous landscape features, including driveways, plantations and water features, including the ornamental lake Big Water to the south-west of the study site, many of which still survive in some form. The part of former parkland within which the study site is located appears to have itself remained devoid of any features of interest, though surviving elements of the former Halsnead Park landscape have been identified adjacent the study site, including the curved belt of woodland along the northern and north-eastern boundary of the study site, within which is an L-shaped pond. However, given how little is known of the park's early history, the potential for unknown elements of this early history to survive within the site boundary cannot be discounted. It is therefore considered that should any unknown elements of the early parkland survive below-ground within the study site, they would be of *local significance* due to their *historic interest*. They would further possess both *evidential value* and *archaeological interest*.
- 6.28 As noted above, there are many non-designated elements recorded by the Merseyside HER within the parkland boundary, in addition to a number of landscape features established to create visual interest within the parkland itself. Historically, these features would have possessed a high degree of *historic interest* from their *group* and *aesthetic values*, as combined, they formed a tranquil, enclosed parkland, designed to highlighted views of the aesthetically pleasing (e.g. woodland, ponds), and shield from sight the more practical (e.g. farm buildings, colliery works west of the park) from its primary building, Halsnead Hall.
- 6.29 Halsnead Hall (MME6856) was once the focal point of this parkland landscape, and its demolition has removed much of the original purpose of the associated elements of the estate. The establishment of a permanent caravan site across the former site of the Hall and its associated outbuildings and garden additionally diminishes the context of the understanding and appreciation of the wider group of landscape features that survive within the former parkland. Furthermore, the construction of the M62 severed the southernmost part from the wider former parkland, further reducing the coherence of the landscape, and affecting the former parkland with a constant source of noise. Cronton Colliery, established south of Old Halsnead in the early-20th century, operated within the former parkland until 1984, with the structures, machinery, and spoil heap associated with the works dominating the southern part of the park, south of the M62. Whilst these industrial works are no longer present, the spoil heap levelled, and the entire site subject to schemes of reclamation and

tree planting in the late-20th century, the landscape within this area of park has been permanently altered.

- 6.30 Despite the changes noted above, Halsnead Park still possesses, in part, a distinct enclosed character, with large sections of the original park boundary wall (MME15681) still present around the perimeter (largely along its eastern and northern extents), with the missing areas of walling replaced by later brick or more modern metal fencing. Within the former parkland, the eastern and western entrances, composed of stone gate piers and lodges (NHLE 1253429; 1253249; MME18748), are still extant. The associated driveways are also still present, with the western drive known as Main Drive, and is the primary access into the former parkland today, providing access to the extant Princes House Farm outbuildings (MME6857) and static caravan site. The eastern driveway is unpaved and not utilised for wider access into the former parkland.
- 6.31 The former parkland originally possessed a great number of trees, present in belts internally along the boundary walls, and scattered in plantation 'clumps' both around the park and around water features, with the more open aspects of the landscape interspersed with additional plantings. Whilst many of these areas of planting have been removed since the early-mid 20th century, where they do survive, they contribute to the surviving elements of the parklands original naturalistic design.
- 6.32 The former Halsnead Park landscape as a whole possess significance, due largely to its *historic interest* resulting from the *group* and *aesthetic values* that it currently possesses. This is largely due to the survival of elements of built heritage and the landscape features within the former parkland boundary. However, the demolition of Halsnead Hall in 1932 removed much of the original purpose of these associated elements of the former parkland, resulting in these assets, especially the built heritage assets, possessing more interest individually rather than as a result of their *group value*. Furthermore, the later 20th century use of the former parkland for wider agricultural use, and smaller areas of designed nursery plantings, as well as the construction of a static caravan park across the former site of Halsnead Hall, has additional diminished the significance the former parkland possesses as a result of its *historic interest*, *group* and *aesthetic values*, as these changes have effectively eroded the former parkland setting. It is therefore considered that the former Halsnead Park landscape, as it exists today, is of *low significance*.

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 6.33 There is no evidence for prehistoric or Roman period activity within the study site. Settlement evidence for all of these archaeological periods lie outside the 1km study area, putting the study site within the hinterland. Consequently, there is a low potential for the presence of remains of these archaeological periods.
- 6.34 The assessment has identified that the Halsnead Estate likely does have medieval origins, but whether the study site was included within the estate during this period is unknown.

However, the potential that medieval agricultural remains, and potentially features associated with this estate, to be present within the study site cannot be discounted. Should such archaeological remains survive remains below-ground within the study site, their significance would be vested in their *historical* and *evidential values*, as well of their *archaeological interest*.

- 6.35 Halsnead Estate, and the wider landscape of Whiston, were known for their coal extraction, with a number of collieries once located within and adjacent Halsnead Park. Mine workings, as part of Bug Mine, are documented on an 1894 plan as possibly having extended into the western boundary of the study site boundary, with an 'old shaft' also noted c. 130m west of the site. Magnetometry survey (SUMO 2018) carried out within the southern part of the study site and within the parkland to the south of the site identified several small, discrete anomalies ferrous in nature and appear rectangular or rectilinear in form, which have the potential to relate to mining activity. None of these anomalies extend into the study site. A geophysical survey undertaken within the study site (ASWYAS 2023) revealed responses that primarily related to modern magnetic disturbance, likely to be a result of post-medieval or modern land management activity including a modern service run. Geological anomalies detected were due to variations within the soils.
- 6.36 A recent phase II geoenvironmental site assessment (E3P 2023) revealed that there is no evidence of coal seams or historic workings within the study site and that sandstone was encountered to 40.00m bgl.
- 6.37 The potential therefore, for archaeological remains relating to historic mining activity within the study site is low.
- 6.38 Should such remains be present within the study site, they would be of *local significance*, due to the *historical* and *evidential values*, as well as the *archaeological interest*, they could possess.
- 6.39 These deposits would make some contribution, though limited, to regional research framework objectives and therefore are likely to be of local significance.

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Proposed Development

- 7.1 The study site of c. 2.5ha is to be developed for residential development that comprises part of the wider Halsnead Garden Village masterplan.

Previous Impacts

- 7.2 Whilst no invasive archaeological works have been carried out within the study site, magnetometry survey (SUMO Geophysics Limited 2018) carried out within the southern part of the site indicates a service pipe running through this area, the excavation of which would have likely removed any below-ground remains from within its footprint. This pipe was also

revealed in the most recent geophysical survey (ASWYAS 2023) along with modern disturbance and geological anomalies.

- 7.3 Historic mapping, aerial imagery, and LiDAR data indicates that the study site was part of an enclosed parkland at Halsnead since at least the late-18th century (and likely earlier) until the early-20th century, when the Halsnead Estate was sold off, and the site was almost entirely included within Halsnead Park Nursery. Evaluation trenching (EME2529) carried out to the east of the study site within part of the former nursery site identified most of the trenches were filled with topsoil dated to the late-19th or 20th century, likely associated with the agricultural activity of the Nursery. Two ditches were unearthed, tentatively identified as either post-medieval field boundaries or features relating to the former nursery complex (NML 2012). It is possible that the study site will be similarly disturbed by modern, agricultural soils, which have the potential to hide any earlier, below-ground remains.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 7.4 The promotion of the study site for future development will have no direct, physical impact upon any designated heritage assets. The impact to setting of those designated assets that have been identified as potentially sensitive to any future development are discussed below.

North East Lodge (NHLE 1253429) and Gate Piers beside North East Lodge to Halsnead Park (NHLE 1253429)

- 7.5 The site visits have shown that there is intervisibility between the southern part of the study site and the northern and western elevation of the North East Lodge and the four northernmost listed piers. This intervisibility is also possible from immediately adjacent the gated pier entrance. It should be noted that due to accessibility issues, it was not possible to 'ground-truth' potential visibility from inside the former parkland, adjacent the lodge itself (Plates 13-16).
- 7.6 Whilst the wide, eastern entrance into Halsnead Park appears to have existed since at least the early-19th century (and possibly earlier), historic mapping shows that this lodge (and the lodge at the western entrance) and associated piers were likely not constructed until the mid-late 19th century. The 1891 OS plan (Figure 5) indicates that originally, the setting of both assets was composed of the largely rural, wooded setting of Halsnead Park, with the majority of the lodge (apart from its pyramidal roof) hidden behind the park walls. The only possible clear views of both assets would have been from within the parkland itself, specifically from along the tree-lined driveway which led to Halsnead Hall (MME6856). The views traveling eastwards along this drive would have highlighted views of the western elevation of the lodge, which possesses a shield with (Willis family?) crest, and the gated eastern entrance with piers set amongst a dense belt of woodland. This woodland north, west and south of these assets restricted views not only from this area across the wider parkland, but views of these assets from outside the alignment of the tree-line driveway. This view of both the lodge and adjacent piers, which highlights their *illustrative historical*,

aesthetic, and *design values*, as well as their *architectural interest*, does not included the study site within its extent, and it is therefore considered that the proposed development will have *no impact* upon this element of both assets significance. It is also considered that there will be a *no impact* upon the significance these assets possess due to their *group value*, that is their visual and physical relationship specifically with one another, as this relationship is best highlighted from within the parkland itself.

- 7.7 As noted within Section 6, both of these assets derive significance due to their *group value*, resulting from their *historic interest* with the wider Halsnead Estate. Since the sale of the estate in 1929, a number of changes has been carried out within the parkland that have altered its setting. The demolition of Halsnead Hall in 1932 removed the original purpose of both the lodge and adjacent piers: as a home for a porter, controlling access into the estate itself via the driveway. This primary function of the driveway has also been made irrelevant, with this feature now more of a secondary pathway into the former parkland. This overall loss of purpose has slightly reduced the *group value* of these asset's significance.
- 7.8 The landscape across the parkland itself has also been altered, originally a space with extensive belts of plantations, both internally along the boundary walls and surrounding the main complexes (Halsnead Hall, Old Halsnead and Prince's House), with the more open aspects of the landscape peppered with additional trees and water features (e.g. the ornamental lake 'Big Water'). Current site conditions show that much of the woodland surrounding both the lodge and piers has been removed, as have the trees along the former eastern driveway. This loss of vegetation has laid bare the immediate setting of both the lodge and piers to the more open nature of the inner park. 20th century suburban expansion has also extended into the former parkland, with the establishment of a permanent caravan site across the former location of Halsnead Hall. These changes to the overall parkland have further diminished the *historic interest* and *group value* these assets possess.
- 7.9 It is considered that the proposed development will have a *minor impact* upon the more significant relationships these assets retain due to their *group value*, that is their visual and physical relationship with the non-designated elements of the former Halsnead landscape. Present views of these assets, which highlight their *historic interest* (e.g. the relationship with other elements of the former Halsnead landscape), specifically the non-designated Halsnead Park (MME15147) and boundary walls (MME15681), are best appreciated from Fox's Bank Lane to the east. The sweeping curved walls and taller piers form an impressive entrance into the former parkland. These views include both the earlier, original walling to the north and south of the entrance, and the later 19th-century walling likely contemporaneous with the more prominent eastern entrance, though these views only include the roof of the lodge. The longer and wider views of this relationship provide a backdrop of open, arable former parkland interspersed with small clumps of woodland plantation, remnants of the extensive plantations which were once more plentiful across the site. Prior to the sale and alteration of Halsnead Park during the 20th century, these longer and wider views would have historically not existed, due to the presence of dense woodland

surrounding the lodge and piers, and alongside the inner boundary wall, which would have shortened the views to those immediately adjacent the eastern entrance. Furthermore, these more recent longer views have already been adversely affected by the static caravan park to the west, providing a more suburbanised backdrop within a historically wooded setting.

