

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Smithy Bridge Road, Littleborough, Rochdale

24200
Smithy Bridge Road,
Rochdale
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Prepared by:

RPS

Adrian Jacklin PCIfA
Archaeological Consultant

Sherwood House, Sherwood Avenue
Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 1QQ

T +44 1636 642 707
E adrian.jacklin@rpsgroup.com

Prepared for:

Taylor Wimpey UK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This archaeological desk-based assessment considers 14.23ha of land to the west of Smithy Bridge Road, Littleborough, Rochdale. The site is proposed for residential development.

The assessment provides a description of archaeological assets potentially affected by the development of the site and addresses the information requirements of Government's National Planning Policy Framework.

The report has been updated (January 2024) to reflect administrative and National Planning Policy Framework changes within the intervening period of the last issue (March 2022). Potential effects on built heritage assets are considered in a separate accompanying report (RPS 2022), which has also been updated.

This assessment has established that there are no archaeological designated heritage assets on the study site and the archaeological designated heritage assets within the surrounding area are screened from the site by intervening built development and topography. The study site has no historic associations with any archaeological designated heritage assets and therefore the proposed development will not directly or indirectly impact upon the heritage significance of any archaeological designated heritage assets.

There are three non-designated archaeological assets recorded within the study site, all of which are considered to be of no more than local importance. These comprise Post-Medieval ridge and furrow, the site of a Post-Medieval cottage and the site of an early 20th century pumping station.

This assessment has established that the site has a low potential for archaeological evidence of Roman date, and a low/negligible potential for significant, non-agricultural, evidence for all other periods, with the exception of remains associated with the Post-Medieval cottage. Such remains would be of local interest due to their evidential value.

There is no suggestion that the study site is likely to contain archaeological remains that are nationally important, would prohibit development or require to be designed around. In light of the study site's low potential, the archaeological interest of the site can be secured by an appropriately worded planning condition for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording attached to consent.

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1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by RPS on behalf of Taylor Wimpey UK Ltd for a proposed residential development at Smithy Bridge Road, Littleborough, Rochdale.
- 1.2 The report has been updated (January 2024) to reflect administrative and National Planning Policy Framework changes within the intervening period of the last issue (March 2022).
- 1.3 The 14.23 ha site, also referred to in this report as the study site, comprises pasture fields (centred at NGR SD 9193 1529; Figure 1) bound on the east side by Smithy Bridge Road and to the south by the River Roch. To the south-west are pasture fields and around the north side of the site is modern residential development.
- 1.4 This document has been prepared in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework, to identify and provide a description of the significance of archaeological heritage assets on the site and the likely effects of the proposed development. This study concentrates on identifying any archaeological interest in the site to provide the archaeological assessment required by local planning policy. Potential effects on built heritage assets are considered in a separate accompanying report (RPS 2022).
- 1.5 The current assessment comprises an examination of evidence in the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER) and Lancashire Record Office in addition to online resources. Information regarding Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and Listed Buildings was obtained from the Greater Manchester HER and Historic England's National Heritage List for England (NHLE). The assessment incorporates published and unpublished material and charts historic land-use through review of 19th and 20th century map resources. A site visit was undertaken on 22nd February 2022.
- 1.6 This study provides an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site and the significance of any archaeological heritage assets within and around the site. As a result, this study enables relevant parties to identify and assess the impact of the proposed development and identify any necessary mitigation measures.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 National legislation regarding archaeology, including scheduled monuments, is contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002, and updated in April 2014.
- 2.2 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was most recently updated in December 2023. The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), which was published online 6th March 2014 and has since been periodically updated.
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>)
- 2.3 The NPPF and NPPG are additionally supported by three Good Practice Advice (GPA) documents published by Historic England: GPA 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans; GPA 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (both published March 2015). The second edition of GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets was published in December 2017.

National Planning Policy

- 2.4 Section 16 of the NPPF, entitled Conserving and enhancing the historic environment provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 16 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:
- Delivery of sustainable development;
 - Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment;
 - Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; and
 - Recognition that heritage makes to our knowledge and understanding of the past.
- 2.5 Section 16 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 200 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset and that level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 2.6 *Heritage Assets* are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. They include designated heritage assets (as defined in the NPPF) and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process.
- 2.7 Annex 2 also defines *Archaeological Interest* as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
- 2.8 A *Designated Heritage Asset* comprises a: World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area.
- 2.9 *Significance (for heritage policy)* is defined as: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

- 2.10 *Setting* is defined as: The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.
- 2.11 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets;
 - Protects the settings of such designations;
 - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions;
 - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not significant enough to merit *in-situ* preservation.
- 2.12 The NPPG reiterates that the conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is a core planning principle, requiring a flexible and thoughtful approach. Furthermore, it highlights that neglect and decay of heritage assets is best addressed through ensuring they remain in active use that is consistent with their conservation. Importantly, the guidance states that if complete, or partial loss of a heritage asset is justified, the aim should then be to capture and record the evidence of the asset's significance and make the interpretation publicly available.
- 2.13 Key elements of the guidance relate to assessing harm. An important consideration should be whether the proposed works adversely affect a key element of the heritage asset's special architectural or historic interest. Additionally, it is the degree of harm, rather than the scale of development, that is to be assessed. The level of 'substantial harm' is considered to be a high bar that may not arise in many cases. Essentially, whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgment for the decision taker, having regard to the circumstances of the case and the NPPF.
- 2.14 Importantly, harm may arise from works to the asset or from development within its setting. Setting is defined as the surroundings in which an asset is experienced and may be more extensive than the curtilage. A thorough assessment of the impact of proposals upon setting needs to take into account, and be proportionate to, the significance of the heritage asset and the degree to which proposed changes enhance or detract from that significance and the ability to appreciate it.
- 2.15 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.16 Local Planning Policy for the site is currently provided by the Rochdale Borough Council **Core Strategy** (adopted October 2016).
- 2.17 The Local Plan policies relevant to the historic environment are cited below:

Core Strategy (adopted October 2016)

P2 - Protecting and enhancing character, landscape and heritage

2. We will protect the borough's heritage by: 4.

a. Conserving, enhancing and promoting key heritage assets, both statutory and nonstatutory, including consideration of their wider settings. Key heritage assets of the borough include:

i. Four outstanding conservation areas: Central Rochdale, Middleton and Littleborough town centres and Rock Nook / Summit;

- ii. Other designated assets such as listed buildings, conservation areas, registered parks and scheduled ancient monuments;*
- iii. The heritage of the Co-operative movement, the Rochdale Pioneers and the Labour movement;*
- iv. The Edgar Wood and J. H. Sellers cultural heritage;*
- v. The heritage of the seventeenth and eighteenth century vernacular tradition; and*
- vi. The engineering heritage, including mills, canals and railways.*
- 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.*

- 2.18 In line with relevant planning policy and guidance, this desk-based assessment seeks to clarify the site's archaeological potential and the likely significance of that potential and the need or otherwise for additional mitigation measures.

3 GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND SITE CONDITIONS

Geology

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 mapping records the majority of the underlying bedrock within the study site as Milnrow Sandstone, with a narrow band of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation through the east side of the study site. large majority of the study site is overlain by Diamicton Till, with the area alongside the River Roch being alluvium. Two fault lines run approximately north-north-west through the centre of the study site, converging on the south side of the River Roch. (<https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>)
- 3.2 The Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute identified the soils of the study site as slowly permeable, seasonally wet, acidic, loamy and clayey soils (Soilscape 17: <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>).

Topography and Site Conditions

- 3.3 The study site is located on the north side of the River Roch, between the settlements of Smallbridge to the north and Smithy Bridge to the south-east, c.2.5km to the north-east of Rochdale. It comprises five agricultural fields (Plates 1-10), laid down to rough grazing, bound by the River Roch to the south and modern residential development to the north, west and south-east corner of the study site whilst the east side is bound by Smithy Bridge Road. Beyond the River Roch to the south and Smithy Bridge Road to the east are agricultural fields.
- 3.4 The majority of the field boundaries are drystone walls, although these have not been maintained and are in a dilapidated state, with some post and rail in places. In a similar state are the remains of hedge and bank field boundaries enclosing the field in the north-west corner of the study site (Plates 8 and 9). A public footpath runs south-west/north-east through the west side of the study and skirts around the north perimeter before turning south-east towards Smithy Bridge Road.
- 3.5 No features of archaeological significance were observed during the site visit, although the low-level remains of relict field boundaries were visible. In the south-east corner of the study site there was evidence of structures at ground level in the form of hardstanding and some sub-surface features, possibly relating to a modern pumping station. All of the features appeared to be modern. A significant amount of modern services have also been installed in the south-eastern field, as evident by modern manholes.
- 3.6 The topography of the study site is divided into two general areas marked by a change in levels due to the presence of a river terrace. Along the south side of the study site is the floodplain of the River Roch at c.135m AOD, with the south facing valley side across the north part of the study site gently sloping from c.150m AOD. There is some localised undulation in places and along the north and central areas of the study site.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND WITH ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Timescales used in this report

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	900,000 -	12,000 BC
Mesolithic	12,000 -	4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 -	1,800 BC
Bronze Age	1,800 -	600 BC
Iron Age	600 -	AD 43

Historic

Roman	AD 43 -	410
Saxon/Early Medieval	AD 410 -	1066
Medieval	AD 1066 -	1485
Post Medieval	AD 1486 -	1799
Modern	AD 1800 -	Present

Introduction

- 4.1 This chapter reviews the available archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with NPPF, considers the potential for any as yet to be discovered archaeological evidence on the study site.
- 4.2 What follows comprises a review of archaeological assets recorded on the Greater Manchester HER and, Historic England's NHLE, within a 1km radius of the study site also referred to as the search area. The review focuses on information relevant to assessment of the study site and its archaeological potential, and not all archaeological assets are discussed individually in the text, though all are tabulated in the gazetteer presented in Appendix 1 and their locations shown in Figures 2 – 4. The review of archaeological assets is augmented by a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the study area from the 19th century onwards until the present day (Figures 5 - 11).
- 4.3 Chapter 5 subsequently considers whether the proposed development will impact the theoretical archaeological potential identified below.

