

Bromborough Pool Village, Merseyside



Archaeological Desk- based Assessment



Oxford Archaeology North

October 2011

Cascade Consulting

Issue No: 2011-12/1198

OA North Job No: L10380

NGR: SD 34558 84494

Document Title: BROMBOROUGH POOL VILLAGE, MERSEYSIDE

Document Type: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

Client Name: Cascade Consulting

Issue Number: 2011-12/1198
OA Job Number: L10380
National Grid Reference: SJ 34558 84494

Prepared by: Kathryn Blythe
Position: Project Officer
Date: October 2011

Checked by: Emily Mercer
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: October 2011
Signed.....

Approved by: Gill Hey
Position: Regional Manager: OA North
Date: October 2011
Signed.....

Oxford Archaeology North
Mill 3, Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1GF

t: (0044) 01524 541000
f: (0044) 01524 848606

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

© Oxford Archaeological Unit Ltd (2011)
Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA

t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

Oxford Archaeology Limited is a Registered Charity No: 285627

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Circumstances of Project.....	5
1.2 Location, Topography and Geology.....	5
2. METHODOLOGY	7
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Desk-Based Assessment.....	7
2.3 Site Visit.....	8
2.4 Archive	8
3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	9
3.1 Introduction	9
3.2 Background.....	9
3.3 Map Regression Analysis.....	17
3.4 Previous Archaeological Work.....	21
3.5 Site Visit	22
4 GAZETTEER OF SITES	24
5 ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REMAINS	34
5.1 Introduction	34
5.2 Quantification of Importance.....	35
5.3 Conclusions of Importance.....	37
6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT	41
6.1 Impact	41
6.2 Significance of Impact.....	42
7 RECOMMENDATIONS	46

7.1	Introduction	46
7.2	Requirements for Further Archaeological Investigation	46
8	CONCLUSIONS	49
8.3	Discussion.....	49
9.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	52
9.1	Cartographic Sources.....	52
9.2	Secondary Sources.....	52
9.3	Websites	54
10.	ILLUSTRATIONS	56
10.1	Figures	56
10.2	Plates.....	56

SUMMARY

Proposals are being collated for the redevelopment of the CRODA site at Bromborough Pool, to the north of Bromborough on the Wirral (centred on NGR SJ 34558 84494). The current masterplan is for mixed use development, including residential and employment areas, together with riverside restoration and green space to the immediate north of the Bromborough Pool village. Cascade Consulting commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) to undertake a desk-based assessment of the site to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. This was carried out by OA North in June and July 2011, and updated in October 2011 in line with the issue of a revised masterplan (Option 06, Rev B).

The study area for the desk-based assessment comprises an area 1km in radius centred on the proposed development. The focus of the desk-based assessment was buried archaeological remains, as the built heritage is being examined in a separate report.

In total, 33 sites were identified within the study area, eight of which are located within the proposed development area (Sites **05**, **08**, **17-19**, **25** and **30-31**). The earliest archaeological evidence within the study area is represented by two findspots of Neolithic/Bronze Age flints (Sites **02** and **03**). There are no known Roman sites within the study area, although Roman sites and findspots are known from the wider area. While there is good historic evidence for early medieval activity in the form of Viking settlement on the Wirral, there are no known sites within the study area. A probable medieval moated site (Site **01**) is positioned just outside of the south-western boundary, and further medieval sites, in the form of a findspot (Site **04**), place-name evidence (Sites **24** and **29**) and ridge and furrow (Site **07**), testify to medieval activity within the study area. By the post-medieval period, a house, the Court House (Site **05**), was established on the site of the moated enclosure, and by the late seventeenth century this had become part of the estate of the Mainwarings, who had much influence in the area. The Court House was in use as a farm until shortly before its demolition in 1969.

In 1853, part of the Mainwaring estate was sold to the Wilson brothers, for the construction of Price's Patent Candle Factory (Site **18**). In 1919, Price's was taken over by Lever Brothers Ltd at Port Sunlight. The first half of the twentieth century saw many changes to the ownership and production of the factory, and in the later twentieth century the Bromborough Works specialised in fatty acids, operating as part of Unichems Ltd. The works closed down in 2009 and the site is now out of use. A village for the factory workers, Bromborough Pool Village (Sites **08-15** and **20**), was constructed to the immediate south-east of the factory, and proposed development site, by the Wilson brothers .

A programme of trial trenching has been recommended for the proposed development area. In addition, the Court House moated site (Site **01**) is a scheduled monument whose boundary lies adjacent to that of the proposed development area. Indirect impacts on Site **01** (e.g. upon its setting and/or its possible preservation as a waterlogged site) should be further assessed and consultation on this matter should be undertaken with English Heritage once full construction details are known.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OA North would like to thank Cascade Consulting for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Peter Davies, site manager at CRODA, Graham Deacon at the National Monuments Record (NMR), the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER), and the staff of the Wirral Archives Service in Birkenhead for their assistance with this project.

The desk-based assessment and site visit was undertaken by Kathryn Blythe, with HER information gathered by Caroline Raynor. The drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh and Marie Rowland. The project was managed by Emily Mercer, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Proposals are being collated for the redevelopment of the CRODA site at Bromborough Pool, to the north of Bromborough on the Wirral (Fig 1). Cascade Consulting commissioned Oxford Archaeology (OA) to undertake a desk-based assessment of the site, to understand the potential impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource. The current masterplan is for mixed use development, including residential and employment areas, together with riverside restoration and green space to the immediate north of the Bromborough Pool village. The desk-based assessment was carried out by OA North in June and July 2011, and updated in October 2011 in accordance with the issue of a revised masterplan (Option 06, Rev B).
- 1.1.2 The study area for the desk-based assessment comprises an area 1km in radius surrounding the proposed development site. The focus of the desk-based assessment was buried archaeological remains, with the built heritage being examined in a separate report. The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the National Monuments Record (NMR), Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER) in Liverpool, the Wirral Archives Service (WAS) in Birkenhead, and the archives and library held at OA North.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document, outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential and significance, and an assessment of the impact of the proposed development. The scheduling criteria employed by the Secretary of State to understand the importance of a site (Annex 1; DCMS 2010) has been used during this assessment to determine the significance of the archaeological resource and any impact upon it.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The development site is situated to the north of Bromborough and to the east of Port Sunlight (centred at NGR SJ 34558 84494). Bromborough is on the Wirral Peninsula, to the west of the River Mersey (Fig 1).
- 1.2.2 The topography is typically low-lying and gently rolling, with numerous sandstone outcrops (Countryside Commission 1998, 138). Bromborough is a medieval village with a market cross. Outside of the medieval core, the surrounding area is predominantly residential housing built during the 1930s. The southern bank of the River Mersey, north of Bromborough, on which the proposed development area is located, is characterised by industrial units and factories (*ibid*). The area is low lying at approximately 10m AOD.
- 1.2.3 The solid geology of the area tends to consist of Triassic sandstone ridges laid down 200-250 million years ago along the western and eastern coasts of the peninsula, overlain by layers of boulder clay (Cowell and Innes 1994, 3-5). The topography away from these ridges is generally low-lying, and is

characterised by glacial till deposits (*op cit*, 5), with typical stagnogley soils of the Clifton Association covering most of the area apart from isolated patches of typical brown earth of the Eardiston Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1987). Layers of post-glacial (*c* 9500 BC onwards) Flandrian deposits cover some areas of the boulder clay, mostly comprising peat and marine alluvium, with less well-represented sediments of wind blown sand (Cowell and Innes 1994, 6-8). The influence of sea-level change, and the associated flooding and burial of former land surfaces, has had a notable impact on the area (*op cit*, 8), and the formation of raised peat-bog landscapes capable of supporting specialised flora such as the bog-myrtle appears in part to have bestowed the name 'Wirral', meaning Myrtle corner in Old English, upon the peninsula (*ibid*).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 This desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the relevant IfA and English Heritage guidelines (Institute for Archaeologists 2008, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments*; Institute for Archaeologists 2010 *Code of Conduct*; English Heritage 2006, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*) and generally-accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 The aim of the desk-based assessment is not only to give consideration to the potential for archaeological remains on the development site, but also to put the site into its archaeological and historical context. All below-ground statutory and non-statutory sites within a 1km radius of the development site were identified and collated into a gazetteer (*Section 4*) and their location plotted on Figure 2. The principal sources of information consulted were historical and modern maps of the study area, although published and unpublished secondary sources were also reviewed. The study has focused on the proposed development area, although information from the immediate environs has been summarised in order to place the results of the assessment into context. The results were analysed using the set of criteria used to assess the national importance of an ancient monument (DCMS 2010). Sources consulted include:

2.2.2 **National Monuments Record (NMR):** the NMR holds digital records of archaeological sites across the country. A record, including grid reference and description, was obtained for the various sites within the defined study area, which were then added to a gazetteer (*Section 4*).

2.2.2 **Merseyside Historic Environment Record (HER):** the HER, maintained by Merseyside Archaeological Service, holds records of archaeological sites within the county, and is held as both paper and digital information (database and GIS combined). A record, including grid reference and description, was obtained for the various sites within the defined study area, which were then added to a gazetteer (*Section 4*).

2.2.3 **Wirral Archives Service (WAS):** the WAS in Birkenhead was visited to consult historic maps of the study area, including relevant Ordnance Survey (OS) maps. A search was also made for any relevant historical documentation. Several secondary sources and archaeological or historical journals were also consulted, and the results of this have been incorporated into the historical background (*Section 3*).

2.2.4 **CRODA:** three aerial photographs (Plates 2-5), and plans of the factory site were consulted during the site visit.

2.2.5 **Cheshire Record Office website:** the tithe map and apportionment was consulted online at <http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/>.

- 2.2.6 **Promap (<http://www.promap.co.uk/>):** copies of some of the OS maps were obtained from this website.
- 2.2.7 **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 SITE VISIT

- 2.3.1 The site was visited on Thursday 13th October 2011 to relate the existing topography and land use with the results of the desk-based assessment, as well as to check for any additional sites of archaeological potential that would not be identified through documentary sources (Plates 6-21). The site visit also allowed for an understanding of areas of impact by the proposed development, as well as areas of more recent disturbance that may affect the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 Copies of this desk-based assessment, including digital copies of the walkover survey photographs, will be deposited with the Merseyside Archaeological Service for reference purposes.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The following section presents a summary of the historical and archaeological background of the general area. This is presented by historical period, and has been compiled in order to place the study area into a wider archaeological context.

Period	Date Range
Palaeolithic	30,000 – 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	10,000 – 4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 – 2,500 BC
Bronze Age	2,500 – 700 BC
Iron Age	700 BC – AD 43
Romano-British	AD 43 – AD 410
Early Medieval	AD 410 – AD 1066
Late Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1540
Post-medieval	AD 1540 – c1750
Industrial Period	cAD1750 – 1901
Modern	Post-1901

Table 1: Summary of British archaeological periods and date ranges

3.2 BACKGROUND

3.2.1 **Prehistoric Period:** although evidence for immediate post-glacial settlement in the Merseyside area is relatively scarce (Cowell and Innes 1994, 34), it is clear that by the late Mesolithic, activity around the Mersey estuary had become quite widespread (Cowell and Philpott 2000, 167). Evidence tends to be limited to occasional finds, however, although recent excavations at Thursaston Dungeon and Greasby Copse, both to the north-west of the study area on the Wirral peninsula, have identified features which may be associated with Mesolithic activity (*op cit*, 13). During this period there was also a dramatic rise in sea levels and associated wetland conditions, and it is likely that hunter-gatherers inhabiting the area would have had to adapt to this changing environment (Cowell and Innes 1994, 35). The discovery of human footprints in silt deposits at Formby on the Sefton coast, approximately 30km north of the River Mersey, would certainly lend itself to the suggestion that the coastal resource was being exploited during the later Mesolithic (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 34). There is a notable concentration of known sites dating to this period at the north-western tip of the Wirral Peninsula (Cowell and Innes 1994, 36).

- 3.2.2 Pollen analysis suggests that cereal cultivation probably began during the early Neolithic period, but is likely to have co-existed with a hunter-gatherer economy for some time (Cowell and Innes 1994, 39). Palynological evidence for the ‘elm decline’, a phenomenon linked by some archaeologists with woodland clearances interpreted as agricultural, is recorded at Bidston Moss towards the north-western tip of the Wirral (Cowell and Innes 1994, 39). Opinion is divided, however, as to whether this is evidence of anthropogenic clearance or a pathological development. In either case, the evidence indicates ‘*major periods of disturbance*’ which are unparalleled in Cheshire (*ibid*).
- 3.2.3 Settlement evidence is almost non-existent for the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods on the Wirral, a trend which continues into the Bronze Age (*op cit*, 43), although some Bronze Age burial remains have been found in the Newton Carr area at the north-west of the peninsula, and on the island of Middle Eye immediately opposite West Kirby and Hoylake (*op cit*, 44). Recent work at Irby, on the western side of the Wirral, appears to have revealed a Middle Bronze Age settlement dating to c 1620-1130 BC (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 37). Neolithic/Bronze Age flints have been found in the area of Shore Fields, c 100m to the north of the study area (HER 3485-03).
- 3.2.4 Sites **02** and **03** are the findspots of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flints found in the garden of the Court House.
- 3.2.5 Finds continue to be the main source of information into the Iron Age, although these tend to consist of occasional metal objects, many of which were discovered in the nineteenth century (Cowell and Innes 1994, 44-5). Settlement sites with demonstrable Iron Age activity are rare in the lowland north-west of England, and the ditched enclosure excavated at Irby on the Wirral cannot be considered typical due to its apparent longevity (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 24).
- 3.2.6 There are no known sites for the Iron Age within the study area.
- 3.2.7 **Roman Period:** evidence for Roman settlement is found in only a few places, principally on the north-western tip of the peninsula at Meols, although Roman coins have been found across the Wirral (Cowell and Innes 1994, 45). The nature of settlement in this rural area is not even partially understood, and is ‘*mainly known along the sand stone ridges*’ (*ibid*). A road connecting Chester and the probable market at Meols is thought to have existed, and it is likely that much of the contact with the Mediterranean world was non-military in nature (Cowell and Philpott 2000, 176).
- 3.2.8 The attribution by Ptolemy of names to tribal groupings occupying the political landscape of Britain in his second century *Geography* (based on work by the geographer Marinus in c AD 100), and their subsequent identification by scholars is beset with difficulty, although it is generally considered that the River Mersey, Ptolemy’s *Seteia*, may have formed a political division even at the Roman invasion. The Setantii appear to have occupied the north side of the river, where they are thought to have formed part of the loose Brigantian confederacy, with the Cornovii occupying the areas to the south of the Mersey (Higham 1993, 31). The natives of the Wirral may have been part of this latter group, at least willing to do business with the Romans, in contrast to the

rebellious Ordovices on their western border, their belligerency worthy of remark by Tacitus (*op cit*, 33).

- 3.2.9 Some finds of Roman coins have been made in the Bromborough area, including one at St Andrew's Church in Lower Bebbington (The Bromborough Society 2000, 8; HER 3383-001). However there are no known sites for this period within the study area.
- 3.2.10 **Early Medieval Period:** Chester is referred to by Bede as a *civitas*, and some settlements, notably Chester and Meols, appear to have outlived the collapse of Roman administration proper, although there is little or no evidence from elsewhere in the area. Archaeological evidence from sites in Moreton and Irby, further north and west of the study area respectively, presents a varied picture with evidence for settlement continuity on the better agricultural land contrasting with the suggestion of abandonment elsewhere, as the settlement pattern adjusted to the economics of post-imperial Britain (Newman 2006, 99).
- 3.2.11 Finds of post-Roman date from the trading site of Meols include penannular brooches, a St Menas flask and three Byzantine coins, which suggests a continuation of robust economic activity in the centuries following Roman government (Philpott 2006, 90; Griffiths *et al* 2007). Eighth century coin finds from the same site suggest rather poorer trading activity later on, probably based on more local traffic circulating throughout the Irish Sea (Higham 1993, 102). Trading at Meols continued into the eleventh century, by which time it seems to have become eclipsed by the *burh* of Chester, which had been established in 907. However, the longevity of Meols, particularly beyond the establishment of the *burh* indicates its importance in the area (Higham 1993, 122).
- 3.2.12 By the tenth and eleventh centuries a large Viking population appears to have established itself on the Wirral (Dodgson 2000) which, at the time, was part of the Kingdom of Mercia. One of the periodic diaspora of Norse populations from Dublin caused by the native Irish, in or around the year 901, cast refugees across the Irish Sea to North Wales and Northumbria (Higham 1993, 107), the latter region at this time stretching from the Mersey to northern Cumbria. Ingmund, the leader of one of the outcast groups, is thought to have harried Anglesey on his arrival on the eastern seaboard of the Irish Sea, before coming to some kind of accommodation with the rulers of Mercia (*ibid*). Harassment by Hiberno-Norse refugees on the coasts from North Wales to Lancashire, coupled with the perennial spectre of the Danish kingdom in York, may have encouraged the Mercian king Ethelred to grant Ingmund and his folk the land on the Wirral which they appear to have accepted (Crosby 1996, 29). The name Thingwall, found to the west of Bromborough, may stem from the Scandinavian word 'Thing', or moot, suggesting a degree of autonomy afforded the Vikings by Ethelred and his consort Aethelflaed (*ibid*). The evidence from Chester, that a sizeable proportion of the moneyers at its tenth century mint were either Scandinavian or Hiberno-Norse, strongly suggests not only that the area around Chester continued to be an important player in traffic between mainland Britain and the Irish Sea littoral, but that interaction between the populations on either side of the water was quite complex (Higham 1993, 122).

