

**HISTORIC RESEARCH
AND ASSESSMENT**

**FORMER GLEN DIMPLEX
LAND SOUTH OF STONEY LANE
WHISTON, MERSEYSIDE**

**PREPARED ON BEHALF OF
TAYLOR WIMPEY**

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

GHC Archaeology & Heritage was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey to carry out a programme of historic research and assessment of the Former Glen Dimplex, land south of Stoney Lane, Whiston, Merseyside (centred at NGR SJ 48018 91531) ahead of its demolition. It lies within the administrative boundary of Knowsley Council.

The assessment details the development of the former Rainhill Stoves Works (a possible former munitions factory) and the contributions it may have made to the war effort, in order to provide an assessment of the significance of the site. This assessment also considers the potential for earlier below-ground remains to survive within the study site, namely a former 18th century house once situated on Cumber Lane, which was demolished ahead of the construction of the munitions factory.

Based on the results of geoenvironmental assessment, as well as examination of historic maps and photographs, it is considered that the initial groundworks associated with the construction of the factory complex, as well as later groundworks associated with the levelling of the site ahead of its resurfacing has resulted in significant truncation to the ground across the study site. It is therefore considered that there is the low potential for surviving below-ground remains of the former cottage complex to survive within the southern part of the study site, and it is further considered that there is the medium-high potential for any below-ground remains to be contaminated with residues from various the various manufacturing processes carried out within the study site.

It is thought that the study site was once the site of a wartime munitions factory; unfortunately, beyond the references by Stoves Limited, who occupied the site between 1925 – 2024, and a mention within a local history book, no documents, photographs, newspaper articles, etc. were identified which support this.

Examination of historic photographs and maps have shown that the main building within the study site has undergone significant alterations since its construction between 1906-1925. Most notably, the entire roof has been changed, replacing the original, possible 'Belfast truss' curved roof with a taller, pitched roof structure. The recent site visit has indicated that internally, the buildings have also been heavily altered, likely due to changes in manufacturing processes. However, it appears as though the external brick walling along the northern and southern elevations may be original to the building, though these walls have been altered with the insertion and closure of a number of different apertures. The survival of some historic fabric within the complex lends the site a low level of *historic interest* and *evidential value*.

Based on the available documentary and historical information, as well as the overall survival of historic fabric, it is considered that the study site contributes little towards the identified research priorities within the *North West Regional Research Framework*.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This programme of historic research and assessment of the Former Glen Dimplex, Stoney Lane, Whiston, Merseyside has been prepared by GHC Archaeology & Heritage Limited on behalf of Taylor Wimpey. The work was requested by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) ahead of the demolition of the building and redevelopment of the site. It is located within the administrative boundary of Knowsley Council.
- 1.2 This document provides an assessment has been undertaken in line with the methodology outlined within the approved Project Design (Appendix 2), and details the development of the former Rainhill Stoves Works (a possible former munitions factory) and the contributions it made to the war effort, in order to provide an assessment of the significance of the site. This assessment also considers the potential for earlier below-ground remains to survive within the study site, namely a former 18th century house once situated on Cumber Lane, which was demolished ahead of the construction of the munitions factory.
- 1.3 The assessment has been undertaken to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Section 16: 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'; revised December 2024) 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;
 - Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990;
 - Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (LuRA) 2023.
- 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 Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 has introduced changes to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to provide statutory duty for the determining authority to have *special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the asset or its setting*. The relevant assets are defined as Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields, Protected Wrecks and World Heritage Sites. It also updates the P(LBCA) Act add *or enhancing* after *preserving* in section 66. However, at the time of writing neither the TCPA or the P(LBCA) have been updated.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.5 Section 16 of the NPPF (MHCLG; revised December 2024), 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.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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 207 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.

- 2.8 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).'*
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 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.
- 2.11 Paragraphs 212-215 consider the impact of development proposals upon the significance of designated heritage assets. Paragraph 212 states that where a development is proposed that would affect the significance of a designated heritage asset, *'great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater this weight should be)'*. Paragraph 215 emphasises that *'where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to (or total loss of significance) of a designated heritage asset, this harm or loss should be weighed against the public benefits'* of the scheme, bearing in mind the great weight highlighted in Paragraph 212.
- 2.12 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Historic Assets;
 - 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; and
 - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not significant enough to merit *in situ* preservation.

Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.13 The Planning Practice Guidance (PPG; 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 'Historic Environment'. The guidance given in this section sets out the best practice to applying government policy in the NPPF. It also provides clear definition of the terms used to identify heritage interest and how this applies to understanding 'significance' in reference to heritage-related planning policy, i.e. archaeological interest, architectural and artistic interest, and historic interest (Paragraph: 006 Reference ID: 18a-006-20190723).

- 2.14 As defined within the PPG, 'Non-Designated Heritage Assets' are *'buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes identified by plan-making bodies as having a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets. A substantial majority of buildings have little or no heritage significance and thus do not constitute heritage assets. Only a minority have enough heritage significance to merit identification as non-designated heritage assets'* (Paragraph: 039 Reference ID: 18-039-20190723).
- 2.15 In terms of non-designated heritage assets, the PPG states that there are two categories of non-designated sites of archaeological interest (Paragraph:041 Reference ID: 18a-041-20190723):
- Those that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments and are therefore considered subject to the same policies as those for designated heritage assets.
 - Other non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest.

Local Planning Policy

Knowsley Local Plan

- 2.16 The Knowsley Local Plan comprises several documents, including the *Core Strategy* (KC 2016), which sets out the strategic framework for the growth and development of Knowsley up to 2028 and beyond. The following policy within the *Core Strategy* considered relevant to this assessment 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 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.*

Professional Guidance

2.17 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2020) and MEAS's (2019) *Guidance on Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* provide guidelines and recommendations for best practice in undertaking archaeological desk-based research and assessment.

2.18 The Historic England (HE) publication *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment* (GPA2; HE 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.

2.19 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 HE's *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance* (formerly English Heritage (EH) 2008):

aesthetic, communal, historic and evidential. Significance results from a combination of any, some or all of the values.

- 2.20 The HE advice note, *Statement of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets. Historic England Advice Note 12* (HEAN12; HE 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 RESEARCH DESIGN

Aims and Objectives

- 3.1 The overall aim of the programme of historic research and assessment was to document the development of the study site, as well as assess the significance of the upstanding structures within the site, and assess the potential for survival of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 This was realised through the achievement of the following objectives:
- Collate and assess existing information about the study site to produce an account of the building's origins, development and use;
 - Produce an overall description of the buildings within the study site, as well as provide photographs of the structures;
 - Assess, where possible from the available sources, the extent of any ground disturbances associated with any previous development and potential for survival of earlier structures within the study site;
 - Production of a report detailing the significance of the buildings and the study site's archaeological potential; and
 - Production of a site archive for deposition with the Archaeology Data Service and to provide information for the Merseyside HER to ensure the long-term survival of the data.

Research Framework

- 3.3 The programme of historic research and assessment identified the potential for the results to contribute to research priorities identified in the *North West Regional Research Framework* (RF 2026), including the following:

Post-Medieval Period

- PM12: How can the study of the abandonment of farmsteads at this time help refine the regional settlement pattern?

Industrial and 20th Century Period

- Ind58: How have industrial buildings adapted to new technology and processes?
- Ind71: What is the character and scope of military archaeology during the 20th century?
- Ind74: How can we establish a typology of surviving post-1750 military remains?

4 METHODOLOGY

Information Sources

- 4.1 The holdings of the Liverpool Record Office, Lancashire Archives, Knowsley Local History Archive, National Museums Liverpool, Cheshire Archives, the National Archives and the Imperial War Museum, together with online repositories were consulted for historical maps, plans and relevant documentary sources.
- 4.2 HE's online Aerial Photo Explorer and the National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP) were consulted for historic photographs from various aerial photo collections (Plates 7-12).
- 4.3 Census records (Appendix 1), trade directories and newspapers for details of building ownership and use throughout the 19th-21st century.
- 4.4 Aerial photographs of the study site, which have been kindly provided by Urban Regen (Plates 1-5).
- 4.5 A site visit was undertaken on 9th April 2026 in dry, overcast conditions to provide an assessment of the character and significance of the buildings within the study site (see Figure 2; Plates 1-5, 13-15).

Assessment Criteria

Significance

- 4.6 Significance (for heritage policy) is defined in the NPPF (MHCLG 2024) 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. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance.'*
- 4.7 HE's *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance* (EH 2008) identified four high level values: evidential, historic, aesthetic and communal. The PPG (MHCLG 2019) accompanying NPPF (2024) defines significance in the planning context as resulting from the heritage interest of an asset determined by the following:
 - *Archaeological Interest*: the potential of an asset to yield evidence of past human activity that could be revealed through future investigation. Archaeological interest includes above-ground structures, as well as earthworks and buries 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.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 Assessment of significance has been undertaken in accordance with the HE's *Statements of Heritage Significance. Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (HEAN 12; HE 2019).

5 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Site Location

- 5.1 The study site covers approximately 5.8ha within the village of Whiston, c. 17km east of Liverpool city centre (centred at NGR SJ 48018 91531; Figure 1). The study site is bounded to the north by Stoney Lane with Whiston Hospital directly opposite, to the east by Elis Laundry Plant, to the south by St Edmund Arrowsmith Academy and to the west by residential properties located on Cumber Lane.
- 5.2 Currently, the study site is occupied by the former Glen Dimplex Home Appliances manufacturing factory, which closed in 2024, with the complex comprising a large factory structure with associated smaller buildings and infrastructure, including a gas governor to the north and two electricity substations to the west and south. A service road is present to the south and west, which connects to Stoney Lane in the north. A car park is situated within the eastern part of the site, with small areas of landscaping present north and east of the main structure, with semi-mature trees present along the northern and southern site boundaries.

Buildings Description

- 5.3 The following provides a general description of the extant buildings within the study site (Figure 2; Plates 1-5; 13-15). It should be noted that the majority of the structures within the site were inaccessible at the time of the site walkover, due to asbestos-related health and safety restrictions.

Building B1

- 5.4 Building B1 is a mixed brick and steel framed structure with corrugated metal pitched roofs, originally constructed in the early-20th century. However, historic mapping and photographs indicate this structure has been heavily altered throughout the mid-late 20th century, to the point where little original fabric can be identified within the structure, though some of the external brick walls of the building appear to be original. A modern extension to the west of B1 provides office accommodation and a canteen.
- 5.5 Internally, temporary office structures sit on the factory floor alongside overhead-tracked machinery systems that penetrate existing walls. Modern interventions throughout include drylining, blockwork, spray foam insulation, and suspended false ceilings, with numerous infilled window and door openings evidencing alterations over time.

Building B2

- 5.6 Building B2 is a rectangular two-storey red brick building with a flat corrugated metal roof, which appears to have been built in the mid-20th century. Aluminium sliding windows run around the perimeter of the upper floor, whilst the ground floor features uPVC windows, suggesting some degree of alteration over time. The building's original function is unclear,

though its form is consistent with office or training accommodation. Internal inspection was not possible.

Building B3

5.7 Building B3 comprises a pair of mid-20th century long rectangular structures set side by side, constructed in red brick with low-pitched corrugated metal roofs incorporating skylights. The building served as the site's welding shop. Evidence of phased alteration is present throughout, with a mix of timber and uPVC window frames alongside numerous infilled openings suggesting modification over time.

5.8 Internal inspection was not possible; however glimpses through existing windows revealed concrete floors and an open-plan floor space consistent with former welding operations. Temporary office accommodation has been formed within the floor space using modern materials including drylining and suspended false ceilings.

Building B4

5.9 Building B4 appears to have served as the principal site entrance and visitor reception. It is a 20th century T-shaped brick building with uPVC windows and a flat roof with an overhang feature along the main elevation. Internal inspection was not possible.

Building B5

5.10 Building B5 is a 20th century rectangular brick building with a flat roof, likely serving as an electrical plant for the site. This is consistent with its minimal fenestration, with the building having no windows and only two door openings. Internal inspection was not possible.

Building B6

5.11 Building B6 is a 20th century brick building with a flat roof and a large open bay, featuring a number of airbrick vents. Industrial pipework and valves connecting to B1 suggest the building functioned as a pump house or substation for the wider site. Internal inspection was not possible.

Building B7

5.12 Building B7 is situated in the car park to the south-eastern corner of the site and is set apart from the remaining buildings. It is a modern red brick structure with a U-shaped pitched roof finished in shingles, with a flat roof infilling the central recess. A steel chimney flue projects from the roof. Fenestration is limited to small windows dotted around the perimeter, with several industrial garage doors and personnel door openings on most elevations. The building's function is unclear, though its form suggests a storage or ancillary use. Internal inspection was not possible.

6 POST-MEDIEVAL AND INDUSTRIAL PERIODS

Introduction

- 6.1 Merseyside HER notes that the study site was once the location of a former 18th century house off Cumber Lane (MME6879). The following provides a background of the known history of the property throughout the post-medieval and industrial periods, as well as an assessment of the potential of survival of this asset below-ground.

Historic Background

- 6.2 Until the first half of the post-medieval period, the areas of both Whiston and Rainhill appear to have been largely utilised for agricultural purposes; however, by the 18th century, exploitation of the area's natural resources, namely coal, was becoming a burgeoning industry within the region, with collieries established across Whiston and neighbouring Prescott. This is first illustrated on early county maps of the area, including Yates' 1786 *The County Palatine of Lancaster* and Greenwood's 1818 *Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster* (Figure 3). These maps also provide the earliest depiction of development within the study site, with Greenwood's map showing a pair of buildings situated to the east of Cumber Lane, which are accessed via a short track.
- 6.3 Following the passing of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Act 1826, on 15th September 1830, the Liverpool and Manchester Railway (L&MR) officially opened, with the route of the railway running roughly east/west through the landscape c. 100m south of the study site. The railway is first illustrated on Hennet's 1830 *Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster* (Figure 4). Despite the establishment of the railway so near the study site, the site itself appears to have changed relatively little, with Hennet's map, and the 1839-40 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Figure 4) still illustrating the same two buildings within the study site.
- 6.4 The first detailed depiction of the study site can be found on both the 1842 Tithe Plan of Whiston and the 1843 Tithe Plan of Rainhill, with the study site straddling the boundary between both parishes. The site itself is formed of parts of eight separate fields, the majority of which are being utilised for meadow/pasture use (see table below). The structures within the study site have been identified as a 'house and garden' (plot 389), though the apportionment does not make any mention of the outbuilding within the study site. The house within the study site is recorded as being occupied by a Thomas Atherton; however, comparison of the apportionment details and census records indicate that Thomas Atherton himself resided at nearby Cumber Lane Farm, c. 185m south of the study site.