Designated Heritage Asset

- 4.4 Data obtained from Historic England and Greater Manchester HER confirms that there are no designated heritage assets on the study site (Appendix 2).
- 4.5 The nearest Scheduled Monuments are Ellenroad Ring Mill (SM no. 1001958) located c.3.7km to the south of the study site and Blackstone Edge Roman Road (SM no. 1005819) located c.4km to the north-east. These Scheduled Monuments are screened from the study site by intervening buildings and they are not intervisible with the site. The site does not contribute to their significance

and there are no historic associations, and so no further consideration is given to their setting in this report.

- 4.6 There are two Conservation Areas within the surrounding 1km study area; Dearnley Workhouse Conservation Area is situated c.390m to the north of the study site and Clegg Village Conservation Area is c.610m to the south.
- 4.7 There are three Grade II* and 15 Grade II Listed Buildings within the surrounding 1km study area, the nearest of which is Green Farmhouse (List entry no. 1203460), located c.115m to the west of the study site. There are no further designated heritage assets within the search area.
- 4.8 Potential effects on built heritage assets, are considered in a separate accompanying report (RPS 2022). A gazetteer of the designated heritage assets is included at Appendix 2 and shown on Figure 2.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.9 A non-designated archaeological asset, Yea Bridge (11065.1.0) is recorded on the eastern perimeter of the study site, on Smithy Bridge Road.
- 4.10 Other non-designated assets within the study site include a cottage (marked as Dearnley Holme in the mid-19th century and Holne Cottage during the 20th century) and pumping station both shown within the east of the site on Ordnance Survey mapping (see below). Although no traces of the structures were visible at the time of the site visit, there is a modern pumping station in the location of that seen on historic maps. The cottage and pumping station are discussed further below.
- 4.11 There are a further 47 'Monuments' within the 1km search area (Appendix 1). A gazetteer of HER records is included at Appendix 2.

Previous Archaeological Work

- 4.12 The far eastern end of the site that lies adjacent to Smithy Bridge Road, which used to be occupied by Dearnley Holme and the later Holne Cottage and pumping station, was previously subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment in 2011 (EGM4661) prior to proposed groundworks on the site associated with new sewage infrastructure. The assessment concluded, in discussion with the Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit, that evaluation trenching should be carried out prior to works in the areas of potential archaeological interest (NP Archaeology 2011, 24).
- 4.13 The HER notes a previous version of this assessment (EGM5053), produced in 2018, by CgMs Heritage (now RPS Group). All the information included in the 2018 assessment has been updated and included within this document.
- 4.14 There are a further 11 archaeological events recorded within the 1km study area. These include three events at Clegg Hall, located c.610m to the south, comprising two building recording surveys and a watching brief (EGM3477, EGM4176, EGM4177), and two events at Stubley Old Hall located c.685m to the north-east of the study site comprising a building recording survey and tree ring analysis of timbers (EGM3466 and EGM4097). A building recording survey was also undertaken at Drydock Mill located c.630m to the north-east (EGM3633), across the road from which a desk-based assessment was carried out ahead of residential development on land at New Road (EGM4209).
- 4.15 A gazetteer of HER events is included in Appendix 1 and their locations are illustrated on Figure 4, but they are not discussed further.

Prehistoric

- 4.16 There are no Prehistoric archaeological assets recorded within the study site.

- 4.17 Within the surrounding 1km search area there are three archaeological assets relating to stone heads recorded as being of Iron Age origin but each has been re-used in a Post-Medieval context: one stone head is set within a gatepost (9093.1.0) located c.735m to the north-west; two stone heads are set on stone guttering on a farmhouse (9064.1.0) located c.110m to the south-west; and a head is built into a farmhouse wall near Clegg Hall (9069.1.0) located c.610m to the south of the study site.
- 4.18 Evidence of Prehistoric activity in the wider area is sporadic and based on chance finds. However, it is argued that several promontory sites in the Roch valley may represent settlement sites (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 53).
- 4.19 Based on the above evidence, it is considered that the study site has a low/nil potential for archaeological evidence of Prehistoric date.

Roman

- 4.20 There is no Roman evidence within the study site recorded in the HER.
- 4.21 There are two recorded assets within the surrounding 1km study area. Approximately 675m to the north-east of the study site an urn containing a number of Roman coins was found during excavation for the foundations of the new Stubble Hall in the 19th century (733.1.0). In addition, a Roman Road was believed to have been located c.950m to the south of the study site (2991.1.0) during an excavation in 1992. This is possibly a link to the Blackstone Edge Roman Road (SM no. 1005819) known to be located c.4km to the north-east, thought to have been constructed from Manchester to Rochdale and Littleborough (Margary 1967, 403) then on to Ilkley; it is purported to join the course of the present-day A58 Halifax Road from Littleborough.
- 4.22 It is possible that the course of the Roman road passed to the south and east of the study site. Therefore, it is considered that there is at least a low potential for evidence of activity, such as findspots of pottery, metalwork and coins.

Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval/Medieval

- 4.23 There are no archaeological assets of Medieval date recorded on the HER within the study site. However, there are eight archaeological assets recorded within the surrounding study area. Six of these archaeological assets relate to Medieval settlements or village cores: the nearest is Wuerdle Settlement (5276.1.0) located immediately to the north of the study site; Greengate Settlement (5279.1.0) is located c. 75m to the north-west; Smallbridge Village Core (5278.1.0) is located c.440m to the north-west; Great Howarth Settlement (5277.1.0) is located c.820m to the north-west; Stubble Settlement (5280.1.0) is located c.725m to the north-east; and Little Clegg Village Core (5242.1.0) is located c.405m to the south-east. These settlements are recorded on Yates' map of 1786 (Figure 2) as small clusters of buildings, their locations influenced by the River Roch and the Halifax road, a main route over the South Pennine hills from the large settlement that was at Rochdale located c.2.5km to the south-west of the study site.
- 4.24 The remaining two Medieval monuments, ridge-and-furrow at Belfield (9933.1.0) c730 southwest of the site and the site of Howarth Cross (2465.1.0) c.870m north-west of the site, are of well-defined extents, well-removed from the site, and contribute little to an understanding of the site's archaeological potential.
- 4.25 During the Medieval period, the study site is likely to have been agricultural land surrounding Wuerdle (5276.1.0). The settlement was first documented in c.1180 as *Werdull*, of which 'weorod' is thought to be Old English meaning 'troop' or 'host', translating as 'hill where the host was stationed' (Ekwall 1974, 540). It was within the parish of Rochdale which was, by the 11th century, within the Hundred of Salford. During the 11th and 12th centuries the administrative units within the parish of Rochdale were formalised into four main townships, with Wuerdle being located within the

Hundersfield township. This was later sub-divided into smaller townships with the study site being located within that of Wuerdle and Wardle (Fishwick 1899, 101).

- 4.26 The above evidence indicates that the study site would have been situated within a valley of dispersed agricultural settlements along a naturally defined transportation route through the South Pennines, and it is likely that the study site will have been in agricultural use at this time. Therefore, there is low/nil potential for significant, non-agricultural, archaeological evidence of this date within the study site.

Post Medieval & Modern (including map regression exercise)

- 4.27 There is one recorded archaeological asset of Post-Medieval date within the study site, Yea Bridge (11065.1.0), recorded in the HER on the eastern boundary on Smithy Bridge Road.
- 4.28 Within the wider search area there are a further 33 recorded Post-Medieval/Modern archaeological assets relating mainly to industrial works or mills and houses. They are of a well-defined extent and are not considered relevant to this assessment as they add little to the understanding of the site's archaeological potential.
- 4.29 During the Post-Medieval and Modern period understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER. The earliest insight as to how the landscape was settled and worked is provided by information in the Rochdale Survey of 1626. The Survey provides details of the tenants and land ownership at this time, with the hamlet of Wuerdle, to the north of the study site, described as being mainly concerned with farming, particularly grazing. There was no common land specific to the settlement, instead the inhabitants 'claimed an interest in the common land of Wardleworth and Wardle' (Fishwick 1913, 96-103), the hamlet of Wardle being located to the north of Wuerdle.