- 3.2.13 Place-name evidence implies that the Viking enclave might have been concentrated at the north-western end of the peninsula, spreading down the west coast. Raby, meaning farmstead on the boundary, may possibly mark the edge of Viking settlement (Cavill 2000; Harding 2000), approximately 3km west-south-west of the study area. A number of Old English settlement names are found in the environs of the study area, such as Thornton and Poulton (Cavill 2000, 132-3; 140; 142), and Bromborough possessed a Saxon cross and church (Bromborough Society 2000, 40-41). Bromborough itself, possibly meaning Bruna's stronghold (The Bromborough Society 2000, 8), is considered to have been the site of the battle of Brumanburh, or Brunanburh, fought in AD 937, which saw a combined force of Norse, Scots and Strathclyde British defeated by a West Saxon army under Athelstan, (Dodgson 2000). This battle temporarily made *de facto* the primacy of the English kingdoms in modern England, following Athelstan's annexation of Northumbria on the death of King Sihtric, Viking ruler of York, in 927 (Higham 1993, 124-5).
- 3.2.14 The Viking occupation of the peninsula obscures attempts to fathom its earlier political and ecclesiastical organisation in any detail (*op cit*, 132). It would appear from architectural evidence that the church at Bromborough dates from at least the tenth century, and that the area was very much an extension of the polity of Chester (*ibid*).
- 3.2.15 There are no known sites for this period within the study area.
- 3.2.16 **Late Medieval Period:** in Domesday Book (1086) the settlements at Eastham (Pol), Meols (Melas), Poulton (Pontone), Thingwall (Tuigvelle) and Wallasey (Walea) all make an appearance (Hume 1863). Bromborough is not mentioned, which is surprising given the pre-Conquest masonry evident on St Barnabas's church. Its status as the centre of a parish, stretching over a number of townships, possibly as far as the Dee prior to the arrival of Ingmund in the 900s (Higham 1993, 132), and its documentation in the tenth century (*op cit*, 133), makes its Domesday omission more unusual. There is, however, place-name evidence which indicates the ownership of the study area at the time of the Domesday survey. Sixteenth-century documents relating to Birkenhead Priory refer to Bromborough Pool as Gamel's Pool. Gamel held Poulton-cum-spital at the time of the Domesday survey, and the name suggests he also held Bromborough Pool (HER 3484-05; Site 24).
- 3.2.17 At the time of the Norman Conquest the peninsula became a single administrative unit, the Hundred of Willaston, which included the lands stretching towards Chester and those west of the Gowy Valley (Higham 1993, 131). The district-name Wirral is recorded in the last decade of the ninth century in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as the location of Chester, meaning 'nook where bog-myrtle grows' (*op cit*, 131-2), bog-myrtle being a species distinct to wetland environments (Cowell and Innes 1994, 39). The confines of the region may even correspond to a pre-Mercian regional unit given its possible Old Welsh etymology (Higham 1993, 131). The parish of Bromborough was probably controlled by the monastic brethren of St Werburgh, based in Chester during the tenth and eleventh century, and this parish contained Eastham Manor, belonging to the Earl of Chester, Hugo d'Avranches, the nephew of William I, sometimes called Hugh Lupus (Crosby

- 1996, 34). The Norse Thegn Arni appeared, however, to have continued to control the western side of the Wirral at the time of Domesday in 1086 (Higham 1993, 131-2).
- 3.2.18 In the subsequent two centuries, the land was transformed into arable farmland across much of the peninsula, the increasing population of Cheshire resulting in 1000 acres of newly arable land listed in 1303 in the Wirral alone (Crosby 1996, 44). This was achieved despite what appears to have been a relatively higher sea level, as high tide at the time is said to have reached a point near Poulton (Mortimer 1847, 190). The Wirral was made a Royal Forest and appears to have been dominated by small-scale agriculture (Chitty 1980; Robinson and Whitbread 1998, 4-5).
- 3.2.19 During the later medieval period, Bromborough appears to have been a large nucleated village around the church, with ribbon development along two parallel lanes (Chitty 1980).
- 3.2.20 Known sites of this period within the study area consist of Site **01**, the Court House, a moated site to the south-west of the proposed development area (see *Sections 3.2.34-39*). Site **04** is the findspot of a probable medieval ring found in the garden of the Court House. Site **07** is an area of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow located to the south-east of the proposed development area, and Site **29** is Rice Wood, an area of former ancient woodland to the south-east of Bromborough Pool.
- 3.2.21 **Post-medieval Period:** the parish of Bromborough was to become home to at least two new manor houses in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (Jones 1978, 35), and legal documents shed light on struggles over property in this turbulent period. The Court House (Site **05**) at Bromborough Pool, formerly part of St Werburgh's Abbey in Chester, was ultimately awarded to the Hardware family in 1594 by charter (Connah 1954, 5; see *Section 3.2.35*). Bromborough New Hall, also known as the Upper Hall or Manor, is recorded as having been constructed between 1619 and 1645 by Dr John Bridgeman, Bishop of Chester (Jones 1978, 35-6).
- 3.2.22 In 1657 the New Hall was sold by Orlando Bridgeman, the son of John, and then saw a succession of owners until 1680 when it was transferred to James Mainwaring along with the Manor of Bromborough (The Bromborough Society 2000, 24). The Mainwarings were very influential in Bromborough, and in 1748 they expanded their holdings in the area by purchasing the Court House Estate (*op cit*, 25).
- 3.2.23 Site **05** is the Court House, a house at the site of the moated enclosure to the south-west of the proposed development area (see *Sections 3.2.34-39*).
- 3.2.24 **Industrial Period:** the latter half of the eighteenth century saw agriculture revolutionised in England, and some of the wastelands and mosslands of the eastern and northern Wirral peninsula were altered by development associated with the exploitation of hydrological power, especially towards Wallasey (Cowell and Innes 1994, 48).
- 3.2.25 In 1801 most of the nearby settlements had small populations, typically less than 200 (Mortimer 1847), and many of the settlements were too small even to warrant a mention in the contemporary directories (Pigot and Co 1834). In the medieval period a ferry across the Mersey had been operated by the monks of

- Birkenhead priory (Crosby 1996, 41). By the nineteenth century this was one of three ferries running (*ibid*). Combined with an improved system of turnpike roads, this meant that the Wirral was readily accessible for Liverpool-based entrepreneurs (*ibid*).
- 3.2.26 By the middle of the nineteenth century other significant changes began to take place on the Wirral, relating to the growing chemical industries on either side of the Mersey (*op cit*, 111). Price's Patent Candle Factory (Site **18**) was constructed at Bromborough Pool in 1853 (Watson 1966, 21; see *Sections 3.2.40-45*) and Levers opened their factory producing Sunlight Soap in 1883 (Crosby 1996, 111). This became an unmitigated success of Britain's manufacturing industry. By 1897, the works employed 2200 people and was producing 2400 tons of soap each week. The Lever Brothers' factory produced 60% of the soap made in the UK by 1914. Alongside the factory was the new town of Port Sunlight, Lord Leverhulme's utopian vision for his workforce (*ibid*).
- 3.2.27 The Wirral Railway Company began trading in 1883 at the same time as the Lever Brothers' Soap Factory was opened. The success of this operation, boosted by both electrified trains and the Mersey tunnel, seems to have fed the urbanisation of the Wirral (*op cit*, 120).
- 3.2.28 There are a number of sites of this date within the study area, including: two quarries (Sites **06** and **16**), a brick works and an iron works (Sites **22** and **23**) in the northern part of the study area; a tile yard and associated cottage (Sites **27** and **28**) in the southern part of the study area; and findspots of metal (Site **32**), pottery (Site **21**) and fired clay (Site **26**). Sites **09-14** and **20** are areas of the factory village which are no longer extant. Sites **17** and **33** are two wells associated with Court House Farm, Site **33** is outwith the proposed development area, but Site **17** is within it. Other sites within the proposed development area include Site **08** the site of a lodge on the western corner of the factory village, Site **18** Price's Patent Candle Factory (see *Sections 3.2.40-45*), Site **19** an area of marl extraction used for the manufacture of bricks for the factory at Bromborough Pool, and Site **31** a sea wall, built to the north of the factory.
- 3.2.29 **Modern Period:** after the First World War, Bromborough became subject to the 'Bebington and Bromborough (Extension of Urban District) Order 1930', Cheshire Council Order to facilitate the expansion of housing provision. The removal of inconveniently-placed buildings such as Bromborough New Hall, demolished in 1930 (Jones 1978, 35), followed this order.
- 3.2.30 During the search of the NMR several sites were revealed relating to the use of the area in the Second World War. These include a barrage balloon site (NMR 1414621); an emergency water supply tank (NMR 1466649); four pill boxes (NMR 1429735, 1420650, 1421779 and 1475261); a possible factory (NMR 1475245); a road block (NMR 1475251); weapon pits (NMR 1475259); and air raid shelters (NMR 1475279). There are also a number of bomb crater sites (NMR 1475275) in the area. None of these sites is within the proposed development area, and they have not been included in the gazetteer due to their above ground nature.

- 3.2.31 Site **15** is a group of buildings constructed in the 1950s at the north-east extent of Price's factory village, but no longer extant.
- 3.2.32 **Undated:** Site **30** is a creek shown flowing south from the confluence of Bromborough Pool inlet with the river Mersey on the tithe map of 1840. The creek appears to terminate in two long ponds positioned a short distance to the east of the Court House (Site **05**). The creek is not shown on the OS map of 1876 as, by this time, it had been infilled and built on by the Price's Patent Candle Factory (Site **18**).
- 3.2.33 Site **25** is the findspot of a quantity of rusted weapons at the site of Price's Factory. The date of the weapons and their whereabouts now are unknown.
- 3.2.34 **Bromborough Court House (Sites 01 and 05):** the origins of the Bromborough Court House are unclear. The size of the moated enclosure (3.2ha) has led to speculation that it might have been part of the tenth century fortifications by the Mercians against the Hiberno-Norse invaders (Tomlinson and Warhurst 1991, 80). It is possible that the Court House was also known as Bromborough Old Hall, whose exact whereabouts has never been known but it is thought to have been built by AD 1100 (Jones 1978, 35). Reference is made to Bromborough Court House being located at the Old Hall in a document of 1284 (*ibid*).
- 3.2.35 There is documentary evidence for occupation of the Court House site in the thirteenth century, at which time it was part of St Werburgh's Abbey in Chester; Edward I visited Bromborough in 1277 and stayed at the Court House, which is thought to have been situated within a moated site by this time, and in 1284 an early chronicle, the *Annales Cestriensis*, stated that the first Court House had burnt down and a second one was built on the site (The Bromborough Society 2000, 44). At the time of the dissolution of St Werburgh's Abbey in 1540, the Court House Estate was already being leased by a John Grice, and he was allowed to remain tenant by the Dean of Chester Cathedral (*ibid*). Grice died in 1560, and his will included in his property sheep, cattle and corn grown on the estate. The estate was then leased by the Hardware family, who were traders in Spanish iron and leading citizens in Chester; Henry Hardware was mayor in 1559 and 1576, and his son Henry in 1599 (*op cit*, 44-45). The Hardwares did not always live at Court House, however, as there are records of a number of different tenants there during the seventeenth century (*op cit*, 45-46).
- 3.2.36 The Court House was mentioned in a lease from 1604, but at some point in the seventeenth century it was demolished and replaced by a new Court House close to its predecessor (*op cit*, 46-47). The new Court House comprised a long straight central section, with forward projecting wings at either end. It was constructed in brick with sandstone embellishments, and had scalloped gables at the front of the projecting wings (The Bromborough Society 2000, 48; Mortimer 1847, 209).
- 3.2.37 During the later seventeenth century, the Court House appears to have become a centre for non-conformists and in 1691 it was registered as a Dissenting Meeting Place (The Bromborough Society 2000, 46). In 1748 the estate was purchased by James Mainwaring of Bromborough New Hall, at which time it comprised 153 acres including Bromborough watermill (The Bromborough

- Society 2000, 47). At the time of the tithe award in 1840 the Court House was occupied by a tenant farmer, John Simpson. It is thought that the farmhouse occupied the eastern part of the building, as in the 1851 census an attorney named George Whitley was occupying the western wing (*op cit*, 49). The Simpson family were still farming and occupying the eastern wing of the building at the time of the 1861 census, but the western wing was then occupied by the Reverend Edmund Hampson, who was the Chaplain to Price's Patent Candle Company. Also occupying this wing were 22 trainee candle makers. This was probably a temporary arrangement whilst Price's village was constructed to accommodate the factory workers (*ibid*).
- 3.2.38 In 1905, the Mainwarings sold the Court House and its land to Lever Brothers. In 1921, Lever Brothers decided to use the western wing, and built an annexe to provide accommodation for two of their managers and families. However, the eastern wing continued to be used as a farmhouse until shortly before its demolition in 1969 (*ibid*).
- 3.2.39 Recent excavations failed to produce dating evidence earlier than the eighteenth century for the moat, although it remains possible that an earlier moat had been largely re-cut in the eighteenth century (Freke 1978, 50).
- 3.2.40 **Price's Candle Factory (Site 18):** Price's Patent Candle Factory was founded by William Wilson, who had his first factory in Vauxhall, London, in 1830 and a second in Battersea in 1843 (Watson 1966). All West African imports at this time came into the country via the port at Liverpool, which included palm oil used in the candle-making process. Therefore, in the 1850s, it was decided to establish a third factory around Liverpool to save in transportation costs. This also enabled by-products from the factory to be transported to textile mills in the North West via canals (*op cit*, 18). As the price of land in Liverpool was high, the location at Bromborough Pool was chosen because it was cheaper, whilst the river frontage was still suitable for bringing raw materials across from Liverpool (*op cit*, 20). Having taken over from their father, James and George Wilson had always planned to build a village for their employees alongside the factory, and the site, just north of the village of Bromborough, was very conveniently placed for this. The land for the factory and village was part of the Court House Estate and was purchased from the Mainwarings. Originally, 42 acres were to be purchased but, as there was no local brickworks able to supply the necessary materials for the building works, a further 19 acres were purchased in order to manufacture the bricks on site. Marl for this purpose was excavated from Big Sea Field (Site 19), shown on the tithe map of 1840 (Fig 6) as field number 10 (Watson 1966 20-21; The Bromborough Society 2000, 50).
- 3.2.41 The village (Sites 09-14 and 20) was built in phases, with the earliest houses built in 1853, and by 1856 the village had 76 houses, a school, a cricket pitch and a bowling green. There followed a period of economic downturn for the company, a result of both a difficult time for British industries in general due to the cotton famine, and more specifically the fierce competition that Price's faced with other companies providing cheaper and better lighting methods (e.g. gas). Consequently it was not until 1872, when the company had recovered, that 15 more houses were built (Watson 1966, 32-33). In 1873 a new road, South View, was constructed in front of a quarry (Site 16) that had

- been dug in 1858 for sandstone, and six houses were built along it. Six more houses were added in 1877 and a fever hospital was completed in 1878 (*op cit*, 33).
- 3.2.42 In the 1880s the factory floors began to sink, caused by the sandstone quarrying for the building work. The quarry (Site **16**) had been flooded for many years and was now pumped out by sinking five 15' brick cylinders into the gravel bed 36' beneath the surface (*ibid*).
- 3.2.43 A period of prosperity led to new building in the village in the 1890s, with the completion of the chapel in 1890 and the construction of 24 houses in 1896. These new houses were influenced in design by those at Port Sunlight, which was being constructed at the same time a short distance to the north (*op cit*, 34-35). New school buildings were erected next to the chapel in 1898, and in 1899 the old school building was taken over by the Village Mutual Improvement Society. In 1900, 14 more houses were built in the village, in Manor Place and on South View, and the south link road was also constructed at this time. In 1901, an infectious diseases hospital and cottage were built in the south-west area of the site. The village then had 142 houses and 728 residents (*op cit*, 35).
- 3.2.44 In 1903, new gates were provided at the south end of York Street leading to Rice Wood (Site **29**). After the First World War, a memorial was set up on the corner of Pool Lane and South View (*ibid*).
- 3.2.45 In 1919 Price's was taken over by Lever Brothers Ltd, the soap manufacturers who had established themselves at Port Sunlight in the late nineteenth century. Lever Brothers were now diversifying within the fats market, and had interests in margarine, candles and possible other new products. By taking over Price's, who produced candles, soap and other fat and oil products, they were diversifying as well as removing a rival firm (<http://prices-candles.co.uk/history/historydetail.asp>). In 1922, a jointly-owned company named Candles Ltd was formed between Lever Brothers and the companies which are now Shell, BP and Burmah Oil. In 1929, the Unilever group was formed by the merger of Lever Brothers and the Dutch Company, Margarine Unie and in 1936 Lever Brothers came out of Candles Ltd, taking the Bromborough works with it. The Bromborough works continued to specialise in fatty acids, and still operates today as part of Unichems Ltd (The Bromborough Society 2000, 50; Watson 1966, 36-38; <http://www.unilever.com/aboutus/ourhistory/1920s/?WT.LHNAV=1920s>; <http://prices-candles.co.uk/history/historydetail.asp>).

3.3 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 3.3.1 **Introduction:** a number of cartographic sources were examined at WAS, together with some held at OA North's offices, the Cheshire Record Office website, and Promap (<http://www.promap.co.uk/>). Three aerial photographs of the site were also consulted at the CRODA office during the site visit.
- 3.3.2 **The Mainwaring Estate Plan, 1755 (Plate 1):** Cheshire Record Office holds a photograph of the Mainwaring Estate Plan from 1755 (VPH5/BROM/1). The quality of the photograph is not good, as the map is obviously quite large. However the plan clearly shows the proposed development area as fields, and

it is similar in appearance to the tithe map of 1840 (Fig 6). To the west of the proposed development area, the Court Hall moat and ponds (Site 01) are identifiable. On the east side of the moat the Court Hall (Site 05) is depicted. The layout of the four buildings shown is the same as on the tithe map, and a formal garden is shown to the rear (north) of the property.

- 3.3.3 ***Burdett's Map of Cheshire, 1777 (Fig 3)***: the first usable large-scale survey of the study area is provided by Peter Burdett in 1777, at a scale of one inch to one mile. 'Bromborow' is shown as a relatively sizeable settlement of three roads in a triangular arrangement, presumably around the market cross, with numerous buildings both around this centre and the exit road to the north. The church is also visible on the western side of the settlement. The Court Hall (Site 05) is marked some distance to the north of the village.
- 3.3.4 ***Swire and Hutchings' Map of Cheshire, 1830 (Fig 4)***: this map shows more detail of the area, with Court Hall (Site 05) again marked, and a road heading south-westwards from it to Bromborough.
- 3.3.5 ***A Bryant's 'Map of Cheshire', 1831 (Fig 5)***: this map shows further details of the layout of Court Hall (Site 05). The moat (Site 01) next to Court Hall is shown on this map and the inner and outer ponds associated with the moat are also depicted. The road to Bromborough is again shown, and two further tracks are marked heading south, one named Cart Lane further south, heading south-east to Rice Wood (Site 29).
- 3.3.6 ***Bromborough Tithe, 1840 (Fig 6)***: the Bromborough Township tithe map was produced in 1840 and Court Hall is depicted as a group of buildings (Site 05) on the east side of the moat (Site 01). Only three sides of the original moat are shown, with the eastern side possibly beneath Court Hall. Ponds are shown in the western area of the moat enclosure and outwith the western side of the moat. All of the land in this area is noted on the tithe apportionment as being owned by the Rev. James Mainwaring and occupied by John Simpson. The fields within the proposed development area are numbered: 4, named Walk Croft; 5, named Barn Croft and Rough; 6, named Ox Pasture; 7, named Sea Marsh; 8, named Marsh; 10, named Big Sea Field; and 13, named Long Meadow. There are also two other plots within the proposed development area: the buildings (Site 05) to the east of the moat (to which the barn indicated by Barn Croft presumably belongs) are numbered 1 and described as 'house, buildings, yard and buildings' and appear to comprise four main buildings; and an orchard (2) is located to the north of the buildings. A creek (Site 30) is shown heading south from the confluence of Bromborough Pool with the river Mersey, and terminating in two long ponds located a short distance to the east of the Court House. Further ponds can be seen across the area.
- 3.3.7 ***Ordnance Survey, First Edition, 25" to 1 mile, 1876 (Fig 7) and 6" to 1 mile, 1882 (Fig 8)***: this map shows the development of the area comprising *Bromborough Pool Works (Patent Candle Manufactory)* and the village to its south-east. The works (Site 18) are made up of one large rectangular building, with additional buildings on its north-east and south-west sides. Surrounding these buildings are a gasometer, cranes, and a group of outlying buildings to the south. Further south again, at the junction of the road to the factory and the road to the village, a small building is shown; this is named as a lodge (Site

08) on later mapping. A reservoir is shown a short distance to the east of the factory. It is evident that changes had been made to the inlet bounding the north of the factory, presumably to protect it from floods, as a sluice is marked and a sea wall (Site **31**) is shown. South-east of the factory the village is shown, at this time comprising York Street, Manor Place and The Green (Sites **09-12, 14** and **20**), with allotment gardens marked to the south of the houses. To the south of the factory, the Court House (formerly Court Hall (Site **05**)) is depicted and stated as being 'on the site of the Court House' (Site **01**). The farm buildings of the Court House appear much as they did on the tithe map of 1840, with additional small outbuildings shown to the south-east of the farm, and a glass house shown to the west. Orchards are depicted to the north of the buildings. A sand pit is marked to the north of the moat.