Sandfield House (NHLE 1253251)

- 7.10 The site walkovers have shown that despite the close proximity to the study site, at present there exists no intervisibility with Sandfield House. This is due to an extensive area of woodland present between the two areas (Plates 17-20). Key views of this structure are those which highlight its *illustrative historical* and *aesthetic values*, as well as its *architectural interest*. This is best appreciated from Licker's Lane to the north, with views approaching the House from the east and west show the slightly staggered façade with its former outbuildings to the east, all set within a backdrop of woodland, providing a more enclosed feel to this building group. Historic mapping shows that this structure has been within a wooded setting since at least the early-19th century, which has both provided both a visual and physical separation from the remainder of the parkland estate to the south. The proposed development plan shows that this extant belt of woodland is to be retained, and therefore, there will be *no impact* to the significance this asset derives from these particular heritage values.

Church of St Nicholas (NHLE 1261894)

- 7.11 Both site walkovers have shown that there is some intervisibility between the study site and the Church of St Nicholas. Specifically, these views are only possible from ground-level within the southern part of the study site and the upper 2-stages of the church tower, with no intervisibility from ground-level adjacent the church and the study site (Plates 21-23).
- 7.12 When first built, the church was surrounded by a mixture of agricultural fields and colliery workings west of Tarbock Road (Windy Arbor Road). To the east was the emparked Halsnead Park, the park boundary walls and internal vegetation of 'Paradise Covert' restricting views eastwards. Since its construction in the mid-19th century, both the immediate and wider setting of this Grade II listed church have changed significantly, with 20th century suburban expansion infilling many of the former fields and industrial works to the south, west and north of the church. Residential estates have also been established within the former Halsnead Park after its sale in 1929, in addition to a garden centre complex immediately opposite the church, south of the western access into the parkland.
- 7.13 Whilst the listing description of the church does not make note of any key views to or from this asset, it is likely that, historically, the key views of the church would have been from Tarbock Road, which would have highlighted the *illustrative historical*, *aesthetic*, and *design values*, as well as its *architectural interest* of this larger ecclesiastical structure amidst a largely flat landscape interspersed with colliery works (e.g. machinery, structures, spoil heaps). Given the wooded nature of the western boundary of Halsnead Park, both past and

present, these views do not include the study site within their vistas. Therefore, it is considered there will be *no impact* to the significance of this asset.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

Halsnead Park Landscape (MME15147)

- 7.14 This assessment has not identified any known features associated with Halsnead Park (MME15147) within the study site boundary. It is considered that there is low potential that unknown earlier medieval and post-medieval remains associated with the earlier, less-documented history of the Park survive below-ground within the study site. These remains may have been disturbed by later industrial activity (e.g. mine workings) and 20th century agricultural use. Whilst groundworks associated within the construction of any proposed development would have the potential to impact upon archaeological deposits, there is no evidence to suggest the presence of, or potential for, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development.
- 7.15 Surviving elements of the Halsnead Park landscape have been identified within the *Halsnead Garden Village Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document* (KMBC 2017, 42). Whilst no landscape features have been identified within the study site, this document does note the curved belt of woodland and pond along the northern and north-eastern boundary of the study site as the closest surviving historic feature adjacent the study site. Further afield is the former alignment of the eastern drive, the remnants of Fox Clump woodland, c. 145m and c. 230m south of the study site respectively, as well as the curved boundary east of Prince's House Farm, c. 310m west of the study site. Though outside the study site, both the Masterplan SPD and proposed development plan indicate the area of woodland adjacent the site boundary are to be retained. The present trees scattered across the study site are more recent additions, likely late-20th century plantings, as indicated by an aerial photograph from 1962 (Historic England RAF_58_5162_F22_0025), and will be removed ahead of development, though will be replaced with additional planting throughout the development (Plates 12, 24-26).
- 7.16 The proposed development will have no direct physical impacts upon the former boundary wall to Halsnead Park (MME15147), as proposed access will be located where there are no upstanding remains of the boundary wall. Much of the upstanding wall north of the study site is concealed behind existing woodland, shielded from view, and therefore, there will be no visual impacts to this asset (Plates 1-3 and 24).
- 7.17 Church Lodge (MME18748), and the adjacent stone gate piers and flanking walls are located c. 630m west of the study site. The site walkovers have shown that there is no intervisibility between these assets and the study site, and historically, views between these two areas would not have existed, as both the eastern and western lodges were designed and situated to be hidden from longer views within the parkland itself (Plate 27).

- 7.18 Main Drive was one of two primary routes into Halsnead Park, with Church Lodge and its associated piers forming the western entranceway. This driveway extended east/south-east into the park itself, with its main function providing access to Prince's House and Halsnead Hall. Whilst both houses are no longer present and only several outbuildings surviving to present day, the drive still follows the same alignment as that depicted on early-19th century plans (Figure 3), extending from Church Lodge in the west to the east/south-east, although it now terminates at the static caravan site, which is sited across the former footprint of Halsnead Hall. Whilst the site visits have shown there is some intervisibility from along the southern extent of this drive with the study site, this intervisibility does not impact upon this features function as an access road, nor does this intervisibility impact upon the significance this asset once derived due to its relationship with the former Halsnead Hall and Prince's House Farm (Plates 28-30).
- 7.19 The site visits have shown that there is some intervisibility between the study site and the surviving above-ground elements of the former Prince's House Farm complex (MME13083; MME6857), though these views are slightly softened by a curving boundary lined intermittently with trees, to the east of the extant structures (Plate 12). The site visits have shown there is no intervisibility between the study site and the former location of Halsnead Hall (MME6856), due to its location within the centre of a static caravan park.
- 7.20 Due to the study site's location within the northernmost part of the former parkland, within an area that appears to have largely lacked any significant landscape features (with the exception of the woodland and hidden pond bounding the northern and north-eastern part of the study site), it is considered that this area is largely outside any significant views or vistas that may have historically existed, or still exist. These views include key visual relationships between the historic routes extending into the parkland from the designated eastern and non-designated western lodges and associated gate piers towards the primary (Halsnead Hall) and secondary (Princes House Farm) structures within the parkland. All of these assets are located to the east, south and west of the study site.
- 7.21 The proposed development will result in the further suburbanisation of the Halsnead Park landscape, a cumulative impact resulting from the wider Halsnead Garden Village Masterplan. Whilst this suburbanisation will not impact upon the significance and character of the individual elements, it will have a slight impact upon the significance these assets possess as a result of their *group value*. However, this impact will be *minor*, as the study site contains no known landscape elements, and due to its location along the northern boundary of the former parkland, is not historically and presently included within any significant views across the parkland.

Potential Sub-Surface Archaeological Remains

- 7.22 Based on the present evidence, the potential for below-ground non-agricultural archaeological remains is considered to be low for the prehistoric and Roman periods, low-medium for medieval remains, and low potential for post-medieval mining remains and medium potential

for remains associated with Halsnead Park Nursery. Geoenvironmental site assessment revealed that there is no evidence for shallow coal workings or historic mining activity.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 This historic environment desk-based assessment draws together the available archaeological, historical, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the heritage significance and archaeological potential of the c. 2.6ha study site, which will be redeveloped for residential use as part of the wider Halsnead Garden Village masterplan. The assessment addresses the information requirements set out in the NPPF and provides the proportionate response sought by the NPPF.
- 8.2 This assessment has identified the potential for below-ground, non-agricultural archaeological remains to be low for the prehistoric and Roman periods.
- 8.3 The site is located within the former Halsnead Park, part of the wider Halsnead Estate which likely had medieval origins. It is possible that the park itself originated as a smaller, medieval park to the south-west. The current post-medieval parkland boundaries were established in the late-17th century, with the naturalistic landscape and built heritage elements established and developed throughout the late-17th-mid-20th century. It is considered that there is the low-medium potential for medieval remains.
- 8.4 Historic mapping from 1894 (not illustrated) has indicated that there is the possibility that mine workings extended into the western portion of the study site. However, the geoenvironmental site assessment and geophysical survey within the study site indicate that there is no evidence for shallow coal workings or historic mining activity. It is therefore considered that there is low potential for industrial/mining remains to be found within the study site.
- 8.5 During the 20th century, the majority of the study site was included within the Halsnead Park Nursery complex, with the site the former location of a number of agricultural/landscape features associated with this business. There is the medium potential that remains associated with this operation will be found within the study site.
- 8.6 The assessment has shown that there are no archaeological constraints to the promotion and subsequent deliverability of the study site.
- 8.7 This report has concluded that the proposed development will not impact upon the significance nor settings of the Grade II Listed Sandfield House or Church of St Nicholas.
- 8.8 There will be no impact to the significance and setting of the Grade II Listed North East Lodge (NHLE 1253429) and Gate Piers beside North East Lodge to Halsnead Park (NHLE 1253429) due to their illustrative historical, aesthetic and design values, as well as their architectural interest, and their group value as a result of their direct relationship with one another. However, there will be a minor impact upon the more significant relationships these assets retain due to their group value, that is their visual and physical relationship with

the non-designated elements of the former Halsnead landscape, specifically the non-designated Halsnead Park and boundary walls.

- 8.9 The proposed development will result in the further suburbanisation of the Halsnead Park landscape, a cumulative impact resulting from the wider Halsnead Garden Village Masterplan. Whilst this suburbanisation will not impact upon the significance and character of the individual elements of the former parkland landscape, it will have a slight impact upon the significance these assets possess as a result of their *group value*. However, this impact will be *minor*, as the study site contains no known landscape elements, and due to its location along the northern boundary of the former parkland, is not historically and presently included within any significant views across the parkland.

