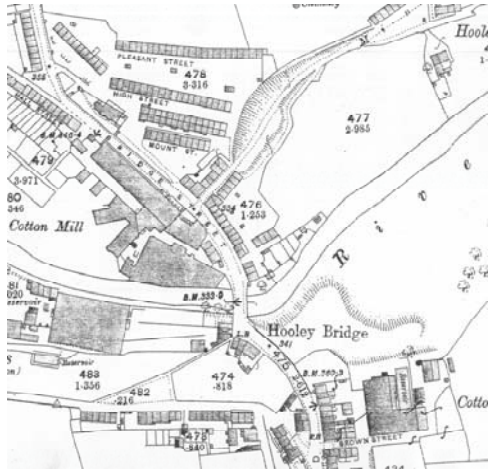


Hooley Bridge Mills, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester



Archaeological Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology North

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United Utilities

Issue No: 2008/09-909

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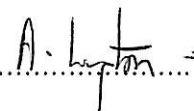
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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Circumstances of Project.....	5
2. METHODOLOGY	6
2.1 Project Design.....	6
2.2 Rapid Desk-Based Research.....	6
2.3 Watching Brief.....	6
2.4 Archive	7
3. BACKGROUND	8
3.1 Location, Topography and Geology	8
3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background.....	8
3.3 Map Regression Analysis	10
4. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS	12
4.1 Background.....	12
4.2 Structural Remains	12
4.3 Beam-Engine Foundation.....	12
5. DISCUSSION	14
5.1 Watching Brief Conclusion	14
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	15
6.1 Primary Sources.....	15
6.2 Secondary Sources	15
6.3 Aerial Photographs.....	15
7. ILLUSTRATIONS.....	16
7.1 List of Figures.....	16

7.2	List of Plates	16
	APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF	17
	APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN	18

SUMMARY

United Utilities proposed a new sewer to run under the access road between industrial units which occupy the site of the weaving sheds at Hooley Bridge Mills, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (SD 8536 1164). As the scheme affects areas of archaeological potential, the Planning Archaeologist at Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit Sites and Monuments Record (GMAUSMR) has recommended that a formal watching brief should be undertaken.

The rapid desk-based research was undertaken by OA North in February 2007, and was followed by the watching brief during July and August of the same year.

The rapid desk-based assessment established that Hooley Bridge Mills, a grade II industrial complex (GMSMR No 5075), was built by Joseph Fenton in 1826. The site was shown as a cotton mill on both the 1848 and 1910 editions of the Ordnance Survey, and the original power source was water. At the turn of the twentieth century a compound beam-engine was installed and this continued to power the mill until after the Second World War. The mill represented the centre of an industrial community, of which some cottages survive along the adjacent Victoria Terrace.

The watching brief uncovered unfrosted brick walls towards the mid-point of the pipe trench, which appeared to represent part of the former weaving shed of Fenton's mill, whilst the brick base for the compound beam-engine was uncovered at the east end of the pipe trench. The steam-power for this engine was provided by the extant boiler house located to the north.

No further archaeological remains were found during the watching brief, possibly due to the very limited extent of the pipe trench.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank United Utilities for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to the Assistant County Archaeologist and the staff at the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit Sites and Monuments Record (GMAUSMR).

Alistair Vannan undertook the rapid desk-based research and Mark Tidmarsh produced the drawings. Phillipa Haworth and Ged Callaghan undertook the watching brief. Alistair Vannan and Phillipa Haworth compiled the report, whilst Alison Plummer managed the project and edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 United Utilities proposed the construction of a new sewer at Hooley Bridge Mills, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (SD 8536 1164). Following the acceptance of a project design (*Appendix 2*) devised to meet the brief compiled by the Greater Manchester Assistant County Archaeologist (*Appendix 1*), Oxford Archaeology North were commissioned by United Utilities to undertake a rapid desk-based research and watching brief.
- 1.1.2 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document, outlining the findings.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix I*) was submitted by OA North in response to a brief issued by the Assistant County Archaeologist at Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit Sites and Monuments Record. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 RAPID DESK-BASED RESEARCH

2.2.1 The rapid desk-based research comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in Manchester, and the archives and library held at OA North. For this purpose a study area comprising 0.5km either side of the proposed pipeline route was examined.

2.2.2 *Sites and Monuments Record (GMAUSMR)*: the Sites and Monuments Record held in Manchester was consulted to establish the presence of sites of cultural heritage interest already known within a 0.5km radius centred on the proposed pipeline route. Secondary sources for the area were limited, but ‘grey literature’ and published sources were studied where available.

2.2.3 *Touchstones Studies Centre, Rochdale*: the local studies centre was consulted in order to access historic mapping and additional archival information relating to the study area.

2.2.4 *Bury Library*: the collection of historic maps held at the library was consulted.

2.2.5 *Oxford Archaeology North*: OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

2.3.1 This programme of field observation accurately recorded the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits exposed during groundworks within the pipe trench. The work comprised the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.

2.3.2 All groundworks on the site were conducted under constant archaeological supervision and comprised stripping of overburden and subsoil to a maximum

depth of 2m. These works were enacted by a 360° mechanical excavator using a 2m toothed ditching bucket. All exposed soil horizons were examined and described and spoil heaps were carefully checked for any unstratified finds.

- 2.3.3 A daily record of the nature, extent and depths of groundworks was maintained throughout the duration of the project. All archaeological features were recorded on OA North's *pro-forma* sheets, using a system based on that of the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A monochrome and colour slide photographic record was maintained throughout and, where appropriate, scaled plans and sections were produced to locate the presence of archaeological features as accurately as possible.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with the current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with Bury Archives on completion of the project.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The study area (SD 8536 1164) is situated in the town of Heywood, which is located around 6km east of Bury and 4km west of Rochdale (Fig 1). Heywood lies within the Manchester Pennine fringe, a transitional zone between the open moorlands of the Dark Peak and the Millstone Grit uplands of the Southern Pennines and the densely populated urban conurbation of Manchester (Countryside Commission 1998, 121). The area owes much of its landscape character to the pronounced landform with deeply incised steep valley sides and localised woodlands (*op cit*, 122).
- 3.1.2 Hooley Bridge Mills lies to the north of Heywood, and is just north of the bridge over the River Roch from which the name of the village is derived (Fig 2; Plate 1).

3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Prehistoric:** in the wider locale, the Iron Age was represented by the lowland promontory hillfort at Bury, the find of a beaded torc from Mow Row in Rochdale (Newman 1996), and possibly by a sculpted stone figurine from Castle Farm in Rochdale. There is no evidence to suggest prehistoric activity within the immediate area of Hooley Bridge Mills.
- 3.2.2 **Roman:** although an urn containing a large number of Roman coins was found at Plumpton House (Farrer and Brownbill 1911), which lies just over 1km to the north-east of Hooley Bridge Mills, there is no evidence for Roman activity within the immediate area of the mill.
- 3.2.3 **Medieval:** Hooley Bridge Mills appears to have been situated within the southern part of the estate of Bamford Hall, which lay a short distance to the north. This estate was first mentioned in the 13th century, during the reign of Henry III (1216-1272), when Sir Adam De Bury granted the estate of Bamford to Thomas De Bamford for his homage and service, as well as two marks and an annual rent of 18d (Baines 1868). All of the lands belonging to Sir Adam De Bury in Bamford were then granted to Alexander De Bamford for a pecuniary consideration and an annual rent of 40d. The estate remained in the hands of the De Bamford family until 1779 when it passed to William De Bamford of Tarlton Bridge (Walker and Tindall 1985).
- 3.2.4 **Post-medieval:** following the death of William Bamford, who had died without a male heir, the Bamford estate passed to Robert Helketh of Upton who had married a distant relative of William Bamford and, in 1806, took on the Bamford name (Walker and Tindall 1985). Bamford Hall was then purchased by Joseph Fenton and in 1826 he founded a water-powered cotton spinning and weaving mill in the southern part of the estate. Hooley Bridge Mills, and the industrial village that surrounded the mills, took their name

from the bridge over the river Roch that had been built by the time that Yate's map was produced in 1786 (Plate 1).