Map	Owner	Occupier	Plot No.	Description	State of Cultivation
1842 Whiston	Thomas Atherton	Thomas Atherton	106	Dentons Meadow	Meadow
	Trustees of Prescot Charity	Thomas Poole	108	Long Croft	Pasture

Map	Owner	Occupier	Plot No.	Description	State of Cultivation
	Thomas Atherton	Thomas Atherton	171	Three Nooked Croft	Meadow
1843 Rainhill	John Moyers, Trustee to the late George Case	Thomas Atherton	387	Big Cullet (cutlet?)	Pasture
			388	Sadlers Meadow	Arable
			389	House and Garden	-
			390	Barn Meadow	Meadow
			391	Little Cullet?	Pasture

- 6.5 Little change has been documented within the study site by the production of the 1845-47 OS map (Figure 6), though this map is the first to identify a well adjacent the cottage complex.
- 6.6 An examination of census records for the study site between 1851 and 1911 (Appendix 1) indicate that the house within the study site appears to have been occupied by the Poole family from at the mid-late 19th century, with as many as ten people documented as living within the study site at once.
- 6.7 By the production of the 1891 OS map (Figure 7), there have been some changes within the study site, including the loss of many of the field boundary within the site. Within the cottage complex, the outbuilding to the north of the main house appears to have been altered and is smaller than the structure depicted on the earlier tithe and OS maps. By the production of the 1906 OS map (Figure 8), the outbuilding is no longer depicted.
- 6.8 As to be discussed within Section 7 below, the study site is thought to be the site of a First World War munitions factory. A factory complex is depicted on the 1925 OS map (Figure 9), with the construction of this complex appearing to have included the demolition of the cottage complex within the southern part of the study site.

Assessment of Impacts

- 6.9 The cottage complex is no longer illustrated by the 1925 OS map (Figure 9), with the wider study site having been redeveloped into a factory complex (see Section 7 below). When comparing the 1906 and 1925 OS maps, the former site of the cottage and well appear to be situated within an area of rough ground, with the outbuilding to the north situated below part of the southernmost railway siding of the industrial complex. Aerial imagery from 1935 (Plates 7 & 8) does not show any structural remains surviving above-ground within this area, confirming the demolition of all above-ground elements of the former complex.
- 6.10 Up until the mid-late 20th century, the land surrounding the industrial complex appears to have just been left as rough ground, with the former area of the cottage utilised as storage. However, by the 1970's, this area appears to have been entirely levelled and resurfaced,

likely ahead of the construction of several new buildings along the southern boundary of the study site. The groundworks associated with these works is likely to have truncated the land within this area.

- 6.11 In 2024, a phase I and II geoenvironmental assessment (e3p 2024) was carried out across the study site, which included a full ground penetrating radar (GPR) and utility survey, as well as the excavation of 12 boreholes (Figure 15). The GPR and utility survey identified a series of service trenches present below-ground across the study site, the establishment of which has resulted in localised ground impacts.
- 6.12 Made ground deposits were identified within all the boreholes across the site, ranging in depth between 0-3.0m below ground level (BGL). Within the area of the cottage complex, three boreholes were excavated (WS101 - WS103), with the made ground deposits within this area of the study site ranging between 0.7 - 1.7m in depth. WS102 – WS103 are situated within the vicinity of a former enamel slurry waste storage area, with elevated levels of Trichloroethene (TCE), Dichloroethene, and Vinyl Chloride having been identified within the soils of WS101 – WS103. Chemicals and contaminants associated with manufacturing and munitions processes also have the potential to have leached down into the soils across the study site (e3p 2024, 8). Within WS102, which is situated closest to the former cottage complex footprint, slag and ash inclusions were noted within the made ground deposits, with a strong hydrocarbon odour also recorded in the natural clay deposits below. Therefore, the potential for the area of the former cottage complex to have been contaminated by various chemicals should not be discounted.
- 6.13 Based on the results of the geoenvironmental assessment, as well as examination of historic maps and photographs, it is considered that the initial groundworks associated with the construction of the factory complex, as well as later groundworks associated with the levelling of the area will have resulted in significant truncation to the ground within this part of the study site. It is therefore considered that there is the low potential for surviving below-ground remains of the former cottage complex to survive within this part of the study site. It is further considered that there is the medium-high potential for any possible below-ground remains to be contaminated with residues from various manufacturing processes within the study site.

7 MODERN PERIOD

Introduction

- 7.1 Merseyside HER notes that the study site was the location of a First World War munitions factory, which was later used as Stoves Factory (MME20267). The site also appears to have been utilised as a munitions factory again during the Second World War. The following provides an overview of munitions production within England during the First and Second World Wars, with a closer examination at production across the North-West, as well as all known information regarding the study site during the modern period.

Overview of Wartime Munitions Production

First World War

- 7.2 At the time of the United Kingdom and British Empire's entrance into the First World War on 4th August 1914, the armaments industry was primarily geared to supplying the needs of individual military services (e.g. Royal Navy, army), which were largely met by modest state-owned factories and several private firms. However, despite an increase in production by the existing factories, by autumn 1914 ammunition shortages, especially of high explosive shells, were becoming critical.
- 7.3 In the spring of 1915, the 'Shell Scandal' was publicised by the press, which noted that not only were too few shells reaching the front lines, of those that were, many were failing to detonate. As a result, Prime Minister Asquith created the Ministry of Munitions on 9th June 1915 and appointed David Lloyd George as the first Minister of Munitions. The Munitions of War Act 1915 was subsequently passed 2nd July 1915, which was designed to maximise munitions output across the country, as well as its subsequent transport and supply.
- 7.4 Operating under the War Office, the Ministry of Munitions expanded existing factories, as well as having created over 200 National Factories, including both purpose-built factories as well as existing manufacturing structures which were requisitioned as part of the war effort. These factories included those which processed raw materials (e.g. iron and steel) as well as those utilised for manufacturing, including shells, tanks and other weapons, gas masks and boxes, amongst other items.
- 7.5 With many men across the country enlisted in the war itself, the vast majority of the millions engaged in munitions work during the war were women, with some factories having more than a 90% female workforce.
- 7.6 Proposals to turn the Ministry of Munitions into a centralised supply ministry were abandoned following the Armistice of 11th November 1918, and the powers of the ministry were reduced and dispersed. On 31st March 1921, the Ministry of Munitions was wound up, and its ministerial post abolished, with many of its functions absorbed by other departments.

Second World War

- 7.7 Following the German invasion of Czechoslovakia and the ultimate failure of the 1938 Munich Agreement, Britain began taking steps to prepare for the potential of war. The Ministry of Supply was formed 1st August 1939 by the Ministry of Supply Act, with the ministry's primary function to coordinate the supply of equipment to the British armed forces. Two days after the German invasion of Poland, the United Kingdom officially declared war on Germany 3rd September 1939.
- 7.8 One of the major responsibilities of the Ministry of Supply was to manage munitions production, which included the construction and management of Royal Ordnance Factories, many of which had been constructed during a period of rearmament in the 1930's. During the Second World War, there were three main types of factories: explosives, filing, and engineering, with the former two types tending to be the largest types of factories due to explosives safeguarding zones.
- 7.9 In addition to the ROF's, the Ministry of Supply also arranged for the construction of new factories which were then operated as agency factories. These so-called 'shadow factories' were managed by private companies and were not formally considered ROFs. Likewise, under the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act 1939, numerous civilian factories were also requisitioned and converted to support the war effort as part of the 'shadow factory' scheme, in particular factories which were involved in sheet metal and engineering.
- 7.10 In 1941, it became compulsory for women between the ages of 18-60 to register for war work and were typically given a choice between working in industry or joining one of the auxiliary services. By 1942, more than 60% of the workers in ROF factories comprised women.
- 7.11 Upon the end of the war on 2nd September 1945, those ROFs which had been designated temporary were closed, with a small number of ROFs which had been designated permanent were largely taken over by other government departments. Those civilian factories which had been requisitioned as part of the war effort were relinquished, though while some were released quickly after the war, some were retained for several years until any remaining goods and supplies could be removed.

Munitions Production in the North-West

- 7.12 The North-West of England, as an industrial hub, played an important role during both World Wars, with Liverpool in particular playing a vital wartime role. Liverpool had developed as an important trans-Atlantic trading port by the 18th century. The onset of the industrial revolution, as well as the construction of the canals and later the railways, expanded both the manufacturing and shipping trade, as well as the population, across the city. By the early-20th century, Liverpool was considered the maritime heart of the country.

- 7.13 In early years of the war, likely as a response to the 1915 'Shell Scandal', many of the region's factories were converted to producing supplies for the war effort, with women playing a significant role in the production of these goods. These included work at glass factories, such as Pilkington's in St Helens, flour mills, such as Rank & Sons in Birkenhead, coal mines and, most notably, munitions factories.
- 7.14 During the First World War, the North-West was a hub for munitions productions, with purpose-built factories at Caton Road in Lancaster, White Lund, in Morecambe, and other factories which had been converted for munitions works, such as the Cunard Shell Works in Bootle, which was housed in a former furniture factory. Many of these factories worked together as part of the production of munitions. For example, Historic England (2023) notes that blank steel forgings were first produced at the National Shell Factory on Edge Lane, Liverpool before being transported to the Cunard Shell Works, where they would be finished. The shells were then transported to the National Filling Factory No.2 at Aintree, where the shells were then filled with explosives and then dispatched to the front.
- 7.15 During the Second World War, the North-West once again became a central hub for munitions production, with a number of Royal Ordnance Factories established across the region. These include ROF Chorley and ROF Blackburn in Lancashire, and ROF Fazakerley in Liverpool. In addition to these ROF facilities, a number of shadow factories were also established across the region, including at Lockstock in Bolton, which was overseen by aviation manufacturers de Havilland.

The Study Site

- 7.16 There is very little information available about the study site between 1906 – 1925, with Blinkhorn (2004, 175) noting that a large factory was built by the Government within the study site in 1916 and the Stoves Limited website (2026) identifying the complex as a former munitions site. No records have been identified within any of the consulted repositories which confirm the construction of a purpose-built wartime munitions factory within the study site. It should be noted that it was not possible to consult any documents within Cheshire Archives at this time, as this repository is currently closed to the public until autumn 2026.
- 7.17 Stoves Limited was established on 14th February 1920 in Warrington and, due to the rapid growth of the firm, moved into the study site in December 1925. A drawing of their new Rainhill site, possibly produced c. 1925 (Plate 6) as well as the 1925 OS map (Figure 9) provide the first information about the buildings within the study site, with the mapping identifying the site's current use as an 'Iron Foundry'. The main part of the complex, as illustrated on the 1925 OS map (Figure 9), comprised two long rectangular structures, aligned roughly north-west/south-east, with a series of smaller structures present to the north-west, with the site accessed from an entrance at the north-western corner of the study site off Stoney Lane. A series of rail sidings also extended into the study site from the south-east.

- 7.18 The drawing of the Rainhill complex (Plate 6) indicates that the two main structures are in actuality four structures, which are situated in pairs on either side of the central rail line. These buildings appear to be single-storey in height, with each set of structures possessing a pair of curved, 'U-shaped' roofs, with a series of apertures also illustrated along the northern elevations of each pair of structures. Prior to 1914, the 'saw-tooth' roof was considered the standard for single-storey industrial buildings; however, such roofing systems required significant amounts of steel to construct, which was unrealistic during wartime. Given its appearance, it is possible that the roofing here represents the use of a 'Belfast truss', which is a shallow 'D-shaped' truss created from a large number of small timbers which could simply be secured together by nails and bolts, and could span lengths of up to 50 feet (c.15.2m) (Kenyon 2015, 15-16). There were a number of drawbacks with this style of roof, including difficulties in cladding and tiling, as well as the insertion of skylights. The drawing, whilst showing a series of small vents lining the roof at intervals, does not illustrate any skylights, and it is possible that the large apertures along the long elevations of the buildings were not only for the movement of goods, but also to compensate for the lack of roof lights.
- 7.19 The smaller buildings to the north-west all appear to also be single-storey in height, with a mixture of curved and pitched roofs. It is possible that these smaller structures were designed for more utilitarian uses (e.g. canteen, offices).
- 7.20 It is likely that this location was chosen for a factory complex due to its proximity to the London & North West Railway to the south. Virtually all munitions factories built during the First World War needed good transportation links in order to bring in raw materials and export finish products, as well as moving materials around within the factory complexes themselves. A siding has been constructed extending north from the LNWR, west of Stoney Lane, where it later splits into three sections, which extend both adjacent and between the two main linear structures within the complex.
- 7.21 The overall footprint of the complex suggest that the site was mindfully designed, with consideration given to the flow of materials into and throughout the complex.
- 7.22 During the First World War, it was recognised that the construction of various new factories also required in many areas new accommodation for workers. Historic mapping, as indicated in section 6 above, shows that settlement was largely confined during this period to the west of the study site, along Dragon Lane, and to the north at the small hamlet of Holt. The 1925 OS map (Figure 9) shows that to the west of the study site, a number of new dwellings have been constructed fronting Hulton Avenue, Stoney Lane, and Cumber Lane after 1906, and the possibility that these were may have been built as accommodation for the neighbouring factory should not be discounted.
- 7.23 A series of aerial photographs were taken on 28th April 1935 (Plates 7 & 8) and are the earliest known images of the study site. These photos depict the buildings within the study site as being similar to the earlier drawing (Plate 6), with the linear structures within the centre of

the study site appearing to be constructed of brick with curved roofs. A short awning appears to extend along the longer elevations of both sets of structures, covering a slightly raised walkway. The rail sidings still extend across the site, with the central line terminating at a new single-storey structure with a pitched roof, which is situated at the north-western part of the complex between both linear structures. A new structure has been constructed within the north-western part of the study site, likely a new office building of brick with a pitched roof, with a 'STOVES Ltd' sign above. The land within the north-western part of the study site appears to have been surfaced, though the remaining land across the study site appears to be rough ground, with some of the land along the southern part of the study site utilised as storage. These changes are all reflected on the 1937 OS map, which identifies the site as 'Rainhill Stove Works' (Figure 10).