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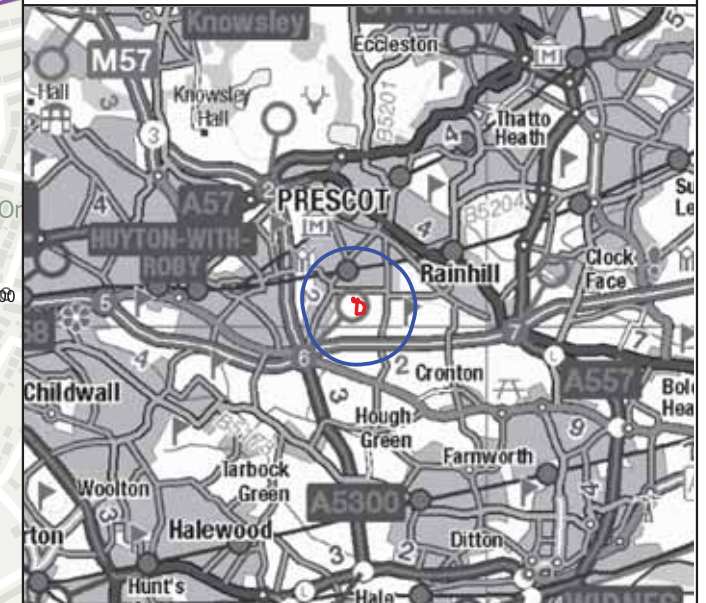
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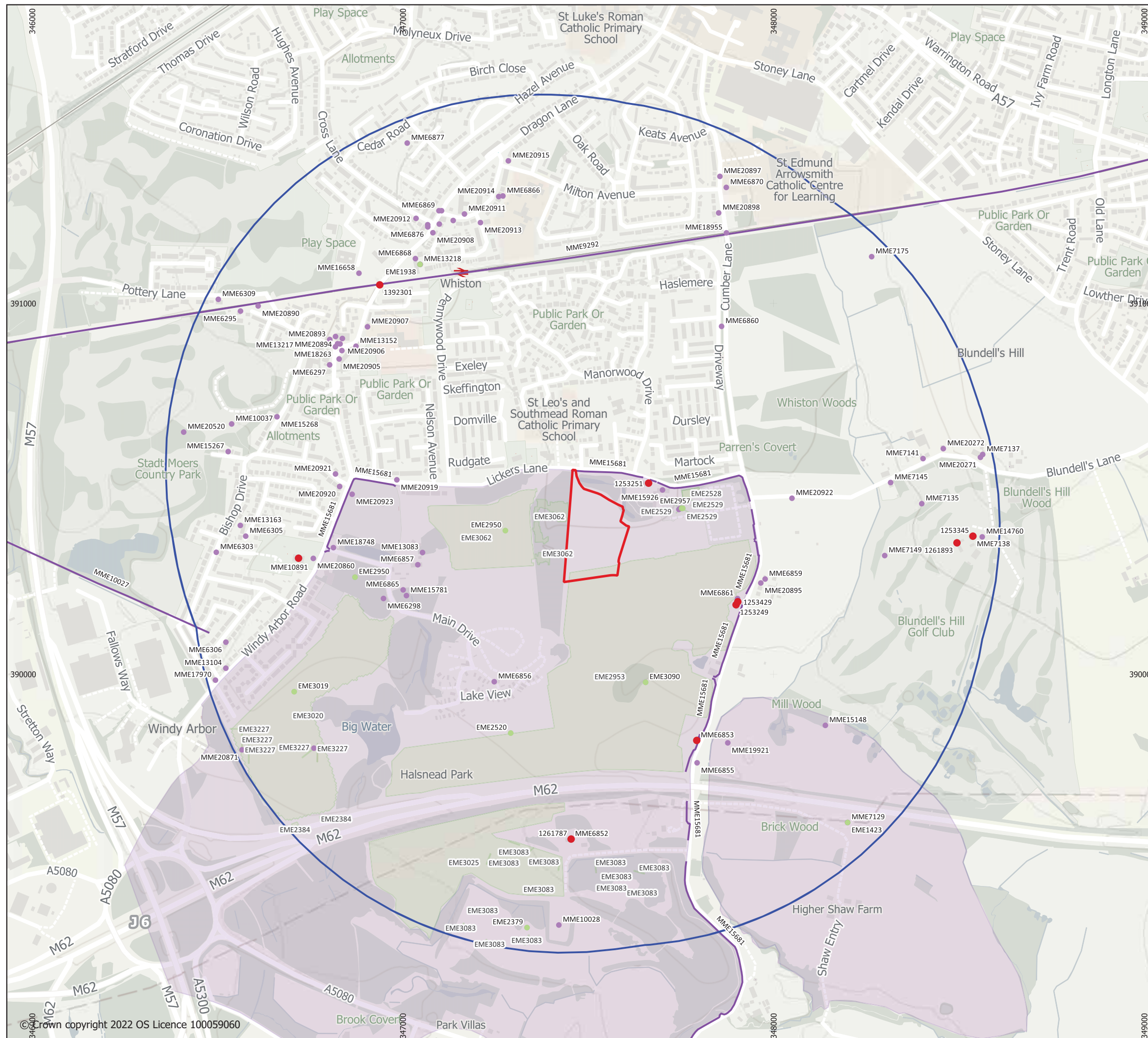


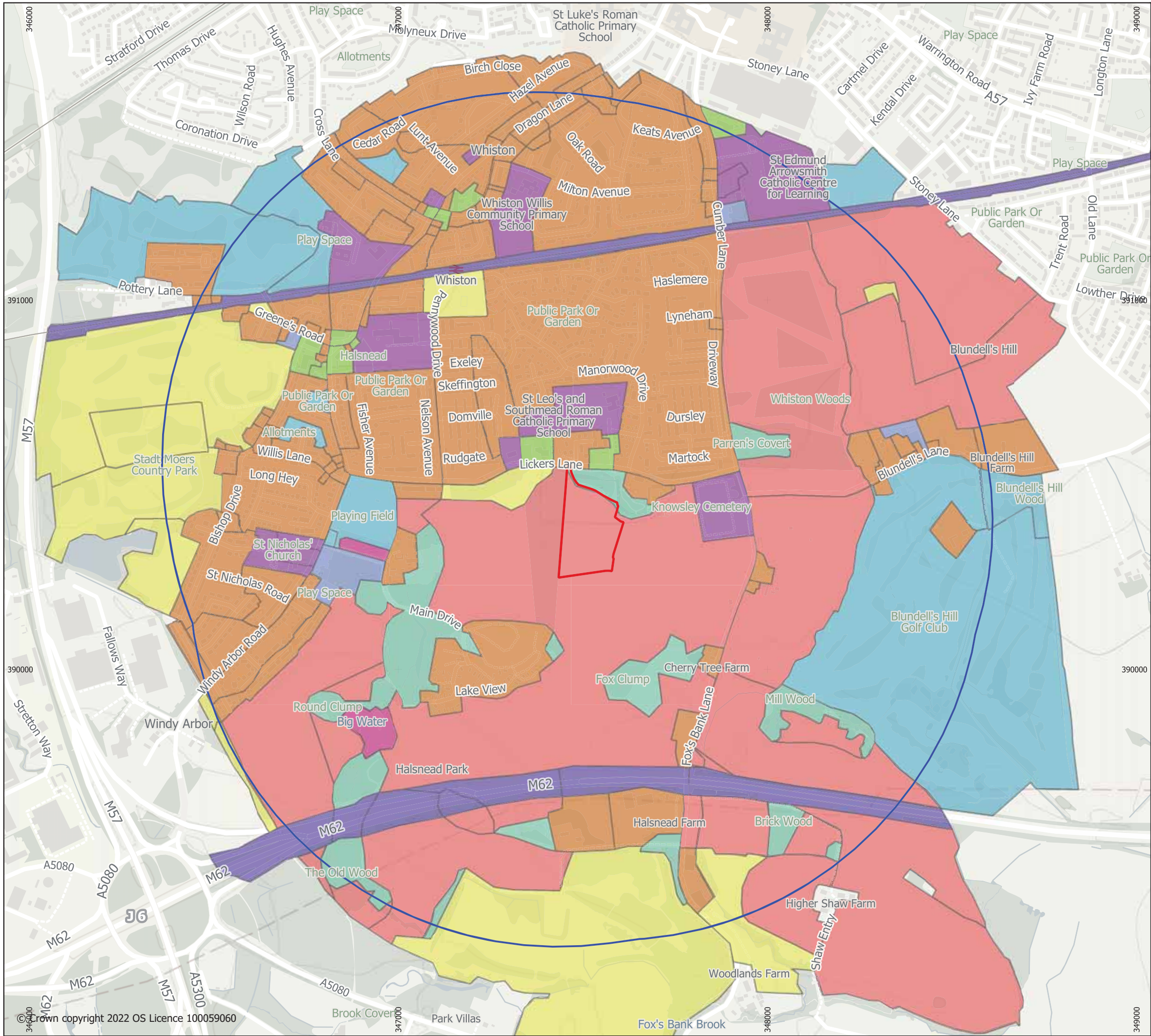
- Site Outline
- 1km Search Area
- Listed Buildings
- MHER monuments point
- MHER monuments line
- MHER monuments poly
- MHER events point
- MHER events poly



0 100 200 300 400 500 m

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



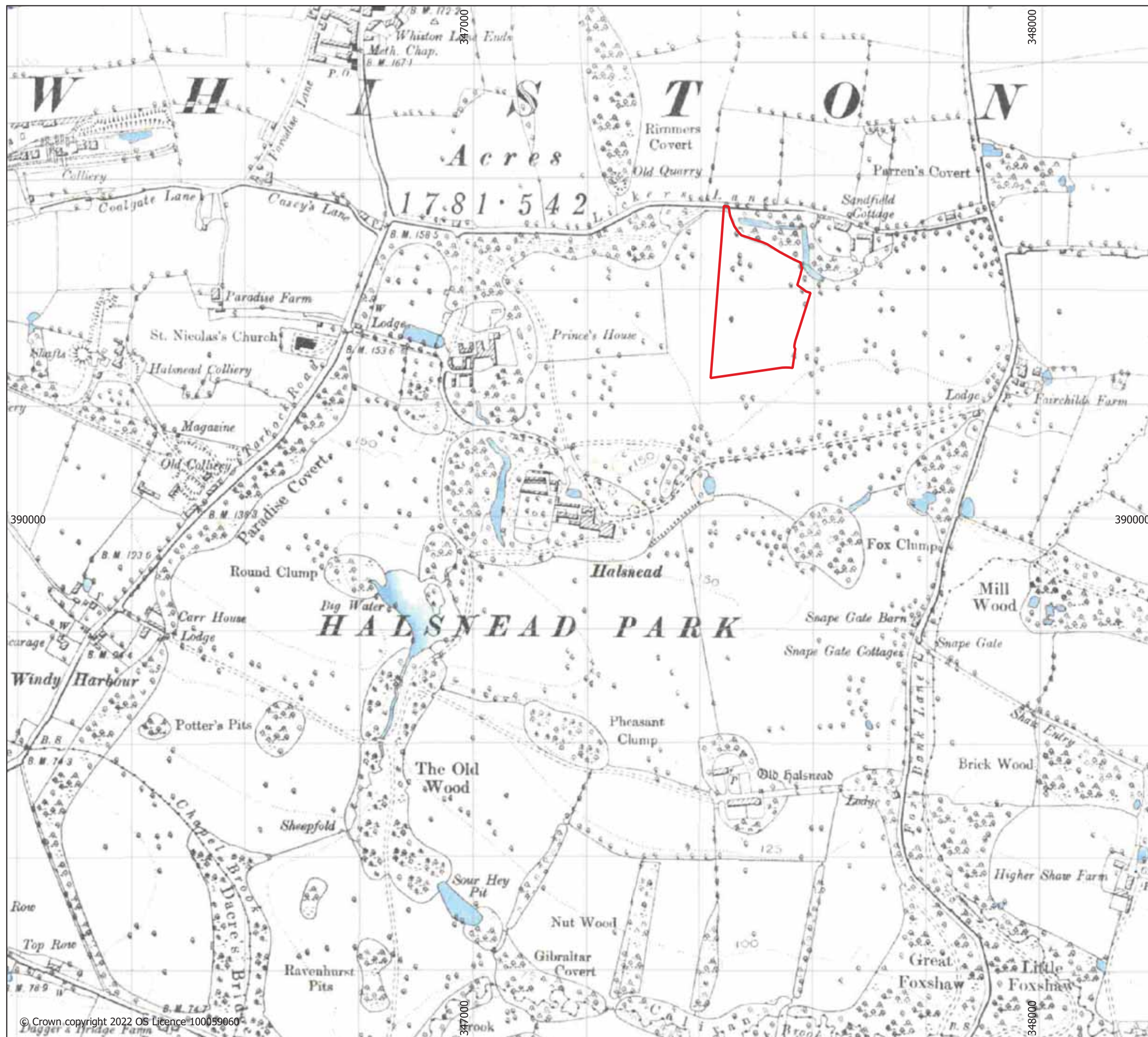


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Figure 3. Extract from the 1842 Tithe map of the Township of Whiston



