



Wardle HighSchool, Rochdale, Greater Manchester

Archaeological Desk- based Assessment



Oxford Archaeology North

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**Capita Symonds, on behalf of
Rochdale Metropolitan
Borough Council**

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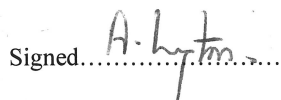
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SUMMARY

As part of the 'Building Schools for the Future' (BSF) project, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC) propose to partially demolish and refurbish Wardle High School, Rochdale (NGR SD 91652 16172). Consequently, Capita Symonds, on behalf of Rochdale MBC, commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake a desk-based assessment of the site to assess the potential impact of the proposed redevelopment on heritage assets, to inform the planning process and consider whether there is a requirement for any further archaeological work. This was carried out by OA North in May 2012.

The study area for the desk-based assessment comprises an area 500m in radius centred on the proposed redevelopment. The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER), English Heritage's *Heritage Gateway*, the local studies centre at Touchstones, Rochdale, and the archives and library held at OA North. In addition to this, a walkover survey was carried out within the boundary of the proposed redevelopment, in order to relate the landscape and surroundings to the results of the desk-based assessment, and identify any additional features that could not be procured solely from documentary sources.

In total, 12 heritage assets were identified in a gazetteer compiled for the study area, from which the earliest archaeological evidence within the study area is represented by Ashbrook Hey Farmhouse (Site **04**), a Grade II listed building (LB no 4/135) thought to date from 1673. Howarth Knowl farmhouse (Site **05**) and numbers 2 and 4 Lawflat (Site **06**) date from the late eighteenth-century, and are also Grade II listed buildings (LB nos 4/145 and 4/149 respectively). Birch Road Farm (Site **11**), constructed before 1851, was identified from the map regression analysis. The remaining sites all reflect industrial activity in the area during the late nineteenth-century and comprise textile mills (Sites **01**, **07** and **12**), bleach and dye works (Sites **02** and **03**), a brick and tile works (Site **09**) and a colliery (Site **10**). Mapping evidence showed that the proposed redevelopment site during the post-medieval period onwards remained undeveloped as agricultural land until the construction of Wardle High School, which was opened in 1977.

None of the heritage assets identified will be directly impacted by the current proposals, and given that all of the gazetteer sites are situated quite a distance from the proposed redevelopment site, particularly those with statutory protection, none will be indirectly impacted, either. Consequently, should the proposals alter in any respect, it is unlikely that these sites will require a review. The impact of the proposed development has, therefore, been rated as *negligible* and the significance of this impact as *neutral*. No further archaeological work is recommended.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OA North would like to thank Andrew Conroy of Capita Symonds for commissioning the project, and Tony Shaw, Assistant Headmaster, Wardle High School, for his help during the site visit. Thanks are also due to Lesley Dunkley at the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER), and the staff at the local studies centre at Touchstones, Rochdale, for their assistance with this project.

The desk-based assessment and site visit were undertaken by Vicki Bullock, and the drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Emily Mercer, who also edited the report.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 As part of the 'Building Schools for the Future' (BSF) project, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC) proposes to partially demolish and refurbish Wardle High School, Rochdale. Consequently, Capita Symonds, on behalf of Rochdale MBC, commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake a desk-based assessment of the site to assess the potential impact of the proposed redevelopment on heritage assets, to inform the planning process, and establish whether there is a requirement for any further archaeological work. This was carried out in May 2012.
- 1.1.2 The study area for the desk-based assessment comprises an area 500m in radius centred on the proposed redevelopment. The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER), English Heritage's *Heritage Gateway*, the local studies centre at Touchstones, Rochdale, and the archives and library held at OA North. In addition to this, a walkover survey was carried out within the boundary of the proposed redevelopment, in order to relate the landscape and surroundings to the results of the desk-based assessment, and identify any additional features that could not be procured solely from documentary sources.
- 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 redevelopment. The scheduling criteria employed by the Secretary of State (Annex 1; DCMS 2010) to understand the importance of a site 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 Rochdale lies in the north-eastern part of the modern county of Greater Manchester, some 12km from the border with Yorkshire. It lies on the southern side of the Rossendale uplands and dominates the River Roch valley, which includes the industrial towns of Heywood, Littleborough, Middleton, Milnrow and Wardle. The study area (centred on NGR SD 91652 16172) is situated to the north-east of Rochdale town centre, between Whitworth and Littleborough, in an area known as Wardle (Fig 1).
- 1.2.2 The proposed development site is situated immediately to the south of Wardle on the west side of Birch Road. The school lies at approximately 172 aOD. The surrounding area is urban in nature, comprising mainly residential housing estates and to the east, across Birch Road, is the extensive site of Birch Hall Hospital. The land to the north and west is mainly unimproved agricultural land.

- 1.2.3 The underlying solid geology consists of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures (Westphalian A) and millstone grit of the Carboniferous period. The predominant drift geology comprises glacial sands and gravels, with some alluvium (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/beta.html>).

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 2010 *Code of Conduct*; Institute for Archaeologists, 2011 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments*; 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 Current policy and guidance relating to proposed development and the historic environment (National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF), DCLG 2012) denotes sites of archaeological or cultural heritage significance as ‘heritage assets’ (*ibid*). These are viewed as being an ‘*irreplaceable resource*’, and their conservation can bring ‘*wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits...*’ (*op cit*, Section 12.126). The policy framework states that the ‘*significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting*’ should be understood in order to assess the potential impact of a proposed development (*op cit*, Section 12.128), and in line with this a ‘*desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation*’ should be undertaken to inform the planning process (*ibid*).
- 2.2.2 The aim of the desk-based assessment is not only to give consideration to the heritage assets in and around the redevelopment site, but also to put the site into its archaeological and historical context. All statutory and non-statutory sites within a 500m radius of the redevelopment 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 results were analysed using the set of criteria used to assess the national importance of an ancient monument (DCMS 2010). Sources consulted include:
- 2.2.3 **Heritage Gateway:** the Heritage Gateway is maintained by English Heritage in Swindon. The archive can be consulted to access local and national records on the historic environment, including the following resources:
- Historic Environment Records (HERs);
 - National Records from the National Heritage List for England including listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
 - The National Record of the Historic Environment (Pastscape);
 - Photographs of listed buildings (Images of England);
 - Historic photographs of England (Viewfinder);
 - The NMR Excavation Index;

- Information of historic parks, gardens and historic landscapes (Parks & Gardens UK).