- 7.24 The Stoves Limited website (2026) notes that, during the Second World War, the study site was once again utilised as a munitions manufacturing site. No records have been identified during the course of this assessment of the complex's possible use as a 'shadow factory' during the war, though unfortunately the government property registers covering requisitions of property taken over by the state during the war do not survive for Lancashire.
- 7.25 An aerial photograph from 10th August 1945 (Plate 9) indicates that significant building works have been carried out within the study site, notably the alteration and addition of a series of new structures across the south-eastern half of the extant structures. This appears to include the replacement of the curved 'Belfast truss' roofs with a series of new pitched roofs. An additional roof or building has also been constructed across the alignment of the rail line which runs between the buildings. It is possible that the roofs were replaced as Kenyon (2015) notes that the overall design of 'Belfast trusses' meant it was difficult to suspend any equipment from them, and due to their shallow curve, made the installation of drive shafts and belting required for machining problematic. The replacement with the D-shaped roof with a pitched roof would allow for larger or bulkier machinery to extend upwards into the roof space.
- 7.26 This photograph was taken prior to the end of the war in September, and given the rationing of steel during wartime, it is likely that the building alterations were carried out prior to 1939. While the 1947 OS map (Figure 11) appears to show no alterations within the study site, a comparison with the earlier 1937 OS map (Figure 10) shows the length of the new sections are slightly shorter than the earlier building footprint.
- 7.27 Further alterations to the buildings were carried out post-war, with an aerial photograph from 9th March 1948 (Plate 10) showing the replacement of the roofing, and possibly more of the northernmost linear structure, with these building works continuing through to 1955, as indicated by the 13th April 1955 aerial photograph (Plate 11). Almost all of the roofs have been replaced, with the north-western corner of one of the buildings appearing to be almost entirely demolished, with the exception of its northern and western external walls. These alterations are depicted, in part, on the 1956 OS map (Figure 12), with this plan showing the

overall building footprint to be similar to that of the 1937 OS map, suggesting that additional building works have been carried out along the south-eastern extent of the structures. These building works appear to continue, with the 30th June 1961 aerial photograph (Plate 12) showing the replacement of the roof structure has now been completed.

- 7.28 Alterations appear to have continued within the study site throughout the late-20th century, with the replacement of many of the smaller structures within the north-western part of the study site, as well as the construction of new buildings within the property, as illustrated on the 1978 OS map (Figure 13). During this period, the railway sidings were also removed from within the site. Aerial images from c. 1983 (Stoves 2026), 1995 (not illustrated) and 2023 (Figure 14) depict these changes in more detail.

Assessment of Significance

- 7.29 It is thought that the study site was once the site of a wartime munitions factory; unfortunately, beyond the references by Stoves Limited, who occupied the site between 1925 – 2024, and a mention within a local history book (Blinkhorn 2004), no documents, photographs, newspaper articles, etc. were identified which support this.
- 7.30 Examination of historic photographs and maps have shown that the main building within the study site has undergone significant alterations since its construction between 1906-1925. Most notably, the entire roof has been changed, replacing the original, possible ‘Belfast truss’ curved roof with a taller, pitched roof structure. The recent site visit has indicated that internally the buildings have also been heavily altered, likely due to changes in manufacturing processes. However, it appears as though the external brick walling along the northern and southern elevations may be original to the building, though these walls have been altered with the insertion and closure of a number of different apertures (Plates 13-15). The survival of some historic fabric within the complex lends the site a low level of *historic interest* and *evidential value*.
- 7.31 Based on the available documentary and historical information, as well as the overall survival of historic fabric, it is considered that the study site contributes little towards the identified research priorities within the *North West Regional Research Framework*.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 This programme of historic research and assessment of the Former Glen Dimplex, Stoney Lane, Whiston, Merseyside details the development of the former Rainhill Stoves Works (a possible former munitions factory) and the contributions it made to the war effort, in order to provide an assessment of the significance of the site. This assessment also considers the potential for earlier below-ground remains to survive within the study site, namely a former 18th century house once situated on Cumber Lane, which was demolished ahead of the construction of the munitions factory.
- 8.2 Based on the results of geoenvironmental assessment, as well as examination of historic maps and photographs, it is considered that the initial groundworks associated with the construction of the factory complex, as well as later groundworks associated with the levelling of the site ahead of its resurfacing has resulted in significant truncation to the ground across the study site. It is therefore considered that there is the low potential for surviving below-ground remains of the former cottage complex to survive within the southern part of the study site, and it is further considered that there is the medium-high potential for any below-ground remains to be contaminated with residues from various the various manufacturing processes carried out within the study site.
- 8.3 It is thought that the study site was once the site of a wartime munitions factory; unfortunately, beyond the references by Stoves Limited, who occupied the site between 1925 – 2024, and a mention within a local history book (Blinkhorn 2004), no documents, photographs, newspaper articles, etc. were identified which support this.
- 8.4 Examination of historic photographs and maps have shown that the main building within the study site has undergone significant alterations since its construction between 1906-1925. Most notably, the entire roof has been changed, replacing the original, possible 'Belfast truss' curved roof with a taller, pitched roof structure. The recent site visit has indicated that internally, the buildings have also been heavily altered, likely due to changes in manufacturing processes. However, it appears as though the external brick walling along the northern and southern elevations may be original to the building, though these walls have been altered with the insertion and closure of a number of different apertures. The survival of some historic fabric within the complex lends the site a low level of *historic interest* and *evidential value*.
- 8.5 Based on the available documentary and historical information, as well as the overall survival of historic fabric, it is considered that the study site contributes little towards the identified research priorities within the *North West Regional Research Framework*.

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Historical Mapping

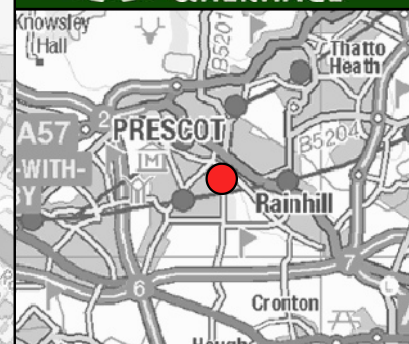
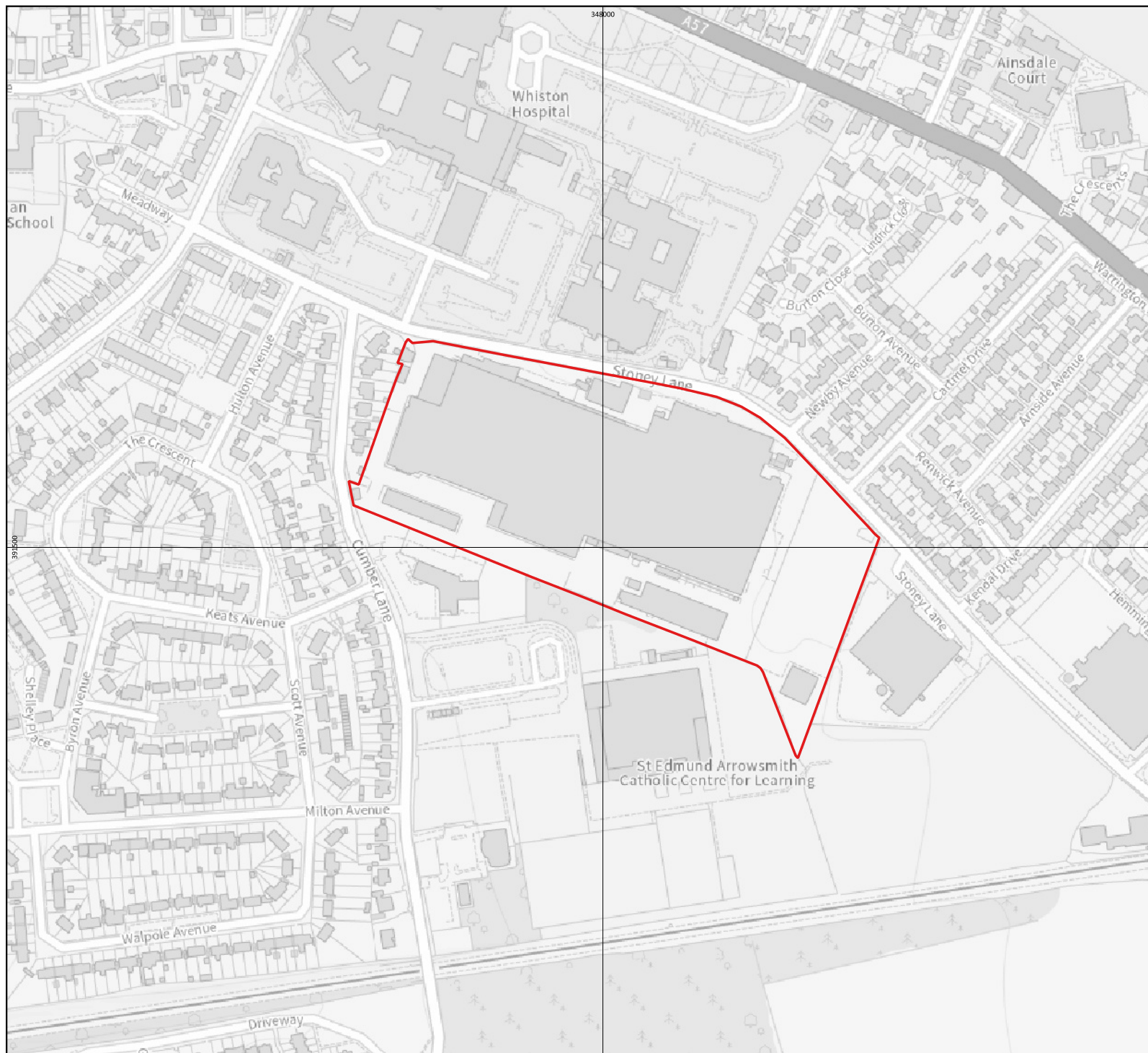
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FIGURES



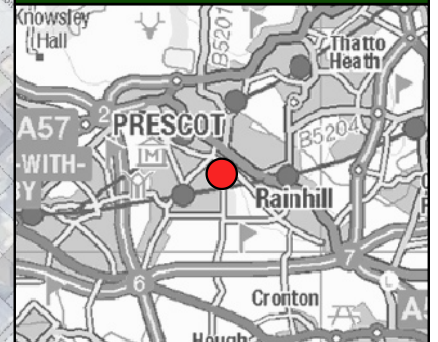
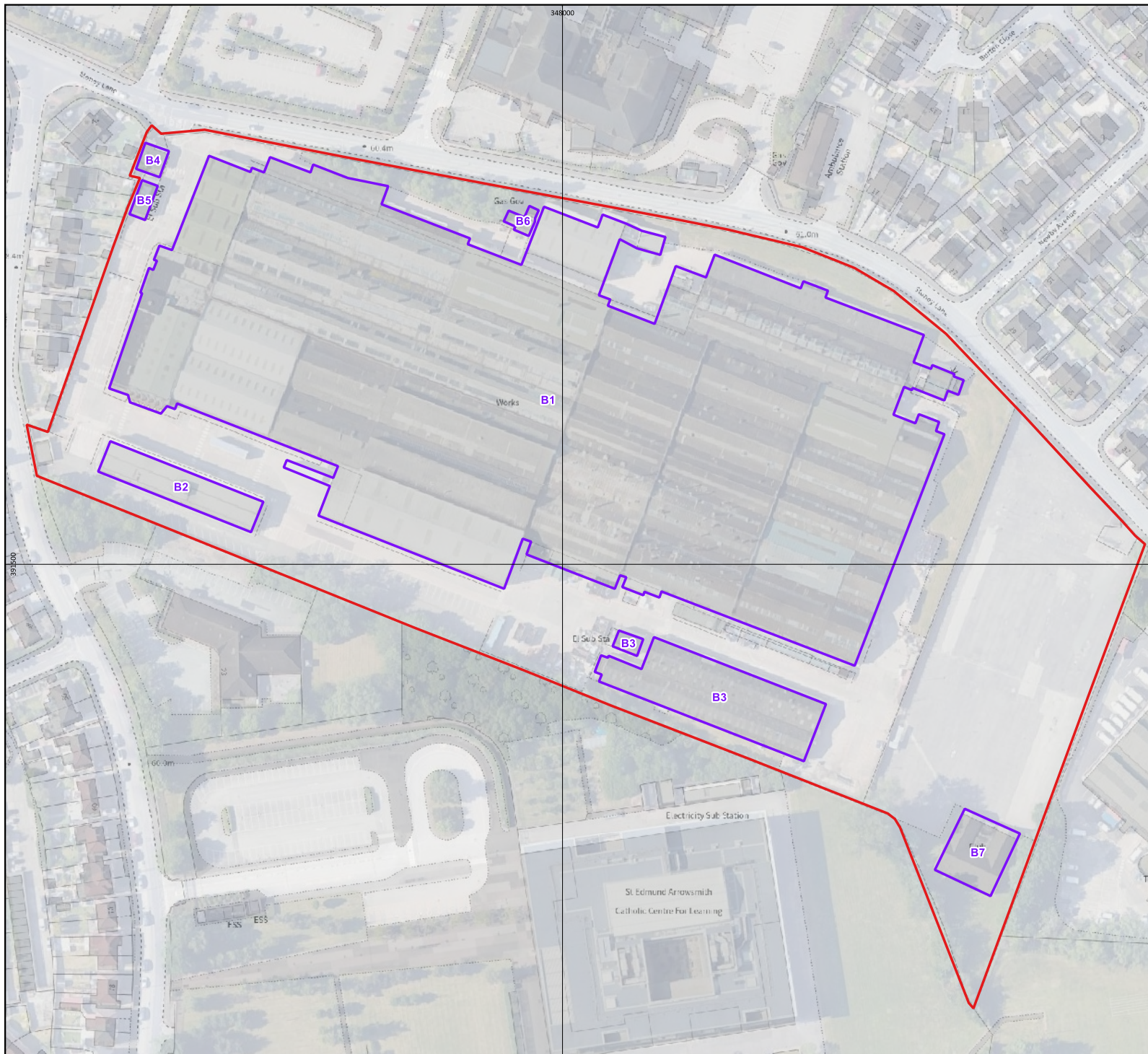
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Study Site

