



OPOL 21: Land at Summershades Lane – Screened In

1.1 Site Location, Topography and Land Use

The Land at Summershades Lane OPOL (centred at NGR 398197, 404833) lies 5.5km east of Oldham town centre and to the north-east of Grasscroft. The Site measures 2.1ha in size and is bounded by Oldham road to the south, Summershades Lane and Burnedge Fold Road to the west and open countryside to the north and east (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).

The Site lies on a south facing slope and the ground rises from around 220m aOD in the south to around 270m aOD in the northern part of the Site. The Site consists of scrub woodland and grassland.

The geology consists of the Fletcher Bank Grit (sandstone) interspersed with mudstone and siltstones of the Marsden Formation. The superficial geology has not been mapped (British Geological Society 2017).

1.2 Historical Background

1.2.1 Overview

There is no evidence for prehistoric occupation within the Site, however Mesolithic activity has been recorded to the north on Wade Hill (Petch 1924). The Site lies on a relatively steep slope which is generally not conducive for settlement, though there are a number of springs recorded within the area which means Prehistoric activity cannot be discounted entirely.

The projected course of the Roman road to Castleshaw runs around 1.7km to the north and there are no known Roman finds within the Site or the wider area.

During the Medieval period, the Site lay within the Quickmere division of the Saddleworth Township, though the eastern boundary formed the boundary with Shawmere. The area is first mapped on an Enclosure map of the area in 1625 but there does not appear to be any buildings depicted. The next available map of 1770 does not have any detail of the area however the 1822 Township shows that the Summer Shade property (HA11) had been built by this time. The property was owned by John Taylor and the land associated with it was owned by Thomas Ammon Platt. Part of the Site was also recorded in the ownership of Thomas Whitehead.

There is very little documentary evidence on Summer Shade except that it was a small farm with meadow and pasture land. During the later 19th century, the farm and its grounds were extended and turned into pleasure grounds and a bowling green added as well as small wood plantations. During the early 20th century, the property was then used for camping as well. It was demolished during the later 20th century and the Site has become neglected and overgrown. It is now used as an informal recreation area.

1.2.2 Archaeological Potential

There is potential for archaeological remains of all periods however it is unlikely anything pre-Industrial will be recovered. There is good potential for remains of Summer Shades to survive.

1.2.3 Designated Heritage Assets

There are no designated heritage assets within the Site however a number have been identified nearby as well as a conservation area.

| Asset Name | HER Number | Designation | NHLE Number |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Burnedge Bent Farmhouse | 1102.1.0 | Grade II | 1067463 |
| 10,12, 14 Clough Lane | 5514.1.0 | Grade II; CA | 1162591 |
| 52 and 54 Clough Lane | 5512.1.0 | Grade II | 1309561 |
| 16, 16a and 16b Clough Lane | 5513.1.0 | Grade II; CA | 1067476 |
| Clough House | 5516.1.0 | Grade II | 1162585 |
| Manor House | 315.1.0 | Grade II | 1356702 |
| 7, 9 and 11 Clough Lane | 1090.1.0 | Grade II; CA | 1067474 |
| 21, 23 and 25 Clough Lane | 5517.1.0 | Grade II; CA | 1067475 |
| Catshead Nook | 5611.1.0 | Grade II | 1067464 |
| Grasscroft | CA05 | Conservation Area | - |

Table 1 Designated Heritage Assets identified within (italics) and outside the land allocation

1.2.4 Previous Archaeological Work

There has been no known archaeological work that has taken place within the Site nor within the wider area.

1.3 Gazetteer

HA Number: 1
Site Name: Burnedge Bent Farmhouse
Designation: Grade II Listed (1067463)
HER No: 1102.1.0
Site Type: Agricultural
Period: Early 18th century
NGR: 398126, 405192
Sources: OS Mapping; National Heritage List
Description: Farmhouse. c.1800. Hammer-dressed watershot stone with slate roof. 2 storeys and 2 bays. Outside land allocation

HA Number: 2
Site Name: 10, 12 and 14 Clough Lane, 10, 12 and 14 Beech Lane
Designation: Grade II Listed (1162591); Conservation Area
HER No: 5514.1.0
Site Type: Industrial
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 397890, 404569
Sources: OS Mapping; National Heritage List
Description: Wool merchant's warehouse, now 6 houses and a flat. Probably 1820 s. Watershot hammer-dressed stone with slate and graduated stone slate roof. Nos. 10 Clough Lane and 1, 3 and 3A Beech Lane are single-depth with 4 storeys and 4 bays. Nos. 12, 14 Clough Lane and 5 Beech Lane are double-depth, 3 bays and 3 storeys. In each case the Beech Lane houses are entered at first floor level from the rear and occupy the upper floors. Outside land allocation

HA Number: 3
Site Name: 52 and 54 Clough Lane
Designation: Grade II Listed (1309561)
HER No: 5514.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Late 18th Century
NGR: 398099, 404590
Sources: OS Mapping; National Heritage List

Description: 2 houses. Late C18 and early C19. Hammer-dressed watershot stone with graduated stone slate and slate roofs. Each cottage is double-depth with one bay and 3 storeys. Outside land allocation

HA Number: 4
Site Name: 16, 16a and 16b Clough Lane
Designation: Grade II Listed (1067476); Conservation Area
HER No: 5513.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Early 18th century
NGR: 397908, 404569
Sources: OS Mapping; National Heritage List
Description: 3 Cottages. "RB 1717" (Robert Buckley) on datestone. Hammer-dressed stone with graduated stone slate roof. 3-bay 2-storey single-depth plan with wing to rear right (now No. 16) and small addition within the angle (now No. 16A). Outside land allocation