- 2.2.4 **Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS):** maintains the Historic Environment Record (HER), which is a Geographical Information System (GIS) and linked database of more than 18,000 records relating to known heritage sites. It also includes the recently completed Greater Manchester Historic Landscape Characterisation survey (of c 54,000 records) and is supported by an extensive paper archive, including reports, site records and publications; it was consulted to establish heritage assets already known within the study area;
- 2.2.5 **Local Studies Centre, Touchstones, Rochdale:** a search was undertaken of the local studies centre catalogue for information relating to the study area, from which historic mapping was obtained, and a number of primary and secondary sources were consulted. The assessment also made use of the local studies centre's website (www.link4life.org);
- 2.2.6 **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 Wednesday 15th May 2012 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 12-20). The site visit also allowed for an understanding of areas of impact by the proposed redevelopment, 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 will be deposited with the Greater Manchester HER for reference purposes.

3 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
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 GENERAL HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Prehistoric and Roman periods:** various remains of prehistoric date have been identified in the general area, particularly in the upland areas (Fishwick 1899). The discovery of remains from these periods within Rochdale, however, is severely limited, although several Roman coins have been found on the periphery of the urban area (Lewis 1848). The sparsity of archaeological evidence predating the medieval period in Rochdale is likely to be due to the level of redevelopment of the town during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries (Pearson *et al* 1985).
- 3.2.2 There are no known sites for these periods within the study area.
- 3.2.3 **Medieval period:** evidence for early medieval activity in the region as a whole is drawn largely from place-names (Newman 1996), although there is little firm evidence for activity in Rochdale during this period; it was recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 under Recedham Manor. It was held by Gamel, one of the 21 thegns of Salford Hundred; his holding was assessed as two hides or 12 plough-lands (Morgan 1978). By the fourteenth century, much of the land in the Rochdale area was held by the Abbey of Whalley, and other ecclesiastical bodies; Rochdale was one of the largest ecclesiastical parishes in England, comprising several townships (Farrer and Brownbill 1911). It has been suggested, nevertheless, that the parish of Rochdale at this time may have

been co-extensive with the manor of Rochdale (Lewis 1848), of which the Holts of Stubley were the principal resident family (Farrer and Brownbill 1911).

- 3.2.4 By 1212, the manor of Rochdale had been assigned to the Lord of Clitheroe, and was held by Roger de Lacy, and several under tenants. By 1251, Rochdale had become important enough to have been granted a charter for a weekly market, which was held on Wednesdays, and an annual fair on the feast of St Simon and St Jude in October. It was probably during this period that a borough was also created (*ibid*), although the town continued to be governed through the manor court until 1825, when a Police Act was finally obtained (Fishwick 1899, 12).
- 3.2.5 **Post-medieval and Industrial periods:** in 1582, Camden described Rochdale as ‘a market town well frequented’ (Fishwick 1913, 1). Manufacturing and mining industries became of increasing importance to the local economy during this period. The confiscation of the lands that had belonged to Whalley Abbey, and the general suppression of religious houses following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, produced a new race of landlords, whose number was increased by the sale of Byron estates in the early part of the seventeenth century. The town certainly began to expand significantly during the 1600s, indicated to some degree by the Hearth Tax Returns; in 1666, 228 hearths were recorded for Rochdale (*ibid*).
- 3.2.6 Celia Fiennes, writing in *c* 1700, described Rochdale as ‘a pretty neat town, built all of stone’, whilst some 25 years later Defoe considered it ‘a good market town, and of late much improved in the woollen manufacture, as are also the villages in its neighbourhood’ (Furbank *et al* 1991). By the end of the eighteenth century, Rochdale had developed a formidable reputation as a centre for the production of woollen cloth, as well as baizes, flannels, kerseys, and coatings, and the town benefited from a lucrative export trade in woollen goods to Holland, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Russia and Germany (Aiken 1795, 248). Rochdale also became an important centre for the cross-Pennine trade in woollen cloth, represented by the numerous merchant’s houses, warehouses and inns that were established in the town during the late 1700s to service this trade.
- 3.2.7 Rochdale rapidly became a boomtown of the Industrial Revolution, and amongst the first ever industrialised towns. The Rochdale Canal, one of the major navigable broad canals of Great Britain, was a highway of commerce during this time used for the haulage of cotton, wool, and coal to and from the area. The canal was opened between Rochdale and Manchester by 1799, and was completed as the first trans-Pennine route in 1804 (Hadfield 1994).
- 3.2.8 Rochdale grew rapidly during the nineteenth century, following the first cotton mill having been erected in 1795. The town’s spinning mills producing around 1.7 million spindles annually and, by the turn of the twentieth century, 23,000 looms were in operation. The booming cotton industry had an effect on other local industries also, including local collieries to power the mills, as well as textile machinery manufacturing. The towns around Rochdale were also important textile centres; Heywood, Middleton, Littleborough, Wardle and Milnrow all had a thriving cotton industry, the three latter having many cottages with upper floors (Plate 1) where cotton (and earlier wool) weaving

was carried out on handlooms before the factories later dominated (www.spinningtheweb.org.uk).