- 3.2.5 As is clear from the distribution of water mills (represented on the maps by spoked rings) on Yate's 1786 map (Plate 1) and Hennets 1830 map (Plate 2), the waterways around the Bamford estate were increasingly utilised for industrial purposes during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. By 1841 James Fenton, who was Joseph Fenton's son, had demolished Bamford Hall (*ibid*), which suggests that he was responsible for running the estate at that time. It is not clear, however, which of them had been responsible for building the terraced houses that were depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (Plate 4).
- 3.2.6 In 1855, local poet Edwin Waugh said that, over most Lancashire towns, '*Heywood is almost entirely the creation of the Cotton Trade*'. The town began as a small agricultural village, but its close proximity to the River Roch, and an abundance of local coal, meant it soon developed industrially. The first recorded cotton production occurred in the town in the 1770s, when a number of mills were adapted for cotton spinning (Haynes 1997).
- 3.2.7 The cotton industry developed slowly in Heywood during the 19th century compared with other cotton towns in Greater Manchester. In 1817, there were ten cotton mills in the town, whilst by 1833 there were twenty-seven, and a population of 3000. However, expansion was stimulated by the opening of the Heywood Branch Canal in 1834 (*ibid*), and the railway in 1848. Mills of this period were generally constructed in red brick. From the 1830s there was more emphasis on architectural adornment, with pilasters and stone cornices forming the most widely used features (Williams and Farnie 1992, 77). From a similar date, the first large purpose-built integrated spinning and weaving mills were constructed. Fireproof construction methods had been developed from at least the 1820s (*ibid*, 79), although many non-fireproof spinning mills continued to be built throughout the remainder of the 19th century. Non-fireproof construction methods allowed for greater widths and greater spacing between columns to be achieved.
- 3.2.8 The town suffered badly during the 1861 cotton famine, leading to a temporary decline in production and no new mill buildings constructed until 1884 (Haynes 1997, 8). At this point, the production of low-grade cloth from cotton waste, as a cost-saving technique, emerged in the area. Although the preparatory processes differ slightly, the majority of processes and machinery involved in cotton waste trade match those of the regular cotton trade. As such, the extant mills could be easily converted. However, the limited supply of waste restricted both the extent of the cotton-waste trade and the size of the individual mills (Williams and Farnie 1992, 85).
- 3.2.9 Thereafter the cotton industry in Heywood experienced something of a boom. Yew Mill was opened in 1891, and was at the time the largest spinning mill to be built under one roof. Overall, however, Heywood continued to be characterised by smaller firms, with larger scale enterprises found in neighbouring industrial centres, such as Manchester and Ashton (Williams and Farnie 1992, 15).

- 3.2.10 A period of renewed prosperity continued into the 20th century, with the population increasing to 25,458 by 1901, and a number of new mills constructed (McNeil and Nevell 2000). Mills began to be converted from steam-power to electricity at this time, the first in the region being Brunswick Mill in 1908 (*ibid*, 135). Production peaked in 1915, by which time Heywood was the 15th largest centre of cotton spinning (Haynes 1997, 8), and by 1922 there were 71 spinning and weaving mills operating in the town. The following decades saw increasing industrial decline, with, at one point, 65 percent of the total working population unemployed. Many of the mills were closed and demolished. By 1966 only two cotton spinning mills remained in operation (The Rochdale Directory 1966),
- 3.2.11 **Modern:** between 1893 and 1910 Hooley Bridge mill was extensively enlarged with additional buildings and between 1902 and 1954 the power looms in the weaving shed were driven by a Buckley and Taylor compound beam-engine. In December 2006 the five-story Grade II listed spinning mill building in the north-eastern area of the mill site was severely damaged by fire.

3.3 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 3.3.1 Map regression analysis has been extremely informative in allowing the identification of a building that may represent a weaving shed that predated the late 19th century example that was recorded in the SMR and listed building descriptions (GMSMR No 5075). Although Hennet's map of 1830 (Fig 2) did not record any buildings on the site of the extant industrial area, the Ordnance Survey first edition mapping of 1848 (Fig 3) showed a single irregular wedge-shaped building footprint. This building appears to have occupied a space that was less than half as long as the existing weaving shed buildings. To the west of this building, two rectangular units orientated north-east/south-west and roughly east/west were depicted that merged, at the north-eastern end, with the main spinning mill and engine house agglomeration. To the south-west of these units lay a small, free-standing, rectangular building and to the south of this lay a smaller rectangular building. The 1848 mapping also depicted six rows of terraced houses to the north of Hooley Bridge Mills that probably represent workers houses that would have formed the residential element of the industrial community that was centred on the mill.
- 3.3.2 The Ordnance Survey map of 1893 (Fig 4) showed the putative precursor to the current weaving sheds in greater detail than the 1848 map but with few apparent modifications. The inter-connected rectangular units were also depicted. However, the free-standing rectangular structures shown on the earlier map to the south-west of these units were no longer present.
- 3.3.3 The Ordnance Survey map of 1910 (Fig 5) recorded that the possible early weaving shed had been expanded or replaced. The depicted building occupied a similar space to the current weaving sheds and overlay the area that had previously housed two inter-connected rectangular buildings and a smaller free-standing structure. However, in contrast to the two parallel units that are currently standing, the mapping showed a single building footprint. There

were also numerous units shown lying to the west of the weaving shed that are no longer standing.

- 3.3.4 From an examination of the historic mapping, the below-ground remains of features of archaeological interest that are most likely to be encountered during the watching brief appear to be those relating to the putative weaving shed depicted on the 1848 and 1893 mapping (Figs 4 and 5). The easternmost of the two conjoining rectangular units that are also shown on these maps, and the larger of the two free-standing rectangular buildings shown on the 1848 map, may also have lain within the line of the pipe trench.

4. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 BACKGROUND

- 4.1.1 During July and August 2007, a watching brief was maintained during ground works associated with the excavation for a new sewer (Fig 7). The industrial units run in a south-east/north-west direction, the pipe trench runs between them in the same direction, turning in a north-east direction at the south-east end of the industrial units.
- 4.1.2 The pipe trench was 1.75m wide, approximately 3m deep, and is situated 1.8m from the north-east side of the industrial units. The access road was constructed of tarmac, which lay directly over the York sandstone flags **03**. These may represent the original floors of the weaving sheds.

4.2 STRUCTURAL REMAINS

- 4.2.1 Lying directly underneath the present tarmac access road was a York sandstone flag surface (**03**), which ran the entire length of the industrial units and measured approximately 0.95m by 0.65m by 0.15m thick (Figs 7 and 8).
- 4.2.2 A red brick wall (**01**) was uncovered directly in line with the present industrial units at the north-west end of the trench (Fig 8). This wall lay beneath the sandstone flags (**03**), and ran in a north-east/south-west direction across the entire width of the pipeline trench. It measured two bricks wide and seven courses in height, and was constructed from frogged machine-made bricks, which measured 0.23m by 0.10m by 0.06m.
- 4.2.3 In addition, a section of a second wall (**06**) (Fig 9), approximately 60m from the north-west end of the extant industrial units, was also uncovered, which was again overlain by the sandstone flags (**03**). The wall was constructed with unfrogged red bricks measuring 0.25m by 0.12m by 0.08m, and these rested upon a substantial foundation stone (**07**), measuring 0.80m wide and 0.30m thick. Both the foundation stone (**07**) and the wall (**06**) were observed to extend beyond the confines of the trench.
- 4.2.4 A further wall, **08**, was found within the trench, aligned east/west and measuring more than 3.2m in length and 1.5m wide (Fig 9). Only the external bricks were visible within the trench, with machine-damaged bricks in the centre of the wall. Wall **08** was of a similar construction to wall **06**. Wall **09** was aligned in a north-east/south-west direction diagonally across the pipe trench, at right angles to **08**, and was constructed with bricks similar to those described in wall **06**.

4.3 BEAM-ENGINE FOUNDATION

- 4.3.1 At the south-east end of the industrial units to the east of Unit 20, a large brick structure was uncovered (Fig 11), which comprised two brick foundation walls

(**11** and **10**) approximately 2.2m in width and 2.5m in depth. Between these was a metal plate.

- 4.3.2 The foundation wall to the east, **10**, contained four square holes in its surface, possibly for securing a beam. However, no similar bolt holes were observed in the other wall (**11**), although this could be due to the fact that a large portion of this surface had been destroyed in the building of a manhole to the west of the structure.
- 4.3.3 All the bricks used in the foundation walls were frogged and machine-made, but were of varying sizes, which could indicate that they came from different sources. Some of these bricks had the stamp 'Ashworth Plastic Rochdale' on them. The bricks in wall **10** were not laid in a uniform pattern; which could have been to accommodate the bolt holes'. However, on the remaining wall of **11** the bricks are laid in a stretcher pattern.
- 4.3.4 Between the foundation walls an opening measuring 1.56m was present, which may represent the fly-wheel pit for a beam engine. At the east end of the north wall (**10**) of this pit a brick-built channel was observed to lead off to the east. A metal pipe was positioned within the channel and possibly represents the steam inlet pipe from the boiler. Towards the base of the fly-wheel pit a steel plate **15** was observed, running the width of the pit, and fitting into slots on each of the side walls. The entire dimensions of this steel plate are unknown due to the limit of excavation, it was however 0.10m thick. The steel plate did not stretch to the north end of the fly-wheel pit, leaving a gap of 1.20m (Fig 11).
- 4.3.5 The wall at the north end of the fly-wheel pit, which was built in English garden wall bond, was only built to a height of 1m and was capped by a stone plinth, measuring some 0.28m deep. The rubble, which overlay the stone plinth was not removed as this was beyond the edge of excavation. Similarly, the south end of the fly-wheel pit was not excavated, and its exact dimensions remain unknown. Additionally, a remnant of metal pipe was observed, protruding from the rubble, but it was unclear if this was *in* or *ex situ*.
- 4.3.6 A brick structure was observed to the north-east of the beam engine foundation, which was built in brick and stood approximately perpendicular to brick wall **10**, keyed into the surface via a large limestone slab (**16**). The wall, which was just visible under the limit of excavation, was constructed of frogged red brick of the same type as those used in the engine base. The top half of the wall was painted, while on the bottom half the red brick was visible and was arranged in garden wall bond.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 WATCHING BRIEF CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 Hooley Bridge Mills form a grade II industrial complex, which has precedents in the water-powered mill built by Joseph Fenton in 1826. The unfrogged brick walls (**06, 08, 09**), which were uncovered towards the mid-point of the pipe trench, are the oldest uncovered during the watching brief, and these appear to represent part of the former weaving shed of Fenton's mill.
- 5.1.2 Although this original mill was powered by water, the scheduled monument record clearly states that between 1902 and 1954, the power looms held in the weaving sheds were driven by a Buckley and Taylor compound beam engine. It is the brick base for this engine (**10** and **11**) that was uncovered at the east end of the pipe trench, whilst the steam-power for this engine was provided by the boiler house, an extant building to the north of the engine base.