Map Regression

- 4.30 The earliest available map of the study site is the 1786 Yates' map (Figure 5) which provides a relatively basic overview of the study site and its surroundings, including the settlements, the main route between Rochdale and Halifax to the north of the study site and the River Roch to the south. Although the study site cannot be precisely located, the general area of it appears to be undeveloped.
- 4.31 By the time of Hennet's map of 1829 (Figure 6) a new, more direct, course of the Rochdale-Halifax road had been constructed between Wuerdle and Stubley, to the north-east of the site. As with Yates' map of 1786 (Figure 5) the precise location of the boundaries of the study site are not possible to discern but it is within an undeveloped area.
- 4.32 The 1851 Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping (Figure 7) is the earliest map to show the study site in detail, with no enclosure or Tithe maps available for the area. It comprises a number of fields to the south of the hamlet of Wuerdle on the old course of the Halifax road, which appears to be more akin to a farmstead and is likely to relate to the small cluster shown on Hennet's map of 1829 (Figure 6). A foot path is depicted crossing the study site on the west side and along a section of the east side, both heading towards Wuerdle. The fields within the site are irregular in form, and may reflect the enclosure of earlier open-field strips, originally accessed by tracks such as that leading from the Halifax road into the west side of the study site and down to the floodplain of the Roch.
- 4.33 The southern perimeter of the study site is defined by the present course of the River Roch, which has altered since that shown on the 1851 OS map. The east side of the study site is bound by Holiday Lane, on the west side of which a cottage marked as Dearnley Holme is shown within the study site.

- 4.34 The 1894 OS mapping (Figure 8) shows only minor changes to the study site, with an additional field enclosed on the west side. A small structure is shown in the location of the cottage marked as Dearnley Holme on the 1851 OS map (Figure 7). A brewery is now marked in Wuerdle and, as elsewhere in the immediate surroundings, new mill buildings have been constructed to the south side of the River Roch, demonstrating the intensifying industrialisation of the area.
- 4.35 The OS map of 1910-11 (Figure 9) shows a small number of field boundaries have been removed within the centre of the study site and a wind pump is marked. The cottage on the east side of the study site is labelled 'Holne Cottage'. A pumping station has been constructed for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway located c.175m to the south of the study site.
- 4.36 There was little change to the study site until the 1967-8 OS map (Figure 10), despite the ongoing development focused along Halifax Road to the north. The hamlet of Wuerdle has been engulfed by modern development and Wardle Farm immediately to the north of the study site boundary is labelled. Holne Cottage on the east side of the study site has been demolished since the 1956 OS edition (not shown) and the pumping station is no longer marked. A field boundary on the west side of the study site has also been removed.
- 4.37 By the time of the 1999 OS map (Figure 11), the course of the River Roch has altered to that seen presently, and the site remains unchanged and undeveloped through to the present day (Figure 1).
- 4.38 An aerial view of the study site from 2016 (Plate 11) shows evidence of structures on the east side. This was noted during the site visit (Plate 2) but at ground level, and suggests that some structures have been removed and some were sub-surface structures. They appear to relate to a modern pumping station, or a similar water management complex, not shown on the modern OS maps. The image also shows evidence of field boundaries removed during the late 19th and 20th centuries, together with faint ridge and furrow in a north-west/south-east alignment within the enclosed fields on the west side of the study site, although there is some trace evidence visible in the south-west and centre of the study site also. No features associated with ridge and furrow were noted during the site visit, however, although there was evidence of relict field boundaries in the form of low embankments or remains of drystone walls.
- 4.39 The study site remained as agricultural land throughout the Post-Medieval and Modern periods, evidenced by the ridge and furrow seen in aerial photographs, and therefore the general potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) Post-Medieval and Modern evidence is considered to be low/nil. However, localised areas for moderate/high potential for archaeological evidence from this period have been identified, specifically the site of the former Holne Cottage and the pumping station.

Assessment of Significance (Designated Assets)

- 4.40 Existing national policy guidance for archaeology (the NPPF as referenced in section 2) enshrines the concept of the 'significance' of heritage assets. Significance as defined in the NPPF centres on the value of an archaeological or historic asset for its 'heritage interest' to this or future generations.
- 4.41 There are no archaeological designated heritage assets within the study site. The archaeological designated heritage assets located within the surrounding search area are screened from the site by intervening built development and topography, and have no historical associations with the site.
- 4.42 Potential effects on built heritage assets are considered in a separate accompanying report (RPS 2022).

Assessment of Significance (Non-Designated Assets)

- 4.43 A former cottage and pumping station are depicted in the east of the site on the historic mapping until the 1967-8 OS map. During the site visit no traces of the cottage were noted although there is a localised area of moderate/high potential for sub-surface remains surviving. A modern pumping station or water management complex was also noted during the site visit in the same location,

suggesting that the earlier pumping station has been replaced and not recently mapped by the OS. No archaeological features relating to early 20th century structures were noted and it is likely that no remains of the early pumping station survive. Any below-ground remains of the cottage and pumping station are likely to be of local interest only due to evidential value.

- 4.44 Modern aerial views of the study site have shown there to be faint evidence for ridge and furrow and field systems likely to be Post-Medieval in origin. These would be of local interest, but any below-ground remains are unlikely to have any evidential value.
- 4.45 The study site is considered to have a low potential for archaeological evidence of Roman date, and a low/nil potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) as-yet-unknown archaeological features dating from all other periods. Such remains would be of local, interest and of importance only for their evidential value.

5 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS

Proposed Development

- 5.1 The study site is being proposed for residential development with associated landscaping.

Review of Potential Development Impacts on Designated Archaeological Assets

- 5.2 There are no archaeological designated heritage assets on the study site and the archaeological designated heritage assets within the search area are screened from the site by intervening built development and topography. The study site has no historic associations with any archaeological designated heritage assets. The proposed development will not directly or indirectly impact upon the heritage significance of any archaeological designated heritage assets.

Review of Potential Development Impacts on Non-Designated Assets

- 5.3 The assessment has also considered the potential for as yet to be discovered archaeological evidence within the study site and, based on the available evidence, it has concluded that there is a low potential for archaeological evidence of Roman date, and a low/nil potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) as-yet-unknown archaeological features dating from all other periods. However, there is a localised area of moderate/high potential for archaeological evidence of Post-Medieval date relating to the former cottage within the east of the site and any such remains would be of local interest, of importance only for their evidential value. Furthermore, evidence of ridge and furrow and associated field boundaries of Post-Medieval date has been noted from modern aerial photography but these are of local interest and any below-ground remains are unlikely to have any evidential value.
- 5.4 It is anticipated that the construction of the modern pumping station, the features of which appear to be entirely buried sub-surface, will have significantly impacted or completely removed any features associated with the early 20th century pumping station.
- 5.5 Given the constructional techniques employed in modern development, it is unlikely that any archaeological remains now present on the study site would survive the development process and therefore a programme of archaeological investigation and recording would be required prior to commencement of the development. A geophysical survey would look to provide an understanding of the extent of the ridge and furrow across the study site, whilst also likely to be requested by the Local Planning Authority. Furthermore, the site of the Post-Medieval cottage will require archaeological investigation to understand the requirements for a mitigation strategy regarding any surviving sub-surface remains.

6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment draws together the available archaeological, historic, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the heritage significance and archaeological potential of 14.23ha of land located on the west side of Smithy Bridge Road, Littleborough, Rochdale which is proposed for residential development.
- 6.2 It addresses the information requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and provides the proportionate response sought by the NPPF.
- 6.3 The assessment has established that there are no archaeological designated heritage assets on the study site and the archaeological designated heritage assets within the surrounding area are screened from the site by intervening built development and topography. The study site has no historic associations with any archaeological designated heritage assets. The proposed development will not directly or indirectly impact upon the heritage significance of any archaeological designated heritage assets.
- 6.4 There are three non-designated archaeological assets recorded within the study site, all of which are considered to be of no more than local importance. These comprise Post-Medieval ridge and furrow, the site of a Post-Medieval cottage and the site of an early 20th century pumping station.
- 6.5 This assessment has established that the site has a low potential for archaeological evidence of Roman date, and a low/negligible potential for significant, non-agricultural evidence for all other periods, with the exception of remains associated with the Post-Medieval cottage. Such remains would be of local interest due to their evidential value.
- 6.6 There is no suggestion that the study site is likely to contain archaeological remains that are nationally important, would prohibit development or require to be designed around. In light of the study site's low potential, the archaeological interest of the site can be secured by an appropriately worded planning condition for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording attached to consent.