Plate 1: Wardle village green, with a handloom weaver's cottage in the background

3.3 WARDLE

- 3.3.1 The original parish of Rochdale was one of the most extensive in the Hundred of Salford. From an early period, Rochdale consisted of four divisions; Hundersfield, Spotland, Castleton and Butterworth, with Hundersfield being the most extensive district, or township (Butterworth 1828, 144). These districts were again divided and sub-divided, with Wardle being included within Hundersfield, which was, at least in 1626, distinct from the nearby hamlet of Wuerdle (Fishwick 1899, 101), and no doubt for some time before that. However, in early records it is impossible to distinguish between them; the Coucher Book of Whalley Abbey contains many deeds, which were attested to 'Wardles' or Wordhulls'. Around 1238, William Mercator, the son of Seyn de Wardhull, granted to Stanlawe part of his lands in Wardhull, and a charter of 1322-3 describes certain lands in Hundersfield that formerly belonged to the Deanes who conveyed them to Wardhulls (*ibid*). A Manor Survey of 1626 shows that in Wardle there were sixteen freeholders, who held 1125 acres, worth £477 a year; and twenty-three copyholders, who held 358 acres, valued at £66 a year. Of the 1125 acres of freehold land Robert Holt held more than one half. At this time there were 880 acres of common land, which were estimated at £44 per annum (*ibid*).
- 3.3.2 The hearth-tax returns of 1666 show that in Wuerdle, Wardle, and Blatchinworth there were 199 hearths; the largest houses being those of Robert Holt, with eleven hearths; Alexander Kershaw, Mary Scholfield, and Samuel Hamer, eight each; and James Halliwell, six. An extract from the poor rate book of 1680 shows the rates then paid for various properties in Wardle:

	£	s.	d.		£
Samuel Hamer de Hamer	1	6	0	Robert Roides et occ ^s	0
Richard Scholfield	0	8	6	Vx Jas. Stott et fil.	0
Mr. Tho. Buckley	0	11	10	Vx Jas. Kay et occ ^s	0
The occ ^s of Haworth	0	6	0	John Taylier, on occ ^s for Alex-	
Isaac Dawsonne et occ ^s	0	5	2	ander Ground	0
James Shoare for Bench Carr	0	3	4	George Milne et occ ^s	0
Isaac Lord et occ ^s	0	4	0	Peter Boulton	0
Ralph Hamer for all	0	4	8	Robert Butterworth	0
Vx Tho. Lord	0	7	0	Edm. Howarth	0
James Wolfenden for Hades all	-	-	-	Alex. Whitehead et occ ^s Robert	
Edwd. Rydings	0	5	2	Hill	0
Edm. Lord, senr., for Est. et Edm.				Edm. Whitehead	0
Lord, junr.	0	6	10	Jas. Fielden & Wuerdle et occ ^s	0
John Cheetham	0	1	3	Edw. Byrom et occ ^s	0
Rob. Butterworth and James				Mr. (or Mrs.) Chadwick et Fil.	0
Byrom	0	4	4	John Smith for Birchau ^s	0
John Walkden et Mater	0	4	2	Edm. Howard	0
Jas. Stott de Yate	0	2	4	Alex. Turnough	0
John Hamford	0	3	2	Wm. Kershaw de Hamer Mill	0
John Stott de Banke	0	5	10		

In Wuerdle is situate the village of Smallbridge and close to

Plate 2: Extract of poor rate book of 1680 (Fishwick 1899, 103)



Plate 3: Numbers 2 and 4 Lawflat, Wardle (Site 06), with weaver's windows on the top floor

- 3.3.3 **Textile Industry:** Spinning and weaving was a traditional industry in the area and by the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries the cotton industry had migrated from the hillside smallholdings and farms, and into small hamlets (Whitworth 2009, 36). Specialised loomshops with their weaver's windows on the top floor then began to be built, not only in growing textile

villages, such as Wardle, but also along the new turnpike roads. Some of the weaver's cottages appeared to be two-storey, but had cellar dwellings for the occupants. Occasionally, cottages had two rows of weaver's windows (Plate 3), presumably using the upper floor as the loomshop where several Hargreaves' spinning "jennie" or Crompton "mule" looms would be working (*op cit*, 39).

- 3.3.4 This was the beginnings of the factory system in Rochdale. Many of the "clothiers", who bought "pieces" or lengths of cloth from the handloom weavers, began to construct "fulling" mills and dye works on the fast-flowing watercourses on the hills around Rochdale. These mills were used to finish the cloth ready for sale, and used water-wheels to drive the machinery (Plate 4; Whitworth 2009, 42). As trade developed, generated by the demand from the clothiers, larger loomshops were, in turn, constructed. Eventually, with the arrival of the steam engine, together with the powerloom, small stone-built mills were constructed leading to a burgeoning cotton industry.



Plate 4: Former Lawflat Mill, Wardle (Site 01), showing the site of the former water wheel on the left

- 3.3.5 Worrell's Directory of 1887 (Plate 5) and *The Rochdale and District Commercial Directory* for 1894 details some of the mill owners at the time. Adam Mills & Co is listed as flannel manufacturers at Law Flat Mill (Site 01). At Ridings mill, W Shaw and Sons were both flannel manufacturers and colliery proprietors. Similarly, John Stott & Bros Ltd is a flannel manufacturer and finisher at Wasp Mill (Site 07) and John Kershaw is shown as a fuller at Wardle Mill in 1894 having taken over from James Stott and William Schofield in 1887. In spite of the booming cotton industry in Rochdale, the Wardle area remained virtually free of cotton manufacturing until the late nineteenth century introduction of spinning factories, although it still continued to produce woollen goods. The Ordnance Survey (OS) maps for 1846 (Fig 3) and 1890 (Fig 4) show a number of mills in the Wardle area. These included Flat Mill (woollen), called Lawflat Mill on the 1890 map (Site

01); Wasp Mill (woollen; Site **07**), Clough House Mill (woollen) – and another woollen mill near to Clough House, shown on the 1890 map as Clough House Fulling Mill. Wardle Mill (woollen) had its own gasometer, and by 1890 was shown as manufacturing both cotton and woollen cloth.

- 3.3.6 Clegg's *Commercial Directory for Rochdale* (1916) gives us the following introduction to Wardle: "Wardle, about three miles from Rochdale, is in an isolated position on the hills. The district includes part of Smallbridge and Dearnley, and as a whole has a population of about 4,700, with an acreage of 3,192. It has flannel and cotton concerns. The Dearnley Workhouse and the Cottage Homes are in the Wardle District Council's area. The scenery around Wardle village is rough and rugged, and the air extremely bracing"

WOOLLEN MANUFACTURERS.	
Bamford James & Brothers, Brook Mills ; 76 looms,	Lancashire and Saxony flannels
LEACH EDMUND, Lodge Mill ; 47 looms, plain and	fancy flannels
Mills Adam & Co., Law Flat Mill ; 38 looms, scarlet,	white, blue and imitation Welsh flannels
Schofield William, Wardle Mill ; 30 looms, flannels	
Stott James, Wardle Mill ; 50 looms, plain flannels	
Stott John & Brothers, Wasp Mills ; 144 looms,	flannels. Telegrams, "Stott Brothers, Wardle."
Tattersall John, Clough House Mill ; 36 looms	

