

Enhanced Project Design

Tack Lea Works, Greenbooth Road, Norden, Rochdale

Stonebond Properties (Manchester) Limited

March 2024



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Issue Sheet

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Enhanced Project Design:

Tack Lea Works, Greenbooth Road, Norden, Rochdale

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1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This enhanced Project Design (PD) has been prepared by Lanpro on behalf of Stonebond Properties (Manchester) Limited (hereafter 'the client') and details the methodology for undertaking a scheme of archaeological evaluation at the site formerly of Tack Lea Works and Shepherd Mill, Greenbooth Road, Norden, Rochdale (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 This enhanced PD and proposed archaeological work, agreed in consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), will comprise a programme of trial trenching. This fieldwork aims to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains and their nature, date, extent, and significance. The results will be used to inform decisions on the need for any further archaeological mitigation investigation and, should this be required, the scope of any additional excavation will be detailed in a further PD.

2 Site Description

- 2.1.1 The study site comprises approximately 2.77ha of demolished mill buildings, areas of hardstanding, roads and woodland to the north of Greenbooth Road and Edenfield Road, Norden which is approximately 4km to the north-west of Rochdale town centre (centred at NGR SD 385787 414709; Figure 1). The study site is bounded to the north by woodland, to the east by residential development, to the south and west by Edenfield Road and Greenbooth Road.
- 2.1.2 The study site slopes from north to south from c. 190m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to c.165m aOD. The area of the former mills is relatively flat at c.165m aOD.
- 2.1.3 The recorded bedrock geology within the study site is classified as 'Rough Rock - Sandstone' of the Rossendale Formation. This is overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian Till (BGS 2024). The overlying soils are slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils (Cranfield University 2024).

3 Planning Background

- 3.1.1 An outline planning application was submitted September 2020 (ref. 20/01170/OUT) to Rochdale Borough Council for 49 affordable dwellings following demolition of existing buildings and new access from Edenfield Road at 'Site Formerly of Tack Lea Works and Shepperd Mill, Greenbooth Road, Norden Rochdale'. The application was granted on 3rd July 2023 subject to 26 conditions, Condition 8 outlines the requirements for archaeological works which are the subject of this PD:

No development (other than the clearance of trees or shrubs) shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been secured and which has been prepared by the appointed archaeological contractor and submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation has been completed in accordance with the approved WSI. The WSI shall cover the following:

a) A phased programme and methodology of site investigation and recording to include:

- targeted field evaluation trenching*
- (depending upon the evaluation results) a strip map and record exercise*
- targeted open area excavation*

b) A programme for post investigation assessment to include:

- analysis of the site investigation records and finds*

- production of a final report on the significance of the archaeological and historical interest represented.

c) Provision for publication and dissemination of the analysis and report on the site investigation.

d) Provision for archive deposition of the report, finds and records of the site investigation.

- 3.1.2 Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), were consulted by Rochdale Borough Council and provided advice on archaeological matters on 8th March 2021 and 2nd August 2023. Their advice on both occasions stated that, contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 189 in 2021, paragraph 194 in 2023 and currently paragraph 200) an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) has not been submitted with the application, nor has the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GMHER) been consulted. They stated that the lack of an archaeological DBA means that the archaeological interests are undefined. GMAAS recommended a suitably worded planning condition including an archaeological DBA and Level 1 building photographic survey, followed by targeted evaluation trenching.
- 3.1.3 On this basis, Lanpro has consulted GMAAS regarding their recommendations and it was agreed that as all of the upstanding structures have been demolished, the Level 1 building photographic survey should be omitted, and that as recommendations for an archaeological DBA are not contained within the planning condition in the outline planning permission, an enhanced PD should be produced (this document) to inform the programme of archaeological works.
- 3.1.4 This PD provides a detailed methodology for undertaking the programme of archaeological trial trenching across the proposed development site. This is aimed at identifying, recording and sampling any archaeological features that may be present, and assessing the need for further mitigation excavation if required.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 Background overview

- 4.1.1 As already outlined, no archaeological DBA was submitted with the planning application. A Geoenvironmental Risk Assessment and Remediation Strategy (LK Group 2020) contains some historical mapping and photographs of the buildings prior to demolition and a Phase II Geoenvironmental Site Assessment (e3p 2023) contains a brief site history. The following historical background is a summary of the findings of these reports along with a GMHER search of 1km radius around the study site (Fig 1) and more detailed historic map progression (Figs 2 to 12).
- 4.1.2 There is a single GMHER 'monument' record within the study site, Woodhouse Mills (GMHER 5203.1.0) and a further 28 'monument' records within the 1km search area, which include four buildings, 10 listed buildings, 12 'monuments' and two 'place' records. There is a single GMHER 'event' record within the 1km search area and none within the study site.
- 4.1.3 There are no records of prehistoric, Roman or early medieval activity within the study site or search area. Given this lack of evidence and the former use of the study site, the potential for surviving archaeological remains of these periods within the study site is very low.
- 4.1.4 There are no records of medieval activity within the study site and six records of activity originating in the medieval period within the 1km search area. These are Bank House Farmhouse farm and farmstead (GMHER 2442.1.0), Sheffield Settlement (GMHER 2450.2.0), Woltsenholme Hall (GMHER 2745.1.0), Greenbooth Mill (GMHER 2747.1.0) and Bagslate Moor Settlement (GMHER 5208.1.0), Farm at Woodhouse – East cottage and attached Cottages

(GMHER 5437.1.0). Given the lack of evidence and the former use of the study site, the potential for surviving archaeological remains of this period within the study site is very low.

- 4.1.5 The borough of Rochdale includes several industrial towns and villages including Norden, within which the study site is situated. From the later medieval period until the 19th century, Rochdale was a centre for woollen manufacturing and several water powered fulling mills are known from the 17th century (UMAU 2001). By the mid-19th century, Rochdale manufactured 80% of England's flannel production (UMAU 2001).
- 4.1.6 Wool predominated in the area, with very few cotton mills until the mid-19th century when cotton overtook wool in importance. Mills and allied industries including bleaching and dying grew and there are one mill site within the study site Woodhouse Mills (GMHER 5203.1.0) and five mill sites, Rainshaw Mill (GMHER 5200.1.0), Baitings Mill (GMHER 5201.1.0), Martins Mill (GMHER 5205.1.0), Coal Bank Mill (GMHER 11000.1.0) and Black Pots Mill (GMHER 11046.1.0), within the 1km study area.
- 4.1.7 Woodhouse Mills is listed in Worrall's Cotton Spinners Directory 1891 as Woodhouse Mills, occupied by Kelsall and Kemp of Butts Mill and Baillie Street Mill, Rochdale and Woodhouse Mills, Norden (Grace's Guide 2024). The company was registered on 13th March 1890, to acquire the business of flannel manufacturers of the firm of the same name. They are listed in the 1891 directory as Woollen manufactures and as bleachers and dyers (Grace's Guide 2024).
- 4.1.8 A 2006 article in the Manchester Evening News (Manchester Evening News 2006) outlines the history of Kelsall and Kemp with Henry Kelsall (born in Mottram in 1874) setting up business in Rochdale in 1815, buying wool, putting it out for spinning and weaving and selling the cloth. The firm bought their first mill in 1835 along with three other town centre mills until, in 1875, they bought Woodhouse Mill. The bought the mill despite the price of wool dropping between 1860 and 1870 and the trade diminishing along with the death of Henry Kelsall in 1869. Woodhouse Mill was a former cotton bleaching mill that the firm used as a finishing mill and a dyehouse (Manchester Evening News 2006).
- 4.1.9 After the deaths of several partners including George Tawke Kemp (Henry' son in-law), Robert Slack, the grandson of Henry Kelsall, along with his Aunt Emily Lydia Kemp, took charge of the business. In 1890, a private company, Kelsall and Kemp Ltd was formed. The firm expanded rapidly in the years prior to the First World War and during the war supplied cloth to the British and French governments. The firm underwent several trial and tribulations but developed and grew during the 20th century including setting up operations in Tasmania, West Wales and Australia. In 1968 the firm merged with West Riding Worsted and Wollen Mills and control of the company moved out of Rochdale with premises gradually closed until 1978 when Crawford Mills was shut, the last remaining piece of the Kelsall and Kemp empire (Manchester Evening News 2006).
- 4.1.10 Woodhouse Mills was included in the Buildings at Risk (BAR) assessment undertaken by the University of Salford in 2017 (University of Salford 2017). It was at that time, included on the list of extant, vacant/under-used mills (total floor space 346sqm with vacant floor space 100 sqm). It was also assessed to be in fair condition and at risk. The mill was visited on 15th March 2017 and the BAR sheet for the mill describes the complex thus:

Marked on the map (1) as a bleach works and as a dye works on map (2). The main building is of 3 storeys and stone built, with 16x3 bays. Hipped slate roof and corner pilasters. Rectangular windows with stone lintels and sills. This building is surrounded by various late C19 and C20 buildings, most notably a long stone built gable roofed shed. There are some stone built terraced houses nearby, poss. worker's housing. There are 2 separate brick chimneys, the first is late C19/early C20, circular and brick built and the other is early to mid C19, square and brick built,

otherwise no power features survive. Now all the above buildings have been divided up into small individual units occupied by various tenants (3). <HER Information>

Most of this complex has been demolished and all that remains is one original late 19th century single storey, stone building fronting Greenbooth Street and a single storey stone building, possibly an office block. All others are later 20th century in date. At least three planning applications have been found relating to this former complex, with the aim to redevelop for residential purposes however the most recent one was in 2010 (10/D53056) and the land remains undeveloped. Below ground archaeological potential- high <RR>

- 4.1.11 Woodhouse Mills is shown on the 1845 Township of Spotland map as 'Woodhouse Lane Mill' occupies the western half of the study site along with reservoir and other features (Figure 2). Buildings on the site are labelled '487', being owned by a 'Mr Milne' with Samuel Knight as the Lessee. The adjacent plot '488' is the same, as are the adjacent plots to the north of the road. The following maps through 1851 (Figure 3), 1890 (Figure 4), 1910-1925 (Figure 5), 1929 (Figure 6), 1962 (Figure 7), 1979 (Figure 8), and 1984 (Figure 9) illustrate the development and expansion of the complex to its peak shown on the 1961 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 7).
- 4.1.12 There are several buildings shown within the complex, the main building being labelled 'Woodhouse Mills (Dyeing & Finishing)'. The HER entry provided above describes the main building as being 'of 3 storeys and stone built with 16x3 bays'. There are 'Reservoirs and 'Filter Tanks' shown on historic maps along with 'W.M' which is probably a weighing machine. None of the original power features were said to survive. Most of the mill was extant until at least 2000 (Figure 10) and gradually demolished (Figure 11) until 2023 (Figure 12) when the last remaining buildings shown on figure 12 were removed, nothing above ground now survives and all the reservoirs have been infilled.
- 4.1.13 The surrounding mills of similar period to Woodhouse Mills, contain the typical features associated with cotton processing including weaving sheds, chimneys, boiler houses and engine houses. There are also weaving sheds, spinning mills as well as bleach works and dye works.
- 4.1.14 Tenterhouse Mill (Bleaching & Dyeing) lies to the south of Woodhouse Mill, outside of the study site. Both mills are labelled as 'Woollen' on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map.
- 4.1.15 Three aerial images dated to 1926 include full and part views of Woodhouse Mills and Shepherd Mills (EPW016702, EPW016703, EPW016704, Historic England 2024). Image EPW016702 shows Woodhouse in its entirety (Plate 1) and parts of the adjacent Shepherd Mills are shown on EPW016703 (Plate 2) and EPW016704 (not illustrated). The images illustrate the mills at their greatest extent of development, correlating with historic mapping.
- 4.1.16 Plate 1 shows most of the area of Woodhouse Mills to be a collection of differently sized structures situated cheek by jowl and similar to the layout shown on the 2000 aerial view (Figure 10). The main buildings comprise a three storey east-west aligned building with pitched roof, along with a long north-south aligned double pile structure with hipped roof. Together, these form an L-shape, within which are several single storey structures. This collection of buildings is predominately of stone and appears to date to the earliest phase of the structures as shown on the 1845 Township of Spotland map (Figure 2) and the 1851 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3).
- 4.1.17 In the north-west of the study site, several single story sheds are visible on Plate 1, that first appear on the 1910 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 5). There are no chimneys within the study site and it is probable that power generation took place to the south of the complex, visible on Plate 1.
- 4.1.18 To the south-east of Woodhouse Mills and within the study site, Shepherd Mill first appears on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 3). The mill is labelled as 'Bleaching & Finishing' on the 1910 map and intermittently as 'Works' and 'Bleaching & Finishing' on subsequent maps. The mill has

several outbuildings along with 'Reservoirs' and 'Filter Tanks'. The 1926 aerial photograph (Plate 2) correlates with the 1929 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 6) showing a double-pile two or three storey structure along with reservoirs and structures with lower roofline.

- 4.1.19 The remainder of the HER and NHLE records in the 1km search area date to the post-medieval, industrial and 20th century periods with most within the industrial and 20th century periods. There are farmhouses, chapels, a war memorial, weirs and sluice-gates.

4.2 Potential

- 4.2.1 Based on archaeological evidence recorded in the Historic Environment Records (HER), there is a very low potential for sub-surface archaeological remains relating to the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post medieval periods .

- 4.2.2 The use of the study site for Woodhouse Mill, buildings, reservoirs and other infrastructure will probably have truncated or removed any remains associated with these periods. The primary below ground archaeological interest lies with Woodhouse Mill, and the below-ground potential for remains of the mill complex to survive is high. This includes power transmission features, weirs, reservoirs, sluices, tanks and other features.

4.3 Impact

- 4.3.1 The proposed planning layout (Fig 13) includes two separate housing developments situated over Woodhouse Mills and Shepherd Mills. The development comprises 49 dwellings, most of which are situated within the area of Woodhouse Mills. Several properties lie within the footprints of the former mill buildings and will impact any surviving below ground archaeological remains. The central portion of the site will remain as woodland apart from an access road.

5 Research Design

5.1 Aims and Objectives

- 5.1.1 The overall aim of the archaeological investigation will be to obtain sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed development. This will allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made regarding any requirements for mitigation, the scope of which would be detailed in a subsequent PD in agreement with GMAAS.

- 5.1.2 This will be achieved through the following objectives:
- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any archaeological remains within the development site;
 - To excavate and record identified archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance;
 - To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains;
 - To assess the impact of previous land use on the site;
 - To assess the potential for survival of environmental evidence;
 - To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
 - To undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to confidently interpret identified archaeological features;
 - To report the results of the evaluation and place them in their local, regional or national context and to make this record available.

5.2 Research Framework

- 5.2.1 The programme of archaeological investigation has the potential to contribute to research priorities identified in the North West Regional Research Framework (researchframeworks.org/nwrf/).
- 5.2.2 Specifically, the following updated research questions will look to be addressed, although this should be revised following the results of the trial trenching:
- Ind60 - How can we make sense of the relative significance of historic industrial processes and building types perceived as poorly understood and recorded?;
- 5.2.3 The investigation will also take account of the national research programmes outlined in English Heritage's *Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage* (SHAPE) first published in 2008.

6 Standards and Guidance

- 6.1.1 All work will be undertaken to fully meet the requirements of all nationally recognised guidance for such work, including standards laid down by the former English Heritage (now Historic England) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).
- 6.1.2 The programme of archaeological investigation will be managed in line with the standards laid down in the Historic England guideline publication *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Managers Guide* (2015a), as well as to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Chapter 16: 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'; revised 2023). All excavation will be undertaken using recording standards detailed in the *Archaeological Field Manual* (MOLAS 1994).
- 6.1.3 Guidance of particular relevance to the programme of works are:
- 6.1.4 Standard for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023a);
- 6.1.5 Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2023b)
- 6.1.6 Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2020a).