- 3.3.8 *Ordnance Survey Second Edition, 25" to 1 mile, 1899 (Fig 9)*: further development had taken place by the time of this mapping. Additional buildings had been constructed to the south, south-east and north-east of the factory. Additional buildings are also shown to the south of the factory, on the west side of the road leading to it. The Court House (Site **05**) has some additional buildings to its north, and the glass house to the west, shown on the 1876 map, is no longer extant. The village had expanded to the south, with a new row of houses, South View (Site **13**), now shown, and a hospital is marked to the north. A quarry (Site **16**) is marked to the south of the village.
- 3.3.9 *Ordnance Survey, 25" to 1 mile, 1912 (Fig 10)*: further construction surrounding the factory is shown on this mapping, including a chimney and a tank to the north, as well as a tramway running around the factory buildings. The village has also been extended south-eastwards, with more semi-detached housing on South View and Manor Place. The quarry (Site **16**) south of the village is now marked 'old quarry'. An infectious diseases hospital is shown in the south-east corner of the village.
- 3.3.10 *Ordnance Survey, 25" to 1 mile, 1927 (Fig 11)*: the gasometer and cranes shown on earlier maps to the north of the factory are not marked on this mapping. Further buildings are shown on the west side of the road leading to the factory (now marked 'Pool Lane'), east of Court House, and the group of small buildings on the east side of the road is now marked 'Lodge' (Site **08**). A war memorial is marked to the south of the lodge and a tank is now depicted in the vicinity of the quarry (Site **16**) marked on the 1899 map, which is no longer extant.
- 3.3.11 *Ordnance Survey, 25" to 1 mile, 1936 (Fig 12)*: the factory buildings shown on this map are very similar in layout to those depicted on the 1927 map. New development can be seen to the east of the factory, however, where Bromborough Docks has now been constructed out into the Mersey. Some of the buildings on the west side of Pool Lane had been cleared by the time of this mapping
- 3.3.12 *Ordnance Survey, 25" to 1 mile, 1956 (Fig 13)*: the factory is named on this map as 'Bromborough Pool Works (Stearin and Oleine)'. The main factory building remains the same as shown on earlier mapping, however there have been changes to the rest of the factory. Further storage tanks are shown to the north-west of the factory and to the north-east, on both sides of the reservoir. The tramway that surrounded the factory is no longer extant. New buildings

and structures are shown to the north-east and south-east of the factory, including a hopper, two electricity sub-stations and further tanks. The area to the south-east of the factory, north of the lodge (Site **08**), has been laid out as a formal garden with a pond. Two of the buildings on the east side of Court House Farm (Site **05**) are marked as ruins. A group of small buildings (Site **15**) is shown in the north-east corner of the village, at the northern extent of The Green.

- 3.3.13 **Ordnance Survey, 1:10,560, 1965 (Fig 14)**: this map shows no significant changes to the area from its depiction on the 1956 map, except that the group of small buildings (Site **15**) in the north-east corner of the village and the war memorial are no longer extant.
- 3.3.14 **Aerial photograph of the site, 1967 (Plates 2 and 3)**: Court House Farm (Site **05**) is shown in Plate 2, just two years before it was demolished. It should be noted that the lodge (Site **08**) appears to have already been demolished by the time of this photograph. Plate 3 shows the factory site as almost entirely developed, aside from some land against the eastern boundary, possibly to provide some space between the factory and the village.
- 3.3.15 **Ordnance Survey, 1:10,560, 1976 (Fig 15)**: several significant changes had taken place by the time of this map. The main original factory building has been replaced by two separate buildings, and four of the tanks to the north-west of it had been removed. To the south-east of the factory numerous small buildings had been constructed between the factory and the north-western edge of the village. These buildings were located as far south-west as to replace the most easterly of the outbuildings associated with Court House Farm (Site **05**). The whole of Court House Farm had been demolished by the time of this map, and Pool Lane extended only as far as the new south-western edge of the factory buildings, the remainder of it having been built over. In the village, a number of the houses at the north-western ends of South View (Site **13**), Manor Place (Site **11**) and York Street (Sites **09** and **10**) had been demolished, along with the lodge (Site **08**), which appeared to have been demolished by the time of the 1967 photograph. The allotments to the south of the village are marked as a sports ground.
- 3.3.16 **Aerial photograph of the site, c 1987 (Plate 4) and Aerial photograph of the site, c 1989 (Plate 5)**: the c 1987 photograph is markedly different from the 1967 photograph, and shows that in that twenty year period many of the late nineteenth/early twentieth century buildings (visible on the 1967 photograph with semi-circular gables) had been replaced. The main difference between these two photographs is the inlet surrounding the site had started to be infilled by 1989, and is consequently shown as much reduced in size in Plate 5.
- 3.3.17 **Ordnance Survey, 1:10,560, 1990 (Fig 2)**: this map shows some changes to the layout of the buildings at the south-eastern extent of the factory and to the north-east where a number of the tanks, including all those on the eastern side of the reservoir, had been removed. In the village, further houses on the north side of York Street (Site **09**); at the west end of Manor Place on the south side of the road (Site **12**); further east along Manor Place (Site **14**); and on The Green (Site **20**) had been demolished.

3.4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

3.4.1 The HER holds records of a number of interventions that have taken place at the Court House:

- In 1955, observations were made at the east end of the pond (presumably within the moated enclosure). Nine large stones were noted as edging the pond, and behind this a small dig revealed extensive dumping of material including Buckley pottery, china and lumps of a 'curious sort of slag'.
- In 1956, concrete footings were put down inside the moated enclosure requiring three holes measuring approximately 6' long x 3-4' deep and 4' wide. Hole A revealed red sandstone that had been struck, indicating that the moat had been partly cut into the rock. Hole B revealed 18" of cinders, then red clay mixed with household rubbish sealing a further layer of red clay. Hole C had loam at the top, overlying yellow sand.
- In 1957 a number of excavations were made for pylons to carry steam pipes within the north and east sides of the moat. At the base of one excavation, a thin layer of charred material was observed and was interpreted as evidence for a fire that destroyed the original Court House in the thirteenth century.
- An excavation took place in 1979 of the Bromborough Court House, located to the immediate south-east of the proposed development area (Freke 1978, 47-52). The excavation was concentrated on the south-west corner of the moat and on a pond to the west of the moat, although observations were also made of a construction trench in the north-west corner. Pollen samples were taken in three strata, equalling 50cm in depth, from the construction trench. The top 10cms was disturbed; Stratum 3, from 10-38cms, was an organic clay soil; Stratum 2, from 38-46cms, was a black organic peaty layer with fragments of birch bark and charcoal; and Stratum 1, from 46-50cms, was a sandy clay soil with some organic and rootlet material. Stratum 1 showed that the site had been occupied by a dense birch woodland, and the influence of the nearby Bromborough Pool was indicated by the presence of alder, willow, and a number of wetland herbs. These herbs persisted in the upper two strata indicating the continued wet conditions of the site. Stratum 2 revealed more open oak and alder woodland, with charcoal and birch bark indicating the clearance, by fire, of some of the woodland. Shallow pools may also have formed at this time. Stratum 3 showed evidence for arable cultivation, and increased areas of open landscape, probably representing small areas of cultivation. The report concluded that prior to the eighteenth century there was no evidence for the use of the area except for pasture. The present profile of the moat was found to be eighteenth century in date. No medieval finds were recovered in association with the moat, although it remains possible that an earlier moat had been largely re-cut in the eighteenth century. The excavation also suggested that the inner and outer ponds on the west side of the moat may have once been one pond truncated by the western arm of the moat, although further work would be required to confirm this (*ibid*).

- A watching brief was undertaken in 1993 when three postholes were dug for a 'Land to Let' sign, c 100m to the south-west of the western part of the moat. Brick was observed in the holes, some of which was burnt.
 - A watching brief was carried out during groundworks on land adjacent to Bromborough Court Moat on Pool Lane (NGR SJ 3440 8400) by Liverpool Museum Field Archaeology Section in 2007. A possible ditch was located to the west of the fishpond (Jones and Adams 2007).
- 3.4.2 To the south-west of the study area, at Spital Road in Bromborough (NGR SJ 344 831), a desk-based assessment and evaluation was carried out by OA North in 2007 in advance of a residential development (OA North 2007). The assessment highlighted the potential for the discovery of below ground remains of a medieval water mill and an eighteenth century bridge and associated road. The results of the fieldwork suggested that the demolition of the mill complex in 1949 had been extremely thorough and much of the fabric of the buildings had been removed from the site. No evidence for the bridge or road was encountered (*ibid*).
- 3.4.3 To the south of the study area, at Cowpasture Wood (NGR SJ 353 824), a desk-based assessment and evaluation was carried out by LUAU 1994 in advance of development (LUAU 1994). The assessment highlighted the potential for prehistoric occupation in the area, due to four findspots of prehistoric material noted in the environs of the study area. The site was also noted as being located within a medieval field system associated with the village of Bromborough, located to the immediate west. However, the evaluation trenching found no evidence for prehistoric occupation or the medieval field system (*ibid*).

3.5 SITE VISIT

- 3.5.1 The site was visited on Thursday 13th October 2011 (Plates 6-21). The site has been out of use as a factory for two years and is largely empty, although some work to dismantle the superstructure of the works was ongoing at the time of the site visit.
- 3.5.2 The south-west boundary of the site is adjacent to the scheduled moated enclosure (Site **01**) and overlies part of the Court House Farm (Site **05**), demolished in 1969. This area is currently in use as a car park and storage area. The current ground surface is significantly lower than the area of the moated site, with banks sloping down to it (Plate 7). This would suggest that the ground within the factory boundary was levelled after the farm buildings were demolished. It is therefore possible that any buried archaeological features in this area may have been truncated.
- 3.5.3 The perimeter of the site was walked in order to ascertain if the sea wall (Site **31**) shown on the historic mapping was still extant. It was found that the sea wall is now a concrete structure (Plates 11 and 12), although some degraded areas of it revealed that the original brick structure lies beneath (Plate 13). The tidal inlet that the wall bounds was significantly reduced in the late 1980s (see Plates 4 and 5). The area outwith the wall on the northern boundary of the site was infilled at this time, so that in this area the wall now abuts an area of

wasteland in front of the inlet (Plates 13 and 16). Features such as mooring posts and timber mooring bollards or fenders are still extant in this area (Plate 16).

- 3.5.4 The built heritage on the site is being dealt with in a separate report. However, it should be briefly noted that there are late nineteenth century buildings (Plates 10, 19 and 20) to the east of the listed building (LB no 215551) (Plate 9). Also, at the north-west extent of the site are the facades of nineteenth century buildings, with modern warehouses behind (Plates 14 and 15).
- 3.5.5 Whilst the northern and western areas of the site have been heavily developed, the eastern area of the site contains more 'blank' areas which have not previously been developed (Plates 18 and 21), and may offer potential for the survival of earlier archaeological remains.

4 GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number	01
Site name	Bromborough Court House moated site and fishponds, Wirral
NGR	334496 384189
Ref	NMR 67341/HER 8484-04 (moat), HER 3484-09 and 10 (fishponds), HER 3484-01 (courthouse), HER 3484-12 (manor house)
Designation	Scheduled Monument 13428
Site type	Earthworks
Period	Medieval
Sources	http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx
Description	The monument comprises the extensive rectilinear moat that surrounded Bromborough Courthouse, known to be located on the site of an 11th century manor of St Werburgh's Abbey. The main island is open grassland largely devoid of post-medieval activity. This monument, together with a similar moated site at nearby Irby, testifies to the Abbey's dominance and control over this area of the Wirral in medieval times and reflects the affluence of the church and also the diversity in size and function of this class of monument. Additionally, the monument occupies a strongly-defended position by the coast on the edge of a large tidal inlet. Indeed its location infers that direct access to water-borne transportation was important, this being an unusual consideration for such a moated site. The monument at Bromborough is a striking example of its type. The rectangular enclosed island originally measured c 170m x 180m giving an overall area of c 3ha. The moat measures 3.4m max depth x 18m max width and possesses slight internal and external banks. There is a raised platform towards the centre of the island thought to be the location of the main original building, with foundations of 17th century buildings demolished in the 20th century lying to the east. The site has a large internal fishpond in the north-west corner of the island just inside the moat and additionally a large external one lying to the west of the moat. A small pond, now much silted, also lies in the eastern corner of the site. The concrete bases sunk into the monument to support the elevated pipelines, the structure located at the junction of two pipelines, the angling stations flanking the external pond, and all fences and walls are excluded from the scheduling, although deposits beneath all of these features are included. The site is currently heavily overgrown with trees and vegetation.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be directly impacted by it. However, it lies adjacent to the proposed development area boundary and therefore needs to be considered for indirect impacts.

Site number	02
Site name	Prehistoric findspot
NGR	334550 384170
Ref	HER 3484/025
Designation	None
Site type	Findspot
Period	Neolithic
Sources	HER
Description	Findspot from the garden of Bromborough Court Hall of a mottled green/brown probable Neolithic flint axe, broken near the butt end, and measuring 38mm long x 55mm wide x 25mm thick and weighing 111.5g. (Possibly the same as Site 03).
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	03
Site name	Prehistoric findspot
NGR	334550 384170
Ref	HER 3484/03
Designation	None
Site type	Findspot
Period	Prehistoric
Sources	HER; Chitty 1979, 81
Description	Findspot from a flower bed at Bromborough Court Hall of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age brown flint, which appears to be the broken tip of an arrowhead. (Possibly the same as Site 02)
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	04
Site name	Medieval findspot
NGR	334550 384170
Ref	-
Designation	None
Site type	Findspot
Period	Medieval?
Sources	Chitty 1979, 81
Description	Findspot from a flower bed at Bromborough Court Hall of a probable medieval ring.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	05
Site name	Court House
NGR	334573 384194
Ref	NMR 509857/ HER 3484/14
Designation	-
Site type	Buildings (Site of)
Period	Post-medieval
Sources	NMR
Description	A large late seventeenth century farmhouse converted in the mid nineteenth century into a hostel for male employees of Price's candle works. Later used by Lever Brothers' who purchased the company. Demolished 1969.
Assessment	The site is partially within the proposed development area and any surviving below ground remains may be impacted by it.

Site number	06
Site name	Quarry
NGR	334140 385150
Ref	NMR 1475177
Designation	-
Site type	Quarry
Period	Industrial/Modern
Sources	NMR
Description	A post-medieval/20th century quarry is visible as an earthwork on air photographs, centred at SJ 3414 8515. The quarry has an area measuring 6.97ha. The feature appears to be no longer extant on the latest 1987 Ordnance Survey vertical photography.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	07
Site name	Ridge and Furrow
NGR	334700 384000
Ref	NMR 1475256/HER 3484-11
Designation	-
Site type	Ridge and furrow
Period	Medieval/Post-medieval
Sources	NMR
Description	Medieval/post-medieval and post-medieval ridge and furrow is visible as earthworks on air photographs in Bebington, in the Wirral District. None appears to be extant on the latest 1987 Ordnance Survey vertical photography.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	08
Site name	The Lodge, Bromborough Pool Village
NGR	334640 384227
Ref	-
Designation	-
Site type	Building (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression
Description	A lodge at the south-west extent of Bromborough Pool Village, and located at the south-east entrance to the land occupied by Price's Patent Candle Factory (Site 18). The lodge is first shown on the OS map of 1876 and had been demolished by 1976.
Assessment	The site is partially within the proposed development area and any surviving below ground remains may be impacted by it.

Site number	09
Site name	North Side of York Street, Bromborough Pool Village
NGR	334816 384338
Ref	-
Designation	Within Bromborough Pool Conservation Area
Site type	Buildings (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression
Description	A row of houses on the north side of York Street shown on the OS map of 1876. The row had been partially demolished by 1976 and was completely gone by 1990.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	10
Site name	South Side of York Street, Bromborough Pool Village
NGR	334754 384330
Ref	-
Designation	Within Bromborough Pool Conservation Area
Site type	Buildings (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression
Description	A row of houses on the south side of York Street shown on the OS map of 1876. The row had been demolished by 1976.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	11
Site name	North Side of Manor Place, Bromborough Pool Village
NGR	334750 384291
Ref	-
Designation	Within Bromborough Pool Conservation Area
Site type	Buildings (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression
Description	A row of houses on the north side of Manor Place shown on the OS map of 1876. The row had been demolished by 1976.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	12
Site name	South Side of Manor Place (west end), Bromborough Pool Village
NGR	334719 384180
Ref	-
Designation	Within Bromborough Pool Conservation Area
Site type	Buildings (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression
Description	A row of houses at the west end of the south side of Manor Place shown on the OS map of 1876. The row had been demolished by 1990.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	13
Site name	West End of South View, Bromborough Pool Village
NGR	334703 388233
Ref	-
Designation	Within Bromborough Pool Conservation Area
Site type	Buildings (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression
Description	A row of houses at the west end of South View shown on the OS map of 1876. The row had been demolished by 1976.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	14
Site name	South Side of Manor Place (central), Bromborough Pool Village
NGR	334817 384202
Ref	-
Designation	Within Bromborough Pool Conservation Area
Site type	Buildings (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression
Description	A row of houses in the middle of the south side of Manor Place shown on the OS map of 1876. The row had been demolished by 1990.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	15
Site name	Buildings at the north end of The Green
NGR	335091 384284
Ref	-
Designation	Within Bromborough Pool Conservation Area
Site type	Buildings (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression
Description	A group of small buildings depicted at the north end of The Green, north of an extant pair of houses (nos 1 and 2 The Green; LB 215421), on the 1956 OS map. The buildings had been demolished by the time of the 1965 OS map. The function of the buildings is not known, though they appear to be too small to be residential.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	16
Site name	Quarry, Bromborough Pool Village
NGR	334706 384188
Ref	HER 3484-18
Designation	Within Bromborough Pool Conservation Area
Site type	Quarry (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression/HER
Description	A quarry located to the south of the western end of South View in Bromborough Pool Village. The quarry had been exploited prior to the purchase of the site by Price's in 1853, as a pit in the location of the quarry is shown on the deed map prepared for the Price's purchase. It is therefore possible that the sandstone had been used for the Court House farm (Site 05). The quarry (also known as the Delph) was used in 1854 by Price's for architectural details for the factory buildings as well as for buildings on The Green. In 1858 stone was extracted for the construction of a sea wall (Site 31). At some point in the mid-nineteenth century a wall was constructed around the quarry, as a girl from the village drowned in the water collected there. In 1878 the quarry was re-opened to provide material for the first fever hospital outwith the north-west corner of the cricket ground. In 1889 the quarry was used for stone for the village church and in 1898-99 for the village school. Finally a small amount of stone may have been taken from the quarry for architectural details on the new hospital, built in 1901. The quarry is first shown on the 1899 OS map, is marked as 'old quarry' on the 1912 OS map, and is not shown on the 1927 OS map.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	17
Site name	Well, Bromborough Court House
NGR	334560 384220
Ref	HER 3484-23
Designation	None
Site type	Well (site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	A well noted in the HER, but not assigned a date. However, as it is not noted on the OS maps from 1876 onwards, it is likely to pre-date this.
Assessment	The site is within the proposed development area and may be impacted by it.

