

# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

**Land to the west of the A577  
Neverstitch Road, Skelmersdale  
LANCASHIRE**

**PREPARED BY LANPRO SERVICES ON  
BEHALF OF  
BELLWAY HOMES LTD (NORTH WEST)**

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## Non-Technical Summary

Lanpro was commissioned by Bellway Homes Ltd (North West) to produce an archaeological desk-based assessment to inform an application for a residential development together with areas of public green space on land to the west of the A577 Neverstitch Road, Skelmersdale Lancashire. This forms Phase II of the Lathom Pasture development (Phase I is located immediately to the south-west).

The study site comprises seven distinguishable field parcels, measuring approximately 7.96ha in extent, currently in use as open field parcels, a horse paddock and a farmyard. Part of the development area also incorporates a disused railway line.

The assessment draws together the available archaeological, historical, topographic and land-use information, in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the site. It addresses the information requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and provides the proportionate response sought by the NPPF.

The assessment has established that there are no designated heritage assets within the study site and that the proposed development would have no impact upon the setting of any designated heritage assets in the wider vicinity.

Based upon the available archaeological evidence the potential for surviving significant archaeological remains within the study site is considered low/nil for the prehistoric to medieval periods.

Analysis of historic mapping evidence has identified a number of archaeological assets, many of which are associated with the industrial use of the study site. However, these have been assessed as having either been adversely disturbed or truncated or of no archaeological or historical interest. Therefore, the assessment has concluded that there is no evidence to suggest that the study site contains any archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development.

Following consultation with the Lancashire Planning Officer for Archaeology, the modest archaeological interest of the study site was primarily associated with investigation of peat deposits and an early 19<sup>th</sup> century dwelling within the southern access of the study site. However, it was assessed that there is negligible potential for surviving sub-surface remains associated with these features.

In light of the above, in compliance with NPPF, it is considered that the development would have no impact on the significance of any archaeological assets and therefore there should be no requirement for any further archaeological work.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment of Land to the west of the A577 Neverstitch Road, Skelmersdale, Lancashire (henceforth referred to as the study site) has been prepared by Lanpro Services Limited on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd (North West).

1.2 This assessment has been undertaken to inform a planning application for a residential development with areas of public green space on land measuring approximately 7.96ha in extent. This will form Phase II of the Lathom Pastures development, with Phase I located to the immediate south-west.

1.3 Consultation with the Planning Officer for Archaeology at the Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Team was undertaken on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 when it was discussed that a limited amount of trial trenching was likely to be required, particularly in the area of a post-medieval building within the proposed access area on to Ormskirk Road to the south. It was also requested that the potential for peat deposits within the study site requires examination.

1.4 This document provides an assessment of the potential for hitherto undiscovered archaeological assets, thus enabling potential impacts on assets to be identified along with the need for any design, civil engineering or archaeological solutions.

1.5 The assessment has been undertaken to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; Chapter 16: 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment') and is in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidelines *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* (CIfA 2014).

## 2

### 2.1 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by current legislation, the policy framework set by government planning policy, by current Local Plan policy and by other material considerations.

#### 2.2 Current Legislation

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#### 2.3 Current Legislation

The applicable legislative framework is summarised as follows:

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (AMAAA) 1979
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (PLBCA) Act 1990

- 2.4 The AMAAA largely relates to Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and designated archaeological areas, detailing in particular what can and cannot be undertaken on archaeological grounds.
- 2.5 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act of 1990 is the primary legislative instrument addressing the treatment of listed buildings and conservation areas through the planning process.
- 2.6 Section 66 of the 1990 Act states that “...in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses”.
- 2.7 Section 72 then adds that “...with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, of any powers under any of the provisions mentioned in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area”.
- 2.8 As far as Section 72 is concerned, it has previously been established by the Courts that development which does not detract from the character or appearance of a conservation area is deemed to be in accordance with the legislation. In other words, there is no statutory requirement to actively enhance’.

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

- 2.9 Section 16 of the NPPF (revised June 2019), entitled Conserving and enhancing the historic environment provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets.
- 2.10 Overall, the objectives of Section 16 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:
- Delivery of sustainable development
  - Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment, and
  - Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance.
- 2.11 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 189 states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 2.12 A Heritage Asset is defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: ‘A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in

*planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).'*

- 2.13 Annex 2 also defines 'Archaeological Interest' as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage Assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.
- 2.14 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.
- 2.15 Significance is defined as: *'The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. The interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. For World Heritage Sites, the cultural value described within each site's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value forms part of its significance.'*
- 2.16 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
- Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets (which include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas)
  - 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.

### **Planning Practice Guide**

- 2.17 The Planning Practice Guide is a web-based resource which is to be used in conjunction with the NPPF. It is aimed at planning professionals and prescribes best practice within the planning sector. The relevant section is entitled *'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'*. The guidance given in this section sets out the best practice to applying government policy in the NPPF.

### **Local Planning Policy**

- 2.18 The West Lancashire Local Plan was adopted in October 2013. It sets out the long term vision, objectives and policies intended to guide development in West Lancashire and contains the following policy relating to the Historic Environment:

***Policy EN4 – Preserving and Enhancing West Lancashire’s Cultural and Heritage Assets***

*The historic environment has an aesthetic value and promotes local distinctiveness and helps define our sense of place. In order to protect and enhance historic assets, including their settings, whilst facilitating economic development through regeneration, leisure and tourism, the following principles will be applied:*

- (a) There will be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets. Regard should be had for the following criteria:*
  - i. development will not be permitted that will adversely affect a listed building, a scheduled monument, a conservation area, historic park or garden, or important archaeological remains;*
  - ii. development affecting the historic environment should seek to preserve or enhance the heritage asset and any features of specific historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest;*
  - iii. in all cases there will be an expectation that any new development will enhance will the historic environment in the first instance, unless there are no identifiable opportunities; and*
  - iv. in instances where existing features have a negative impact on the historic environment, as identified through character appraisals, the Local Planning Authority will request the removal of the features that undermine the historic environment as part of any proposed development.*
- (b) Substantial harm to, or loss of, a listed building, park or garden will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that:*
  - i. the substantial harm to, or loss of significance of, the heritage asset is necessary in order to deliver substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm or loss, or the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site;*
  - ii. no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term that will enable its conservation (evidence for appropriate marketing and reasonable endeavours should be provided in line with Policy GN4);*
  - iii. conservation through grant funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is not possible; and*
  - iv. the harm to, or loss of, the heritage assets is outweighed by the benefits of bringing the site back into use.*
- (c) There will be a presumption in favour of the protection and enhancement of existing non-designated heritage assets which have a particular local importance or character which it is desirable to keep. Such historic buildings, groups of buildings, spaces or other historic resources will be identified through a Local List which will be adopted by the Council.*
- (d) Heritage Statements and/or Archaeological Evaluations will be required for proposals related to, or impacting on, the setting of heritage assets and/or possible archaeological sites, in order that sufficient information is provided to assess the impacts of development on historic environment assets, together with any proposed mitigation methods.*



*(e) Where possible, opportunities to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change will be encouraged. Re-use of heritage assets and, where suitable, modification so as to reduce carbon emissions and secure sustainable development will be permitted where appropriate. The public benefit of mitigating the effects of climate change should be weighed against any harm to the significance of the heritage asset.*

2.19 The site lies within the area defined within the Firwood Road Development brief (West Lancashire, 2014). The brief states:

*As far as West Lancashire Borough Council is aware, there are no archaeological constraints which would preclude the development at Firwood Road. However, applicants will be required to consult with Lancashire County Council's Scheduled Monument Register regarding any designations on the development site.*

2.20 The brief identifies an historic powder hut within the wider allocation which would have to be taken into consideration in any future development proposals. The powder hut is, however, located c. 200m to the north of the study site and does not form part of the current application.

### **Professional Guidance**

2.21 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2014) provides guidelines and recommendations for best practice in undertaking archaeological desk-based research and assessment.

2.22 The Historic England publication *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision Taking in the Historic Environment* (2015) outlines a seven-stage process for the assembly and analysis of relevant information relating to heritage assets potentially affected by a proposed development:

- Understand the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment;
- Understand the significance of the affected assets;
- Understand the impact of the proposal on that significance;
- Avoid, minimise and mitigate impact in a way that meets the objectives of the NPPF;
- Look for opportunities to better reveal or enhance significance;
- Justify any harmful impacts in terms of the sustainable development objective of conserving significance and the need for change; and
- Offset negative impacts on aspects of significance by enhancing others through recording, disseminating and archiving archaeological and historical interest of the important elements of the heritage assets affected.

2.23 In order to understand the nature, extent and level of significance the note advocates considering the four types of heritage value an asset may hold, as identified in Conservation

Principles (English Heritage 2008): aesthetic, communal, historic and evidential. Significance results from a combination of any, some or all of the values.

- 2.24 The Historic England publication *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Second Edition): The Setting of Heritage Assets Setting* (2017) recognises that whilst setting is not a heritage asset, 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*’ (para. 4).
- 2.25 This guidance also notes that the contribution of setting to the significance of a heritage asset is often expressed by reference to views, although the importance of setting lies in what it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset, and this can be influenced by a number of other factors.
- 2.26 In order to assess the contribution made by setting to the significance of a heritage asset, and the implications of new developments, the guidance recommends that a systematic and staged approach to assessment should be adopted, namely:
- i) identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
  - ii) assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s) or allow significance to be appreciated;
  - iii) assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or on the ability to appreciate it;
  - iv) explore the way to maximise enhancement and avoid or minimise harm;
  - v) make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.
- 2.27 This report therefore follows steps (i) and (ii) to identify the local heritage assets and their settings and then makes an assessment of the potential impact of the proposed development having regard to steps (iii) and (iv).

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

#### **Information Sources**

- 3.1 A gazetteer of all records held on the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the Historic England National Heritage List for England (NHLE) within a 1 km search area is provided in Appendix 1, and their locations marked on a plan in Figure 1.
- 3.2 The following sources of information have been consulted in order to meet the requirements of the assessment and are in line with the guidelines laid down by the ClfA (2014).

#### **Archaeological Records**

- 3.3 Information on heritage assets and archaeological investigations for within the search area was obtained from the Lancashire HER and the NHLE.

### **Historical Documentary and Cartographic Sources**

- 3.4 The holdings of the Lancashire Record Office and other on-line repositories were consulted for historical maps and plans, and relevant documentary sources.

### **Designated Heritage Assets**

- 3.5 Information on designated heritage assets was obtained from the Lancashire HER and the NHLE.

### **Published and Unpublished Documentary Sources**

- 3.6 A range of published and unpublished material has been consulted, including the *Regional Historic Environment Research Framework for the North-west of England* and sources on the wider archaeological and historical background.