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6.3 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

- Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record, SF 3164 43

7. ILLUSTRATIONS

7.1 LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Extract of Yates' Map of Lancashire, 1786, showing the general area

Figure 3: Extract from Hennessey's map of Lancashire, 1830, showing the general area

Figure 4: Proposed route superimposed upon extract from Ordnance Survey first edition 6" to 1 mile, 1848

Figure 5: Proposed route superimposed upon extract from Ordnance Survey first edition 25" to 1 mile map, 1893

Figure 6: Proposed route superimposed upon extract from extract from Ordnance Survey second edition 25" to 1 mile map, 1910

Figure 7: Plan depicting the extent of the pipe trench at Hooley Bridge

Figure 8: Plan of the west section of the pipe trench

Figure 9: Plan of the central west section of the pipe trench

Figure 10: Plan of the central east section of the pipe trench

Figure 11: Plan of the east section of the pipe trench

7.2 LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Aerial view of Hooley Bridge Mills, looking east

Plate 2: Wall **06**, constructed with unfrogged red bricks

Plate 3: The engine base at the east end of the pipe trench

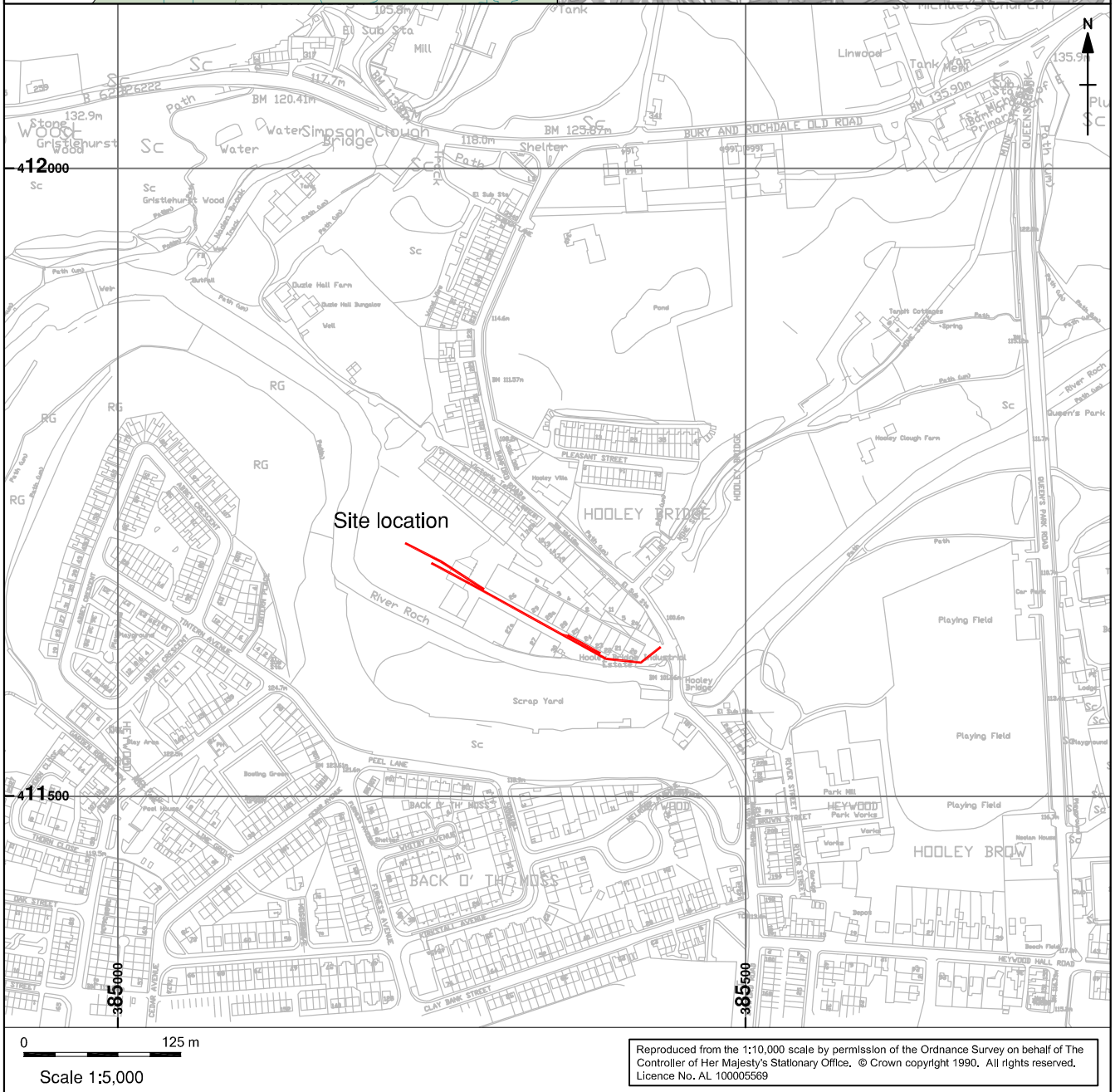


Figure 1: Site Location

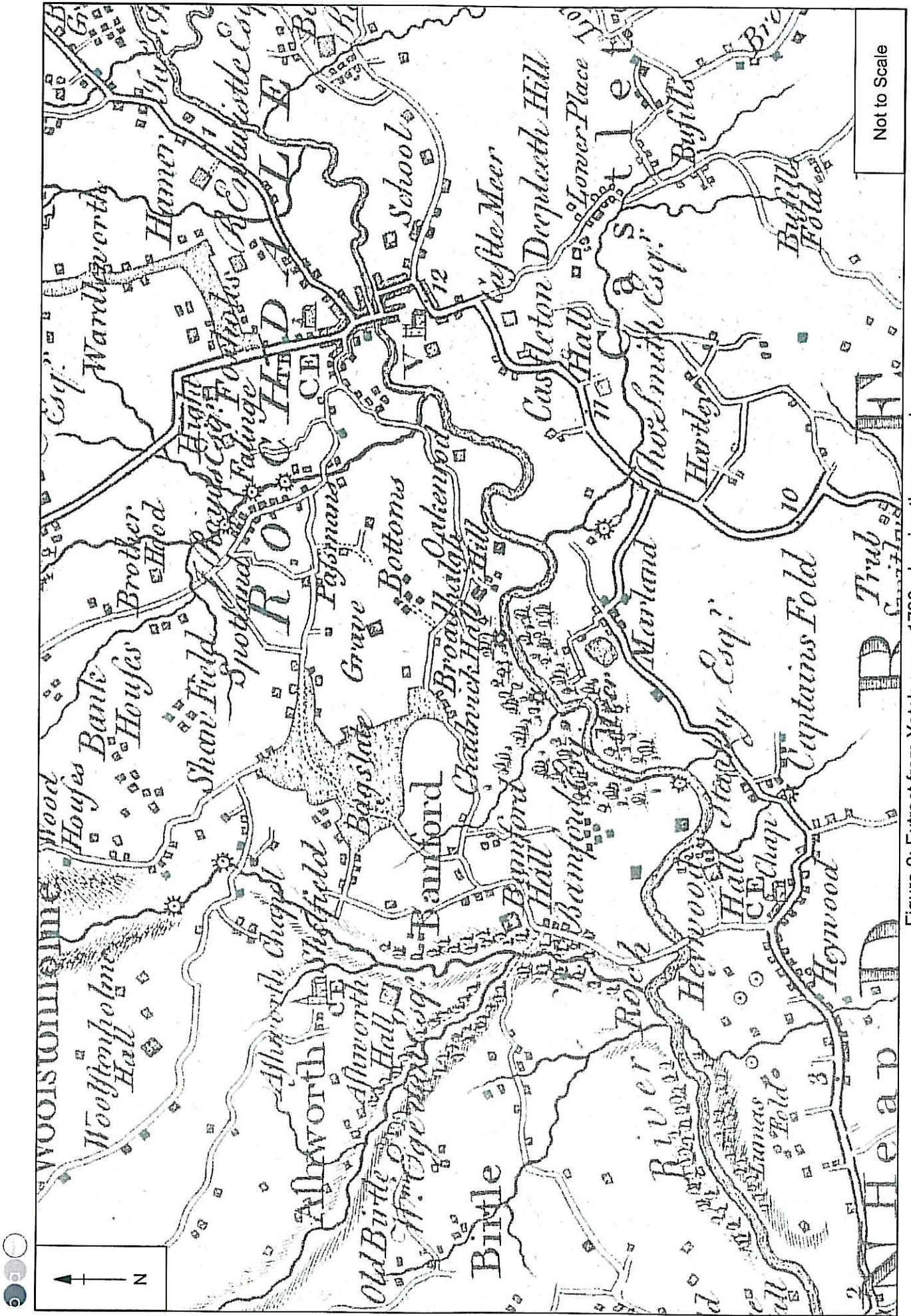


Figure 2: Extract from Yate's map, 1786, showing the general area

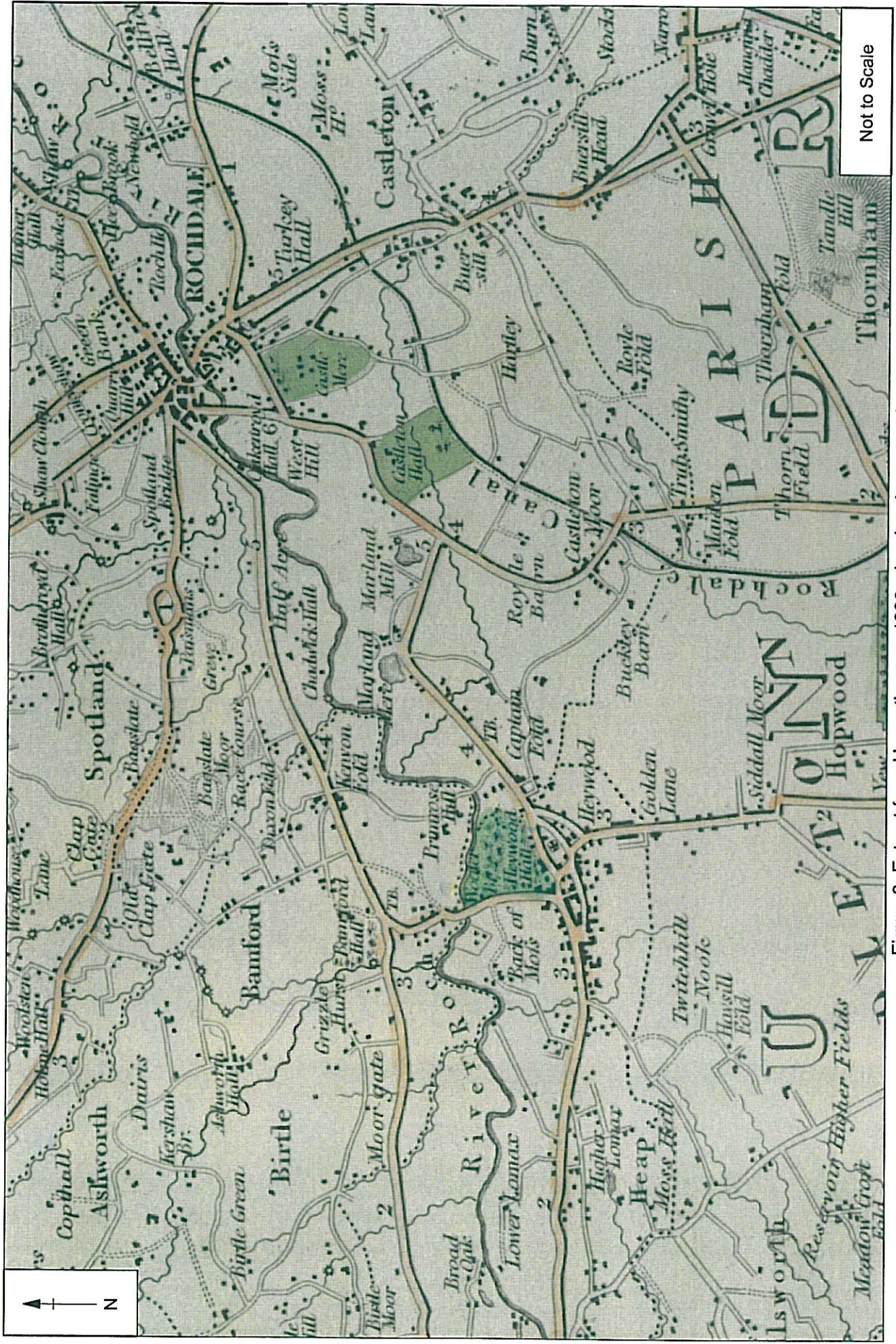


Figure 3: Extract from Hennet's map, 1830, showing the general area

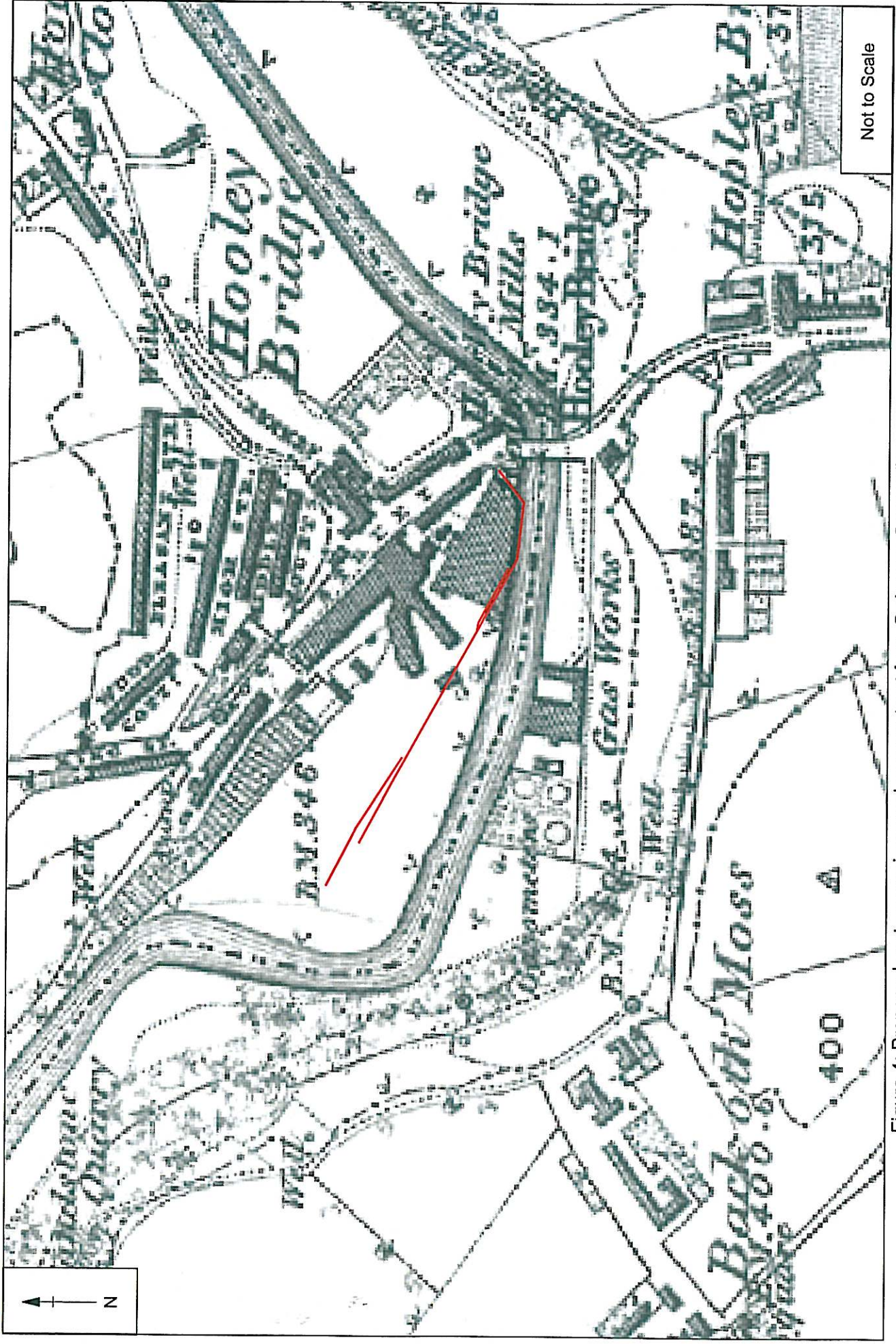


Figure 4: Proposed route superimposed upon extract from Ordnance Survey first edition 6" to 1 mile map, 1848