7 Methodology

7.1 Evaluation strategy

- 7.1.1 The programme of archaeological evaluation will comprise:
- Trial trenching;
 - Report production.

7.2 Project Initialisation

- 7.2.1 Lanpro will inform the GMAAS at least one week in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.
- 7.2.2 Touchstones Rochdale Museum will be contacted by the appointed archaeological fieldwork contractor to arrange for the project archive to be created and deposited in accordance with their deposition and archiving standards. Please note that the museum is closed until 2025 for redevelopment. The archaeological contractor must contact the museum to ascertain if alternative arrangements are in place.
- 7.2.3 Before fieldwork commences an OASIS online record will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creator forms.

7.3 Trial Trenching

- 7.3.1 The configuration of the trial trenches has been agreed with GMAAS and comprises 11 targeted trenches totalling 450 sqm. The configuration of trenches is shown on Figure 13. As agreed with GMAAS, the trenches are targeting the following features:
- T1 – to assess presence/absence of archaeology in a potential location for an engine house and for coverage of the development of the building;
 - T2 – an addition on the side of the building by the 1920s mapping, could this reflect adoption of electricity and house the electric drive machinery?;
 - T3 – probable location of original engine house in this block (and chimney addition on the southern edge of the building). T1 is perhaps a back-up location for an engine house;
 - T4 – targeting a protruding element of the bleaching croft which shows on the 1890s mapping but is depicted as a defined block/area by mapping of the 1910s;
 - T5 – long trench across the bleaching croft, could contain remains of dye vats, features denoting areas that contained kiers, different areas of processing. Important to note that evaluation will inform potential areas of further strip-map works within this building;
 - T6 – placed to inform nature of remains across one of the earliest elements of the building complex;
 - T7 – targeting a building next to a weir on the 1890s mapping. What was its use, was it associated with water management/power systems?
 - T8 – North-west end of a structure visible on the 1845 map, elongated and developed as part of Shepherd Mill (disused) by 1890s, but then further extended and embellished by the 1910s through 1970s as the site is seemingly re-established. NW end close to a large weir and there are two additions on the NW end on the 1890s map (chimney and stair tower?) – what was its association with the water management of the site here?;
 - T9 – for coverage and to trace development of the T8 structure in the late 19th century and beyond;
 - T10 – targeting the NW portion of a building with a strange planform, located adjacent to where a water channel comes into the building on the 1850s and 1890s maps; and
 - T11 – to assess internal features of this building. What was it used for?
- 7.3.2 The sequencing of the trenches will be decided upon in consultation with the client and GMAAS and will be determined by the timings of the development enabling works. It is possible that T7 will be undertaken as an archaeological monitoring exercise.
- 7.3.3 Any hardstanding will be removed under archaeological supervision by a mechanical excavator fitted with hydraulic breaker.
- 7.3.4 Topsoil across the trenches will be stripped using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless grading bucket, down to the first archaeological horizon or natural sub-soil.
- 7.3.5 Spoil from mechanical excavation will be scanned by eye and by metal detector to aid the recovery of artefacts, and topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately.
- 7.3.6 All excavation by mechanical excavator will be undertaken under direct archaeological supervision, by a suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist, with one archaeologist

responsible for monitoring each excavator. Mechanical excavation will cease at either undisturbed natural deposits or when archaeological deposits are identified.

- 7.3.7 All archaeological features and deposits revealed will be cleaned and excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner, in order to establish their extent, form, date, function and relationship to other features.
- 7.3.8 All structures, deposits and finds will be recorded according to accepted professional standards. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features exposed or excavated will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets. Sample recording sheets, sample registers, finds recording sheets, access catalogues, and photo record cards will also be used.
- 7.3.9 Any excavation, by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be demonstrably worthy of preservation in situ.
- 7.3.10 There will be a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation. Significant archaeological features (e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or postholes), will be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For linear features, minimum 1m wide slots should be excavated across their width. For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills will be sampled.
- 7.3.11 Should the excavation of the trenches reach 1m in depth (or limit of safe working depth) without natural geology being encountered, a machine dug sondage will be excavated in order to establish the depth of natural geology. Where depth of excavation is required to be greater than 1m, suitable stepping will be employed.
- 7.3.12 All identified finds and artefacts will be collected and retained, bagged and labelled according to their context. Finds of significant interest will be given a 'small finds' number, and information on their location in three dimensions will be entered on a separate pro-forma sheet. No finds will be discarded without assessment by an appropriate finds specialist.
- 7.3.13 A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all features revealed during the course of the archaeological evaluation. The location and extent of archaeological features will be recorded by GPS. Plans will be completed at a scale of 1:20 (as appropriate), with section drawings at a scale of 1:10. All plans will be tied in with the Ordnance Survey National Grid with levels given to above OD.
- 7.3.14 A photographic record of the project will be maintained. This will illustrate the detail and context of the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the progress of the programme of archaeological works. All photography will follow the Historic England guidance for digital image capture (Historic England 2015b). All images will have accompanying metadata specifying; photo ID, capture device, converting software, colour space, bit depth, resolution, date of capture, photographer, caption, and any alterations made to the image.
- 7.3.15 Following excavation and recording of any archaeological remains, the evaluation trenches will be backfilled with the previously excavated spoil.

7.4 Palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy

- 7.4.1 Soil samples will be taken from all suitable features or deposits for palaeoenvironmental sampling. This will comprise the removal of a bulk sample from every securely sealed and hand-excavated context, excepting those with excessive levels of residuality or those with minimal 'soil' content (such as building rubble).

- 7.4.2 Bulk samples will comprise representative 40 litre samples. Where a context does not yield 40 litres of material, smaller samples will be taken (generally the maximum amount of material practicable to collect). Bulk samples will be used to recover a sub-sample of charred macroplant material, faunal remains and artefacts where necessary, as well as any industrial residues.
- 7.4.3 If buried soils or other deposits are encountered, column samples may be taken for micromorphological and pollen analysis. Environmental material will be stored in a controlled environment and specialists consulted during the course of the work if necessary.
- 7.4.4 The post-excavation processing of all palaeoenvironmental samples will be undertaken in line with the requirements of the former English Heritage's (now Historic England) *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2011).

7.5 Human remains

- 7.5.1 The discovery of human remains is not anticipated during the evaluation fieldwork. However, should these be encountered then the archaeological contractor must contact the Ministry of Justice for an appropriate licence and GMAAS will be informed. The contractor will comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains.
- 7.5.2 If human remains are encountered, they will be cleaned with minimal disturbance, prior to recording and removal, following receipt of the required Ministry of Justice licence. Investigation and excavation of human remains will be undertaken by, or under supervision of, suitably experienced specialist staff and in accordance with former Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) guidelines *Excavation and Post-excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains* (McKinley and Roberts 1993) and the *Updated Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains* (Mitchell and Brickley 2017). Assessment of excavated human remains will be undertaken in line with English Heritage guidelines *Human Bones from archaeological sites: Guidelines for the production of assessment documents and analytical reports* (English Heritage 2004). The archaeological contractor will comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, re-interment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Every effort will be made, at all times, not to cause offence to any interested parties.
- 7.5.3 If required a qualified and experienced osteoarchaeologist will undertake site visits to discuss the recording and assist in the removal of any human skeletal remains.

7.6 Scientific dating

- 7.6.1 Provision will be made to recover material suitable for radiocarbon, archaeomagnetic, dendrochronological and other scientific dating. Where material suitable for dating is recovered, sufficient dating will be undertaken to meet the aims of the evaluation.

7.7 Other finds

- 7.7.1 Finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and stored in accordance with the guidelines set out in United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No. 2 (1990) and the ClfA guidelines *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2020b).
- 7.7.2 If required, conservation will be undertaken by approved conservators in line with the *First Aid for Finds* guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Significant iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins), and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy should be X-radiographed before assessment.