### **Assessment Criteria**

#### ***Setting***

- 3.7 The NPPF defines the setting of a heritage asset 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'*
- 3.8 Historic England's *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets Setting* (2017) was used to inform the methodology for this assessment which follows steps i) to iv) outlined in the guidance.

#### ***Significance***

- 3.9 Paragraph 189 of the NPPF states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 3.10 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 189, NPPF 2018) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.
- 3.11 Assessment of significance has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in Historic England's *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment* (2015).

## 4 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

4.1 The study site is located on the west side of Skelmersdale (centred at 46294 06595). For the purposes of this assessment the proposed development site has been divided into two areas. The main development covers an area of approximately 7.36ha partially bound to the north by Old Engine Road, to the east by Neverstitch Road, to the south by properties fronting Ormskirk Road and to the south-west by new residential development, or Phase I of the Lathom Pastures development.

4.2 The old town of Skelmersdale is immediately south-east of the study site. The large 1960s and later development of the new town stretches out east and south beyond the old town and the historic core of Ormskirk is c. 5.5km to the west of the study site. Ormskirk Road, which is just south of the study site, appears to be the historic route between Skelmersdale and Ormskirk.

4.3 The landscape in this part of the county is flat, consisting mainly of arable fields with scattered dwellings and farms located along a relatively dense road network. There are occasional small pockets of woodland, with the largest in the vicinity being Spa Roughs, 1.5km north of the study site. The woodland spreads south along the River Tawd which runs north-south approximately 2km east of the study site. The coast is 9.5km to the west.

4.4 The bedrock geology is Pennine Lower Coal Measures formation; mudstone covers the majority of the study site with a band of sandstone towards the south-eastern extent of the study site. Borehole logs from Neverstitch Road, immediately east of the study site, and Firwood Road to the west, show c. 40cm of topsoil over sand and sandy clay with stones, to a depth of c. 10m (BGS 2020).

### Site Inspection

4.5 A site visit was undertaken on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 to provide a further assessment of the character of the site and to appraise the potential impact of any future proposed development on any heritage and archaeological assets (see Plates 1-4).

4.6 The smaller proposed development area to the north of Old Engine Lane seems to form one field parcel with a large pond evident towards the south-east extent, however access to this area was restricted due to the overgrown vegetation and trees.

4.7 The main study site currently covers an area comprising approximately six field parcels. On initial inspection of the study site there were no obvious unrecorded above-ground archaeological features.

4.8 The main study site is divided by the railway cutting, the base of which is about 1.5m lower than the study site and there are no physical remains of the railway evident (Plate 1). It is surrounded by agricultural fields and scattered development. It is well defined by trees

which run parallel on either side of the cutting. A house has been built within a portion of the cut with an associated garden extending east.

- 4.9 North of the railway cutting five field parcels could be identified, mainly comprising grassland with areas of overgrown vegetation. A horse paddock is located to the western extent of the study site extending from the properties that form the western boundary. Central to the study site there is a working farmyard which adjoins a north/south aligned lane forming a boundary through the middle of the study site.
- 4.10 Access to the north-eastern corner of the study site was restricted due to very overgrown vegetation, the extent of which follows the line of Neverstitch Road to the south and forms the eastern boundary to the study site.
- 4.11 South of the railway cutting the site largely comprises one field parcel which has scattered trees and areas of overgrown scrubland and vegetation, especially towards the north-west extent of the field parcel (Plate 3) which was more waterlogged. Towards the very southern tip of this field parcel there is an access point between properties which front Ormskirk Road (Plate 4). This area is clearly already in use for access with visible tyre tracks and upturned topsoil. Evidence of brick and concrete fragments in this location are most likely the remnants of housing associated with redevelopment of the area in the 1960s.
- 4.12 The main study site respects the enclosed garden boundaries of scattered properties to the west north, west and south of the study site. Other than glimpses of the former railway alignment cutting, no archaeological features were observed.

### Site Access

- 4.13 Towards the southern tip of the main study site a trackway runs through properties that front Ormskirk Road which allows access to the southernmost field parcel of the study site. Towards the north the study site can be accessed from a lane which runs south off Old Engine Lane which forms part of the northern boundary of the study site. The lane allows access to the field parcels and the disused railway cutting.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### Introduction

- 5.1 This section reviews existing archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological and historical background of the immediate surrounding area, based on a consideration of evidence in the Lancashire HER, the NHLE and Record Offices. It is not the purpose of this document to create a detailed archaeological or historical narrative of the area, but to provide an assessment of the study site's historical development and archaeological potential in accordance with the NPPF.

## 5.2 Designated Heritage Assets

5.3 There are no designated heritage assets within the study site. There is only one designated heritage asset within 1km of the study site which is a Grade II Listed World War Memorial (NHLE 1219702) located on Sandy Lane, c. 140m east of the south-eastern extent of the study site. This designated heritage asset is located at some distance from the study site and are sufficiently removed from or screened by topography and existing development to remain unaffected by development proposals and there is no historical functional association with the study site. Therefore, it will be given no further detailed consideration within this report.

## Non-Designated Heritage Assets

5.4 There are two archaeological assets recorded within the study site. Buildings and a well (PRN9714) are located towards the southern extremity of the main study site area and a coal pit is located north of the study site within the small area of proposed development north of Old Engine Road (PRN 9731).

5.5 The Lancashire HER contains 83 records relating to archaeological sites, features, structures and findspots within 1km of the boundary of the study site. Details of all HER records are listed in a gazetteer in Appendix 1 and are marked on Figure 1.

5.6 The HER records relating to archaeological remains or finds within the search area breakdown as follows. Some individual HER records cover more than one period:

Period	Within Study Site	Within Search Area
Prehistoric	0	2
Iron Age & Roman	0	5
Medieval	0	4
Post-medieval/Modern	0	70
Undated	0	4

## Previous Investigations

5.7 Nine events are recorded within the 1km search area with one event partly within the study site.

5.8 The most relevant investigation to the study site was trial trenching (PRN 40433) carried out as part as Phase I of this development by L-P: Archaeology in 2017 following a geophysical survey (PRN40432) and archaeological desk-based assessment (PRN40677) predominantly to the immediate south-west but covering part of the of the study site, with only a pond feature and two ditches recorded as having survived extensive cultivation. A peat deposit was also recorded to the west and north-eastern extents of the site which was formed sometime after the Mesolithic period. It would seem the north-east extent was not

developed within this initial phase of investigation and now falls within the site boundary of Phase II.

- 5.9 Investigations including a desk-based assessment (PRN 23918), fieldwalking (PRN 27167) and trial trenching (PRN25000) were carried out on land to the west of Stanley Industrial Estate approximately 500m north of the study site. A series of 47 trenches were excavated and yielded limited archaeological evidence predominately attesting to post-medieval agricultural and industrial development.
- 5.10 Two building surveys have been recorded on the HER and were carried out on a barn at Slate Farm (PRN34985) directly to the north of the study site and a vernacular building survey (PRN24888) was carried out across Lathom parish surveying a total of 45 buildings.
- 5.11 In 2018 a desk-based assessment was carried out on land south of Pilkington's Glass facilities (PRN40288) approximately 1km to the north of the study site.

### **Earlier Prehistoric (c. 9500 BC – c. 700BC)**

- 5.12 The earliest recorded evidence from within the search area contained within the HER relates to recovered flints of potential Mesolithic date (PRN11846 and 11847). The flints were retrieved from fieldwalking in 1999 and were found at Slate Lane, located c. 250m to the north of the study site, which included a microburin. Worked flints were also found at Cock Farm c. 840m north-north-east of the northern boundary of the study site.
- 5.13 Evidence for Mesolithic activity in southern Lancashire is sparse, perhaps due to the generally wet and acidic soils which do not preserve the organic material culture. Mesolithic flint scatters have been exposed on the high moor land such as Knowl Moor.
- 5.14 Peat deposits were recorded primarily within the north and north-eastern extent during trial trenching for Phase I of this development (PRN 40433). This area was not developed within the initial phase and now falls within south-west of the study site for Phase II. Trial trenching revealed peat deposits beneath the Shirdley Hill sands which were interpreted as being associated with the development of a wetland environment during the Early Post Glacial period. Palaeo-environmental assessment indicated that the peat deposits are likely post-Mesolithic in date. However, it would seem the peat is sporadic and located in the area of wetland within the study site, i.e. the north-west extent of the southernmost field parcel, which was noted as waterlogged during the site inspection. This area has already been partially evaluated by three trenches from the Phase I development, the extent of the peat seems to be retained within the confines of wetland areas and therefore likely localised to this area of the study site.
- 5.15 Evidence for Neolithic settlement in Lancashire is also infrequent and the majority of evidence comes from chance finds (Redhead 2004). There is no evidence for Neolithic or Bronze Age activity within the search area although scattered flints were recorded at Duttons Farm, c. 4km to the north of the study site

- 5.16 Whilst there is widespread evidence of activity within the surrounding landscape dating to the early prehistoric, the areas of occupation and/or activity appear to be focused away from the study site. On this basis, a low/nil potential is considered for significant sub-surface remains of prehistoric activity to be discovered within the study site.

### **Early Iron Age to Roman (c. 700 BC – c. AD 410)**

- 5.17 There is no evidence for settlement within the study site. The closest known site is c. 3.9km to the north at Dutton's Farm where an Iron Age/Romano-British farmstead site was excavated. It consisted of an early four poster structure and several later roundhouses (Cowell 2003).
- 5.18 The already mentioned fieldwalking surveys that were carried out to the north of the study site (see para 5.12, above) also retrieved Romano-British pottery (PRN11846 and 11847) with 16 potential sherds recovered from Slate Lane, which had a noticeable concentration towards the eastern extent of the field, and 34 sherds from Cock Farm. This potentially suggests a low level of Roman activity in these areas.
- 5.19 Two possible Romano-British quernstones were found at Slate Farm (PRN11831), c. 400m north of the study site, and c. 270m north of the study site another undated quernstone (PRN11836) was recovered, possibly suggesting that there may be a settlement nearby as they are unlikely to be chance losses.
- 5.20 A coin (PRN 32068), potentially of Tetricus I (AD 271-296), was found c. 830m north of the study site and another coin (PRN 32069) was retrieved c. 560m west of the study site, probably a Sestertius of Trajan (AD 103-117). Approximately 55m to the south of this coin findspot (PRN 32069) a possible Roman disc brooch (PRN 31813) has also been recorded on the HER and a lead spindle whorl was found by a detectorist approximately 380m south-east of the study site (PRN 31688). The findspots are likely the result of chance losses or manuring of fields and, whilst demonstrating some exploitation of the landscape in the period, do not necessarily point to any settlement foci.
- 5.21 In the late 5<sup>th</sup> century AD the area was under the rule of the 'Dux Britannia', a Roman military post created to control the north in the later Roman period. Around AD500 it was split and Lancashire and Cumbria became the kingdom of 'Rheged' (Peason, 1985).
- 5.22 Based on the above evidence it is considered that there is a low/nil potential for significant remains of Iron Age and/or Roman activity within the study site which is confined to findspots.

