

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT:
RED HOUSE FARM, PRESCOT ROAD, WIDNES, MERSEYSIDE

Planning Reference: Pre-application
NGR: SJ 47683 88555
AAL Site Code: WIPR 24



Report prepared for Ken Woodward

By
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Cover image: View across site, looking southeast

Executive Summary

- Ken Woodward commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment at Red House Farm, Prescott Road, Widnes, prior to the submission of a planning application for a residential building.
- Data was gathered from a range of primary and secondary sources, including the Merseyside Historic Environment Record, Lancashire Archives, historic maps, online resources and a site visit.
- There is limited archaeological activity of a prehistoric and Roman date within the study area despite there being a substantial presence in the wider area. The evidence suggests a negligible potential for both periods.
- There is an absence of early medieval activity within the study area resulting in a negligible potential for this period.
- The proposed development site was possibly used for agriculture during the medieval period but the recent activity on the site has likely destroyed any archaeological remains, the potential for medieval activity within the site is therefore negligible.
- The proposed development is for the demolition of the three buildings on the site and the construction of a new house overlapping the east edge of the current bungalow. No changes are proposed in the northern extent of the site. A mid to late 18th century house named 'Red House' once occupied the site but was demolished due to subsidence causing it to be unsafe. No significant remains of this building are suspected to be present due to the demolition and construction of the current buildings. Furthermore, the proposed new dwelling is located within the central/eastern extent of the site away from the former location of Red House.
- One Grade II Listed Building is located within the study area. Due to a lack of intervisibility the proposed development will have no adverse effect on the setting or significance of this asset. There are no Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields within the study area.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Ken Woodward commissioned Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment to evaluate the archaeological and heritage potential of land at Red House Farm, Prescott Road, Widnes prior to the submission of a planning application for a residential development.
- 1.2 The document has been completed with reference to current national guidelines, as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 'Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment' (CIfA 2020), and the Historic England documents 'The Setting of Heritage Assets Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning' (Historic England 2017) and 'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment' (Historic England 2015).

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located in Widnes, in the administrative district of Knowsley. It is situated c.12.4km east-southeast of Liverpool and c.12.9km west of Warrington (see Figure 1). The site is approximately 0.55 hectares and presently occupied by a single bungalow with two associated structures. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) SJ 47683 88555 and is c.20m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises sandstone of the Kinnerton sandstone formation, with overlying Devensian till superficial geology deposits recorded (<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geoindex-onshore/>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared to inform a planning application that will be submitted in due course for the demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings and the erection of a new farmhouse. This is the first stage of archaeological investigation, intended to provide detailed information that will allow the planning authority to make an informed decision as to whether further archaeological investigations will be required prior to or following the determination of a planning application for the proposed development.

National Planning Policy

- 3.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was first published in March 2012, the most recent update was in December 2024 (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2024). The relevant sections of the NPPF concerning archaeological and cultural heritage assets, are Paragraphs 202 – 221 which is 'Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'. Paragraph 207 has special relevance concerning the responsibilities of planning applicants:

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

necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation’.

Planning Practice Guidance

- 3.3 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government launched the planning practice web-based resource (<http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>) in 2014 (last updated 14th February 2024) accompanied by a ministerial statement which confirmed that a number of previous planning practice guidance documents were cancelled. This also introduced the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) which comprised a full and consolidated review of planning practice guidance documents to be read alongside the NPPF (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019).
- 3.4 The relevant category within the PPG is ‘Historic Environment’ this was published on 10th April 2014 and last updated 23rd July 2019. This has a discrete section on the subject of ‘Why is ‘significance’ important in decision-making?’ which states that the consideration of ‘significance’ in decision taking is important and states: *‘Heritage assets may be affected by direct physical change or by change in their setting. Being able to properly assess the nature, extent and importance of the significance of a heritage asset, and the contribution of its setting, is very important to understanding the potential impact and acceptability of development proposals’* (ibid, Paragraph 007).
- 3.5 In terms of assessment of substantial harm, the PPG confirms that whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgement for the individual decision taker having regard to the individual circumstances, and it goes on to state: *‘In general terms, substantial harm is a high test, so it may not arise in many cases. For example, in determining whether works to a listed building constitute substantial harm, an important consideration would be whether the adverse impact seriously affects a key element of its special architectural or historic interest. It is the degree of harm to the asset’s significance rather than the scale of the development that is to be assessed. The harm may arise from works to the asset or from development within its setting’* (ibid, Paragraph 018).

The Setting of Heritage Assets (2017)

- 3.6 This document sets out guidance on managing change within the setting of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes. It provides detailed advice intended to assist Government policy (Historic England 2017).
- 3.7 Historic England state that *‘While consideration of setting is necessarily a matter of informed judgment, the aim of the guidance is to assist effective and timely decision making by ensuring it takes place within a clear framework and is as transparent and consistent as possible.’*
- 3.8 The document defines setting as *‘The surrounding in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surrounding 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.’*
- 3.9 A development can potentially affect the setting of the heritage assets within its vicinity. The setting of a heritage asset is the surrounding in which it is experienced (not necessarily everything it is intervisible with). Furthermore, Historic England state that *‘development*

affecting the setting of a heritage asset is a direct environmental effect in terms of EIA definitions and may constitute a significant effect.'

Local Planning Policy

- 3.10 The Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted on the 6th January 2016 (Knowsley Council 2016).
- 3.11 The relevant policy of the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy concerning archaeological and cultural heritage assets is CS20:

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 and 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.

4.0 Methodology

Data Collection

4.1 A full range of primary and secondary archaeological and historical sources were consulted in the preparation of this document. The sources consulted were as follows:

- Merseyside Historic Environment Record (MHER) – a database of archaeological sites and artefacts, listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments. A search of this resource was undertaken for a study area extending 1km from the centre of the site (MHER Reference: CME3339).
- National Heritage List for England – The Historic England website contains information on all designated assets including Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Parks and Gardens, battlefields and more. This allows important sites that may fall out of the study area to be identified and contains up to date information on all designated assets. (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>)
- Lancashire Archives – holds a range of historic maps, for example enclosure maps, Tithe maps, estate plans, former editions of Ordnance Survey maps of the development area, and other local history sources.
- Allen Archaeology's own reference library – secondary sources pertaining to the archaeology and history of the region.
- The English Rivers Palaeolithic Project (TERPS) – A database of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic findspots in England, detailing location, geology, circumstances of discovery, numbers and types of artefacts and their current location, current nature of site, and bibliographic sources (Mephram 2009). Originally listed by John Wymer on index cards. No sites have been identified within 12m of the proposed development site.
- Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Lithic Artefact (PaMELA) database – A database comprising findspots, from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Iron Age. It is predominantly derived from museum collections and based on Jacobi's card index (Jacobi 2014). No sites have been identified within 12m of the proposed development site.
- Research Frameworks – The need for research frameworks for the historic environment was highlighted in 1996. Frameworks for many areas and specialisms have now been developed across the UK, with more in production. Some of the earlier Frameworks are already being reviewed and updated. The relevant framework for the proposed development site is the North West England Regional Research Framework (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>)
- Heritage Gateway Website – searchable online resource allowing access to the National Monuments Record (NMR) and Archaeology Data Service (ADS), online national databases of archaeological sites and artefacts. Also includes information pertaining to Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings, as well as data from the Defence of Britain project, which has

mapped surviving monuments relating to 20th century military sites. A search was conducted of these resources to identify any significant buildings, sites or findspots not covered by the MHER search, and to highlight other major sites within a wider study area.

