



Siddal Moor College, Rochdale, Greater Manchester

Archaeological Desk- based Assessment



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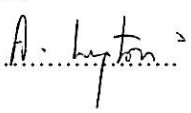
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SUMMARY

As part of the 'Building Schools for the Future' (BSF) project, proposals are to be submitted to redevelop Siddal Moor Sports College, Rochdale. The existing college originated as Siddal Moor High School, which was opened in the early 1970s and became a sports college after the high school closed in 1990. Capita Symonds commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake a desk-based assessment to identify the known archaeological resource in order to inform the planning process, and consider whether there is a requirement for any further archaeological work.

The desk-based assessment, which was carried out in April/May 2009, comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GMHER) in Manchester, the Lancashire Record Office in Preston and the archives and library held at OA North. In addition to this, the site was visited in order to relate the landscape and surroundings to the results of the desk-based assessment.

The study area lies, at least partially, within an area known as Siddal Moor, which was used for peat cutting and coal mining from at least the early post-medieval period. Yates' map of 1786 indicates that there were some houses on the northern edge of the moor at this time, and a more detailed enclosure map for Siddal Moor dating to 1815, indicates houses both to the north (Site **07**) and south (Site **04**) of the proposed development area. A previous assessment to the south of the present study area identified a number of coal mining pits. An examination of the tithe award from 1840 revealed field names within the study area which indicate that coal mining was also taking place in this area. This is supported by documentary sources from the sixteenth century onwards, which mention coal mining on Siddal Moor.

Fourteen sites of archaeological interest were identified within the study area, one of which is a Grade II Listed Building (Site **03**). There are no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks or Gardens or Battlefields within the study area, nor is the study area within a Conservation Area. Twelve of the sites dated to the Industrial Period, one was modern and one was of unknown, but probable post-medieval or later, date. Four of the identified sites are within the proposed development area (Sites **06**, **10**, **13** and **14**). Site **10** is field name evidence from the 1840 tithe map for coal mining pits, and Sites **06**, **13** and **14** are ponds identified on historic mapping, and are no longer extant. Field name evidence from the 1840 tithe map suggests that some of the ponds in the area may have originated as marl pits. These ponds or marl pits are of negligible archaeological interest and therefore further work in these areas has not been recommended. A watching brief has been recommended in the area of Site **10**, where the remains of coal mining pits may be identified.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OA North would like to thank Andrew Conroy of Capita Symonds for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Lesley Mitchell at the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GMHER), and the staff of the Lancashire Record Office in Preston for their assistance with this project

The desk-based assessment and site visit were undertaken by Kathryn Blythe and Vicki Bullock with the drawings produced by Anne Stewardson. 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, it is proposed to redevelop Siddal Moor College, Rochdale, Greater Manchester. Information regarding the archaeological potential of the site and any subsequent risk or impact by redevelopment is required. A desk-based assessment is therefore necessary to identify the known archaeological resource in order to inform the planning process, and consider whether there is a requirement for any further archaeological work. Capita Symonds commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake the work, which was carried out in April/May 2009.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GMHER) in Manchester, the Lancashire Record Office in Preston, and the archives and library held at OA North. In addition to this, the site was visited, in order to relate the landscape and surroundings to the results of the desk-based assessment. This report sets out the results of the desk-based assessment 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 significance criteria detailed in PPG 16 (DoE 1990) was employed during the assessment.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The college is located to the south of Heywood and west of Hopwood, some 5.5km to the south-west of Rochdale (NGR SD 8557 0950; Fig 1). Historically it was part of the manor of Hopwood, which became a township in the post-medieval period and is now a settlement to the south-east of Heywood.
- 1.2.2 The site is on gently undulating ground at approximately 130m OD. It is bounded to the east by Newhouse Road, with playing fields located between Newhouse Road and Hopwood Avenue. To the north the site is bounded by housing along Salisbury Avenue. To the west and south-west it is bounded by Siddal Moor sewage works and to the north-west by open fields. The wider study area predominantly comprises residential housing.
- 1.2.3 The study area lies within the Manchester Pennine Fringe, which occupies the transitional zone between the open moorlands of the Southern Pennines and the densely populated urban conurbation of Manchester (Countryside Commission 1998, 121). This transitional zone between wild open moorlands and densely populated urban areas has an abrupt boundary where the town ends and the countryside begins. Eighteenth and nineteenth century stone and brick-built industrial buildings, including mill lodges and reservoirs, derive from the woollen and cotton industry along the valley bottoms and are testament to the important industrial heritage of the area. Mineral extraction related to the quarrying of local sandstone has created prominent scars on the

landscape and historic trans-Pennine communication routes, especially railways and canals, form an important part of the cultural landscape (www.naturalengland.org.uk).