Sources Consulted

General

Historic Environment Archives (HEA)
Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record
Lancashire Record Office

Internet

Archaeological Data Service - <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>
British Geological Survey – <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>
Cranfield Soil and AgriFood Institute - <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>
Halewood Local History Pages - <http://www.roydenhistory.co.uk/halewood/maps/maps.htm>
Heritage Gateway - <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>
Historic England: The National Heritage List for England <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>
MAGIC - <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/>
National Planning Policy Framework – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

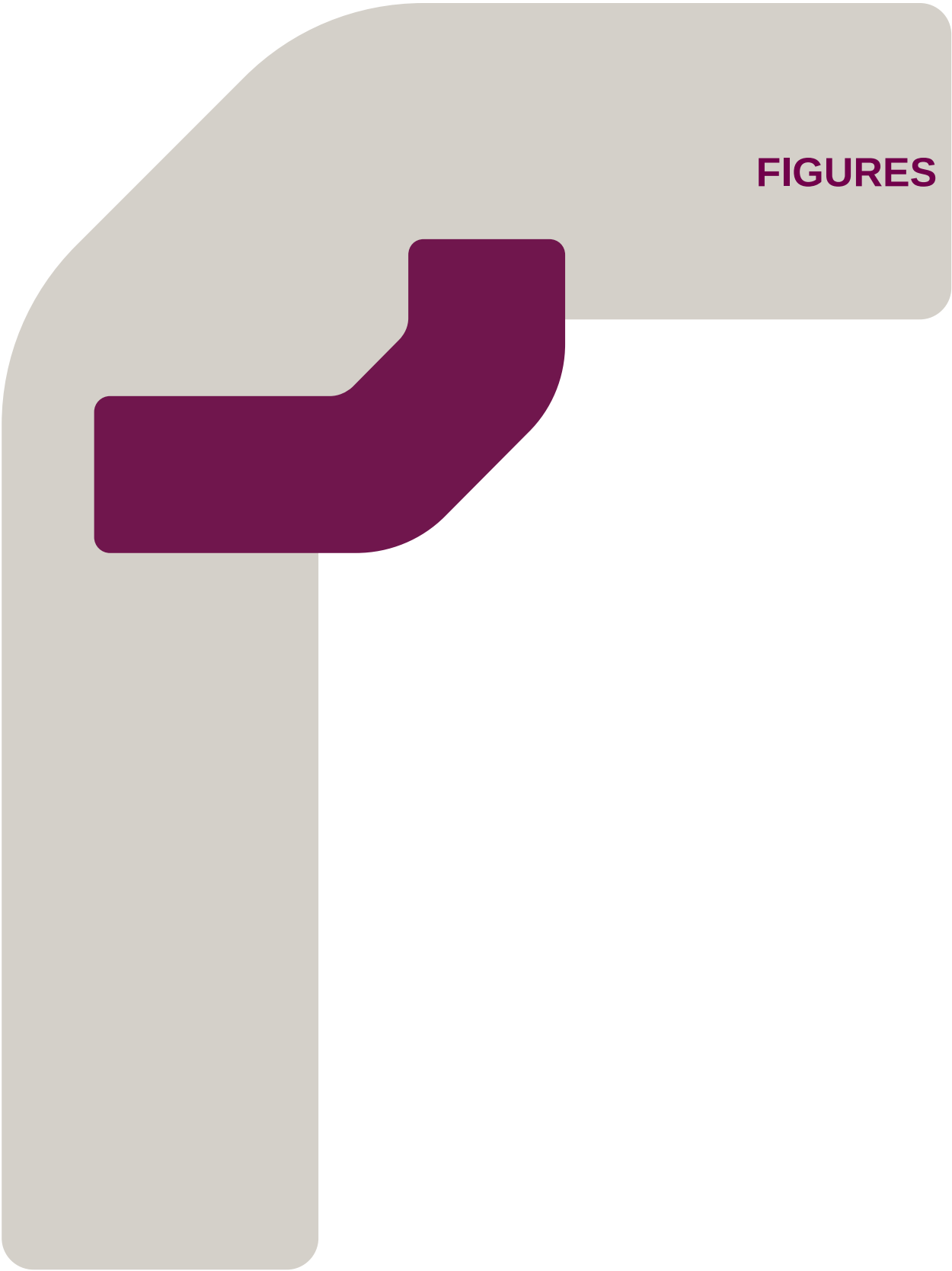
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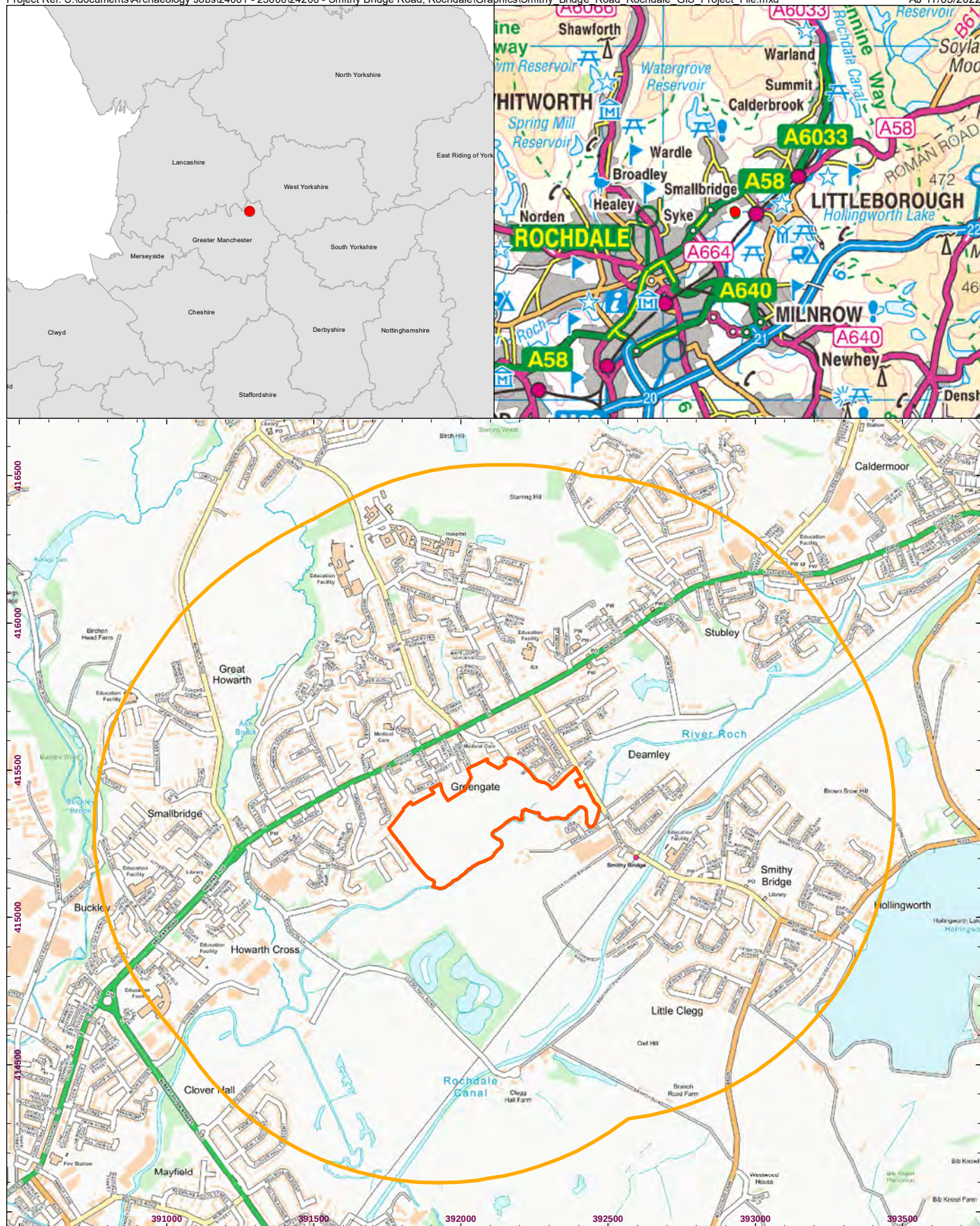
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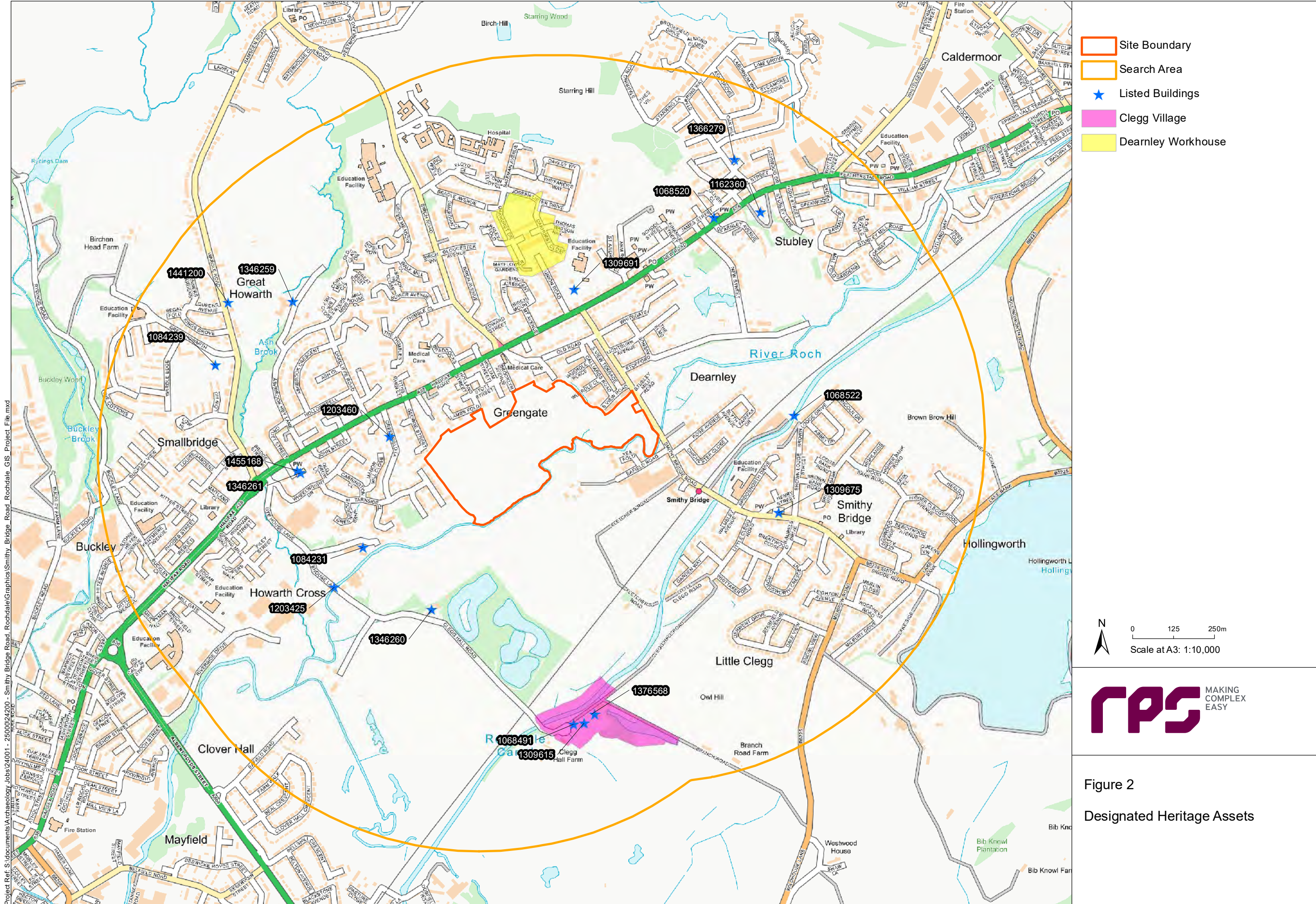
1786 Yates' County Map of Lancashire
1829 Hennet's County Map of Lancashire
1851 Ordnance Survey Lancashire and Furness 1:10,560
1854 Ordnance Survey Yorkshire 1:10,560
1894 Ordnance Survey Lancashire and Furness 1:10,560
1910-1 Ordnance Survey Lancashire and Furness 1:10,560
1931-2 Ordnance Survey Lancashire and Furness 1:10,560