- Environment Agency Lidar Data – Downloaded from the Defra Survey Data Download website (<https://environment.data.gov.uk/survey>)
- A site visit was carried out on 11th February 2025 to assess the present situation of the development area, to identify any areas where the potential archaeological resource may be particularly well preserved or damaged by recent development, and to observe the site in its landscape context.

4.2 Each archaeological and historic site, Listed Building, Scheduled Monument, Registered Park and Garden and Registered Battlefield identified in the study area has been allocated a 'Site' number and assigned to a specific period according to the definitions outlined on the Historic England Periods List (Periods-List-HE-FISH-WP.pdf). These sites are described in the Archaeological and Historical Background section (See Section 5.0 below). All measurements referred to in this section are measured from the proposed development site outline to the edge of the polygon/line in question or to the Site number if a polygon is not present. Labels for site numbers are moved slightly to make them visible where multiple entries are clustered in a small area. Further details are provided for each site in Appendix 1, and where applicable the sites are depicted on Figure 3.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 During an excavation along Water Lane at Brunt Boggart in 1993 c.950m west-southwest of the proposed development site three flints of a Mesolithic date (Site 1), one flake of an unknown date and features of an early Bronze Age date were uncovered (Site 2). The features included a 3m wide ditch with a pit cut into the base as well as a gully and post hole. Two sherds of Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age dated pottery, fragments of burnt bone and several large lumps of fired clay; possibly from some form of oven, were found within the pit (Cowell 1997). Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the gully (*ibid*). Mesolithic findspots and scatters are located across Merseyside with a concentration in the northwest lowlands southeast of Formby c.21km northwest of the proposed development site. The high concentration of flints in this area could suggest this landscape was used for flint collection and the initial preparation of flints (Cowell and Philpott 2000). A number of Mesolithic findspots and scatters are also present along the Ditton Brook located c.3.2km south of the proposed development site at its closest point; albeit these are more infrequent and spread out, most likely representing the movement of groups along the river hunting animals moving from the lowlands of the east coast to the Pennines who are utilising the same watercourse (*ibid*). The closest flint concentration along the channel to the proposed development site is situated c.2.2km to the south-southwest. Later prehistoric activity has historically been relatively sparse across northwest England (Cowell and Philpott 2000, 169–174) although in the last few decades more sites are being exposed as a result of developer funded archaeology. A number of these sites have continued or repeated use within the Roman period such as Brunt Boggart within the study area.

- 5.2 The Brunt Boggart excavations in 1993 uncovered a building of most likely Roman date, due material found in association with the structure (Site 3). The site does not appear to have been in continuous use however, but rather briefly occupied in the prehistoric period and then occupied again during the 1st to the 3rd century AD. The only other Roman activity within the study area is the findspot of a small bronze decorative fitting which was discovered in the 1980s (Site 4). The location of the findspot is unclear but it is stated it was found within Tarbock (the location on Figure 3 is general and not accurate).
- 5.3 Most of the archaeological evidence in the area was uncovered during work along and near to the A5300, otherwise known as the Knowsley Expressway; a c.4.5km stretch of road which runs north to south on the west edge of the study area. This work exposed the activity at Brunt Boggart as well as the remains of a Roman pottery production site c.1.6km west of the proposed development site. Tile markings indicate they were produced around 167AD for the Twentieth Legion, and that the site was owned by a man named Aulus Viducus (Highways Agency 2012).
- 5.4 The proposed development site was situated within the former civil parish of Tarbock. The settlement of Tarbock located c.1.5km southwest of the proposed development site was documented within the Domesday Book as having no recorded population and being land of Roger of Poitou (Williams and Martin 2002). This area likely consisted of dispersed small farming settlements. The place name can be traced back to Old English 'þorn brōc' meaning 'thorn-brook' (Cowell and Philpott 2000, 207) although another older interpretation is 'tar' may relate to 'Thor' therefore meaning 'place of thunderous brook' (Ekwall 1922). No early medieval MHER sites are located within the study area.
- 5.5 The medieval estate of Shaw is located within the northeastern extent of the study area c.630m from the proposed development site at its closest point, represented by a continuous oval-shaped curvilinear enclosure (Site 5). Shaw was first recorded in 1190 and was most likely heavily wooded due to the translation of Shaw being wood in Old English. A former medieval field system is located c.400m west of the proposed development site at its closest point (Site 6). This contains three fields that can be identified as a holding of the Irelands of the Hutte, Halewood, in the mid-16th century. Located within this field system is the former route of Watkins Lane, which was a possible medieval trackway (Site 7), and medieval pottery was found in the area during fieldwalking (Sites 8 and 9). Site 9 also contained an assemblage of early post-medieval pottery, further fieldwalking within the western extent of the study area northwest of Brunt Boggart Farm (Site 10) and northwest of Yew Tree Farm (Site 11) revealed medieval and post-medieval pottery.
- 5.6 The majority of the MHER sites located within the study area date to the post-medieval period (Site 12 – 52). A large number of these are dwellings constructed in the 17th (Sites 12 and 13), 18th (Sites 14 – 25) and 19th centuries (Sites 26 – 34). Red House was a dwelling located within the proposed development site. Yates map of 1786 shows a building in this area, most likely Red House (Site 23). The 1843 tithe map of Cronton (Figure 5) depicts two buildings within the southwestern corner of the site with the site divided into several small plots. Red House is thought to be the smaller building in the northwestern corner of the plot (Figure 10). The site is numbered 183 and was owned by Bartholomew Bretherton and occupied by Samuel Parker, it is listed as being a house and garden within the tithe apportionment.
- 5.7 The 1894 Ordnance Survey (OS) map also depicts two buildings (Figure 6). Red House remains the same, but the larger building is located further west now fronting the road and has a different footprint suggesting the original building was demolished and a new one

constructed. The boundaries within the plot are also different and the ditch that was observed during the site visit and on LiDAR images (Figure 4) is clearly shown as a boundary, although the tithe map shows this on a slightly different alignment. This could easily be a surveying error.