### **Medieval Period (c. AD 410 – c. AD 1540)**

- 5.23 Within the 1km search area the HER contains only four records relate to the medieval period.



- 5.24 There is little evidence for the Early Medieval history of Lathom although the place name suggests Viking influence. The name Lathom is thought to derive from Old Norse *hlaoum* meaning '(at) the barns' (Ekwall, 1922).
- 5.25 Immediately prior to the Norman conquest in 1066 the estate of Lathom was held by Uctred. It included a 'berewick' (a detached portion of farmland that belonged to a medieval manor and was reserved for the lord's own use) which may have been in Martin or Ormskirk, and a wood at Burscough (Farrer and Brownhill, 1907).
- 5.26 The next recorded Lord of Lathom is Siward son of Dunning at about the time of Henry II. Siward's grandson established a priory at Burscough on or before 1189, and the estate remained in this family, passing to the earls of Derby (Farrer and Brownhill, 1907).
- 5.27 The first Lathom House is thought to have been built in the latter half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century (although an oratory may have been present). It was the principal residence of the family until it was destroyed by Parliamentarians after their victory in the Civil War in 1645. The estates were confiscated by Parliament and sold in 1653, but soon afterwards were again in the possession of the earls. In 1717 the manor was sold to Henry Furnesse who sold it two years later to Thomas Bootle of Melling (Farrer and Brownhill, 1907).
- 5.28 Eight medieval pottery sherds were found during work in the field c. 550m north-east of the study site (PRN11845) and a late medieval horseshoe mount was found approximately 500m south-east of the study site (PRN31713). Small amounts of medieval pottery were also recovered from Slate Lane (PRN11846) and Cock Farm (PRN11847).
- 5.29 There is no evidence for medieval activity within Old Skelmersdale; the closest medieval settlement evidence is Ormskirk and the closest known site is the potential medieval Lathom manor house on the site of the existing house. The site is likely to have been agricultural land during this period and the potential for significant (i.e. non-agricultural) archaeological remains within the study site is low/nil.

### **Post-Medieval and Modern Periods (c.1540 to c.1950)**

- 5.30 The Lathom of today is a scattered collection of farms and buildings, housing less than a thousand people. There are 18 records on the HER relating to farmsteads, houses or cottages with the majority having an associated well feature and built throughout the Victorian period.
- 5.31 There are two records on the HER of post-medieval/modern date recorded within the study site. Recorded towards the southern extremity of the main study site are two buildings, possibly houses or a house and barn, and an adjacent well (PRN9714). Within the smaller study site area, north of Old Engine Lane, a coal pit has been recorded (PRN9731). Within the surrounding 1km search area there are an additional 69 archaeological assets of post-medieval or Modern date recorded in the HER. However, these are of well-defined extent that generally add little to the understanding of the study site's archaeological potential.

- 5.32 Post-medieval archaeological remains in the search area reflect the economy and industry of Lathom. During the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries coal mining was the main industry of the area. There is very little visible evidence of this in the landscape, although a colliery is recorded c. 430m to the south side of the site (PRN40437) and Chapel House colliery off Lancaster Crescent, Skelmersdale (PRN40436).
- 5.33 A number of pits have been recorded on the HER with six coal pits identified from historic maps (PRN 9728, 9730, 9731, 9706, 9702 and 9727). A mound representing a potential coal pit (PRN11824) is located c. 940m north-east of the study site and coal pits and associated tracks are recorded c. 500m to the south of the study site at Blaguegate Moss (PRN9712). Probable clay pits (PRN9713) are also recorded located c. 70m south-west of the study sites south-western extremity and represent the closest pit features to the study site. A gravel pit (PRN9725) 1km north-east of the study site and gravel pits at Holland's Lane c. 970m south-west of the study site (PRN9704) are also recorded on the HER.
- 5.34 Slate Farm (PRN34985) is located c. 240m north of the study site. Which was originally an early 19<sup>th</sup> century flail-threshing barn that was later extended by the addition of a shippon. A brick cart shed and stable was added after 1845 and before 1893 and was converted to residential use in 2011.
- 5.35 An extant powder hut is located c. 350m north of the site within a small copse close to Slate Farm, it is not visible from the study site. It is mentioned in the Lathom Development Brief although it is not yet recorded in the LHER. The hut was an explosives store for the Lathom Colliery.
- 5.36 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 the data contained within the HER.
- 5.37 The earliest cartographic survey of the study site is contained on an 1839 Township of Skelmersdale tithe map (Figure 2). The tithe map portrays the eastern extent of the main study site which respects the parish boundary. This map shows six identifiable land parcels of likely arable farmland. Most notably a structure is shown towards the southern tip of the study site within field parcel 201 and described as a cottage and garden on the associated apportionment and recorded as PRN9714 on the HER. By the 1908 OS map two more structures can be seen to the immediate north of this structure within the same plot of land. All the structures can be traced on subsequent maps until the area was redeveloped with new housing in the 1960s.
- 5.38 The 1846 Township of Lathom tithe map shows the western extent of the study site respecting the parish boundary (Figure 3) and also shows the portion of the study site north of Old Engine Lane. Plot 2107 located towards the north-west extent of the main study site was named Lower Brick Hey which suggests that brick making, which was shown on later maps to the west

- of the site (PRN9715), may have taken place within the study site. Cottages are shown just beyond the north-western extent of the main study site boundary, illustrated as 'Old Engine Cottages' up until the 1960 OS edition and are extant today. The cottages are located on the north-east boundary of field parcel 1718, part of which lies within the study site. This field parcel is named Smithy Field and may suggest a blacksmith in the vicinity. Old Engine Lane which forms part of the main study sites northern boundary becomes less defined as it runs to the east becoming more apparent as a lane on the 1893 OS edition (Figure 4).
- 5.39 At least two small outbuildings are visible central to the field parcel with a possible pit feature marked to the west extent. A small field parcel is surveyed towards the north-west extent of the site boundary which has been surveyed as parcel 1713a representing a garden area. Forming the north-eastern boundary of the study site is an area marked as parcel 1711 which is an area of plantation which seems to surround the majority of a large pond feature to the south-east of this smaller study site area. This area is likely associated with the Old Engine Cottages to the immediate south.
- 5.40 The 1893 OS map (Figure 4) shows significant changes and an industrialisation of the landscape. A stretch of the old Lancashire and Yorkshire (L & Y) Railway, which opened in 1858 and closed in 1963, runs centrally through the main study site (PRN24903) and the brick bridge where it is crossed by Firwood road survives but no sleepers or rails remain. Skelmersdale Station (PRN37050) on the Ormskirk and St Helens railway is located 100m south-east of the study site, the station opened in 1858, closed to passengers in 1956 and entirely in 1963, now demolished. Two mineral railway links are recorded on the HER. A mineral railway and earthwork (PRN11844) connecting collieries at Blaguegate and Tawd Vale, and Skelmersdale and Lathom and a since cleared track (PRN40439) connecting Houghton's Delf and a series of collieries to the L & Y Railway.
- 5.41 Housing development along Ormskirk Road, which forms a small part of the southern boundary to the main study site, is now evident. A historic 'football pitch' is a prominent feature located directly to the north of the main railway line and central to the main study site in the area of what is now a working farmyard. Many of the field boundaries have changed, most notably towards the south-eastern extent of the study site where four elongated field parcels have been survey in an area that was previously one large parcel. To the north-west of the main study site, and to the immediate west of the football pitch, is an area of woodland that was previously two arable field parcels which follows the northern boundary of the main railway track.
- 5.42 The smaller part of the study site, located to the immediate north of Old Engine Lane (no longer within the application boundary), shows the outbuildings once central to the area have been demolished and the plantation to the north-east has also been cleared with the area comprising two field parcels with the small

garden area still defined to the north-western extent of the study site. To the immediate east of the garden is a large mound feature which extends east across the northern boundary of the study site, this is likely associated with the disused coal yard and pit recorded on the HER (PRN9731). The main field parcel is marked as scrubland which surrounds the pond located towards the south-east. The mineral railway line forms the south-eastern boundary of the study site and a footpath is clearly marked which seems to form the north-western boundary of the study site. It is worth noting a new pond has been surveyed just beyond the footpath to the west which has disappeared by the 1991 OS edition map.

- 5.43 The 1908 OS map (Figure 5) shows little change toward the south-eastern extent of the main study site with some additional sub-division of the field parcels, although more development along Ormskirk Road is now evident with housing and garden plots extending north from the road which forms the southern boundary of study site. The main change to the north-east of the main study site is the addition of two tramlines associated with a newly constructed building. One of the tramlines runs juxtaposed with the Skelmersdale railway line and forms the northern boundary of the wooded area north-west of the study site. This continues south-east towards the Mineral Railway connecting to the newly constructed building located towards the eastern boundary of study site. Another tramline follows the curvature of the eastern boundary of the study site and connects the new building to the main Skelmersdale railway line, which terminates at the north-east extent of the study site. This new development area is marked as 'Sand Wash' on the map which suggests the tramlines were carrying extracted sand from sand pits which have been identified on a 1933 OS map to the north-west of the study site.
- 5.44 The pond towards the south-east of this study site area has now been developed into a larger reservoir which respects the north-east boundary of the study site and the large mound is still a prominent feature along the northern edge of the study site. The footpath to the north-west extent of the study site has disappeared.
- 5.45 By the 1960-1 OS map (Figure 6) the south extent of the main study site has largely become one field parcel with the addition of a building towards the southern boundary. To the north of the study site the north-westerly aligned tramline has disappeared completely and the tramline which follows the eastern boundary of the study site is marked as disused. The associated building, and a newly constructed smaller building to the west which are close to the eastern perimeter of the study site, are still present with an additional two smaller structures located to the immediate south-west. To the south of the Old Engine Cottages, within the study site, is an area marked as allotment gardens which are most likely associated with the cottages. The woodland on the west side of the study site has now been cleared.
- 5.46 In 1961 Skelmersdale was selected as the first new town in Lancashire (PRN38667). Large modern housing estates have sprung up all around the old town, and a large industrial estate has attracted various light industries. Ormskirk Road was also redeveloped in this period into