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Figure 1. Site Location



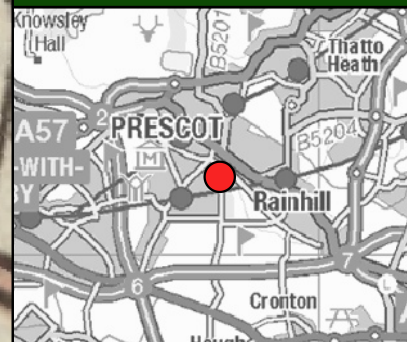
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Figure 2. The study site and building identifications



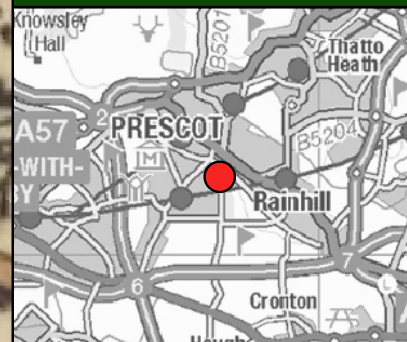
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 Approximate Study Site

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Figure 3. The study site overlaid on Yates' 1786 (top) and Greenwood's 1818 (bottom) Maps of Lancaster



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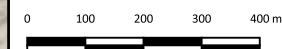
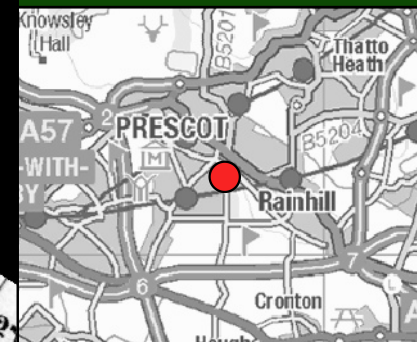
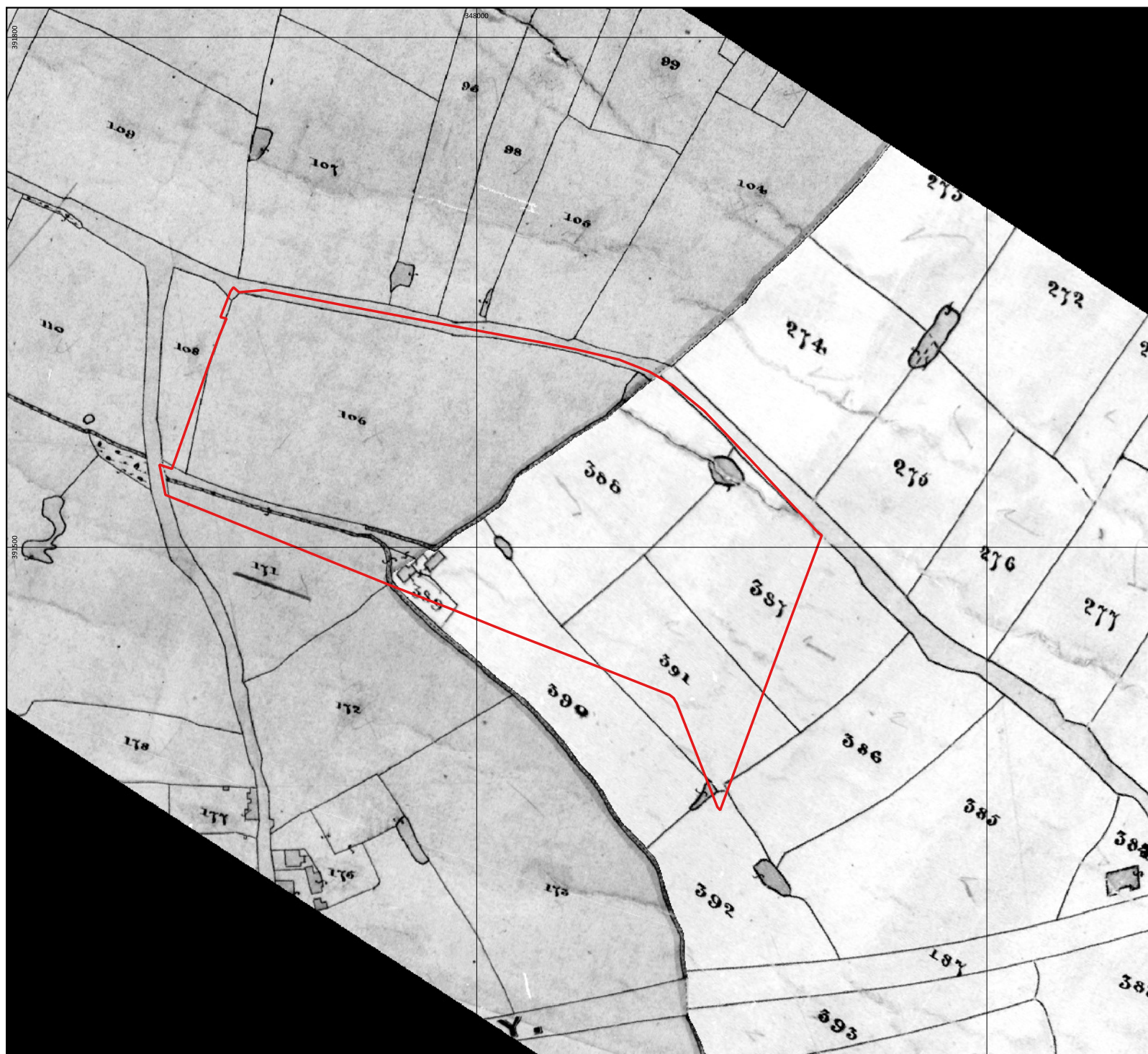


Figure 4. The study site overlaid on Hennet's 1830 Map of Lancaster (top) and the 1839-40 Ordnance Survey 1 inch map (bottom)



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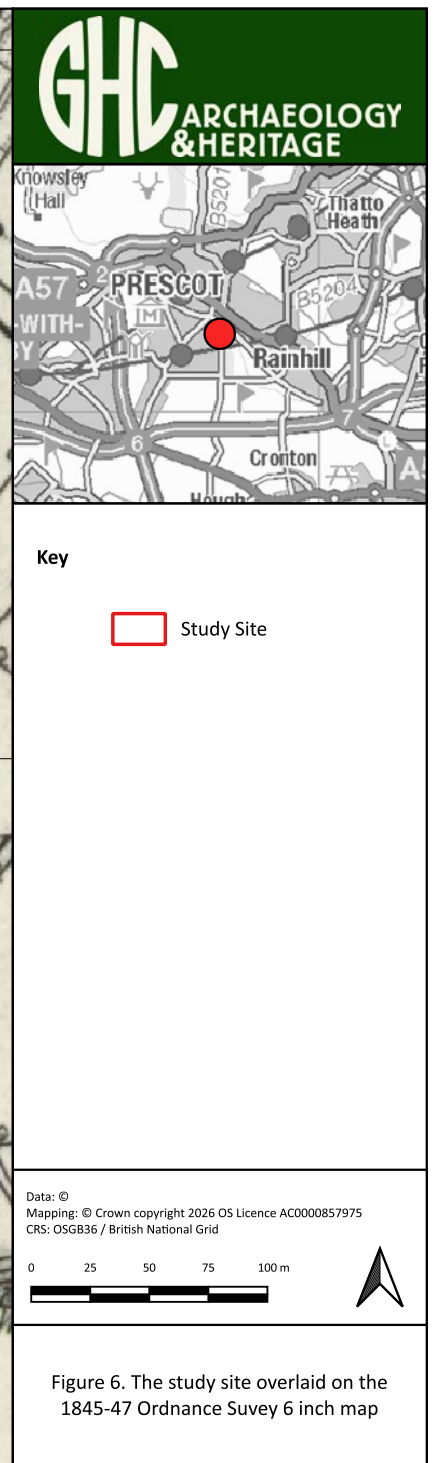
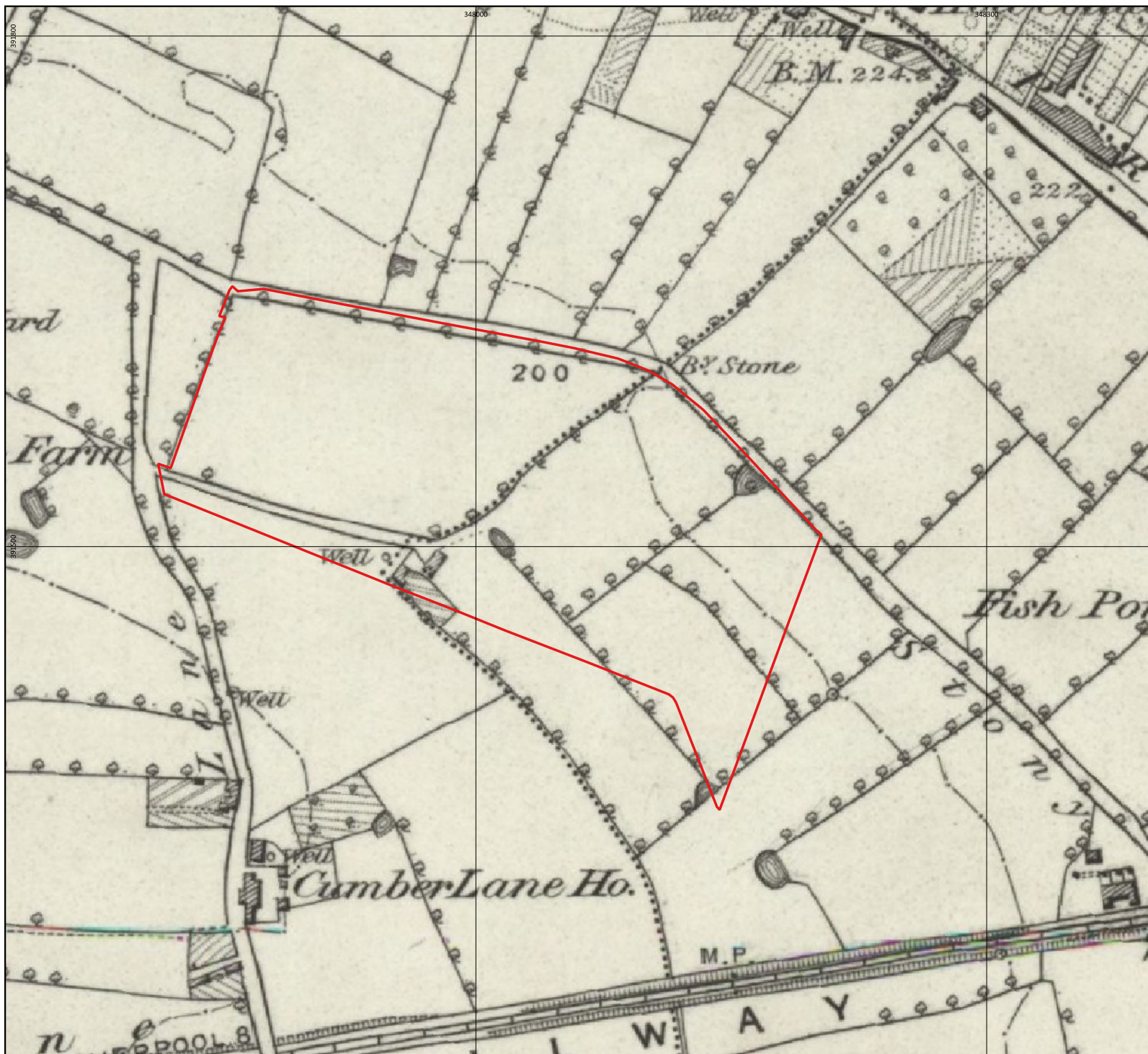


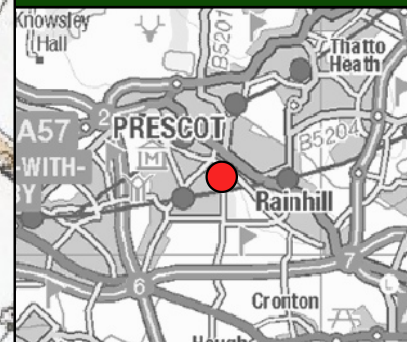
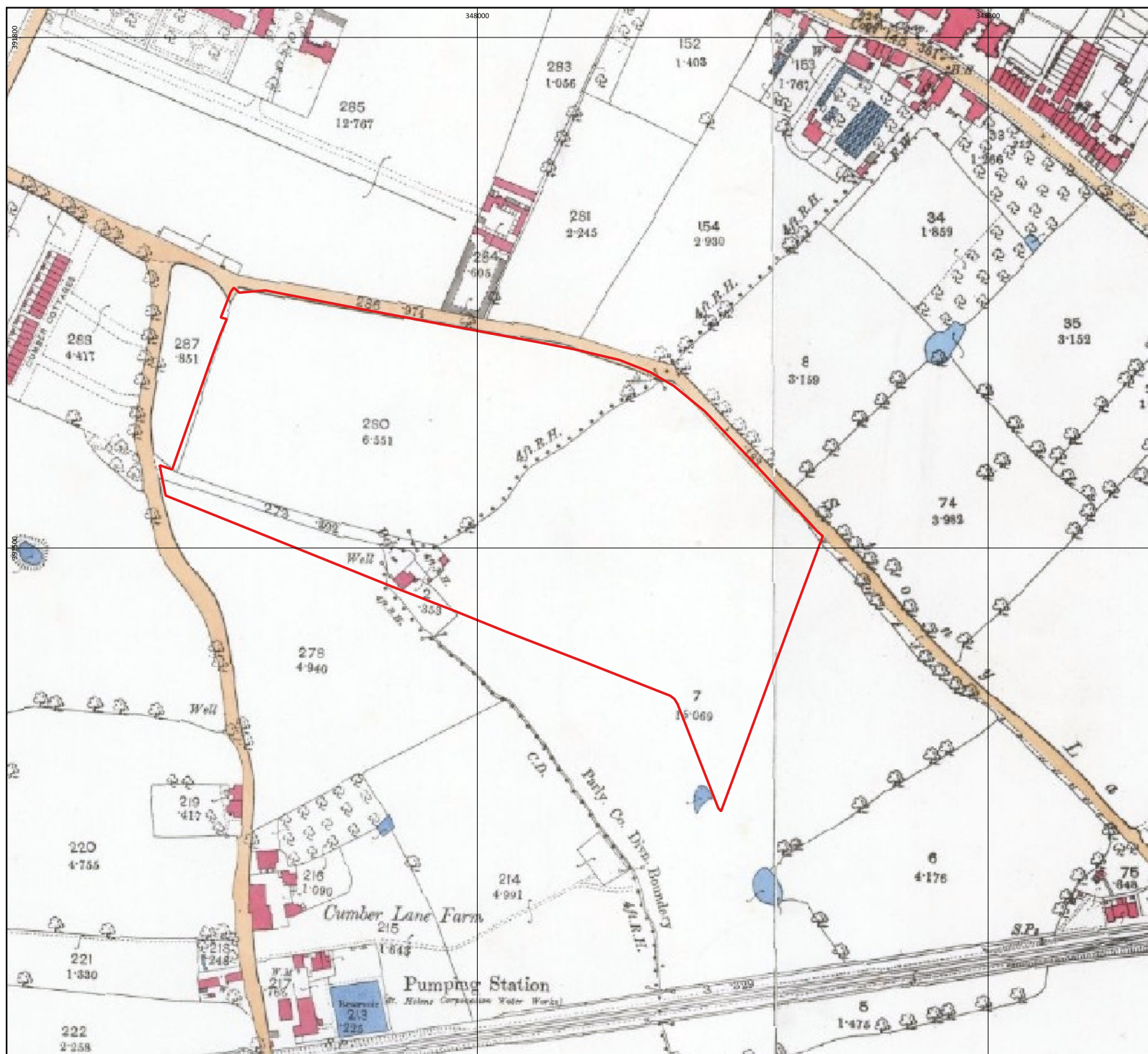
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Figure 5. The study site overlaid on the 1842 and 1843 Tithe Maps of Whiston and Rainhill