- 1.2.4 As with much of the Manchester Pennine Fringe, the predominant land use was historically agricultural, with stock rearing and rough grazing. Evidence of industrial activity reflects the availability of naturally-occurring minerals and coal, and a number of extractive industries, particularly quarrying for sands and gravels, have left their mark on the landscape of the wider area (*ibid*).
- 1.2.5 The underlying solid geology consists of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures (Westphalian A) of the Carboniferous period. The predominant drift geology comprises glacial sands and gravels (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/beta.html>).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.1.1 A verbal brief was provided by the client, which was adhered to in full. The work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.
- 2.1.2 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 statutory and non-statutory sites within a 250m 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 considered using the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments, outlined in Annex 4 of *Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990).
- 2.1.3 **Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GMHER):** the Historical Environment Record (known formerly as the Sites and Monuments Record), maintained by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU) at the University of Manchester, holds records of archaeological sites within the ten Greater Manchester authorities, as both paper and digital information. A record, including grid reference and description, was obtained for the various sites within the defined area and for the immediate environs.
- 2.1.4 **Lancashire County Record Office, Preston (LRO):** the County Record Office in Preston was visited to consult historic maps of the study area, including the tithe map and relevant Ordnance Survey (OS) maps. A search was also made for any relevant historical documentation.
- 2.1.5 **Oxford Archaeology North:** OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

2.2 SITE VISIT

- 2.2.1 A visual inspection of the site was undertaken on Wednesday 6th May in order to relate the existing topography and land use with the results of the desk-based assessment.

2.3 CLIENT DATA

- 2.3.1 The client provided plans of the proposed development, which were consulted when establishing recommendations for any further work.

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 – 4000 BC
Neolithic	4000 – 2,200 BC
Bronze Age	2,200 – 700 BC
Iron Age	700 BC – AD 43
Romano-British	AD 43 – AD 410
Early Medieval	AD 410 – 1066
Late Medieval	1066 – 1540
Post-medieval	1540 – c1750
Industrial Period	c1750 – 1901
Modern	Post-1901

Table 1: Summary of British archaeological periods and date ranges

3.2 BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 ***Prehistoric Period:*** within the North West the evidence for prehistoric activity is often sporadic and based on chance finds. However, there is growing regional evidence for settlement being concentrated on sands and gravels adjacent to watercourses and mosslands, rather than on the heavier and more poorly-drained boulder clays. There are no prehistoric sites within the study area, but sites in the wider vicinity include two stone axe hammers found before 1854 in the Hopwood area (GMHER 2437.1.0) and a Bronze Age cairn at Wind Hill, to the north of Heywood, approximately 6km north-north-east of the study area, which was excavated in the 1970s (Hall *et al* 1995, 118).
- 3.2.2 ***The Romano-British Period:*** there are no Roman sites within the study area. However, there are two putative Roman roads in the wider area. It has been speculated that a Roman road ran approximately south-west/north-east from Manchester, via Rochdale, to join with the Roman road over Blackstone Edge in Littleborough, which continued on to Ilkley. The suggestion of a second road running approximately east/west on the north side of the River Roch from the road in Littleborough and connecting with the road between the forts at Manchester and Ribchester, has also been put forward, but as yet

archaeological evidence has not supported this theory (<http://www.link4life.org>; Ordnance Survey 1991; UMAU 2004).