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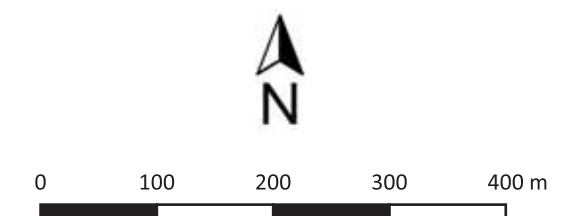
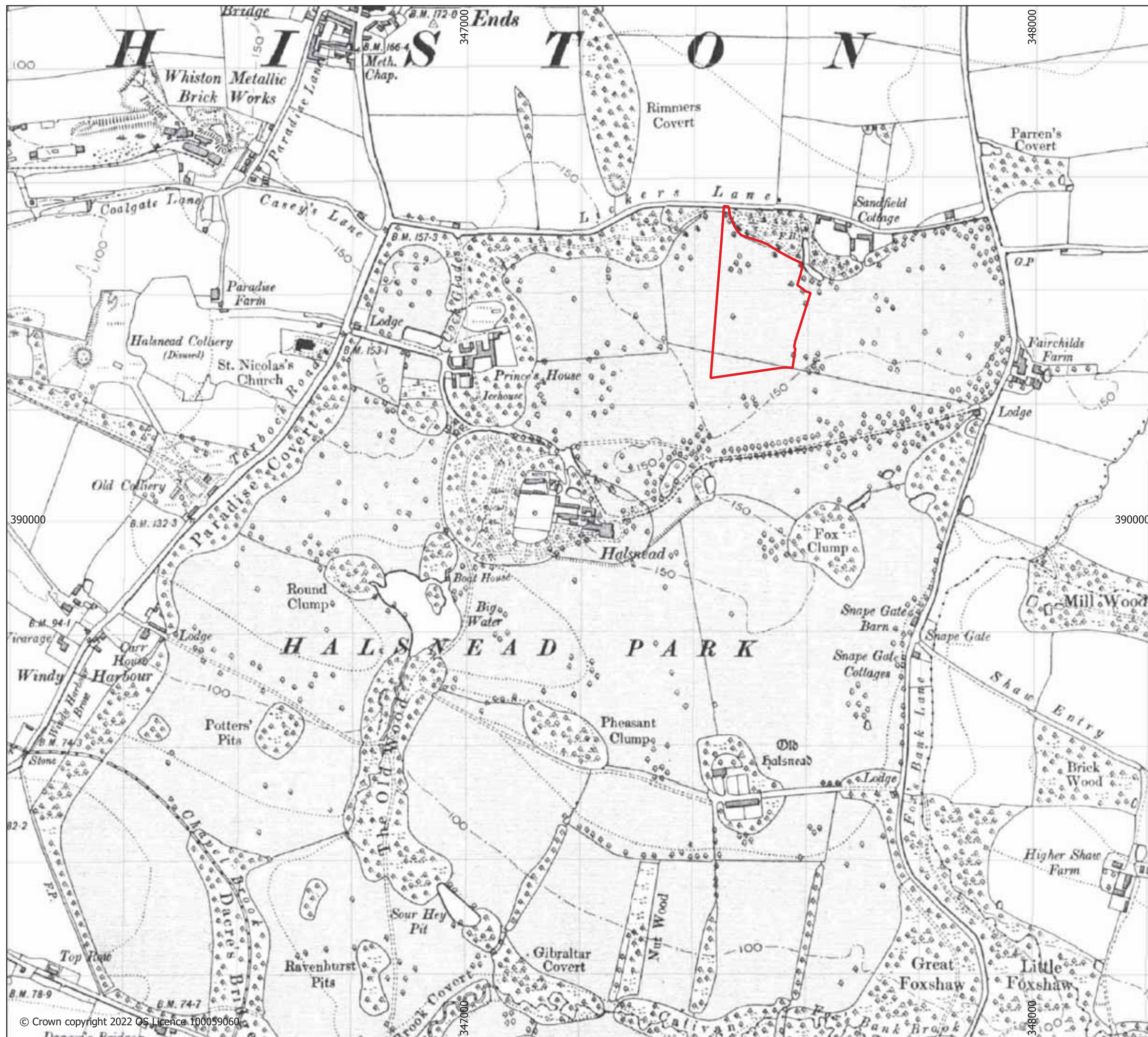


Figure 5. Extract from the 1891 6 inch Ordnance Survey plan



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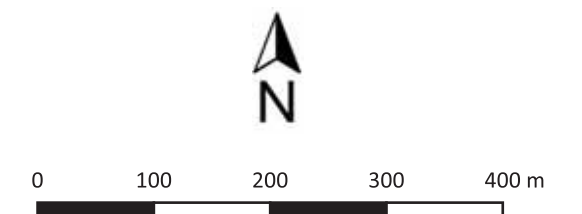
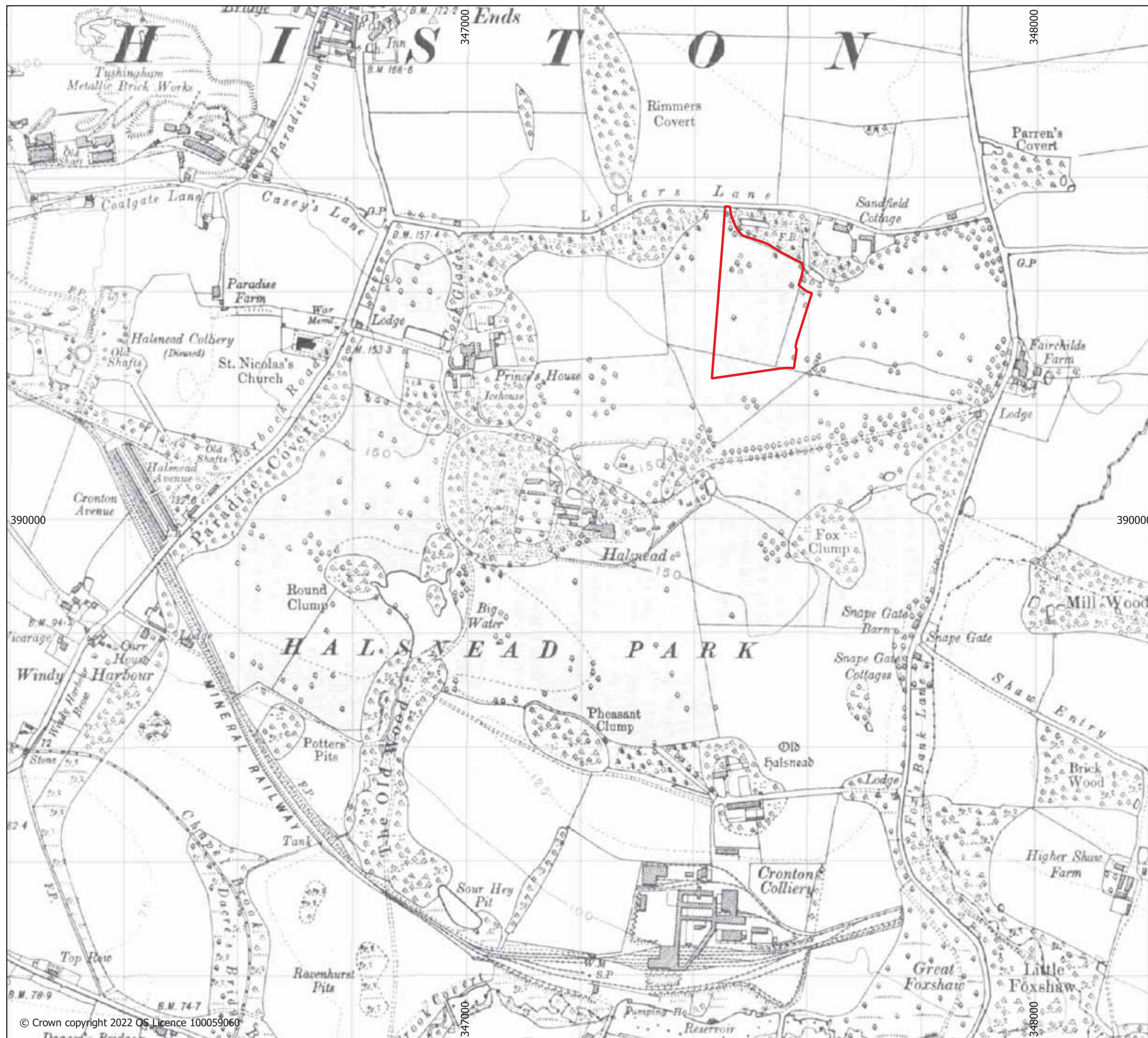