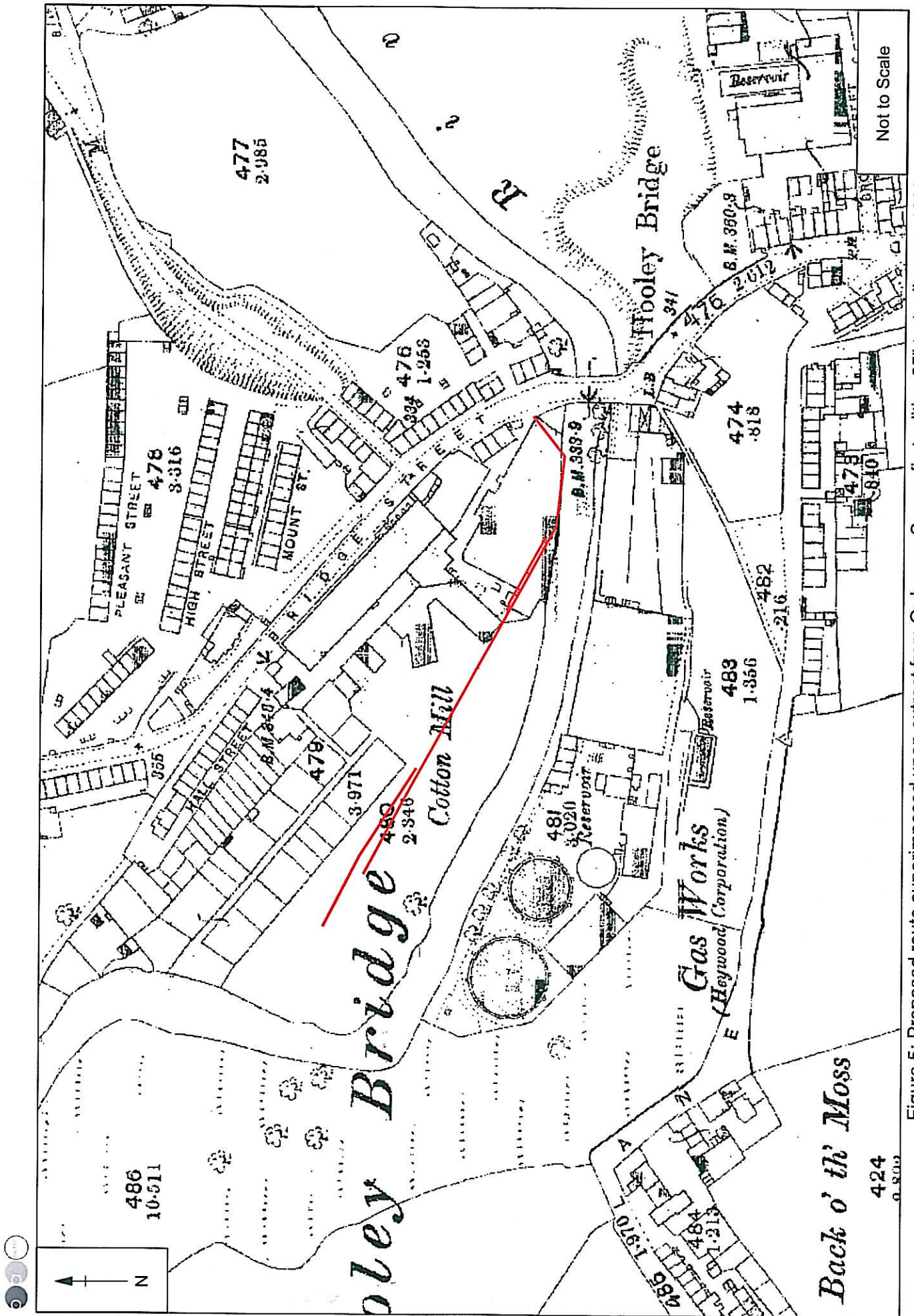


Figure 5: Proposed route superimposed upon extract from Ordnance Survey first edition 25" to 1 mile map, 1893

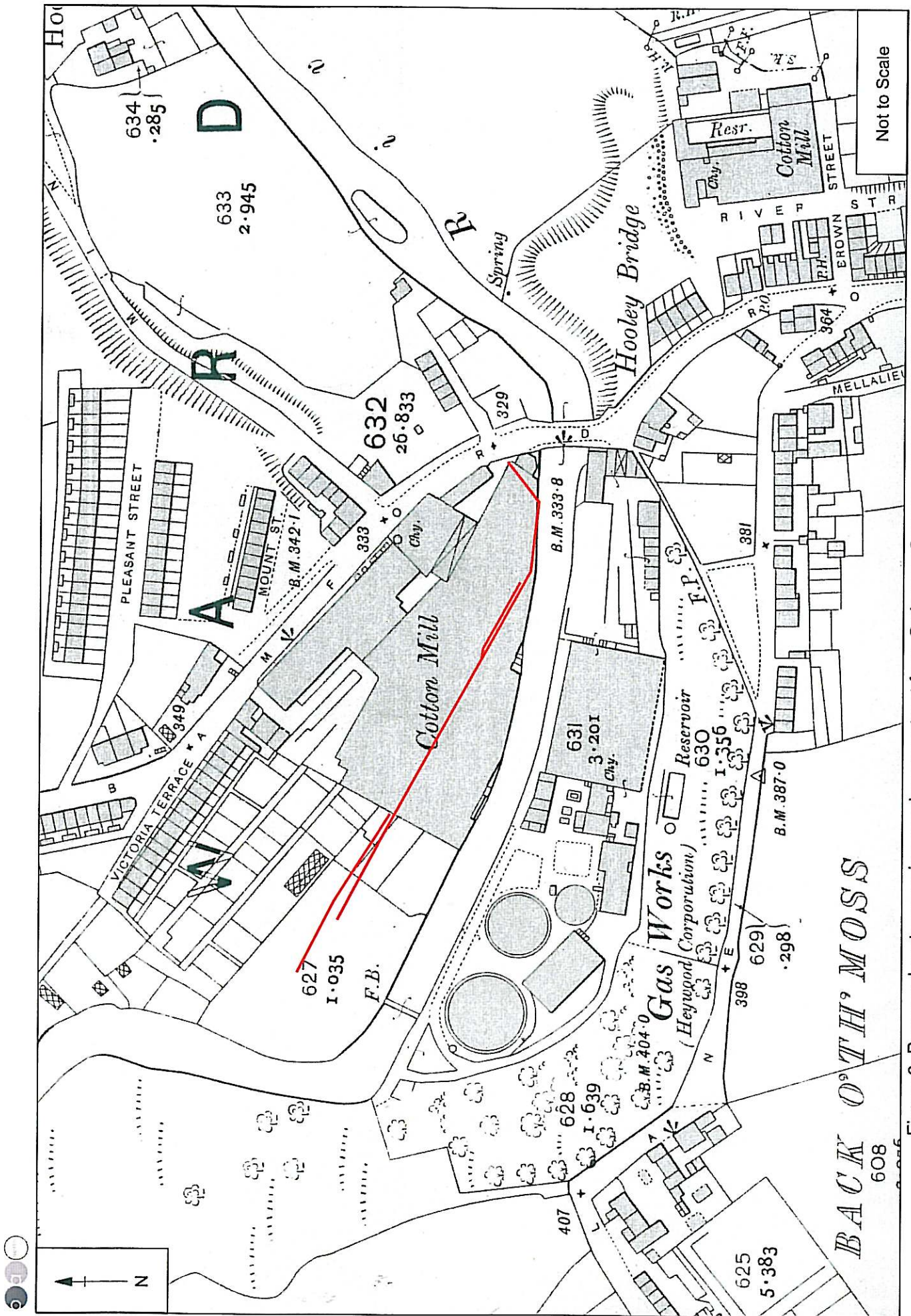


Figure 6: Proposed route superimposed upon extract from Ordnance Survey second edition 25" to 1 mile map, 1910