- 3.2.3 **Early Medieval Period:** evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the region as a whole is drawn largely from place-names. The word ‘Hopwode’ means a ‘wood in a small enclosed valley’, and appears in Anglo-Saxon records. The family name ‘Hopwode’ originates from when a Middleton knight was granted land where ancient ‘Hopwood Hall’ now stands to the south-east of the study area. It has been suggested that the parish of Rochdale may have been co-extensive with the manor of Hopwood, which, according to the Domesday Survey, was held in 1066 by Gamel the thane (Morgan 1978).
- 3.2.4 **Late Medieval Period:** a manuscript refers to Hopwood in 1100 during the reign of William Rufus and, in 1277, William de Hopwood is mentioned attesting a grant by Henry de Lacy. At this time, the manor of Hopwood was held by the Lord of Middleton (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 136-141).
- 3.2.5 The study area is located at least in part within the area of moss named Siddal Moor (GMHER 5076.1.0), which would have been exploited early on for peat and possibly also for coal (see 3.2.6 below). These potential resources at Siddal Moor led to it being part of Whittle, a detached portion of Bury Parish, during the medieval period (Hall *et al* 1995, 120). However, at some later point Siddal Moor was included within the Hopwood township, as it is part of the nineteenth century Hopwood tithe.
- 3.2.6 **Post-medieval Period:** a survey of the property of Edward Hopwood in 1570 refers to 500 acres of moor (*mossette*) and turbary (LRO, D, DHP, 39/1, cited in Hall *et al* 1995, 105). In 1587 a lease between Edmund Hopwood and Isabella Schoffilde refers to the *coleyfylde* at Siddal, indicating that there was an interest in the potential for mining the coal in the area from at least the sixteenth century (Middleton Civic Society *c* 1990, cited in Hall *et al* 1995, 105). At this time mining would have been on a small-scale for local use. Bell pits or shallow drift mines were excavated, which remained close to the surface to allow for ventilation (McNeil 1990, 10).
- 3.2.7 In 1612, after the death of Edmund Hopwood, the manor included a watermill and three hundred acres of arable land. In 1666 there were 73 hearths liable for tax in Hopwood, fourteen of which were at Hopwood Hall (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 136-141). The manor remained with the Hopwood family until 1773, when it passed to an Edward Gregge (later Gregg family) of Werneth, who added the name Hopwood (Hall *et al* 1995, 105).
- 3.2.8 During the seventeenth century, domestic-based textile manufacture was increasingly undertaken as a supplementary income to farming. The ability of local tenants to purchase their landholdings in the early seventeenth century and, in some cases at least, to build new stone dwellings can be seen as a reflection of the strength of the local economy (UMAU 2004). During the later eighteenth century, although the district remained predominantly agricultural, the domestic woollen industry and local coal mining were on the increase. In 1780 Peel, Yates & Co. had built the first cotton factory, Makin Mill, in Heywood along the banks of the River Roch (<http://www.link4life.org>).

- 3.2.9 **Industrial Period:** the woollen industry eventually became so successful that by the mid-nineteenth century Rochdale manufactured eighty per cent of England's flannel production, and had become one of Manchester's important satellite industrial towns (www.spinningtheweb.co.uk; McNeil and Newman 2006, 171 and 177). As a result, the transport systems to the area were developed. The Rochdale Canal was constructed in the early nineteenth century and is extant on Hennet's map of 1830 (Fig 5) aligned approximately north/south some distance to the east of the study area. A Heywood branch of the canal was constructed slightly later and is evident on the first edition OS map of the area from 1851, heading south-east from Heywood and turning eastwards to connect with the Rochdale Canal. The 'Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway' which ran east-south-east from a station in Heywood was also extant by 1851 and the 'Liverpool Bolton & Bury Line' railway aligned east/west, to the north of the study area, was extant by 1890.
- 3.2.10 During the post-medieval period the manor of Hopwood had become a township within the parish of Middleton, and parts of the study area were still owned by the Gregg (previously Gregge) Hopwood family at the time of the Pilsworth and Hopwood tithe awards in 1838 and 1840 (Hall *et al* 1995, 105; LRO DRM 1/80; LRO DRM 1/56). Robert Gregg Hopwood was the land owner at this time, and he invested in agriculture, making many improvements to the land and manufacturing compost using 'bog soil' (Hall *et al* 1995, 105). Coal mining continued on Siddal Moor in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and a Simon Dearden (1715-95) and his son James (1774-1828) took up mining leases in the Heywood area, including on Siddal Moor (<http://www.link4life.org>).
- 3.2.11 By the nineteenth century, there were numerous cotton mills, a colliery, a large railway-wagon works and iron foundry, and a brewery in the vicinity (Farrer and Brownbill 1911). In 1863, a local administrative board was formed, but four years later part of Hopwood was absorbed into Heywood and the remainder was divided between Middleton and Rochdale in 1894, at which point the historic township became obsolete (*ibid*). Heywood's textile industry continued to flourish, reaching peak capacity in 1915, after which, however, it experienced rapid decline (Williams with Farnie 1992, 45). A tramroad from Hopwood Hall Colliery, built in 1828, that ran from pits near the hall to the canal wharf in Heywood, is clearly shown on the first edition OS map of 1851. Hopwood Hall also had a corn mill within the grounds. In 1982 remains of stone buildings, a wheel pit, wooden axle, part of an iron pit wheel and a millpond still survived (Ashmore 1982, 115).
- 3.2.12 **Siddal Moor College:** Yates' map of 1786 shows Siddal Moor as a small hamlet comprising dispersed farmsteads on the edges of the moor (Fig 3). By the time of the 1840 tithe, Siddal Moor was part of the township of Hopwood. This area saw a considerable amount of development during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, so that Siddal Moor has become part of a larger area of settlement south of Heywood and on the west side of Hopwood (see *Section 3.3*). Siddal Moor High School opened in the early 1970s and was closed in 1990, when it became Siddal Moor Sports College (<http://www.link4life.org>; www.school-index.co.uk).