- 5.8 The 1907 OS map (Figure 7) shows further changes to the site boundaries. The ditch in the north of the site is shown as a drain rather than a boundary and plot boundaries around the buildings in the south of the site have been simplified. The map shows extensions have been added to Red House and the other large building, several small outbuildings are also depicted.
- 5.9 The 1927 OS map (Figure 8) shows further changes to plot boundaries with that around the building now squared off. Another building has been added in this area. This map also labels the site as 'Red House'.
- 5.10 The 1967 OS map (Figure 9) shows that the southernmost buildings have been demolished by this time and only Red House remains, but it has been extended to the west. By 1983 this had also been demolished following a site visit in 1981 that concluded the building was unsafe, most likely due to subsidence caused by mining.
- 5.11 Ten post-medieval agricultural buildings are recorded in the study area (Sites 35 – 44), some of which have since been demolished (Sites 36, 41 and 44). The MHER also records kilns (Sites 45 and 46), a tan house (Site 47) and a blacksmith (Site 48) all of which are no longer present.
- 5.12 Halsnead Park is located within the northwestern extent of the study area, c.250m north of the proposed development site at the closest point (Site 49). This park was first shown on a map of 1816 however its origins are somewhat disputed. Early 18th century leases refer to fields now within the western and southwestern parts of the park suggesting its possible there was a smaller park that was later extended. Halsnead Park is said to have come into the possession of the Willis family in 1684, but it is likely this refers to the estate rather than the park. A wall runs around most of the park's perimeter but has been removed or damaged in some places. It was most likely constructed around the time the park was created in the late 18th or early 19th century (Site 50).
- 5.13 The remaining post-medieval MHER sites are a stone bridge located c.670m northeast of the proposed development site (Site 51) and the site of a possible mill located c.90m to the east-northeast, as deduced by historic mapping (Site 52).
- 5.14 The only MHER site of a modern date is Cronton Colliery which opened in 1914 within Halsnead Park c.650m north-northwest of the proposed development site (Site 53). This eventually closed in 1984.
- 5.15 The only MHER site of an uncertain date is a cropmark of an oval enclosure that was identified from aerial photography. It is located c.690m west of the proposed development site (Site 54).

6.0 Site Visit

- 6.1 The site was visited by the author on Tuesday 11th February 2025. Selected photographic images taken during the site visit are reproduced below and their locations indicated on Figure 2.
- 6.2 The proposed development site can be accessed from Prescot Road (Plate 1). The majority of the site is residential and contains a red brick bungalow with an attached conservatory, named Red House Farm (Plate 2). A two-storey red brick building with attached porch is located opposite appearing to function as a storage building (Plate 3). A corrugated metal structure is also present and was a garage but now appears to function as a utility/storage building (Plate 4).



Plate 1: View of entrance off Prescot Road, looking east-northeast



Plate 2: View of bungalow located on the site, looking north-northeast



Plate 3: View of two storey red brick building on the site, looking south-southwest



Plate 4: View of metal garage/store located on the site, looking west-southwest

- 6.3 A garden is located behind the bungalow (Plate 5), this contains a north to south orientated drain (Plate 6), which extends the entire length of the proposed development site and runs under the driveway (Plate 7). A drain also runs east to west just outside the northern site boundary (Plate 8).



Plate 5: View across back garden, looking northwest



Plate 6: View of drain running roughly north to south through the site, looking south-southeast



Plate 7: View of drain running under the site entrance, looking north



Plate 8: View of drain located just outside of the site boundary, looking east

- 6.4 The residential plot is bounded by hedges to the east and south (Plate 9) and the site boundary extends into the neighbouring field (Plate 10). Access into this was unavailable at the time of the visit but photos were taken by the roadside. The proposed development site appeared flat and level apart from the aforementioned ditch.



Plate 9: View along the hedge running east to west through the site, looking west



Plate 10: View across the open field portion of the site, looking east-northeast

7.0 Assessment of Significance and Impact

- 7.1 The assessment of significance and impacts has been undertaken in accordance with 'Conservation Principles' (Historic England 2008), the Historic England Good Practice Advice 3 'Setting of Heritage Assets' (Historic England 2017) and Historic England Advice Note 12 'Statements of Heritage Significance' (Historic England 2019). The assessment methodology and criteria for understanding the significance of heritage values is described below, taken from Statements of Heritage Significance (*ibid*):

- Archaeological interest

There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.

- Architectural and artistic interest

These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skills, like sculpture.

- Historic Interest

An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history, but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.

Listed Buildings

- 7.2 There is one Listed Building located within the study area; Old Halsnead is a Grade II Listed building dating to 1680 and located c.980m north-northwest of the proposed development site. There is no intervisibility of this asset therefore the setting and significance of the Listed Building will not be adversely affected by the proposed development.

Designated assets

- 7.3 There are no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation areas within the study area.

Non-designated assets and Archaeology

- 7.4 Red House was constructed before 1786 and was located within the southern half of the proposed development site. Further buildings were constructed upon the site over the years but these were demolished by 1967. Red House was demolished by 1983 and the current buildings on the site were constructed around this time. The current buildings do not follow the same footprint but are situated in the same general location (Figure 10). The extant two-storey building uses older brick stock than the bungalow, but does not appear on the historic maps, suggesting that it was possibly constructed with bricks from Red House and the other buildings that formerly occupied the site. The former buildings on the site were earmarked for demolition due to subsidence, thought to have occurred due to the modern mining in the area such as Cronton Colliery which was in effect from 1913 to 1984 and located c.600m to the north of the proposed development site. It is therefore likely the

buildings were demolished entirely and the ground was levelled prior to the current building being constructed. Buildings of this date rarely had deep foundations and as such it is highly likely that little to nothing of the former Red House and attendant outbuildings survive below ground. Furthermore, the new building is proposed within the southeastern extent of the site away from the site of the original Red House. There is therefore a very low potential for remains of the 18th century buildings to be present.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 8.1 There is a steadily increasing body of evidence for prehistoric activity across the northwest as development led archaeological investigations are undertaken, such as the Brunt Boggart site. Activity of this date in the study area is limited to this single location however, suggesting a negligible potential for the proposed development area.
- 8.2 Roman activity in the study area comprises a Roman building excavated at Brunt Boggart and one other findspot, the exact location of which is unknown. This again suggests a negligible potential for activity of this date.
- 8.3 The nearby settlement of Tarbock is documented within the Domesday Book as having no recorded population and it is likely the area was open agricultural land at this time. There is therefore a negligible potential for early medieval activity within the proposed development site.
- 8.4 There is some evidence for activity within the study area for the medieval period, but the evidence suggests agricultural activity rather than settlement. While there is a potential for agricultural related features the post-medieval and modern development and landscaping on the site would have most likely have truncated such evidence, the potential is therefore negligible.
- 8.5 A building known as Red House was present on the site from at least 1786. This was potentially replaced in the later 19th century, with further buildings added to the site in the early 20th century. Following subsidence as a result of local mining, the site was cleared, and the current bungalow was built c.1983. The extent of survival of below ground deposits associated with the former buildings is unknown but it is likely that successive phases of redevelopment of the site have resulted in substantial or total truncation of the potential archaeological resource. As such, archaeological potential for this period is considered low and does not merit further investigation. Furthermore, the proposed new dwelling is to be located partially within the footprint of the modern bungalow, away from the area of the former historic buildings.
- 8.6 There is no intervisibility between the proposed development site and Old Halsnead, which is the only Listed Building located within the study area. The proposed development will therefore not adversely affect the setting or significance of this asset.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Ken Woodward for this commission.