Site number	18
Site name	Price's Patent Candle Factory, Bromborough Pool
NGR	334541 384493
Ref	-
Designation	(includes Listed Building 215551)
Site type	Candle Factory (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression
Description	Price's Patent Candle Factory was established in 1854 in Bromborough Pool along with a village for the factory workers. The factory thrived until the start of the twentieth century, when gas and electricity were increasingly replacing candles for lighting. The Bromborough works then specialised in fatty acids, and became part of the Unilever group, which had grown up in Port Sunlight since the late nineteenth century, and was then known as Unichema. The original factory buildings have gradually been replaced, as the site is still in industrial use. One original building remains, (the Unichema Office Building at 334562 384380), and is listed as Grade II. There is also a group of late nineteenth/early twentieth century buildings to the immediate north-east of the listed building (334617 384390). The standing buildings are not included in the assessment as they are being assessed in a separate document
Assessment	The site is within the proposed development area, and there are possibly below ground remains surviving from the original factory buildings that may be impacted by it.

Site number	19
Site name	Marl Extraction at Big Sea Field, Bromborough Pool
NGR	334879 384300
Ref	-
Designation	-
Site type	Marl extraction site
Period	Industrial
Sources	Documentary: Watson 1966 20-21; The Bromborough Society 2000, 50
Description	Marl for brick manufacture for the construction of Price's Patent Candle Factory was excavated from Big Sea Field (shown on the tithe map of 1840 (Fig 6) as field number 10).
Assessment	The site is within the proposed development area but, as an extraction area, it is not considered to be archaeologically significant.

Site number	20
Site name	Pair of houses on The Green
NGR	335055 384208
Ref	-
Designation	Within Bromborough Pool Conservation Area
Site type	Buildings (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression
Description	A pair of houses are depicted towards the north end of The Green, in the north-east area of the village, on the 1882 OS map. The buildings were located immediately south of nos. 1 and 2 The Green, which are still extant and listed (LB 215421). The houses had been demolished by the time of the 1990 OS map.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	21
Site name	Findspot, New Chester Road
NGR	333900 384900
Ref	HER 3384-29
Designation	-
Site type	Findspot
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	The findspot of mid-late nineteenth century pottery from a garden on New Chester Road.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	22
Site name	New Ferry Brickworks
NGR	334350 385280
Ref	HER 3485-07
Designation	-
Site type	Brickworks
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	The brickworks were situated on the banks of the Mersey, in an area known as Mayfields. The clay pit extended almost as far as Chester New Road. The brickworks are shown on the OS map of 1899 and were demolished in 1924.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	23
Site name	New Ferry Iron Working Site
NGR	334350 385280
Ref	HER 3485-08
Designation	-
Site type	Iron works
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	The iron works were situated on the banks of the Mersey, in an area known as Mayfields.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	24
Site name	Watercourse, Bromborough Pool
NGR	334650 384660
Ref	HER 3484-05
Designation	-
Site type	Watercourse
Period	Medieval
Sources	HER
Description	Bromborough Pool is referred to in sixteenth century documents relating to Birkenhead Priory as Gamel's Pool. Gamel held Poulton-cum-spital at the time of the Domesday survey.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	25
Site name	Findspot - Site of Price's Candle Works
NGR	334500 384500
Ref	HER 3484-16
Designation	-
Site type	Findspot
Period	Unknown
Sources	HER
Description	A letter from Mr A Carlyle Tait to Mrs Anne Anderson dated 10th January 1964 refers to a quantity of rusted weapons having been found at the site of Price's factory. Mr A Carlyle Tait says that he enquired at the factory but they had no record of it. Notes in the HER state 'what is indicated is not a battlefield but a last stand to cover the embarkation of the remnant of the invading forces from the west'.
Assessment	The site is a findspot and, therefore, cannot be further impacted. However, further associated finds may remain in the area and could be affected by the proposed development.

Site number	26
Site name	Findspot - fired clay
NGR	334300 384200
Ref	HER 3484-17
Designation	-
Site type	Findspot
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	Two findspots from the area. One is of six sherds of fired clay including one rim sherd. The other comprises eighteenth century drain tiles and the bag is labelled 'from tileyard (Site 27) on banks of Bromborough Pool between main road and Price's Candle Works.'
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	27
Site name	Old Tileyard
NGR	334300 383500
Ref	HER 3483-11
Designation	-
Site type	Tileyard
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	The site of an industrial tileyard is marked on the OS edition of 1882.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	28
Site name	Tileyard Cottage
NGR	334380 383520
Ref	HER 3483-10
Designation	-
Site type	Cottage
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	A cottage is shown on the OS edition of 1882.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	29
Site name	Rice Wood
NGR	335200 383800
Ref	HER 3583-05
Designation	-
Site type	Woodland (site of)
Period	Medieval
Sources	HER
Description	The wood is mentioned in the lease of the Court House estate by the Abbot of Chester to John Gryce dated 30th November 1537 ‘...together with the herbage of the woods called le Willanrice Wood, Eastham Wood and Bromborough Wood...’ The name Willanrice may be of Saxon origin - there seems to be some similarity with Willaston and also with Wilaveston, the old name for the Wirral in the Domesday Survey.
Assessment	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	30
Site name	Creek, Bromborough Pool
NGR	334685 384369
Ref	-
Designation	-
Site type	Creek (site of)
Period	Unknown
Sources	Map Regression
Description	A creek is shown heading south from the confluence of Bromborough Pool with the river Mersey on the tithe map of 1840. The creek appears to terminate in two long ponds located a short distance to the east of the Court House. The creek is not shown on the OS map of 1876 as by this time it had been infilled and built on by the Price’s Candle Factory. The HER entry for Site 16 (HER 3484-18) states that the creek was infilled with earth taken from the top of the sandstone knoll on which the factory was built. It is also speculated that the creek would have been a logical siting for an early settlement. It is possible that the sewer pipes from Bromborough Village were originally laid to empty into the Mersey via the creek, and it was infilled as it became fouled up.
Assessment	The site is within the proposed development area. It may have been infilled or culverted as it now underlies the current factory site. It may, therefore, be affected to some degree.

Site number	31
Site name	Sea Wall, Bromborough Pool
NGR	334536 384580
Ref	-
Designation	-
Site type	Sea wall
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression; Site Visit
Description	A sea wall is shown on the OS map of 1876 to the north of Price’s Candle Factory, at the confluence of Bromborough Pool with the river Mersey. The HER entry for Site 16 (HER 3484-18) states that the wall was built in 1858 from the confluence of Bromborough Pool with the river Mersey, south-eastwards to the boundary of the estate behind The Green. A gap and steps led from just in front of the last house in The Green, allowing villagers access to the shore. However, Prices had failed to obtain permission for the wall from the Conservator of the river Mersey. They had built the wall at a 15’6” tide line, but the minimum permitted was 21’, therefore they had to remove 50 or 60 feet and footings of the wall and re-erect it at the stipulated line. The wall

Assessment around the northern extent of the factory was retained, and the site visit found that it appears to be extant beneath the current concrete replacement structure. The site is within the proposed development area and may be affected by it.

Site number 32
Site name Metal findspot
NGR 334520 384210
Ref HER 3484-13
Designation None
Site type Findspot
Period Industrial
Sources HER
Description Findspot of metal from the period 1751-1835 was recovered from the area north-west of the Court House (Site 05).
Assessment The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number 33
Site name Well, Bromborough Court House
NGR 334530 384180
Ref HER 3484-22
Designation None
Site type Well (site of)
Period Industrial
Sources HER
Description A well noted in the HER, but not assigned a date. However as it is not noted on the OS maps from 1876 onwards it is likely to pre-date this.
Assessment The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

5 ASSESSMENT OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REMAINS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 Thirty-three sites, or heritage assets, have been identified within the study area. Sites **01-03**, **05-07**, **16-17**, **21-29** and **32-33** were identified from the HER and NMR, one of which was a scheduled monument (SM) (Site **01**). The remaining fourteen sites (Sites **04**, **08-15**, **18-20** and **30-31**) were identified through map regression and documentary research. Eight of the heritage assets are located within the proposed development area (Sites **05**, **08**, **17-19**, **25** and **30-31**). It should also be noted that there is a listed building within the proposed development area, the assessment of which can be found within a separate document specifically addressing the built heritage.

Period	No of Sites	Site Type
Neolithic/ Bronze Age	2	Flint findspots (02 and 03)
Iron Age	0	-
Romano-British	0	-
Early Medieval	0	-
Late Medieval	5	Court House moated site (01), a findspot - ring (04), ridge and furrow (07), a watercourse (24) and a woodland (29)
Post-medieval	1	Court House Farm (05)
Industrial	22	Factory buildings (18), quarries (06 and 16), lodge (08), housing (09-14 and 20), marl extraction area (19), findspots - pottery, fired clay and metal (21 , 26 and 32), a brickworks (22), an ironworks (23), a tileyard and associated cottage (27-28), a sea wall (31), and two wells (17 and 33)
Modern	1	Housing (15)
Undated	2	Findspot - weapons (25) and a creek (30)

Table 2: Number of sites by period

5.1.2 In its Planning Policy Statement 5, the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) advises that for proposed developments meriting assessment the ‘*significance of the heritage assets affected and their contribution of their setting to that significance*’ be understood in order to assess the potential impact (Policy HE6, PPS 5, DCLG 2010). Therefore, the following section will determine the nature and level of the significance of this archaeological resource, as detailed in *Sections 3* and *4*. This is an iterative process, beginning with the guideline criteria outlined in Table 3, below. In general terms, the recording of a heritage asset, e.g. HER, SM or listed building, and any subsequent grading thereafter, by its nature, determines its importance. However, this is further quantified by factors such as the existence of surviving remains or otherwise, its rarity, or whether it forms part of a

group. There are a number of different methodologies used to assess the archaeological significance of heritage assets, but that employed here (*Section 5.2*) is the ‘Secretary of State’s criteria for scheduling ancient monuments’ (Annex 1; DCMS 2010).

Importance	Examples of Heritage Asset
National	Scheduled Monuments (SMs), Grade I, II* and II Listed Buildings
Regional/County	Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens (Designated Heritage Assets) Sites and Monuments Record/Historic Environment Record
Local/Borough	Assets with a local or borough value or interest for cultural appreciation Assets that are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion into a higher grade
Low Local	Assets with a low local value or interest for cultural appreciation Assets that are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion into a higher grade
Negligible	Assets or features with no significant value or interest

Table 3: Guideline criteria used to determine Importance of Heritage Assets

5.2 QUANTIFICATION OF IMPORTANCE

- 5.2.1 The gazetteer sites previously listed (*Section 4*, above) were each considered using the criteria for scheduling ancient monuments, with the results below. This information will contribute to the overall assessment of the importance of each heritage asset.
- 5.2.2 **Period:** the flint findspots (Sites **02** and **03**) can be considered to be significant due to their period, as they add to the evidence for activity in the area in this period. The moated enclosure (Site **01**), ancient woodland (Site **29**) and watercourse (Site **24**) are also significant due to their period as they indicate that the land was being occupied and used during the medieval period.
- 5.2.3 **Rarity:** the flint findspots (Sites **02** and **03**) are relatively rare for the area and as such are significant as they provide evidence for prehistoric activity. The Court House moated site (Site **01**) is also relatively rare. The factory village buildings (Sites **08-14**, **18** and **20**) can also be considered to be rare as they were purpose built for the workers at the Price’s Candle Factory, and preceded Port Sunlight as a model village.
- 5.2.4 **Documentation:** this report includes a preliminary search of documentation from the most accessible resources. As the majority of the gazetteer sites date to the industrial period, it is highly likely that there are further associated documents, specifically the factory site (Site **18**) and the village (Sites **08-14** and **20**). The Unilever Archives at Port Sunlight holds a wealth of material on this area, including plans and aerial photographs. It is considered that further research may provide additional information beneficial to the understanding of the archaeological resource of the proposed development area.
- 5.2.5 **Group Value:** Site **18** represents the standing and demolished buildings relating to Price’s Candle Factory, and includes one original listed building.

This site, therefore, already represents a group. Site **31**, the sea wall, could be considered part of this group, which gives it some significance. The sites of former buildings identified within the factory village (Sites **08-15** and **20**), also have added significance when considered as a group.

- 5.2.6 Site **01**, the Court House medieval moated enclosure and Site **05**, the post-medieval farm/house partially on the site of the earlier enclosure, have group value as together they reinforce the importance of this area over a long period of time.
- 5.2.7 **Survival/Condition:** the survival of any buried remains of the original factory buildings (Site **18**) is not known as this area has been constantly redeveloped since it was first built in 1854. The eastern portion of the site contains some areas that do not appear to have been developed with factory buildings and, therefore, there is a potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains pre-dating the factory.
- 5.2.8 Although being dealt with in a separate assessment, it must be noted that there is a listed building on the proposed development site along with a substantial block of late nineteenth century factory buildings to the immediate east. However, this suggests that any intrusive development in these areas has been limited to the construction of these buildings, around which there is the potential for earlier remains, depending on the level of intrusion when compared to any archaeological deposits. In the northern area of the site are the facades of further late nineteenth century buildings, which front later warehouses. Again, the extent of intrusive activity needs to be assessed in accordance with the depth of potential surviving archaeological deposits.
- 5.2.9 Site **05**, the farm, and Site **08**, the lodge, were not demolished until 1969 (possibly pre-1967 for the lodge) and, aside from a depot building at the north-east extent of the site, this area has not been redeveloped. The site visit found that some truncation of these sites may have occurred as this area appears to have been levelled prior to the construction of the depot building and the laying down of the ground surface surrounding it. There is, however, still a possibility that truncated archaeological features survive in this area. Site **30** is a creek, infilled by the factory construction, and thought to have been used to drain the village sewers into the Mersey. The survival of any archaeological deposits associated with the creek is therefore not known. The site visit found that the original brick factory sea wall (Site **31**) has been superseded by a concrete structure. However, elements of the brick wall can be seen in dilapidated areas of the concrete structure. In addition, features associated with the wall, such as mooring posts and timber bollards or fenders, survive across the site.
- 5.2.10 **Fragility/Vulnerability:** there are eight gazetteer sites located within the proposed development area (Sites **05**, **08**, **17-19**, **25** and **30-31**). Sites **05**, **08** and **17-18** include the sites of former structures, which may survive as below ground remains. These sites are located in areas proposed for redevelopment and, consequently, are vulnerable. Site **19** is an area of marl extraction, and therefore not of archaeological value. Site **25** is a findspot and so cannot be further affected by development, although any associated finds would be vulnerable. Site **30** is a creek, infilled by the factory construction and thought to have been used to drain the village sewers into the Mersey. The survival of

any archaeological deposits associated with the creek is not known, and its vulnerability is therefore also not known. It is not clear how well the brick factory sea wall (Site **31**) survives beneath the current concrete structure, and it is not known what the development proposals are for the wall as it is on the boundary of the proposed development site.

- 5.2.11 Site **01**, lies outside of, but adjacent to the proposed development area. This is the moated enclosure of the Court House and is a scheduled monument. An excavation of the site in 1979 revealed some peaty deposits, and pollen samples showed continued wet conditions at the site. It is possible, then, that there may be some preservation by waterlogging of archaeological deposits. The site is, therefore, possibly vulnerable to indirect impacts during development, such as drainage causing desiccation of waterlogged archaeological remains.
- 5.2.12 **Diversity:** Sites **01** and **05**, considered as a group, demonstrate the evolution of a medieval moated enclosure, to an important post-medieval house to an industrial period farm and residence for the factory workers. The gazetteer sites as a whole are also quite diverse, as they include prehistoric findspots, the medieval moated enclosure, the post-medieval farm, and industrial period works and housing.
- 5.2.13 **Potential:** findspots within the proposed development area, and in the wider area suggest that there is some potential for further prehistoric evidence within the proposed development area. There are no Roman or early medieval sites within the study area, and the potential for the discovery of archaeological remains from these periods is thought to be low. It is clear from the moated enclosure (Site **01**), ridge and furrow (Site **07**), and place-name evidence (Sites **24** and **29**) that there was some occupation of this area during the medieval period. There is, therefore, some potential for further medieval discoveries to be made within the proposed development area, particularly in the south-west portion of the site where it borders the boundary of the moated enclosure (Site **01**). There is also potential for post-medieval finds and features from within the proposed development area. In particular, there may be below ground remains of the Court House Farm (Site **05**) in the south-west portion of the proposed development area.
- 5.2.14 The majority of the sites within the gazetteer relate to the industrial period use of the area, particularly from 1854 onwards, when Price's Candle Factory (Site **18**) and the associated village (Sites **08-15** and **20**) was constructed. The proposed development area is highly likely to contain buried remains of former factory buildings as well as other possible features and finds dating from this period to the present day.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS OF IMPORTANCE

- 5.3.1 Using the guideline criteria outlined in Table 3, together with further quantification (*Section 5.2*), and informed professional judgement, each of the sites listed in the gazetteer has been assessed for importance as a site of archaeological interest (Table 4). The Court House moated site and fishponds (Site **01**) is considered to be of *national importance*, due to its scheduled status. The prehistoric findspots (Sites **02-03**) have been rated as being of

regional/county importance, due to their relative rarity, and they also highlight the potential for further remains from these periods within the proposed development area. The Court House building (Site **05**) has also been rated as being of *regional/county importance*, due to its period and group value with the scheduled moated site Site **01**, indicating the longevity of the use of this area first as a moated enclosure, then an important post-medieval house, to an industrial period farm and residence for the workers at Price's Factory and Port Sunlight. Although it has been demolished, surviving below ground remains are quite probable, and vulnerable to the effects of the development.

- 5.3.2 Whilst Sites **06-07**, **16-17**, **21-29** and **32-33** have been identified by the HER and/or NMR and would be rated as being of *regional/county importance* in accordance with the guidelines (Table 3), consideration of each site on an individual basis has led to them being downgraded due to either the type of site or their survival. Sites **06** and **16** are quarries and therefore of little archaeological interest, and consequently have been rated as of *low local importance*. Site **07** is an area of ridge and furrow of *local/borough importance*. This is only of any significance due to its probable medieval date. Sites **17** and **33** are wells and cannot be considered to be more than of *low local importance*. The medieval and later findspots (Sites **04**, **21**, **26** and **32**) have all been considered to be of *low local importance*. The exception to this is the weapons findspot (Site **25**), although it is undated, there is an implication that it may have been associated with the Battle of Brumanburh, and so it has been rated as of *local/borough importance*. The former industrial works (Sites **22**, **23** and **27**), and an associated cottage (Site **28**) have all been considered to be of *local/borough importance*. A medieval watercourse (Site **24**) and an area of medieval woodland (Site **29**) testify to the occupation and use of the area in the medieval period, and so they are of *local/borough importance* but cannot be ascribed to being of *regional/county importance*.
- 5.3.3 Of the remaining sites, the former buildings within the factory village (Sites **08-15** and **20**), the site of the candle factory (Site **18**), and the sea wall north of the factory (Site **31**), are all considered to be of *regional/county importance*; as individual sites, the factory village buildings and sea wall may not be so significant, but due to their group value as an early example of a model village, this has upgraded their importance.
- 5.3.4 An infilled creek beneath the factory site (Site **30**), is considered to be of *low local importance* as it is not known what, if any, of this feature remains below ground. An area of marl extraction (Site **19**) is not of archaeological interest and is considered to be of *negligible importance*.