3.3 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 3.3.1 **Introduction:** several cartographic sources were examined, held in the OA North archives and Lancashire Record Office in Preston.
- 3.3.2 **Yates' Map of Lancashire, 1786 (Fig 3):** the proposed development area is located partially within the area named as 'Siddall Moor' on Yates' map. The moor appears to be predominantly located on the west side of the road, which heads south-westwards from Heywood to Manchester (the current A6045, known here as Manchester Road). No properties are shown on the moor, but buildings are depicted along its north-western edge, in the vicinity of the proposed development area.
- 3.3.3 **Siddal Moor Enclosure Map, 1815 (AE 6/8) (Fig 4):** this mapping shows the north-eastern part of the proposed development area only, as the south-western area appears to have been outside of Siddal Moor. The plots of land labelled as 11d and 12 are within the proposed development area, and were listed as owned by 'Representatives of the Right Honourable Thomas Earl of Wilton' and 'Robert Gregge Hopwood Esq.' respectively. 'Earl of Wilton' is written across the area to the south-west of plot 11d, indicating that the remainder of the proposed development area also belonged to the Earl at this time. Buildings are shown along the northern boundary of plot 12, which are likely to include two buildings shown on the Hopwood Tithe (Fig 7; Site 07). Two buildings are also shown to the south-west of plot 11d in the area later labelled as Mercer's Farm (Site 04), one of which is labelled 'Thatched Cottage'. On the east side of the road, south-east of plot 11d, a building in the area later labelled as 'Wickan Bank' (Site 11) is depicted, and a 'Public Well' (Site 05) is shown to its south.
- 3.3.4 **Hennet's Map of Lancashire, 1830 (Fig 5):** this mapping is less detailed than the earlier enclosure award. However, the map gives a good clear depiction of the wider area, showing the main roads, including Manchester Road, which heads south-west from the area labelled 'Siddall Moor'. The map also shows the boundaries of Hopwood Hall and Heywood Hall, the Rochdale Canal to the east of Hopwood Hall and the River Roch to the north of Heywood Hall.
- 3.3.5 **Pilsworth Tithe map, 1838 (DRM 1/80) (Fig 6):** the south-western part of the proposed development area is depicted on the Pilsworth tithe as fields 233a, 231 and 232. The fields are listed as owned by the Earl of Wilton and were planted with potatoes at the time of the tithe award. Field 230 is named 'New Marled Field', indicating that the process of excavating pits for marl to spread across the field as fertiliser was, or had been, taking place at this time. A pond (Site 06), which may have been a former marl pit, is located in the north-west corner of this field.
- 3.3.6 **Hopwood Tithe map, 1846 (DRM 1/56) (Fig 7):** the majority of the proposed development area is within the area depicted on the Hopwood Tithe. Gooden House is labelled to the north-east of the study area. Unnamed buildings in the vicinity of the proposed development area include the buildings noted on the 1815 map (Fig 4), in the area later named as Mercer's Farm (Site 04) and Wickan Bank (Site 11); and two buildings to the north of the proposed

development area (Site **07**). To the south-west of these buildings, an area depicted as planted with trees is labelled as plot 521, which is named in the tithe award as 'Barn Field' (Site **08**). However, there does not appear to be a building depicted in this area on the tithe map, but it is possible that the name refers to an earlier structure. A pond is also depicted in this field (Site **09**), and the field to the north-west (319) is named 'Higher Marled Earth', indicating that the pond may have originated as a marl pit. To the south-west of Barn Field are three fields (287, 288 and 289) named Lower-, Middle-, and Higher Coal Pit Field (Site **10**), suggesting that coal mining had taken place in this area. In addition, the field to the north-west (328), is labelled 'Pits'. Of these, 'Lower Coal Pit Field' is located within the proposed development area. The owner of the majority of the land within the proposed development area is listed as Robert Gregge Hopwood Esq., and a John Millett owned land towards the northern extent of the proposed development area. The Earl of Wilton is not listed as an owner in this area. The well (Site **05**) marked on the 1815 map is not shown on this or later mapping.