Plate 5: Extract of Worrall's *Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers' Directory*, 1887

- 3.3.7 **Agriculture:** farming was an important part of the local economy in the Wardle area. It was mostly hill farming, on marginal land that was not very fertile. Sheep were important, and most farmers would have some cattle – particularly dairy cattle as dairy farming was quite profitable in areas close to industrial towns like Rochdale (www.link4life.org.uk). Forty seven farmers are listed in 1916 (Clegg 1916), including several farms around the study area; Howarth Knowl (Site **05**), which dates to the late eighteenth century; Ashbrook Hey (Site **05**), which dates to 1673; and Birch Road Farm (Site **11**).
- 3.3.8 **Coal and other industries:** *The Rochdale and District Commercial Trade Directories* for 1867 and 1872 provides details of ten collieries in the Wardle area:

Colliery	Owner
Bank Hey	Edmund Fairburn
Benscar	Ralph Derbyshire
Birch Hey	Stott, Bamford & Co
Cartridge Nook	James Dearden
Crook Bank	Charles Crossley
Crook	Executors of JS Jennings
Hey Clough	Samuel Stott & Co
Lower House	James Mills
Ridings	Riding Colliery company
Wall Nook	James Dearden

Table 2: Colliery owners in the Wardle area in 1867 and 1872

- 3.3.9 Most of these mines were drift mines, that is, they were essentially tunnels dug into the hillsides, rather than having deep shafts (www.link4life.org.uk). ‘Coal Pit Lane’ is shown on the 1846 OS map (Fig 5), on the east side of the study area and, to the north a ‘Coal Pit’ and ‘Old Coal Pit’ are marked at Bench Carr (Benscar: *Table 2*).
- 3.3.10 One of the first potteries in the area was the site at Starring Pottery (Site **09**), owned by Isaac Butterworth in 1861 and Ralph Ashworth and Co in 1869. In 1879 it passed to Starring Coal and Fire Clay Co Ltd, all of which produced fire brick and sanitary tubes. It closed in 1940 due to a shortage of labour (Cryer 1988). In 1868, Ralph Ashworth also opened the brickworks at Starring. The works ceased production during the Second World War and was demolished in the 1960s. The site is now derelict but surface evidence remains of the stockyards, boiler house, a kiln base and a chimney (*ibid*).
- 3.3.11 **Schools:** Wardle had two ‘elementary’ schools in the nineteenth century. St James’ School, or the ‘National School,’ was founded in 1842 and served the area for more than 130 years. It cost £750 to build, including £100 for the site (www.link4life.org.uk). By the 1860s there was also a Wesleyan School in Wardle, constructed adjoining the chapel, with 150 pupils in the 1870s, which was thirty more than their ‘rival’ St James’ school. In the early twentieth century the Wesleyan school became a Council school. In both schools children progressed through the ‘Standards’ until they reached school leaving age at 13, although many children were half-timers, working as ‘little piecers’ in the mills. In 1930, Wardle was provided with the County’s first non-selective senior school in the area: Wardle Central School. Built at a cost of around £9,000, the school had five classrooms for a total of 250 senior pupils. (*ibid*). With the opening of the Central School, the Wesleyan School closed and the Church School became an infant and junior school.
- 3.3.12 **Wardle High School:** was opened in September 1977 in rural surroundings on agricultural land off Birch Road, to the south of Wardle (Plate 6).



Plate 6: Wardle High School (Schools 365/DIG), 1982

3.4 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 3.4.1 **Introduction:** a number of cartographic sources were examined at Touchstones, Rochdale, together with some held at OA North's offices.
- 3.4.2 **Yates' map, 1786 (Plate 7):** the extent of Rochdale at this time is depicted on Yates' map of Lancashire, which provides the earliest reliable map of the area, albeit published at a small scale. The study area is located to the north-east of the town in the township of Hundersfield and is annotated as 'Wuerdle' and 'Little Wuerdle', with the site of the present school probably being nearer 'Little Wardle'.



Plate 7: Extract of Yates's Map of Lancashire, 1786

- 3.4.3 **Hennet's map, 1830 (Plate 8):** the study area is marked as 'Wardle', with 'Wuerdale' to the south and 'Howarth' to the south-west. This may refer to Howarth Knowl (Site 05).

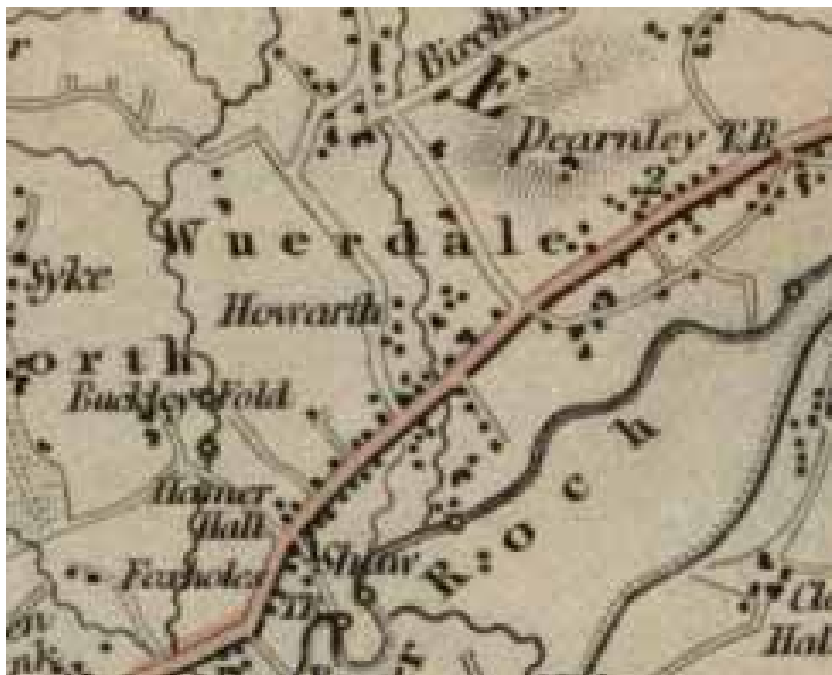


Plate 8: Extract of Hennet's Map of Lancashire, 1830

- 3.4.4 A brook is shown running north/south to west of Birch Hey which is probably Ashbrook. Birch Road Farm (Site 11) appears to be marked to the east of the brook.