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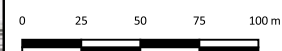
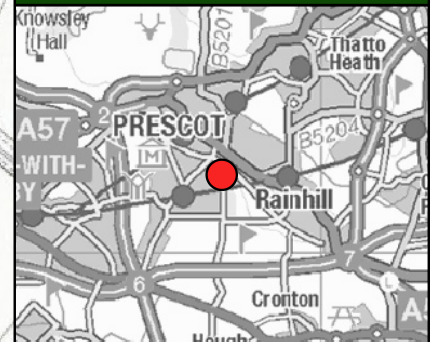
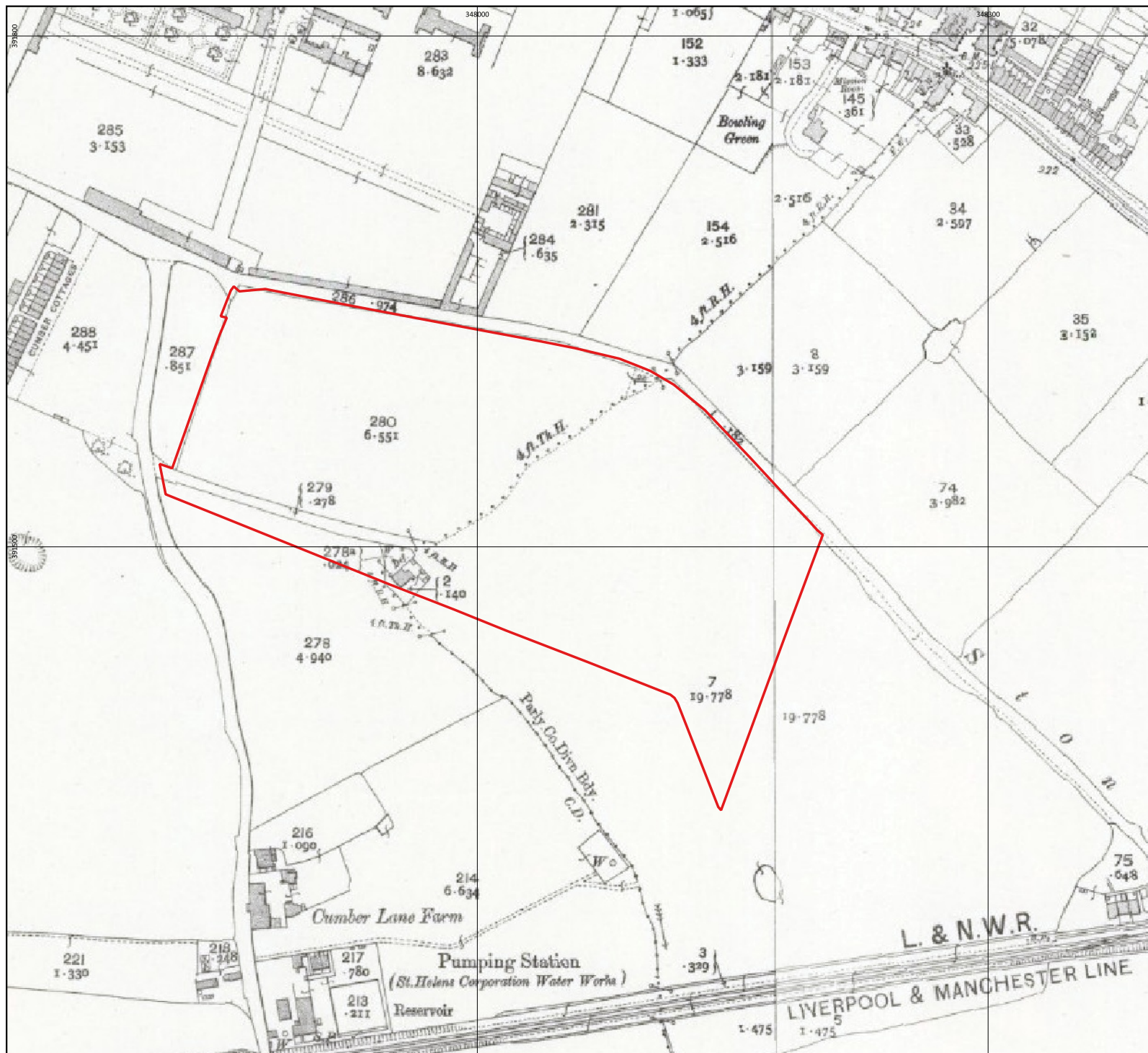


Figure 7. The study site overlaid on the 1891 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map



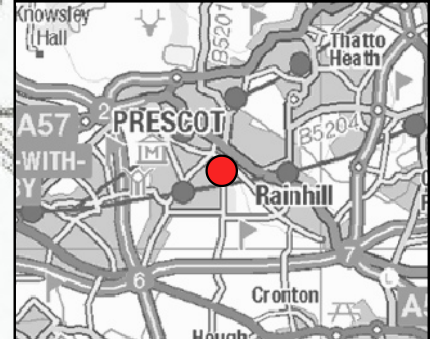
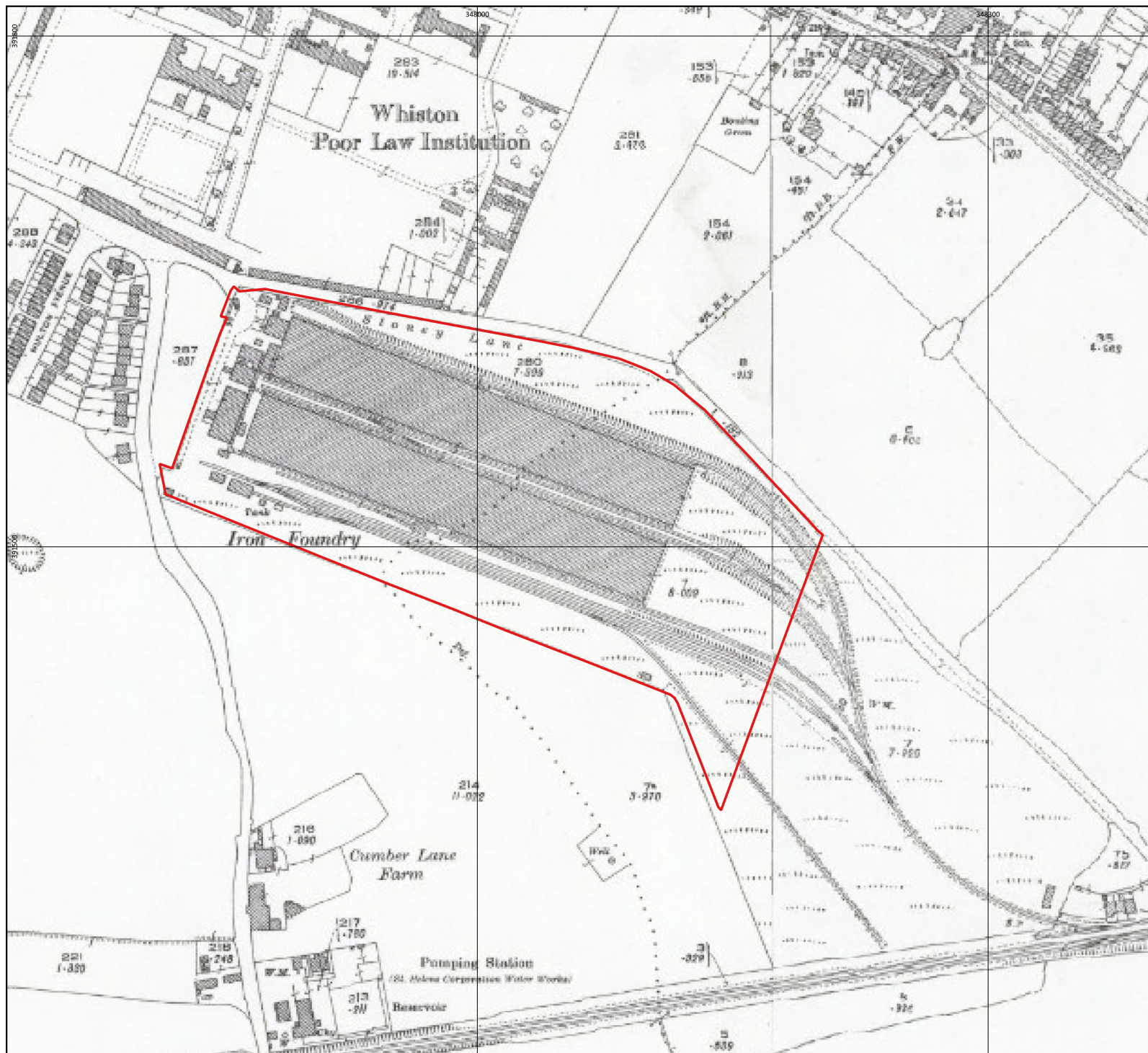
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Figure 8. The study site overlaid on the 1906 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map



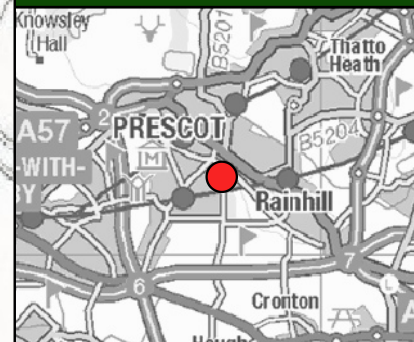
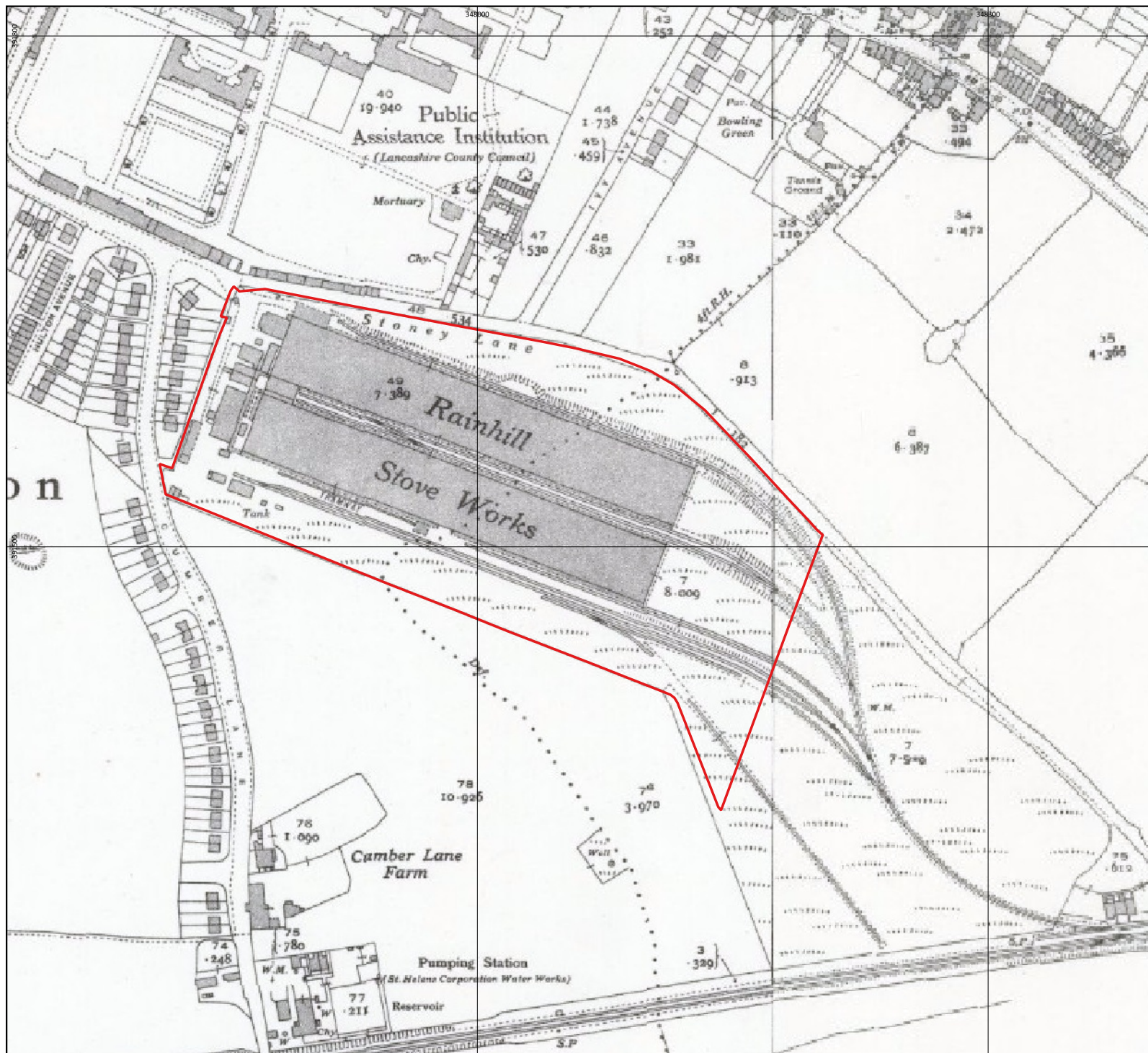
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Figure 9. The study site overlaid on the 1925 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map