No	Site name	Importance
01	Bromborough Court House moated site	National
02	Neolithic flint findspot	Regional/ County
03	Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age flint findspot	Regional/ County
04	Medieval ring findspot	Low Local

No	Site name	Importance
05	Court House farmhouse	Regional/ County
06	Quarry	Low Local
07	Ridge and Furrow	Local/ Borough
08	Lodge (Site of)	Local/ Borough individually, Regional/ County as a group with 09-15, 18, 20
09	North Side of York Street (Site of)	Local/ Borough, individually Regional/ County as a group with 08, 10-15, 18, 20
10	South Side of York Street (Site of)	Local/ Borough individually, Regional/ County as a group with 08-09, 11-15, 18, 20
11	North Side of Manor Place (Site of)	Local/ Borough, individually Regional/ County as a group with 08-10, 12-15, 18, 20
12	South Side of Manor Place (west end) (Site of)	Local/ Borough individually, Regional/ County as a group with 08-11, 13-15, 18, 20
13	West End of South View (Site of)	Local/ Borough individually, Regional/ County as a group with 08-12, 14-15, 18, 20
14	South Side of Manor Place (central) (Site of)	Local/ Borough individually, Regional/ County as a group with 08-13, 15, 18, 20
15	Buildings at the north end of The Green (Site of)	Local/ Borough individually, Regional/ County as a group with 08-14, 18, 20
16	Quarry	Low Local
17	Well	Low Local
18	Price's Patent Candle Factory	Local/ Borough individually, Regional/ County as a group with 08-15, 20
19	Marl Extraction	Negligible
20	Pair of houses on The Green	Local/ Borough individually, Regional/ County as a group with 08-15, 18
21	Mid-late nineteenth century pottery findspot	Low Local
22	New Ferry Brickworks	Local/ Borough
23	New Ferry Iron Working Site	Local/ Borough
24	Watercourse	Local/ Borough
25	Undated weapons findspot	Local/ Borough
26	Industrial period fired clay and tile findspot	Low Local
27	Old Tileyard	Local/ Borough
28	Tileyard Cottage	Local/ Borough
29	Rice Wood	Local/ Borough
30	Creek	Low Local
31	Sea Wall	Local/ Borough

No	Site name	Importance
32	Industrial period fired metal findspot	Low Local
33	Well	Low Local

Table 4: Importance of each gazetteer site

6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 IMPACT

6.1.1 Archaeological remains are ‘*a finite, irreplaceable and fragile resource*’ (DCMS 2010). Therefore, it has been the intention of this study to identify the archaeological significance and potential of the study area, and assess the impact of the proposals (as indicated on the masterplan: *Bromborough Pool Village Land Use - Options 04 & 05*), thus allowing the advice of PPS 5 (DCLG 2010) to be enacted upon. Assessment of impact has been achieved by the following method:

- assessing any potential impact and the significance of the effects arising from the proposals;
- reviewing the evidence for past impacts that may have affected the archaeological sites;
- outlining suitable mitigation measures, where possible at this stage, to avoid, reduce or remedy adverse archaeological impacts, or suggestions for further investigation where necessary.

6.1.2 The impact is assessed in terms of the importance, or sensitivity, of the site to the magnitude of change or potential scale of impact during the proposed scheme. The magnitude, or scale, of an impact is often difficult to define, but will be termed substantial, moderate, slight, or negligible, as shown in Table 5, below.

Scale of Impact	Description
Substantial	Significant change in environmental factors; Complete destruction of the site or feature; Change to the heritage asset resulting in a fundamental change in ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its cultural heritage or archaeological value/historical context and setting.
Moderate	Significant change in environmental factors; Change to the heritage asset resulting in an appreciable change in ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its cultural heritage or archaeological value/historical context and setting.
Slight	Change to the heritage asset resulting in a small change in our ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its cultural heritage or archaeological value/historical context and setting.
Negligible	Negligible change or no material changes to the heritage asset. No real change in our ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its cultural heritage or archaeological value/historical context and setting.

Table 5: Criteria used to determine Scale of Impact

6.1.3 The scale of impact, when weighted against the importance of the archaeological site, produces the impact significance. This may be calculated by using the matrix shown in Table 6, below.

Resource Value (Importance)	Scale of Impact Upon Heritage Asset			
	Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
National	Major	Major	Intermediate/Minor	Neutral
Regional/County	Major	Major/Intermediate	Minor	Neutral
Local/Borough	Intermediate	Intermediate	Minor	Neutral
Local (low)	Intermediate / Minor	Minor	Minor/Neutral	Neutral
Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

Table 6: Impact Significance Matrix

6.1.4 The extent of any previous disturbance to buried archaeological levels is an important factor in assessing the potential impact of the development scheme. The north-eastern portion of the proposed development area was subject to marl extraction (Site **19**) for the construction of Price's Factory, and it is likely that any features pre-dating the mid-nineteenth century in this area would already have been damaged. The area of Price's Candle Factory (Site **18**) has seen many additions and redevelopments since its original construction in 1854. It is, therefore, not known what below ground remains of the original factory buildings survive. There is a listed building on the proposed development site along with a substantial block of late nineteenth century factory buildings to the immediate east, and in the northern area of the site are the facades of further late nineteenth century buildings. These standing structures should have been assessed in a separate document specifically addressing the built heritage. However, depending on the depth of any potential buried archaeological deposits, the survival of these nineteenth century structures suggests limited development. Therefore, any surviving below ground remains in these areas may be vulnerable to effects from the proposed development.

6.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT

6.2.1 Following on from the above considerations, the significance of effects has been determined based on an assumption that there will be earth-moving and other modification/additional works associated with the development, and that the present condition of the heritage assets/gazetteer sites is known or assumed. The results are summarised in Table 7, below, in the absence of mitigation. *The following will require review once detailed design proposals are known.*

Site No.	Site name	Nature of Impact	Scale of Impact	Impact Significance
01	Bromborough Court House moated site	The site is outwith the proposed development area and will not be directly impacted by it. However, it lies adjacent to the proposed development area boundary and therefore needs to be considered for indirect impacts, such as drying out of waterlogged remains.	Unknown	Unknown
02	Neolithic flint findspot	None	Neutral	Neutral
03	Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age flint findspot	None	Neutral	Neutral
04	Medieval ring findspot	None	Neutral	Neutral
05	Court House farmhouse	Possible disturbance of surviving below ground remains	Moderate	Major/ Intermediate
06	Quarry	None	Neutral	Neutral
07	Ridge and Furrow	None	Neutral	Neutral
08	Lodge (site of)	Possible disturbance of below ground remains	Substantial	Major/ Intermediate
09	North Side of York Street (site of)	None	Neutral	Neutral
10	South Side of York Street (site of)	None	Neutral	Neutral
11	North Side of Manor Place (site of)	None	Neutral	Neutral
12	South Side of Manor Place (west end) (site of)	None	Neutral	Neutral
13	West End of South View (site of)	None	Neutral	Neutral
14	South Side of Manor Place (central) (site of)	None	Neutral	Neutral
15	Buildings at the north end of The Green (site of)	None	Neutral	Neutral
16	Quarry	None	Neutral	Neutral
17	Well	Possible disturbance of below ground remains	Slight	Minor/ Neutral
18	Price's Patent Candle Factory	Possible disturbance of below ground (and standing) remains	Substantial	Major/ Intermediate
19	Marl Extraction	Negligible	Negligible	Neutral

Site No.	Site name	Nature of Impact	Scale of Impact	Impact Significance
20	Pair of houses on The Green	None	Neutral	Neutral
21	Mid-late nineteenth century pottery findspot	None	Neutral	Neutral
22	New Ferry Brickworks	None	Neutral	Neutral
23	New Ferry Iron Working Site	None	Neutral	Neutral
24	Watercourse	None	Neutral	Neutral
25	Undated weapons findspot	The site is a findspot and therefore cannot be further impacted. However, any surviving further associated finds could be impacted.	Unknown	Unknown
26	Industrial period fired clay and tile findspot	None	Neutral	Neutral
27	Old Tileyard	None	Neutral	Neutral
28	Tileyard Cottage	None	Neutral	Neutral
29	Rice Wood	None	Neutral	Neutral
30	Creek	Possible disturbance of below ground remains	Unknown	Unknown
31	Sea Wall	Possible disturbance to existing structure/below ground remains	Unknown	Unknown
32	Industrial period fired metal findspot	None	Neutral	Neutral
33	Well	None	Neutral	Neutral

Table 7: Assessment of the impact significance on each site during development

6.2.2 Table 7 indicates that there are four sites which are likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed development (Sites **05**, **08** and **17-18**) with a further four whose impact is not known (Sites **01**, **25** and **30-31**). The most significant impact of the proposed development would be on the site of Court House Farm (Site **05**), due not only to its archaeological importance, including its group value with Site **01**, but also to its likelihood for survival as below ground remains. The impact of the proposed scheme has been rated as *moderate*, and the significance of this as *major/intermediate*. The impact of the proposed scheme on the scheduled moated enclosure, Site **01**, is *unknown*. The map regression would suggest that the remains of this site are just outwith the proposed development area boundary, although the indirect impacts of the proposed development on it, such as the drying out of any waterlogged deposits through the drainage of the proposed development site could have a significant impact.

- 6.2.3 The impact of the proposed scheme on the site of the former lodge (Site **08**) has been considered to be *substantial*, as this area is outlined for development; and the survival of below ground remains of this site is thought to be good, as the area has not been previously redeveloped. The impact of the proposed development on the remains has, consequently, been considered to be *intermediate* to *major*.
- 6.2.4 Similarly, the impact of the proposed scheme on the factory (Site **18**) has been considered to be *substantial*, as this area is outlined for redevelopment. The survival of below ground remains of this site is not known as it has seen many phases of expansion and redevelopment since its construction in 1854. The impact of the proposed development on this site is further complicated by the fact that there are nineteenth century buildings still standing on the site, one of which is listed. Cross reference with the built heritage assessment of the site is required in order to fully assess the impact of the proposed scheme on this site; elements of the early buildings may survive within later buildings, which has limited potential disturbance on any surviving pre-factory remains in and around these buildings. Nevertheless, based on present knowledge the impact of the proposed scheme, it has been rated as *intermediate* to *major* (particularly if taken in terms of group value).
- 6.2.5 The impact of the proposed development on the site of the well (Site **17**) has been rated as *slight* due to its low archaeological importance. The significance of impact of the proposed development on it has therefore been rated as *minor/neutral*.
- 6.2.6 In the case of three sites, Sites **25**, **30**, and **31**, it has not been possible to assess the significance of impact of the proposed development. Whilst the weapons findspot (Site **25**) cannot be further impacted by its very nature, it indicates the potential for further finds of this type to be discovered within the proposed development area. The site is, therefore, potentially archaeologically significant, but the impact of the proposed development on it cannot be assessed. The survival of the infilled creek (Site **30**) beneath the factory site is unknown, whilst any remains of it could be of archaeological importance, it is not possible to assess the impact of the proposed development on this site. The survival of the original brick sea wall (Site **31**) beneath the current concrete wall is not known. These sites are, therefore, not to be dismissed, rather consideration of them needs to be made during any further assessment work.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

7.1.1 A desk-based assessment is usually the first stage of an iterative process of investigating the archaeological resource within the proposed development area. Having identified the potential for archaeological remains, the significance of these remains, and the significance of the impact by the development, further investigation is required to determine the exact nature, survival, extent, and date of the remains. However, in terms of the requirement for further archaeological investigation, it is necessary to consider only those heritage assets identified in the desk-based assessment that will be affected by the proposed development. Such further investigation would strive to reach a stage wherein a mitigation strategy can be agreed for affected sites: current legislation draws a distinction between designated heritage assets and other remains considered to be of lesser significance; *‘There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be...substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings and grade I and II* registered parks and gardens and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional’* (Policy HE9.1, PPS 5; DCLG 2010), and thereby preserved *in situ*. It is normally accepted that non-designated sites will be preserved by record, in accordance with their significance and the magnitude of the harm to or loss of the site as a result of the proposals, to *‘avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset’s conservation and any aspect of the proposals’* (Policy HE 7.2, *ibid*).

7.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

7.2.1 The Court House moated site (Site **01**) is a scheduled monument whose boundary lies adjacent to that of the proposed development area (Fig 2). The site needs to be considered for indirect impacts, such as the drying out of any waterlogged deposits through the drainage of the proposed development site. Consultation on this matter should be made with English Heritage in the first instance once full construction details are known.

7.2.2 There are eight gazetteer sites positioned within the proposed development area (Sites **05, 08, 17-20, 25** and **30-31**), and one just outwith the proposed development area (Site **01**), that could be indirectly impacted. No further work is likely to be required for the lodge (Site **08**) as there is likely to be sufficient documentary evidence to negate the requirement to excavate. Site **19**, an area of marl extraction, is not considered to be of any archaeological significance and so no further archaeological work is required. No further archaeological work has been recommended in the area of the weapons findspot (Site **25**), although it is possible that further associated finds may be made during any

groundworks at the site. Recommendations for the remaining five sites are outlined in Table 8 below.

7.2.3 **Borehole data:** any data available from previous or associated geotechnical investigations across the proposed development area should be examined as this will assist with establishing depths of made ground and undisturbed geological layers beneath the site, together with any areas that have been little disturbed wherein pre-factory archaeological remains may survive. Should trial trenching take place as part of the next stage of archaeological work, it will also be necessary to establish areas of potential contamination sustained through the industrial processes, that should be avoided during fieldwork. It may also indicate the extent of waterlogging that could be altered by drainage associated with the proposed development. This could have implications for any waterlogged archaeological deposits, for instance, in association with the Court House moated enclosure (Site **01**).

7.1.5 **Archaeological evaluation trenching:** a programme of trial trenching should take place to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains across the proposed development area. This will be of particular interest in the area of Site **05**, Court House Farm, which has been occupied since at least the eleventh century, and around the candle factory (Site **18**) in areas that appear to have seen no, or limited, development (particularly in the eastern area of the site). Such areas may contain evidence for medieval activity, but there is also the potential for prehistoric remains. It is hoped such areas of interest for trenching could also be established from the results of a geotechnical site investigation. The report on any fieldwork carried out should include further detailed research in relation to the findings, for instance on specific factory buildings.

Gaz no	Description	Importance	Impact Significance	Recommendations
01	Bromborough Court House moated site	National	Possible indirect impact, but unknown significance	Consultation with English Heritage in the first instance
05	Court House farmhouse	Regional/ County	Major/ Intermediate	Possible targeted trial trenching on affected areas
08	Lodge (site of)	Local/Borough	Intermediate	Possible further documentary investigation, but no requirement to excavate
17	Well	Regional/ County	Minor	On-site assessment and record as required during construction phase
18	Price's Patent Candle Factory	Local/Borough	Intermediate	Possible targeted trial trenching on affected areas
19	Marl Extraction	Negligible	Neutral	None

Gaz no	Description	Importance	Impact Significance	Recommendations
20	Pair of houses on The Green	Local/Borough	Neutral	None
25	Undated weapons findspot	Regional/County	Neutral	None - although the surrounding area may benefit by maintaining a watching brief
30	Creek	Low Local	Unknown	None
31	Sea wall	Local/Borough	Unknown	Unknown until development proposals are confirmed – probable on-site assessment and record as required during construction phase

Table 8: Summary of site-specific recommendations for further archaeological investigation

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.3 DISCUSSION

- 8.3.1 The earliest archaeological evidence within the study area is represented by two findspots of Neolithic/Bronze Age flints (Sites **02** and **03**), with further findspots in the environs of the study area indicating prehistoric activity, although there is no other evidence for settlement in the area. There are no known Roman sites within the study area, but there was a Roman settlement on the north-west tip of the Wirral at Meols, as well as a road connecting it to Chester. Consequently, there are findspots of Roman coins from the wider area, including some from Bromborough. Whilst there is good historic evidence for early medieval activity, in the form of Viking settlement on the Wirral, there are few physical remains dating to this period, and none from within the study area. However, a findspot of undated weapons on the factory site (Site **25**), may have been associated with the Battle of Brumanburh in AD 937.
- 8.3.2 A probable medieval moated site (Site **01**) is situated immediately outside of the south-western boundary, and further medieval sites in the form of a findspot (Site **04**), place-name evidence (Sites **24** and **29**), and ridge and furrow are just outside of the south-east boundary of the proposed development area (Site **07**). These all testify to medieval activity within and around the study area. By the post-medieval period, a house, known as the Court House (Site **05**), was established on the site of the moated enclosure and, by the late seventeenth century, this had become part of the estate of the Mainwarings, who had much influence in the area.
- 8.3.3 In 1853, part of the Mainwaring estate was sold to the Wilson brothers, for the construction of a Price's Patent Candle Factory (Site **18**), taking advantage of the proximity to the port of Liverpool, where the main ingredients for their candles, palm oil, was imported. A village for the factory workers, Bromborough Pool Village (Sites **08-14** and **20**), was constructed to the immediate south-east of the factory, within the current proposed development site. At this time, the Court House was occupied by a tenant farmer and, soon after, part of the house was occupied by a number of factory workers. In 1905, the Mainwarings sold the Court House and its land to the Lever Brothers, who had established their soap factory and village, Port Sunlight, to the west in 1888. In 1921, Lever Brothers decided to use the western wing, and built an annexe to provide accommodation for two of their managers and families. However, the eastern wing continued to be used as a farmhouse until shortly before its demolition in 1969.
- 8.3.4 In 1919, Price's was taken over by Lever Brothers Ltd at Port Sunlight. Lever Brothers were now diversifying within the fats market, and had interests in margarine, candles and possible other new products. By taking over Price's, who not only produced candles, but soap and other fat and oil products, they were diversifying as well as removing a rival firm. In 1922, a jointly owned company, named Candles Ltd, was formed between Lever Brothers and the

companies that are now Shell, BP and Burmah Oil. In 1929, the Unilever group was formed by the merger of Lever Brothers and the Dutch Company, Margarine Unie. In 1936, Unilever came out of Candles Ltd, and took the Bromborough Works with it. The Bromborough Works continued to specialise in fatty acids, operating as part of Unichems Ltd in the later twentieth century. The factory was closed in 2009 and the site is no longer in use.