Plate 9: Howarth Knowl Farmhouse (Site 05)

- 3.4.5 **Ordnance Survey, First Edition 6": 1 mile, 1851 (Fig 3):** in the wider area, Low Flat Mill ((Woollen); Site 01) is shown to the north-west of the proposed development area. Howarth Knowl is also shown (Site 05; Plate 9), and to the south-west of the proposed development area, Ash Brook Hey (Site 04; Plate

10) is marked. To the north of the study area, Wasp Mill (Site 07) is shown and Waterhouse Mill (Site 12) is also marked.

- 3.4.6 Ashbrook runs immediately to the west of Ash Brook Hey farmhouse, Site 04. Along the Rochdale to Halifax road there are a number of mills, brickworks and quarries. 'Coal Pit Lane' runs immediately to the east of the study area and the building on the west side is Birch Road Farm (Site 11). A number of coal pits are also marked in the surrounding area to the east and north-east, particularly around Bench Carr (Site 10).



Plate 10: Ashbrook Hey Farmhouse (Site 04)

- 3.4.7 **Ordnance Survey, 25":1 mile 1890 (Fig 4):** this mapping shows some changes within the study area. Birch Road Farm (Site 11) is shown with an additional outbuilding. Coal Pit Lane is marked as 'Birch Road'. Waterhouse Mill (Site 12) is shown as 'disused' and around Bench Carr to the north-east and 'Old Brickyard' (Site 10) is marked, together with a clay pit, an 'old quarry' and an 'old shaft'. Ashbrook Hey Mill (Site 03) is marked as a 'cotton' mill and on the perimeter of the current study area, Hursted Mill (Cotton) is shown. A short row of terraced houses has been constructed on the west side of Birch Road.
- 3.4.8 **Ordnance Survey, 25":1 mile 1910:** there is no change to the proposed development area, with little change in the study area apart from the annotation of Bench Carr as a 'Brick & Tile Works (Disused)' and the construction of a sewage works ('Wardle U.D.C.').
- 3.4.9 **Ordnance Survey, 25": 1 mile 1937:** the proposed development area remains the same, and in the study area the sewage works shown on the previous map and Waterhouse Mill (Site 12) are no longer marked. The former works at Bench Carr are depicted as earthworks.
- 3.4.10 Three sites have been added to the gazetteer (Section 4) following the map regression analysis (Sites 10, 11 and 12).

3.5 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

3.5.1 No previous archaeological work is known from the study area.

3.6 SITE VISIT

3.6.1 The site was visited on Wednesday 15th May 2012 (Plates 11-21). The school is situated between Birch Road and Wardle Road, to the south of Wardle village, Rochdale. To the east is the extensive site of Birch Hill Hospital. To the west is a large area of open fields and agricultural land (Fig 2).



Plate 11: Wardle High School, with Rochdale in background and Birch Hill Hospital on left



Plate 12: Steps down to main school entrance and reception



Plate 13: Front of school and main entrance showing building to be demolished and site of all-weather pitches

- 3.6.2 The main entrance to the school lies on the west side of Birch Road, to the south of Wardle village (Fig 2). Steps lead down to the main entrance and reception at the front of the school (Plate 12), and an overhead walkway leads to the second storey of this building (Plate 13). Under current proposals this

building will be demolished and replaced by all-weather pitches, and the main entrance will be moved to the north side of the site. To the right of the current main entrance, a car park and turnaround are provided (Plate 14), which will be retained under the current proposals. Situated here is another entrance to the school, additional car parking, several garages and, to the north of this, a sandy sports ground (Plate 15). Under current proposals this sports ground will be redeveloped for a new build section of the school. To the west are large, open school playing fields and netball/basketball courts (Plates 16 and 17).



Plate 14: Turnaround, car park and garages to north of main school building, and location of proposed new build



Plate 15: Sand-covered sports ground to north of main school building and location of proposed new build



Plate 16: Playing fields to the west of main school buildings



Plate 17: Rear elevation of school with netball courts in background



Plate 18: Hard-surfaced playground on west side of school and location of proposed new build

- 3.6.3 On the east side of the main school building is a large, hard-surfaced playground (Plate 18), which is, under current proposals, to be redeveloped with a new build section of school. The two buildings on the south side of the site (on the right of Plate 18), currently house a conference centre and swimming pool. These buildings are excluded from the current redevelopment proposals and will remain extant to become community spaces.
- 3.6.4 No additional heritage assets were identified during the site visit.