Figure 6. Extract from the 1906 6 inch Ordnance Survey plan



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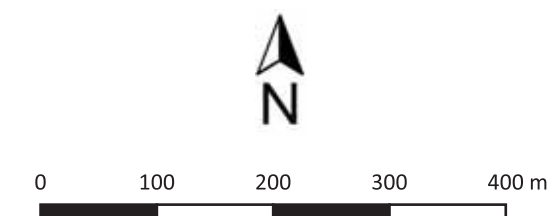
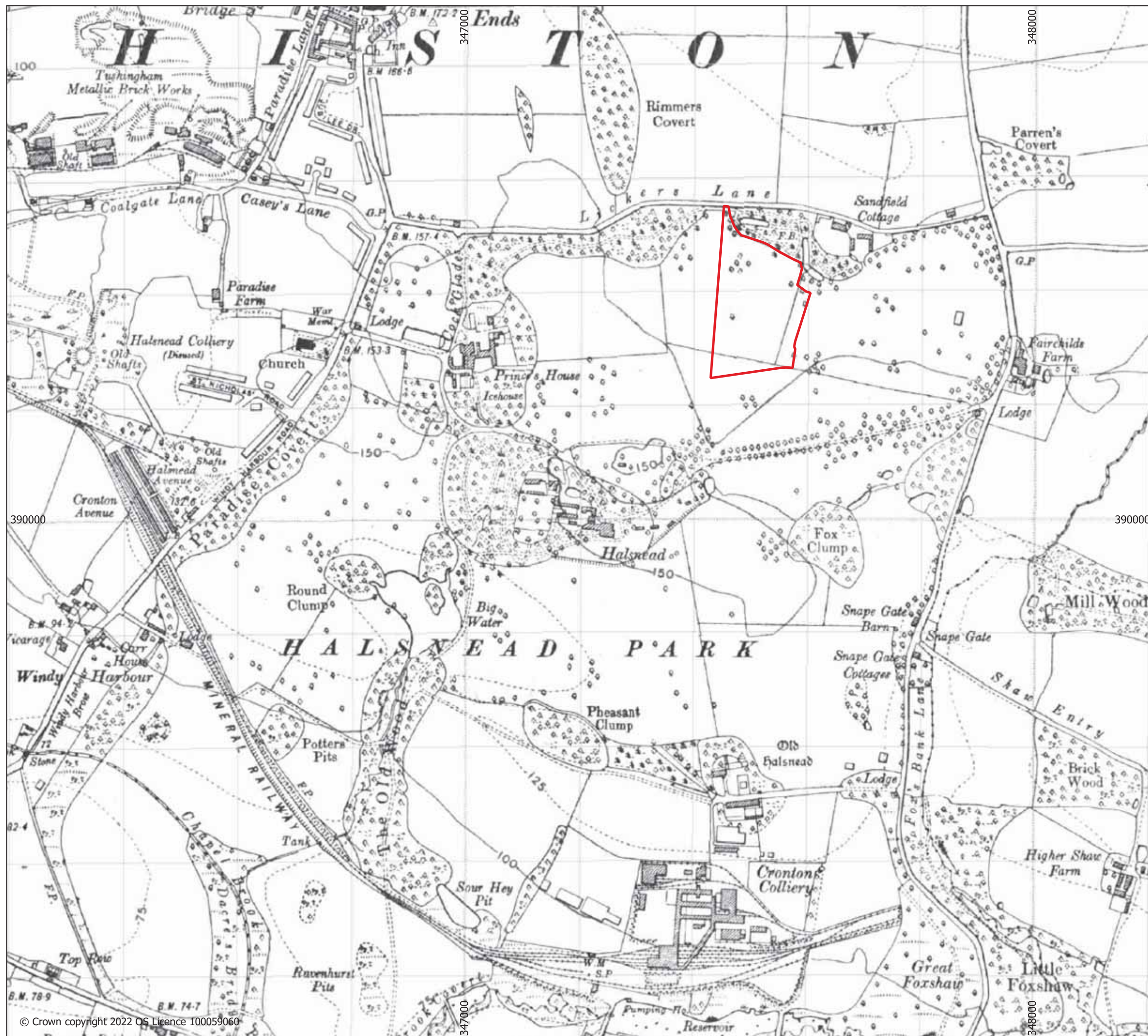


Figure 7. Extract from the 1925 6 inch Ordnance Survey plan



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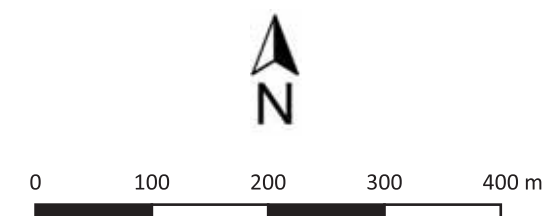
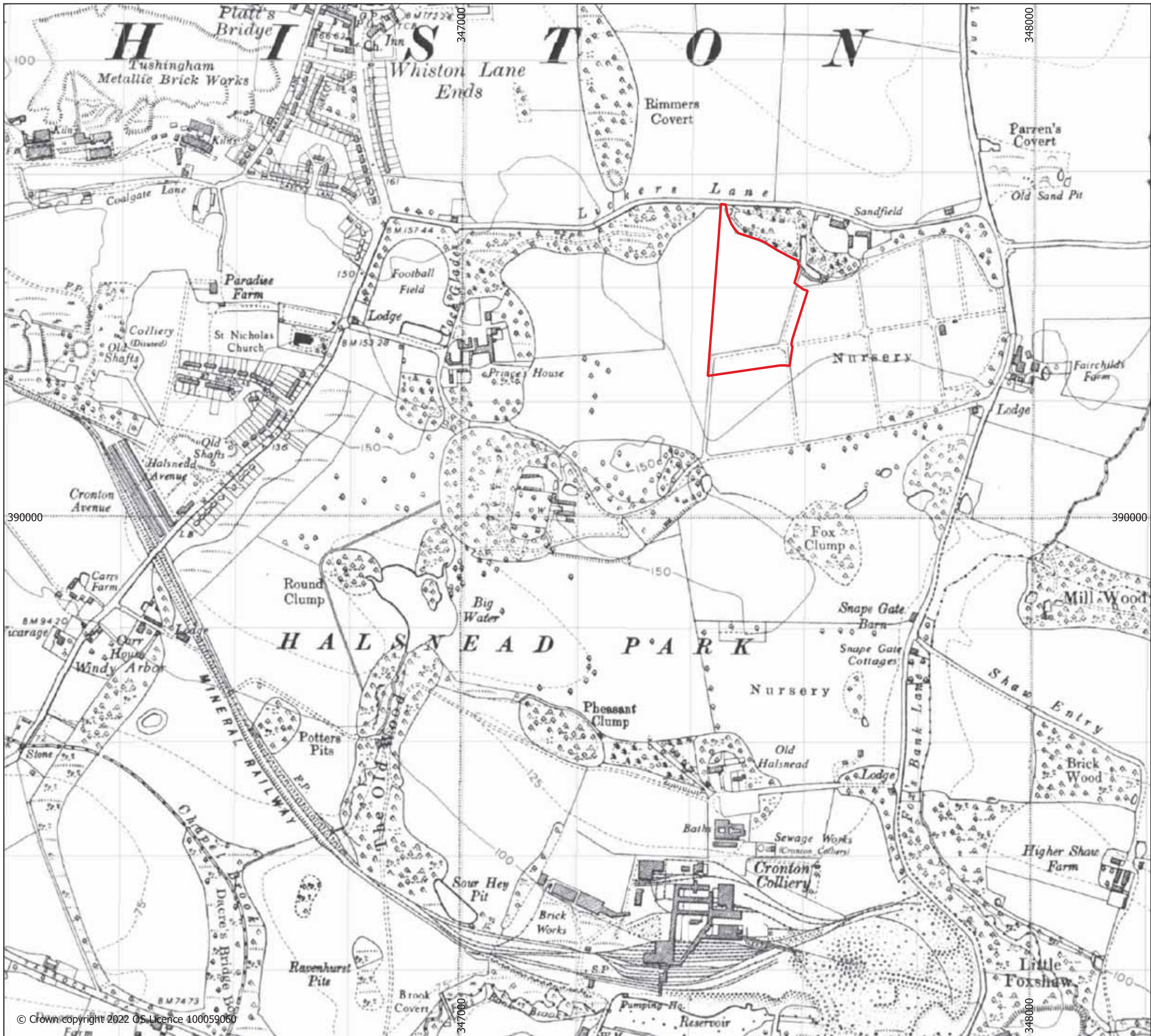
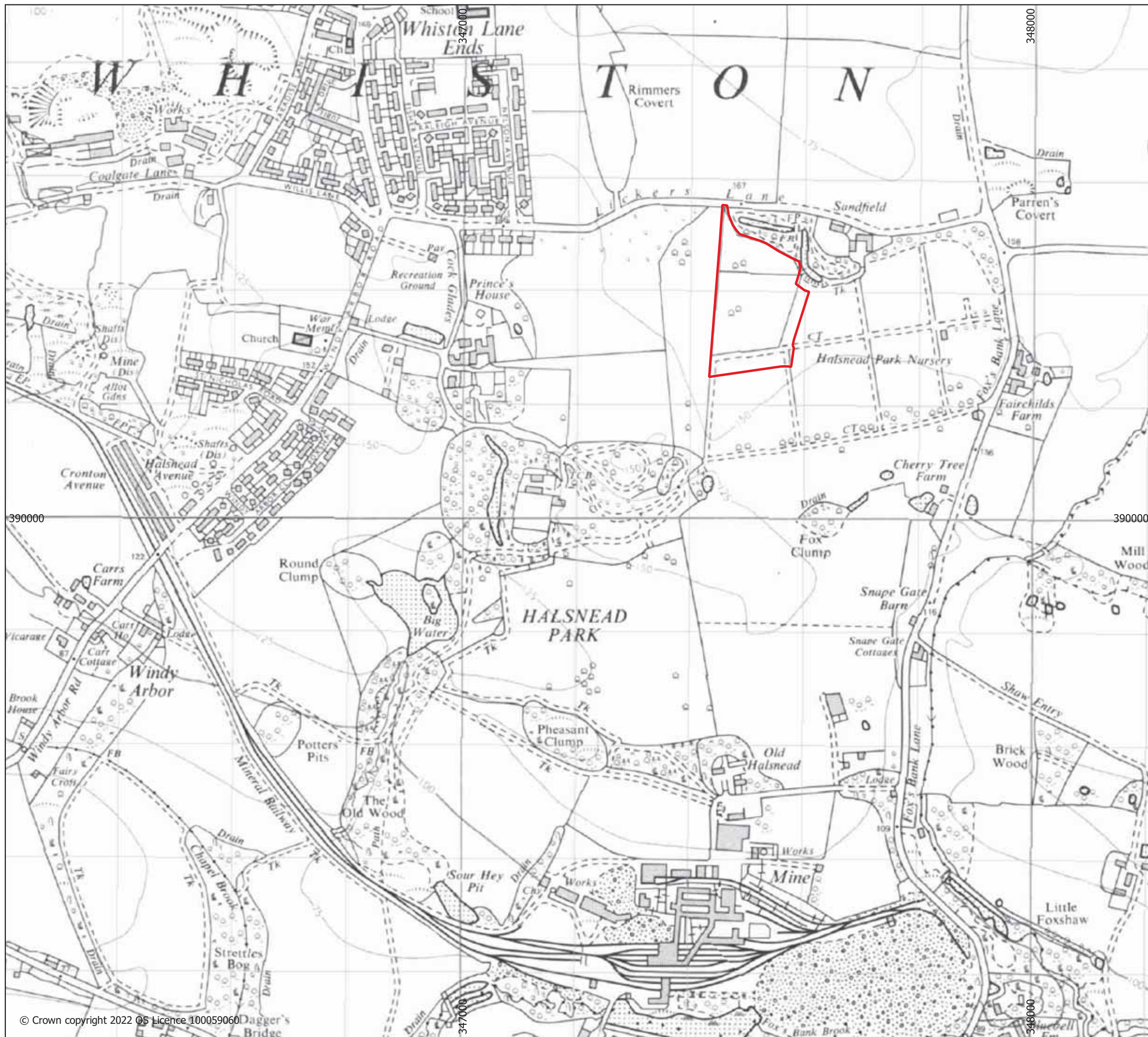