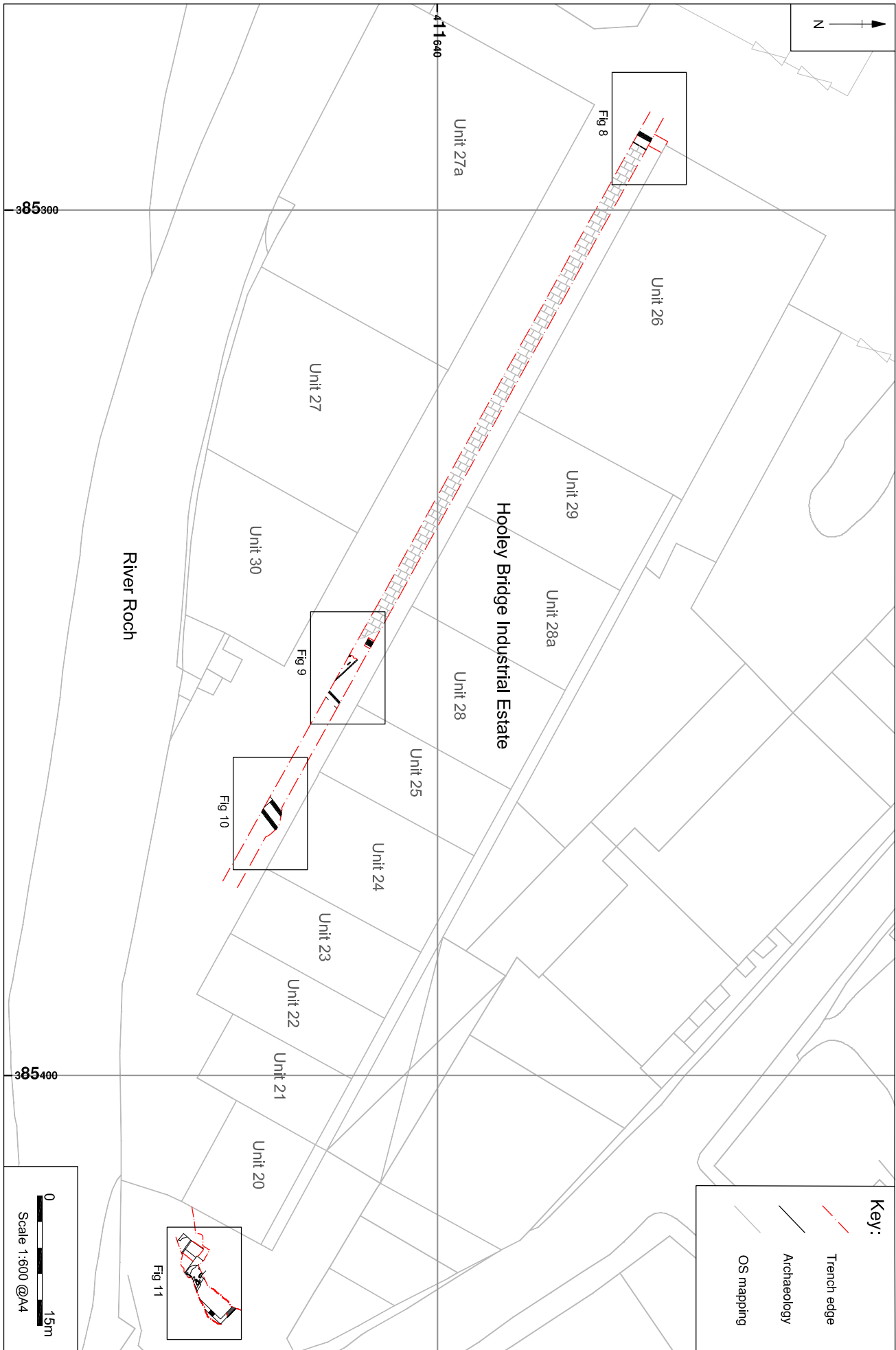


Figure 7: Plan depicting the extent of the pipe trench at Hooley Bridge

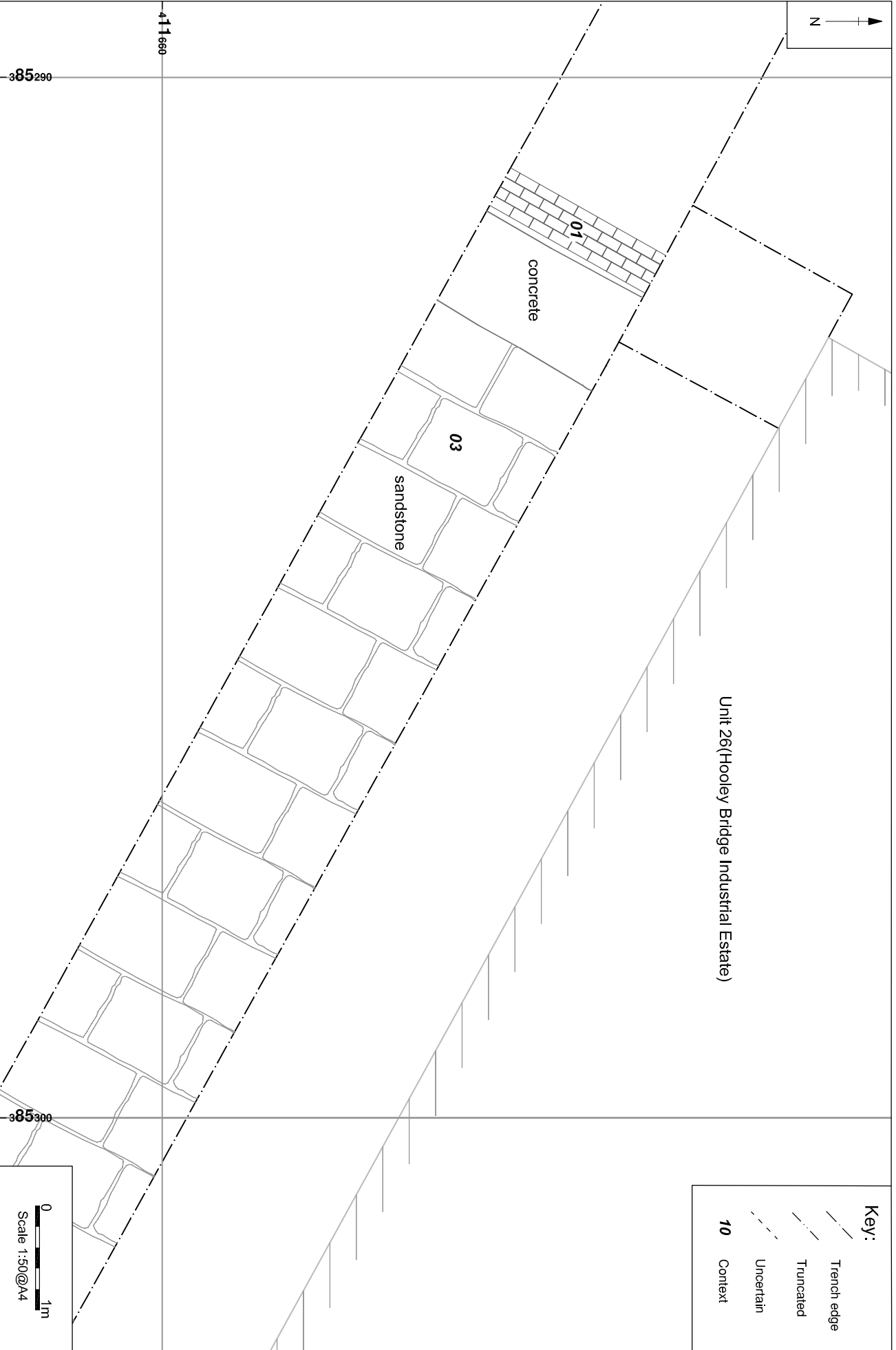


Figure 8: Plan of the west section of the pipe trench

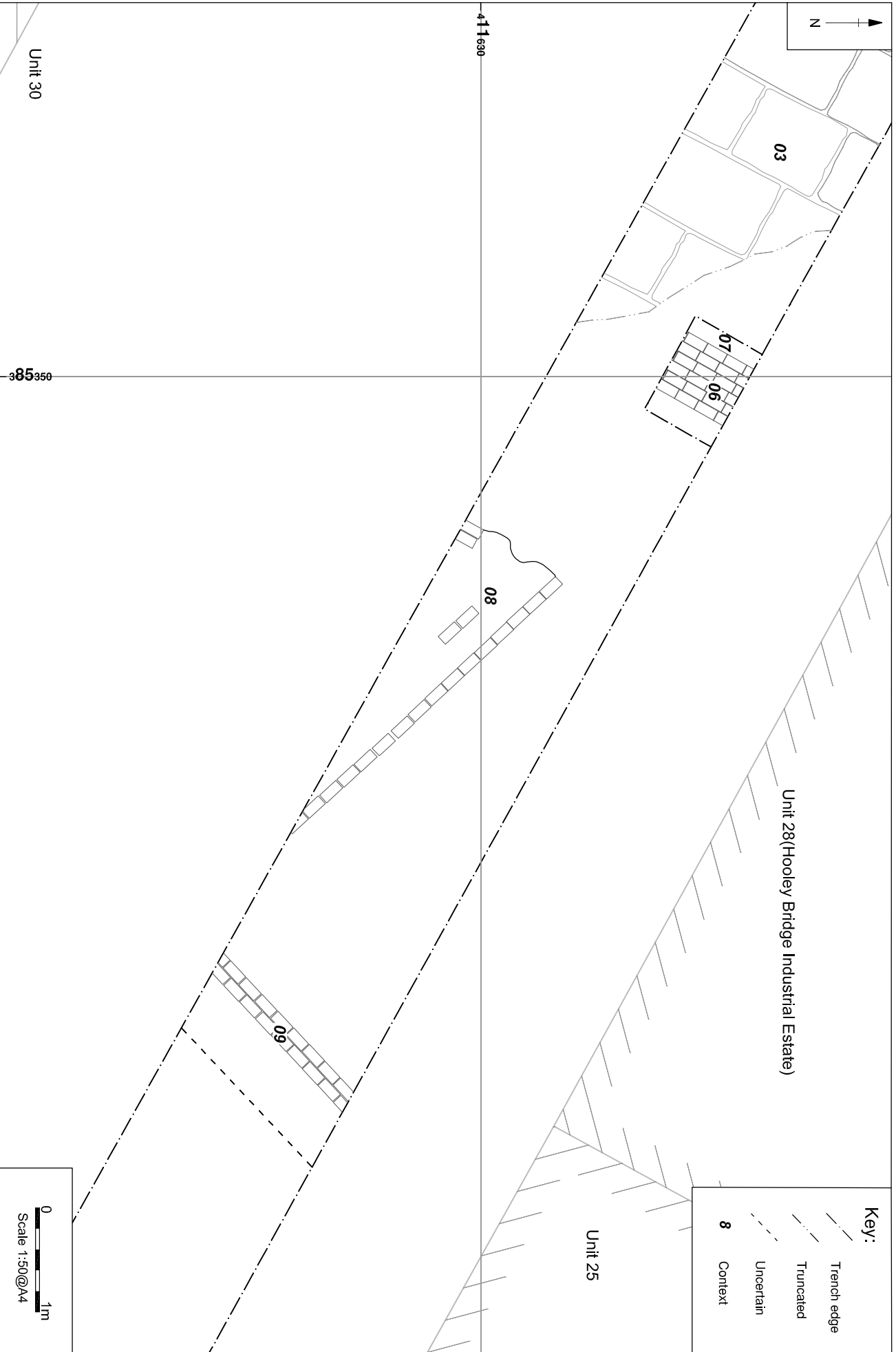


Figure 9: Plan of the central west section of the pipe trench

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Unit 24(Hooley Bridge Industrial Estate)