3.3.7 *Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" to one mile map, 1851 (Fig 8)*: two unnamed buildings (Site **07**), also shown on the tithe (Fig 7), are depicted at the northern extent of the proposed development area. Unnamed buildings are also located in the area of Mercer's Farm (Site **04**). On the east side of the Heywood to Manchester Road, Wickan Bank (Site **11**), is now labelled. A small pond (Site **14**) is depicted on the west side of a lane which runs north-westwards from Manchester Road, past Mercer's Farm (Site **04**), and a probable former pond (Site **13**) suggested by a sharp curve in a field boundary is evident at the south-west extent of the proposed development area. Just beyond the western extent of the study area, to the north of 'Haysill', an old quarry is marked. A milestone labelled 'Heywood 1, Manchester 7½' (Site **12**) is depicted on the road to the west of Collop Gate. In the wider area, the 'Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway' was noted heading east-south-east from Heywood and, south of this, the Heywood Branch Canal heads south-east from Heywood and then turns east to join the Rochdale Canal.

3.3.8 *Ordnance Survey 25" to one mile map, 1890 (Fig 9)*: further development has taken place along the west side of Manchester Road, to the north-east of Mercer's Farm (Site **04**), by the time of this mapping. New development in Heywood includes a number of mills to the north-east of the study area and, presumably, associated settlement, which has extended both to the north and south of Gooden House. A new railway, the 'Liverpool Bolton & Bury Line', runs east/west a short distance to the north of Gooden House, and the area of settlement on the south side of the line is labelled as Hopwood. To the north of the proposed development area, a house and garden is located in the area of the western of the two buildings identified on earlier mapping (Site **07**). Buildings in the area later named as Siddal Moor Farm (Site **01**), are now depicted on the south side of Hares Hill Lane. The wooded area in the vicinity of Barn Field (Site **08**), is no longer extant. 'Old Gravel Pits' are marked to the south-east and north-east of Wicken Bank Farm (Site **11**, formerly 'Wickan Bank'), and a brick works is marked further to the south-east of the farm.

- 3.3.9 ***Ordnance Survey 6" to one mile map, 1910 (Fig 10):*** the Heywood and Hopwood area of settlement has grown extensively, however, there are few changes within the study area. Site **07** is named as Mellert's Place, and a nursery is labelled behind the house. A new building named 'Providence Cottage' is located to the west of Mellert's Place. A 'Shaft' is shown to the south of Collop Gate Farm, to the south of the study area.
- 3.3.10 ***Ordnance Survey 6" to one mile map, 1932 (Fig 11):*** further development has taken place along Manchester Road. The area to the west of Mellert's Place (Site **07**) is labelled as a golf course; a pavilion is marked on the northern boundary of the proposed development area, in the southern corner of a playing field; and a club house is marked to the north of the playing field. South of Mellert's Place, a second playing field is shown.
- 3.3.11 ***Ordnance Survey 6" to one mile map, revision of 1927-8, with additions in 1938, and a part revision in 1939 (Fig 12):*** the area of the proposed development shows little change from its depiction on the 1932 map. Streets and housing have been laid out to the east of Mellert's Place (Site **07**), including Hopworth Avenue, which forms the northern boundary to the playing field first shown on the 1932 mapping (Fig 11).
- 3.3.12 ***Ordnance Survey 1:10,560, 1965 (Fig 13):*** further housing development has taken place by the time of this mapping, particularly to the north and east of Mellert's Place (Site **07**). Providence Cottage to the west of Mellert's Place is now named 'Hill Top', and the pond (Site **09**) in this area is no longer shown. The ponds shown on earlier mapping, Site **06** and Site **14**, to the west are no longer extant.
- 3.3.13 ***Ordnance Survey 1:10,560, 1977 (Fig 13):*** school buildings, relating to Siddal Moor High School, are depicted on this mapping, with two playing fields shown to the north-west and north-east, and tennis courts to the south-east of the school. A series of large buildings labelled 'Depot' are depicted a short distance to the south-west of the school. The milestone (Site **12**) and Mellert's Place (Site **07**) are no longer extant by the time of this mapping. However, Hill Top, appears to have been retained within the new housing development, which now extends across the area of the former golf course.
- 3.3.14 Current mapping shows some further development along Manchester Road in the area of Mercer's Farm (Site **04**), which appears to have been demolished since 1977, and replaced with a housing estate. Further development has also taken place to the north of the school, and the school buildings have increased in size and number since 1977 (Fig 2).