- what we see today, the structures located towards the southern tip of the study site and visible on the Skelmerdale tithe map of 1839 seem to have been redeveloped in this period and subsequently demolished in 2011/12.
- 5.47 The smaller portion of land to the immediate north of Old Engine Lane (outside application boundary) shows the garden area towards the north-west of the study site has disappeared forming one large field parcel which is still surveyed as scrubland. The reservoir is marked as 'water' and the large mound is still prominent north of the study site.
- 5.48 The 1991 OS edition map (Figure 7) shows the addition of three structures within the large field parcel towards the southern extent of the study site. All the structures have been demolished by 2011 aerial photography (not illustrated) and have been assessed as small outbuildings relating to an allotment in this immediate area. The building, close to the eastern perimeter of the study site and associated with the tramlines has now been demolished. In addition, one of the two building to the immediate south-west has also been demolished and a trackway is now clearly marked extending north from the remaining structure. To the south of this there is what looks to be a new structure or feature which is not on the 2015 aerial photograph (Figure 8). A house has been developed within the cutting of the main Skelmersdale railway line and has an associated garden plot by the 2015 aerial photograph. To the north of this, a new trackway has emerged which connects Old Engine Lane to the new house. To the west of the track another building has emerged which is an outbuilding associated with the current farmyard.
- 5.49 The smaller portion of land to the immediate north of Old Engine Lane (outside application boundary) shows the reservoir as a marsh area, with the mound still present to the north of the study site. A tree has now been surveyed towards the south of the study site. By the 2015 aerial photograph (Figure 8) the whole study site has been covered with trees and scrubland.
- 5.50 The potential for the presence of post-medieval activity within the main study site is considered high with potential remnants of the tramlines towards the north and north-east of the study site still surviving. Three demolished structures are also recorded through map analysis towards the north-east of the study site with one of the buildings relating to the tramlines and two later buildings potentially associated with the Old Engine Cottages, located just beyond the northern boundary of the study site. Towards the southernmost extent of the main study site buildings and a well are recorded on the HER as PRN 9714 and can be seen on the Skelmerdale tithe map of 1839. These buildings were demolished and their site redeveloped in the 1960s and then subsequently demolished in 2011/12. Just to the north of this archaeological asset, within the southernmost field parcel of the main study site, four modern structures have been recorded which have been interpreted as small outbuildings associated with an allotment which were demolished by 2011.
- 5.51 The smaller portion of land to the immediate north of Old Engine Lane (outside application boundary) has likely been heavily disturbed by coal extraction and the associated mound still likely exists towards the north of the study site, although now heavily overgrown with trees and vegetation.

At least two small outbuildings located centrally within the study site were associated with the coal yard and demolished by 1893. The potential for significant archaeological remains dating to the post-medieval period within the study site is low/nil.

## **6 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

6.1 Paragraph 189 of the NPPF states that planning decisions should be based on the significance of the heritage asset, and that the level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.

6.2 It is recognised that not all parts of a heritage asset will necessarily be of equal significance. In some cases, certain elements could accommodate change without affecting the significance of the asset. Change is only considered harmful if it erodes an asset's significance. Understanding the significance of any heritage assets affected and any contribution made by their setting (paragraph 190, NPPF 2019) is therefore fundamental to understanding the scope for and acceptability of change.

### **Designated Heritage Assets**

6.3 The study site contains no designated archaeological assets.

6.4 There is one designated heritage asset within 1km of the study site. A Grade II Listed War Memorial (NHLE 1219702) located on Sandy Lane, c. 140m east of the south-eastern extent of the study site. There is no visual, historical or functional relationship between the heritage asset and the study site and, therefore, the study site is not considered to contribute to the significance of this asset.

### **Potential sub-surface archaeological remains**

6.5 There is no previously recorded evidence for prehistoric, Roman, or medieval period activity in the study site and a low/nil potential has been identified for any significant below-ground archaeological remains dating to these archaeological periods. Should any, as yet unknown archaeological remains be present, their significance will be vested in their evidential value and their potential to contribute to regional and national research objectives. Based upon current understanding it is considered that any such remains are unlikely to be of more than local significance.

6.6 Archaeological features of post-medieval date were identified within the study site, which includes two archaeological assets recorded on the HER. However, later development and demolition at the site of PRN9714 are likely to have removed or disturbed any archaeological remains to such an extent that no remains of archaeological significance survives.

6.7 It is possible that below ground remains relating to the former coal pit (PRN9731) will survive within the northern portion of the study site. Any surviving remains are considered to be of

no more than local significance due to a limited potential to add to regional research objectives.

- 6.8 The dismantled Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Skelmersdale Branch) which runs through the centre of the study site is not recorded on the HER. This non-designated asset is a well-defined earthwork and there is no evidence to suggest any associated buried structures or features relating to this former railway within the study site. It is considered that the former railway line retains no surviving sub-surface features of archaeological interest with limited historic interest and it is considered to be of local significance.
- 6.9 The 1991 OS edition map also shows four structures within the large field parcel south-east of the study site which have been interpreted as small outbuildings associated with an allotment which were demolished by 2011 and are of no archaeological significance. Towards the north-east of the study site there is evidence for at least three further demolished structures. One of these structures was part of a tramline system connecting Skelmersdale Railway to possible sand pits to the north-west of the study site and the other two structures are potential outbuildings relating to the Old Engine Cottages located just beyond the site boundary to the north. Sub-surface remains of the buildings and tramlines may survive, but any such remains would be of negligible archaeological significance.
- 6.10 Previous trial trenching during Phase I of this development to the immediate south-west of the study site, extending into this Phase II study site, established prehistoric peat deposits. The peat deposit was recorded at a depth of c. 0.5m and was c. 50mm in thickness and likely to be localised, confined to the waterlogged area observed during the site assessment. The information retrieved from the assessment of the peat contributed to local and regional research frameworks in terms of understanding palaeoenvironmental condition post-Mesolithic. However, any further contribution to understanding the paleoenvironment of the region beyond this is limited and any surviving peat deposits are considered to be low/negligible significance.
- 6.11 There is no evidence to suggest that the study site contains, or has the potential to contain, archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development. Any archaeological remains discovered are likely to be of local significance.

## **7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

### **Previous Impact**

- 7.1 For the most part previous impacts are likely to be confined to plough damage which will have had a low, yet widespread, impact upon the buried archaeological resource. The northern extent of the main study site has been subjected to industrial activity resulting in the truncation and disturbance of potential archaeological remains from tramlines and a still present railway line cutting. Demolished buildings identified to the south, east and north of the study site would likely have had an impact on as yet unknown archaeological remains if

present. Development central to the study site is evidence from historic mapping as a football pitch which was replaced by a working farmyard. It is unclear as to the depth of any disturbance from this development although it has likely had minimal impact.

- 7.2 The small development area north of the main study site and to the immediate north of Old Engine Lane has been subjected to further industrialisation with a coal yard, associated buildings and a working pit located to the north and west of the study site, industrial activity coupled with a reservoir located to the east of the study site would have severely impacted upon the buried archaeological resource in this area.

### **Proposed Development**

- 7.3 The main study site is being proposed for residential development with associated access, infrastructure and open space, the exact proposed layout is yet to be finalised. It is understood that the smaller portion of the study site, to the north of Old Engine Road, will remain as open space.

### **Designated Heritage Assets**

- 7.4 The proposed development will have no impact upon any designated heritage assets.

### **Non-Designated Heritage Assets**

- 7.5 The assessment has established that there is low/nil potential for the survival of remains of a prehistoric, Roman, or medieval period date in the study site that could be impacted by the proposed development. If any such remains did survive, they would likely be impacted by the proposed development, but there is no evidence to suggest these would be of greater than local significance if present.
- 7.6 Peat deposits were identified as post-Mesolithic in date during trial trenching for Phase I of this development, which now falls within south-west of the study site for Phase II. However, it would appear that the potential for peat across the study site is confined to the wetland area, i.e. the north-west extent of the southernmost field parcel, and therefore likely to be localised. Whilst assessment of these deposits provided an understanding of the palaeoenvironmental conditions of the area further investigation is unlikely to yield any additional significant data.
- 7.7 There is potential for the survival of sub-surface remains relating to previous 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century development. Two non-designated assets lay within the study site. Buildings and a well are recorded on the HER (PRN9714) located towards the southern tip of the main study site and was recorded on the 1839 Skelmersdale tithe map. Further analysis through map progression has established the original asset seems to have been lost through development of the area in the 1960s with new housing along Ormskirk Road in which the property fronted. This was subsequently demolished in 2011/12 which has likely heavily disturbed or truncated any potential surviving sub-surface remains of the original structures and it is considered that there is negligible potential.



- 7.8 A coal pit (PRN9731) is recorded within the smaller proposed development area located to the north of Old Engine Lane. The 1846 Lathom Tithe map records the area to the west as a coal yard which had at least two small associated outbuildings located centrally within the study site. The coal yard and outbuildings were in disuse and demolished by 1893 with a large mound, which likely relates to coal extraction, being depicted on the 1893 OS map and subsequent maps. A pond located to eastern extent of this study site was redeveloped and extended into a reservoir which was constructed by the 1908 OS map edition. This small study area is heavily truncated by the reservoir to the east and is likely heavily disturbed to the west by coal extraction and, depending on the nature of the development in this area, it would likely require no further work.
- 7.9 Within the main study site, a number of pre-existing structures have been identified through historic mapping. By the 1991 OS map four structures were surveyed within the southernmost field parcel of the study site. This has now been identified as an allotment area with associated small outbuildings of no archaeological interest and, therefore, no further investigation is deemed necessary.
- 7.10 The tramlines identified to the north and north-east of the study site and cutting of the main Skelmersdale railway line are well-documented and do not need to be further assessed or investigated. It is also likely any potentially earlier pre-existing archaeological remains are disturbed or truncated by these assets and these areas will therefore require no further evaluation work.
- 7.11 Notably there are three now demolished structures located towards the north-east extent of the study site. Two of the buildings were constructed sometime before 1960 and potentially represent outbuildings possibly associated with the Old Engine Cottages to the north, located just beyond the study site. The larger structure is almost certainly related to the tramlines and would likely be impacted by the development, although there is no evidence to suggest that these would be of greater than local significance if present. This structure was built at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is well-documented and, therefore, does not warrant any further investigation.
- 7.12 Central to the study site is a presently working farmyard which contains an outbuilding. This farmyard has been developed over a pre-existing football pitch and is unlikely to have heavily impacted upon any pre-existing sub-surface archaeological remains.
- 7.13 Development is likely to truncate or completely remove any archaeological remains that may survive within the main study site. Therefore, it has been indicated by the Planning Officer for Archaeology at Lancashire County Council during pre-determination consultation that a limited programme of targeted trial trenching may be required. However, this was largely in part to target the early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings fronting Ormskirk Road (PRN9714) and investigate the potential for peat deposits. Based on the above evidence, there is negligible potential for surviving sub-surface remains associated with these features.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment draws together the available archaeological, historical, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the archaeological potential of land c.7.96ha in extent to the east of Firswood Road, Lathom Lancashire in advance of a proposed residential development. The assessment addresses the information requirements set out in the NPPF and provides the proportionate response sought by the NPPF.
- 8.2 The assessment has established that there are no designated heritage assets within the study site and that the proposed development would have no impact upon the setting of any designated heritage assets in the wider vicinity.
- 8.3 Based upon the available archaeological evidence the potential for surviving significant archaeological remains within the study site is considered low/nil for the prehistoric to medieval periods.
- 8.4 Analysis of historic mapping evidence has identified a number of archaeological assets, many of which are associated with the industrial use of the study site. However, these have been assessed as having either been adversely disturbed or truncated or of no archaeological or historical interest. Therefore, the assessment has concluded that there is no evidence to suggest that the study site contains any archaeological remains of sufficient importance to preclude or constrain development.
- 8.5 Following consultation with the Lancashire Planning Officer for Archaeology, the modest archaeological interest of the study site was primarily associated with investigation of peat deposits and an early 19<sup>th</sup> century dwelling within the southern access of the study site. However, it was assessed that there is negligible potential for surviving sub-surface remains associated with these features.
- 8.6 In light of the above, in compliance with NPPF, it is considered that the development would have no impact on the significance of any archaeological assets and therefore there should be no requirement for any further archaeological work.