Key:

- Trench edge
- Truncated
- Uncertain
- Context

16

411620

385370

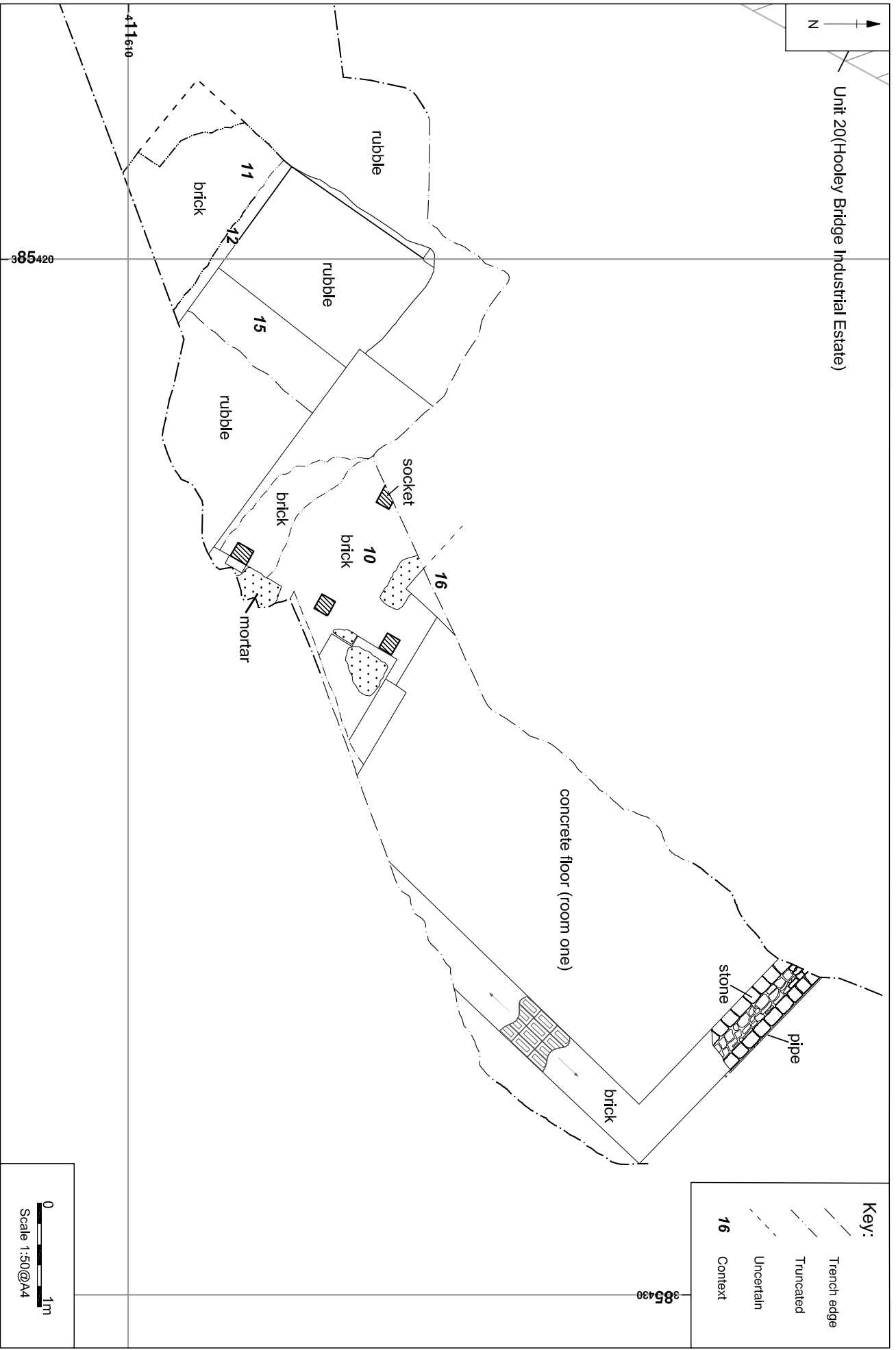
stone capping
Brick culvert

0 1m
Scale 1:50@A4

Figure 10: Plan of the central east section of the pipe trench



Unit 20(Hoooley Bridge Industrial Estate)



Key:

- Trench edge
- Truncated
- Uncertain
- 16 Context

0 1m
Scale 1:50@A4

Figure 11: Plan of the east section of the pipe trench

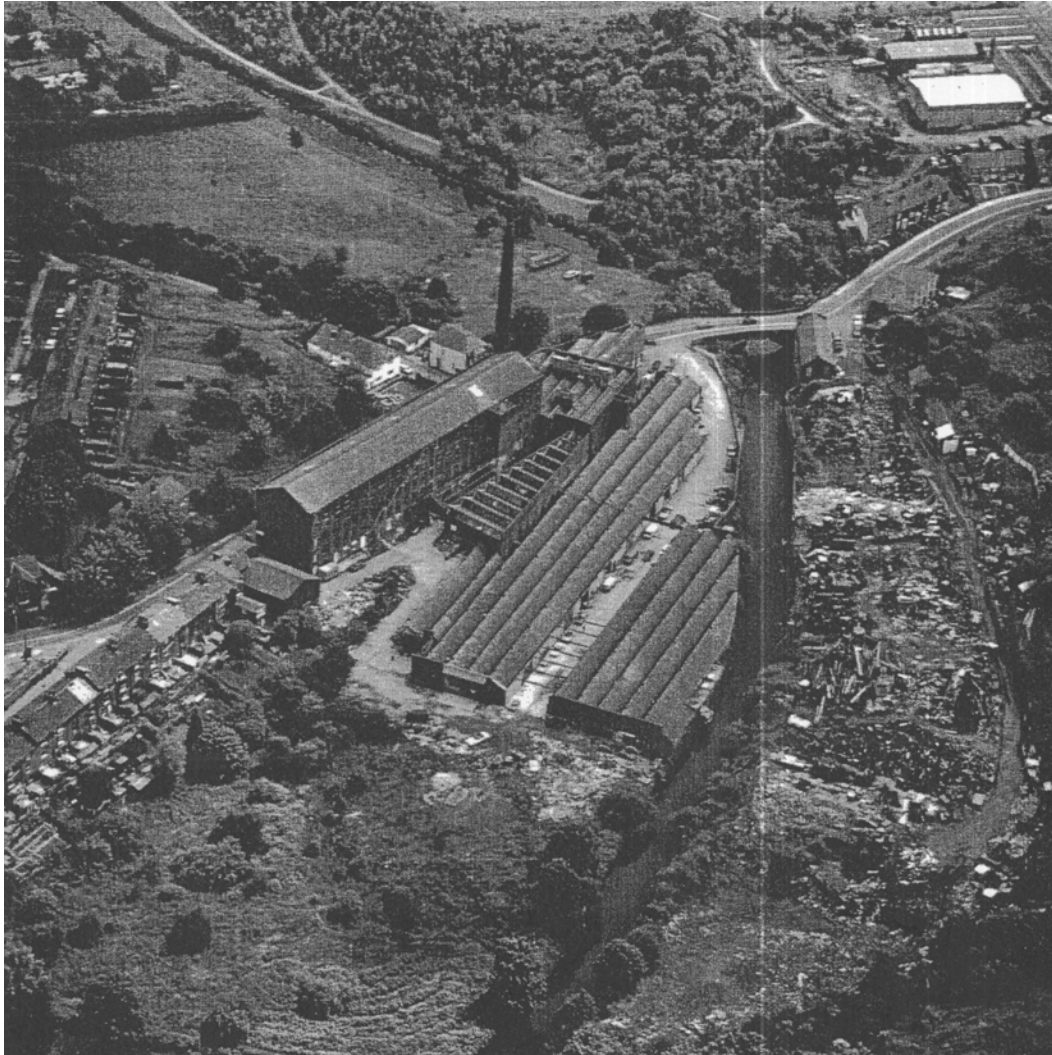


Plate 1: Aerial view of Hooley Bridge Mills, looking east



Plate 2: Wall 06, constructed with unfrosted red bricks



Plate 3: The engine base at the east end of the pipe trench

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief for new sewer at Hooley Bridge Mills, Heywood

Background

Hooley Bridge Mills form a Grade 2 industrial complex which is entered on the Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record as No. 5075. It is located at SD 8536 1164. An aerial photograph from the GM Textile Mills Survey Archive, the SMR entry and the listed building description are attached for information.