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1967 OS map Lancashire Sheet SJ48NE – National Library of Scotland (<https://maps.nls.uk/>)

Appendix 1: List of MHER Entries within a 1km study area

Site No.	HER No.	Grade & Listing No.	Easting	Northing	Description	Date
1	MME16363		346813	388109	Three Mesolithic flints and an undated flake were found during an excavation at Water Lane, Tarbock in 1993.	Prehistoric
2	MME16364		346787	388111	In 1993 an excavation was carried out at Water Lane, Tarbock. An Early Bronze Age ditch, pit, gully and post hole were found.	Prehistoric
3	MME16365		346805	388107	Roman building, Water Lane. In 1993 an excavation uncovered a presumably Roman building, along with Roman material of the C1 to early C3.	Roman
4	MME6842		347700	387800	A small, bronze Roman bust with a tang in hollow concave section was found by a metal detectorist. The original SMR record does not specify where it was found, but the NGR supplied by that record places it in Tarbock.	Roman
5	MME16079		348209	389465	Shaw is a medieval estate probably represented by a continuous oval-shaped curvilinear enclosure in Cronton. It may have been wooded, shaw meaning wood. It is first recorded in 1190.	Medieval
6	MME6272		346948	388393	A curvilinear enclosure, a former medieval field system, north of Water Lane, Tarbock. Contains three fields that can be identified as a holding of the Irelands of the Hutte, Halewood, in the mid C16. On the Molyneux estate plan of 1769 these fields are labelled Near Hut Hey, Middle Hut Hey and Far Hut Hey, and the field pattern of the oval enclosure is clear. Although the modern field boundaries no longer reflect the older field system, a large curvilinear ditch is visible in current LiDAR data and aerial photos. May have been Old Field recorded in 1180.	Medieval
7	MME16368		346689	388341	Former route of Watkins Lane, Tarbock. Watkins Lane, Tarbock, a possibly medieval trackway.	Medieval
8	MME6851		347138	388555	Four medieval body sherds were found during fieldwalking to the southeast of Higher Park Farm.	Medieval
9	MME6247		346700	388455	An assemblage of medieval and early post-medieval pottery found southwest of Yew Tree Farm, during fieldwalking in 1982. The pottery was found fairly consistently over the whole field, except for a higher concentration closer to the extant farm building.	Medieval

Site No.	HER No.	Grade & Listing No.	Easting	Northing	Description	Date
10	MME6248		346798	388129	Medieval and early post-medieval pottery found during fieldwalking, northwest of Brunt Boggart Farm, Water Lane. The pottery was concentrated in the southwest of this field, although individual pieces were found scattered throughout.	Medieval
11	MME6253		346732	388598	A small amount of medieval and post medieval was found during fieldwalking, to the northwest of Yew Tree Farm, Dacre's Lane, in March 1982. The assemblage was comprised of two medieval body sherds, one early post medieval body sherd, and four unspecified C18 to C19 sherds.	Medieval
12	N/A	II/1261787	347454	389555	Old Halsnead, Foxes Bank Lane. 1680. Stuccoed stone, stone roof with centre chimney, 2 storeys.	Post-medieval
13	MME6832		347845	387622	Stockswell Farm, No. 27 Stockswell Road. A rental agreement referring to this property, dating to 1691, records Anne Hocklie as the tenant at that time. Labelled as Stock's Well Farm on 1927 OS mapping and Stockswell Farm on 1959 mapping.	Post-medieval
14	MME13012		347367	387943	Brunt Boggart, Water Lane. The Molyneux estate plan of 1769 shows a building on this site.	Post-medieval
15	MME6240		346973	388073	Site of Brunt Boggart. A building is shown on this site on a 1769 map. Farmhouse collapsed c.1981 reportedly as a result of mining related subsidence. Now demolished.	Post-medieval
16	MME6242		346868	388760	Higher Park Farm, Dacre's Bridge Lane. Map of 1769 shows two buildings on this site.	Post-medieval
17	MME6243		346801	388940	Site of a house, Dacre's Lane. Shown on map of 1769. Doesn't appear on 1927 OS map.	Post-medieval
18	MME6833		347668	387785	Site of Dog Clog Cottage, Stockswell Road. The Molyneux estate plan of 1769 shows a building on this site. It does not appear on the OS map of 1959.	Post-medieval
19	MME6841		347666	387694	Site of two cottages, Stockswell Road. Yates' map of 1786 shows a building on this site. The building is last shown on the OS map of 1907; it does not appear on the 1927 OS map.	Post-medieval
20	MME6843		347518	388895	Bluebell Cottage, Cronton Road. The plan of 1769 shows a group of buildings on this site.	Post-medieval

Site No.	HER No.	Grade & Listing No.	Easting	Northing	Description	Date
21	MME6844		347638	388411	Site of Phithians, Prescott Road. The Molyneux estate plan of 1769 shows two buildings on this site. The OS map of 1927 shows the southern buildings in outline but does not shade them like other buildings, perhaps indicating they were ruinous. The OS map of 1959 shows the building has been demolished and shows the farm buildings currently on the site.	Post-medieval
22	MME6846		347938	388773	Site of Fox's Bank Farm, Cronton Road. The Molyneux estate plan of 1769 shows buildings on this site. The building is last shown on the 1967 OS map; it does not appear on the OS map of 1977.	Post-medieval
23	MME6849		347668	388539	Site of Red House, Prescott Road. Yates' map of 1786 shows a building in this area. A field visit carried out in 1981 established that the building suffered from subsidence, reportedly caused by mining, and was unsafe. By 1983 the building had been demolished.	Post-medieval
24	MME7108		348429	388482	Cronton Farm, Cronton Road. Might date to the later C18.	Post-medieval
25	MME6245		346845	388961	Tarbock Lodge, Dacre's Bridge Lane. No building shown on 1769 map. Yates' map of 1786 shows a building in this area. In 1970 the property opened as a horse-riding centre.	Post-medieval
26	MME6840		347299	387949	Site of a cottage, Water Lane. Greenwood's map of 1818 shows three buildings in this area. The building does not appear on the OS map of 1893.	Post-medieval
27	MME7115		348438	388903	Penny Lane Cottages, Penny Lane. Suggested date of late C18.	Post-medieval
28	MME7116		348400	388937	No. 95 Penny Lane. Hennet's map of 1829 could show buildings in this area, though this is uncertain given the depiction of a dotted boundary line.	Post-medieval
29	MME7117		348336	388960	Oak Lodge, Penny Lane, owner said the house dated to 1703, but Greenwood's map of 1818 does not appear to show buildings in this area.	Post-medieval
30	MME6845		347717	388847	Fox's Bank, No. 93 Cronton Road. The Tithe map of 1849 shows a building on this site.	Post-medieval
31	MME6854		347877	389075	Site of a cottage, Fox's Bank Lane. The Tithe map of 1849 shows a building on this site, last shown on the OS map of 1959; it does not appear on the OS map of 1967.	Post-medieval
32	MME6244		346791	388541	Yew Tree Farm, Dacre's Bridge Lane. Map of 1769 9 shows a group of three buildings on this site. The building was derelict and in use as a storage area for farm equipment in 1997.	Post-medieval