3.4 SITE VISIT

- 3.4.1 A visual inspection of the site was undertaken on Wednesday 6th May 2009 in order to relate the existing topography and land use with the results of the desk-based assessment. The 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. The college is located in a suburban, residential area, between Heywood and Hopwood. The housing is primarily late twentieth century, with some areas of earlier twentieth century housing beyond the northern perimeter of the playing fields on Newhouse Road (Plate 1). The college is unenclosed on Newhouse Road, but has perimeter fencing around the remainder of the site (Plates 2 and 3). No public access is permitted around the perimeter of the college grounds. There are playing fields to the east and south of the buildings, and courts on the western side (Plate 4). The college buildings are of relatively modern construction and date from the later twentieth century, as confirmed by the historic map regression (*Section 3.3*). A straight track runs along the western side of the playing fields in front of the college, which also have a perimeter fence (Plate 5).

- 3.4.2 An area to the rear (south) of the college was also visited to place the wider study area in context. The area immediately to the rear of the college is a residential area, and to the rear of this is a sewage works. An area of large, open fields (Plate 6) lies to the south of the sewage works, with Hareshill Road forming a boundary. A track runs in a south-easterly direction from Hares Hill Farm (Plates 7 and 8) at the southern extent of the study area. No sites were added to the gazetteer as a result of the site visit.

3.5 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 3.5.1 Both the GMHER and the OA North library and archives were consulted for records of previous archaeological work in the study area and environs.
- 3.5.2 An archaeological assessment was carried out in advance of road construction in the vicinity of the M62 and M66 (McNeil 1990) and the study area was located just beyond the southern extent of the current study area. The assessment included the identification of several areas of mining pits at Thurston Fold (GMHER 2896.1.0 and 2896.1.1), Pilsworth (GMHER 2899.1.0), Stock Nook (GMHER 2901.1.0), Saxon's Farm (GMHER 2906.1.0), and near Gap Farm (GMHER 2967.1.0 and 2973.1.0).
- 3.5.3 Several areas of earthworks were also identified in the Meadowcroft Fold area off Moss Hall Road, including a possible deserted hamlet of unknown date but with probable medieval origins, and undated ridge and furrow (McNeil 1990, 9-10). Ridge and Furrow was also recorded off Hareshill Road (GMHER 2968.1.0).

4. GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number	01
Site name	Siddal Moor Farm
NGR	SD 8524 0903
HER No	2960.1.0
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Barn, farm, farmhouse and deserted farmstead
Period	Industrial
Sources	HER
Description	Large brick farmhouse with barn attached to rear elevation. The barn has a high wagon entrance and a segmented arch at the west end.
Assessment	The site lies outwith the proposed development area, and will not be affected.

Site number	02
Site name	Ridge and Furrow at Siddal Moor Farm
NGR	SD 8518 0898
HER No	2960.2.0
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Field system/ridge and furrow
Period	Unknown (probable post-medieval/industrial date)
Sources	HER
Description	Ridge and furrow running in a south-west/north-east direction and an earthwork evident as a reduced bank.
Assessment	The site lies outwith the proposed development area, and will not be affected.

Site number	03
Site name	Edgcroft
NGR	Centroid SD 8595 0931
HER No	11616.1.1
Stat. Designation	Listed Building (II) 358846
Site type	House
Period	Modern
Sources	HER
Description	A house built in 1921 by Edgar Wood. Constructed of brick with a steeply-pitched stone slate roof. The interior is virtually complete, with original fireplaces.
Assessment	The site lies a distance outwith the proposed development area, and will not be affected.

