

Trammell Crow Company

Heywood Stores Manchester Road

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
October 2022





University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

Salford Archaeology

Archaeological
Desk-Based
Assessment

Site:

Heywood Stores,
Manchester Road,
Heywood

Client:

Trammell Crow
Company Logistics
(Heywood) Ltd

Technical Report:

Natalie Poundall

Report No:

2022/62



Site Location: The Site is located within Heywood, Rochdale and is bounded by Manchester Road and a housing estate to the east and fields to the south, west and north

NGR: Centred at NGR SD 85492 09208

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1. Summary

Trammell Crow Company Logistics (Heywood) Ltd is devising proposals for the development of land at Heywood Stores, including associated car parking spaces and landscaping works. The development area is located off Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale (centred on NGR SD 85492 09208). In order to facilitate the planning process, Salford Archaeology were commissioned to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed development site. This was intended to establish, as far as possible, the nature and significance of the sub-surface archaeological resource in order to enable informed recommendations to be made for the future treatment of any surviving remains.

The study area is located to the east of Hopwood, a suburb of Heywood, within the borough of Rochdale. The lands of Hopwood were held by the lords of the manor of Middleton in the late medieval period. Much of the land within the manor remained rural during this time. From the post-medieval period small-scale coal mining activities and a water mill were established within Hopwood. At the beginning of the industrial revolution Heywood experienced growth as woollen and cotton factories spread over the Rochdale parish and manufacturers utilised the waters of the River Roch. Hopwood was incorporated into Heywood in the late nineteenth century.

The proposed development area is located on Siddal Moor, which was enclosed from 1812. Nineteenth-century maps show that the study area remained as enclosed fields and that little development took place. A depot was established occupying a large area of the development site in the mid- to late twentieth century and remains today. Several ridge and furrow earthworks have been identified within the wider landscape, as well as numerous cropmarks signifying former coal pits and mine shafts.

The potential for the site to contain buried archaeological remains from the prehistoric to the industrial period is considered to be very low. The most likely remains may include post-medieval agricultural activity in the form of field boundaries and the remains of a late nineteenth century structure which would be of local significance. However, the construction of a depot occupying a large area of the site in the late twentieth century likely affected any surviving remains.

The exact scope and extent of any further investigation of the proposed development area will be determined by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), in their capacity as archaeological advisor to Rochdale Borough Council. However, it may be anticipated that no further archaeological investigation is required.

2. Introduction

Trammell Crow Company Logistics (Heywood) Ltd has commissioned Salford Archaeology within the University of Salford to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment to support design proposals for the development of Heywood Stores at land off Manchester Road, Heywood, Rochdale (referred to herein as 'the Site'). The desk-based study aimed to identify as far as possible the nature, extent and significance of the sub-surface archaeological resource within the site so as to enable informed recommendations to be made for the future treatment of any surviving remains.

2.1 Site location

The Site (centred NGR SD 85492 09208) is located within Heywood, Rochdale and is bounded by Manchester Road and a housing estate to the east, fields, housing, and Hareshill Road to the south, further greenspace to the west and north (Fig. 1; Plate 1). The Site comprises several Heywood Stores units and associated hard-standing car parking surfaces, access roads and green space.



Plate 1: Recent aerial view looking north across the Site

2.2 Topography and geology

Topographically, Rochdale is characterised by the valleys of the rivers Roch, Spodden, Beal and Irk which historically defined settlement patterns and communication lines in the borough. Heywood is located to the south of the Pennines, south of the River Roch, with land rising away from the river. Moss land was historically present in some southern and western areas of Rochdale (GMAU, 2010). The Site lies at a height of approximately 128.8m Above Ordnance Datum.

The solid geology of the area is formed of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation and the South Wales Lower Coal Measures Formation, comprised of Mudstone, Siltstone, Sandstone, Coal, Ironstone and Ferricrete. The area was previously dominated by swamps, estuaries, and deltas. The overlying superficial geology comprises diamicton till (British Geological Society, 2022).

2.3 Designations

The Site does not contain any heritage assets that are afforded statutory protection, such as Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, or any Registered Parks and Gardens, and it does not fall within a Conservation Area. There is, however, one statutory listed building within 7500m of the Site (Table 1). The scheme will not have a physical impact on this designated heritage asset, and so it is thus not considered further in this report.

Site	Designation	List Entry Number	Location (NGR)
Edgecroft	Grade II Listed Building	1187164	SD 8595 0931

Table 1: Designations located within 750m of the Site

3. Method Statement

3.1 Introduction

The assessment considers the potential impact of the proposed development upon any buried archaeological remains within the Site and comprises a desk-based study. The production of the assessment followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standard and guidance for undertaking archaeological desk-based assessments (*Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*, 2017).

3.2 Research sources

The desk-based assessment made use of the following sources:

- Published and unpublished cartographic, documentary and photographic sources;
- The Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record, maintained by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service;
- The National Heritage List for England;
- The North West England Regional Research Framework

The aim of the research was to provide the relevant historical and archaeological background relating to the development of the Site. The available sequence of historical mapping was the principal source of information, as this provides evidence for the development of the Site since the late eighteenth century. The results of the historical and archaeological research are analysed against the current framework for the region, *The North West England Regional Research Framework*, in order to identify whether there is potential for the Site to contribute to the current initiatives and research questions listed within the agenda.

3.3 The document

The following presents the historical and archaeological evidence for the Site. Chapter 5 discusses the previous archaeological investigations that have taken place near to the Site. A gazetteer (Chapter 6) is presented of heritage assets and sites of potential archaeological interest identified within the Site and this information, along with a map regression (Figs 3-7), is used to assess the significance of the remains (Chapter 7) and impact of the proposed development (Chapter 8). A mitigation strategy is outlined in Chapter 9, based on the assessment presented in the previous chapters.

3.4 Significance assessment methodology

An accepted methodology for assessing archaeological significance is the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments, outlined in Annex 1 of 'Scheduled Monuments: identifying, protecting, conserving and investigating nationally important archaeological sites under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979' (DCMS, 2013).. These criteria have all been utilised in this assessment and are listed below:

- Archaeological interest
- Historical interest

- Period
- Rarity
- Documentation
- Group value
- Survival/condition
- Fragility/vulnerability
- Diversity
- Potential

The significance assessment also uses the terminology outlined within '*Guidance on Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties*' issued by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in January 2011 (ICOMOS, 2011). This document states that the value of an archaeological attribute can be very high, high, medium, low, negligible or an unknown potential.

3.5 Impact assessment methodology

The impact assessment assesses the potential impact of the proposed development upon the significance of the archaeological resource within the Site. Mitigation is then recommended to reduce the level of impact on the significance of the identified assets.

4. Planning and legislative background

This assessment accords with National, Regional and Local Planning Policies which relate to the historic environment. National planning policies relevant to heritage asset management are contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2021).

4.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The significance of the archaeological resource identified within this report has been assessed as recommended in the revised *National Planning Policy Framework* (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2021). The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies and outlines the presumption in favour of sustainable development, which is defined by three principles: economic, social and environmental. Of the core planning principles underpinning decision making, conserving heritage assets 'in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations' is one. Section 16 deals specifically with this historic environment (paragraphs 189-208), and states that local planning authorities should consider:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness;
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

Paragraph 194 states that "local planning authorities, when determining applications, should require the applicant to describe the significance of any affected heritage assets, including any contribution made by their setting. 'The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation".

Paragraph 203 states that the effect of a proposal on non-designated heritage assets (designated assets are covered in paragraphs 199-202) should be taken into account in determining a planning application.

Paragraph 205 states that local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of any heritage assets to be lost, in a manner appropriate to their importance and impact, and to make this evidence publicly accessible.

4.2 Local Development Framework

The NPPF outlines the need for local planning authorities to create local plans and frameworks to implement the NPPF at a local level. Rochdale Borough Council adopted a Core Strategy in October 2016. The heritage strategy is outlined in policy SO3 - *Improving design, image and quality of place* and summarises the approach the local authority will take in determining planning applications which may affect the historic environment (Rochdale Borough Council, 2016). This approach is encapsulated in Policy P2 - *Protecting and enhancing character, landscape and heritage*:

“2. We will protect the borough's heritage by:

- a. Conserving, enhancing and promoting key heritage assets, both statutory and non-statutory, including consideration of their wider settings.....;*
- b. Conserving, enhancing and utilising other non-statutory heritage assets of local interest, be they buildings, parks, gardens or archaeological sites, including promoting their sensitive restoration;*
- c. Using heritage assets positively and intelligently to strengthen identity and image and support the visitor economy, particularly in development and regeneration schemes; and d. Prioritising the conservation of heritage assets at risk from decay, giving special attention to designated heritage assets in this regard.”*

5. Historical background

The following section provides a framework to the present study, working chronologically through the periods listed below (Table 2).

Period		Date Range
Prehistoric	Palaeolithic	Pre-10,000 BC
	Mesolithic	10,000 – 3500 BC
	Neolithic	3500 – 2200 BC
	Bronze Age	2300 BC – 700 BC
	Iron Age	700 BC – AD 43
Romano-British		AD 43 – AD 410
Early Medieval		AD 410 – AD 1066
Late Medieval		AD 1066 – AD 1540
Post-medieval		AD 1540 – c 1750
Industrial Period		c AD1750 – 1914
Modern		Post-1914

Table 2: Summary of British archaeological periods and date ranges

5.1 Prehistoric period

Prehistory in the North West region spans from the Upper Palaeolithic (40,000) to the late Iron Age (700 BC – AD 43), although it is still poorly understood and there is generally a lack of archaeological data pertaining to this period. The wetlands of the North West have greater archaeological potential as they appear to have been occupied from the Mesolithic period (10,000 – 3500 BC) through to the late Iron Age. Lowland areas close to rivers and the coast as well as the interface between different ecological zones were favourable for prehistoric subsistence and occupation (Hogdson & Brennand, 2006).

The earliest evidence of activity in the Rochdale borough dates to the later Mesolithic. Whilst in most areas of Greater Manchester prehistoric discoveries are based on chance finds, within Rochdale the first artefacts were discovered through surface collection and excavation by local enthusiasts. This has resulted in clusters of finds within well-explored areas, mainly on the edges of peat or where erosion has exposed the land surface beneath peat. The distribution of finds indicates that Mesolithic activity was more prevalent in the upland areas of the borough, although urban growth is likely to have removed prehistoric material from low-lying areas (GMAU, 2010).