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### **Historical Mapping**

The 1839 Township of Skelmersdale Tithe map

The 1846 Lathom and 1839 Skelmersdale Tithe map

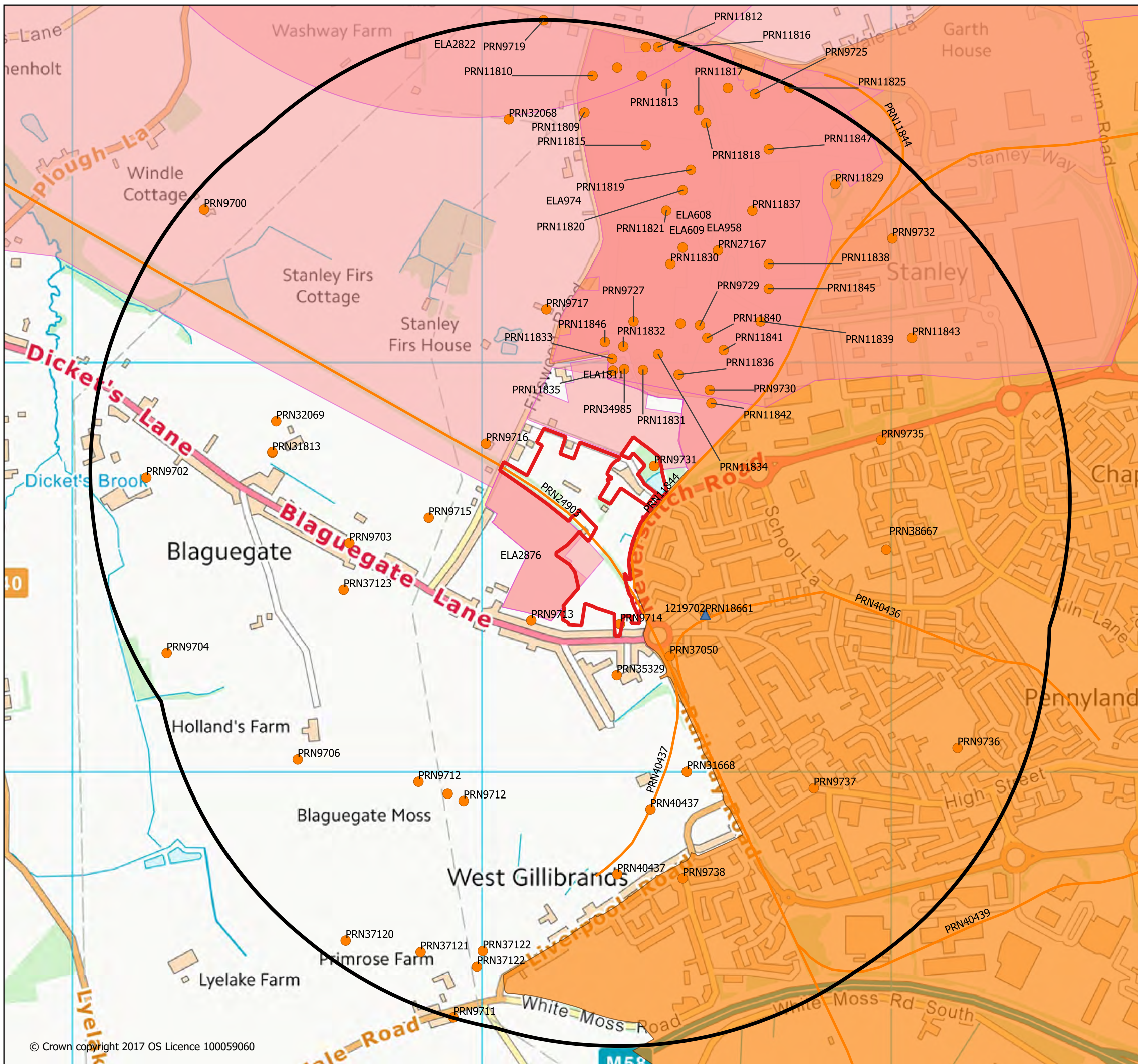
The 1893 County Series 25 inch Ordnance Survey map

The 1908 County Series 25 inch Ordnance Survey map

The 1960-1 National Grid 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map

The 1991 National Grid 1:10000 Ordnance Survey map

## Figures



Study Site

- Study Site
- Search area
- ▲ Listed Building
- HER Monument
- HER Event

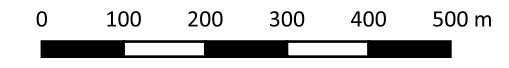


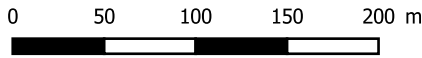



Figure 1. The study site and search area with the location of NHLE and HER data



Figure 2. Extract from the 1839 Township of Skelmersdale Tithe map

	 Study Site		 <p>Planning + Development   Design Studio   Archaeology + Heritage</p>
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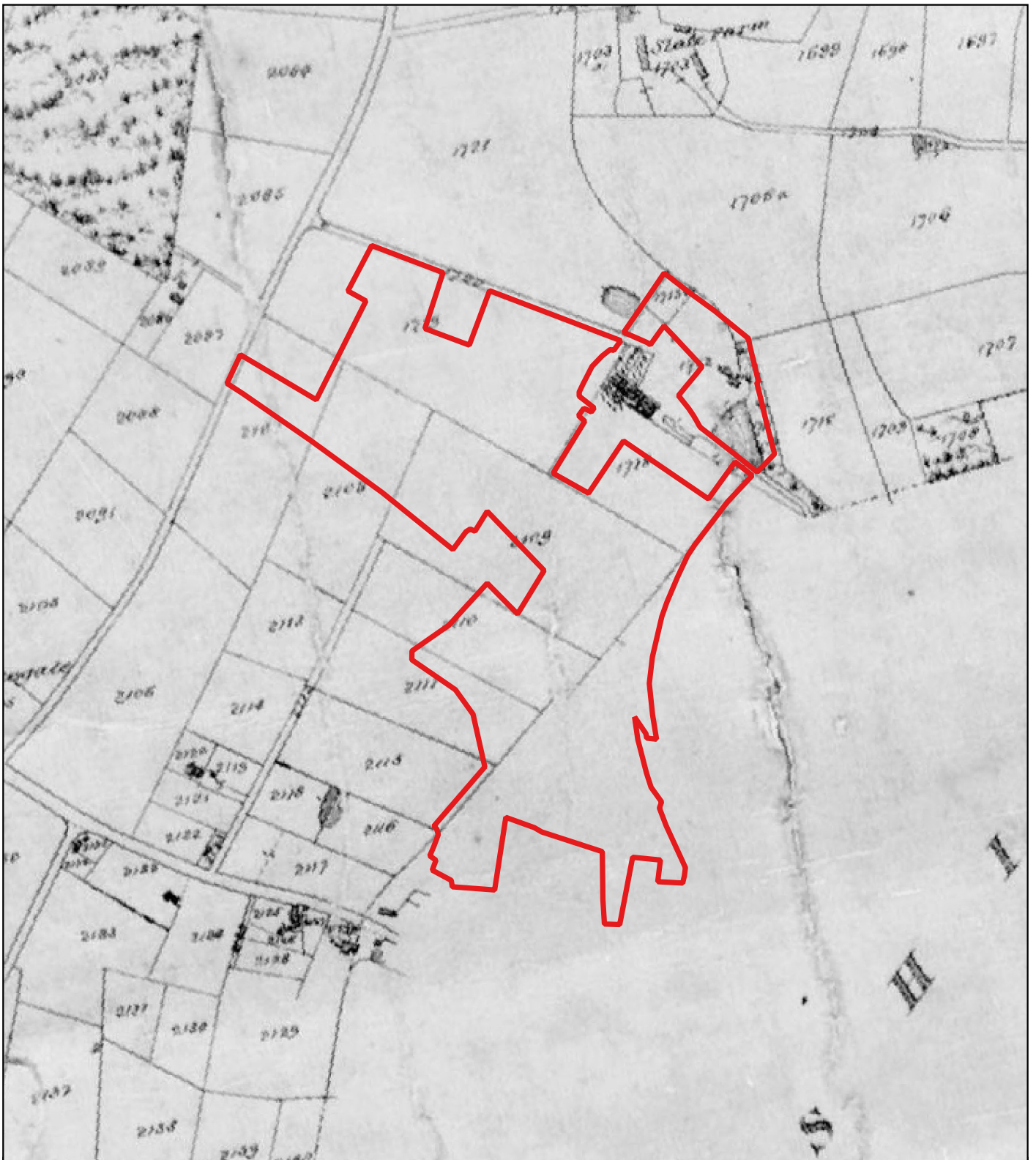