- 8.3.5 In total, 33 sites have been identified within the study area, eight of which are within the proposed development area, and may be directly impacted by the proposed development (Sites **05**, **08**, **17-19**, **25** and **30-31**), whilst there is one that may be indirectly impacted (Site **01**).
- 8.3.6 The moated site, Site **01**, is considered to be of national importance, due to its scheduled status, and Court House, Site **05**, is considered to be of regional/county importance, both due to its period and group value with Site **01**. The two sites indicate the longevity of the use of this area, first as a moated enclosure, then an important post-medieval house, through to being an industrial period farm and residence for the workers at Price's Factory and Port Sunlight. The impact of the proposed scheme on the scheduled moated enclosure, Site **01**, is unknown. The map regression would suggest that the remains of this site are just outwith the proposed development area boundary. However, the indirect impacts of the proposed development on it, such as the desiccation of any waterlogged deposits through the drainage of the proposed development site, could have a significant impact. Aside from one new building, Site **05** has not been redeveloped since its demolition in 1969 and, consequently, there is good potential for archaeological remains of this site to survive below ground. The impact of the proposed development on it has been assessed as *major/intermediate*.
- 8.3.7 A findspot of undated weapons (Site **25**), possibly associated with the Battle of Brumanburh, and therefore pre-dating the moated site, Site **01**, has been rated as of local/borough importance. Whilst the findspot cannot be further impacted, it indicates the potential for further finds of this type to be discovered within the proposed development area. The site is therefore archaeologically significant, but the impact of the proposed development on it site cannot be assessed.
- 8.3.8 Price's Factory (Site **18**) is considered to be of *local/borough* importance. The survival of below ground remains of the factory is not known as it has seen many phases of expansion and redevelopment since its construction in 1854. The impact of the proposed development on this site is further complicated by the fact that there are nineteenth century buildings still standing on the site, one of which is listed. Cross reference with the built heritage assessment of the site is required in order to fully assess the impact of the proposed scheme. The area of Site **08** is outlined for redevelopment, and has not been redeveloped since its demolition. The potential for below ground remains of this site is therefore good, although documentary evidence exists for this site. The impact of the proposed development on this site, based on present knowledge, has been rated as *major/intermediate*.

- 8.3.9 The sea wall (Site **31**) is considered to be of *local/borough* importance, although its significance may be slightly enhanced due to its group value with the factory (Site **18**). The site visit found that the original brick wall has been built over by a concrete structure, although dilapidated areas of the concrete structure revealed the brick wall beneath. The proposals for this area of the site are not known, and therefore it has not been possible to make an assessment of the impact of the development on the wall.
- 8.3.10 The well (Site **17**) has been rated as of *low* archaeological importance, the significance of impact of the proposed development on it has, therefore, been rated as *minor/neutral*. An infilled creek beneath the factory site (Site **30**), is also considered to be of *low local* importance as it is not known what, if any, of this feature remains below ground, hence it is not possible to assess the impact of the proposed development on this site. Additionally, Site **19**, an area of marl extraction is of no archaeological interest, and so is considered to be of *negligible* importance, and any impact on it is considered to have a *neutral* effect.
- 8.3.11 A programme of trial trenching has been recommended for the proposed development area, to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains, particularly those pre-dating the establishment of the factory. The results of a geotechnical site investigation would be pertinent to any further work, and should be examined prior to any trial trenching, to inform on below ground information, i.e. made ground, extensive disturbance or quarrying, and on areas of potential contamination.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

9.1 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Bromborough Tithe, 1840 (accessed through <http://maps.Cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps> ref EDT 70/2)

Bryant, A, *Map of Cheshire 1831*

Burdett, PP, 1777, *A Survey of the County Palatine of Chester*, Hist Soc Lancashire Cheshire, occ ser, **1** (1974)

Mainwaring Estate Map of Bromborough c 1755 (Cheshire Record Office VPHS/BROM/1)

Ordnance Survey, First Edition, 25" to 1 mile, Cheshire Sheet XIII.16, 1876

Ordnance Survey, First Edition, 6" to 1 mile, Cheshire Sheets XIII and XIV, 1882

Ordnance Survey, Second Edition, 25" to 1 mile, Cheshire Sheet XIII.16, 1899

Ordnance Survey, 25" to 1 mile, Cheshire Sheets XIII.16 and XIV.14, 1912

Ordnance Survey, 25" to 1 mile, Cheshire Sheet XIII.16, 1927

Ordnance Survey, 25" to 1 mile, Cheshire Sheet XIII.16, 1936

Ordnance Survey, 25" to 1 mile, Cheshire Sheet XIII.16, 1956

Ordnance Survey, 1:10,560, 1965

Ordnance Survey, 1:10,560, 1976

Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1987, *Soils of the Liverpool District*, Sheet 108, 1:50000

Swire and Hutching's, *Map of Cheshire, 1830*

9.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

Cavill, P, 2000, Major Place-Names of the Wirral: A Gazetteer, in Cavill, P, Harding, SE, and Jesch, J, *Wirral and its Viking Heritage*, English Place-Name Soc, pop ser, **2**, Nottingham

Chitty, G, 1979, Bromborough Court House - A Further Note, in *Journal of Merseyside Archaeology Vol 2 1979*, 81

Chitty, G, 1980, *Wirral Rural Fringes Survey*, Merseyside Arch Soc, Liverpool

- Connah, GE, 1954, Bromborough Water Mill, *Bromborough Society Annual Report 21, 1953-1954*
- Countryside Commission, 1998, *Countryside Character Volume 2: North West*, Cheltenham
- Cowell, RW, and Innes, JB, 1994, *The Wetlands of Merseyside*, North West Wetlands Survey **1**, Lancaster Imprints **2**, Lancaster
- Cowell, RW, and Philpott, RA, 2000, *Prehistoric, Romano-British and Medieval Settlement in Lowland North West England: Archaeological Excavations Along the A5300 Road Corridor in Merseyside*, Liverpool
- Crosby, A, 1996, *A History of Cheshire*, London
- Department of Communities and Local Government, 2010 *PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), 2010 *Scheduled Monuments: identifying, protecting, conserving and investigating nationally important archaeological sites under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*
- Dodgson, JMcN, 2000, The Background of Brunaburh, in Cavill, P, Harding, SE, and Jesch, J, *Wirral and its Viking Heritage*, English Place-Name Soc, pop ser, **2**, Nottingham
- English Heritage, 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), Swindon
- Freke, D, 1978 Bromborough Court House Moated Site Excavations 1979, in *Journal of Merseyside Archaeology Vol 2 1978*, 47-52
- Griffiths, D, Philpott, RA, and Egan, G, 2007 Meols: The Archaeology of the North Wirral Coast, Discoveries and Observations in the 19th and 20th Centuries with a Catalogue of Collections, *Oxford University School of Archaeology Monograph 68*, Institute of Archaeology, Oxford University
- Harding, SE, 2000, Location and Legends, in Cavill, P, Harding, SE, and Jesch, J, *Wirral and its Viking Heritage*, English Place-Name Soc, pop ser, **2**, Nottingham
- Hodgson, J, and Brennand, M, 2006 Prehistoric Period Resource Assessment, in *The Archaeology of North West England, An Archaeological Framework for North West England: Volume 1 Resource Assessment*, 23-58
- Higham, NJ, 1993, *The Origins of Cheshire*, Manchester
- Hume, A, 1863, *Ancient Meols*, London
- Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Desk-based Assessment*, Reading

Institute for Archaeologists, 2010 *Code of Conduct*, Reading

Jones, H, and Adams, M, 2007 *An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land Adjacent to Bromborough Court Moat, Pool Lane, Bromborough, Wirral*, Unpubl rep

Jones, K, 1978, Bromborough Manor Houses, *Merseyside Archaeological Services Journal vol 2*

LUAU 1994, *Cowpasture Wood, Bromborough, Wirral, Merseyside: Archaeological Evaluation*, unpubl rep

Mortimer, WW, 1847 *The History of the Hundred of Wirral*, London

Newman, R, 2006, The Early Medieval Period Resource Assessment, in *The Archaeology of North West England, An Archaeological Framework for North West England: Volume 1 Resource Assessment*, 91-114

OA North, 2007 *Land at Spital Road, Bromborough, Merseyside: Desk-Based Assessment and Evaluation*, unpubl rep

Philpott, R 2006, The Romano-British Period Resource Assessment, in *The Archaeology of North West England, An Archaeological Framework for North West England: Volume 1 Resource Assessment*, 59-90

Pigot, J and Co, 1834 *Commercial Directory for the County of Cheshire*, Manchester (1982 reprint)

Robinson, DP, and Whitbread, A, 1988, The Royal Forests of Cheshire, in *Cheshire Inventory Of Ancient Woodland (Provisional)*, Nature Conservancy Council Crda/43/Dd/2/6 <http://www.ndad.nationalarchives.gov.uk/CRDA/43/DD/2/6/text/display.html>

The Bromborough Society, 2000 *Bromborough in Times Past, Millenium Edition*, Bromborough

Tomlinson, P and Warhurst, M 1991 The Archaeology of Merseyside, *Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society* 7

Watson, A, 1966 *Price's Village. A Study of a Victorian Industrial and Social Experiment*, Bromborough

9.3 WEBSITES

Cheshire's Tithe Maps Online (Cheshire Record Office) - <http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/>

Price's Candles - <http://prices-candles.co.uk/history/historydetail.asp>

Promap - <http://www.promap.co.uk/>

The National Heritage List for England - <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx>

Unilever history - <http://www.unilever.com/aboutus/ourhistory/1920s/?WT.LHNAV=1920s>

10. ILLUSTRATIONS

10.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Gazetteer sites plan

Figure 3: Extract from Burdett's map of Cheshire, 1777

Figure 4: Extract from Swire and Hutching's map of Cheshire, 1830

Figure 5: Extract from Bryant's map of Cheshire, 1831

Figure 6: Extract from the Bromborough tithe map of 1840

Figure 7: Extract from the First Edition, 25" to 1 mile, Ordnance Survey map of 1876

Figure 8: Extract from the First Edition, 6" to 1 mile, Ordnance Survey map of 1882

Figure 9: Extract from the Second Edition, 25" to 1 mile, Ordnance Survey map of 1899

Figure 10: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1912

Figure 11: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1927

Figure 12: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1936

Figure 13: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1956

Figure 14: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1965

Figure 15: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1976

10.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Extract from the Mainwaring Estate map of 1755

Plate 2: A photograph of the proposed development area, dated to 1967, showing Court House Farm (Site **05**)

Plate 3: A photograph of the proposed development area dated to 1967

Plate 4: A photograph of the proposed development area dated to c 1987

Plate 5: A photograph of the proposed development area dated to c 1989

Plate 6: South-west boundary of the proposed development area, looking south-east

Plate 7: South-west boundary of the proposed development area, looking west

Plate 8: South-west boundary of the proposed development area, looking north-west

Plate 9: Listed building (LB no 215551), looking north-west

Plate 10: Late nineteenth century buildings, looking north

Plate 11: Sea wall (Site **31**), looking north-west

Plate 12: Sea wall (Site **31**), looking south-east

Plate 13: Remains of brick sea wall (Site **31**), looking south

Plate 14: Late nineteenth century facade at northern extent of site, looking south-west

Plate 15: Late nineteenth century facade at northern extent of site, looking south

Plate 16: Timber bollard on former edge of sea wall (Site **31**), looking west

Plate 17: General view from northern extent of site, looking south

Plate 18: General view from eastern extent of site, looking north

Plate 19: General view across site, looking north-west

Plate 20: General view across site to the listed building (LB no 215551), looking west

Plate 21: General view across site, looking west

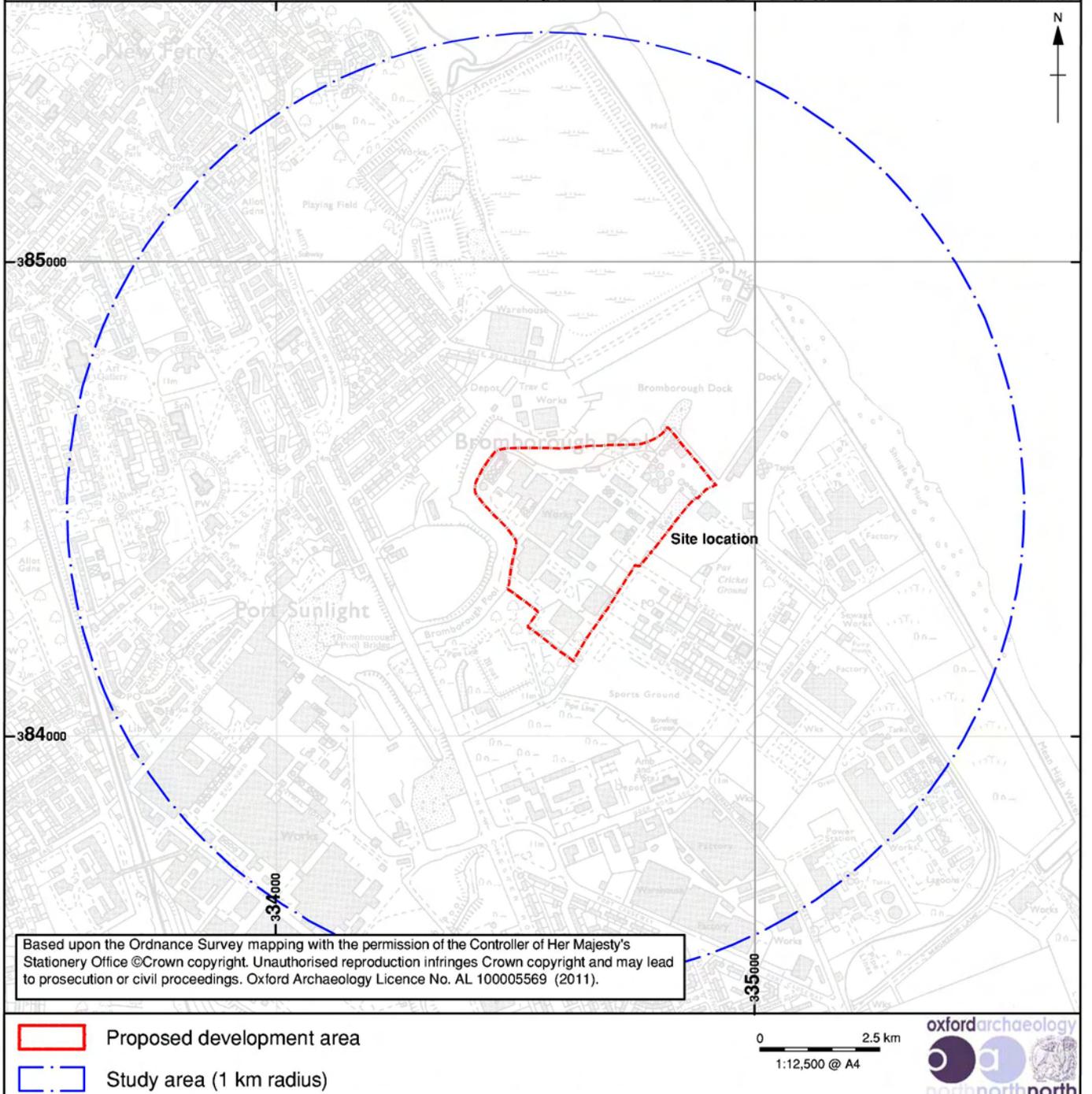
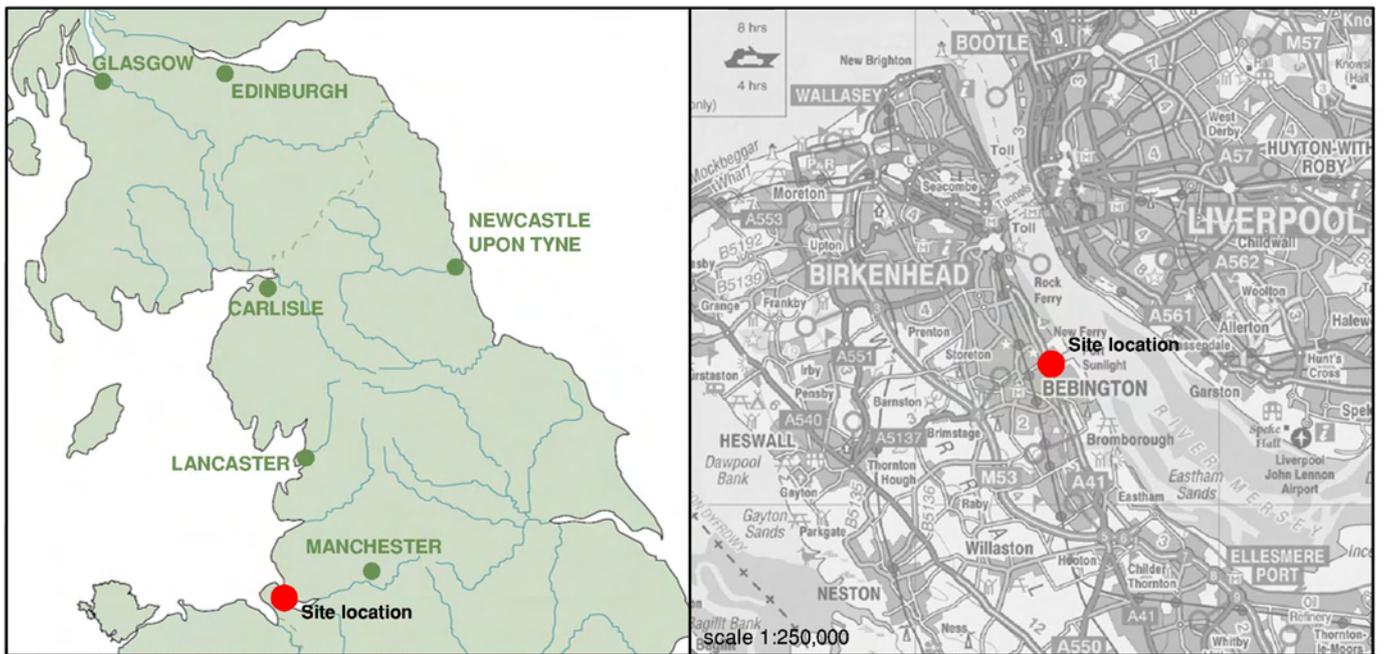
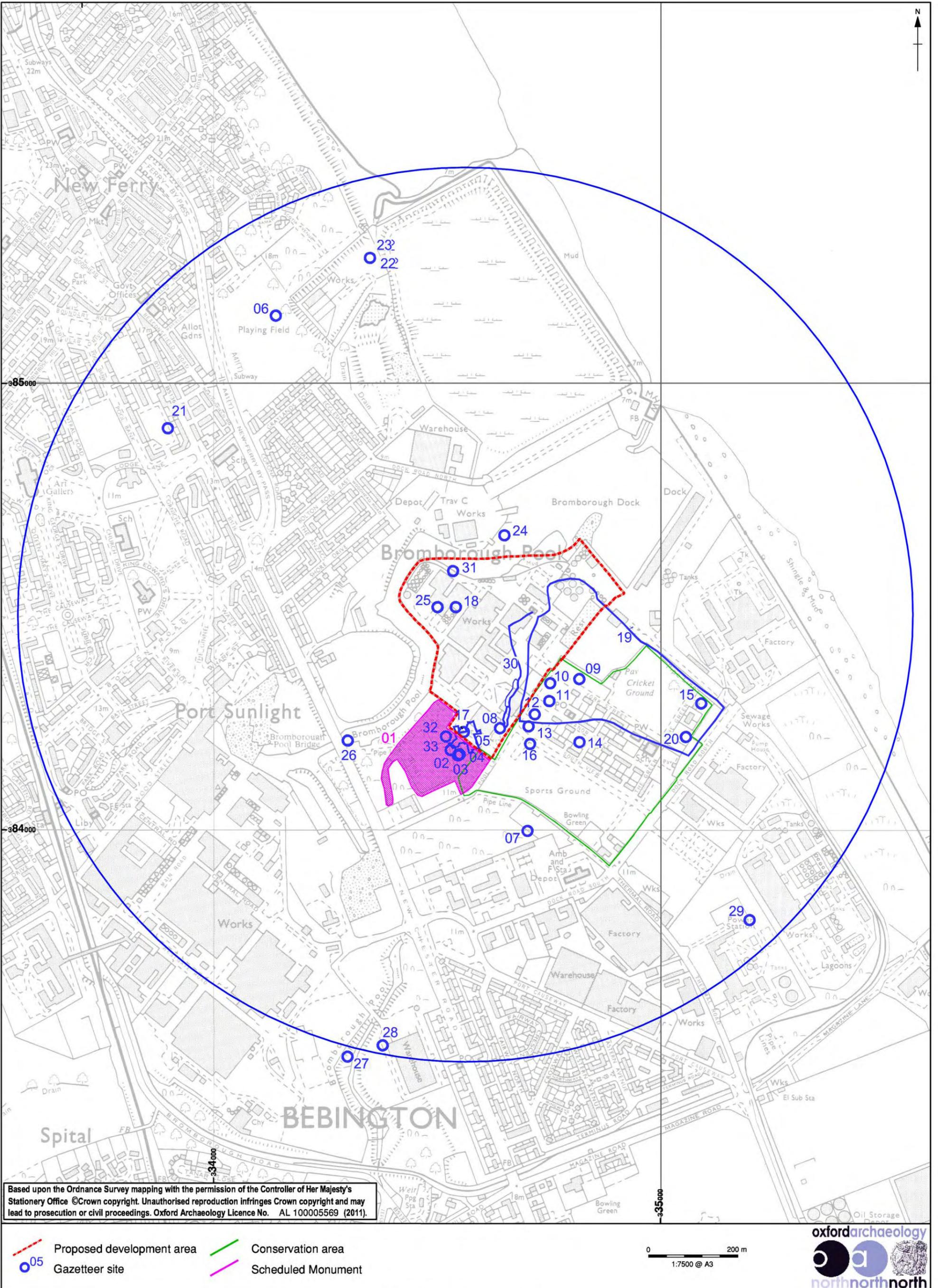


Figure 1: Site location



Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office ©Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Oxford Archaeology Licence No. AL 100005569 (2011).