Physical evidence within the borough does suggest that the uplands around Rochdale were used as hunting camps during the Mesolithic period, providing temporary shelter to a small number of people. The location of the sites appeared to be in areas that provided visibility and natural shelter such as on hilltops or south-facing slopes, overlooking water sources. Artefacts were discovered at rock shelters at Light Hazzles Reservoir and Robin Hood Rocks. Further, a late Mesolithic settlement site, likely used for seasonal hunting,

was discovered overlooking Piethorne Brook. It remains possible that more permanent sites were located in low-lying areas (*Ibid*).

The Neolithic period (4000 – 2200 BC) is characterised by the adoption of agriculture and a more sedentary lifestyle, which varies from region to region across the country, where people occupied a landscape characterised by ceremonial and funerary monuments (Hogdson & Brennand, 2006). Woodland clearances imply intensive use of the landscape, although known Neolithic sites tended to be close to those known from the Mesolithic period. Neolithic flint axes were discovered at Newhey and Wardle. In addition, a black stone axe was discovered at Hollingworth, and a green stone axe at Castle Hill, providing evidence of Neolithic activity in the Rochdale area. Further, arrowheads have mainly been found in upland regions suggesting that hunting continued into this period (GMAU 2010).

Finds related to the Bronze Age (c.2000-600BC) in the area are based on casual finds that reflect the bronze-working traditions of northern Britain. Finds included a spearhead from Piethorne. In 1898 a barrow was excavated at Hades, Wardle, which revealed a collared urn containing cremated human bone and burnt flint. A round barrow at Snoddle Hill, Littleborough also revealed flints and a shale armlet. Piethorne Brook produced evidence of Mesolithic activity and the site continued to be used during the Bronze Age. The site revealed flintwork, pottery, a worked shale ring and two jet beads. Bronze Age palstaves were discovered at Crompton Moor and also Ashworth Moor, north of Heywood and c. 6.7km north-west from the Site (*Ibid*).

Archaeological finds relating to the Iron Age in Rochdale are rare. One of the only finds from this period was discovered by chance in 1832 at Mowroad in Calderbrook. The low number of finds may be attributed to the rapid expansion of the Rochdale area during the nineteenth century, leading to the loss of evidence in low-lying areas. Further survey of upland areas and less developed valleys may still reveal further evidence from the prehistoric period (GMAU 2010).

Within closer proximity to the Site, two Bronze Age stone axe hammers were discovered c. 213m east (HER 2437.1.0). The Site is located on land historically known as Siddal Moor, suggesting that it was formerly characterised by a wetland landscape. In 1995 fields to the south of the Site, between Doctors Fold Lane and Hareshill Road, were surveyed as part of the North West Wetlands Survey. The survey revealed that the moor, also known as Doctor's Moss, lay under pasture within a basin. 0.3m of peat remained within the site, with the centre containing 1.3-1.6m of muddy peat on sand over clay. The site was later used for coal mining and sand extraction (HER 5076.1.0). Due to the wetland conditions organic remains may survive on, within or below peat.

5.1.1 Archaeological potential

There is no known evidence for prehistoric activity within the boundary of the Site. However, two Bronze Age axe hammers were discovered within close proximity. Further, the Site is located on a former moor, which increases the possibility for prehistoric remains to survive. However, any remains may have been affected by later development, such as draining for agriculture and twentieth century construction. The potential for prehistoric remains is therefore low.

5.2 Romano-British period

The Roman military landed in England in AD 43 and moved into the North West region in AD 69-70. The area had been formerly occupied by the Brigantes, a Celtic tribe who had controlled the north and west of the country. Archaeological evidence of Roman occupation in the North West region has been well attested and studied through excavations at nearby Manchester, Wigan and Castleshaw (GMAU 2010).

Examples of well documented Roman finds in the Rochdale area comprise a large hoard discovered at Plumpton House in 1856, including 1000 coins. Further, 64 silver coins were discovered at Hollingworth Brook, with a further 11 found by metal detectors. The most notable Roman find in Rochdale was discovered in 1793 by quarry workers. The workers discovered a 240mm long, pure silver statuette known as the Tunshill Arm. It is unknown whether the object was discovered at the site or found elsewhere. Finds in the Rochdale area also include an urn containing coins and a cup discovered at Stubley Hall, Littleborough. At Blackstone Edge an iron spearhead was also found (GMAU 2010).

There are two possible Roman roads located within the wider Heywood area. The distribution of Roman coins hoards in the area indicates that a road may have run westwards from Littleborough, along the valley on the north side of the River Roch and reaching the Manchester to Ribchester road. A secondary road may have run through Middleton centre, reaching Blackstone Edge, Littleborough, and continuing to Ilkley (GMAU, 2010). However, archaeological evidence of the roads is still needed.

5.2.1 Archaeological Potential

There is no known evidence for prehistoric activity within the boundary of the Site and the immediate vicinity. Given the Site's location away from any known Roman activity the potential for remains is considered to be very low.

5.3 Early medieval period

There is very little archaeological evidence in the region that represents the period between the end of Roman occupation and the Norman conquest of 1066. During the early medieval period, the political landscape of Britain changed, and many kingdoms and sub-kingdoms were formed as a result of Germanic invasions. Today the Site is located to the south of Heywood and west of Hopwood, a suburb of Heywood, within the borough of Rochdale. During the medieval period Hopwood formed part of the township of Middleton within the Salford Hundred.

Place name evidence suggests early medieval settlement in the local area. Middleton was a common name deriving from the Old English *middel* and *tūn*, usually meaning 'middle farmstead or estate' (Mills, 2011). The prefix 'tun' or 'ton' was given to several other local place names such as Royton, Crompton, Moston, Clayton, and Ashton. The settlements all possibly date to the seventh century when Æthelfrith of Bernicia, an Anglo-Saxon King, passed through Manchester with an army. It's suggested that Middleton evolved around a church established before the Norman conquest (Middleton Archaeological Society 2022). During the ninth century an oval-shaped churchyard was laid out in Middleton, dedicated to Saint Cuthbert. After the Norman Conquest a larger church was built on the site, dedicated to the Saint Leonard (Middleton Parish Church 2020).

Rochdale, Hopwood and Heywood all also derive from Old English terms, suggesting early settlement in the area. Rochdale appeared in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Recedham* meaning 'homestead with a hall', deriving from the Old English *reced* and *hām*. Rochdale was then noted in 1195 as *Rachedal* meaning 'valley of the River Roch', with the river name a back-formation from *Recedham*. Heywood was first documented as *Heiwode* in 1225, deriving from *hæg* and *wudu*, meaning 'enclosed wood'. Further, Hopwood originates *hop* and *wudu* from meaning 'wood near an enclosure or in a small enclosed valley' (Mills, 2011). Place name evidence, however, is only suggestive of early medieval settlement in the local area and further documentary and archaeological evidence is still needed.

5.3.1 Archaeological potential

Given the location of the Site away from known early medieval settlement activity, the potential for buried archaeological remains is considered to be very low.

5.4 Late medieval period

William of Normandy arrived in England in 1066 and by 1070 AD his forces had reached northern England. Around 1086 the land was surveyed for the Domesday Book, recording the land holdings in the country before the Conquest under the rule of Edward the Confessor and also after the Conquest. Rochdale first appeared in the Domesday Survey as being held by Gamel the Thane, who was one of the 21 thanes of Radcliffe (GMAU 2010). The lands of Rochdale were held by Gamel for Roger de Poitou until 1080 when they were split between Gilbert de Lacy, Henry de Seville and the Ellands. By 1311 the estates passed to Henry, Earl of Lancaster, and remained with the family until the late fifteenth century. From 1430 land was held in serjeanty by Sir John Byron and his descendants held it for centuries (Farrer & Brownbill, 1911).

Hopwood was held by the lords of the manor of Middleton throughout the late medieval period and was first recorded in 1292 as *Hoppewode*. The manor of Middleton, Rochdale, was also held by the Lacy family and the Earls of Lancaster. The tenants of the area adopted the local surname, with a Roger de Middleton documented in 1180. The family remained on the land until the late fourteenth century when it was passed through marriage to the de Bartons. By 1480 the manor was given to the Ashton family with whom it remained until the eighteenth century when it was given to the Harbords (Farrer & Brownbill, 1911).

Corn began to be ground in water-powered mills in Rochdale during the late medieval period, set up along the tributaries of the River Roch and taking advantage of the water supply. Early corn mills were located in Ashworth, Brimrod, Buckley, Greenbooth, Heywood, Rochdale, and Sudden. However, when a wool and corn tax was introduced in England in 1340, the amount produced in Rochdale was much lower than the amount produced in Poulton le Fylde, suggesting that much of the land remained uncultivated. By the fifteenth century, sheep rearing was becoming more common and wool production was a growing industry. Rochdale began to develop into a centre for northern England's woollen trade, with merchants selling their produce at market. Packhorse routes were increasingly used throughout the period to connect the smaller villages to the nearby markets (*Ibid*).

Much of the land within the Rochdale and Middleton parishes remained rural during the medieval period. Ridge and furrow earthworks and cropmarks are well attested in the

immediate vicinity of the Site and survive as archaeological evidence of former land use and agricultural activity. The former field system was noted running in a north-east direction, to the east of Manchester Road, c. 81m south-east from the Site (HER 2971.1.0). Possible ridge and furrow marks were also visible on LIDAR imagery running east-west to the north-east of Hareshill Farm, c. 84m north of the Site boundary (HER 17230.1.0). Further, a number of cropmarks, including ridge and furrow were also visible on aerial photography near to Stock Nook, c. 632m south-west from the Site (HER 2902.1.0) and c. 265m south-west, near to Siddall Moor Farm (HER 2960.2.0).

Several features connected with former agricultural activity have been noted to the south of the Site, west of Manchester Road, including c. 203m south, where a collection of features such as terracing and ridge and furrow were documented (HER 2968.1.0). Fields of earthworks are also located c. 348m south (HER 2967.1.0), c. 340m south (HER 2969.1.0) and c. 656m south-west (HER 2961.1.0). New Gap Farm was located c. 488m south of the Site boundary. An L-shaped cropmark was visible near to the farm, possibly signifying a ditch or a moat. The feature indicates that the farm may be the site of a former medieval moated homestead (HER 2905.1.0).