- 7.7.3 Any finds of gold and silver will be moved to a safe place. Where removal cannot be undertaken immediately, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the artefacts from theft or damage. All finds of gold and silver, and associated objects, will be reported to the coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996 (and the act's amendment of 2003).

7.8 Unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries

- 7.8.1 Should unexpectedly extensive, complex or significant remains be uncovered that warrant, in the professional judgment of the archaeologist on site, more detailed recording than is appropriate within the terms of the PD, the scope of the PD will be reviewed.
- 7.8.2 In the event of a review of the PD being required, Lanpro will contact the client and GMAAS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter. This is likely to require an on-site meeting between the relevant stakeholders to review the archaeological remains on-site and identify a way forward. Any variations to this PD will be put in writing and agreed by the relevant stakeholders including GMAAS and the client.

7.9 Plant and equipment

- 7.9.1 The appointed archaeological contractor will be responsible for the provision of all required plant and welfare, providing necessary health and safety equipment for the fieldwork operators during the trial trenching.

8 Post-Fieldwork

8.1 Initial assessment

- 8.1.1 Upon completion of the evaluation fieldwork, the artefacts, soil samples and stratigraphic information will be assessed for their potential and significance for further analysis if required and the relevant parties notified accordingly. A report on the fieldwork will be produced within 4-6 weeks following completion.

8.2 Finds

- 8.2.1 Finds will be cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and stored in accordance with the guidelines set out in United Kingdom Institute for *Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No. 2* (1990) and the ClfA guidelines *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2020b).
- 8.2.2 In accordance with appropriate procedures, significant iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins), and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy will be X-radiographed before issue of the final report.
- 8.2.3 All material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, as described in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Any waterlogged organic materials will be dealt with in line with the English Heritage guidance documents, *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts. Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (2018) and *Waterlogged Wood. Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood* (2010).
- 8.2.4 The preservation state, density and significance of material retrieved will be assessed, following the English Heritage guidelines *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2011).
- 8.2.5 Any finds for dating will be submitted to specialists promptly, so as to ensure that results are available to aid development of a project design for the analysis stage, if required.

8.3 Environmental Sample Processing

- 8.3.1 The processing of any palaeoenvironmental samples will be undertaken in line with the requirements of the English Heritage publications *Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions: Best Practice Guidance for Curators and Commissioning Archaeologists* (2006b) and *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2011).
- 8.3.2 The samples will be processed, and ecofacts collected and assessed with regard to the potential for detailed analysis of pollen, charred plant macrofossils, land molluscs, faunal remains (including small mammals and fish) and soil micromorphology. Samples suitable for radiocarbon, or other dating methods, will also be identified. The environmental assessment will be reported within the overall post-excavation assessment report for all phases of investigation and include proposals for full analysis if required. Unprocessed sub-samples will be stored in conditions specified by the appropriate specialists. Samples for dating will be submitted to specialists promptly, so as to ensure that results are available to aid development of the project design for any further analysis stage if required.

8.4 Conservation

- 8.4.1 If required, conservation will be undertaken by approved conservators in line with the *First Aid for Finds* guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Material considered vulnerable will be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. Where intervention is necessary, consideration must be given to possible investigative procedures (e.g. glass composition studies, residues in or on pottery, and mineral-preserved organic material).

8.5 Report

- 8.5.1 As a minimum the evaluation report shall contain the following information:
- A title page, with the name of the project, the name of the author(s) of the report, the title of the report and date of the report;
 - A non-technical summary of the scope, methodology and results of the work;
 - Introduction which includes site code/project number, dates when the fieldwork took place and grid reference;
 - Description of the topography and geology of the site;
 - Description of the archaeological background to the site;
 - Description of the aims, methodology and extent of fieldwork completed;
 - Factual assessments of stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental evidence;
 - An assessment of the archaeological potential of the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental records;
 - Proposed programme for further analysis and reporting if required, including the identification of specialists;
 - Conclusions;
 - Plans and sections to include site and trench location plans displaying NGR co-ordinates;
 - List of plans and sections;
 - Details of archive location and destination (with the museum accession number), together with a catalogue of what is contained in that archive;

- Copy of the OASIS entry form and any entry updates;
- Appendices as appropriate; and
- References and bibliography of all sources used.

8.5.2 A draft copy of the evaluation report will be provided to the GMAAS in PDF format for comment.

8.5.3 Following approval, copies of the final reports will be produced and submitted to the Greater Manchester HER in a PDF/A format.

9 Archiving

9.1.1 The appointed archaeological contractor will contact the Touchstones Rochdale Museum in advance of commencing any fieldwork to determine the preparation, and deposition of the archive and finds, and obtain an accession number for all archaeological works. The landowner will be encouraged to transfer ownership of the finds to the museum. Note that the museum is closed until 2025 for redevelopment. The archaeological contractor must contact the museum to ascertain if alternative arrangements are in place.

9.1.2 Adequate resources will be provided during fieldwork to ensure that all records are checked and internally consistent.

9.1.3 The archive will contain all the data collected during the archaeological works, including all digital and paper records, finds and environmental samples. The archive will be prepared in accordance with the ClfA guidelines detailed in *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2020b). The preparation of the archive will also be informed by the *Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990), *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994), and in accordance with the museum's archive deposition guidelines, which stipulates digital archiving.

9.1.4 Digital copies of the assessment report and associated data will be submitted to the Lancashire HER, together with OASIS and ADS to allow the results of the work to be accessible online to the wider archaeological community and general public.

10 Timetable

10.1.1 The duration of the fieldwork is expected to be up to two-three weeks on site and 4-6 weeks for the report to be issued.

10.1.2 GMAAS will monitor the works on behalf of Rochdale Borough Council and evaluate the work being undertaken on site against the methodology detailed in this PD and will be afforded the opportunity to inspect the site and all records of the appointed archaeology contractor at any stage of the work.

11 Staffing

11.1.1 Karl Taylor (Technical Director, Lanpro) will be in overall charge of the management of the project on behalf of Stonebond Properties (Manchester) Limited.

11.1.2 The appointed sub-contractors will be confirmed in advance of the fieldwork commencing and CVs can be provided to relevant interested parties.

12 Insurance

12.1.1 The archaeological sub-contractors will produce evidence of Public Liability Insurance to the minimum value of £5m and Professional Indemnity Insurance to the minimum of £5m.

13 Health and Safety

- 13.1.1 The management of all health and safety on site will be the responsibility of the appointed principal contractor. All works will be undertaken by the contractor in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and all applicable regulations and Codes of Practice.
- 13.1.2 All archaeological staff will undertake their operations in accordance with safe working practices and will be CSCS certified. At least one First Aider will be present on site at all times. A site-specific risk assessment will be produced by the appointed archaeological contractor, prior to the commencement of work on site, which will be subject to regular review.
- 13.1.3 Suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and welfare facilities will be provided by the archaeological contractor, including hi-visibility coats/vests, hard hats, safety boots and gloves, as well as safety glasses if required.
- 13.1.4 All staff will receive a health and safety induction prior to starting work on site to be provided by the principal contractor.
- 13.1.5 All areas of excavation will be scanned by the groundwork contractor with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) prior to ground works commencing. Necessary measures will be taken to avoid disturbing any services.
- 13.1.6 Regular audits of health and safety practices will be carried out during the course of the project by Lanpro and the archaeological contractor in consultation with the site workforce. Toolbox talks on health and safety issues will be conducted at minimum weekly intervals and/or after changes in working practices or identification of new threats/risks. The risk assessment will be reviewed and updated as necessary. Control measures will be implemented as required in response to specific hazards.
- 13.1.7 Safe working will take priority over the desire to record archaeological features or remains, and where it is considered that recording is dangerous, any such features will be recorded by photography at a safe distance.
- 13.1.8 Site welfare accommodation and car parking should be located within the site and the location of these facilities will be agreed between the archaeological contractor, Lanpro and the client in advance of the commencement of work.