Site number	04
Site name	Mercer's Farm
NGR	SD 85678 09291
HER No	-
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Farm (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map regression - Siddal Moor Enclosure Map, 1815 (AE 6/8)
Description	Unnamed buildings are first shown in this area on the Siddal Moor Enclosure Map of 1815. The farm is first named on the OS 1890 mapping, and the farm was still extant on OS mapping from 1977. However, the farm has been replaced by a modern housing estate.
Assessment	The site lies outwith the proposed development area, and will not be affected.

Site number	05
Site name	Public Well, located north of Collop Gate Farm
NGR	SD 85944 09270
HER No	-
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Well (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map regression - Siddal Moor Enclosure Map, 1815 (AE 6/8)
Description	A 'Public Well' shown on the Siddal Moor Enclosure Map of 1815, but not on subsequent mapping.
Assessment	The site lies outwith the proposed development area, and will not be affected.

Site number	06
Site name	Pond, north-east of Hares Hill Farm
NGR	SD 85213 09450
HER No	-
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Pond (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map regression - Pilsworth Tithe map, 1838 (DRM 1/80)
Description	Field 230, on the Pilsworth Tithe map of 1838, is named 'New Marled Field', indicating that the process of excavating pits for marl to spread across the field as fertiliser was, or had been, taking place. A pond, which may have been a former marl pit, is located in the north-west corner of this field. The pond is shown as extant on OS mapping up to and including 1939, but appears to have fallen out of use after this time.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area, and may be impacted by construction works.

Site number	07
Site name	Mellert's Place
NGR	SD 85841 09734
HER No	-
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Buildings (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map regression - Siddal Moor Enclosure Map, 1815 (AE 6/8)
Description	Two pairs of buildings are shown on the northern boundary of plot 12 of the Siddal Moor Enclosure Map of 1815. The western pair is no longer extant by the time of the 1840 Hopwood Tithe, but the eastern pair is likely to be the same as the two buildings shown on the 1840 tithe, the western of which is in the same location as a building named Mellert's Place on the OS 1910 mapping. The building was no longer extant by the time of the OS 1977 mapping.
Assessment	The site lies outwith the proposed development area, and will not be affected.

Site number	08
Site name	Barn Field
NGR	SD 85730 09658
HER No	-
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Barn (possible site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map regression - Hopwood Tithe map, 1846 (DRM 1/56)
Description	An area depicted as planted with trees on the Hopwood Tithe map of 1846 is labelled as plot 521, 'Barn Field'. There does not appear to be a building depicted in this area on the tithe map, but it is possible that the name refers to an earlier structure. A pair

	of buildings (the western pair described as part of Site 07) was located in this approximate area on the Siddal Moor enclosure map of 1815.
Assessment	The site lies outwith the proposed development area, and will not be affected.

Site number	09
Site name	Pond in Barn Field
NGR	SD 85807 09679
HER No	-
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Pond (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map regression - Hopwood Tithe map, 1846 (DRM 1/56)
Description	A pond is depicted in plot 521, 'Barn Field' on the Hopwood Tithe map of 1846. The field to its north-west (319) is named 'Higher Marled Earth', indicating that the pond may have originated as a marl pit. The pond was no longer extant by the time of the 1965 OS mapping.
Assessment	The site lies outwith the proposed development area, and will not be affected.

Site number	10
Site name	Lower Coal Pit Field
NGR	SD 85654 09526
HER No	-
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Coal Pits (possible site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map regression - Hopwood Tithe map, 1846 (DRM 1/56)
Description	Lower Coal Pit Field is marked as field 287 on the Hopwood Tithe map of 1846. To its north-west are three fields (288, 289 and 328) named Middle-, and Higher Coal Pit Field and 'Pits'. These field names suggest that coal mining had taken place in this area by the time of this tithe map.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area, and may be impacted by construction works.

Site number	11
Site name	Wicken Bank Farm
NGR	SD 85967 09344
HER No	-
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Farm (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map regression - Siddal Moor Enclosure Map, 1815 (AE 6/8)
Description	A building in the area later labelled as 'Wickan Bank' is depicted on the Siddal Moor Enclosure Map of 1815. The farm is named Wickan Bank on the OS mapping of 1851 and Wicken Bank Farm on the OS mapping of 1890. The farm was shown as still extant on OS mapping from 1977, but is not shown on current mapping.
Assessment	The site lies outwith the proposed development area, and will not be affected.