Site No.	HER No.	Grade & Listing No.	Easting	Northing	Description	Date
33	MME7121		348153	389397	Higher Shaw Farm, Shaw Entry. Date stone reads T.W. 1709.	Post-medieval
34	MME6850		347773	388415	Lower House Farm, Prescott Road. Brick, two storeys. The building has a partially weathered date stone over the entrance that appears to read RG / 1771.	Post-medieval
35	MME12982		346862	388792	Barn at Higher Park Farm, Dacre's Bridge Lane. Plan of 1769 shows two buildings on this site.	Post-medieval
36	MME6837		347407	387938	Site of a barn, Water Lane. Possibly shown on 1786 map. The building does not appear on the OS map of 1967.	Post-medieval
37	MME11610		348403	388481	Barn at Cronton Farm, Cronton Road. Yates' map of 1786 shows a building in this area.	Post-medieval
38	MME6259		346953	388047	Stable Court Business Centre, Water Lane Farm. Map of 1769 shows two buildings on site. The building was converted in the late C20 or early C21.	Post-medieval
39	MME7130		348172	389365	Barn at Higher Shaw Farm, Shaw Entry. Yates' map of 1786 shows two buildings in this area. The OS map of 1850 shows only a narrow section at the southern end of the building. This may be an error or could indicate this section was rebuilt at that time.	Post-medieval
40	MME13006		347876	387611	Barn and outbuilding at Stockswell Farm, Stockswell Road. A rental agreement referring to this property, dates to 1691. The Molyneux estate plan of 1769 shows a building on this site.	Post-medieval
41	MME21893		347493	389499	Former site of farm buildings, Old Halsnead, Halsnead Park, Whiston. The buildings do not appear on the OS map of 1959.	Post-medieval
42	MME12983		346846	388776	Outbuilding at Higher Park Farm, Dacre's Bridge Lane. The Tithe map of 1849 shows a building on this site.	Post-medieval
43	MME7131		348153	389347	Stables of Higher Shaw Farm, Shaw Entry. Yates' map of 1786 shows two buildings in this area.	Post-medieval
44	MME6239		346968	388085	Site of a stable at Brunt Boggart. A building is shown on this site on a 1769 map. Now demolished.	Post-medieval
45	MME21255		347882	388699	Former location of a kiln on Cronton Road found through mapping. Given the possible proximity to a mill, this kiln may have been for grain instead of bricks.	Post-medieval
46	MME21257		347037	388122	Former location of a kiln on Water Lane deduced from mapping.	Post-medieval

Site No.	HER No.	Grade & Listing No.	Easting	Northing	Description	Date
47	MME6838		347764	387888	Site of Tan House, Alder Lane. Map of 1769 shows a building on this site. The building is last shown on the map of 1967; it does not appear on the 1977 OS map.	Post-medieval
48	MME21259		347350	387965	Former location of a smithy deduced from mapping.	Post-medieval
49	MME15147		347177	389711	Halsnead Park. The park is first shown on Sherriff's map of 1816. There is no evidence of Halsnead Park having been a medieval foundation. Early C18 leases refer to fields now within the western and southwestern parts of the park. It is possible though that there was a small earlier park which was extended in the mid C18. It is said that Halsnead Park came into the possession of the Willis family in 1684 [but it is unclear if this means the park was extant or if this is referring to the estate by its later name].	Post-medieval
50	MME15681		346714	389003	Halsnead Park wall. It is assumed that the wall dates from the creation of the park, in the late C18 or early C19. The wall has been replaced, removed or breached in numerous locations around the perimeter but survives well in others.	Post-medieval
51	MME7122		348147	389099	Stone Bridge, Shaw Entry. The piers to the bridge still survive substantially and consist of unmortared coursed sandstone blocks with occasional courses of stone tiles. The bridge span is more modern and shows signs of having been reconstructed over several phases. The road above is used mainly for farm vehicles with a cinder surface.	Post-medieval
52	MME21256		347801	388615	Former possible location of a mill, Cronton Road, deduced from mapping.	Post-medieval
53	MME10028		347421	389323	Site of Cronton Colliery, Halsnead Park. Opened in 1914, on the site of the former Halsnead Colliery. It closed in February 1984.	Modern
54	MME6263		346970	388450	A cropmark, described as "oval enclosure, agricultural", was identified from aerial photographs of unspecified date in the area southeast of Yew Tree Farm, Tarbock.	Uncertain

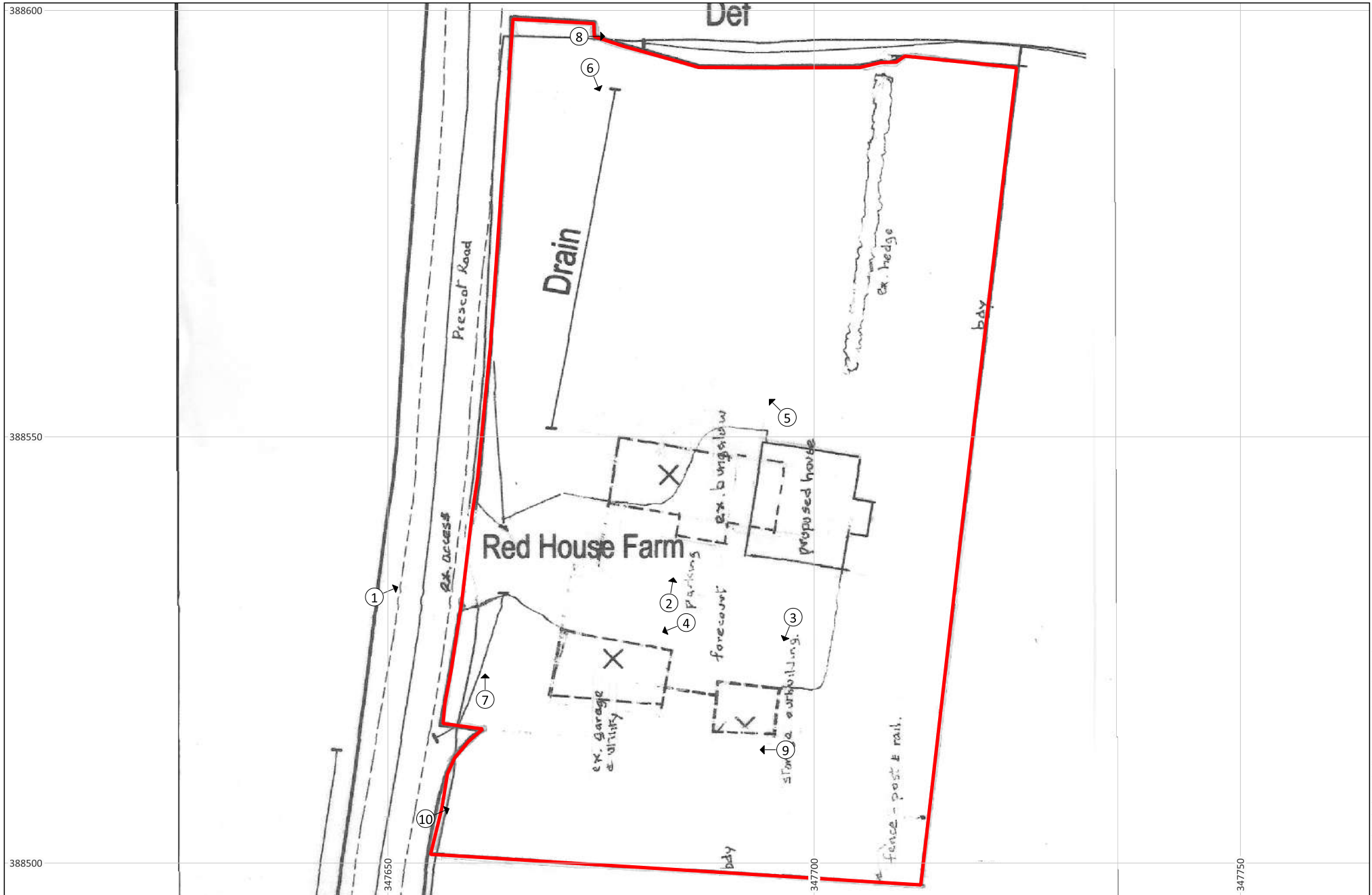
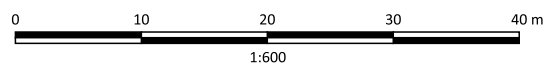