- - - Proposed development area
- Conservation area
- 05 Gazetted site
- Scheduled Monument

0 200 m
1:7500 @ A3



Figure 2: Gazetted sites plan



Approximate position of proposed development site

Not to scale

Figure 3: Extract from Burdett's map of Cheshire, 1777

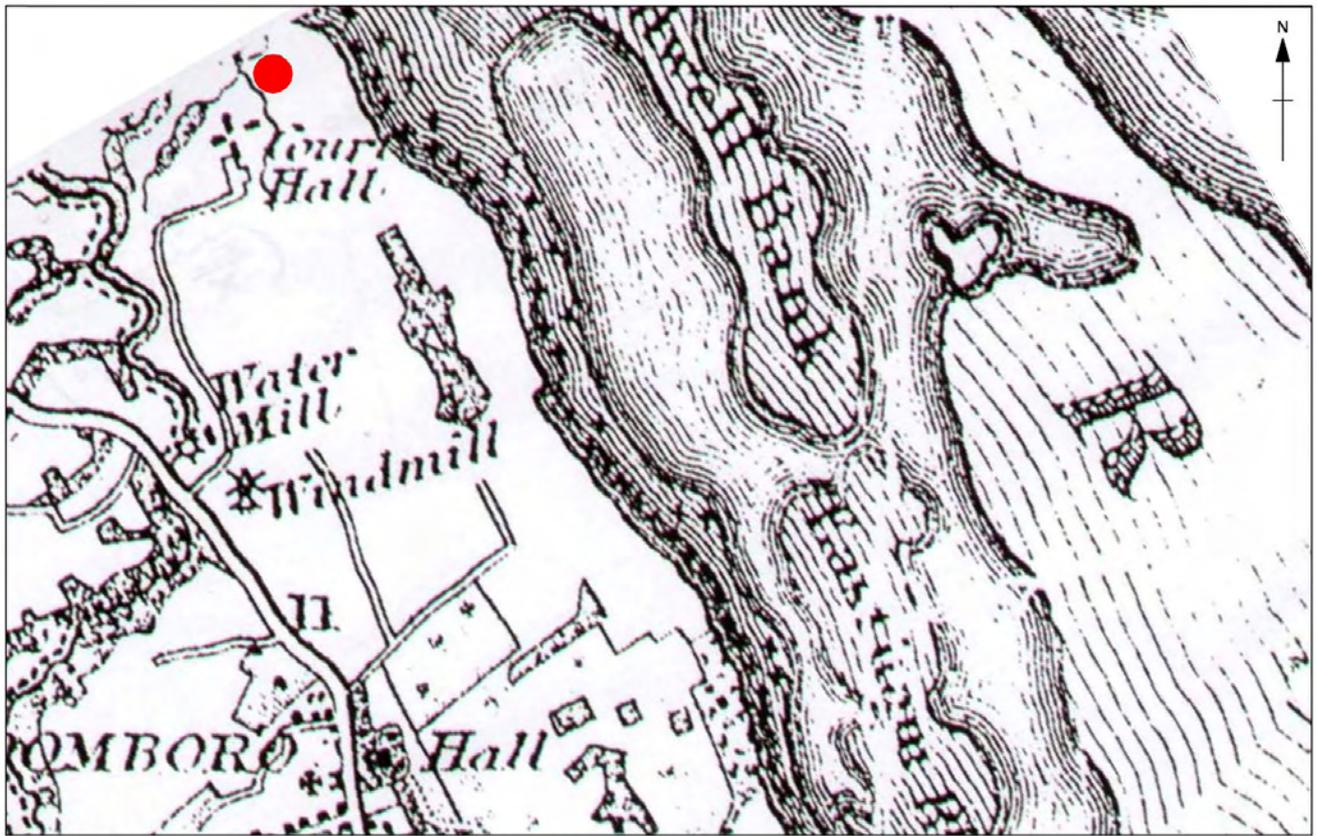


Figure 4: Extract from Swire and Hutchings' map of Cheshire, 1830



Figure 5: Extract from Bryant's map of Cheshire, 1831

 Approximate position of proposed development site

Not to scale

EM*L10380*/EJFMrev*Oct11



Figure 6: Extract from the Bromborough tithe map of 1840

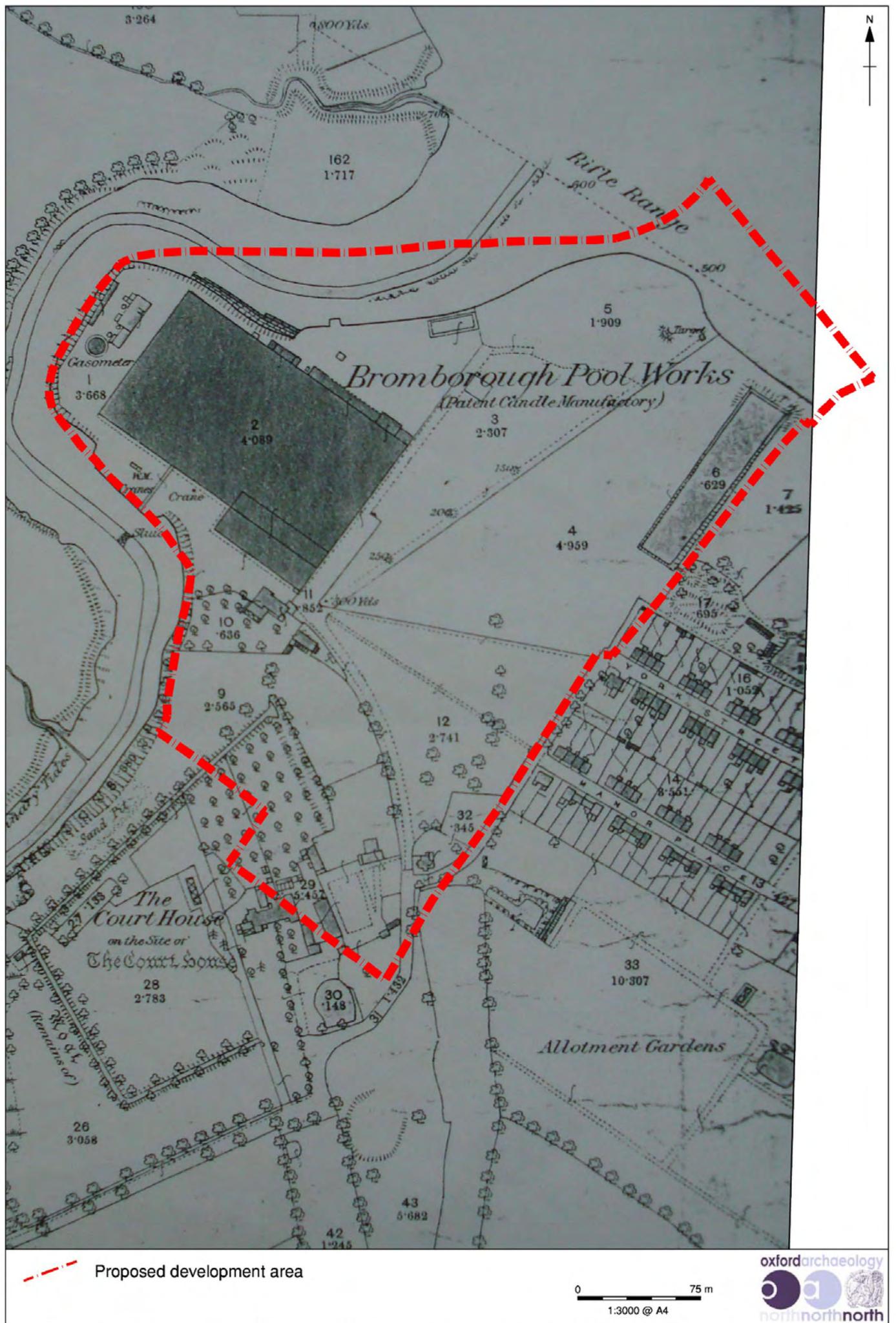
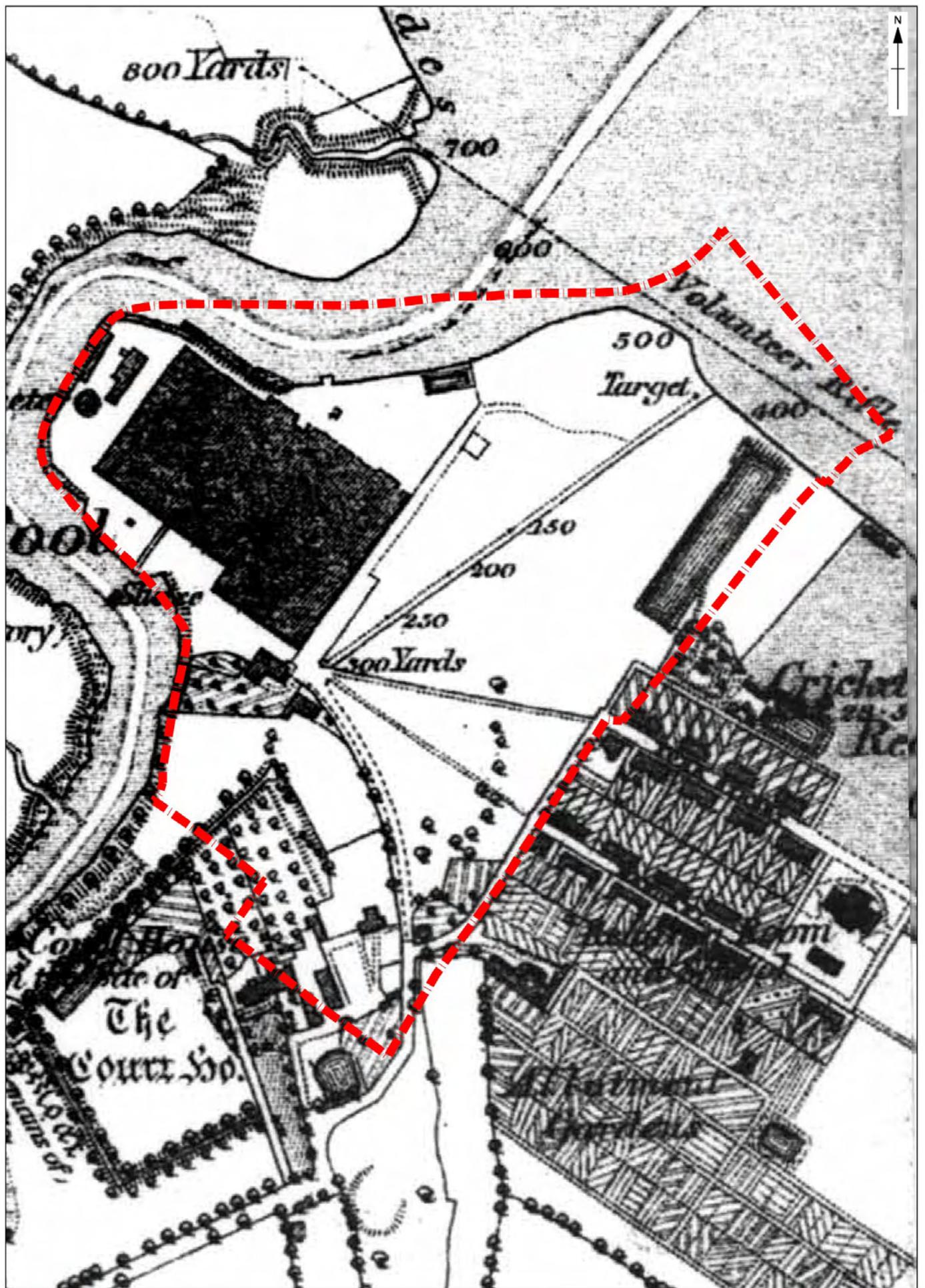


Figure 7: Extract from the First Edition, 25" to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map of 1876



 Proposed development area

0 75 m
1:3000 @ A4

oxfordarchaeology
northnorthnorth

EM*L10380*MAT/EJFMrev*Oct11

Figure 8: Extract from the First Edition, 6" to 1 mile, Ordnance Survey map of 1882