5.4.1 Archaeological potential

Remnants of former agricultural activity survive within the immediate vicinity of the Site. However, any related to medieval agricultural activity that may survive within the Site remains will have been affected by development on the Site during the twentieth century and therefore the potential is low.

5.5 Post-medieval period

By the end of the medieval period agriculture in the area moved from arable to pastoral. Rochdale was an established market centre with a fair and Middleton, to the south of the district, was also a centre of growth. Both areas were prospering in the woollen trade. The trade would continue to prosper during the post-medieval period (GMAU, 2010).

One of the first maps to capture the areas of 'Rochedale', 'Hawood Chap', 'Hopwood' and 'Myddleton' to the south was Saxton's 1577 map of Lancashire (Plate 2). Heywood was marked by a building, likely Heywood Hall, and Middleton was represented as a larger town with a church and spire. The Site is located to the west of Hopwood today, although the area was not depicted on the map and likely remained rural.



Plate 2: Saxton's 1577 map of Lancashire

Several medieval mills continued to be used throughout the post-medieval period, including Hopwood Hall Mill, which was first established in 1307 and was in use until 1882 (GMAU, 2010). In the early seventeenth century Edmund Hopwood held the lands of Hopwood for Richard Ashton of Middleton, at which point the lands consisted of 'with its appurtenances, thirty messuages, a water-mill, 300 acres of arable land'. In the 1666 hearth tax returns Hopwood comprised 73 hearths liable for tax, with the largest landowners being Hopwood Hall with 14 hearths, compared to Middleton where there were 113 hearths liable (Farrer & Brownbill, 1911).

Small scale coal mining had been carried out in Rochdale during the post-medieval period. In 1587 a *coalfy/de* was mentioned at Siddall in a lease between Edmund Hopwood and Isabella Schoffide. At this point mining would have been for local use (Blythe, 2009). It would not be until the industrial period that mining would be carried out on a larger scale. The Site is located on the former Siddal Moor.

Several possible post-medieval or industrial features associated with coal workings have been identified within 750m of the Site. Evidence of possible mining pits were noted at Stock Nook (HER 2902.1.0), near to New Gap Farm (HER 2967.1.0; HER 2904.1.0) and near to Saxons Farm, to the east of Manchester Road (HER 2976.1.0; HER 2973.1.0; HER 2906.1.0). Also identified was a road, possibly used to access the mines (HER 2903.1.0). A large number of dark cropmarks were also noted 23m south of the Site boundary, indicating possible mineshafts (HER 2970.1.0). Further, an archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North in 2009, identified at possible colliery on field 287 on the 1846 Hopwood Tithe map. The field was named 'Lower Coal Field Pit', and three fields to the north-west (288, 289 and 328) were named Middle and Higher Coal Pit Field and 'Pits', indicating that coal mining had taken place in the area by the early nineteenth century (HER 16720.1.0) (Blythe, 2009).

The evidence suggests that coal mining was present within the immediate vicinity of the Site, particularly to the northwest and south/southeast and possibly therefore also took place within the Site boundary. Possible brickworks were also located near Stock Nook, c. 650m south-west (HER 2962.1.0) and near to New Gap Farm, c. 520m south (HER 2964.1.0).

5.5.1 Archaeological potential

There is potential for remains associated with agricultural activity and possible coal mining to remain within the Site. However, any remains were likely affected by development on the Site during the twentieth century and therefore the potential is low.

5.6 Onset of the industrial revolution

From the late eighteenth century, the cotton industry was beginning to grow in the Rochdale area, and woollen and cotton factories spread over the parish. Manufacturers were able to utilise the watercourses of the River Roch and the brooks leading from it. Transport and infrastructure within the borough developed as a result. The Rochdale Canal was constructed in 1804 to carry coal, agricultural produce and textiles between Rochdale and Manchester and a branch of the canal was extended to Heywood in 1830 (Canal River Trust 2022). A line of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, between Manchester and Rochdale, also opened in 1839. The line was extended to Heywood in 1841, where a station was established (Farrer & Brownbill, 1911). Towards the end of

the eighteenth century Heywood was growing into a town, spurred by the textile industry and advances in infrastructure and a local board was established in 1864.

A local board was formed in Hopwood in 1863. In 1881 the borough of Heywood was incorporated, including the areas of Heap, Hopwood, Pilsworth, Birtle-with-Bamford, and Castleton. In 1894 Heywood became a civil parish and the former historic boundaries were abolished. By the early twentieth century the Hopwood area was described as a place where there 'was formerly moss land. There are numerous cotton-mills. A colliery was worked formerly. A large railway-wagon works, an iron foundry, and a brewery are carried on' (Farrer & Brownbill, 1911). Hopwood now remains as a suburb of Heywood.

The Site is located to the southwest of the developing town of Heywood. Farms were established in the local area from the mid nineteenth century, such as Siddall Moor Farm (HER 2960.1.0) and New Gap Farm (HER 2966.1.0) to the south of the Site. A colliery was also present on Siddal Moor by 1855, owned by James Turner and Co (Hunt, 1855).

5.7 Development of the Site

The development of the Site may be traced reasonably well from the sequence of available historic mapping. One of the earliest maps to capture the area was Bowen's 1780 map of Lancashire (Plate 3). The map showed the Manchester to Rochdale road passing north-south nearby to 'Hewood', 'Hopwood' and 'Midleton'. Yate's 1786 map of Lancashire was the next to depict the Site, providing more detail of the area (Plate 4). *Siddall Moor* was labelled on the map, to the west of Hopwood and within which the Site was located. A road leading south from Heywood forked at the northern point of the moor, and a road was shown running along the eastern edge, following the route of the later Manchester Road. The Site likely remained as unenclosed moorland close to the road during this period.



Plate 3: Bowen's 1780 map of Lancashire

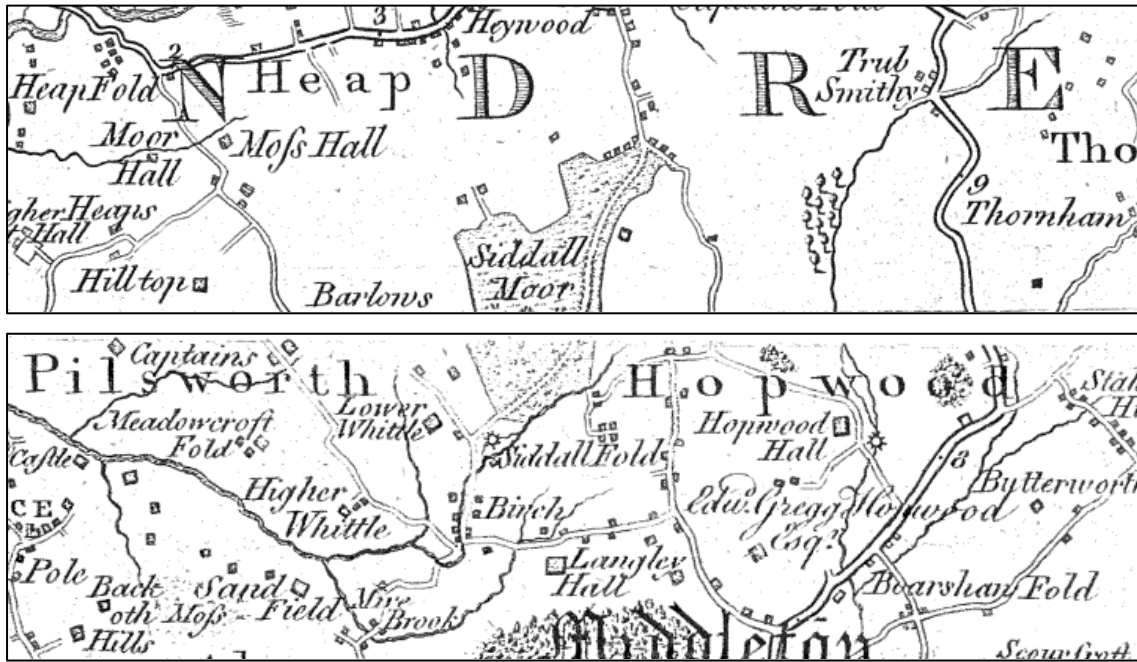


Plate 4: Yate's 1786 map showing Siddall Moor

The enclosure movement in England increased during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. A series of parliamentary Acts in the nineteenth century led to parliamentary enclosure systems, enclosing large amounts of land that had been held in the open field system and also large areas of 'waste'. Private Acts from the mid eighteenth century had been effective in bringing about agricultural reform, but the process was slow and expensive. The first General Enclosure Bill was then passed in 1801. The fourth and final General Enclosure Act would be passed in 1845 (Historic England, 2018).

Discussions of the enclosure of Siddall Moor began in 1805 when a newspaper reported that an 'application is intended to be made to Parliament in the next session, for an Act to divide, allot, and inclose the Commons and Waste Grounds commonly called Siddall Moor' (*Manchester Mercury* 10th September 1805). The Act for the enclosure of the moor was then passed in February 1812 (Rickards, 1812). The land within the Site was held by the Earl of Wilton in 1815 (Blythe, 2009).

One of the first maps to show the moor after enclosure had begun was Greenwood's 1818 map of Lancashire, although it was produced at too a small scale and without detail to depict the Site accurately (Plate 5). *Siddall Moor* was still labelled on the map with Manchester Road passing through.

The next map to capture the Site was Hennett's 1830 map (Plate 6). The map showed some development on the former moor, with buildings centered mainly around the road. It's likely that one of the buildings to the west of the road represented the buildings associated with what later became known as Mercers Farm (Plate 8). The farm was located just beyond the eastern boundary of the Site and buildings were first noted in the area of the farm in 1815 (HER 16716.1.0).



Plate 5: Greenwood's 1818 map of Lancashire showing Siddall Moor



Plate 6: Hennett's 1830 map showing the approximate location of the Site

The first reliable published map to show the Site was the 1851 Ordnance Survey map (Plate 7). The map showed the Site comprising enclosed fields, with some field boundaries lined with trees and shrubbery. Mercers Farm was located to the northeast of the Site boundary. In 1850 the enclosure of Siddal Moor was described by a contemporary as being 'one part purchased by Mr. John Owen, of Prestwich, has been done in a perfect manner. Other parts not so well managed' (Rothwell, 1850). Similarly, in his 1869 history of Lancaster and Cheshire Baines noted that the part of the moor purchased by Owens was enclosed 'in a very superior manner (Baines, 1869).