4 GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number	01
Site name	Low Flat Mill, off Wardle Road, Wardle
NGR	SD 9110 1650
HER no.	5014.1.0
Designation	None
Site type	House/Industrial Site/Textile Site/Watermill
Period	Industrial/Modern
Sources	HER
Description	Marked on the First Edition OS map of 1846 as a woollen mill and as 'disused' on the 1910 OS map. An early nineteenth century water-mill heavily modified. Not much of the original site is left. Converted and modified and now a private dwelling. None of the original auxiliary buildings have survived. Situated on a stream. Two storeys (plus basement) and a gable slate roof. The remains of a stone-arched structure over stream are still visible
Assessment	The site is outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.
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Site number	02
Site name	Ashbrook Hey Works, Ashbrook Hey, Smallbridge
NGR	SD 9131 1576
HER no.	5032.1.0
Designation	None
Site type	Workshop/Bleach Works/Dye Works/Industrial site/Factory
Period	Industrial/Modern
Sources	HER
Description	Marked on the OS maps (1910, 1937) as a disused mill. Originally a dye works, now used for tractor maintenance. The main building is mid-late nineteenth-century, brick-built and single storey. The site includes a two-storey stone-built post-medieval cottage with stone-mullioned windows and a thick slate roof, which has not been conserved well and is at present vacant. This was possibly once a workshop. All the surviving buildings have been modified. Owned by a company called 'Sharples' when it was a bleach and dye works.
Assessment	The site is outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.
<hr/>	
Site number	03
Site name	Ashbrook Hey Works (Warehousing)
NGR	SD 9133 1578
HER no.	5032.1.1
Designation	None
Site type	Warehouse
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	Marked on the OS maps (1910, 1937) as a dye works. The original buildings are now demolished. Site consisted of two sheds that were used for warehousing purposes in conjunction with the Ashbrook Hey Bleach and Dye works. These have since been replaced by various late twentieth century buildings. Owned by a company called 'Sharples' when used for warehousing and now both of these buildings are used for tractor maintenance.
Assessment	The site is outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	04
Site name	Ashbrook Hey Farm, Ashbrook Hey Lane, Rochdale
NGR	SD 90950 10512
HER no.	5219.1.0
Designation	Listed Building (II) no 4/135
Site type	Farm/Farmhouse
Period	Post-medieval
Sources	HER
Description	Farmhouse possibly dated 1673. Roughly-coursed rubble with stone slate roof. Two unit, two-storey structure with central entrance (house part to the right), gable chimney stacks and a later door added to the right and left hand gables. Rough outbuildings now abut at the rear. Stone quoins. Four and six light double-chamfered mullion windows with hoodmoulds to the ground floor. Four and three-light chamfered mullion windows to the first floor. The chamfered door opening has a heavy stone lintel. Coped gables with kneelers. Two three-light windows to the left gable, as well as an arched light to the attic level.
Assessment	The site is outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	05
Site name	Howarth Knowl Farmhouse, Howarth Knowl, Wardle, Rochdale
NGR	SD 9124 1637
HER no.	11579.1.0
Designation	Listed Building (II) no 4/145
Site type	Farmhouse
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	A late eighteenth-century farmhouse. Watershot stone with slate roof and nineteenth century brick porch. Double-depth, two-bay plan with two storeys and a single-storey central porch. Stone addition to the left and attached farm buildings to the right (not included in this entry). Stone quoins, two three-light flat-faced mullion windows to the ground floor and formerly twelve-light “weaver’s windows” to the first floor (six having been blocked in). Right hand gable chimney stack.
Assessment	The site is outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	06
Site name	2 and 4 Lawflat, Wardle, Rochdale
NGR	SD 9118 1649
HER no.	11577.1.0
Designation	Listed Building (II) no 4/149
Site type	House
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	Two houses. Late eighteenth-century. Watershot stone with stone slate roof. Each house is three-storey, one room wide by two deep. Each house has door to right with square-cut monolithic jambs and lintel, four-light (each with two mullions removed) flat-faced mullion windows to ground and first floors and six-light (each unit with two lights blocked in) mullioned “weavers windows” to top floor. Windows have twentieth century casements except for rear top floor which retain their multi-paned casements.
Assessment	The site is outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	07
Site name	Wasp Mill, Clough Street, Wardle, Rochdale
NGR	SD 9134 1675
HER no.	5012.1.0
Designation	None
Site type	Chimney/Industrial Site/Textile Mill/Weaving Shed/Dye Works/House
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	Marked on the First Edition OS map of 1846 as a woollen mill and dye works and on the OS maps of 1910 and 1937 as a woollen and fulling mill. Three storeys, mid-nineteenth century stone building, 5x3 bays with a gable slate roof. Later converted to a dye works. Octagonal brick chimney immediately behind the main building. No other mid-nineteenth century buildings have survived. Workers housing in nearby Wardle village. The other main building is a single-storey weaving shed. First phase stone-built (late nineteenth century) with later brick additions (early to mid-nineteenth century). No obvious power features survived, save for the above chimney. The mill was significant as an integral part of the Wardle community. In 1898 a Tandem Compound engine was installed in this mill by J & W McNaught. It produced some 50hp and drove a 12.5' flywheel with 8 ropes at 70rpm.
Assessment	The site is outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	08
Site name	Howarth Cross (site of), Great Howarth
NGR	SD 9110 1590
HER no.	2465.1.0
Designation	None
Site type	Cross (cross base undated)
Period	Unknown
Sources	HER
Description	Supposed site of a cross on the old Rochdale to Todmorden Road
Assessment	The site is outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	09
Site name	Industrial Works, Starring Pottery, Littleborough, Rochdale
NGR	SD 9218 1625
HER no.	8835.1.0
Designation	None
Site type	Boiler House/Brick kiln/Brickworks/Chimney
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	This site was owned by Isaac Butterworth in 1861 then it passed to Ralph Ashworth & Co in 1869. In 1879 it passed to Starring Coal & Fire Clay Co Ltd. All of these produced fire brick and sanitary tubes. This was one of the first to begin production in Littleborough and did not close until 1940 due to shortage of labour (Cryer 1988). They gained their raw materials by a combination of vertical and horizontal face workings. In 1868, Ralph Ashworth opened brickworks at Starring and in 1872 a limited company, Ralph Ashworth & Co Ltd, was formed to raise capital to expand the works. In 1905 the company went into liquidation and was brought by the Dransfield family who continued trade as Ralph Ashworth & Co Ltd. The works is described in an extensively illustrated article published in the London and Provincial Magazine in September 1909. The works ceased production during the Second World War and was demolished in the 1960s. The site is now

Assessment	derelict but surface evidence remains of the stockyards, boiler house, a kiln base and a chimney. The site is outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.
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Site number	10
Site name	Bench Carr, Wardle
NGR	SD 91689 16474
HER no.	-
Designation	None
Site type	Farmhouse/Colliery/Brickworks/Quarry
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression
Description	Bench Carr is shown on the First Edition OS map of 1846, to the north-east of the study area, with an associated 'Coal pit' and an 'Old coal pit'. It is situated off Coal Pit Lane (later Birch Road) and is probably the 'Benscar' referred to in local trade directories of the late nineteenth century.
Assessment	The site is outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	11
Site name	Birch Road Farm, Wardle
NGR	SD 91712 16130
HER no.	-
Designation	None
Site type	Farmhouse
Period	Post-medieval
Sources	Map Regression
Description	Birch Road Farm possibly first appears on Hennet's map of 1830 (Plate 8). It is certainly shown on the First Edition OS map of 1846, although it is only named as such on the OS map of 1890 (Fig 4).
Assessment	The site is outside the proposed development area and will not be impacted by it.