Figure 2: Location and direction of site visit photographs with site outlined in red (map provided by the client)



Red House Farm, Prescot Road, Widnes
Site Code: WIPR 24

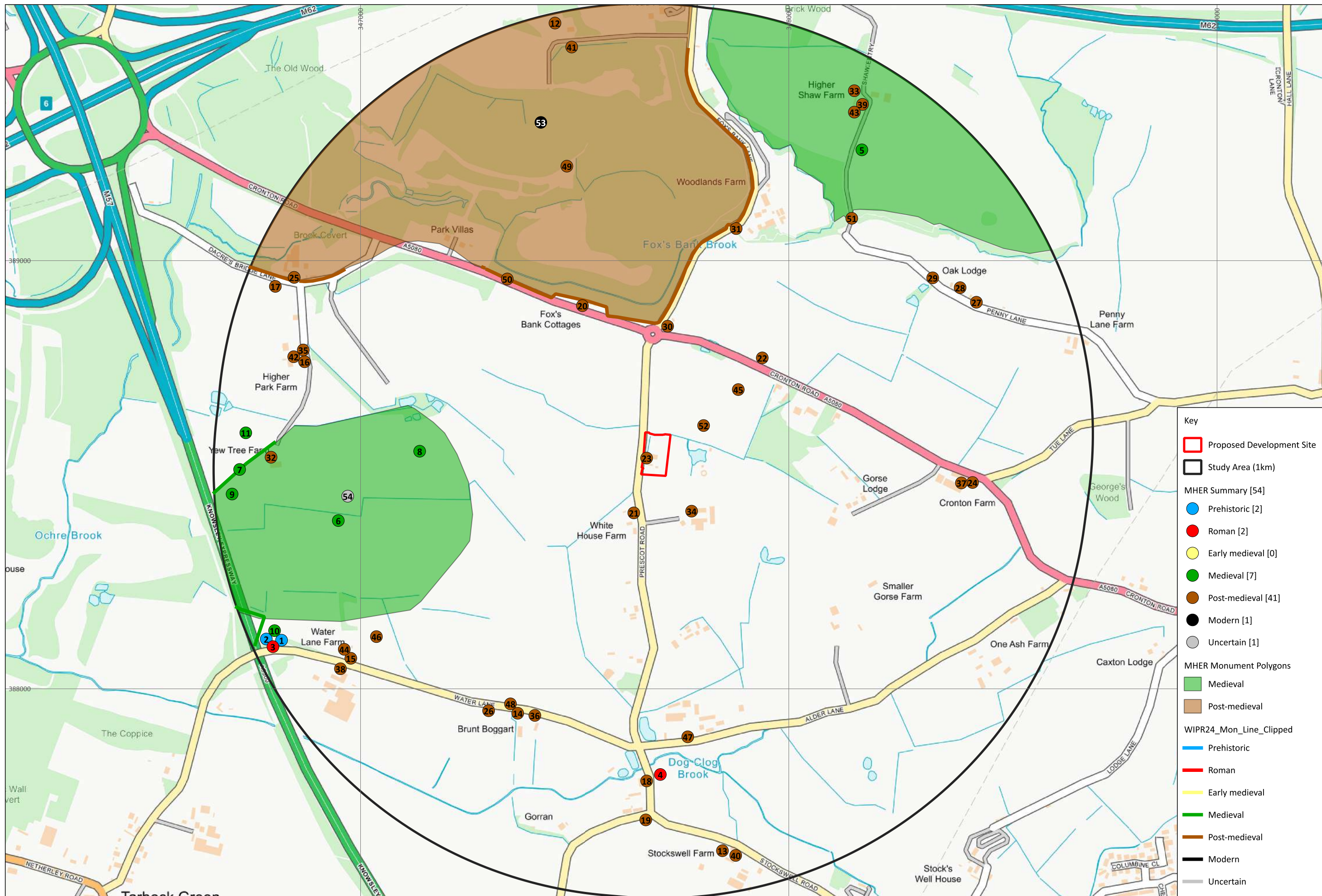


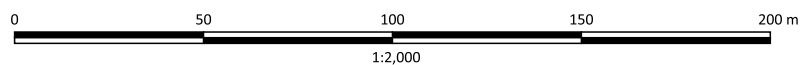
Figure 3: Extract of Merseyside HER with site outlined in red

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1:8,000

Red House Farm, Prescott Road, Widnes
Site Code: WIPR 24



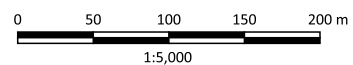
Figure 4: Extract of LiDAR DTM 1m resolution with hillshade and site outlined in red



Red House Farm, Prescott Road, Widnes
Site Code: WIPR 24



Figure 5: Extract of 1843 Cronton tithe map with site outlined in red



Red House Farm, Prescott Road, Widnes
Site Code: WIPR 24

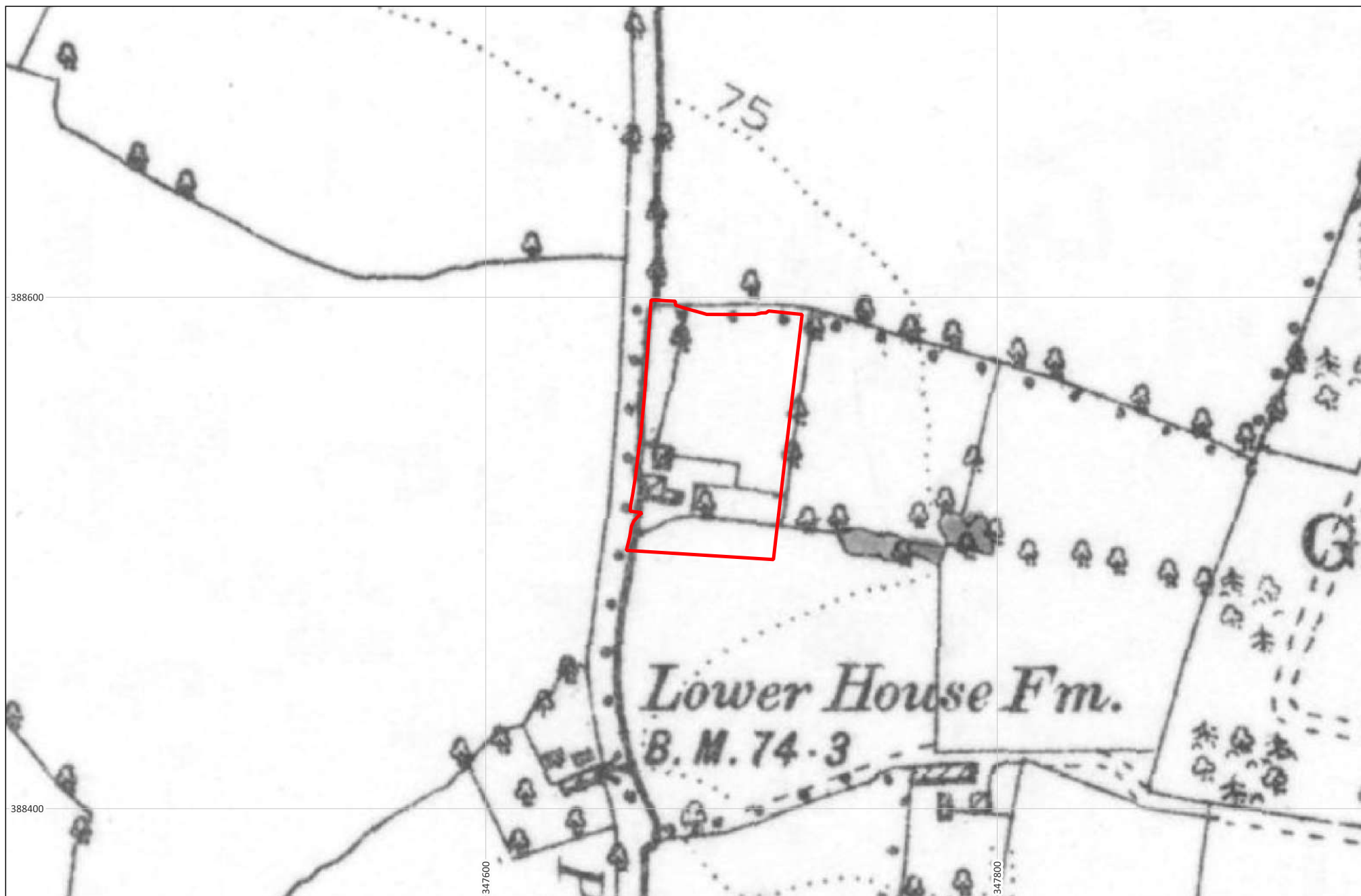
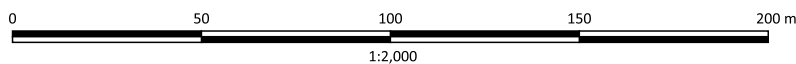