Figure 8. Extract from the 1938 6 inch Ordnance Survey plan



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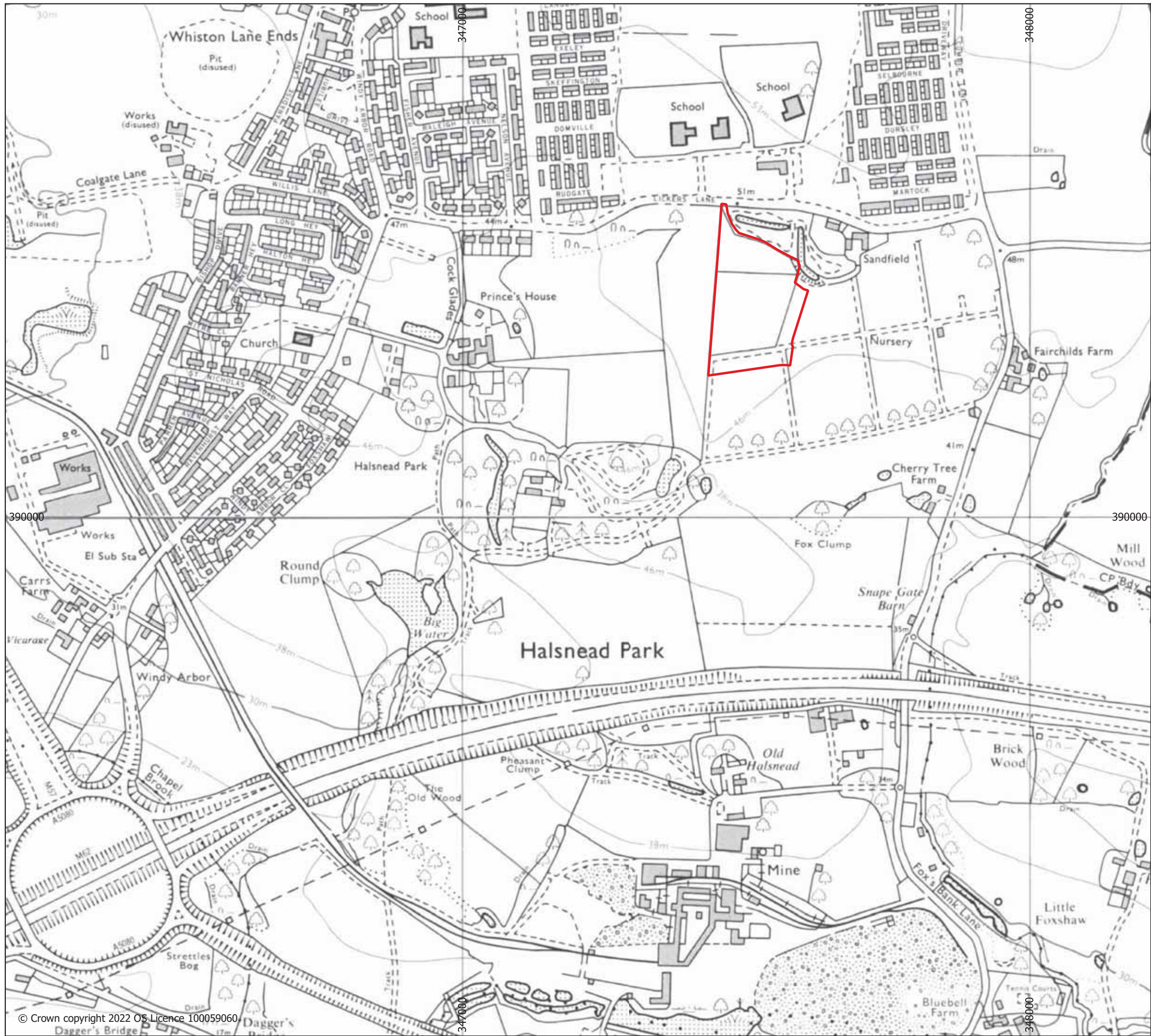


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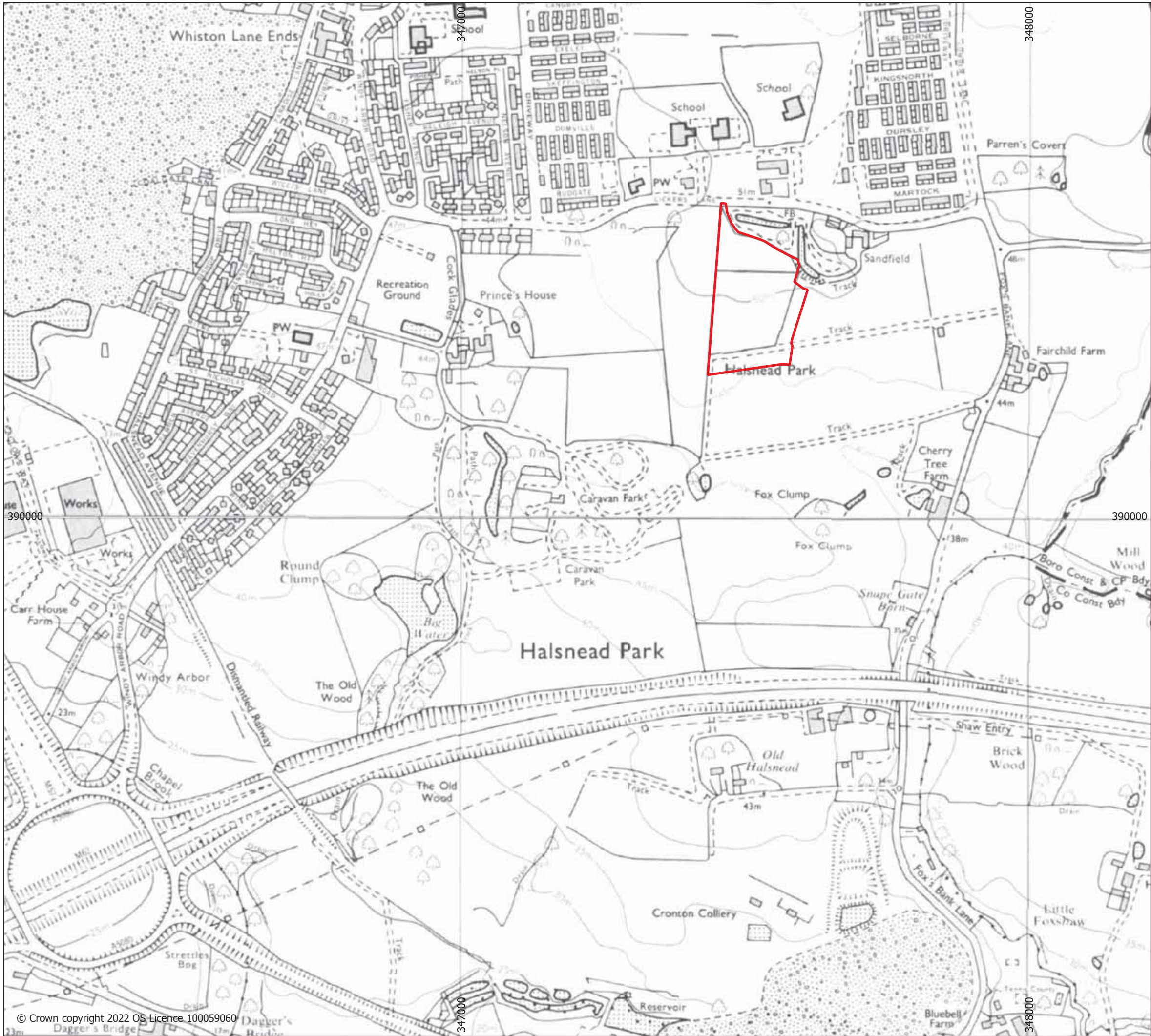


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Figure 10. Extract from the 1966-67 6 inch Ordnance Survey plan



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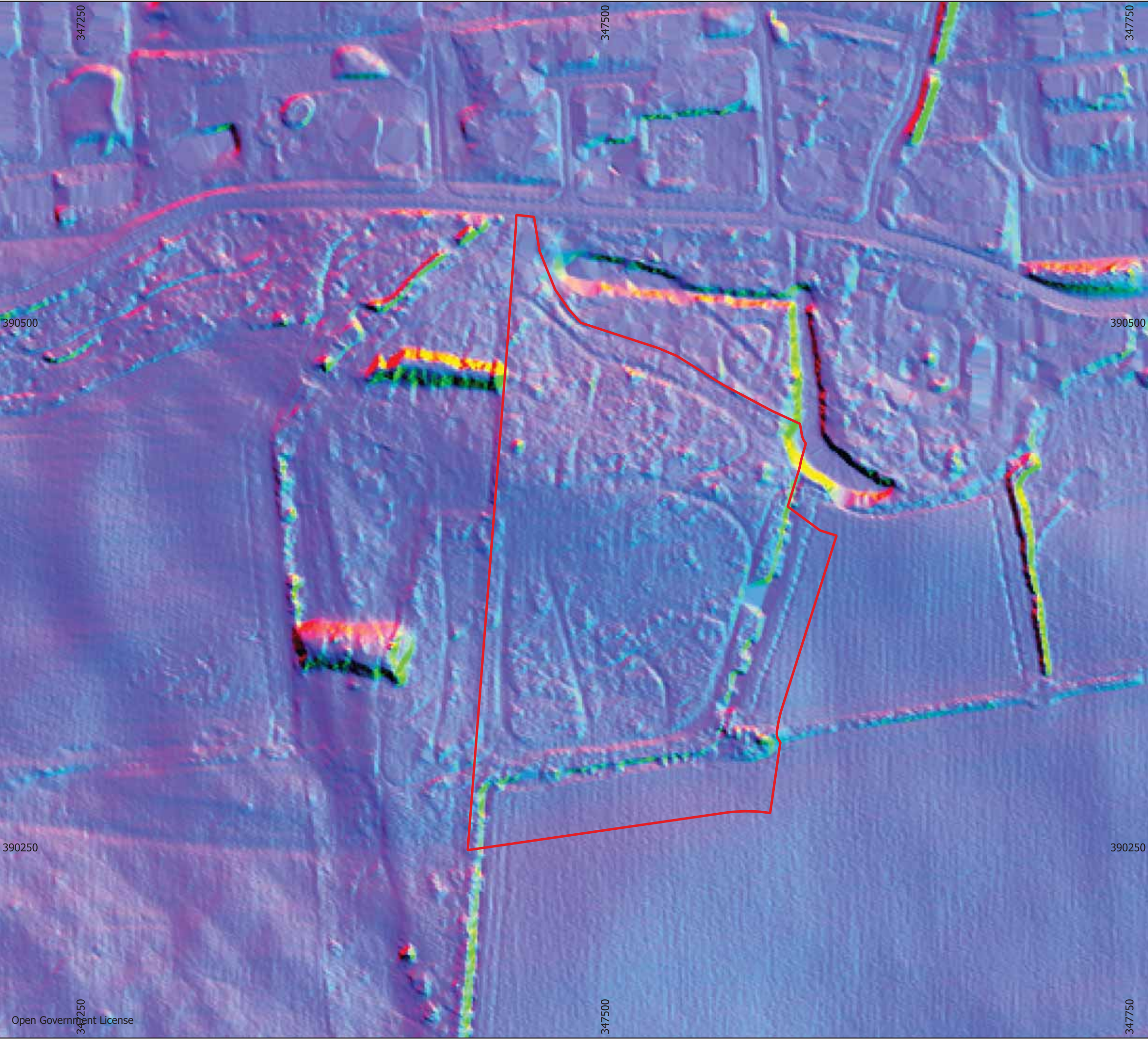