Site number	12
Site name	Waterhouse Mill, Wardle
NGR	SD 91463 1649
HER no.	-
Designation	None
Site type	Mill
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map Regression
Description	'Water House' is shown on the First Edition OS map of 1846 (Fig 3), but is not marked as a mill until the OS map of 1890 (Fig 4), where it is annotated as 'disused'.
Assessment	The site is outside 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 Twelve gazetteer sites, or heritage assets, have been identified within the study area. Sites **01** to **09** were identified from the HER, three of which are statutorily protected as Grade II listed buildings (Sites **04** to **06**). The remaining three sites (Sites **10**, **11** and **12**) were identified through map regression analysis. None of the heritage assets identified are within the proposed redevelopment area.

Period	No of Sites	Site Type
Prehistoric	0	-
Romano-British	0	-
Early Medieval	0	-
Medieval	0	-
Post-medieval	4	Farmhouse (Sites 04 , 05 and 11), Weavers House (Site 06)
Industrial	7	Textile mills (Sites 01 , 07 and 12), bleach and dye works (Sites 02 and 03), extractive brickworks (Site 09), colliery (Site 10)
Modern	0	-
Unknown	1	Cross (site of ; Site 08)

Table 3: Number of sites by period

- 5.1.2 In the NPPF, the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG 2012) sets out the Government's planning policy and framework for England, and how these are expected to be implemented. NPPF places particular emphasis on assessing the development proposals in line with an up-to-date local plan (*op cit*, Section 3.28). Consequently, the Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Unitary Development Plan (2006) was consulted with particular reference to policies G/BE/9, BE/10-19. In determining applications, local planning authorities must be able to understand the significance of any heritage assets affected by the proposed development in order to assess its impact. This would enable the conservation of *'heritage assets in a manner suitable to their significance so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations'* (*op cit*, para 17), or else they can be recorded *'and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible'* (*op cit*, Section 12.141).
- 5.1.3 Therefore, the following section will determine the nature and level of the significance of the archaeological resource, as detailed in *Sections 3* and *4*. This is an iterative process, beginning with the guideline criteria outlined in

Table 4, below. In general terms, the recording of a heritage asset, e.g. HER, scheduled monuments (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 4: Guideline criteria used to determine Importance of Heritage Assets

5.2 QUANTIFICATION OF IMPORTANCE

- 5.2.1 None of the heritage assets identified and listed in the gazetteer (*Section 4*) are situated within the current proposed development boundary. Nevertheless, to assess the heritage resource of the surrounding area, and thereby the potential resource within the proposed development boundary, the gazetteer sites (**01-12**) were 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:** none of the sites within the study area are significant due to period, reflecting the general pattern of settlement and industrial activity in the wider area.
- 5.2.3 **Rarity:** none of the sites is considered to be significant due to rarity reflecting the general pattern of settlement and industrial activity in the wider area.
- 5.2.4 **Documentation:** Starring Pottery (Site **09**) was opened as extractive brickworks by Ralph Ashworth in 1868 and continued production until 1940. The site was demolished in the 1960s. The works is described in an extensively illustrated article published by the London and Provincial Magazine in September 1909, and is therefore considered significant due to documentation.
- 5.2.5 **Group Value:** Ashbrook Hey Works (Sites **02** and **03**) could be considered significant due to a group value. The industrial sites comprise bleach works/dye works/workshop/warehouses but all the surviving buildings have

been modified. Consequently, none of the remaining sites are considered to be significant due to their group value.

- 5.2.6 **Survival/Condition:** the listed buildings survive in a good condition (Sites **04**, **05** and **06**). Ashbrook Hey Works (Sites **02** and **03**) has extant buildings but they have all been modified. The supposed site of Howarth Cross (Site **08**) has been built over. The buildings at Starring Pottery (Site **09**) were demolished in the 1960s, although surface remains are evident. There is little evidence of colliery workings at Bench Carr, although the area remains undeveloped. The site of Birch Road Farm (Site **11**) has been developed with residential housing between Green Meadow and Birch Road and the site of Waterhouse Mill (Site **12**) has also been developed.
- 5.2.7 **Fragility/Vulnerability:** the sites identified are outside the boundary of the current redevelopment proposals and, therefore, none are vulnerable to the proposals.
- 5.2.8 **Diversity:** the sites identified within the study area reflect the general pattern of settlement and industrial activity in the wider area and are not considered to be significant due to diversity.
- 5.2.9 **Potential:** there are no prehistoric, Roman or early medieval sites within the study area, and the potential for the discovery of archaeological remains from these periods are thought to be low. However, there has been little intervention in the area, the site having been agricultural land until the late twentieth century. Consequently, the potential has been considered based on the known archaeological resource. Aside from the main school buildings, and some landscaping for the play/sports grounds, there are areas within the current site boundary that appear not to have been heavily developed. This means that, dependent on the construction methods employed during the proposed redevelopment, should there be any potential surviving buried archaeological remains from the medieval period or earlier, they may be impacted upon.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS OF IMPORTANCE

- 5.3.1 Using the guideline criteria outlined in Table 4, 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 heritage asset (see Table 5, below). Sites **04-06** are listed buildings and, therefore, are of national importance, and Sites **01-03** and **07-09** are included on the HER and so would be considered to be of regional/county importance. However, these have been downgraded in importance where there is either no remains, i.e. Sites **03** and **08** to low local importance, or to local/borough importance where the site is still extant but has been so heavily modified that they cannot justify being in a higher grade. The remaining sites (Sites **10-12**) are considered to be of local/borough importance, although this could perhaps alter if the sites were better understood.

No	Site name	Importance
01	Law Flat mill	Local/borough importance
02	Ashbrook Hey Works	Local/borough importance
03	Ashbrook Hey Works (Warehousing)	Low local importance
04	Ashbrook Hey	National importance
05	Howarth Knowl Farmhouse	National importance
06	2 and 4 Lawflat	National importance
07	Wasp Mill	Regional/County importance
08	Howarth Cross (site of)	Low local importance
09	Industrial Works, Starring Pottery	Regional/County importance
10	Bench Carr	Local/Borough
11	Birch Road Farm	Local/Borough
12	Waterhouse Mill	Local/Borough

Table 5: Importance of each gazetteer site

6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 IMPACT

6.1.1 Heritage assets are considered to be ‘*a finite, irreplaceable and fragile resource*’ (DCMS 2010). Therefore, it has been the intention of this assessment to identify their significance and potential of the proposed development area, and assess the impact of the proposals, thus allowing the advice of NPPF (2012) 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, or minimise conflict between the heritage assets’ conservation and any aspect of the proposal*” (*op cit*, Section 12.129).