14 Copyright and Publicity

- 14.1.1 Copyright of the documentation prepared by the archaeological contractor and specialist sub-contractors should be the subject of additional licences in favour of the client and the Lancashire HER to use such documentation for their statutory and educational functions, and to provide copies to third parties as required.
- 14.1.2 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'.
- 14.1.3 It is recognised that the project may identify remains which are of interest to the public and these may be publicised through appropriate media. Any publicity for the project proposed by the archaeological contractor should be approved by the client in advance.
- 14.1.4 The appointed archaeological contractor will not issue any information on the work through media, internet or social media without prior agreement of the client. Care will be taken to ensure that any publicity does not compromise the security of archaeological remains that may have been identified or recovered. Any approaches by the press to the archaeological contractor should be referred to the client in the first instance.

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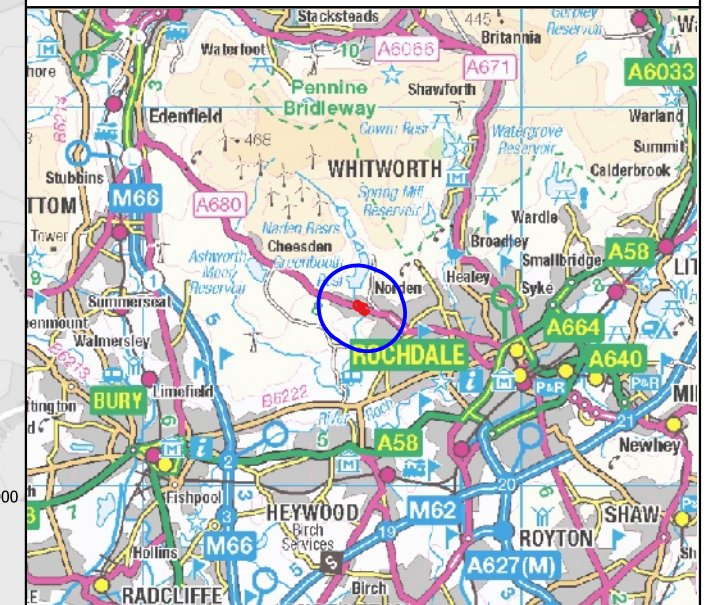
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Figures



- ▭ Study Site
- ▭ 1km search area
- GMHER 'monuments' point
- ▭ GMHER 'monuments' polygon
- ▭ GMHER 'events' polygon
- Listed buildings

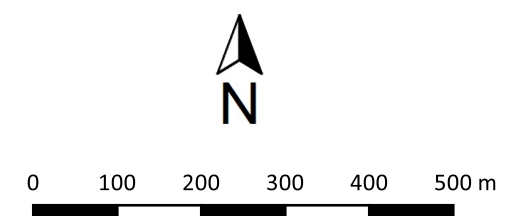


Figure 1. The study site and search area with the location of HER and NHLE records