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Figure 13. Aerial view of the study site
(Google Earth 2022)



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0 25 50 75 100 m

Figure 14. Extract from the 2019 Environment Agency LiDAR Data (DTM 1m) shown with principal component analysis

Plates



Plate 1. View facing east along Licker's Lane of the boundary wall and gated entrance into the study site



Plate 2. View facing west along Licker's Lane showing replaced section of boundary wall and woodland along the northern boundary of the study site



Plate 3. Detailed view facing south of the gated pedestrian entrance into the study site. The sections of boundary wall on either site are not included within the site boundary



Plate 4. General view facing south from within the woodland immediately within the pedestrian entrance into the study site



Plate 5. General view within woodland showing the density of the foliage



Plate 6. View facing south through the woodland into the centre of the study site



Plate 7. View of scrub at the northern end of the study site



Plate 8. View facing west from the eastern boundary of the study site



Plate 9. General view facing east across the study site



Plate 10. General view facing south across the study site



Plate 11. General view facing south-west across the study site towards the static caravan site across the former Halsnead Hall



Plate 12. General view facing west across the study site with the rear of the former Prince's House Farm buildings in the background, behind the curved boundary (red arrow)



Plate 13. View facing south-west of the eastern entrance to Halsnead Park, with the Grade II listed Lodge behind the curved boundary wall and the adjacent Gate Piers



Plate 14. View west of four of the Grade II listed Gate Piers flanking the main entrance gates into Halsnead Park



Plate 15. View facing north along Fox's Bank Lane of three additional Piers along the eastern entrance to Halsnead Park (red arrows)



Plate 16. View facing south-east from within the study site towards the Grade II listed Lodge and adjacent Gate Piers



Plate 17. View facing south to the Grade II listed Sandfield House



Plate 18. View facing south-east to Sandfield Cottage, The Purlins and End Barn adjacent Sandfield House. Note the missing section of Halsnead Park boundary wall



Plate 19. View facing south-west to the northern elevation of Sandfield House. Note the extensive vegetation present to the south of the house



Plate 20. General view within the woodland south of Sandfield House and north/north-east of the study site, which forms part of the Nursery grounds



Plate 21. View to west of the eastern and southern elevations of the Church of St Nicholas from within the churchyard



Plate 22. View facing east from adjacent the Church of St Nicholas towards Halsnead Park. Note the extensive vegetation along the eastern boundary of the churchyard at Windy Arbor Road



Plate 23. View to west from within the study site showing the upper two-stages of the tower of the Church of St Nicholas



Plate 24. View facing north within the study site of the curved belt of woodland along the northern and north-eastern boundary of the study site



Plate 25. General view within the woodland adjacent the study site of the pond within



Plate 26. View facing south of the remains of Fox Clump south of the study site



Plate 27. View facing east of Church Lodge and adjacent stone Piers and flanking walls (MME18747) at the junction of Windy Arbor Road and Main Drive



Plate 28. View facing east from Main Drive leading to the northernmost part of the Prince's House Farm complex towards the study site



Plate 29. View of the entrance into the static caravan site at the end of Main Drive



Plate 30. View from Main Drive towards the study site

Appendix 1: Gazetteer of heritage and archaeological assets

The following table provides details of all heritage assets and archaeological events recorded on Historic England's National Heritage List for England (NHLE) and the Merseyside HER within 1km of the study site. Their locations are marked on Figure 1.

NHLE Ref.	HER Ref.	Name	Description	Designation	NGR	Period
<i>NHLE Records</i>						
1253249	DME100 MME6862	North East Lodge to Halsnead Park	Georgian. Ashlar, slate roof, single storey, square plan with pyramid roof.	LB II	SJ 47898 90187	Post-medieval
1253250	DME102 MME6853	Barn at Snape Gate	Barn of probable 18th century date. It is a high building on the roadside and is of coursed stone rubble and a stone roof. The side facing the road has a cart entrance with a catslide roof.	LB II	SJ 47793 89821	Post-medieval
1253251	DME103 MME6858	Sandfield House	House of brick with a stone roof and moulded eaves.	LB II	SJ 47663 90515	Post-medieval
1253345	DME2306 MME7138	Dean's Farmhouse	Farmhouse which dates to the 18th century, although possibly earlier. It has a stone base with a brick superstructure.	LB II	SJ 48538 90372	Post-medieval
1253429	DME106 MME6861	Gate Piers beside North East Lodge to Halsnead Park	Four rusticated gate piers which are square with a cornice and ball.	LB II	SJ 47903 90204	19 th century
1261787	DME116 MME6852	Old Halsnead	House of stuccoed stone with a stone roof with a centre chimney.	LB II	SJ 47454 89555	Post-medieval
1261893	DME2325 MME13978	Range of Adjoining Farm Buildings in L-Plan (rear of Dean's Farmhouse)	A range including a barn, shippens, stables and pigeon cotes of sandstone.	LB II	SJ 48495 90354	19 th century
1261894	DME121 MME10891	Church of St Nicholas	Anglian church in the Early English style. It is of coursed rubble sandstone with red sandstone dressings and a slate roof.	LB II	SJ 46719 90313	19 th century

NHLE Ref.	HER Ref.	Name	Description	Designation	NGR	Period
1392301	DME3162 MME13157	Ropers Bridge	A road bridge of coursed squared blocks of red sandstone with decorative tooling finishes and ashlar dressings.	LB II	SJ 46938 91050	19 th century

HER Ref.	Name	Description	NGR	Period
<i>HER 'monument' Records</i>				
MME6295	Site of Firgrove Cottages, Greene's Road	Former site of Firgrove Cottages.	SJ 4656 9097	19 th century
MME6296	Noodles Nursery, No. 2 Greenes Road	Location of a former school building.	SJ 46836 90905	19 th century
MME6297	Site of a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Windy Arbor Road, Whiston Lane Ends	Former site of a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.	SJ 46802 90834	19 th century
MME6298	Site of a building, Main Drive, Halsnead Park	Former site of a building.	SJ 4694 9020	19 th century
MME6303	Site of Hig Hey Colliery, Bishop Drive	Former site of Hig Hey Colliery.	SJ 4649 9032	19 th century
MME6305	Site of a weighing machine, Banner Hey	Former site of a weighing machine.	SJ 4657 9037	19 th century
MME6306	Site of Halsnead Colliery, Windy Arbour Road	Former site of Halsnead Colliery.	SJ 4652 9008	19 th century
MME6309	Site of the Engine Inn public house	Former site of the Engine Inn public house.	SJ 4650 9101	Post-medieval
MME6855	Site of Snape Gate Cottages, Foxes Bank Lane	Former site of Snape Gate Cottages.	SJ 4779 8976	Post-medieval
MME6856	Site of Halsnead, Halsnead Park	Former site of Halsnead, Halsnead Park, Whiston, a 17th century house, formerly known as Red Hall.	SJ 4724 8997	Post-medieval

HER Ref.	Name	Description	NGR	Period
MME6857	Barn and Outbuildings at Prince's House Farm, Cock Glades	Location of a barn and outbuildings.	SJ 47040 90295	Post-medieval
MME6859	Meadowbrook, Fox's Bank Lane	Site of a farm building, now demolished, was formed part of the barn at Fairchild's Farm.	SJ 47977 90256	Post-medieval
MME6860	Site of Higher Side, Cumber Lane	Former site of a house.	SJ 47859 90938	Post-medieval
MME6865	Site of a coal pit, Main Drive, Halsnead Park	Former site of a coal pit.	SJ 4700 9022	19 th century
MME6866	Neolithic Polished Stone Axe, No. 157 Dragon Lane	Find spot of a polished stone axe.	SJ 4726 9129	Neolithic
MME6868	Site of Roper's Farm, Dragon Lane	Site of a former farm marked on historic mapping.	SJ 4703 9112	Post-medieval
MME6869	Location of Whiston Cross, Dragon Lane, Whiston Cross	Former location of Whiston Cross, a supposedly medieval monument.	SJ 4709 9125	Medieval
MME6870	Site of Cumber Lane Farm, Cumber Road	Former site of a house marked on historic mapping.	SJ 4787 9131	Post-medieval
MME6875	Location of stocks, Dragon Lane, Whiston Cross	Former location of stocks shown on historic mapping.	SJ 47104 91250	19 th century
MME6876	Site of Pinfold House, Dragon Lane, Whiston Cross	Former site of pinfold house.	SJ 4706 9120	Post-medieval
MME6877	Site of Stank Colliery, Maple Close	Former site of Stank Colliery.	SJ 4701 9143	19 th century
MME7129	Medieval and Post Medieval Pottery, North of Higher Shaw Farm	Find spot of pottery sherds identified during field walking.	SJ 4819 8959	Medieval - Post-medieval
MME7135	Enclosure cropmark, south of Blundells Lane	Location of a rectangular enclosure cropmark which is visible on aerial photography.	SJ 4840 9046	Unknown
MME7137	Prospect House, Blundells Lane	Location of a largely modern building which incorporates a 19 th century probable outbuilding.	SJ 48564 90592	19 th century - Modern