Figure 6: Extract of 1894 Ordnance Survey map with site outlined in red



Red House Farm, Prescot Road, Widnes
Site Code: WIPR 24

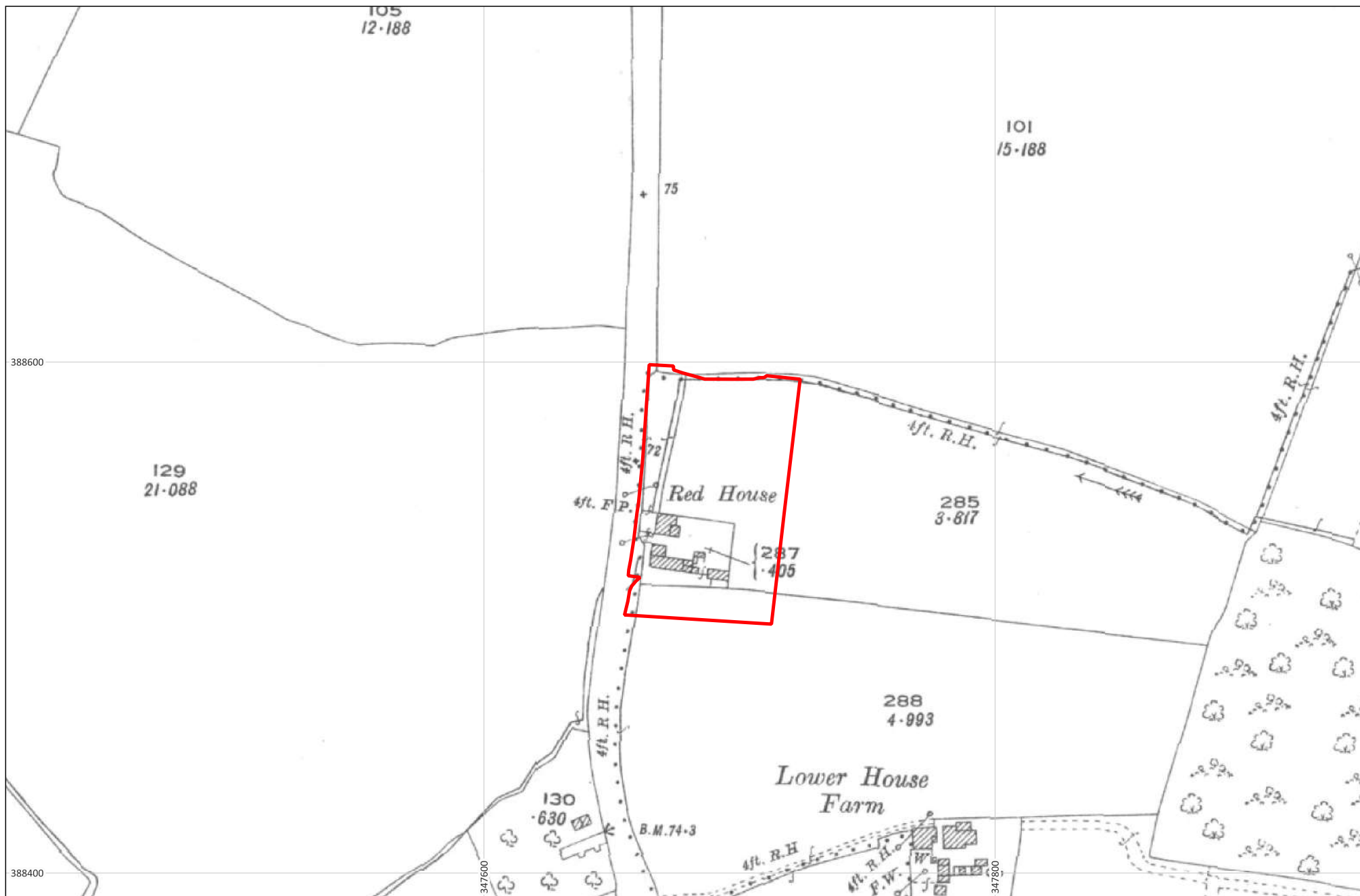
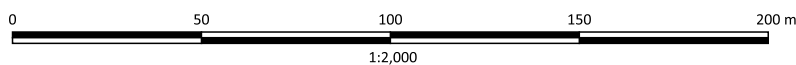