 Study Site



0 20 40 60 m



Figure 2. Extract from the 1845 Township of Spotland map



 Study Site



0 20 40 60 m



Figure 3. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1851 6-inch map

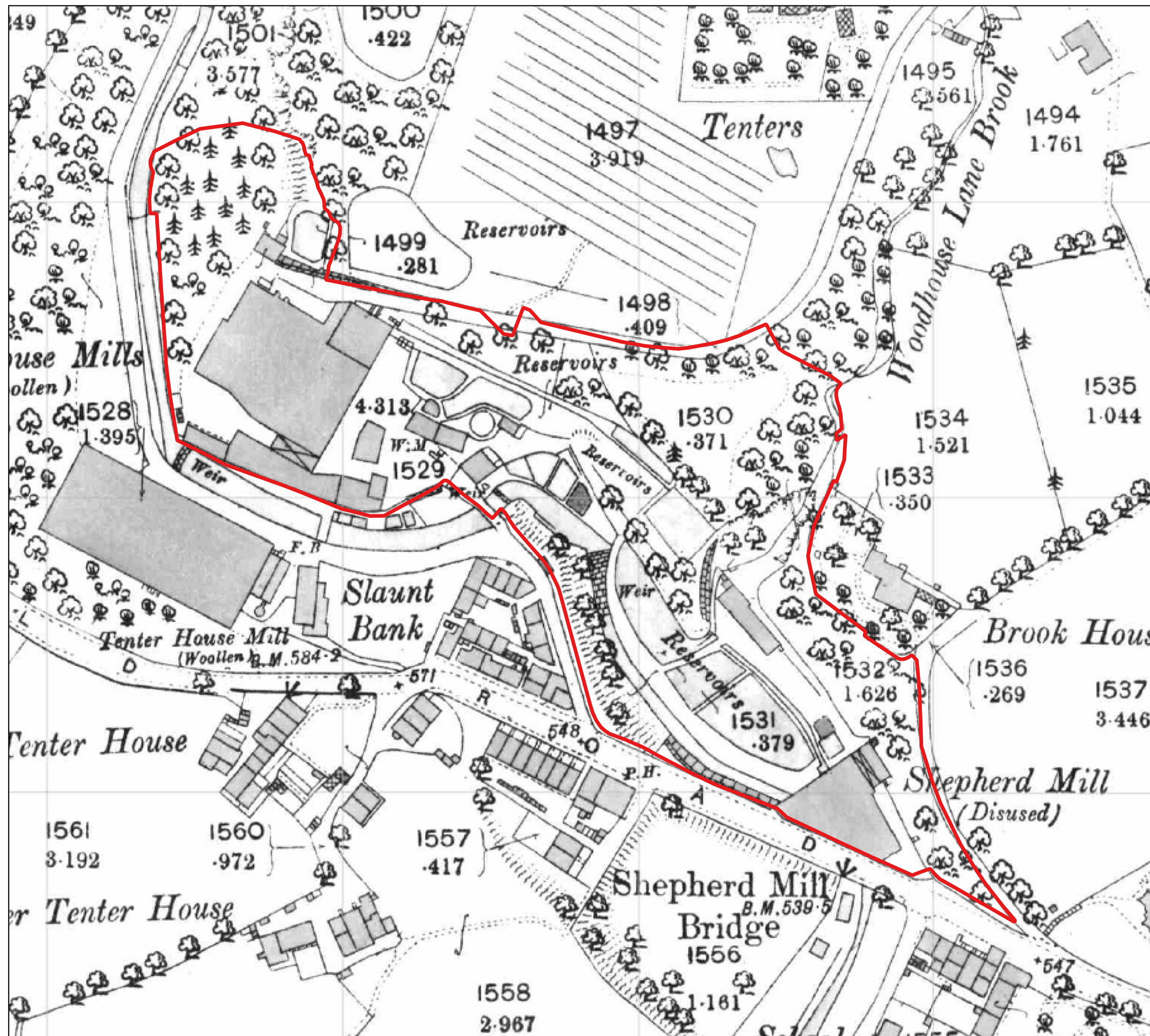


 Study Site



0 20 40 60 m

Figure 4. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1890 25-inch map

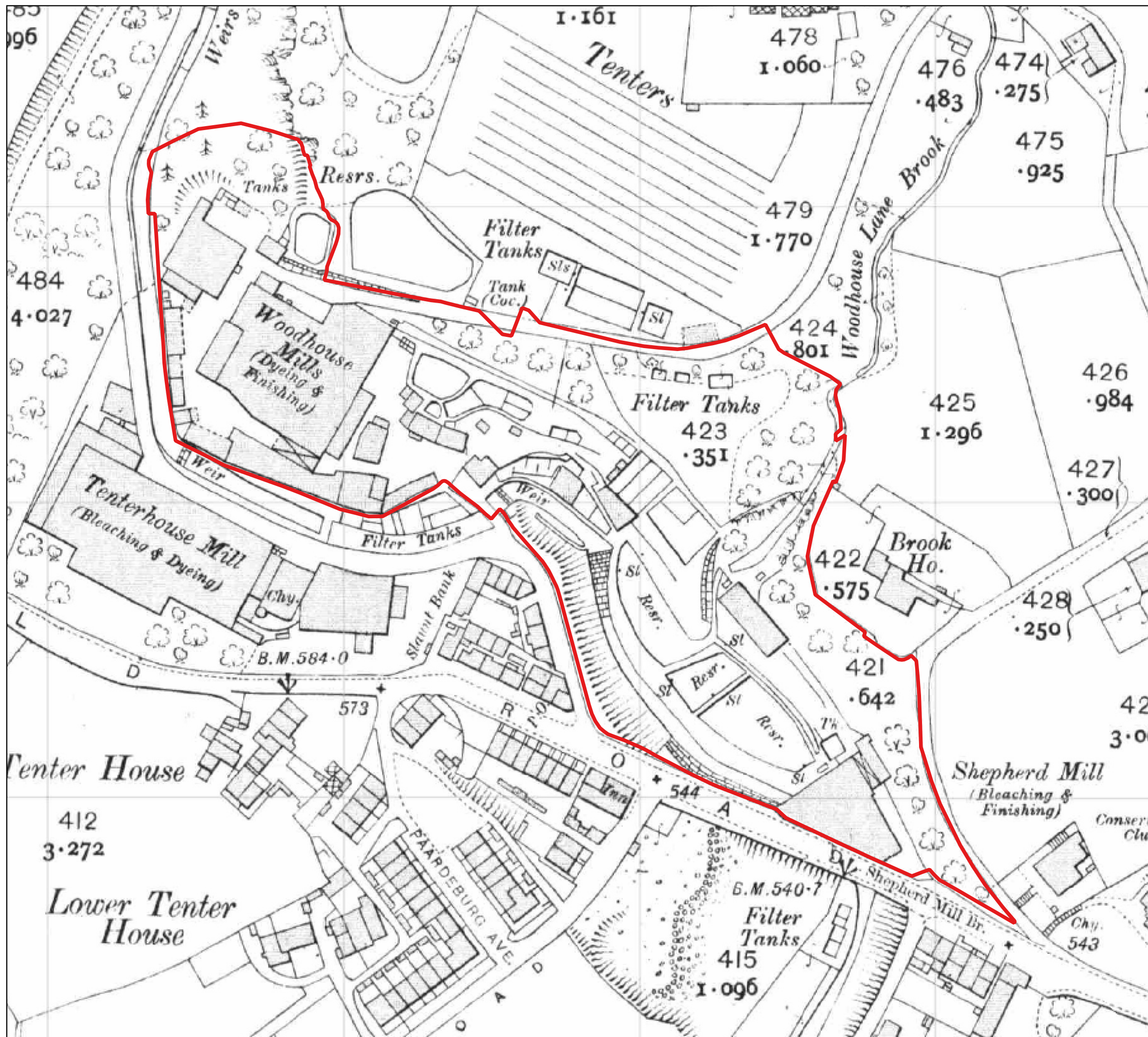


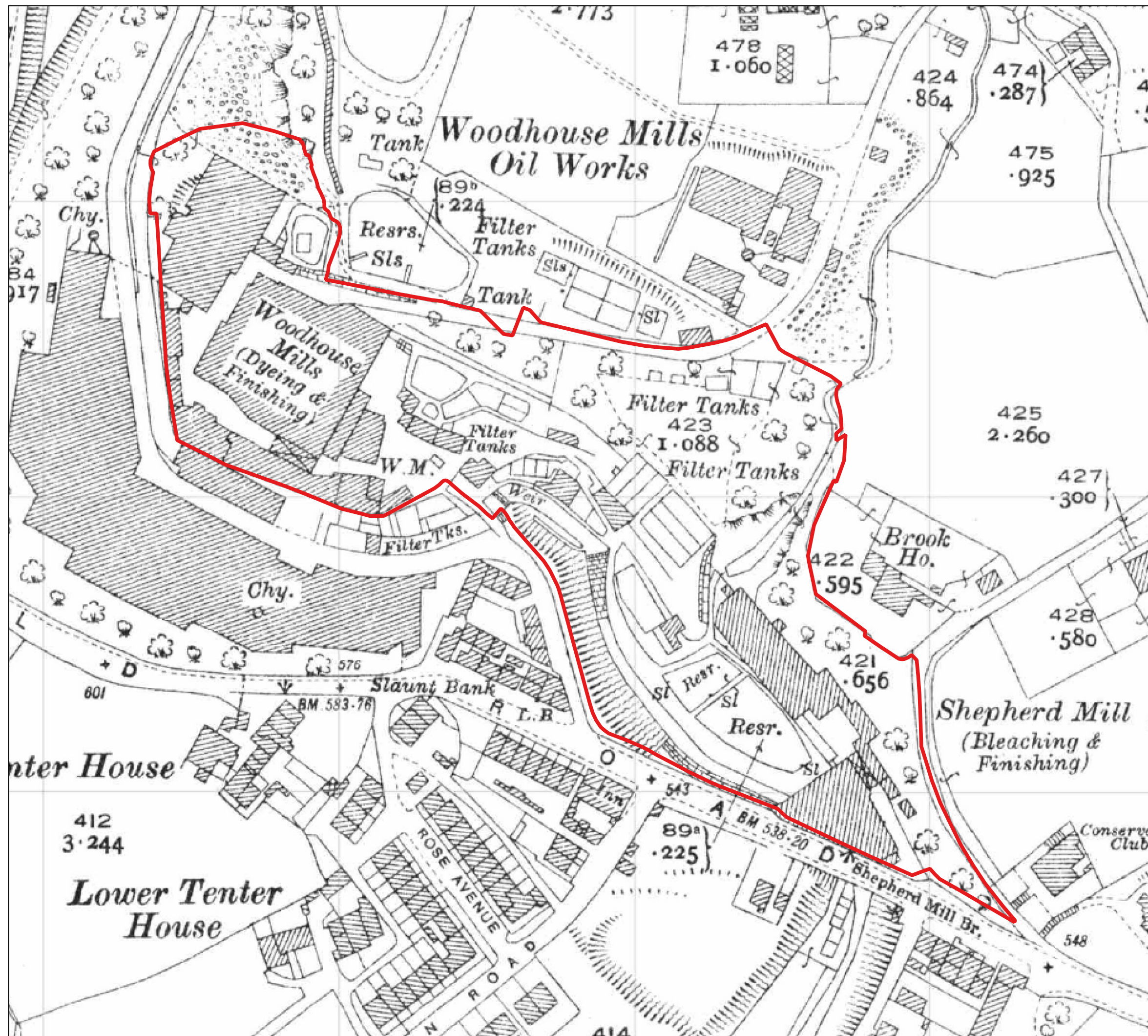
 Study Site



0 20 40 60 m

Figure 5. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1910 25-inch map