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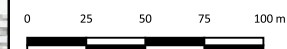
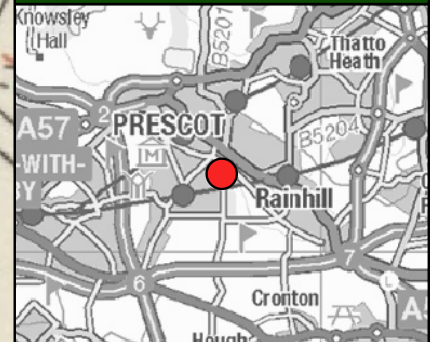
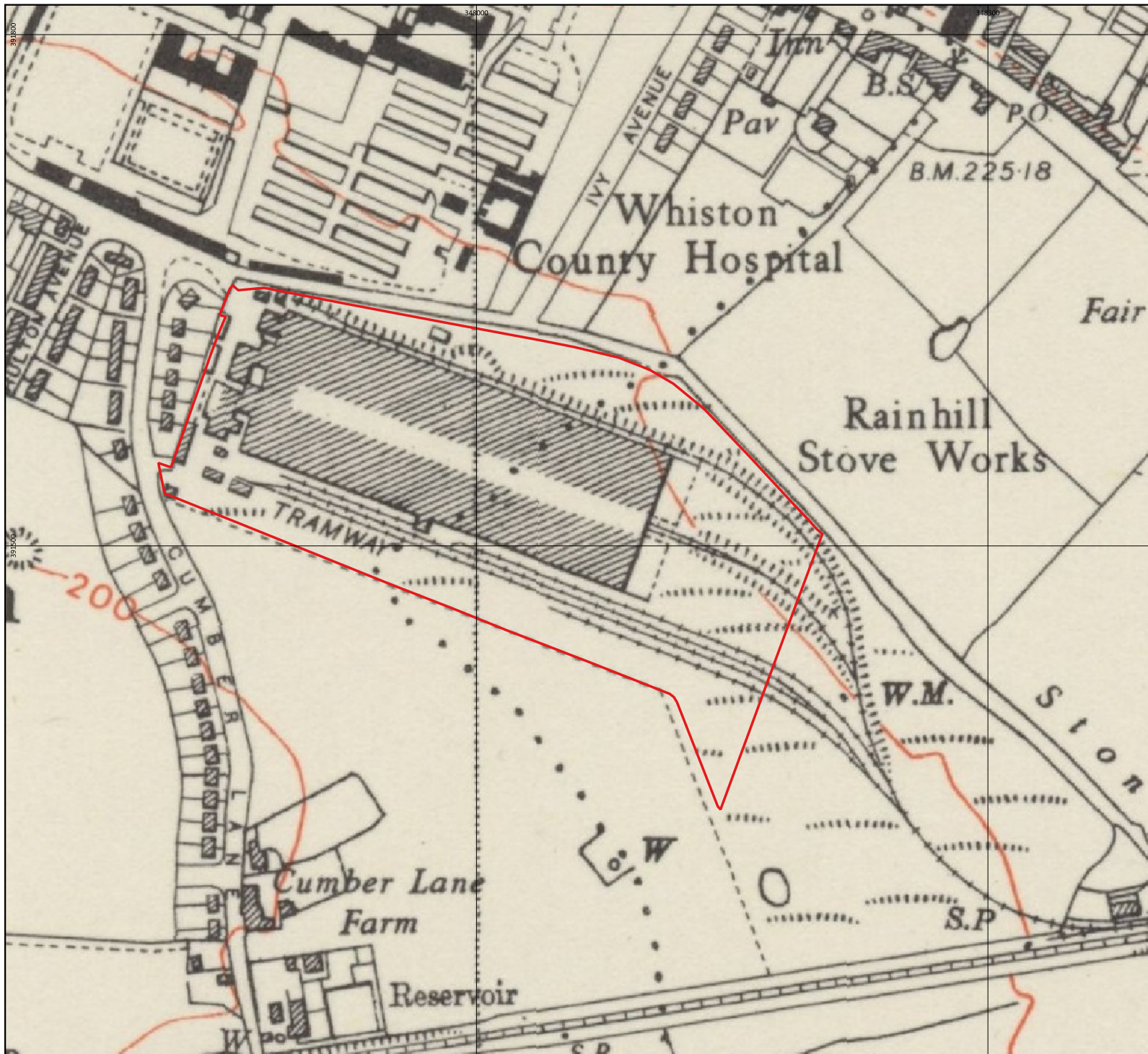


Figure 10. The study site overlaid on the 1937 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map



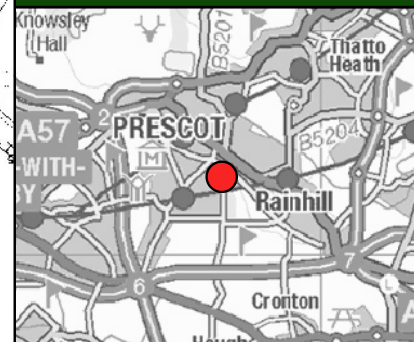
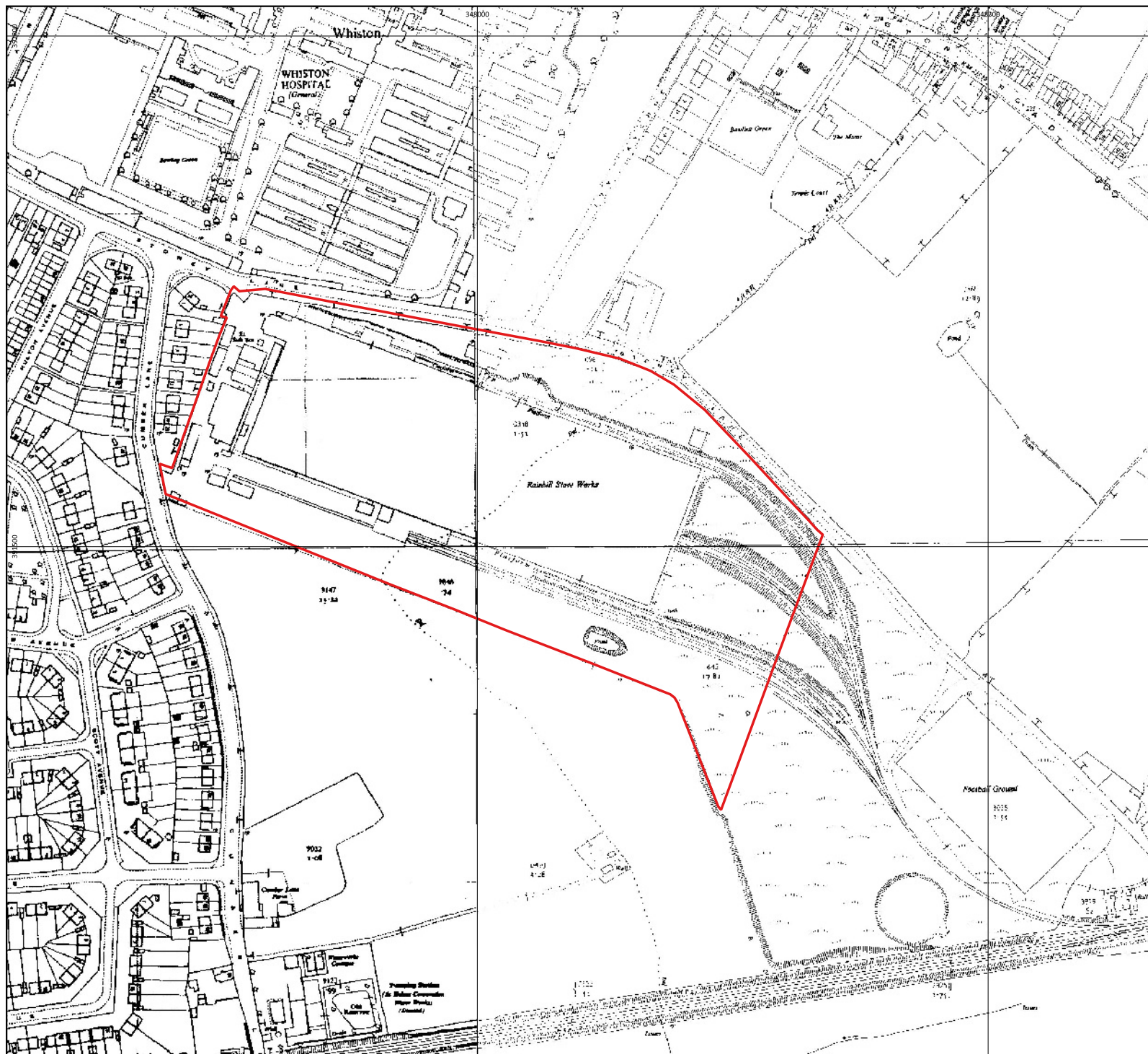
Key

Study Site

Data: ©
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Figure 11. The study site overlaid on the 1947 Ordnance Survey 6 inch map



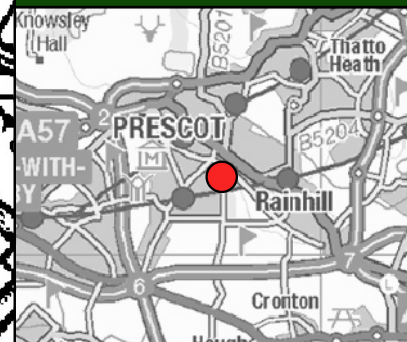
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Study Site

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Figure 12. The study site overlaid on the 1956 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map



Key

 Study Site

Data: ©
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CRS: OSG836 / British National Grid

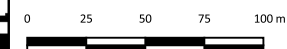
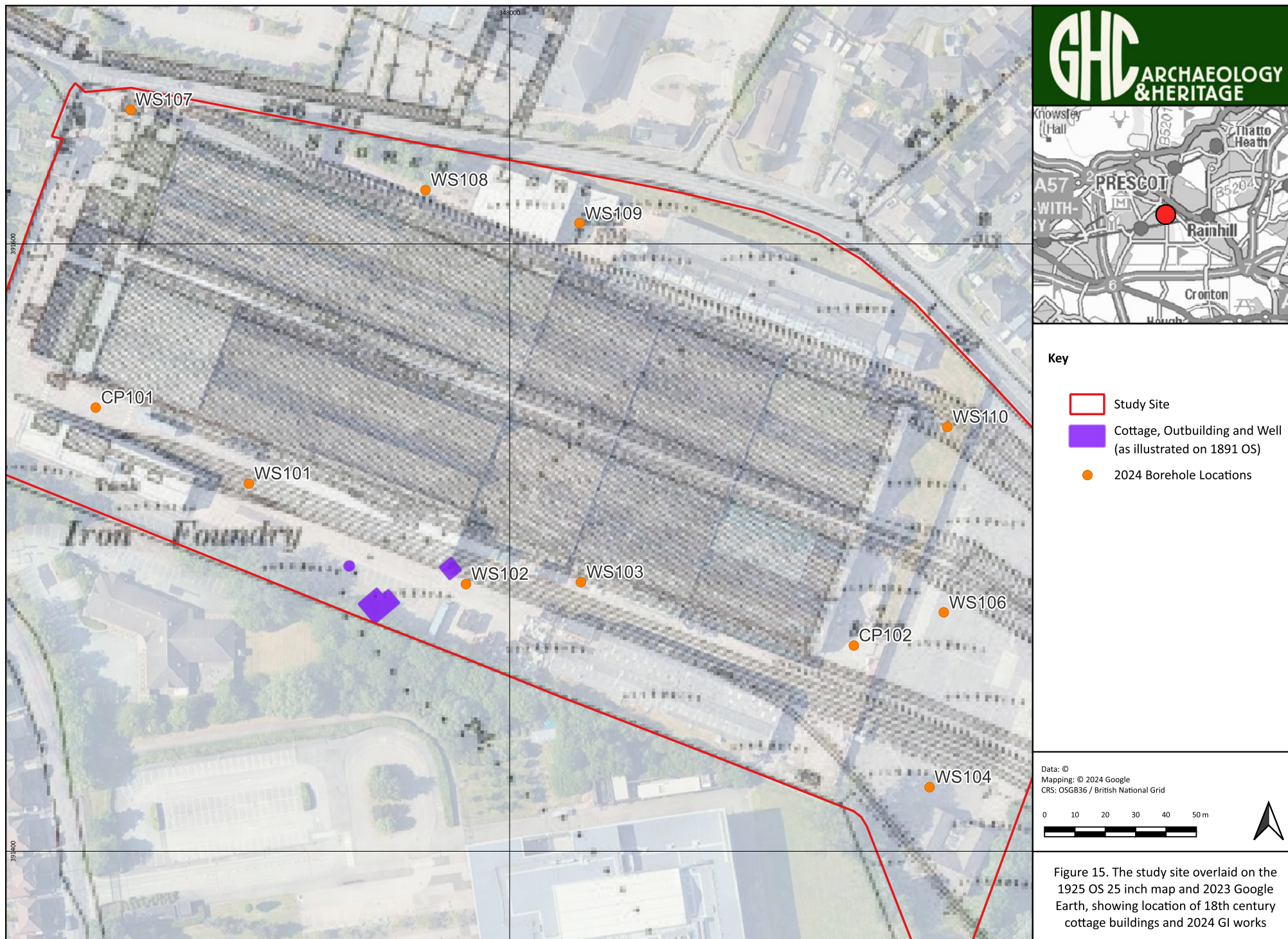