1938 Ordnance Survey Lancashire and Furness 1:10,560
1956 Ordnance Survey Plan 1:10,000
1967-8 Ordnance Survey Plan 1:10,000
1975 Ordnance Survey Manchester 1:25,000
1978-9 Ordnance Survey Plan 1:10,000
1990 Ordnance Survey Plan 1:10,000
1999 Ordnance Survey 10K Raster Mapping 1:10,000
2006 Ordnance Survey 10K Raster Mapping 1:10,000
2017 Ordnance Survey VectorMap Local 1:10,000

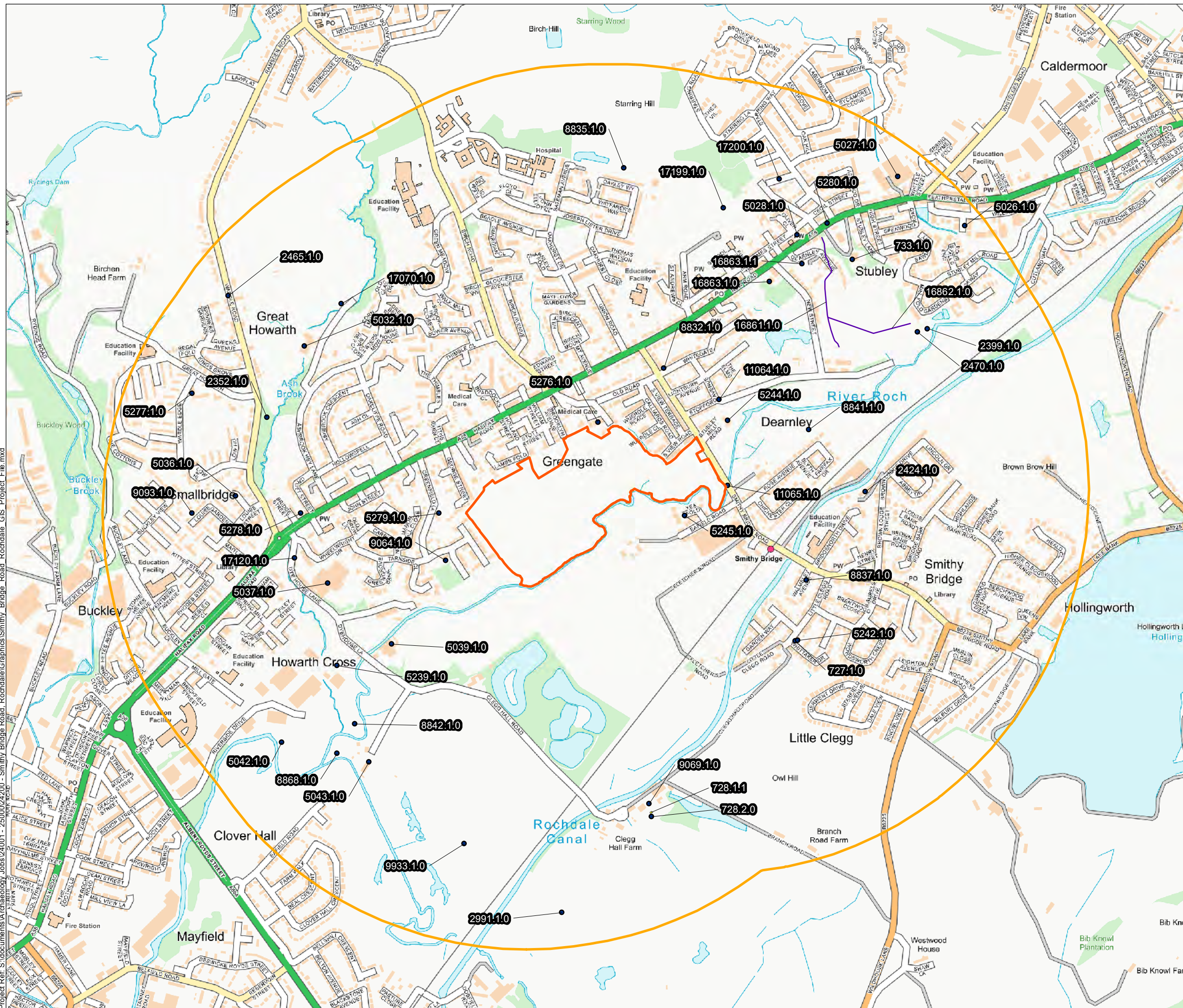


FIGURES





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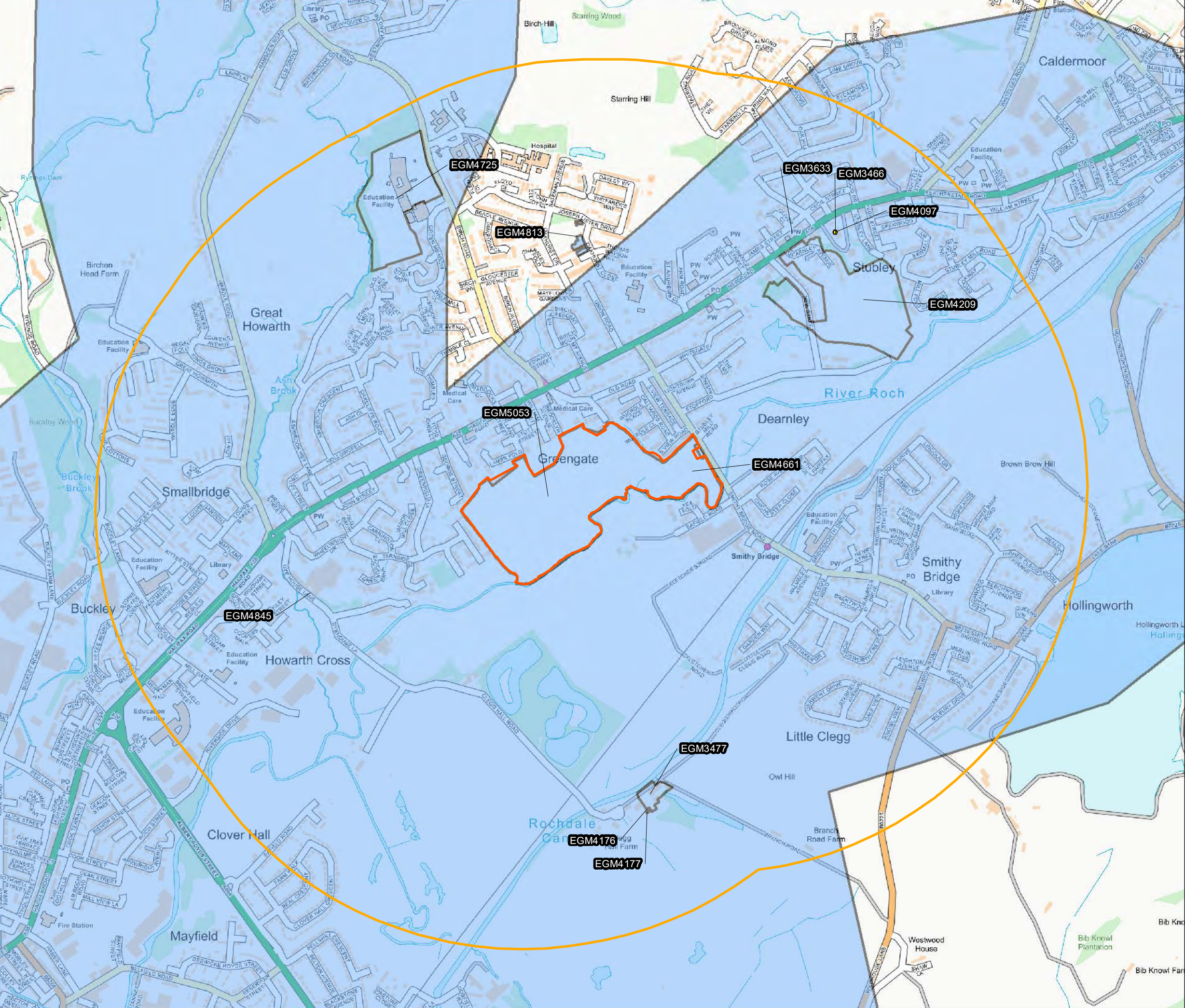
- Site Boundary
- Search Area
- Archaeological Monuments (points)
- Archaeological Monument (lines)
- Archaeological Monument (polygons)

N
0 125 250m
Scale at A3: 1:10,000



Figure 3
Non-Designated Heritage Assets