HER Ref.	Name	Description	NGR	Period
MME7141	No. 102 Blundells Lane	Location of a single storey sandstone cottage with stone lintels and a slate roof.	SJ 48403 90581	19 th century
MME7145	Nos. 101 and 103 Blundells Lane	Location of a building shown on historic mapping.	SJ 48316 90517	Post-medieval
MME7149	Possible cropmark, west of Deans House Farm	Location of a possible cropmark site.	SJ 4830 9032	Unknown
MME7175	Possible cropmark site, west of Stoney Lane	Location of a possible cropmark site which is visible on aerial photography.	SJ 4826 9112	Unknown
MME9292	Liverpool and Manchester Railway	Route of the Liverpool and Manchester railway which opened in 1830.	SJ 48742 92694	19 th century
MME10027	Route of the Willis Branch of Liverpool and Manchester Railway, to Halsnead Colliery	Former route of a branch of railway line which ran to Halsnead Colliery and opened in 1833.	SJ 4581 9041	19 th century
MME10028	Site of Cronton Colliery, Halsnead Park	Former site of Cronton Colliery which opened in 1913, closing in 1984.	SJ 4742 8932	Modern
MME10037	Site of Tushingham's Brickworks, Stadt Moers Country Park	The former site of a brickworks.	SJ 4653 9067	19 th century
MME13083	Site of Prince's House, Cock Glades	Former site of a house, shown on historic mapping.	SJ 47053 90328	Post-medieval
MME13104	Nos. 160-164 Windy Arbour Road	Location of a house.	SJ 46522 90016	19 th century
MME13152	No. 211 Dragon Lane, Whiston Lane Ends	Location of a house built in 1812.	SJ 46873 90884	19 th century
MME13163	Site of Paradise Farm, Banner Hey	Former location of a farm.	SJ 4656 9040	Post-medieval
MME13217	Site of a house and barn, Greenes Lane	Former location of a house and barn.	SJ 4671 9088	Post-medieval
MME13218	Post medieval pottery and clay pipes, Dragon Lane	Find spot of pottery sherds and clay pipes.	SJ 470 911	Post-medieval

HER Ref.	Name	Description	NGR	Period
MME13386	Two flint flakes, Dragon Lane	Find spot of flint flakes.	SJ 470 911	Unknown
MME14760	Site of a barn, Deans House Farm, Cronton Lane	Former location of a barn.	SJ 48563 90370	Post-medieval
MME15147	Halsnead Park	Site of a landscape park.	SJ 4710 8970	Post-medieval - 19 th century
MME15148	Possible location of a mill, Mill Wood, Cronton and Rainhill Boundary	Possible former site of a mill indicated by place names on historic mapping.	SJ 4813 8986	Unknown
MME15267	Site of a house, Coalgate Lane	Former site of a house shown on historic mapping.	SJ 46528 90600	Post-medieval
MME15268	Site of Worrill's buildings, Paradise Lane	Former site of a house shown on historic mapping.	SJ 46660 90694	Post-medieval
MME15681	Halsnead Park wall	Part of a park wall associated with Halsnead Park.	SJ 47134 89701	Post-medieval - 19 th century
MME15781	Site of an icehouse, Main Drive	Former site of an icehouse.	SJ 47009 90212	19 th century
MME15822	18th or 19th century ditch, Lickers Lane	Site of ditches containing coal, brick and pottery identified during archaeological evaluation.	SJ 47744 90444	19 th century
MME15823	Medieval pottery, Lickers Lane	Find spot of pottery.	SJ 47747 90446	Medieval
MME15926	Sandfield Cottage, The Purlins and End Barn, Lickers Lane	Location of a cottage which has been extended and subdivided.	SJ 47700 90496	19 th century - Modern
MME16079	Shaw, a medieval curvilinear enclosure	Location of a medieval estate represented by a continuous curvilinear enclosure.	SJ 48246 89477	Medieval
MME16658	Site of Prescott Colliery, Dragon Lane	Former site of a colliery.	SJ 46881 91081	19 th century
MME17970	Edward VIII Pillar Box, Windy Abor Road	Location of a pillar box.	SJ 46494 89984	Modern

HER Ref.	Name	Description	NGR	Period
MME18263	Whiston	Location of an early medieval settlement.	SJ 46818 90883	Early medieval
MME18748	Church Lodge, Windy Arbor Road	Location of a gate lodge to Halsnead.	SJ 46812 90341	19 th century
MME18955	Railway Bridge, Cumber Lane	Location of a railway bridge.	SJ 47873 91190	19 th century
MME19921	Possible cropmarks, east of Foxes Bank Lane	Location of possible linear cropmarks.	SJ 47876 89814	Unknown
MME20271	Site of Prospect Cottage, Blundells Lane	Former site of a cottage shown on historic mapping.	SJ 48558 90585	Post-medieval
MME20272	Site of Wood Cottage, Blundells Lane	Former site of a cottage shown on historic mapping.	SJ 48458 90608	Post-medieval
MME20520	Site of Whiston Colliery gas works	Former site of a gas works associated with a colliery.	SJ 46408 90653	19 th century
MME20860	War memorial, St Nicholas' churchyard, Windy Arbor Road	Location of a war memorial.	SJ 46758 90312	Modern
MME20871	Possible medieval ditch, Halsnead Park	Location of a possible ditch identified during archaeological evaluation.	SJ 46566 89796	Medieval
MME20872	Undated ditch, Halsnead Park	Location of a ditch identified during archaeological evaluation.	SJ 46760 89800	Unknown
MME20890	Site of an engine, Whiston Inclined Plane, Liverpool and Manchester Railway	The former site of an engine located along the Whiston Inclined Plan.	SJ 46609 90993	19 th century
MME20891	Finger post, Whiston Lane Ends	Location of a cast iron finger post.	SJ 46830 90890	19 th century
MME20892	Site of a Wesleyan Methodist Association Chapel, Whiston Lane Ends	Former site of a Methodist chapel.	SJ 46818 90910	19 th century
MME20893	Site of the George and Dragon public house, Greene's Road, Whiston Lane Ends	Former site of a public house.	SJ 46802 90902	19 th century

HER Ref.	Name	Description	NGR	Period
MME20894	Site of the Horse Shoe Inn public house, Dragon Lane, Whiston Lane Ends	Former site of a public house.	SJ 46823 90891	19 th century
MME20895	Site of Fairchilds Farm, Fox's Bank Lane	Former site of a farm.	SJ 47965 90246	Post-medieval
MME20897	Site of a house, Cumber Lane	Former site of a house.	SJ 47855 91342	Post-medieval
MME20898	Site of a house, Cumber Lane	Former site of a house.	SJ 47852 91244	19 th century
MME20899	Location of a pinfold, Whiston Cross	Former location of a pinfold.	SJ 47067 91212	Post-medieval - 19 th century
MME20905	Site of a house, Windy Arbor Road, Whiston Lane Ends	Former site of a house.	SJ 46828 90850	Post-medieval
MME20906	Site of a house, Dragon Lane, Whiston Lane Ends	Former site of a house.	SJ 46835 90872	Post-medieval
MME20907	Site of a house, Dragon Lane	Former site of a house.	SJ 46904 90937	Post-medieval
MME20908	Site of a house, Dragon Lane, Whiston Cross	Former site of a house.	SJ 47081 91190	Post-medieval
MME20909	Site of a house, Dragon Lane, Whiston Cross	Former site of a house.	SJ 47098 91214	Post-medieval
MME20910	Site of a house, Dragon Lane, Whiston Cross	Former site of a house.	SJ 47135 91223	Post-medieval
MME20911	Site of a group of houses, Dragon Lane, Whiston Cross	Former site of a group of houses.	SJ 47166 91241	Post-medieval
MME20912	Site of a building, Cross Lane, Whiston Cross	Former site of a building.	SJ 47035 91229	19 th century
MME20913	Site of a house, Dragon Lane, Whiston Cross	Former site of a house.	SJ 47209 91218	19 th century

HER Ref.	Name	Description	NGR	Period
MME20914	Site of a house, Dragon Lane, Whiston Cross	Former site of a house.	SJ 47258 91288	Post-medieval
MME20915	Site of a house, Dragon Lane, Whiston Cross	Former site of a house.	SJ 47284 91384	Post-medieval
MME20919	Site of a house, Lickers Lane	Former site of a house.	SJ 46983 90524	Post-medieval
MME20920	Site of a house, Windy Arbor Road	Former site of a house.	SJ 46829 90506	Post-medieval
MME20921	Site of a house, Willis Lane	Former site of a house.	SJ 46818 90540	Post-medieval
MME20922	Site of a house, Blundells Lane	Former site of a house.	SJ 48049 90474	Post-medieval
MME20923	Location of a building, Windy Arbor Road	Former location of a building.	SJ 46863 90485	Post-medieval

HER Ref.	Record Type	Organisation	NGR	Year
<i>HER 'event' Records</i>				
EME1423	Field Walking to North of Higher Shaw Farm, Cronton	Liverpool Museum	SJ 4820 8960	1982
EME1938	Field Walking Survey at Former Site of Roper's Farm, Dragon Lane, Whiston	Liverpool Museum	SJ 4704 9110	1986
EME2379	Desk-based assessment of the former site of Cronton Colliery, Halsnead Park, Whiston	Oxford Archaeology North	SJ 47335 89317	2003
EME2384	Evaluation at Junction 6 of the M62, Whiston and Tarbock	National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit	SJ 46415 89256	2005

HER Ref.	Record Type	Organisation	NGR	Year
EME2520	Desk-based assessment of Halsnead Park, Whiston	Mott MacDonald	SJ 47291 89842	2016-17
EME2527	Magnetometry survey of land at Lickers Lane, Whiston	Stratascan Ltd.	SJ 47777 90489	2013
EME2528	Resistivity survey of land at Lickers Lane, Whiston	Stratascan Ltd.	SJ 47778 90489	2013
EME2529	Evaluation of land at Knowsley Cemetery, south of Lickers Lane, Whiston	National Museums Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit	SJ 47755 90452	2012
EME2950	Desk-based assessment of Halsnead Park, Whiston	L-P: Archaeology	SJ 47073 90324	2018
EME2953	Magnetometry survey of Halsnead Park, Whiston	Sumo Geophysics	SJ 47454 90016	2018
EME2956	Magnetometry survey of land at Knowsley cemetery, south of Lickers Lane, Whiston	Stratascan Ltd.	SJ 47752 90447	2012
EME2957	Resistivity survey of land at Knowsley cemetery, south of Lickers Lane, Whiston	Stratascan Ltd.	SJ 47755 90447	2012
EME3019	Desk-based assessment of land east of Windy Arbour Road, Halsnead Park, Whiston	WYG Environment Planning Transport Limited	SJ 46706 89952	2017
EME3020	Magnetometry survey of land east of Windy Arbour Road, Halsnead Park, Whiston	Magnitude Surveys	SJ 46703 89897	2019
EME3025	Magnetometry survey of Symmetry Park, Halsnead Park, Whiston	Magnitude Surveys	SJ 47172 89470	2019
EME3062	Magnetometry survey of land at Lickers Lane, Whiston	Archaeological Survey West	SJ 47256 90391	2018
EME3083	Evaluation at Symmetry Park, Tarbock	Salford Archaeology	SJ 47398 89259	2020
EME3090	Desk-based assessment of Halsnead Park, land west of Fox's Bank Lane, Whiston	CgMs Consulting	SJ 47655 89978	2018-19

HER Ref.	Record Type	Organisation	NGR	Year
EME3227	Evaluation of land east of Windy Arbor Road, Halsnead Park, Whiston	Wardell Armstrong	SJ 46652 89806	2021

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