It's possible that the land within the Site was occupied by those residing at nearby Mercers Farm. In 1871 Robert Kay, a farmer, lived at the farm with his wife and seven children (*Census returns for Mercers Farm 1871*).

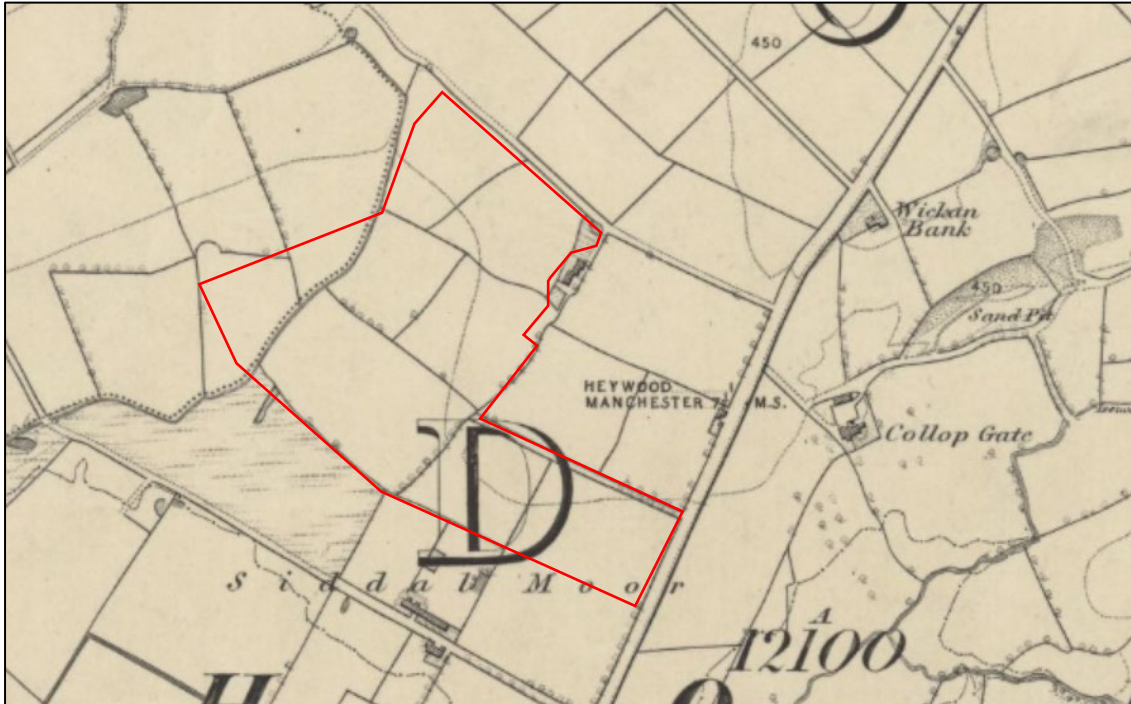


Plate 7: 1851 Ordnance Survey map showing Site

By the late nineteenth century one small building has been constructed within the Site, possibly an outbuilding or store associated with Mercers Farm (Plate 8; Fig 3). Further, in the western section, a former field boundary was marked as defaced, indicating that it was no longer present. A field boundary had been added to the south-east, creating parcels 291 and 292. The building was removed by 1910 (Fig 4) and a field boundary was removed by 1929 at the north of the Site, creating parcel 128 (Fig 5). No further development took place within the Site (Fig 6) until 1957 when the remaining field boundaries were removed, creating one large field (Plate 9; Fig 7). A shelter had also been constructed along the eastern boundary.

Modern mapping shows that a depot has been constructed, with a small sewage works, occupying the majority of the Site (HGM22521). The Site comprises numerous buildings, access paths and a pond also (Fig 2).

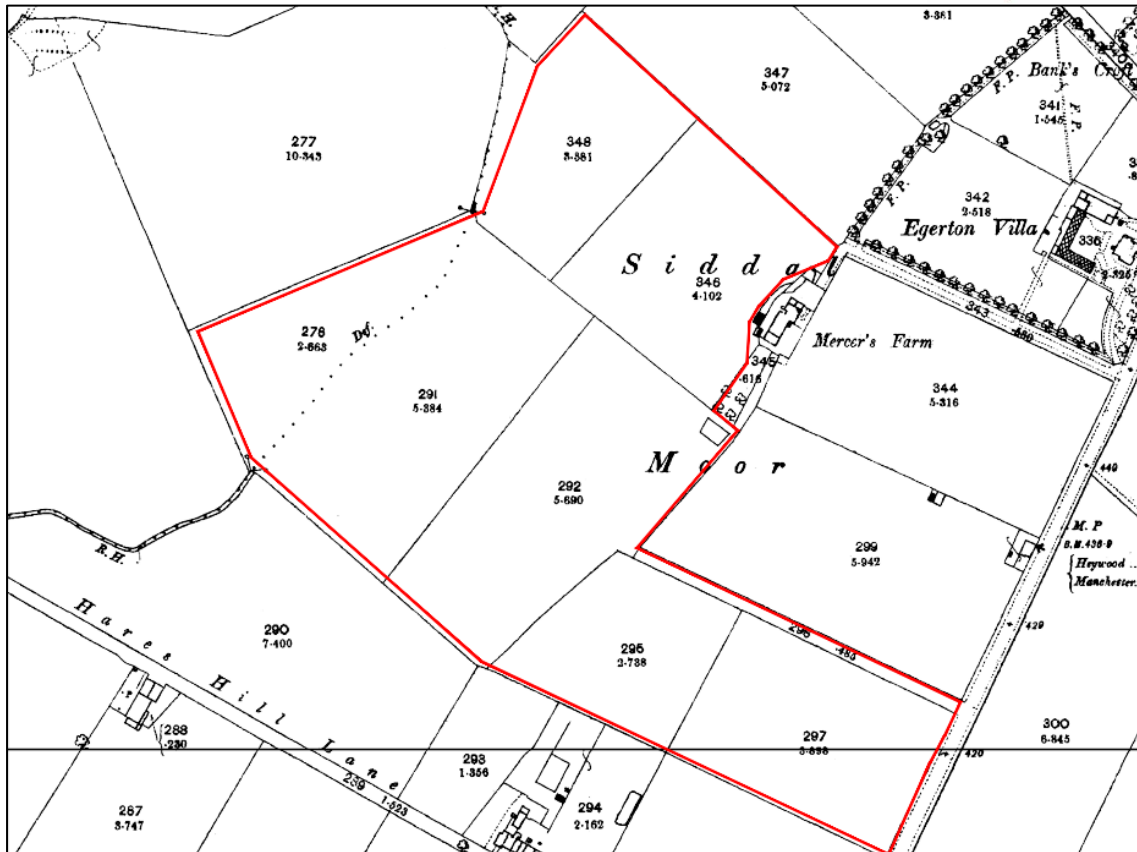


Plate 8: 1893 OS map with superimposed Site boundary

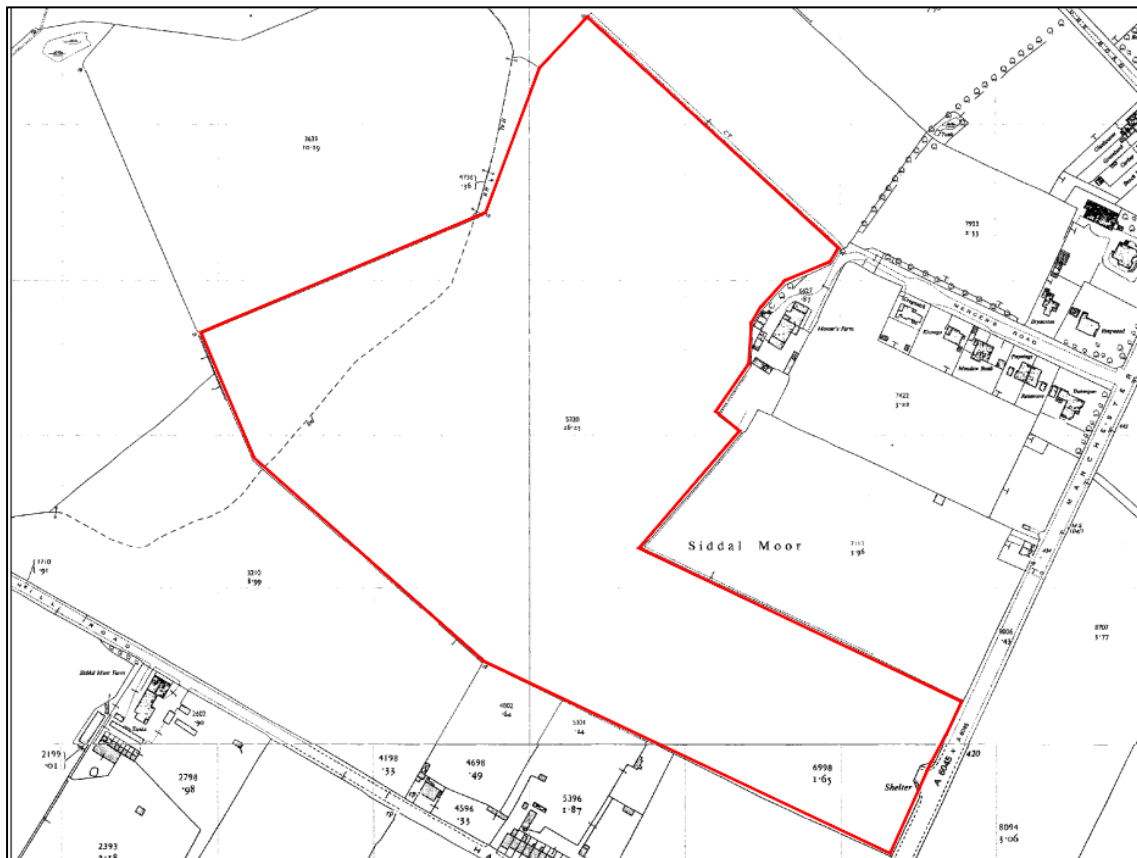


Plate 9: 1957 OS map with superimposed Site boundary

5.8 Previous archaeological works

5.8.1 Non-intrusive archaeological works within 750m of the Site

In 2009 Oxford Archaeology North produced a desk-based assessment to inform proposals for the redevelopment of Siddal Moor College (EGM4172). The aim was to identify as far as possible the nature and significance of the archaeological resource to enable informed recommendations for the future treatment of any surviving remains. The development area was located to the north-west of the Site, adjoining the north and western boundary. The assessment concluded that the site had the potential to contain remains of low local significance, related to possible former coal mining in the area (Blythe, 2009).