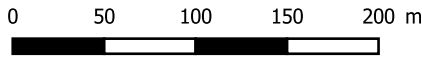



Figure 3. Extract from the 1846 Township of Lathom Tithe map

	 Study Site		 <p>Planning + Development   Design Studio   Archaeology + Heritage</p>
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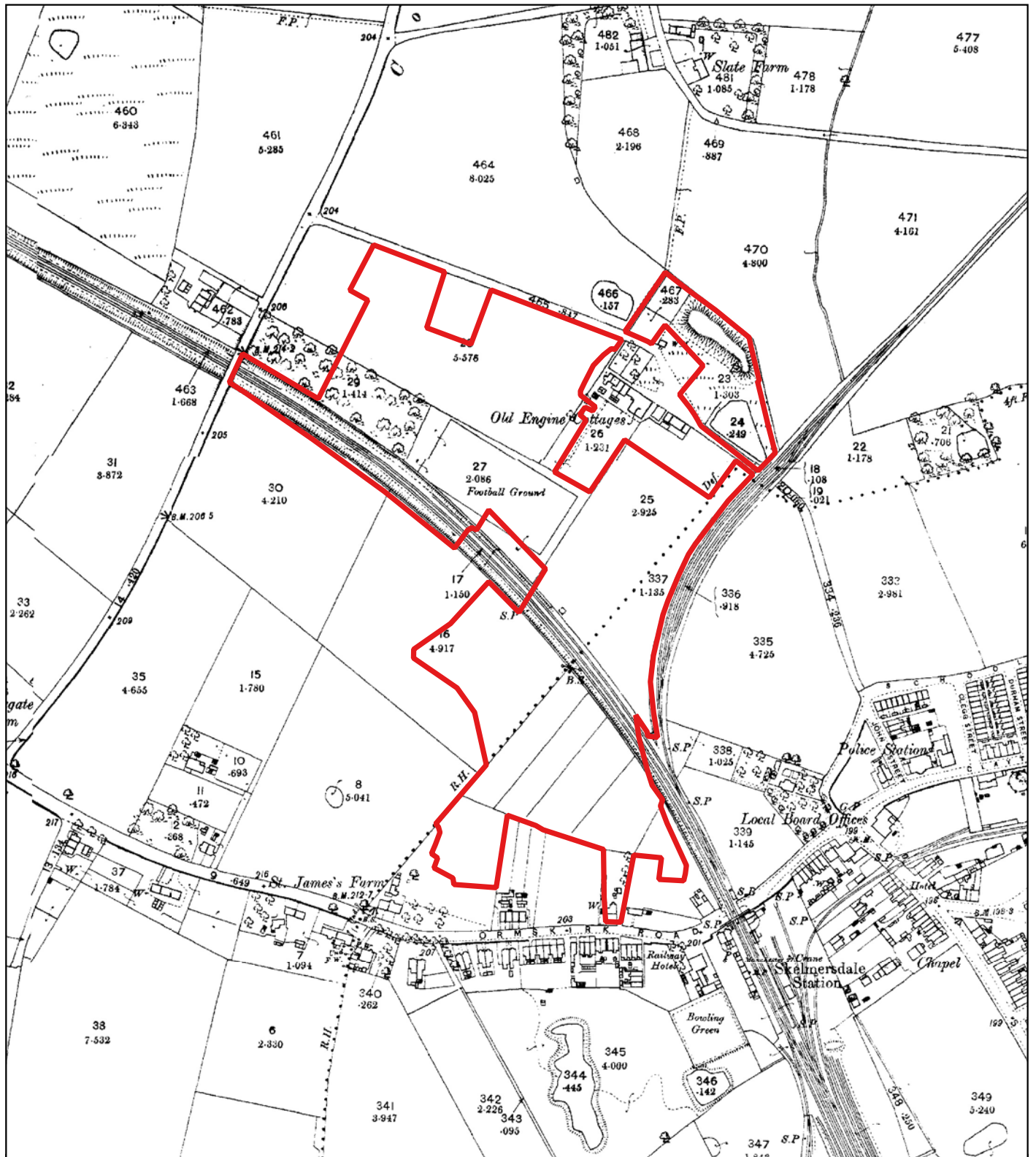


Figure 4. Extract from the 1893 25 inch County Series Ordnance Survey map

	Study Site		<p>Planning + Development   Design Studio   Archaeology + Heritage</p>
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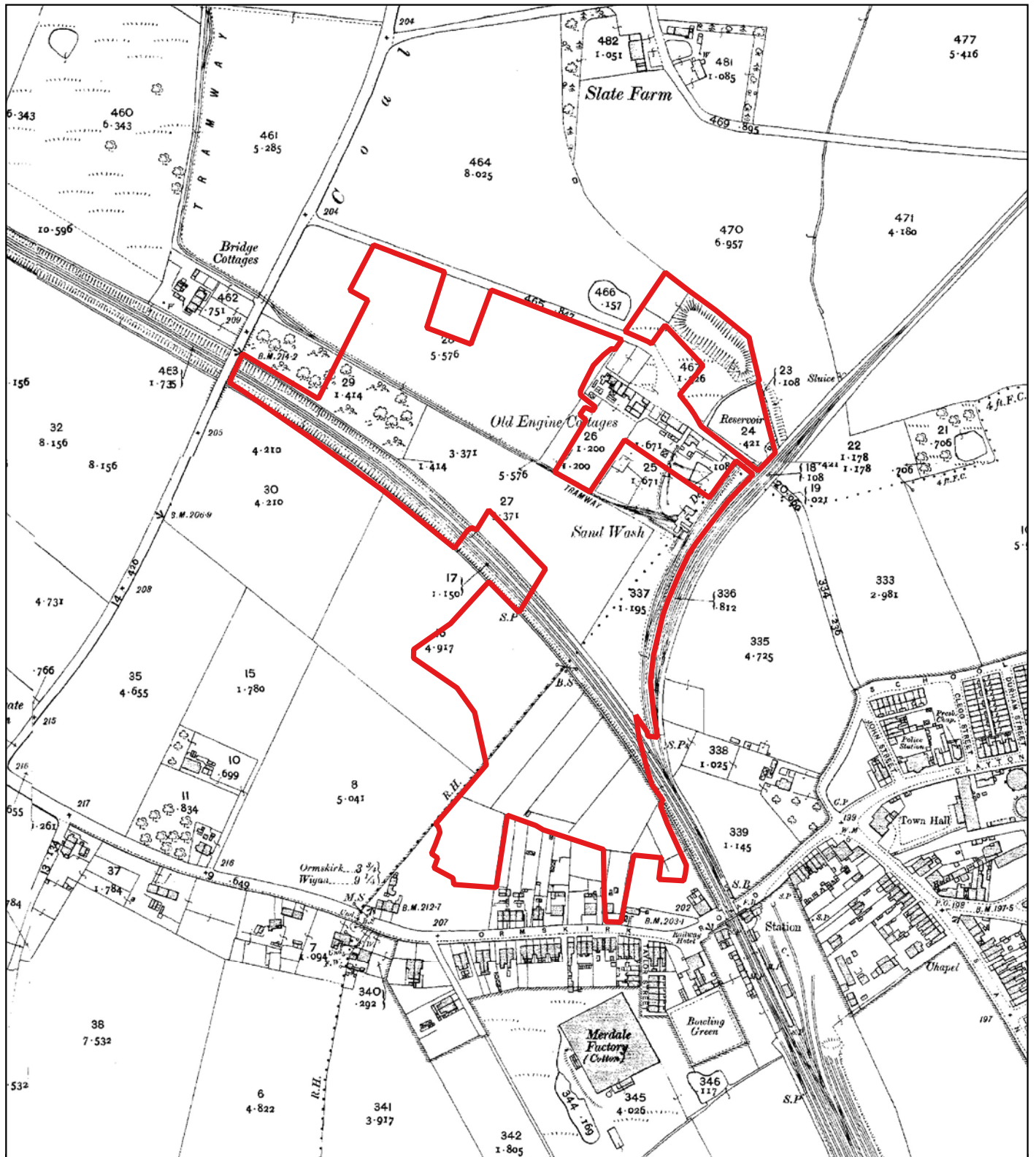
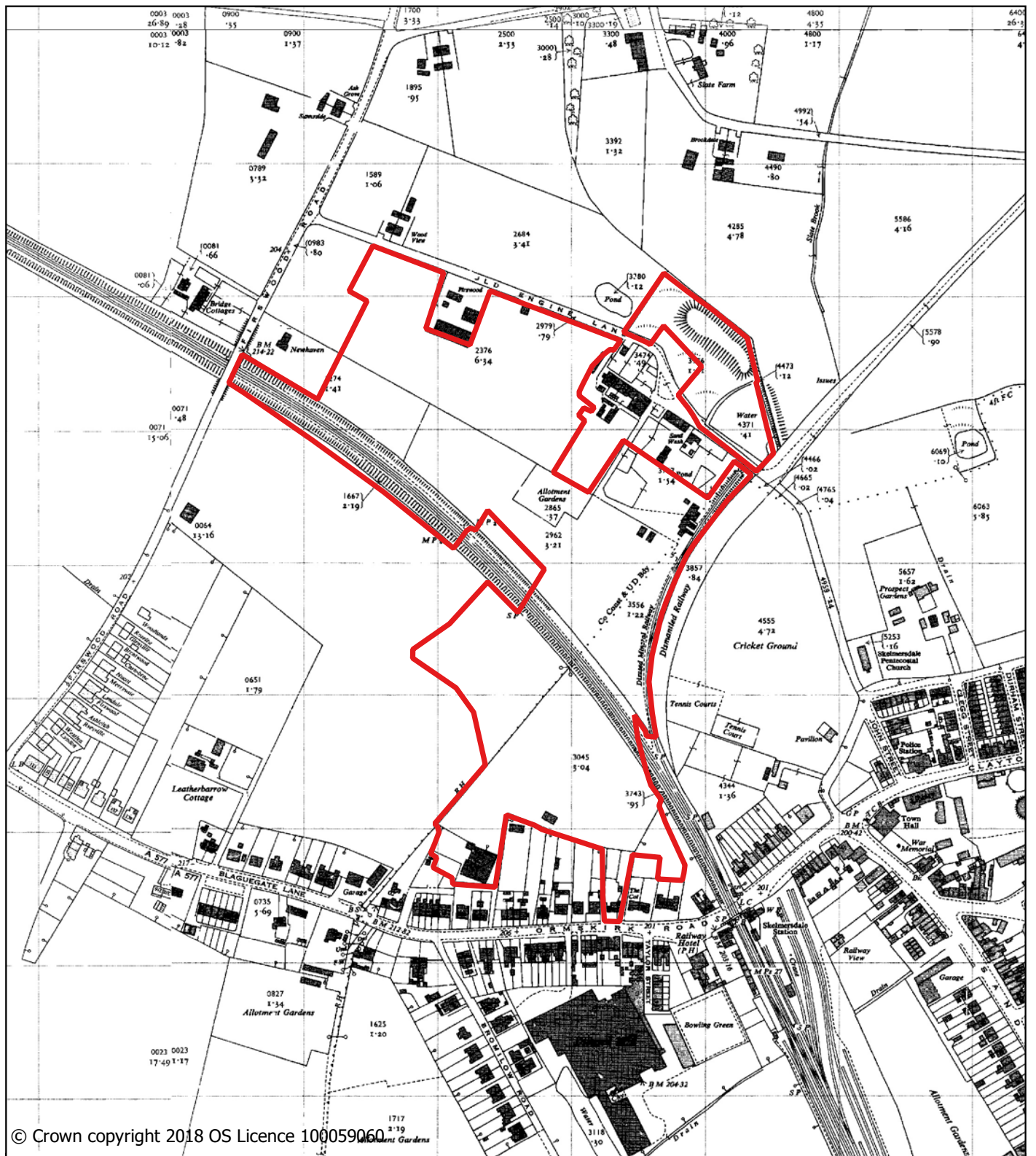


Figure 5. Extract from the 1908 25 inch County Series Ordnance Survey map

	Study Site	<p>0 50 100 150 200 m</p>	<p>Planning + Development   Design Studio   Archaeology + Heritage</p>
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Figure 6. Extract from the 1960-1 1:2500 National Grid Ordnance Survey map