United Utilities propose a new sewer to run under the access road between industrial units which occupy the site of the weaving shed. Although the SMR and listed building description refer to the weaving shed as being late 19th century or c 1900, it is apparent from the OS 1st edition 6" map that a weaving shed occupied this site at an earlier date.

An archaeological watching brief is required to monitor ground works for the new sewer from a point just outside the west wall of the former weaving shed to its connecting/outlet point on the east side of the mill yard.

Archaeological Watching Brief

1) The archaeologist will attend site during concrete breaking and stripping operations and thereafter in areas where there is felt to be archaeological potential. Where original flagstone floors are evident, these will be rapidly cleaned and details such as mounting points for machinery, power related features, evidence of original walling, and phasing will all be recorded as well as a representative area of original flooring if it survives. The watching brief will continue under the floor down to natural.

2) The archaeologist will make a brief written, photographic and sketch record of any archaeological features or finds of interest that are encountered. It may be necessary to ask the site contractor for extra time to properly clean up and record significant features and it is important that the site supervisor is made aware of this possibility.

3) The results will be presented in report form.

The report will include:

Non-technical summary	
Brief historical and archaeological background	
Reasons for the watching brief	
Methodology	
Results, illustrated as appropriate by drawings and photographs	
Discussion of significance of the results	
List of Archive	
Appendix copy of project design/curator's brief	

Copies of the report will be provided to interested parties including the client, United Utilities, GMAU (to put on the SMR), Rochdale Planning Authority.

4) An ordered and fully catalogued archive will be produced and deposited with the Greater Manchester Textile Mill Survey at GMAU.

5) Costings should be supplied on a day rate. Allowance should be made for post excavation work to prepare the report and archive. There should be one day's post

excavation for every three days on site.

Other considerations

- i) The practical requirements of the archaeological work including access arrangements should be discussed in advance with the client. It is important that the archaeologist maintain close contact with the site supervisor to arrange the most appropriate times to visit the site.
- ii) The archaeological contractor will abide by the Institute of Field Archaeologists Bye-Laws of Approved Practice.
- iii) Contractors shall comply with the requirements of all relevant Health and Safety legislation.
- v) GMAU will monitor the implementation of the watching brief. The archaeological contractor will report regularly to GMAU on progress.

Norman Redhead
Assistant County Archaeologist
GMAU – 12/10/05

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

**HOOLEY BRIDGE MILLS,
HEYWOOD, ROCHDALE
GREATER MANCHESTER**

**Archaeological Watching Brief
Project Design**

Oxford Archaeology North

February 2007

United Utilities

OA North Job No: L9800

NGR SD 8536 1164

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 United Utilities (hereafter the client) have proposed a new sewer to run under the access road between industrial units which occupy the site of the weaving sheds at Hooley Bridge Mills, Heywood, Rochdale, Greater Manchester (SD 8536 1164). As the scheme affects areas of archaeological potential the Planning Archaeologist at Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit Sites and Monuments Record (GMAUSMR) has recommended that a formal watching brief should be undertaken.
- 1.2 Hooley Bridge Mills form a Grade 2 industrial complex (GMSMR No 5075). The cotton spinning and weaving mill was started by Joseph Fenton in 1826, at which time it was water-powered. The site is shown as a cotton mill on both the 1848 and 1908 editions of the Ordnance Survey. From 1902 to 1954 a compound beam engine powered the mill. The mill represents the centre of an industrial community of which some cottages survive along the adjacent Victoria Terrace.
- 1.3 OA North has considerable experience of the assessment, evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large-scale projects during the past 20 years. Watching briefs, evaluations and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.4 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to evaluate the archaeological resource of the proposed development area. The required stages to achieve this are as follows:
- 2.2 **Rapid Desk-Based Assessment:** in order to provide a brief historical background to the site a brief appraisal of the data held by the Sites and Monuments Record Office (SMR) will be undertaken, along with an historic map regression exercise;
- 2.3 **Permanent Presence Watching Brief:** this will be undertaken during concrete breaking and stripping operations, and thereafter in areas where there is felt to be archaeological potential;
- 2.4 **Report and Archive:** production of a report following the collation of data during Sections 2.2 and 2.3 above.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1.1 **Rapid Desk-Based Assessment:** an examination will be undertaken of SMR data made available to the project in order to place the findings of the watching brief into a local and regional context. The Local Studies Library will be consulted as a source for historic mapping.

- 3.1.2 **Fieldwork:** a programme of field observation will record accurately the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits exposed during concrete breaking and stripping activities associated with the development works, and within areas of archaeological potential. This work will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 3.1.3 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified by the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (ie selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 3.1.4 If significant archaeological deposits or features are identified that might be affected by machine tracking or the pipe trench cutting then the area will be sealed off to protect it, and there will be a site meeting between the interested parties (including the Assistant County Archaeologist) and UU Project Manager) to discuss use of the contingency fund (£25,000.00) to allow a rescue excavation and recording exercise to take place.
- 3.1.5 It is assumed that OA North will have the authority to stop the works for a sufficient time period to enable the recording of important deposits. It may also be necessary to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified or a high density of archaeology is discovered. This would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and the County Archaeology Service and will require a variation to costing.
- 3.1.6 **Written Record:** during this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed. All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically utilising OA North pro-forma. Areas of excavation will be assigned trench numbers and context numbers will be applied to archaeological features.
- 3.1.7 **Site Drawings:** a large-scale plan (provided by the client) will be produced of the area of the groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance, appropriately labelled to correspond with the written record. Archaeological features will be recorded accurately (either on plan (1:20) and/or section (1:10), and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate).
- 3.1.8 The site drawings will be manipulated in an industry standard CAD package (AutoCAD release 2004) for the production of final drawings.
- 3.1.9 A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously. This will utilise a 35mm camera for the production of both colour slides and monochrome contact prints. A photographic scale will appear in all images captured. The photographic index will describe and locate each area/feature photographed.

- 3.1.10 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. The GMAUSMR and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Department of Constitutional Affairs license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations, and if appropriate, in compliance with the 'Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.
- 3.1.11 **Treatment of finds:** no sampling of finds will take place during fieldwork. All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines (Stockport Museums Service).
- 3.1.12 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.
- 3.1.13 **Treasure:** any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavations will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.1.14 **Environmental Samples:** samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. OA North maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeozoological specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.

3.2 REPORT AND ARCHIVE

- 3.2.1 **Interim Statement:** in the event that further work is recommended an interim statement will be issued. In this instance or in the event that the client specifically requests an interim statement it should be noted that all illustrations will be copies of field drawings and not finished CAD drawings.
- 3.2.2 **Final Report:** two copies of the final report will be submitted to the client and further copies to the GMAUSMR and the Rochdale Planning Authority. Both paper and digital copies will be provided on CD-ROM in pdf format. The report will present the following information:
- (i) **Summary:** a summary statement of the findings;
 - (ii) **Introduction:** the background to the project including location details;
 - (iii) **Methodology:** an outline of the methodology of all elements of the programme of work;

- (iv) **Historical Background:** a brief historical background to the site;
 - (v) **Results:** an account of archaeological features identified during the course of the watching brief;
 - (vi) **Discussion:** a description of the significance of the study area in its local and regional context;
 - (vii) **Recommendations:** the identification of areas where further development will impact upon the archaeological resource in addition to the impacts of the current development;
 - (viii) **Illustrations:** maps, plans, sections and copies of the site photographic archive;
 - (ix) **Appendices:** list of archive contents, a copy of the brief and this project design;
- 3.2.3 Provision will be made for a summary report to be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal within one year of completion of fieldwork, if relevant results are obtained.
- 3.2.4 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.
- 3.2.5 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). This archive, including a copy of the report, will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format. In this instance the archive will be submitted to the Bury Archives Service.
- 3.2.6 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database *Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.

4 PROJECT MONITORING

- 4.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken through the auspices of the GMAUSMR Planning Archaeologist, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work.

5 WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The rapid desk-based assessment is expected to take in the region of one day to complete.
- 5.2 The duration of the watching brief will be dependent upon the progress of the contractor.
- 5.3 The client report will be completed within eight weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

6 STAFFING

- 6.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Alison Plummer BSc (Hons)** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 6.2 Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing at this stage exactly who will be undertaking the rapid desk-based assessment and watching brief, but both of these elements of the project are likely to be supervised by an OA North project supervisor experienced in these types of project. All OA North project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.

7 INSURANCE

- 7.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.