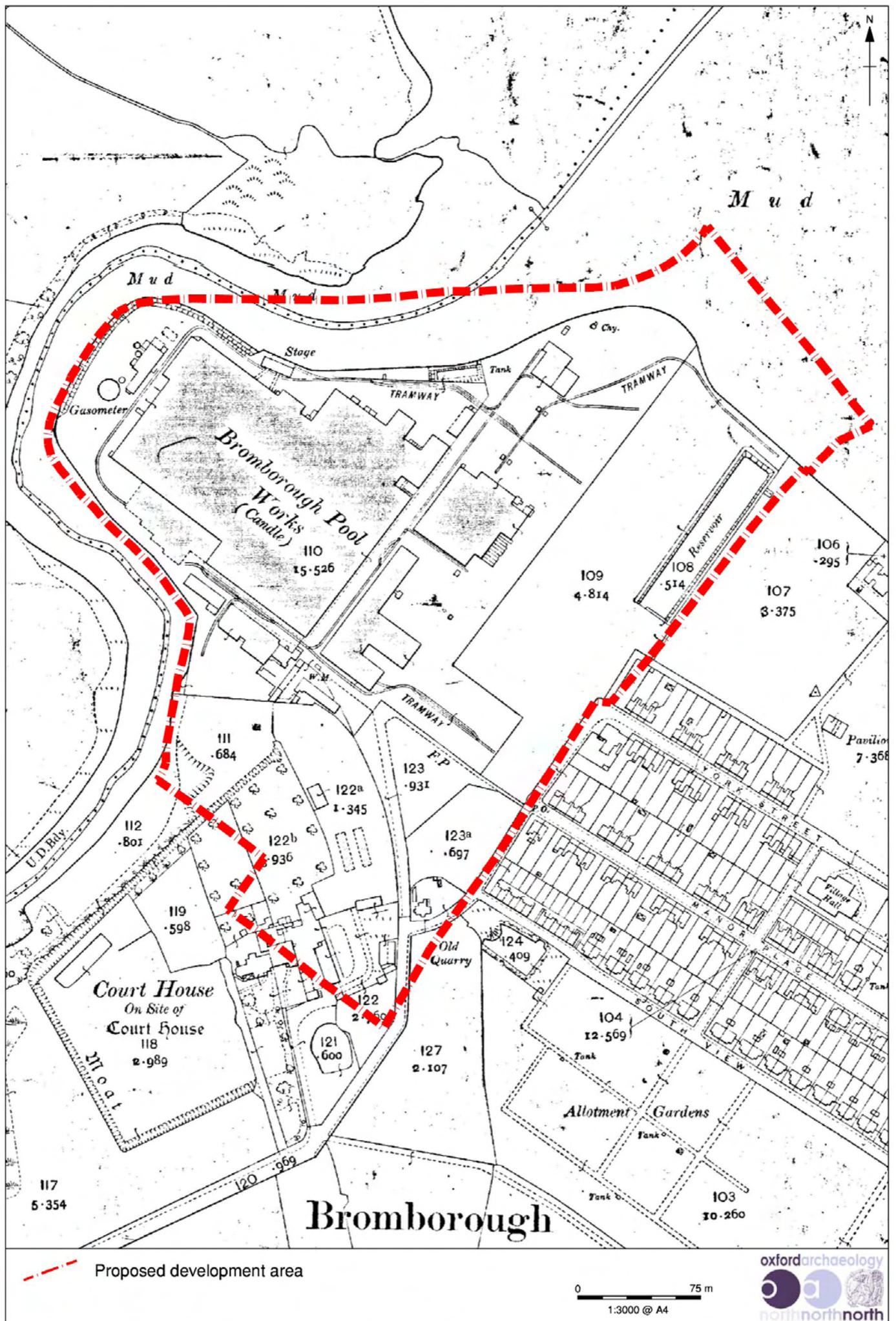


Figure 10: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1912

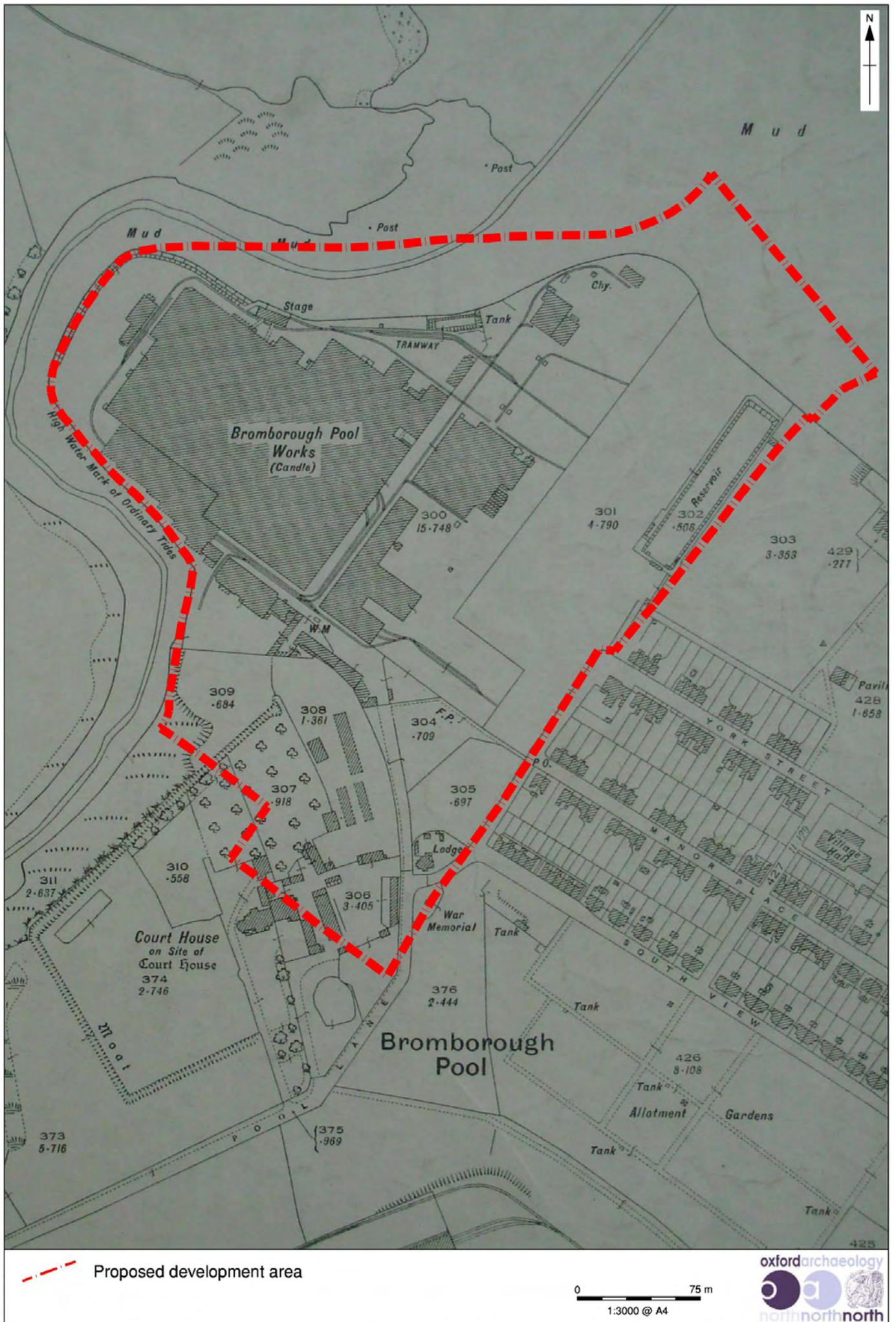


Figure 11: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1927

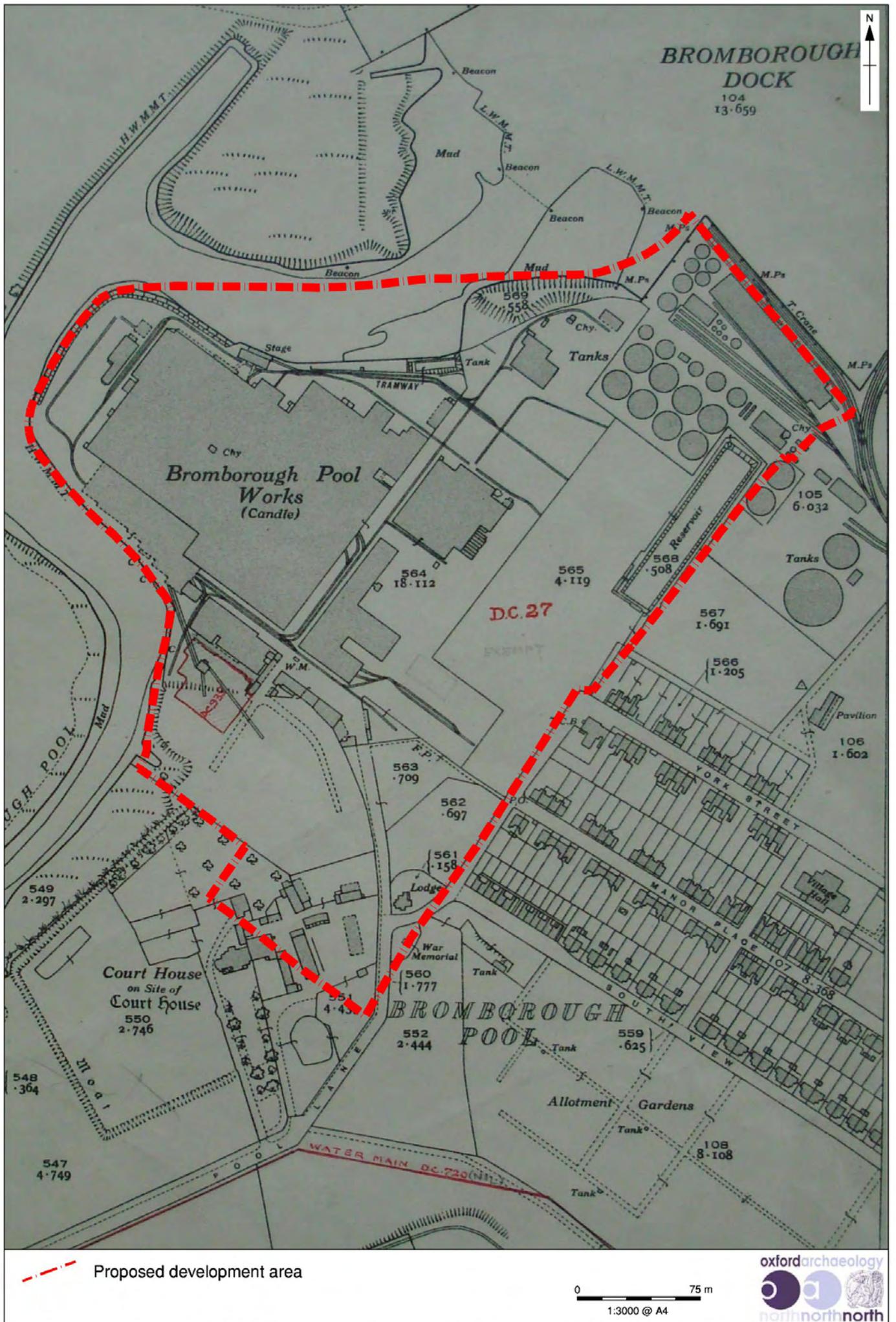


Figure 12: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1936

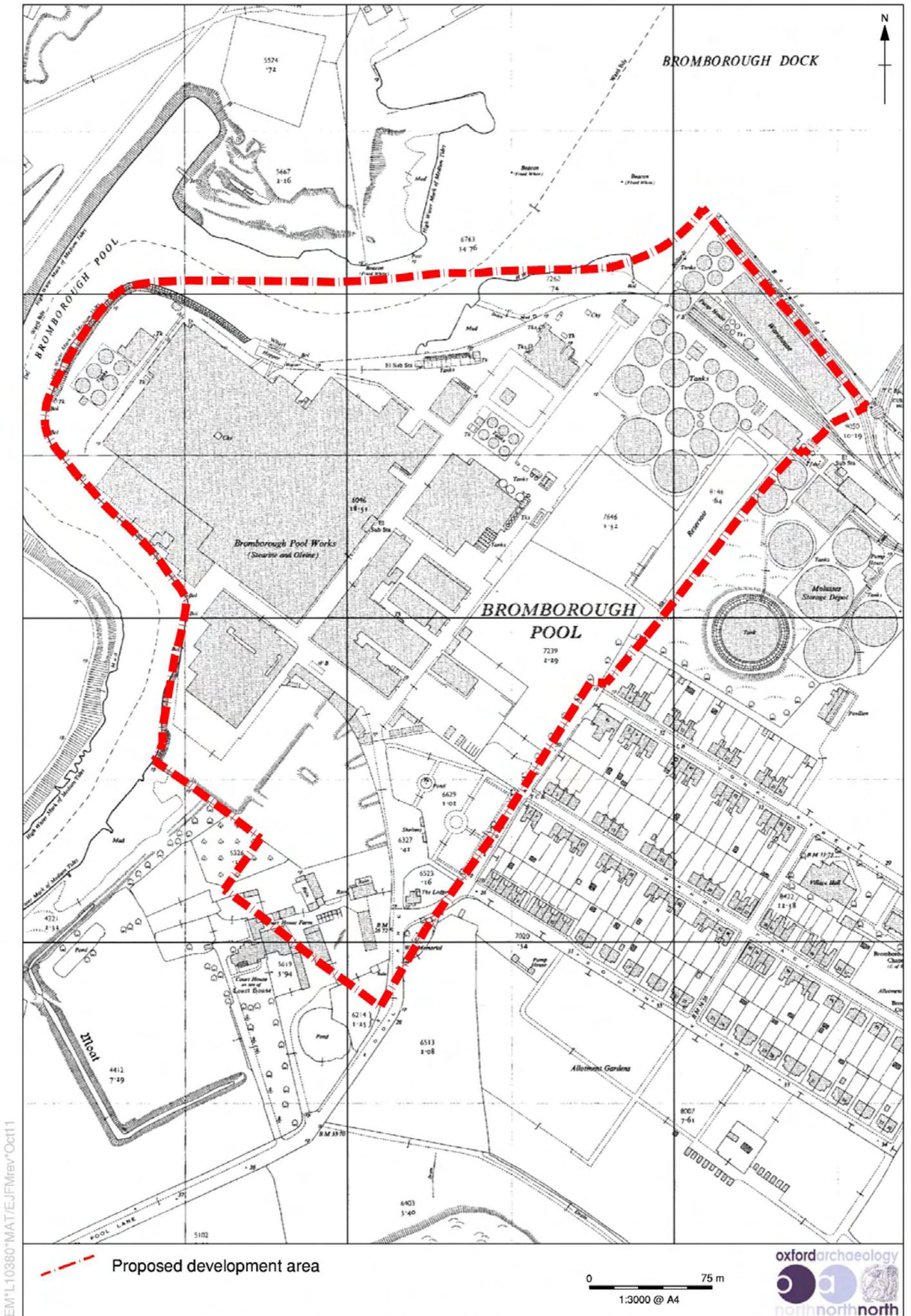
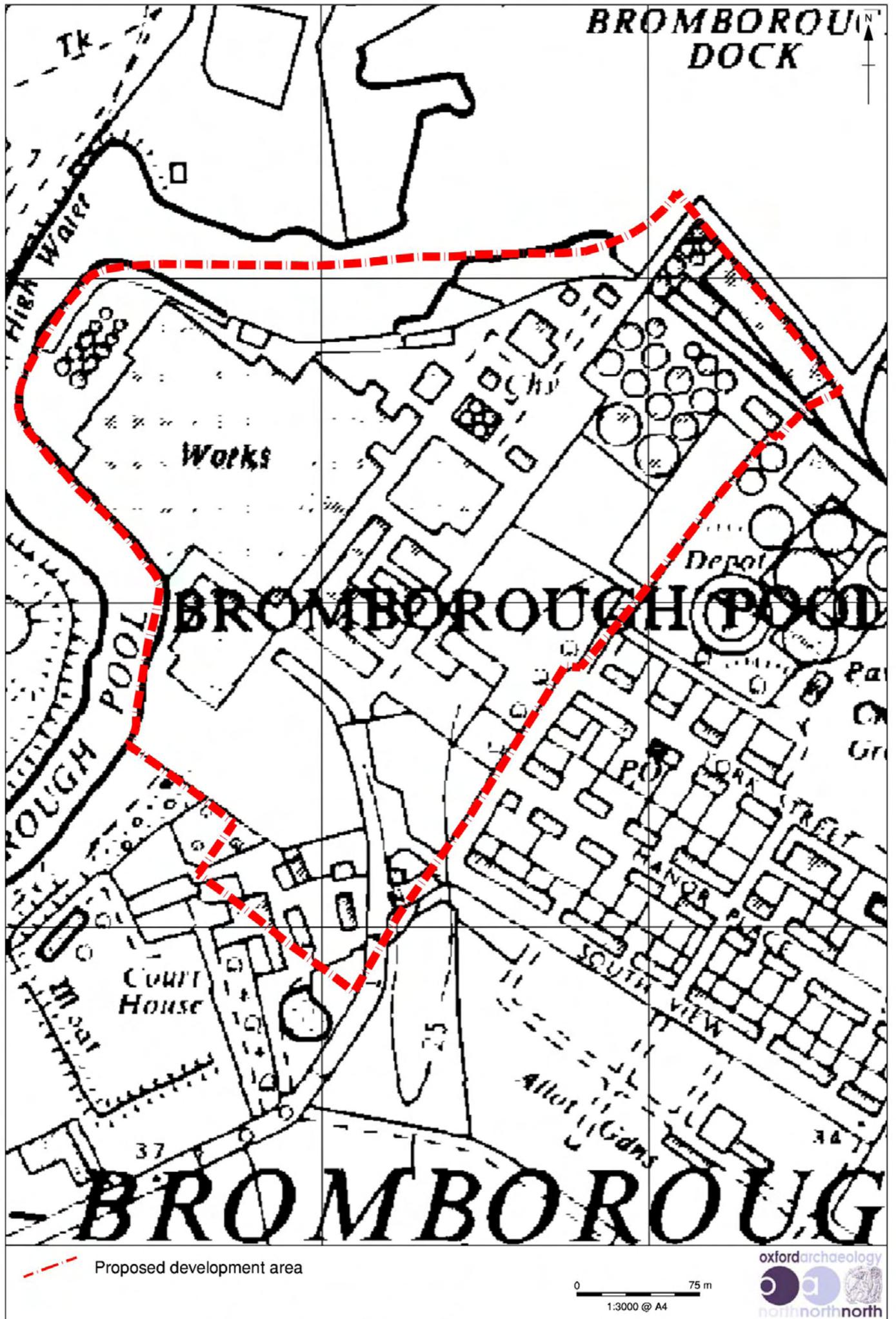


Figure 13: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1956

EM*L10380*MAT/EJFMrev*Oct11



EM*L10380*MAT/EJFMrev*Oct11

Figure 14: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1965

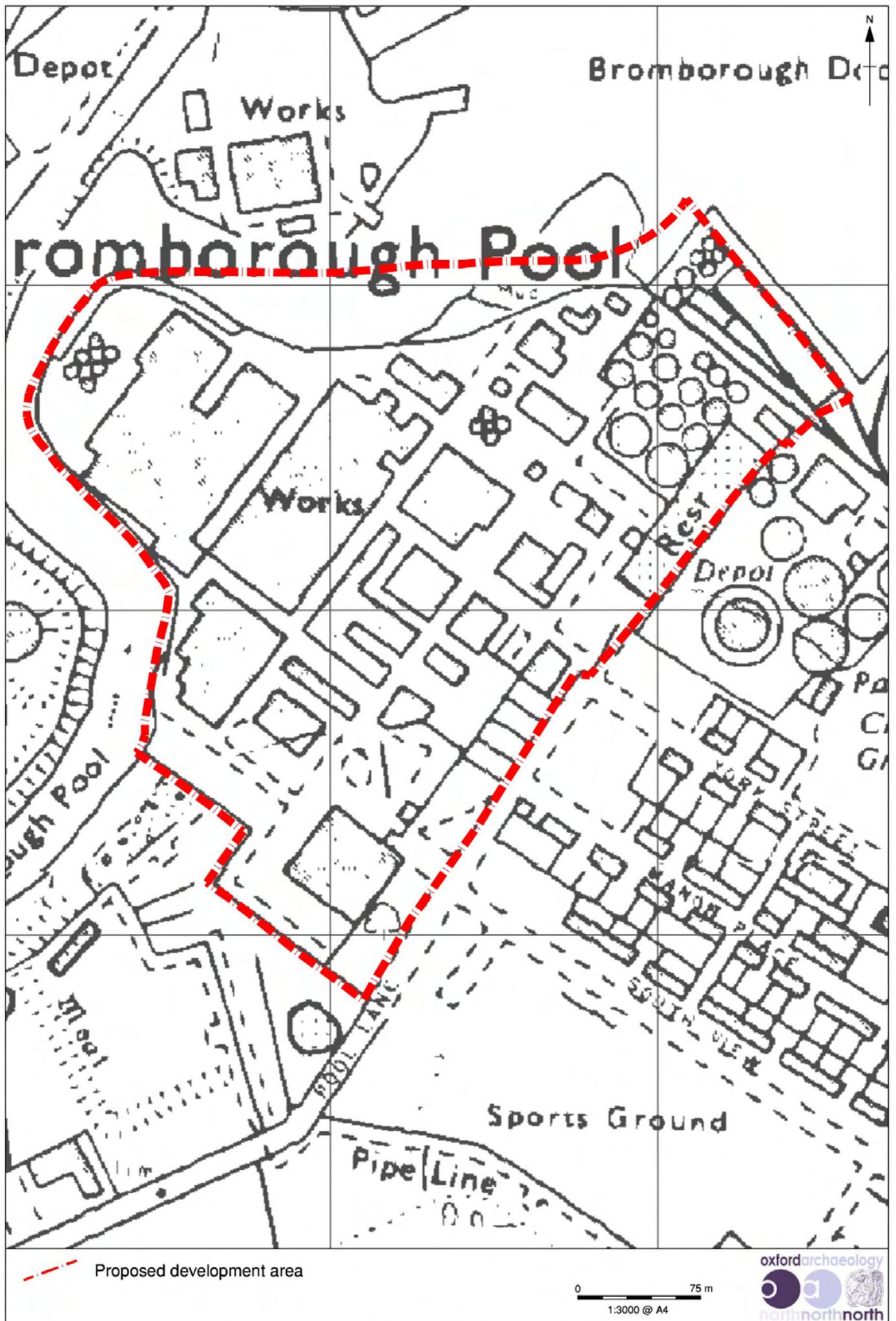


Figure 15: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1976

11. PLATES



Plate 1: Extract from the Mainwaring Estate map of 1755



Plate 2: A photograph of the proposed development area, dated to 1967, showing Court House Farm (Site 05)



Plate 3: A photograph of the proposed development area dated to 1967



Plate 4: A photograph of the proposed development area dated to c 1987



Plate 5: A photograph of the proposed development area dated to c 1989



Plate 6: South-west boundary of the proposed development area, looking south-east



Plate 7: South-west boundary of the proposed development area, looking west



Plate 8: South-west boundary of the proposed development area, looking north-west



Plate 9: Listed building (LB no 21551), looking north-west



Plate 10: Late nineteenth century buildings, looking north



Plate 11: Sea wall (Site 31), looking north-west



Plate 12: Sea wall (Site 31), looking south-east



Plate 13: Remains of brick sea wall (Site 31), looking south



Plate 14: Late nineteenth century facade at northern extent of site, looking south-west



Plate 15: Late nineteenth century facade at northern extent of site, looking south



Plate 16: Timber bollard on former edge of sea wall (Site 31), looking west



Plate 17: General view from northern extent of site, looking south



Plate 18: General view from eastern extent of site, looking north



Plate 19: General view across site, looking north-west



Plate 20: General view across site to the listed building (LB no 215551), looking west



Plate 21: General view across site, looking west