	<p>Study Site</p>	<p>0 50 100 150 200 m</p>	<p>Planning + Development   Design Studio   Archaeology + Heritage</p>
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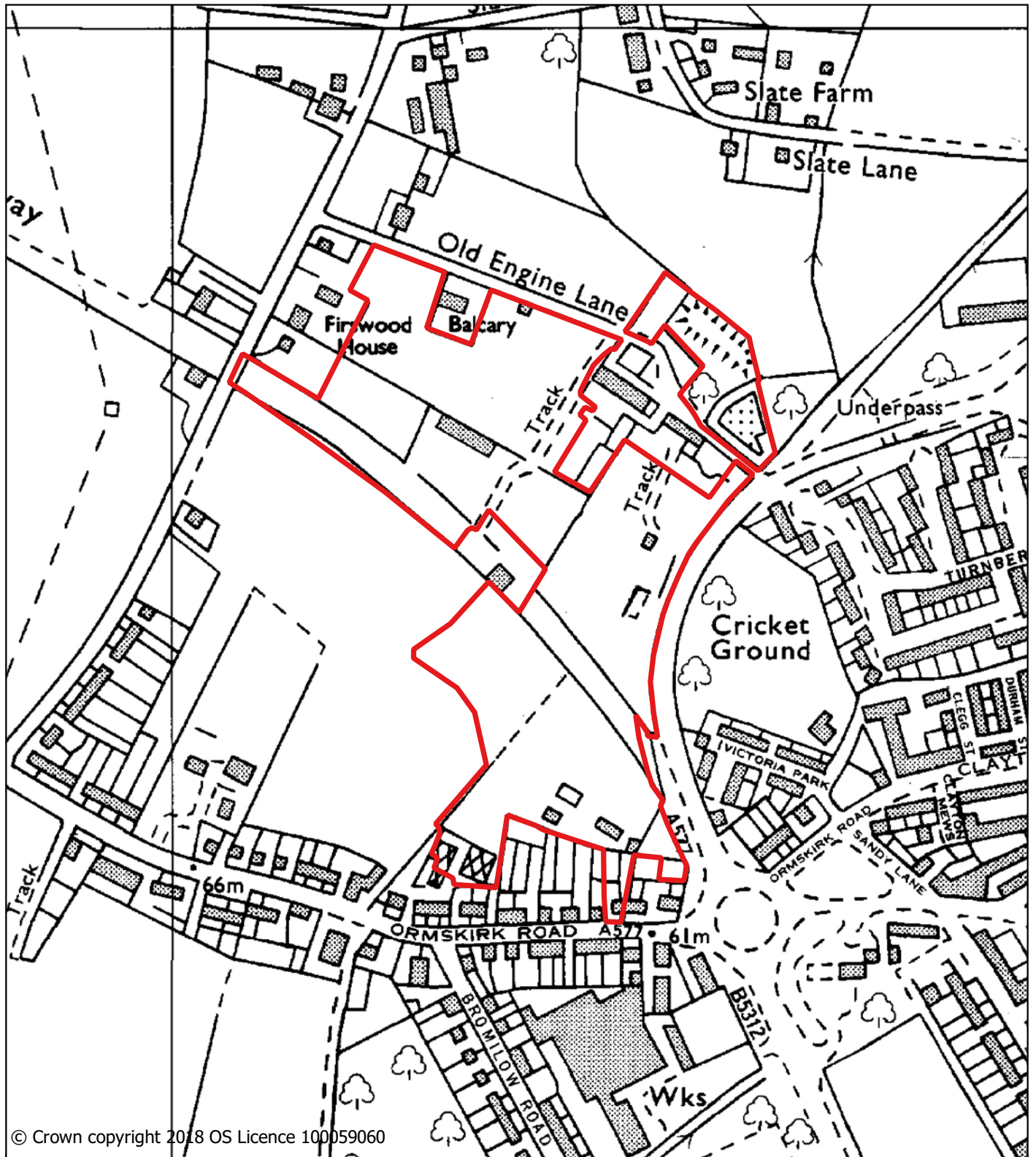


Figure 7. Extract from the 1991 1:10000 National Grid Ordnance Survey map



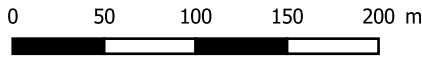

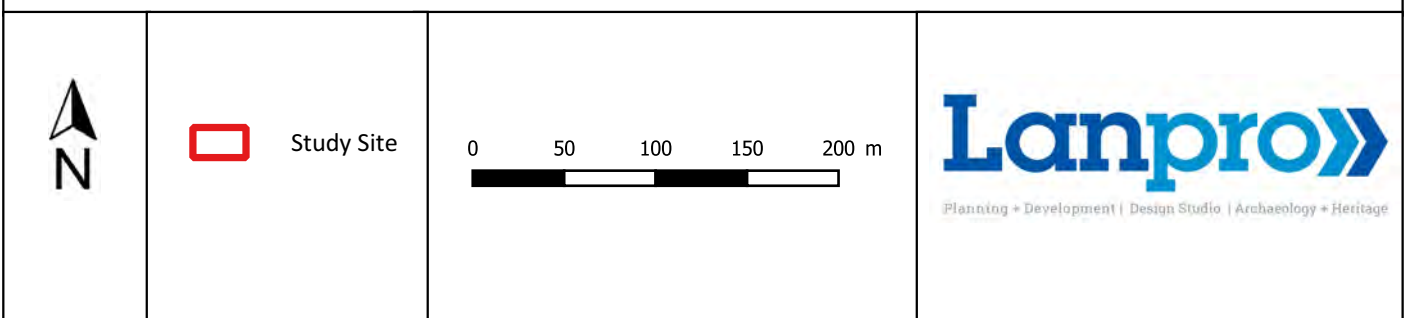
	 Study Site		 <p>Planning + Development   Design Studio   Archaeology + Heritage</p>
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Figure 8. Extract from the 2015 aerial photographs



## Plates



Plate 1: View west looking at disused railway track with bridge shown in background



Plate 2: View looking from disused railway track towards north-west corner of study site



Plate 3: View for south-west corner of the study site looking north-west



Plate 4: View north showing access point leading into south-east extent of study site

## Appendix 1: Gazetteer of heritage assets

The following table provides details of heritage assets recorded on the Norfolk HER within 1km of the study site. These have been listed in order of their HER references, and their locations are marked on Figure 1.

Ref.	Name	Description	NGR	Designation	Period
<b>HER records:</b>					
PRN9700	Moss Cottages, off Plough Lane, Lathom	Houses and well shown on OS 6 inch map, 1849, and current sheet	SD 4532 0737		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9702	Blaguegate Lane, Lathom	Coal pit shown on OS 1848 6 inch map	SD 4518 0671		Victorian - 1848 AD
PRN9703	Huyton's, Blaguegate Lane, Bickerstaffe Moss	Farmstead and well, pre-1849, no longer extant	SD 45676 06559		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9704	Halfpenny Lane (off), Blaguegate	Site of gravel pit, pre-1849 in area where field boundaries and the lane have also been altered	SD 4523 0628		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9706	South of Holland's Farm, Blaguegate Moss, Lathom	Old pit shown on OS 1849 1:10,560 mapping. Possibly a coal pit or a sand/gravel pit	SD 4555 0603		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9711	Causeway Moss, Bickerstaffe	Possible farmstead and well, pre-1849	SD 4593 0539		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9712	Moss Pits, Blaguegate Moss, Lathom	Coal pits and access roads shown on OS 1849 1:10,560 map	SD 4589 0595		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9713	Blaguegate Lane, Lathom	1849 mapping notes 'Old Pits'. Perhaps old clay pits	SD 4612 0636		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9714	28-34 Ormskirk Road, Skelmersdale	Buildings and well shown on OS 1:10,560 map of 1849	SD 4633 0636		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9715	Blaguegate Lane (off), Lathom	Brickfield shown on OS first edition 1:10,560 mapping, 1849. Since lost	SD 45869 06620		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9716	Bridge Cottages, Firwood Lane, Lathom	House and well shown on 1849 mapping, no longer extant	SD 46009 06801		Victorian - 1849 AD

PRN9717	Beacon View (formerly Mount Pleasant), Firswood Lane, Lathom	House and well shown on OS 6 inch map, 1849	SD 4615 0712		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9719	Monks Cottage, (Washway Cottage) Spa Lane, Lathom	Building and well shown on OS1:10,560 mapping of 1849. Still extant 1893 but since demolished	SD 4615 0783		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9725	Spa Lane (off), Lathom	Gravel pit shown on OS 1849 6 inch map	SD 4666 0765		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9727	Slate Lane (off), Lathom	Site of coal pit, pre-1846	SD 4637 0710		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN9728	Slate Lane (off), Lathom	'New Pits' - coal pits - shown on 1849 mapping	SD 4648 0709		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9729	Slate Lane (off), Lathom	Site of sawmill and engine house, pre-1849	SD 4653 0709		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9730	Slate Lane (off), Lathom	Coal pit shown on 1849 mapping	SD 4655 0693		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9731	Northeast of Sandwash House Farm, Old Engine Lane, Skelmersdale	Coal pit, pre-1849	SD 4642 0674		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9732	Off Stanley Way, Skelmersdale	Site of house or farmhouse and well shown on OS 1849 6 inch map	SD 47002 07302		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9734	Tongbarn, Chapelhouse, Skelmersdale	Building, perhaps a small farmstead, and adjacent well shown on OS 1849 1:10,560 mapping. Lost after 1893	SD 4698 0654		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9735	Neverstich Road, Skelmersdale	Site of Black Moss Cottage and adjacent well, pre-1849. No longer extant	SD 4697 0680		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9736	Birche's Farm (site of), Pennylands, Skelmersdale	Farmstead and well shown on OS first edition map, 1849, but not on current sheet	SD 4716 0605		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9737	Junction of Liverpool Road and Westgate, Skelmersdale	Building and well shown on OS 1849 1:10,560 mapping	SD 4680 0596		Victorian - 1849 AD