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 redevelopment. 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 6, 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 6: 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 7, 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 7: 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 redevelopment scheme. The site within the current boundary was not developed in any form until the late 1970s when Wardle High School was constructed. The school building is large and is surrounded by car parks, playgrounds, sports fields, and numerous ancillary buildings. It seems unlikely that there will be surviving below ground remains within the footprint of the main school buildings, and possibly in the areas of the sports/play grounds. Under the current proposals, the sports pitches and garages on the north side of the site and a hard-surfaced playground on the west side will be redeveloped as the proposed site of the new build.

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 redevelopment, and that the present condition of the heritage assets/gazetteer sites is known or assumed. The results are summarised in Table 8, below.

Site No.	Site name	Nature of Impact	Scale of Impact	Impact Significance
01	Law Flat Mill	None	Negligible	Neutral
02	Ashbrook Hey Works	None	Negligible	Neutral
03	Ashbrook Hey Works (Warehousing)	None	Negligible	Neutral
04	Ashbrook Hey	None	Negligible	Neutral
05	Howarth Knowl Farmhouse	None	Negligible	Neutral
06	2 and 4 Lawflat	None	Negligible	Neutral
07	Wasp Mill	None	Negligible	Neutral
08	Howarth Cross (site of)	None	Negligible	Neutral

Site No.	Site name	Nature of Impact	Scale of Impact	Impact Significance
09	Industrial Works, Starring Pottery	None	Negligible	Neutral
10	Bench Carr	None	Negligible	Neutral
11	Birch Road Farm	None	Negligible	Neutral
12	Waterhouse Mill	None	Negligible	Neutral

Table 8: Assessment of the impact significance on each site during development

6.2.2 Table 8 indicates that none of the heritage assets identified within a 500m radius of the proposed development site will be directly impacted by the current proposals. Given that all of the gazetteer sites are situated quite a distance from the proposed redevelopment site, particularly those with statutory protection, none of these will be indirectly impacted either. Consequently, should the proposals alter in any respect, it is unlikely that these sites will require a review. The impact of the proposed development has, therefore, been rated as *negligible* and the significance of this impact as *neutral*.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

- 7.1.1 A desk-based assessment is usually the first stage of an iterative process of investigating the significance and presence of heritage assets within or surrounding a proposed development area. Having identified the potential for such assets, 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 redevelopment. Such further investigation would strive to reach a stage wherein a mitigation strategy can be agreed for affected assets: current legislation draws a distinction between designated heritage assets and other remains considered to be of lesser significance; *“when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation. The more important the asset the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset, or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to a 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, notable scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I or II* listed buildings, grade I or II* listed parks or gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional”* (NPPF 2012, Section 12.132).
- 7.1.2 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, *“the effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset”* (op cit, Section 12.135).

7.2 REQUIREMENTS FOR FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

- 7.2.1 There are no heritage assets identified in the gazetteer as being positioned within the proposed development area. As a result, under the current proposals, no further recommendations are made.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 In total, 12 heritage assets have been identified in a gazetteer compiled for the 500m radius study area, from which the earliest archaeological evidence is represented by a post-medieval farmhouse at Ashbrook Hey to the south-west of the proposed development area (Site **04**). Significant changes took place in the wider area during the late nineteenth century, as a result of industrialisation, and cartographic evidence shows an increase in both industry and housing around Wardle. This included the construction of textile mills and bleach works (Sites **01-03**, **07**, **09** and **12**), obvious on the Second Edition OS map of 1890. In addition, it is known from documentary and cartographic evidence that there was coal working in the vicinity (Site **10**). However, compared to the booming industry in nearby Rochdale, Wardle's industrial activity remained relatively small-scale.
- 8.1.2 None of the gazetteer sites are within the proposed development area, and this assessment has not identified a potential for any known archaeological remains in the location of the new build, and, therefore, the location of most of the proposed groundworks (Fig 2). The proposed development site was shown on mapping evidence to have remained unchanged as agricultural land until the 1970s when Wardle High School was constructed. However, the maps only represent activity during the post-medieval period onwards and cannot always account for earlier activity on site. There may be areas within the school site that remain undeveloped and medieval or earlier remains could exist, although from the site visit it was clear that there has likely been some degree of levelling or made ground to create the sports and play grounds. Therefore, under the current proposals, no mitigation is recommended for the heritage assets.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

9.1 PRIMARY AND CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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10. ILLUSTRATIONS

10.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location map

Figure 2: Gazetteer Sites Plan

Figure 3: Development boundary superimposed on First Edition, 6" to 1 mile, 1851

Figure 4: Development boundary superimposed on Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile, 1890

10.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Wardle village green, with a handloom weaver's cottage in the background

Plate 2: Extract of poor rate book of 1680 (Fishwick 1899, 103)

Plate 3: Numbers 2 and 4 Lawflat, Wardle (Site **06**), with weaver's windows on the top floor

Plate 4: Former Lawflat Mill, Wardle (Site **01**), showing the site of the former water wheel on the left

Plate 5: Extract of Worrall's *Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers' Directory*, 1887

Plate 6: Wardle High School (Schools 365/DIG), 1982

Plate 7: Extract of Yates's *Map of Lancashire*, 1786

Plate 8: Extract of Hennet's *Map of Lancashire*, 1830

Plate 9: Howarth Knowl Farmhouse (Site **05**)

Plate 10: Ashbrook Hey Farmhouse (Site **05**)

Plate 11: Wardle High School, with Rochdale in background and Birch Hill Hospital on left

Plate 12: Steps down to main school entrance and reception

Plate 13: Front of school and main entrance showing building to be demolished and site of all-weather pitches

Plate 14: Turnaround, car park and garages to north of main school building, and location of proposed new build

Plate 15: Sand-covered sports ground to north of main school building and location of proposed new build

Plate 16: Playing fields to the west of main school buildings

Plate 17: Rear elevation of school with netball courts in background

Plate 18: Hard-surfaced playground on west side of school and location of proposed new build