A second desk-based assessment was carried out by Orion Heritage in 2016 on land at south Heywood (EGM4369). The DBA drew together archaeological, historical, topographical and land-use information in order to clarify the heritage significance and archaeological potential the study area. The assessment considered a large area of land, comprising 133 hectares, adjoining the Site boundary to the east, south and west. The assessment concluded that the site had a varied potential for archaeological remains from all periods, with a moderate to high potential identified for the medieval period and low potential for prehistoric and post-medieval remains (Smith, 2016).

In 2017 a survey, including a Historic Building Assessment and Landscape Survey, of the land at south Heywood was carried out by L-P: Archaeology on behalf of Orion Heritage (EGM4370). The assessments concluded that the area underwent economic growth associated with the farming community in the mid-late nineteenth century (Jones & Poole, 2017).

6. Gazetteer

The following gazetteer entries summarise the sites of potential archaeological interest within the Site. The identification of these non-designated heritage assets is drawn primarily from the historic map regression analysis. The locations of the gazetteer entries are shown on Figure 8 within *Appendix 1: Figures*.

Gazetteer Entry 01

Site Name	Historic field boundaries
Designation	No designation
HER Number	-
Site Type	Field systems (site of)
Period	Post-medieval to nineteenth century
NGR	SD 85642 09096 – SD 85591 08996; SD 85630 09192 – SD 85572 09124; SD 85561 09127 – SD 85477 09053; SD 85546 09278 – SD 85411 09106; SD 85468 09345 – SD 85329 09183; SD 85391 09225 – SD 85370 09306; SD 85378 09274 – SD 95331 09288
Source	OS mapping
Description	The OS map of 1851 showed several field boundaries passing through the Site. The field boundaries may have post-medieval or earlier origins. The fields remained largely undeveloped during the nineteenth century. By 1893 one to the west was labelled as 'defaced'. All field boundaries were removed in 1957. The survival of the pre-industrial landscape is rare in Greater Manchester and has often been removed by extensive development in the nineteenth century.
Assessment	Field boundaries may include ditches, hedges, or fences. Remains of ditches associated with field boundaries may contain evidence of the former landscape, which could survive within the Site and may be affected by the proposed development scheme. Although they were likely affected by development on the Site in the twentieth century.

Gazetteer Entry 02

Site Name	Building
Designation	No designation
HER Number	-
Site Type	Building (site of)
Period	Late nineteenth century
NGR	SD 85621 09201
Source	1893 OS map
Description	A building shown on the 1893 OS map, likely associated with Mercer's Farm to the north. It was demolished by 1910.
Assessment	Remains associated with the building may survive within the Site and may be affected by the proposed development. Although it may have been affected by development on the Site in the twentieth century.

7. Significance

7.1 Policy context for heritage assets

The archaeological resource of an area can encompass a range of assets, including below-ground remains, earthworks, and standing buildings and other structures. Some of these remains may have statutory protection, such as Scheduled Monuments or listed buildings. Others do not, but may nevertheless be of archaeological significance. Under both national and local planning policy, as outlined below, both statutory and non-statutory remains are to be considered within the planning process.

The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policy and framework for England, and how these are expected to be implemented. The NPPF places particular emphasis on assessing the development proposals in line with an up-to-date local plan. Consequently, Rochdale Borough Council's Core Strategy (adopted October 2016) was consulted as the key Development Plan Document in the Local Development Framework (LDF), with particular reference to Policy *P2 - Protecting and enhancing character, landscape and heritage*. In determining applications, local planning authorities must be able to understand the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposed development in order to assess its impact. This enables the conservation of heritage assets in a manner suitable to their significance so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations, or else they can be recorded and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and this evidence made publicly accessible.

7.2 Significance of below-ground archaeological remains

7.2.1 Baseline significance conditions

Period

No prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity is known to have taken place within the Site or the wider area and the potential for such remains is considered to be low.

The most likely remains to be encountered within the Site would date to the post-medieval and industrial periods, which could include historic field boundaries (GE01) and a late nineteenth century outbuilding (GE02). However, the Site was developed in the late twentieth century, likely affecting any surviving remains. The Site therefore may not be considered to be significant due to period.

Rarity

Buried remains pre-dating the nineteenth century, would be considered significant due to rarity, including remnants of late medieval field systems or field boundaries. Any remains associated with mid-late nineteenth century farm buildings would not be considered significant due to rarity.

Documentation

The historical development of the Site can be traced reasonably well from cartographic and other primary sources. Further documentary research would undoubtedly furnish

additional evidence, although this is unlikely to alter the outline and conclusions presented in this assessment.

Group value

The potential archaeological remains within the Site do not have a shared group value.

Survival / condition

The survival, extent and condition of any below-ground archaeological remains within the Site is presently unknown. The draining of the land for agriculture in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries would have likely removed or affected any earlier archaeological remains. Further, the development of the Site in the late twentieth will have undoubtedly impacted on the below-ground remains of the sites identified in this assessment, although the extent of this is unknown.

Fragility / vulnerability

Any buried archaeological remains, should they be present and survive in situ, are vulnerable to damage or destruction during any earth-moving works associated with the proposed development.

Diversity

Heritage assets within the Site may include remains relating to agriculture in Hopwood and Heywood in the post-medieval and industrial period and therefore may not be considered significant due to diversity.

Potential

There are no prehistoric sites within the Site or its environs, although two Bronze Age stone axe hammers were discovered c. 213m east and the Site is located on a former moorland. Wetland landscapes were usually more suitable for prehistoric settlement. However, any prehistoric remains may have been affected by the later draining, cultivation and enclosure of the Site. The potential for prehistoric remains to survive is therefore low.

The potential for Roman or early medieval remains to survive within the Site is considered to be very low, given the Site's location away from any known Romano-British or early medieval activity and later drainage of the Site.

The survival of former fields and field boundaries may have some potential to address the research agendas outlined in the current Archaeological Research Framework for North West England (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/industrial/#section7>; <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/sample-page/post-medieval/>):

PM27: How do the industries associated with the North West evolve and develop during this period?

Ind05: How well understood is change and development of the agrarian landscape in response to industrialisation and enclosure?

Ind09: How does the nature of rural settlement change during this period?

Ind15: How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes and field patterns?

However, it is unlikely that any below-ground remains pertaining to the field boundaries will survive within the centre of the Site due to the development that took place in the late twentieth century. Therefore, the Site has low potential to contain below-ground remains that could address the research aims listed above.

Several ridge and furrow earthworks have been identified within the wider landscape, as well as a possible medieval moated homestead. Further, numerous cropmarks signifying former coal pits and mine shafts were identified to the south of the Site, with a possible colliery to the north-west. Although these features lie beyond the Site boundary, they could indicate that late medieval or post-medieval activity took place in the vicinity and may have some potential to address the research agendas outlined in the current Archaeological Research Framework (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/sample-page/late-medieval/>; <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/sample-page/post-medieval/#section-32>):

LM02: What is our understanding of late medieval land reclamation, water management and exploitation of natural resources?

LM03: How did small settlements evolve and exploit environmental resources?

LM12: How do we improve our knowledge of the regions various agricultural practices, plant and animal husbandry, and how did these change and develop over time?

PM27: How do the industries associated with the North West evolve and develop during this period?

PM29: How do the extractive industries develop during this period?

The features and cropmarks lie beyond the Site boundary, though associated activity could have taken place within the Site. Therefore, the Site has low potential to contain below-ground remains that could address the research aims listed above.

The Site was likely largely used for agricultural purposes during the post-medieval and early industrial periods. There is potential for the remains of post-medieval agricultural activity to survive within the Site in the form of field boundaries shown on nineteenth-century mapping (GE01). Buried remains of a late nineteenth century structure may also survive within the Site (GE02). However, the redevelopment of Site in the late twentieth century is likely to have removed any earlier archaeological remains.

7.3 Summary of significance

It can be concluded from the information gained from the desk-based research that the Site is not of archaeological interest and has very little potential to contain remains of former field boundaries (GE01) and a late nineteenth century structure (GE02). The remains, if present, would be of local significance. Former historic field boundaries could provide palaeo-environmental evidence of the post-medieval landscape. However, development on the Site in the late twentieth century is likely to have removed remains of the field boundaries. Further, the cultivation and draining of the land in the eighteenth and nineteenth century would likely have removed any earlier remains.

8. Impact assessment

8.1 Development proposals

The delivery of the proposals will include the construction of three units with associated car parking facilities and hard and soft landscaping works. The delivery of the proposals will involve ground-breaking works that have the potential to affect any surviving archaeological remains within the Site (Fig 8).

8.2 Impact upon archaeological resource within the Site

Delivery of the development proposals will necessitate some ground-breaking and landscaping works across the Site, with potential to impact on buried archaeological remains.

This assessment has demonstrated that there is little potential to retain buried remains of a former field boundaries and a late nineteenth century structure.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Heritage Assets

The NPPF makes clear that where the loss of the whole or a material part of a non-designated heritage asset's significance is justified by a development, the developer should be required to record that asset and advance understanding of its significance, and to make this evidence publicly accessible.

9.2 Further Investigation

The exact scope and extent of any such further investigation of the Site will be determined by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), in their capacity as archaeological advisor to Rochdale Borough Council. However, it may be anticipated that no further archaeological investigation will be required.

Sources

Cartographic sources

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Map of Lancashire, E. Bowen 1780

A Plan of the County Palatine of Lancaster, W. Yates 1786

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Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan, published 1893

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Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County Series Map, 1929

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The desk-based research and report were compiled by Natalie Poundall, and illustrations were provided by Sarah Mottershead. The report was edited by Ashley Brogan.