PRN9738	Swifts Folds, Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale	Large farmstead or small hamlet shown on OS 1849:10,560 mapping	SD 4649 0574		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN11808	Great Pit Meadow, Lathom	Field name on 1846 tithe award, possible site of a coal mine or other extractive pit	SD 4632 0771		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11809	Great Pit Meadow, Lathom	Pond shown on OS 1:10,560 mapping, 1849	SD 4624 0760		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN11810	Great Pit Meadow, Lathom	Pond shown on OS 1:10,560 mapping of 1849	SD 4627 0769		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN11811	Spa Cottages, Spa Lane, Lathom	C18 cottages	SD 4640 0777		18th Century - 1786 AD
PRN11812	Spa Cottage, Spa Lane, Lathom	Well on OS map of 1893	SD 4642 0777		Victorian - 1893 AD
PRN11813	Barn Croft and Barn Hey, Lathom	Field-names on 1846 tithe award, possible site of a field barn?	SD 4644 0768		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11814	Spa Lane, Lathom	Pond shown on OS 1:10,560 mapping, 1849	SD 4639 0769		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN11815	Spa Lane, Lathom	Pond shown on OS 6 inch map, 1849	SD 4640 0752		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN11816	West side of bridge over Slate Brook, Spa Lane, Lathom	Pumping Station noted on 1908 and 1938 mapping but not the earlier 1893 sheet	SD 4648 0777		Early 20th Century - 1908 AD
PRN11817	Spa Lane, Lathom	Semicircular depression seen during field study	SD 4652 0761		Undated
PRN11818	Spa Lane, Lathom	Semicircular depression seen on field survey	SD 4654 0758		Undated
PRN11819	Firwood Road, Lathom	Pond on 1846 tithe map	SD 4651 0747		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11820	Firwood Road, Lathom	Pond on 1846 tithe map	SD 4649 0741		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11821	Firwood Road, Lathom	Rectangular pond on OS first edition map, 1849	SD 4644 0737		Victorian - 1849 AD

PRN11822	Firswood Road, Lathom	Large irregular shaped pond shown on OS 6 inch map, 1849	SD 4649 0728		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN11824	Holland Cottage, off Spa Lane, Lathom	Mound - possibly site of coal pit, date uncertain	SD 4660 0767		Undated
PRN11825	Barn Meadow, Lathom	Fieldname on 1846 award	SD 4675 0767		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11829	Off Stanley Way, Skelmersdale	Reservoir and 2 brick structures noted. Magazine shown on OS 25 inch map, 1893	SD 46862 07435		Victorian - 1893 AD
PRN11830	Firswood Road, Lathom	Two ponds shown on the 1846 tithe map	SD 4645 0723		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11831	Slate Farm, Slate Lane, Lathom	Farmstead, built between c.1770-1849	SD 46393 06981		18th Century to Victorian - 1770 AD to 1849 AD
PRN11832	Slate Farm, Slate Lane, Lathom	Pond on 1846 tithe map	SD 4634 0703		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11833	Slate Farm, Slate Lane, Lathom	Pond on 1846 tithe map	SD 4631 0700		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11834	Stable Meadow, Slate Lane, Lathom	Field name on 1846 tithe award	SD 4642 0701		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11835	Barn Croft, Slate Lane, Lathom	Field name on 1846 tithe award	SD 4632 0698		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11836	Slate Farm, Slate Lane, Lathom	Quernstone found in 1932	SD 4648 0697		Undated
PRN11837	Cock Farm, Statham Road, Lathom	Pond on 1846 tithe award	SD 4666 0737		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11838	Cock Farm, Statham Lane, Lathom	Pond on 1846 tithe award	SD 4670 0723		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11839	Slate Farm, Slate Lane, Lathom	Field boundary, pre-1846	SD 4668 0710		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11840	Slate Farm, Slate Lane, Lathom	Pond on 1893 map	SD 46549 07060		Victorian - 1893 AD

PRN11841	Slate Farm, Slate Lane, Lathom	Pond on 1846 tithe award	SD 4659 0702		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11842	Slate Lane, Lathom	Pond on 1846 tithe award	SD 4656 0690		Victorian - 1846 AD
PRN11843	Low or Plumbe's Moss, Lathom	Included in the Enclosure Award 1781	SD 4705 0706		18th Century - 1781 AD
PRN11844	Blaguegate Colliery and Tawd Vale Colliery, Skelmersdale and Lathom	Mineral railway and earthwork	SD 47224 07075		Victorian - 1893 AD
PRN11845	North of Slate Lane, Lathom	Eight Medieval pottery sherds and a possible struck flint chip found, 1999	SD 4670 0718		Medieval - 1066 AD to 1539 AD
PRN11846	Slate Lane, Lathom	Flints, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery found, 1999	SD 4630 0704		Mesolithic through to 19th Century
PRN11847	Cock Farm, Lathom	Flints and Romano-British, Medieval and Post Medieval pottery found during fieldwalking, 1999	SD 4670 0751		Early Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age - 10000 BC to 701 BC
PRN18661	Sandy Lane, Skelmersdale	First World War memorial, c.1920	SD 46545 06384		Early 20th Century - 1920 AD
PRN23918	Firswood Road, Skelmersdale	Archaeological assessment, December 1999	SD 46575 07273		n/a
PRN24903	Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway - Skelmersdale Branch	Railway	SD 44820 05634		Late 20th Century - 1858 AD to 1963 AD
PRN25000	Firswood Road, Skelmersdale	Archaeological evaluation, July 2001	SD 46575 07273		n/a
PRN27167	Firswood Road Development Site, Skelmersdale	Fieldwalking survey, September/November 1999	SD 46575 07273		n/a

PRN31668	Aldcliffe, Aughton	Cast lead alloy spindle whorl dating to the medieval period. The spindle is designed on one side with raised circular dots around the central hole, in a random pattern. The other side is designed with criss cross lines. PROBABLY MISLOCATED	SD 46 06		Late Iron Age
PRN31713	Aldcliffe, Aughton	Cast lead horse shoe mount, dating to the later Medieval period. PROBABLY MISLOCATED	SD 46 06		Medieval to Tudor - 1400 AD to 1539 AD
PRN31813	Bickerstaffe (known as)	Possibly a Roman disc brooch	SD 46 06		Roman
PRN31814	Bickerstaffe (known as)	Copper alloy button with circular raised area on reverse, dated 1500-1700	SD 46 06		Tudor to 17th Century - 1500 AD to 1700 AD
PRN32068	Ormskirk and Skelmersdale	Roman coin, poss. a barbarous radiate of Tetricus I (AD 271-296)	SD 46 07		Roman - 271 AD to 296 AD
PRN32069	Bickerstaffe Area (known as)	Probably a sestertius of Trajan (AD 103-117)	SD 46 06		Roman - 103 AD to 117 AD
PRN34985	Slate Farm, Slate Lane, Lathom	Originally an early C19 flail-threshing barn which was later extended by the addition of a shippon. A brick cart shed and stable was added after 1845 and before 1893. Converted to residential use in 2011	SD 46347 06983		19th Century - 1801 AD to 1832 AD
PRN35329	Merdale Mill (later Orm Mill), Skelmersdale	Cotton weaving mill, built in 1906; production ceased in 1958 and the mill used for other purposes, still extant	SD 46329 06236		Early 20th Century to Late 20th Century - 1906 AD to 1958 AD
PRN37050	Skelmersdale Station (site of), Railway Road, Skelmersdale	Site of Skelmersdale Station on the Ormskirk and St Helens Railway; opened in 1858, closed to passengers in 1956 and entirely in 1963; now demolished	SD 46458 06282		Victorian to Late 20th Century - 1858 AD to 1963 AD
PRN37120	East of Lyelake Farm, Skelmersdale Road (off), Bickerstaffe	Site of small farmstead or cottages, pre-1849. Demolished pre-1893	SD 4566 0558		Victorian - 1849 AD

PRN37121	North of Primrose Farm, Liverpool Road, Bickerstaffe	Site of small farmstead or cottage, pre-1849. Demolished pre-1893	SD 4585 0556		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN37122	Liverpool Road (off), Bickerstaffe Moss	Site of small farmstead or houses, pre-1849	SD 4599 0554		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN37123	Blaguegate Lane (off), Bickerstaffe Moss	Site of small farmstead or house, pre-1849	SD 4566 0644		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN38667	Skelmersdale, West Lancashire	New town founded in 1961. Original townships of Skelmersdale and Holland both noted in Domesday	SD 48545 05818		Late 20th Century - 1961 AD
PRN40436	Chapel House Colliery site, Lancaster Crescent (off), Skelmersdale	Chapel House Colliery is shown on the OS 1:2,500 mapping of 1893, but not the earlier 1:10,560 sheet. It was linked to the L & Y Railway by a dedicated mineral railway. The site has since been cleared	SD 4699 0625		Victorian - 1893 AD
PRN40437	Bickerstaffe Collieries site, Blaguegate Playing fields, Skelmersdale	Colliery, clay pit and associated mineral railway, pre-1893. Since cleared	SD 4637 0598		Victorian - 1893 AD
PRN40439	Mineral railway linking Houghton's Delf and a series of collieries to the L & Y Railway	A mineral railway is shown on the OS 1:2,500 mapping, linking Houghton's Delf and a series of collieries to the L & Y Railway. It was not present in 1849.	SD 4806 0615		Victorian - pre- 1893 AD
PRN9700	Moss Cottages, off Plough Lane, Lathom	Houses and well shown on OS 6 inch map, 1849, and current sheet	SD 4532 0737		Victorian - 1849 AD
PRN9702	Blaguegate Lane, Lathom	Coal pit shown on OS 1848 6 inch map	SD 4518 0671		Victorian - 1848 AD
<b>Events records</b>					
PRN23918	Desk Based Assessment	Firwood Road, Skelmersdale: Desk Based Assessment	SD 4654 0734	PRN23918	Desk Based Assessment
PRN24888	Building Survey	Lathom Parish Vernacular Building Survey	SD 45903 09218	PRN24888	Building Survey
PRN25000	Trial Trench	Firwood Road, Skelmersdale: Trial Trench	SD 46543 07338	PRN25000	Trial Trench

PRN27167	Fieldwalking Survey	Firswood Road Development Site: Fieldwalking Survey	SD 46548 07344	PRN27167	Fieldwalking Survey
PRN34985	Building Survey	Slate Farm, Slate Lane, Lathom: Building Survey	SD 46346 06982	PRN34985	Building Survey
PRN40288	Desk Based Assessment	Land at Pilkington Glass, Lathom, West Lancashire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, January 2018	SD 4597 0859	PRN40288	Desk Based Assessment
PRN40432	Geophysical Survey	Blaguegate Lane, Lathom: Geophysical Survey	SD 4613 0655	PRN40432	Geophysical Survey
PRN40433	Evaluation	Blaguegate Lane, Lathom: Evaluation	SD 4615 0655	PRN40433	Evaluation
PRN40677	Desk-Based Assessment	Land to the East of Firswood Road, Lathom, Skelmersdale: An Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment	SD 4630 0687	PRN40677	Desk-Based Assessment
<b>NHLE records</b>					
1219702	WAR MEMORIAL, SANDY LANE	First World War memorial. c1920, first listed on the 11th August 1993. White stone. Pedestal with statue. Base of 3 square steps, chamfered plinth, moulded foot, tapered square pedestal with moulded cap surmounted by a small statue of a soldier with rifle standing "at ease". Inlaid lettering on all sides of the pedestal, listing the names of the fallen; and additions on the plinth for the Second World War	SD 4654506384	Grade II listed building	1219702



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