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- Site Boundary
- Search Area
- Previous Archaeological Works (points)
- Previous Archaeological Works (polygons)

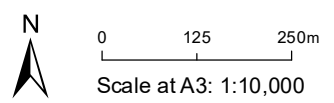


Figure 4
Previous Archaeological Work

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0 30 60m

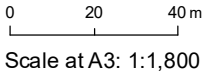
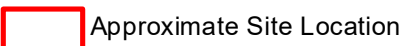
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Figure 5

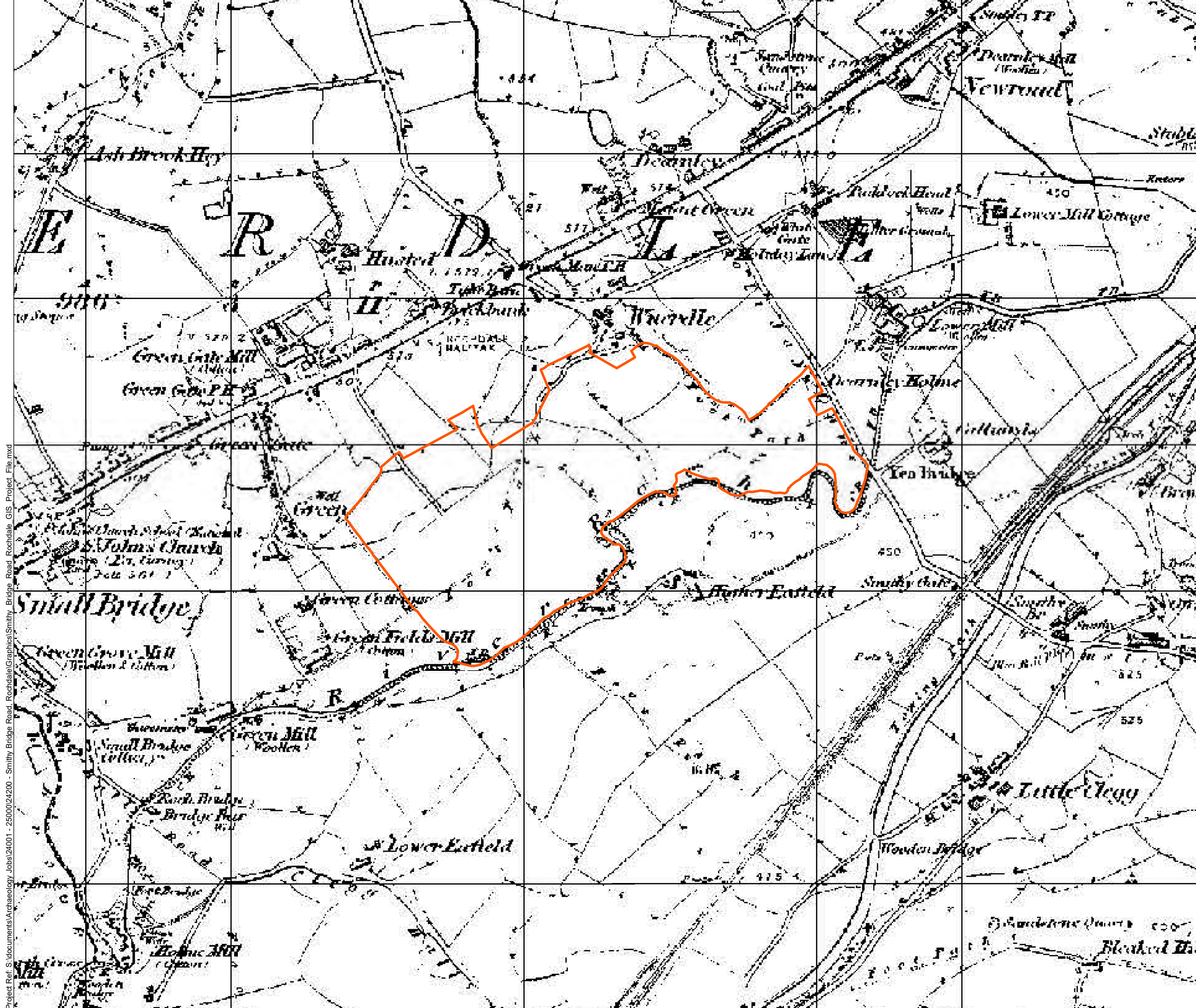
1786 Yates' County Map of Lancashire

Not to scale: illustrative purposes only



1829 Hennet's County Map of Lancashire

Not to scale: illustrative purposes only



Site Boundary

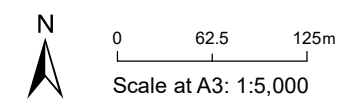
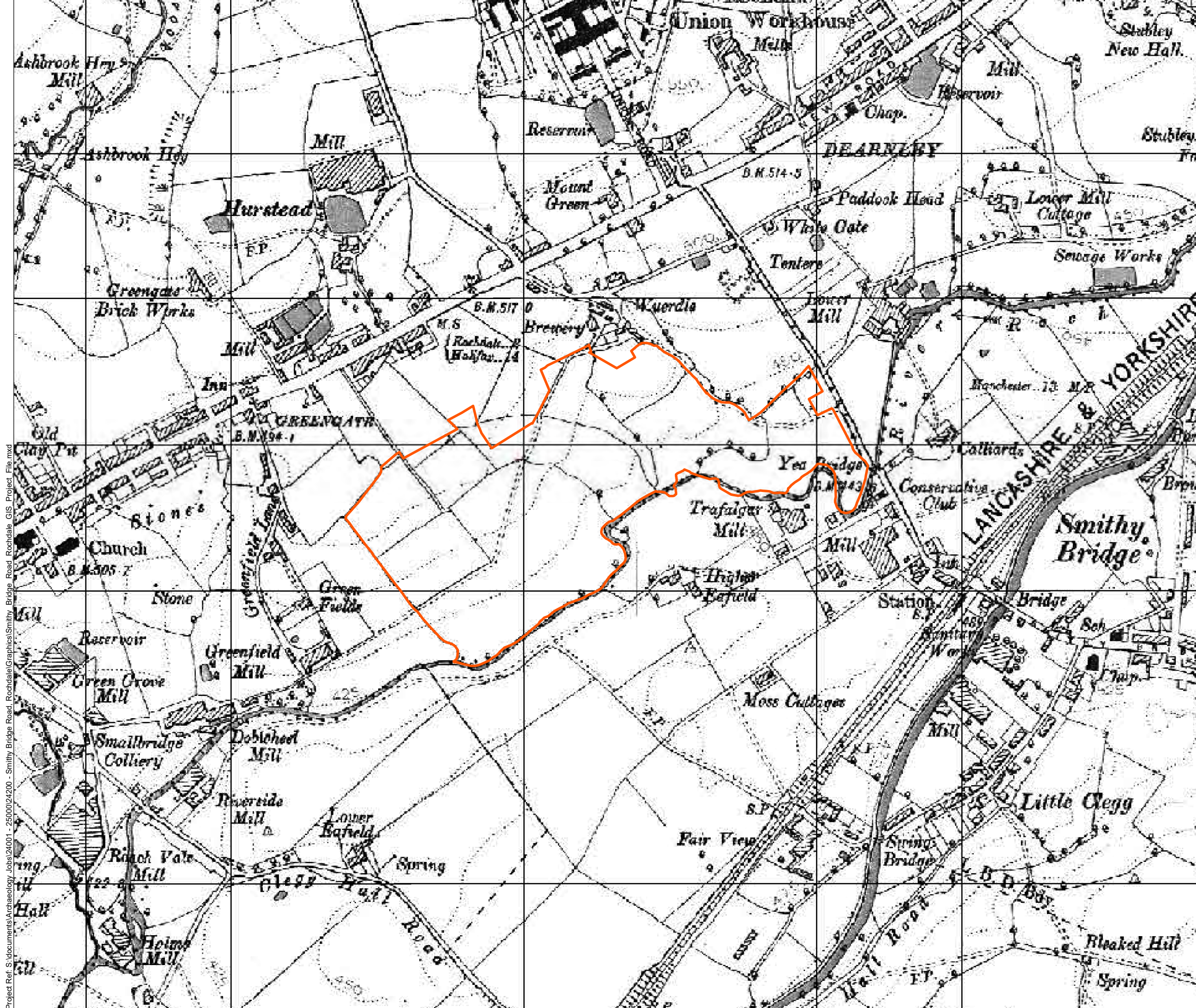