Figure 8: Extract of 1927 Ordnance Survey map with site outlined in red



Red House Farm, Prescott Road, Widnes
Site Code: WIPR 24

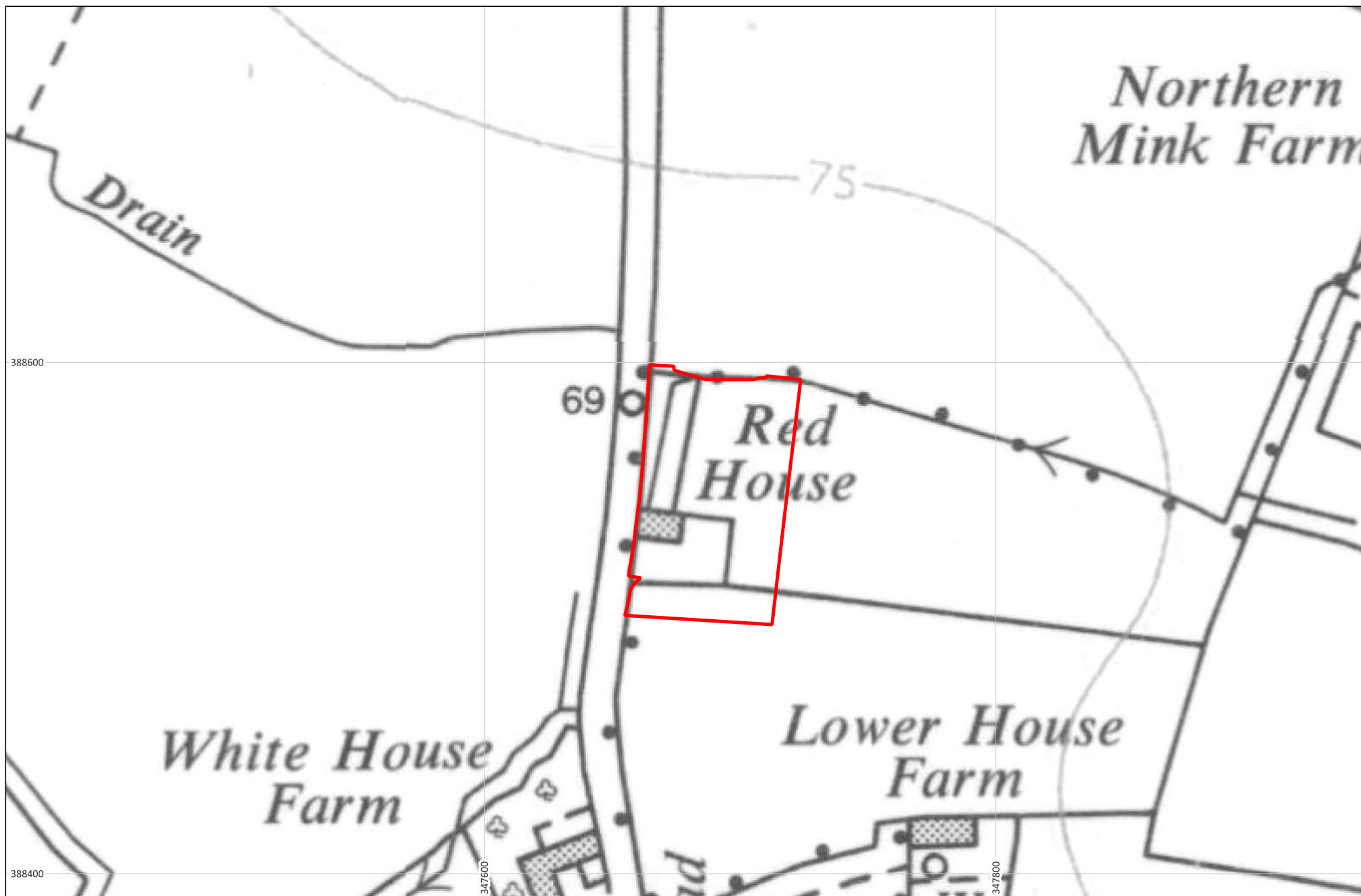
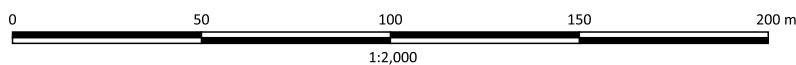


Figure 9: Extract of 1967 Ordnance Survey map with site outlined in red



Red House Farm, Prescot Road, Widnes
Site Code: WIPR 24

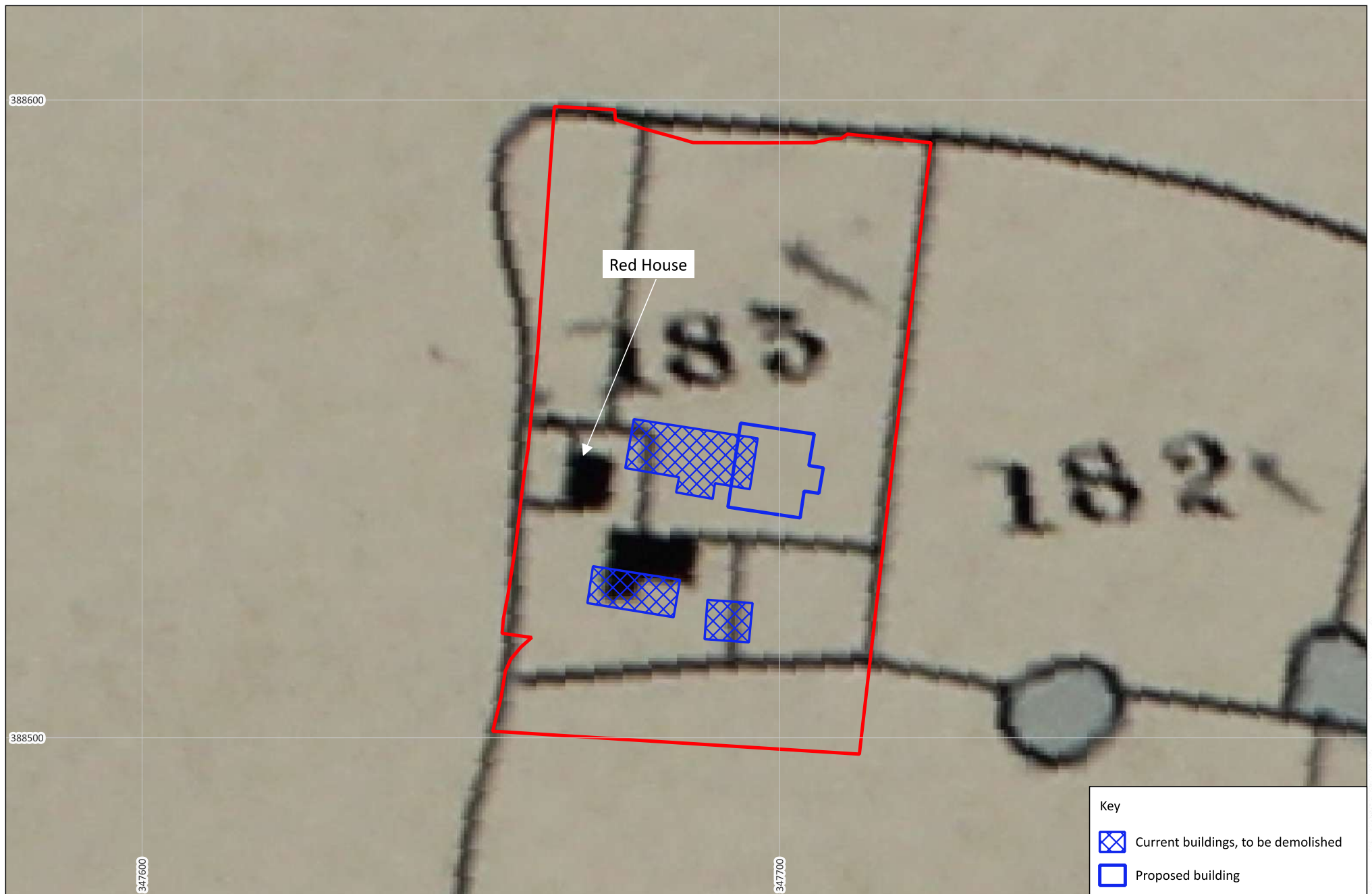


Figure 10: Current and proposed buildings overlaid on the 1843 tithe map with site outlined in red



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