Figure 13. The study site overlaid on the 1978 Ordnance Survey 6 inch map



PLATES



Plate 1. General aerial view south—east across the study site © Urban Regen



Plate 2. General aerial view north-east across the study site © Urban Regen



Plate 3. General view north west across the study site © Urban Regen



Plate 4. General view south-west across the study site © Urban Regen



Plate 5. General view west/north-west across the study site © Urban Regen

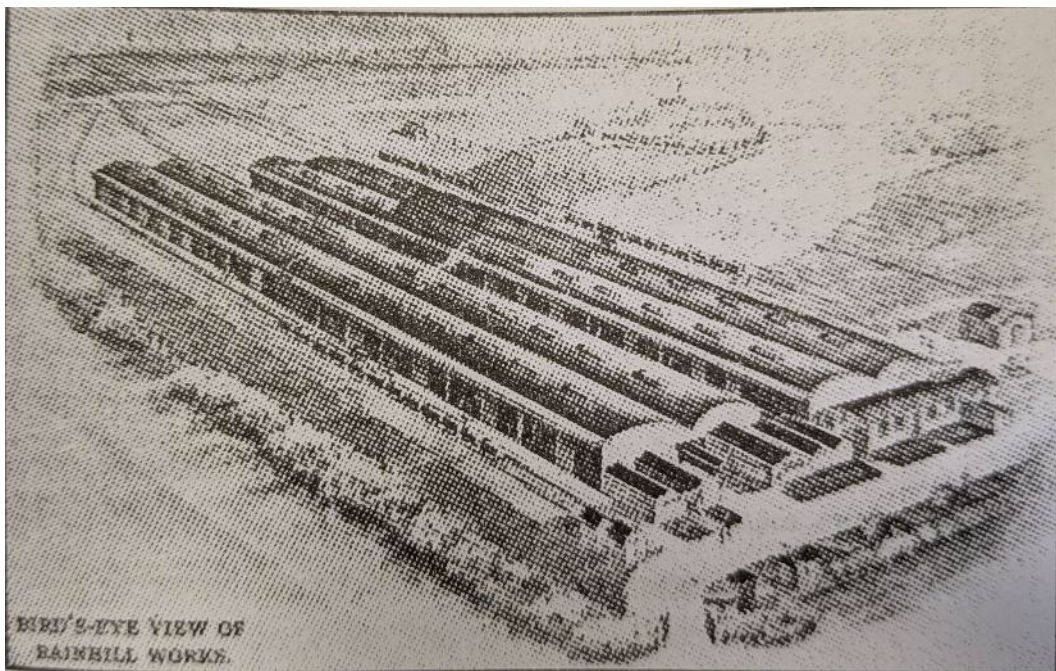


Plate 6. Drawing of the Rainhill Works, likely at the time of Stoves Limited's acquisition in 1925 © Stoves Limited



Plate 7. 1935 aerial photograph of the study site looking north-east



Plate 8. 1935 aerial photograph of the study site looking east



Plate 9. Extract from a 1945 aerial photograph of the study site. New building indicated in green © Historic England



Plate 10. Extract from a 1948 aerial photograph of the study site. New building indicated in green © Historic England



Plate 11. Extract from a 1955 aerial photograph of the study site. New building indicated in green © Historic England

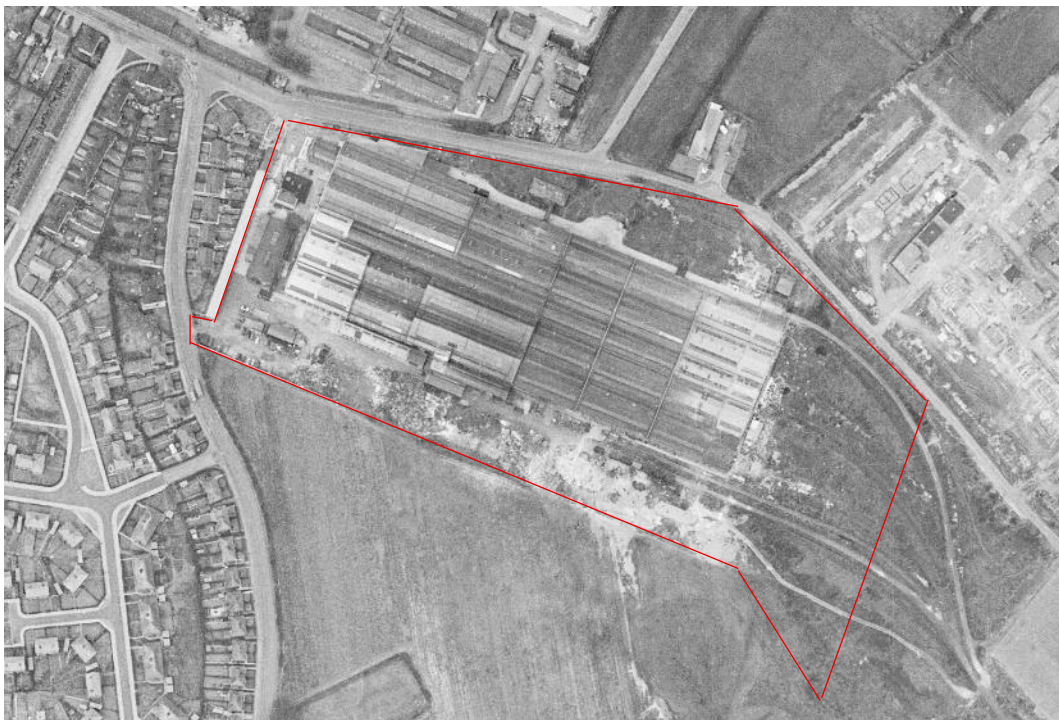


Plate 12. Plate 12. Extract from a 1961 aerial photograph of the study site © NCAP



Plate 13. View north/north-east of part of the southern elevation of Building B1



Plate 14. View west/south-west along the northern elevation of Building B1, along the elevated platform.



Plate 15. View within Building B1 of an exterior wall, highlighting a modern steel structure which has been erected within, supporting the pitched roof.

APPENDIX 1: CENSUS RECORDS

The following table provides details of census records for the study site between 1851 and 1911. It should be noted that records prior to 1861 did not provide any details on house names or numbers, so the census data has been determined based on associated tithe information.

Year	House/Street	Name	Relation to Head	Age	Occupation
1851	Cumber Lane	Thomas Poole	Head	70	Watch Maker Retired
		William Poole	Son	47	Watch Maker Retired
		Alice Holland	Servant	14	Servant
1861	Cumber Lane	Thomas Poole	Head	60	Farmer of 3 Acres
		Mary Poole	Wife	46	-
		Alice Poole	Daughter	21	Dress Maker
		Aaron Poole	Son	19	Watch & Clock ? Maker
		Thomas Poole	Son	16	Watch Frame Maker
		Mary Poole	Daughter	15	-
		Ann Poole	Daughter	10	Scholar
		Joseph Poole	Son	2	-
1871	Cumber Lane	Thomas Pool	Head	71	Mason & Farmer of 2 Acres
		Mary Pool	Wife	56	-
		Joseph Poole	Son	13	-
1881	Cumber Lane	Mary Poole	Head	66	Farmer 273 Acres
		Aaron Poole	Son	39	Watch Tool Maker
		Mary Poole	Daughter-in-Law	37	Watch Tool Maker Wife
		Alice Poole	Granddaughter	11	Scholar
		Isabel Poole	Granddaughter	9	Scholar
		Mary Poole	Granddaughter	7	Scholar
		Anna Poole	Granddaughter	6	Scholar

Year	House/Street	Name	Relation to Head	Age	Occupation
		Thomas Poole	Grandson	4	-
		Edward Poole	Grandson	3	-
		Aaron Poole	Grandson	1	-
1891	Cumber Lane	Mary Poole	Head	77	Farmer
		Mary Poole	Daughter-in-Law	44	Broach Maker 'Watch'
		Mary Poole	Granddaughter	17	-
		Anna Poole	Granddaughter	16	-
		Thomas Poole	Grandson	14	Broach Makers Apprentice
		Edward Poole	Grandson	12	Scholar
		Aaron Poole	Grandson	11	Scholar
		Austin Poole	Grandson	8	Scholar
		Francis Poole	Grandson	6	Scholar
1901	Cumber Lane Cottage	William Boydell	Head	60	Labourer, Local Board
		Ellen Boydell	Wife	58	-
		William Bracegirdle	Grandson	21	? ? Ground
1911	Cumber Lane	Margaret Haslin	Head	75	-
		Emily Nicholson	Daughter	31	-
		William Nicholson	Son-in-Law	29	Warehouseman, Todd Bros Iron & Steel, St Helens

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

**PROJECT DESIGN FOR
A PROGRAMME OF HISTORIC RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT**

**FORMER GLEN DIMPLEX
LAND SOUTH OF STONEY LANE
WHISTON, MERSEYSIDE**

**PREPARED ON BEHALF OF
TAYLOR WIMPEY**

March 2026

GHC Project Reference: GHC/1416/01
Planning Reference: 25/00672/FUL
Document Prepared by: Michelle Burpoe BA MA MCIfA

Revision	Reason for Update	Document Issued

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Figure 1: Site location

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Project Design (PD) has been prepared by GHC Archaeology & Heritage on behalf of Taylor Wimpey. It details the programme of historic research and assessment to be carried out of the Former Glen Dimplex, land south of Stoney Lane, Whiston, Merseyside (centred at NGR SJ 48018 91531; Figure 1). This PD is subject to approval by the Merseyside Environment Advisory Service (MEAS) Planning Archaeologist.

Planning Background

- 1.2 A planning application has been submitted to Knowsley Council (KC) for the construction of a residential development comprising the erection of up to 204 dwellings with associated parking, construction of vehicular and pedestrian accesses from Stoney Lane, pedestrian access from Cumber Lane, substation, SUDS balancing pond, public open space, landscaping, and associated infrastructure (Ref. 25/00672/FUL). Comments on the application have been provided by the MEAS Planning Archaeologist, which notes the following:

“As no DBA has been issued in support of this application, and as the current building on site has historical associations with the First World War, I advise that the applicant be required to undertake a programme of historical research and assessment of significance which investigates the development of the former munitions factory and the contribution it made to the war effort. In doing so the significance of the building on site should be considered and the potential for the archaeological remains of the 18th century house to be present. Such research should be secured by means of the following condition:

No development or demolition shall take place until the applicant or their agents, has secured the implementation and submission of a report on a programme of historic research and assessment. That programme of historic research and assessment should be undertaken in accordance with a Project Design which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority prior to works taking place. The Project Design must include the following five steps:

- *A programme and methodology of research and assessment.*
- *A programme for post-investigation reporting to include production of a final report of the significance of the historic building and archaeology.*
- *Provision for appropriate publication and dissemination of the history of the historic building.*
- *Provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation.*
- *Nomination of a competent person or persons / organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved Project Design.*

I advise that Section 7.8 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the Construction Environment Management Plan (dated 09.12.25) is not acceptable and should be revised based on the outcome of the programme of historic research and assessment, as detailed above. The revision of the CEMP can be secured by a suitably worded planning condition."

Site Location and Description

- 1.3 The study site covers approximately 5.8ha within the village of Whiston, c. 17km east of Liverpool city centre (centred at NGR SJ 48018 91531; Figure 1). The study site is bounded to the north by Stoney Lane with Whiston Hospital directly opposite, to the east by Elis Laundry Plant, to the south by St Edmund Arrowsmith Academy and to the west by residential properties located on Cumber Lane.
- 1.4 Currently, the study site is occupied by the former Glen Dimplex Home Appliances manufacturing factory, which closed in 2024, with the complex comprising a large factory structure with associated smaller buildings and infrastructure, including a gas governor to the north and two electricity substations to the west and south. A service road is present to the south and west, which connects to Stoney Lane in the north. A car park is situated within the eastern part of the site, with small areas of landscaping present north and east of the main structure, with semi-mature trees present along the northern and southern site boundaries.

Historical Background

- 1.5 Comments provided by the MEAS Planning Archaeologist notes the following about the study site:

"There are two non-designated heritage assets recorded on the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (MHER) within the proposed development: Rainhill Stoves Works, Stoney Lane, Whiston, a First World War munitions works then used as Stoves factory (MME20267) and Former site of a house, Cumber Lane, Whiston, an 18th century building (MME 6879)."

2 RESEARCH DESIGN

Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The overall aim of the programme of historic research and assessment is to document the development of the study site as well as assess the significance of the upstanding structures within the site, as well as the potential for survival of archaeological remains.
- 2.2 This will be realised through the achievement of the following objectives:
- To collate and assess existing information about the study site to produce an account of the building's origins, development and use;

- To produce an overall description of the exterior and interior of the buildings within the study site, including sketched drawings of its plans and elevations;
- To produce a photographic record of the exterior and interior of the building with all photographs descriptively captioned and cross referenced to a plan(s) clearly showing the viewing position, direction and photographic image reference.
- To assess, where possible from the available sources, the extent of any ground disturbances associated with any previous development and potential for survival of earlier structures within the study site;
- To produce a report detailing the significance of the buildings and the site's archaeological potential; and
- To produce a site archive for deposition with the Archaeology Data Service and to provide information for the Merseyside HER to ensure the long-term survival of the data.

Research Frameworks

- 2.3 The programme of historic research and assessment has the potential to contribute to research priorities identified in the *North West Regional Research Framework* (RF 2026). The following research questions have been provisionally identified and will look to be addressed, based on a high-level approach; however, these will be revised upon completion of the assessment.

Post-Medieval Period

- PM12: How can the study of the abandonment of farmsteads at this time help refine the regional settlement pattern?

Industrial and 20th Century Period

- Ind58: How have industrial buildings adapted to new technology and processes?
- Ind71: What is the character and scope of military archaeology during the 20th century?
- Ind74: How can we establish a typology of surviving post-1750 military remains?

- 2.4 The investigation will also take account of the national research programmes outlined in Historic England's *Research Agenda* (HE 2017).