Figure 7
1851 Ordnance Survey



Site Boundary

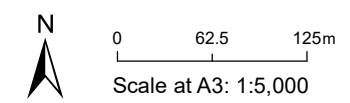


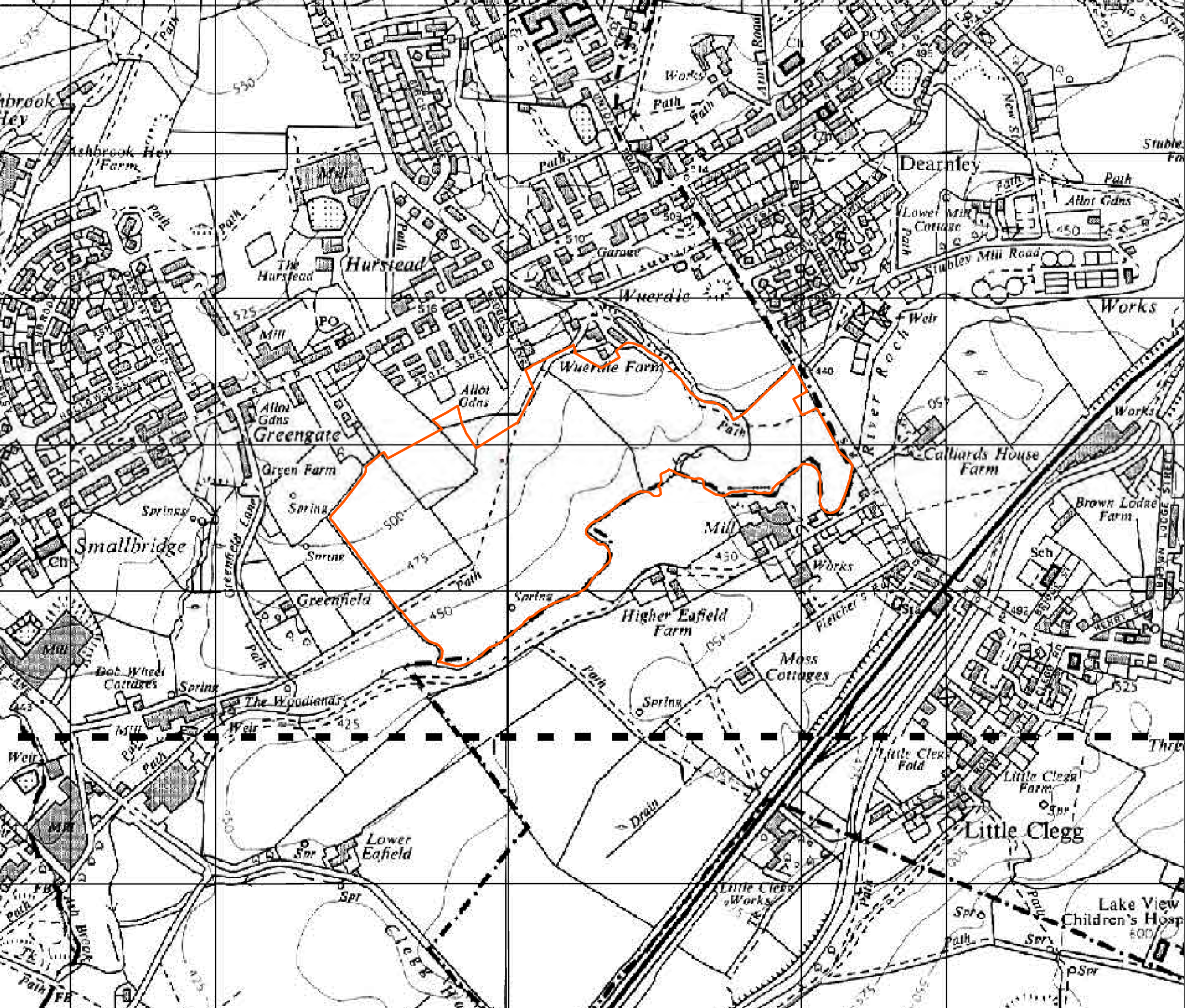
Figure 8
1894 Ordnance Survey



Figure 9

1910 - 1911 Ordnance Survey

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Site Boundary

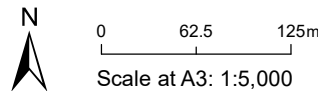


Figure 10
1967 - 1968 Ordnance Survey



Site Boundary

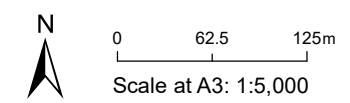


Figure 11
1999 Ordnance Survey

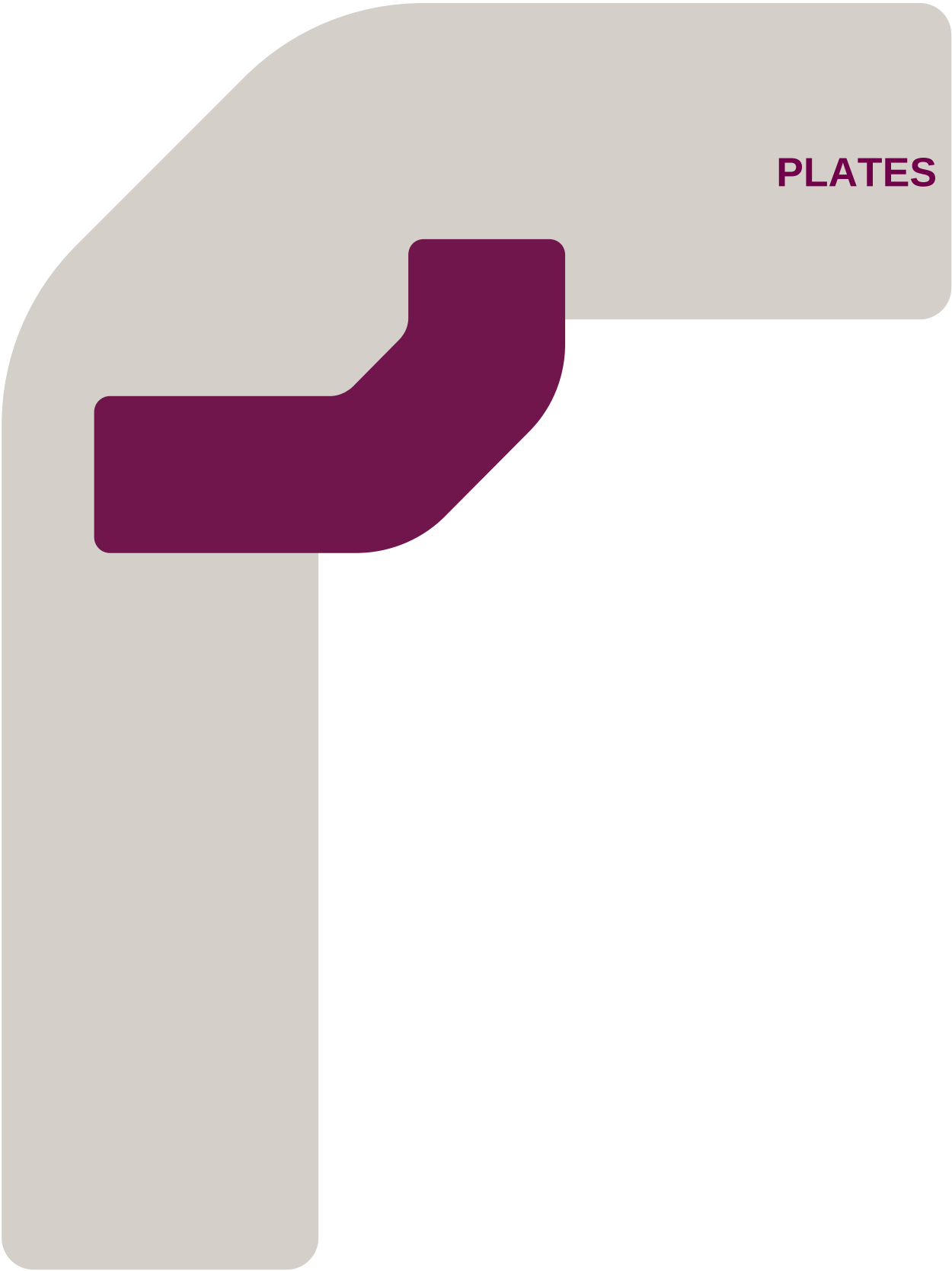




Plate 1: West facing view across the study site from Smithy Bridge Road.