Appendix 1: Figures

- Figure 1: Site location map
- Figure 2: Site boundary superimposed on modern mapping
- Figure 3: Site boundary superimposed on the Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1893
- Figure 4: Site boundary superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County Series Map, 1910
- Figure 5: Site boundary superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County Series Map, 1929
- Figure 6: Site boundary superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County Series Map, 1939
- Figure 7: Site boundary superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 National Grid Map, published 1957
- Figure 8: Gazetteer sites superimposed onto modern mapping

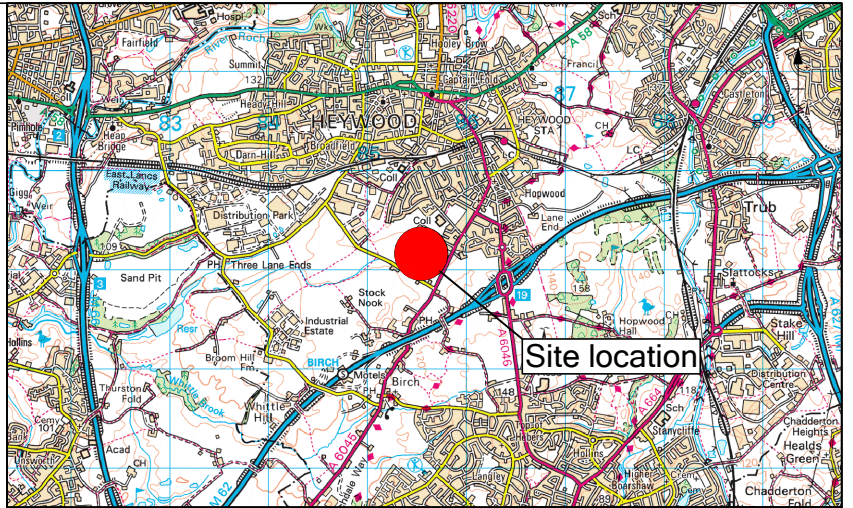


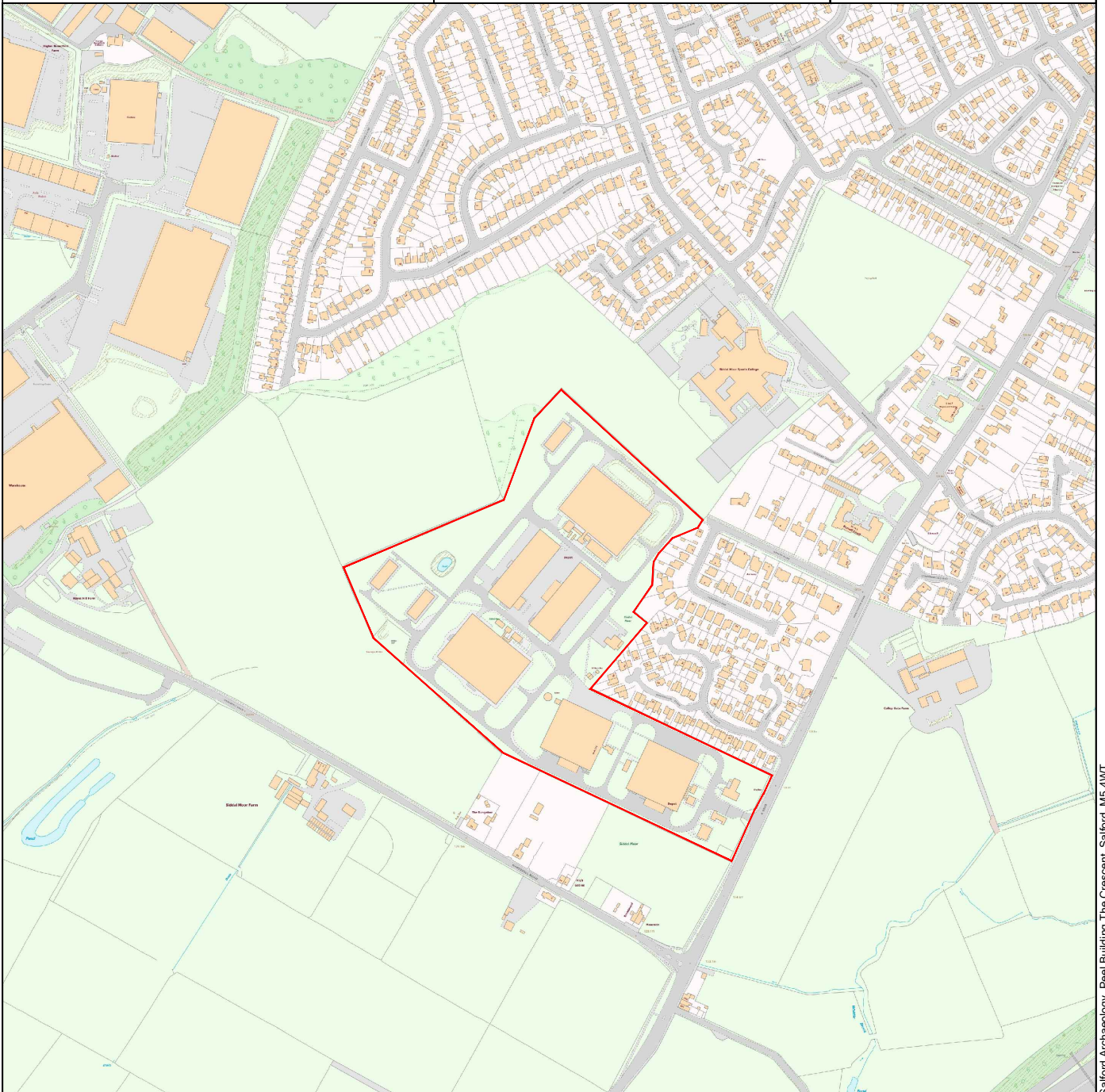
Figure 1:

Site Location

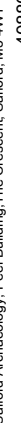
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0 200 m

Scale at A4 1:4000

 Site Boundary

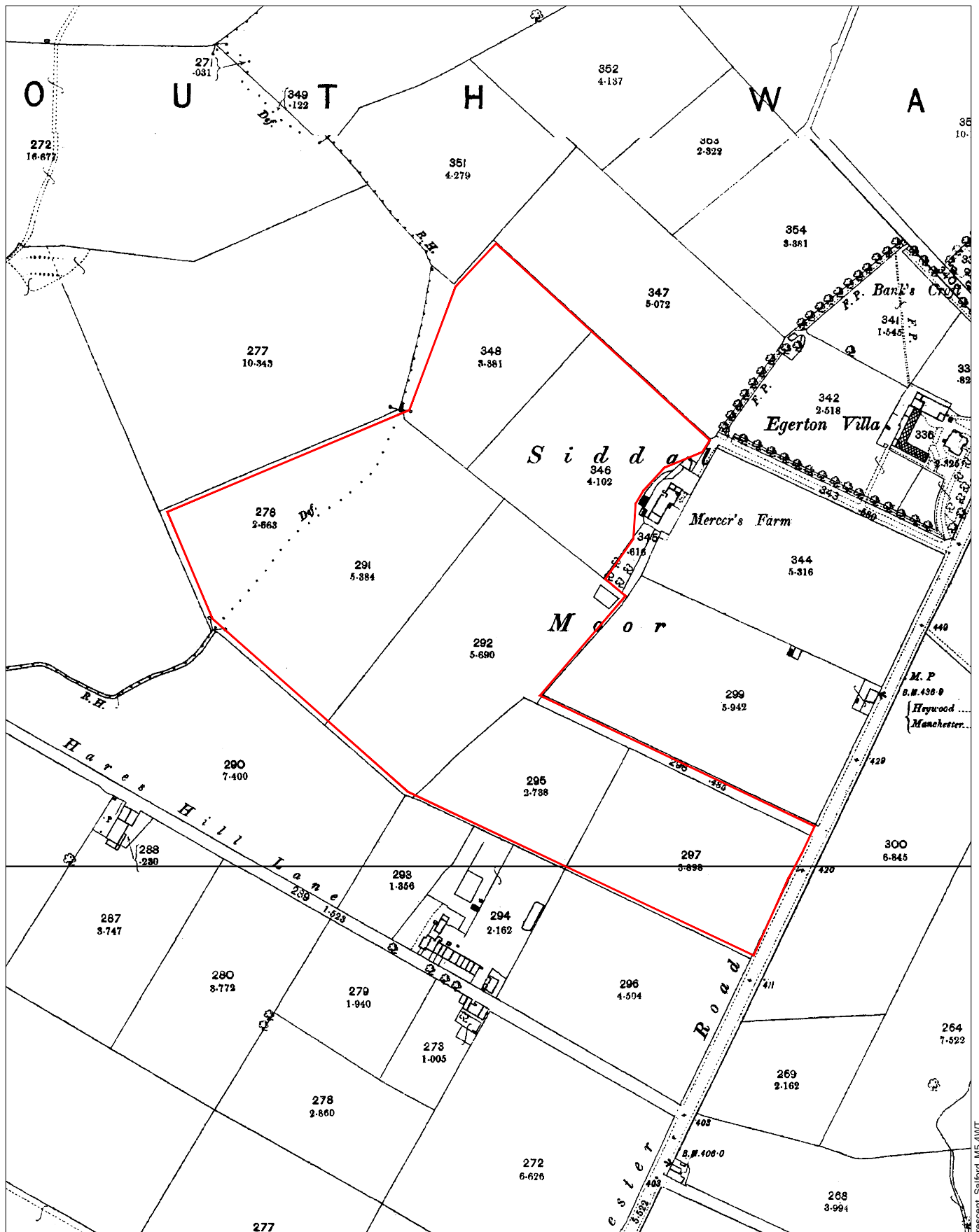


Figure 3:

Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1893

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Key:

— Site Boundary



**SALFORD
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Scale at A4 1:4000

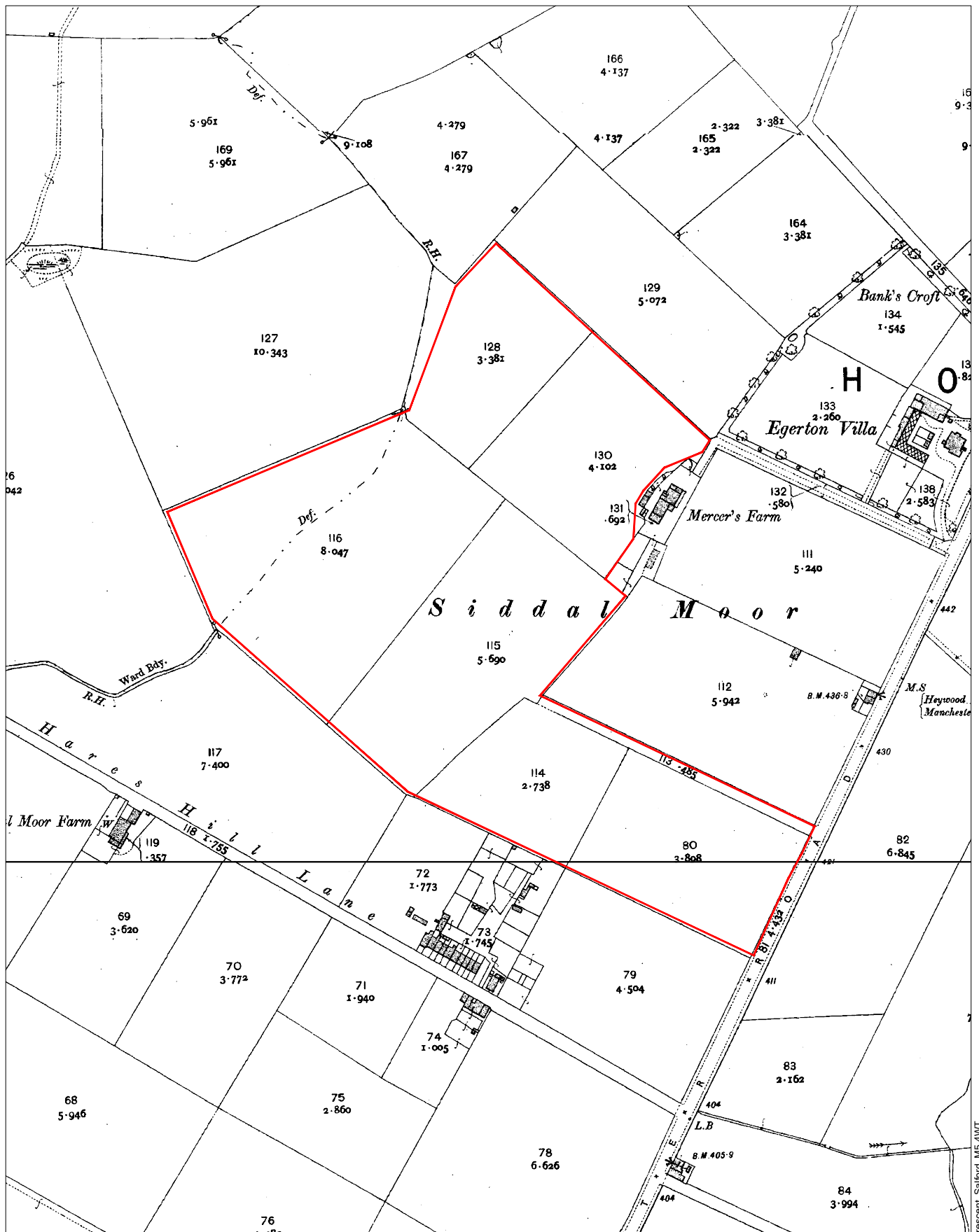


Figure 4:

Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1910

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Key:

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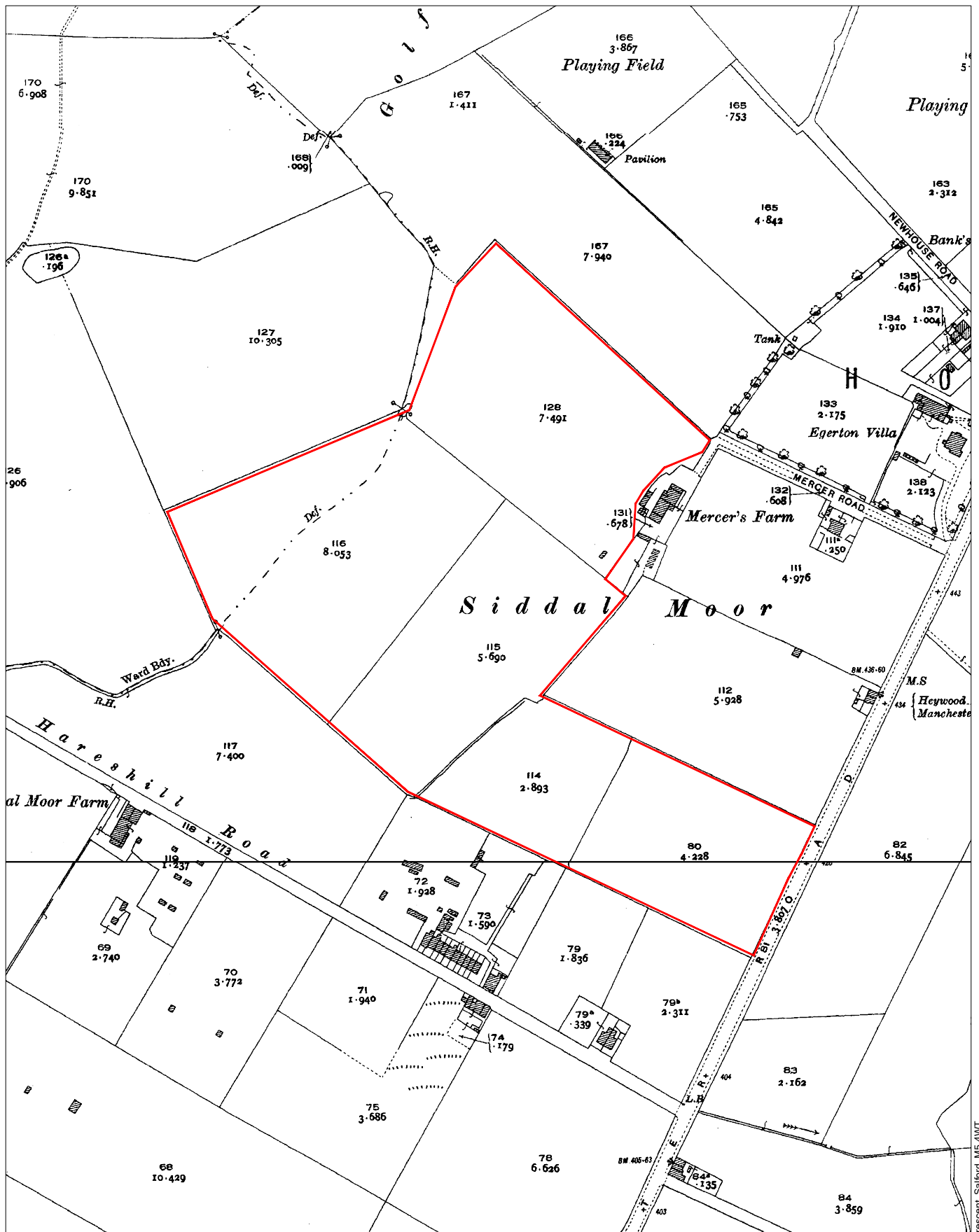


Figure 5:

Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1929

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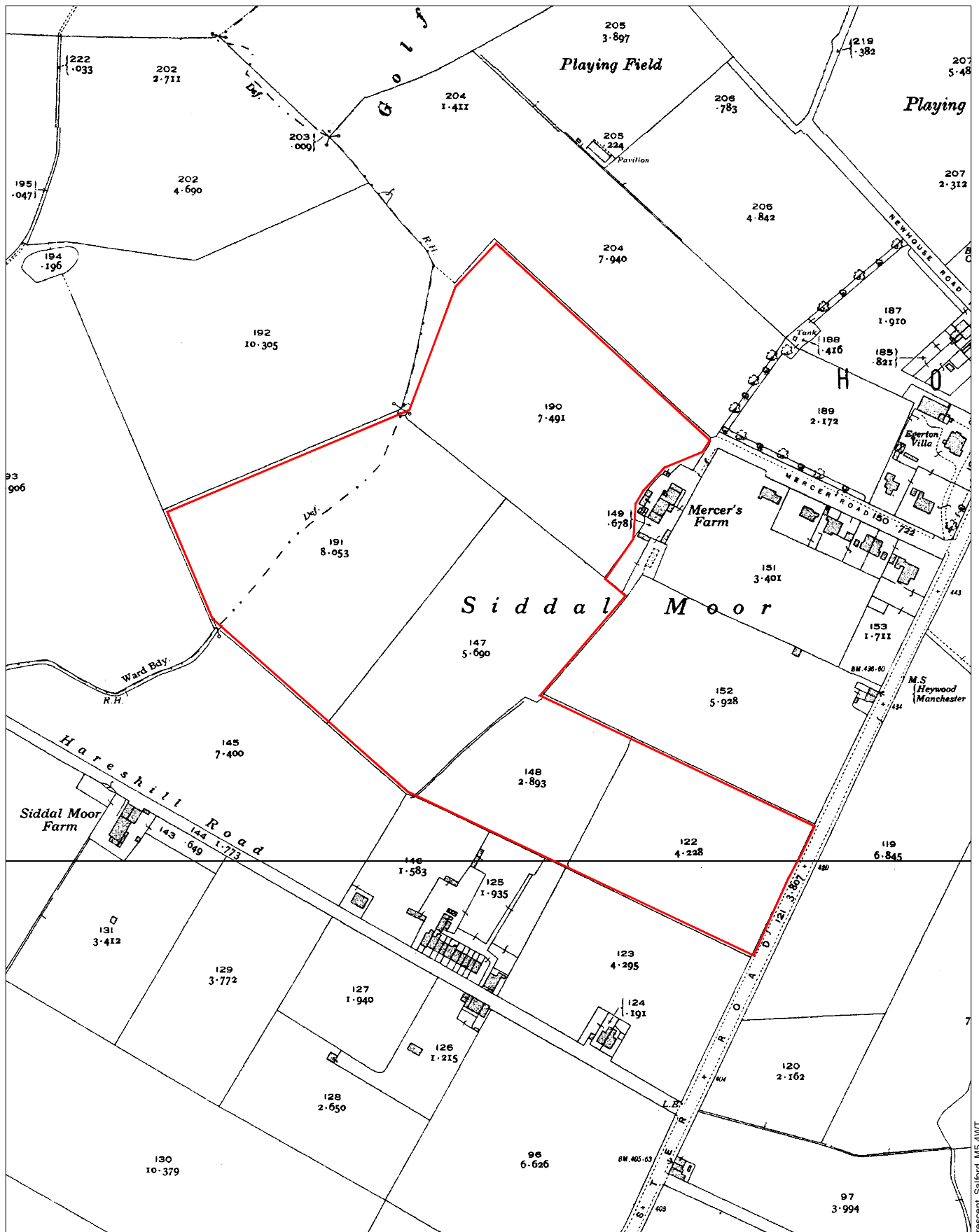
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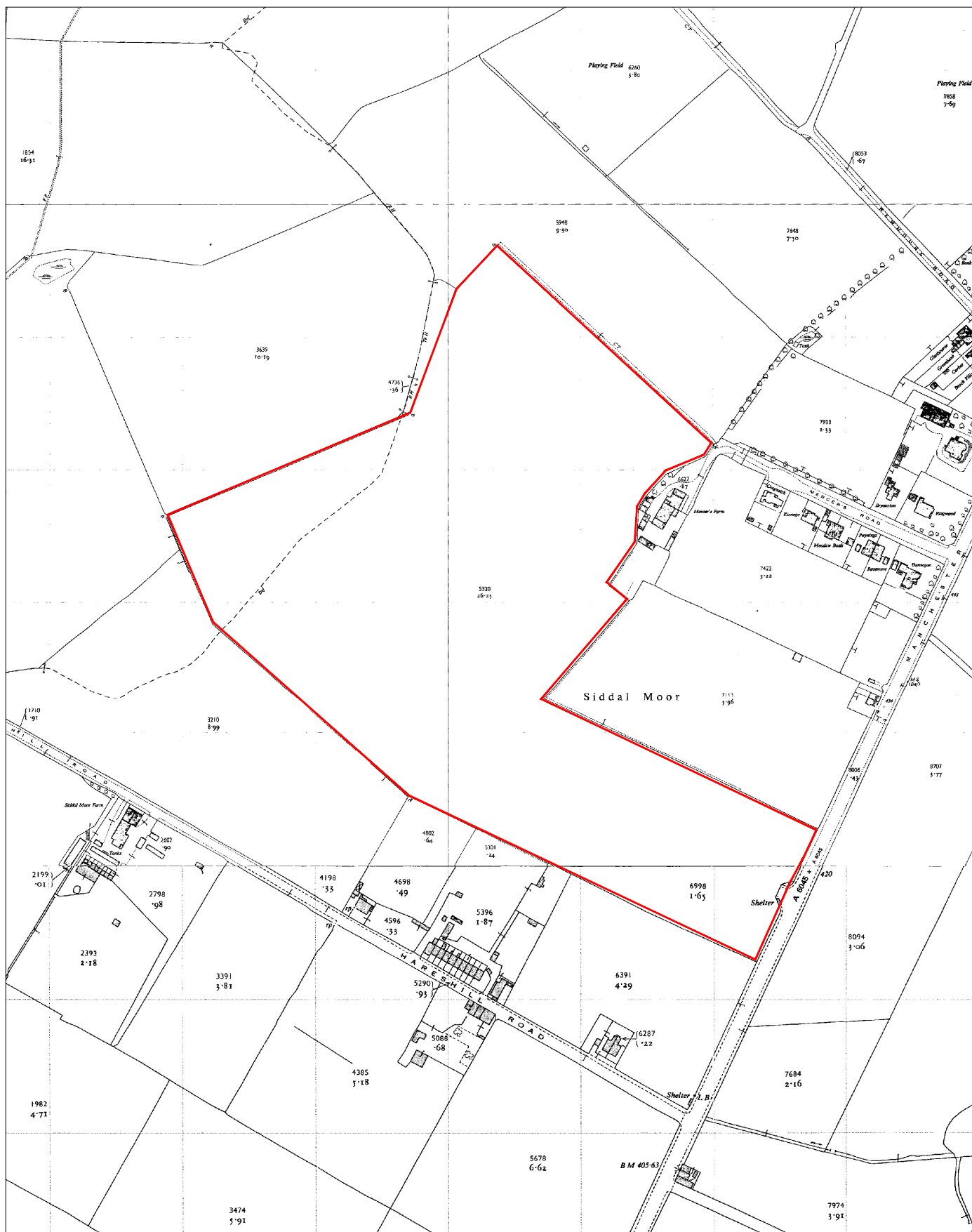


Figure 7:

Site Boundary Superimposed onto the 1:2500 National Grid Map of 1957

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Key:

— Site Boundary



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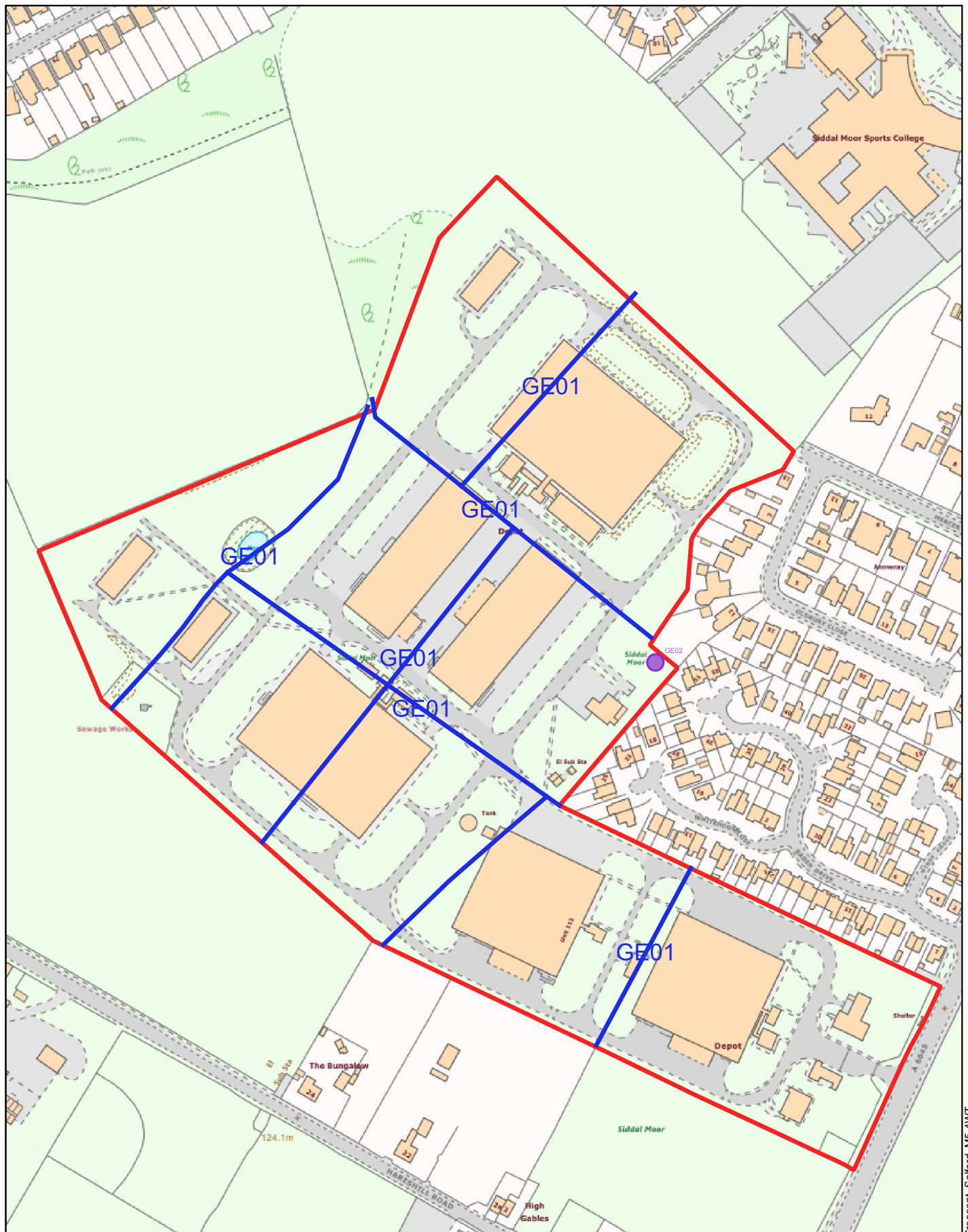


Figure 8:
Locations of Gazetteer Entries

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SA
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0 50 100 m

Key:

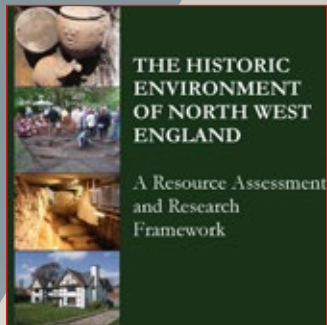
Site Boundary

GE01

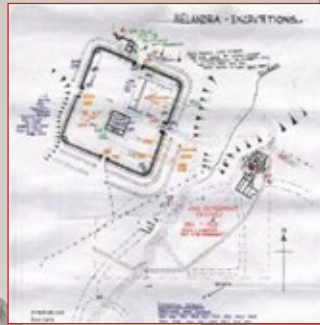
GE02



CONSULTANCY



DESK-BASED ASSESSMENTS



WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION



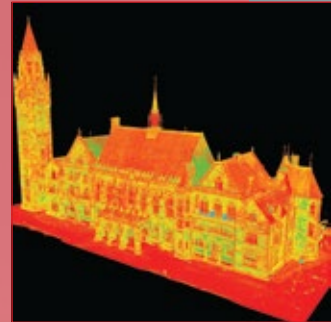
EXCAVATION



BUILDING SURVEY



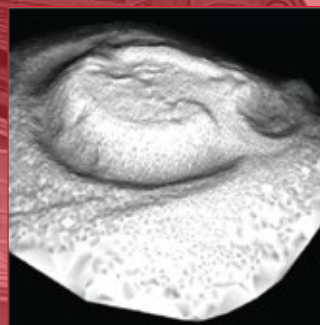
3D LASER SCANNING



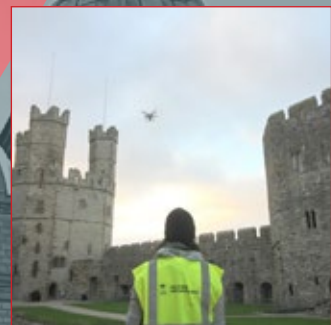
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



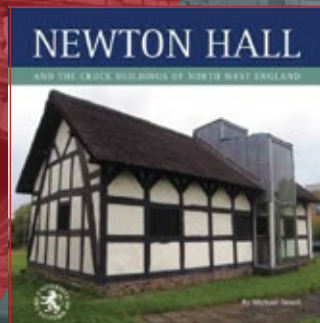
DRONE SURVEYS



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