Professional Standards and Guidance

- 2.5 This specification conforms to the requirements of Chapter 16: 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF; MHCLG 2024), as well as the standards laid down by Historic England (HE) (formerly English Heritage (EH)) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).
- 2.6 The historic research and assessment will be produced in line with CIfA's (2020) *Standard and guidance for historic desk-based assessment*, HE's *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning 2: Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment*

(HE 2015a), *Statements of Heritage Significance. Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (HE 2019), and *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance* (EH 2008) as well as the guidelines set out within MEAS's (2019) *Guidance on Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments*.

- 2.7 Building recording work will confirm to the guidelines outlined within ClfA's (2019) *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structure* and *Code of conduct: professional ethics in archaeology* (ClfA 2025) and HE's (2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings. A Guide to Good Recording Practice* and *Twentieth-Century Military Sites. Current approaches to their recording and conservation* (EH 2003).
- 2.8 All staff on the project will be fully briefed on the works required by this PD as well as the relevant standards and guidance quoted above.

3 METHODOLOGY

Scope of Works

- 3.1 In line with the comments provided by the MEAS Planning Archaeologist, the programme of historic research will investigate the development of the former Rainhill Stoves Works (former munitions factory) and the contribution it made to the war effort, as well as record the exterior and interior of the former Rainhill Stoves Works buildings to the equivalent of HE's (2016) *Understanding Historic Buildings. A Guide to Good Recording Practice* Level 1 building survey standard, in order to provide an assessment of the significance of the present buildings on site.
- 3.2 The assessment will also consider the potential for below-ground remains of the former 18th century house on Cumber Lane to be present within the study site through the examination of historic maps and plans, as well as the results of the 2024 *Phase 1 and II Geoenvironmental Site Assessment* carried out across the study site (e3p 2024).

Historic Research Methodology

- 3.3 The historic research will survey a number of sources of information, including published and archival sources of historical (documentary and cartographic), archaeological, geographical, topographical and environmental data relevant to the study site. The following information sources will be consulted at a minimum:
- The holdings of the Liverpool Record Office, Lancashire Archives, Knowsley Local History Archive, National Museums Liverpool, and the Imperial War Museum, together with on-line repositories for historical maps, plans and relevant documentary sources;
 - Historic England's Aerial Photo Explorer, for digitised photos from Historic England's Archive of aerial photograph collections;

- Trade directories for details of building ownership and use throughout the 20th-21st century.

Historic Building Recording Methodology

- 3.4 The structures will be examined prior to the commencement of the survey works in order to identify possible features relevant to original and later use. External walls and internal spaces will be examined in a systematic fashion, with written observations made during the survey works (e.g. phasing, detailing, functionality), to incorporate into the subsequent assessment report.
- 3.5 A photographic record, utilising high resolution digital photography of a minimum of 10 megapixels will be maintained during the course of the survey, which will confirm to industry best practice, as outlined in *Digital Image Capture and File Storage. Guidelines for Best Practice* (HE 2015b). A register will be maintained of the location, subject and direction of view of all photographs taken. The photographic record will cover the following as a minimum:
- A general view of the area of the buildings within the study site within their wider setting or landscape;
 - External appearance of the buildings, including all elevations of the structures, and give an overall impression of their size and shape. Detailed views of structural or decorative external features will be taken, where relevant;
 - Photographs of the interior of the building, including principal rooms and circulation areas; and
 - Photographs of any machinery or other plant, or evidence of their former existence, as well as photographs of any dates or other inscriptions, any signage, makers' plates or graffiti which contribute to the understanding of the structures.
- 3.6 The building drawn record will include the following as a minimum:
- Site location plan at a suitable scale; and
 - Plans and elevation drawings that depict the location and direction of the photographs/images included within the assessment.

Changes to the Project Design

- 3.7 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval from the MEAS Principal Archaeologist.

4 REPORTING, ARCHIVING AND PUBLICATION

Reporting

- 4.1 Following the completion of the historic research and building recording, an assessment report will be produced which, at a minimum, will including the following information:

- A title page or cover sheet giving key project details;
 - A brief non-technical summary of the work undertaken and the results obtained;
 - Acknowledgements;
 - Introduction including circumstances of project (i.e. planning background, historic background, outline of the nature of the work, full dates of work, stakeholders etc.);
 - Site details, including location, HER event number, OASIS reference, grid reference, place of deposition of the archive, museum accession number;
 - Legible site location plan, indicating site north and based on current Ordnance Survey data, produced at the most appropriate scale. This must clearly delineate the site boundary and effectively and clearly anchor the site within its surroundings;
 - Project aims and objectives including reference to appropriate regional and national research frameworks;
 - A section detailing the historical background of the site, including;
 - Documentary and cartographic evidence;
 - Methodology including recording and surveying;
 - Site narrative, including the brief architectural description of the buildings, as well as a statement of significance;
 - Discussion/conclusions;
 - Bibliography;
 - Illustrative material including maps, plans, elevation drawings, sections, appropriate detail drawings and a key to any conventions used;
 - Photographs of the building's;
 - Tabular quantification of digital archive components, including register of photographs taken;
 - Copies of the PD as an appendix; and
 - Copies of the relevant OASIS data collection forms.
- 4.2 Unless otherwise agreed, a draft copy of the assessment report will be supplied to the MEAS Planning Archaeologist for comment within six weeks of the completion of the on-site works.
- 4.3 Following approval of the draft report, a digital copy in a PDF/A format will be supplied to the Merseyside HER. A digital copy of the report will also be supplied to other bodies as appropriate.
- 4.4 Upon approval of the report by the MEAS Planning Archaeologist, an OASIS online form will be completed for the project, and a copy of this form will be included as an appendix in the final report. A .pdf version of the final report will be uploaded to OASIS for deposition with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

Archiving

- 4.5 A digital archive will be created in full accordance with *Dig Digital Toolkit* (HE *et al.* 2019) and in accordance with the ADS (2026) guidance 'Data management & sharing plans'. The data comprising the digital archive will comply with the guidance *MIDAS Heritage: the UK Historic Environment Data Standard* (EH 2012).
- 4.6 The digital archive will comprise copies of all photographs, in .TIFF format, with an accompanying register detailing location, subject and direction of view of all photographs taken, as detailed in section 3 above, in addition to a digital, .PDF format, copy of the final report.
- 4.7 It is anticipated that the digital archive will be deposited with the ADS. Any spatial data generated will also be submitted to the Merseyside HER in a suitable GIS format. It is anticipated that these repositories will have their own in-house data management plans to allow for the long-term preservation of the digital archive components.

Publication

- 4.8 A short summary of the assessment will be submitted to an appropriate publication (e.g. *Post Medieval Archaeology/Industrial Archaeology Review*). Where wider dissemination is appropriate and the significance of the results warrant, a full copy of the report in an appropriate format shall be submitted for publication in relevant academic journals. The final form of the publication will be agreed with the MEAS Planning Archaeologist and Client.

5 TIMETABLE & PERSONNEL

- 5.1 Details of the on-site survey works are yet to be confirmed.
- 5.2 Emily Mercer MCIfA, Head of Heritage at GHC Archaeology & Heritage, will be in overall charge of the project and will be supported by other staff members as required. GHC Archaeology & Heritage will monitor the work on behalf of the Client.

6 MONITORING

- 6.1 The aims of monitoring are to ensure that the works are undertaken to the satisfaction of the MEAS Planning Archaeologist.
- 6.2 The MEAS Planning Archaeologist will be monitoring the programme of works on behalf of KC. They will be given adequate notice of when work is due to commence and will be free to visit the site by prior arrangement with GHC Archaeology & Heritage. The MEAS Planning Archaeologist will monitor implementation of the programme of works and evaluate the work being undertaken on site against the methodology detailed in this PD.
- 6.3 The MEAS Planning Archaeologist will also be responsible for considering any changes to the specification of works; any such alterations should be agreed in writing with the relevant parties prior to commencement of on-site works, or at the earliest available opportunity.

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1 All works will be undertaken in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and all applicable regulations and Codes of Practice. All staff will undertake their operations in accordance with safe working practices and will be CSCS certified *Note: From 1st May 2024, archaeologists will no longer be able to apply for CSCS cards. All existing cards obtained prior to that date will remain valid, but archaeologists are no longer required to carry the card.*
- 7.2 All fieldwork staff will wear suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) where required, which may include hi-visibility coats/vests, hard hats, safety boots and gloves, as well as safety glasses.

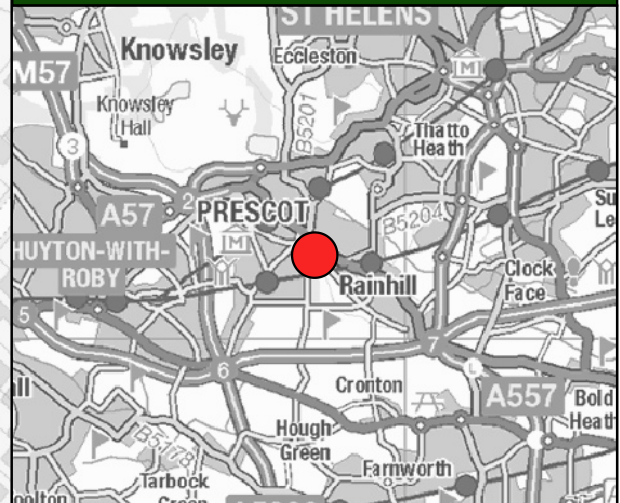
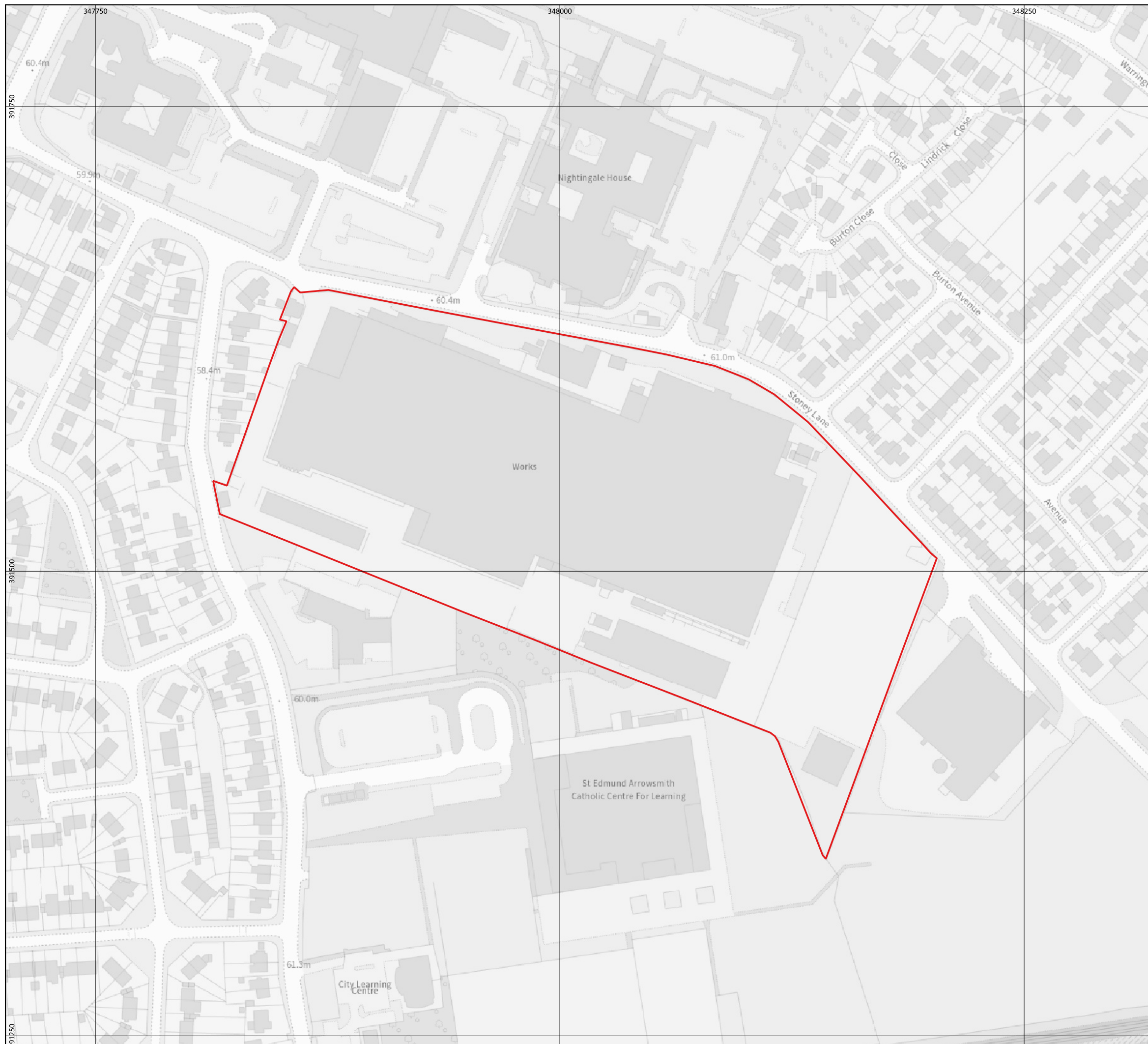
8 COPYRIGHT AND PUBLICITY

- 8.1 Copyright of the documentation will be the subject of additional licences in favour of the Client, GHC Archaeology & Heritage, and the MEAS Principal Archaeologist to use such documentation for their statutory and educational functions, and to provide copies to third parties as required.
- 8.2 Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR 2004), information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'.
- 8.3 It is recognised that the project may identify remains which are of interest to the public and these may be publicised through appropriate media. The GHC Archaeology & Heritage will not issue any information on the work through media, internet or social media without prior agreement and approval with the Client.
- 8.4 Care will be taken to ensure that any publicity does not compromise the security of the study site. Any approaches by the press to GHC Archaeology & Heritage will be referred to the Client in the first instance.

9 REFERENCES

- ADS, 2025. 'Data management & sharing plans', available online at: <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/help-guidance/how-to-prepare-data/data-management-sharing-plans/> [accessed 26th March 2026].
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FIGURES



Key

 Study Site

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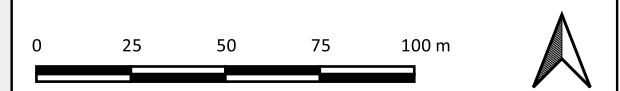


Figure 1. The study site