Plate 2: North-west facing view of the study site from Smithy Bridge Road.



Plate 3: West facing view of the Roch Valley from the east field.



Plate 4: North-west facing view of the study site from the north bank of the River Roch.



Plate 5: South-west facing view of the River Roch, with Higher Eafield farm on the left.



Plate 6: West facing view across the site from the north-eastern field of the site.



Plate 7: South-west facing view across the central area of the study site, from the north-east field.



Plate 8: View south-east across the study site from the north-western area of the site.



Plate 9: View south-west of the remains of the north-east/south-west hedge and bank field boundary enclosing the westernmost field.



Plate 10: View north-east across site from the south-western area.



Plate 11: Satellite image of the site.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record Data

HER No.	Name	Location	Date
	Monument		
727.1.0	Little Clegg Hall (site of)	SD 9223 1448	Medieval to Modern
728.1.1	Outbuilding to rear of Clegg Hall (site of)	SD 9226 1447	Post Medieval
728.2.0	Clegg Hall (watching brief on land to rear of)	SD 9226 1446	Post Medieval
733.1.0	Urn with Roman Coins and Cup (findspot)	SD 9282 1600	Roman
2352.1.0	Howarth Mill (site of)	SD 912 155	Post Medieval
2399.1.0	Stubley Mill (Woollen) (site of)	SD 9302 1580	Post Medieval to Modern
2424.1.0	Brown Lodge (Farm)	SD 9285 1535	Post Medieval to Modern
2465.1.0	Howarth Cross (site of)	SD 9110 1590	Medieval to Modern
2470.1.0	Stubley Water Corn Mill (site of)	SD 9300 1580	Post Medieval
2991.1.0	Manchester to Ilkley Roman Road – Clegg Hall Farm Excavation	SD 9202 1420	Roman
5026.1.0	Albion Mill (site of)	SD 9312 1609	Modern
5027.1.0	Featherstall Mill (and Sun Mill)	SD 9294 1622	Modern
5028.1.0	Drydock Mill (Community Workshop) (site of)	SD 9266 1606	Modern
5032.1.0	Ashbrook Hey Works	SD 9131 1576	Modern
5036.1.0	Low Hill Mill or Lowhill Mill (site of)	SD 9112 1534	Modern
5037.1.0	Smallbridge Mill (Green Grove or Greengrove Mill)	SD 9137 1510	Modern
5039.1.0	Riverside Mill	SD 9155 1494	Modern
5042.1.0	Howarth Cross Mill (site of)	SD 9124 1466	Modern
5043.1.0	New Mill	SD 9148 1461	Modern
5239.1.0	Roach Vale Mill (site of)	SD 9140 1488	Modern
5242.1.0	Little Clegg Village Core	SD 9267 1495	Medieval to Modern
5244.1.0	Calliards Mill (Lower Mill)	SD 9247 1555	Modern
5245.1.0	Trafalgar Mill (site of)	SD 9235 1529	Modern
5276.1.0	Wuerdle Settlement	SD 9212 1555	Medieval to Modern
5277.1.0	Great Howarth Settlement	SD 9100 1563	Medieval to Modern
5278.1.0	Smallbridge Village Core	SD 9130 1530	Medieval to Modern
5279.1.0	Greengate Settlement (Bridge Green)	SD 9168 1530	Medieval to Post-Medieval
5280.1.0	Stubley Settlement	SD 9275 1610	Medieval to Post-Medieval
8832.1.0	Colliery, Dearnley (site of)	SD 9230 1570	Post-Medieval
8835.1.0	Starring Sanitary Pipe Works (site of)	SD 9218 1625	Post-Medieval
8837.1.0	Sanitary Works, Smithy Bridge (site of)	SD 9269 1511	Post-Medieval
8841.1.0	Colliery, Smallbridge (site of)	SD 9270 1553	Post-Medieval
8842.1.0	Holme Mill (site of)	SD 9144 1471	Post-Medieval
8868.1.0	Clegg Hall Bottoms Mill (site of)	SD 914 146	Post-Medieval
9064.1.0	3 Greenfield House (Stone Head)	SD 9170 1517	Prehistoric
9069.1.0	Birchinley (Stone Head and Elf Figure)	SD 9226 1450	Prehistoric
9093.1.0	Louise Street (Stone Head)	SD 9100 1530	Prehistoric

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT: SMITHY BRIDGE ROAD, ROCHDALE

9933.1.0	Features at Belfield	SD 9175 1439	Medieval to Post-Medieval
11064.1.0	House (site of)	SD 9245 1561	Post-Medieval
11065.1.0	Yea Bridge	SD 9247 1537	Post-Medieval
16861.1.0	Field Boundary (line of), E of New Street	SD 9275 1595	Post-Medieval
16862.1.0	Field Boundary (line of), W of Stubley Lane	SD 9284 1580	Post-Medieval
16863.1.0	Dearnley Mill (later Dearnley Bleach and Dye Works) (site of)	SD 9259 1593	Post-Medieval
16863.1.1	Pump House associated with Dearnley Bleach and Dye Works (site of)	SD 9312 1609	Modern
17070.1.0	Ashbrook Hey Mill (site of)	SD 9141 1587	Post-Medieval
17120.1.0	Rocks Mill (site of)	SD 9128 1517	Post-Medieval
17199.1.0	Dearnley Brickworks (unconfirmed site of)	SD 9246 1614	Modern
17200.1.0	Stubley Brickworks (site of)	SD 9261 1622	Modern
	Events		
EGM3466	Stubley Old Hall	SD 92786 16061	EGM3466
EGM3477	Clegg Hall Mill	SD 92275 14514	EGM3477
EGM3633	Drydock Mill	SD 92650 16060	EGM3633
EGM4097	Tree-ring analysis of timbers from Stubley Old Hall	SD 9278 1606	EGM4097
EGM4176	Clegg Hall	SD 9226 1446	EGM4176
EGM4177	Clegg Hall: Historic Building Assessment [of semi-derelict outbuilding]	SD 9226 1447	EGM4177
EGM4209	New Road	SD 9278 1588	EGM4209
EGM4661	Smithy Bridge Road	SD 9239 1540	EGM4661
EGM4725	Wardle High School	SD 9158 1614	EGM4725
EGM4813	Birch Hill Hospital	SD 9208 1604	EGM4813
EGM4845	Littleborough to Rochdale	SD 9055 1571	EGM4845
EGM5053	Smithy Bridge Road	SD 9211 1532	EGM5053

Appendix 2

National Heritage List for England Data

NHLE No.	Name	Location	Grade
	Listed Building		
1068491	Clegg Hall Cottages	SD 92210 14487	II
1068520	18, 20 and 22, New Road (see details for further address information)	SD 92640 16040	II
1068522	Rochdale Canal Lodge Bridge	SD 92886 15433	II
1084231	Dob Wheel Mill	SD 91565 15029	II
1084239	Great Howarth House	SD 91114 15588	II
1162360	Stubley Old Hall	SD 92783 16057	II*
1203425	Bridge over River Roch	SD 91478 14907	II
1203460	Green Farmhouse, cottage and attached farm buildings	SD 91647 15369	II
1309615	Clegg Hall	SD 92242 14490	II*
1309675	2 and 3, Wrigley Place (see details for further address information)	SD 92838 15136	II
1309691	Dearnley Old Hall	SD 92212 15819	II*
1346259	ASHBROOK HEY	SD 91351 15782	II
1346260	Lower Eafield Cottages, barn and stables	SD 91776 14838	II
1346261	Church of Saint John the Baptist	SD 91375 15258	II
1366279	Bents Farmhouse and adjoining barn	SD 92703 16218	II
1376568	Clegg Hall Mill	SD 92276 14518	II
1441200	Wardle War Memorial	SD9115315779	II
1455168	St John's Church War Memorial, Smallbridge	SD9136515265	II
	Conservation Area		
DGM3536	Birch Hill Dearnley	SD 9207 1599	
DGM3524	Clegg Village	SD 9231 1452	



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