HA Number: 5
Site Name: Clough House
Designation: Grade II Listed (1162585)
HER No: 5516.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Late 18th century
NGR: 398171, 404571
Sources: OS Mapping; National Heritage List
Description: House and cottage. Late C18 and mid C19. Watershot hammer-dressed stone with graduated stone slate roof. 2-bay 3-storey house which was extended by a bay to the right to create a new entrance facade. Outside land allocation

HA Number: 6
Site Name: Catshead Nook
Designation: Grade II Listed (1067464)
HER No: 5611.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Late 18th century
NGR: 397988, 405080
Sources: OS Mapping; National Heritage List
Description: House. Late C18. Hammer-dressed watershot stone with graduated stone slate roof. 3 bays and 2 storeys with C20 porch, lean-to extension to right gable and continuous outshut to rear, part of which is an extension. Outside land allocation

HA Number: 7
Site Name: Manor House
Designation: Grade II Listed (1356702); Conservation Area
HER No: 315.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Mid-18th century
NGR: 397929, 404638

Sources: OS Mapping; National Heritage List
Description: House. Stone formerly reading "PB MB 1744" (Buckley). Wing to rear of late C18 and alterations of C19. Hammer-dressed watershot stone with graduated stone slate roof. 2-bay 2- storey house with 2-storey wing to rear. Outside land allocation

HA Number: 8
Site Name: 7, 9 and 11 Clough Lane
Designation: Grade II Listed (1356702); Conservation Area
HER No: 1090.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Early 18th century
NGR: 397904, 404609
Sources: OS Mapping; National Heritage List
Description: 3 cottages. Early C18 and early C19. Watershot squared rubble with graduated stone slate roof. Single-depth L- shaped range with 3 bays and 2 storeys. Outside land allocation

HA Number: 9
Site Name: 21, 23 and 25 Clough Lane
Designation: Grade II Listed (1067475); Conservation Area
HER No: 5517.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Late 18th century
NGR: 397973, 404566
Sources: OS Mapping; National Heritage List
Description: 3 houses. 1781 and later. Hammer-dressed stone with C20 tile roof. Total of 4 bays and 3 storeys. Outside land allocation

HA Number: 10
Site Name: Grasscroft
Designation: Conservation Area
HER No: CA05
Site Type: Residential
Period: Post-Medieval
NGR: 397880, 404589
Sources: OS Mapping; Oldham Council 1996
Description: Predominantly rural settlement which may date back to the Medieval period. Present buildings date from the early 18th century and was a mixed agricultural/industrial settlement which is now purely residential. Centred around Clough Lane. Outside the land allocation

HA Number: 11
Site Name: Summer Shades
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No:
Site Type: Agricultural/Recreational
Period: Late 18th/Early 19th Century
NGR: 398247, 404849
Sources: OS Mapping

Description: Farmstead, late 18th/early 19th century later used as pleasure gardens. Demolished later 20th century and Site remains vacant

| HER Number | Record Type | Site Name | Period/Date | Grid Reference |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 6253.1.0 | Place | Grasscroft Settlement | Medieval | 397880, 404600 |

Table 2 Non-designated heritage assets within 250m of the Site Boundary

1.4 Site Visit

The Site Visit was conducted over the course of one day on 18th October 2019. The visit confirmed that a large part of the Site is covered in scrub woodland with small clearings. Although overgrown, the path to the Summershades property is still preserved as a tree-lined avenue. There were also elements of stonework visible in the woodland which appear to be related to the former buildings as well. In addition, there was also a raised area which still had partially surviving steps which probably led to the former bowling green.



Plate 1 The path to Summershades still survives as this tree-lined avenue (looking north-east)



Plate 2 This raised bank appears to have been part of the bowling green. The steps can still be seen (arrowed)

1.6 Assessment of Historic Significance

| Criteria | Criterion Met (Y/N) | Score | Comment |
|---|---------------------|-------|---|
| 1. Are there any historic buildings, features or archaeological remains | Y | 1 | There are no known historic buildings; there is potential for archaeological remains relating to the former Summershades Farm |
| 2. Are there any historic landscape features on the site? | Y | 1 | There are remnants of the pleasure ground features such as steps to the bowling green and the tree lined avenue |
| 3. Did the site play an important role in the historic development of the settlement nearby | N | 0 | No evidence |
| 4. Did any important historic events take place on the site? | N | 0 | No known important events are connected with the Site |
| 5. Are there any important people connected with the Site? | N | 0 | No known important people are connected with the Site |
| 6. Is there a longstanding event that takes place on the site? | N | 0 | No known longstanding events are connected with the Site |
| 7. Does the site contribute to the setting of any designated heritage assets? | N | 0 | Although a number of designated heritage assets, including a conservation area lie within 250m of the Site, the Site does not contribute to the setting of these. The landscape has lost its rural character and is heavily wooded and the intervening suburban landscape means there is no connection. There is also no visual connection with the designated sites to the north |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 8. Is the Site publicly accessible and/or are there longstanding PRow? | Y | 1 | There is a longstanding PRow that crosses the Site and there are no current restrictions to access, although there appear to be few informal paths. It was once publicly accessible pleasure gardens although the gardens are now derelict |
| Does the site hold particular local significance because of its historic significance? | Y | 3 | Evidence demonstrates that the site holds medium historic significance |

1.7 Conclusion

OPOL21: Land at Summershades Lane has been screened in; the Site holds medium historic significance. The historic significance mostly derives from its formed use as pleasure gardens from the late 19th to mid-20th century. Some of these features still survive, although the Site has not been maintained. There is an opportunity to restore these features and make public access easier to this Site.

1.6 Figures