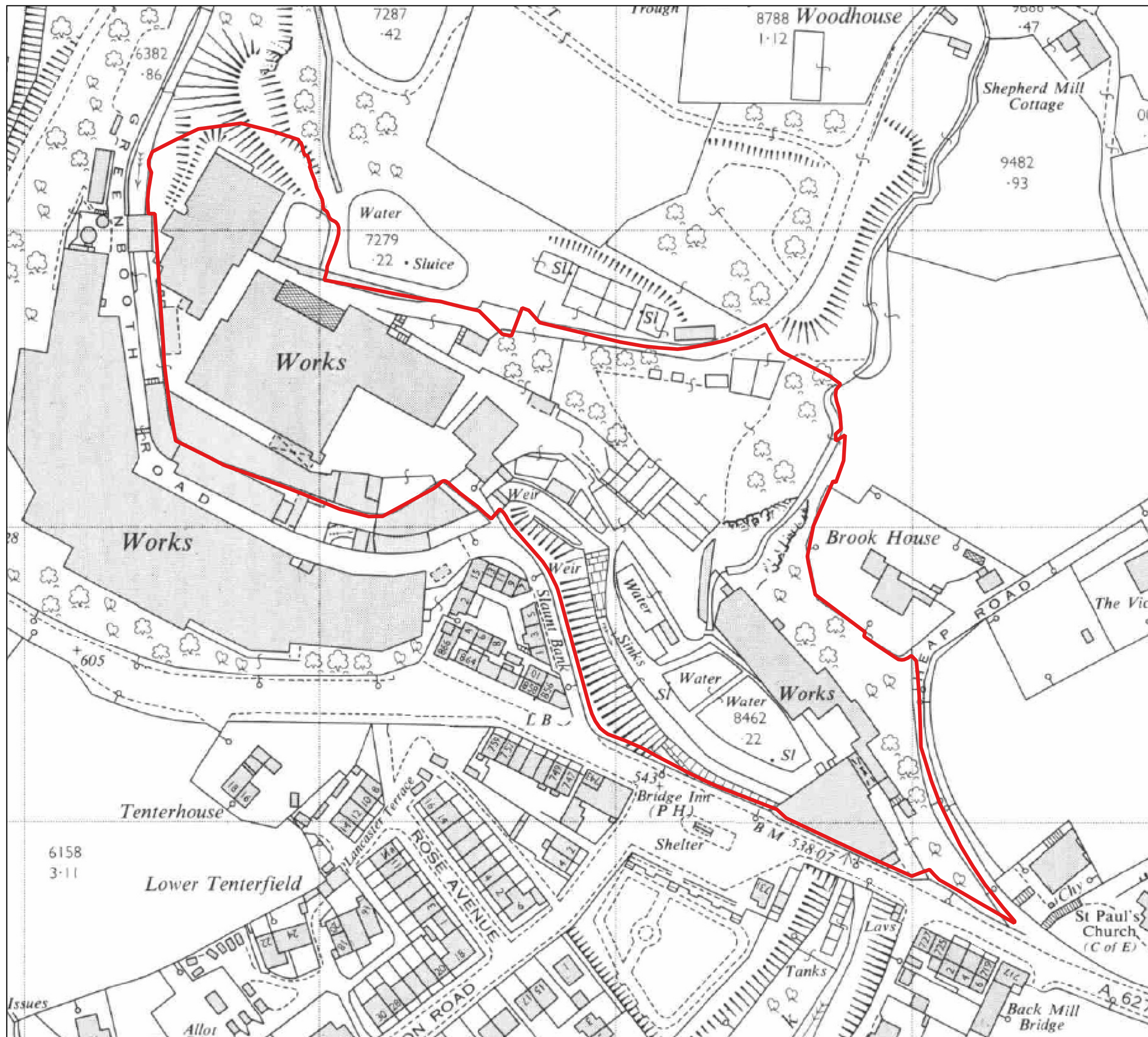


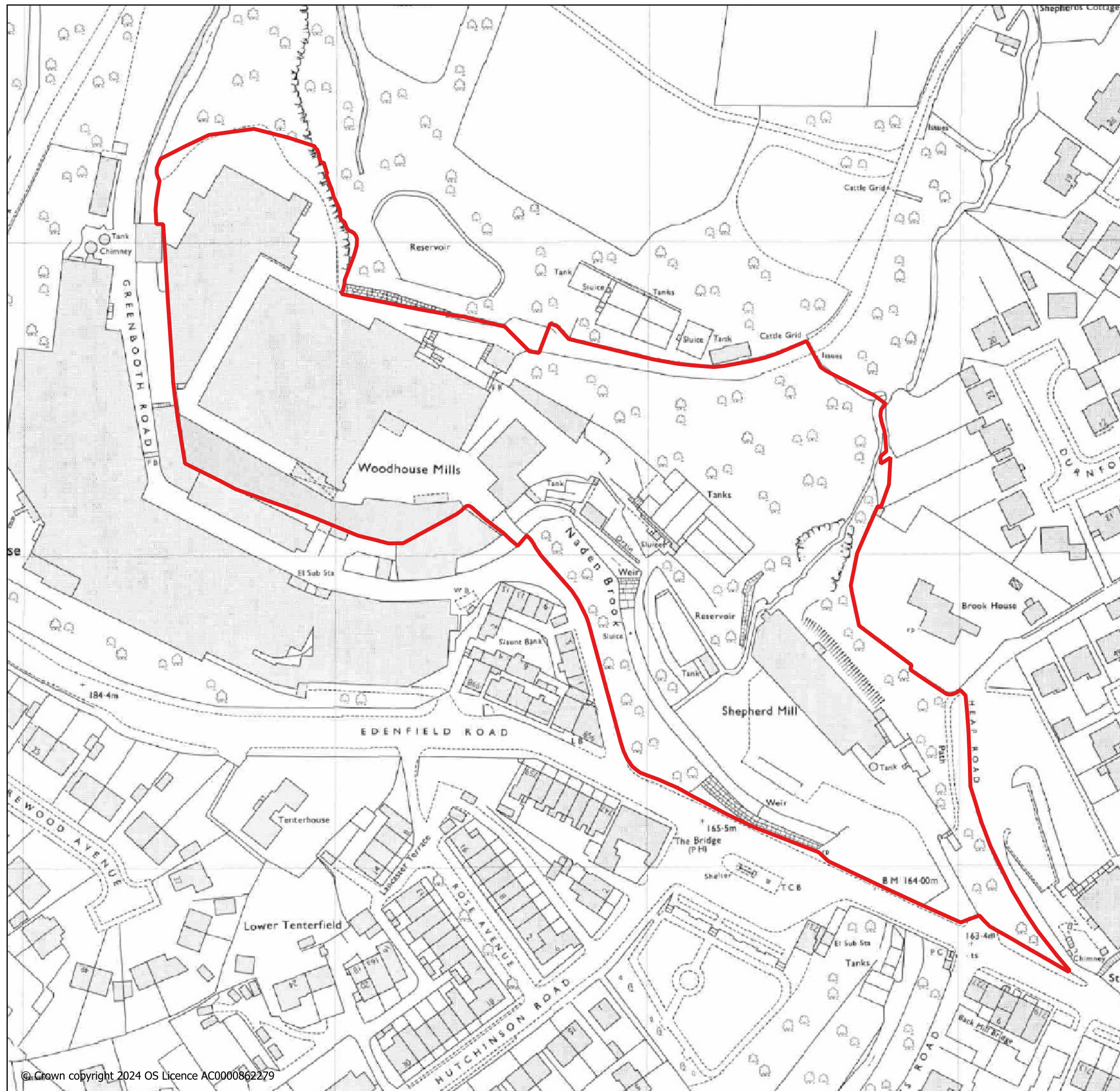
 Study Site



0 20 40 60 m

Figure 7. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1962 1:1250 map





414800

Study Site

414600

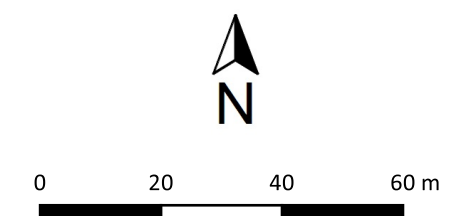
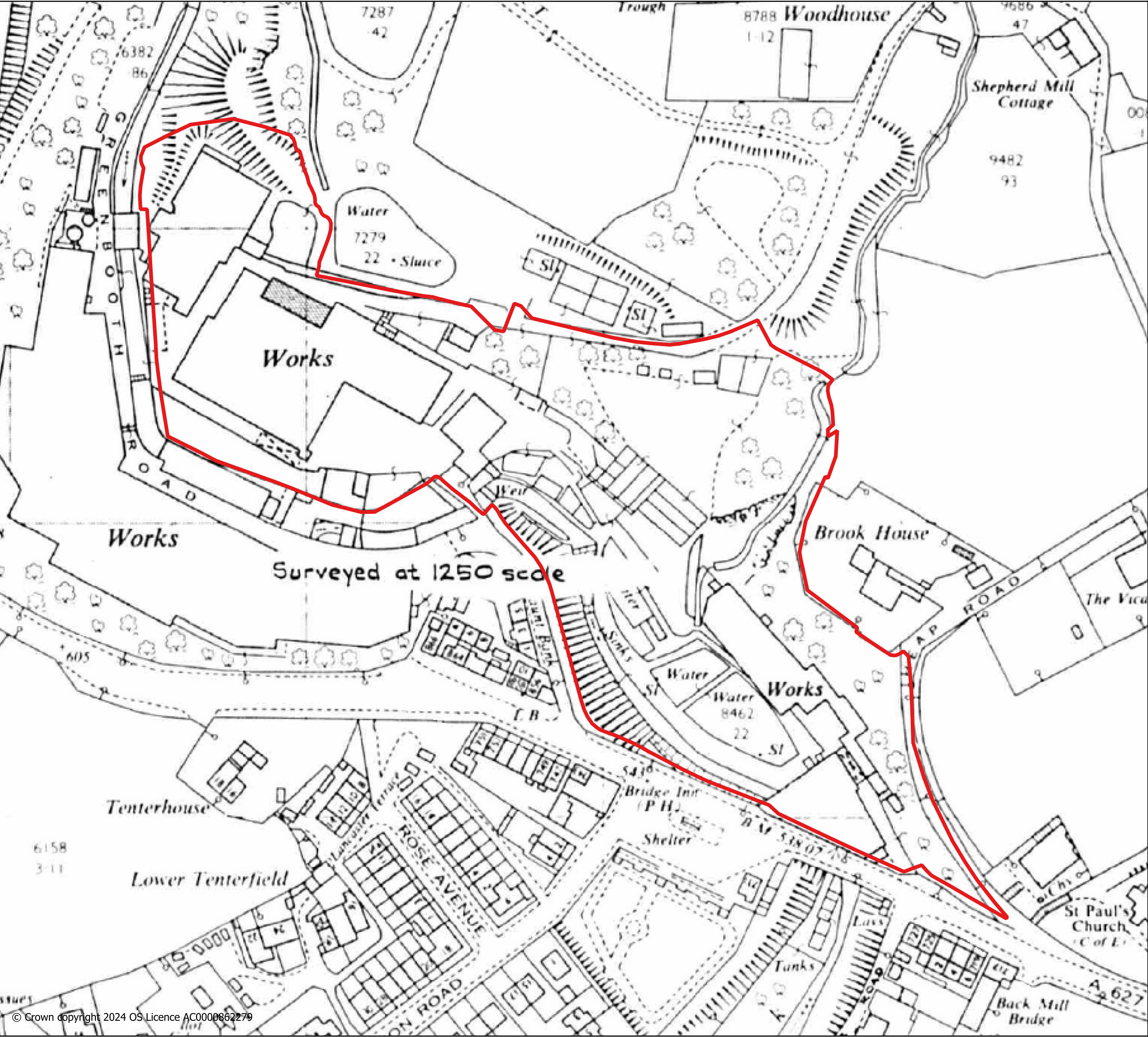


Figure 8. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1979 1:1250 map



 Study Site

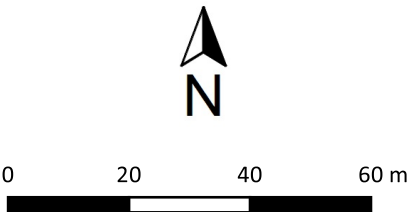


Figure 9. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1984 1:2500 map

 Study Site



0 20 40 60 m

Figure 10. Extract from 2000 satellite image



 Study Site



0 20 40 60 m

Figure 11. Extract from 2013 satellite image



 Study Site

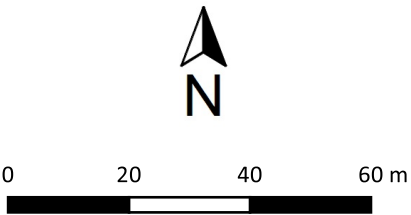


Figure 12. Extract from 2023 satellite image

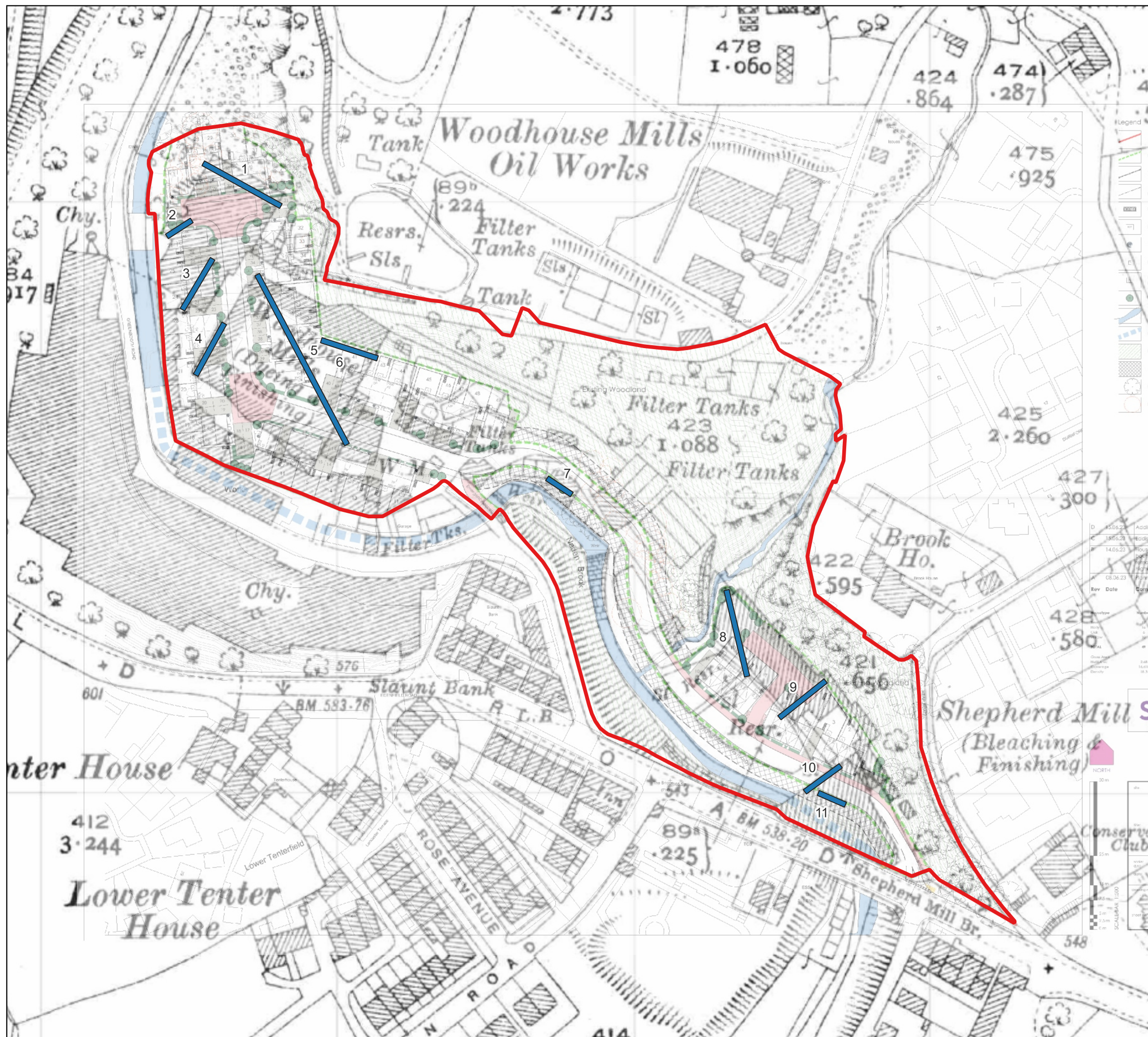


Figure 13. Extract from 1929 Ordnance Survey map overlaid with proposed trench locations and planning layout

Plates



Plate 1. 1926 Aerial view of Woodhouse Mills, facing north west (Historic England 2024, EPW16702)



Plate 2. 1926 Aerial view of Woodhouse and Shepherd Mills, facing north west (Historic England 2024, EPW16703)