Site number	12
Site name	Milestone, Manchester Road
NGR	SD 85828 09129
HER No	-
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Milestone (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map regression - Ordnance Survey, 1851

Description	A milestone marked 'Heywood 1, Manchester 7½', shown on the OS mapping of 1851. The milestone was shown as still extant on the OS mapping from 1965, but had gone by the time of the OS mapping of 1977.
Assessment	The site lies outwith the proposed development area, and will not be affected.

Site number	13
Site name	Pond, east of Hares Hill Farm
NGR	SD 85283 09305
HER No	-
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Pond (possible site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map regression - Ordnance Survey, 1851
Description	A possible pond is suggested by a semi-circular section of field boundary shown on the OS mapping of 1851.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area, and may be impacted by construction works.

Site number	14
Site name	Pond, north-west of Mercer's Farm
NGR	SD 85429 09504
HER No	-
Stat. Designation -	
Site type	Pond (Site of)
Period	Industrial
Sources	Map regression - Ordnance Survey, 1851
Description	A pond is shown on the OS mapping of 1851. The pond was no longer extant by the time of the 1965 OS mapping.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed development area, and may be impacted by construction works.

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REMAINS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 Fourteen sites have been identified within the study area, one of which is a Grade II Listed Building (Site **03**). There are no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks or Gardens or Battlefields within the study area, nor is the study area within a Conservation Area. Of the 14 sites identified, four are within the proposed development area (Sites **06**, **10**, **13** and **14**).

Period	No of Sites	Site Type
Industrial	12	An extant farm (01), the sites of farms (04), the site of a well (05), the sites of ponds (06 , 09 , 13 and 14), the site of buildings (07), the site of a possible barn (08), the site of possible coal mining pits (10) and the site of a milestone (12)
Modern	1	Edgecroft, a Listed Building (03)
Unknown	1	Ridge and Furrow (02) - likely to be post-medieval or industrial period

Table 2: Number of sites by period

5.2 CRITERIA

- 5.2.1 There are a number of different methodologies used to assess the archaeological significance of sites; that to be used here is the ‘Secretary of State’s criteria for scheduling ancient monuments’ which is included as Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990). The sites previously listed (*Section 4*, above) were each considered using the criteria and those likely to be impacted by the proposed development are discussed below.
- 5.2.2 **Period:** Sites **06**, **13** and **14** all date to the industrial period, but are not considered significant due to period. Site **10** may be considered to be of some significance due to period as it relates to early small-scale coal mining.
- 5.2.3 **Rarity:** none of the sites are considered to be significant due to rarity.
- 5.2.4 **Documentation:** Sites **06**, **10**, **13** and **14** were all identified from examining cartographic sources. The only site which might be researched further through documentary sources is Site **10**, which identifies a possible area of coal mining pits.
- 5.2.5 **Group Value:** the three ponds, Sites **06**, **13** and **14** can be grouped, and suggest that marl extraction was taking place across this area in the industrial period. However, the significance of the sites is not enhanced by this group association.

- 5.2.6 **Survival/Condition:** Site **10** comes from field name evidence and therefore it is not known if there is any buried physical evidence for this site. Sites **06**, **13** and **14** are all sites of ponds which are likely to have infilled over time and, as such, are not shown on the current mapping. It is not known if there any buried remains of these ponds.
- 5.2.7 **Fragility/Vulnerability:** Sites **06**, **10**, **13** and **14** are all located within the proposed development area and, therefore, are vulnerable to impact through development. However, none of the sites are considered to be significant on this basis.
- 5.2.8 **Diversity:** none of the sites are considered to be significant due to diversity, and the gazetteer sites as a group are not diverse as they predominantly relate to agricultural and small-scale industrial use of this area during the industrial period.
- 5.2.9 **Potential:** there is very little evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity in the environs of the study area and the potential for archaeology from these periods within the proposed development area is therefore considered to be low.
- 5.2.10 An archaeological assessment carried out to the south of the present study area in 1990 identified a number of coal mining sites, along with areas of earthworks, such as ridge and furrow and possible house platforms. Although these sites have not been dated, it is thought that at least some of the earthwork sites in the Meadowcroft Fold area had their origins in the medieval period. There is, therefore, some potential for medieval archaeology within the study area, in particular in the vicinity of any farmsteads which may have originated from the medieval period. Site **04**, located to the south of the proposed development area, and Site **07**, located to the north, are both shown on the Siddal Moor enclosure map of 1815, the earliest detailed mapping identified during this assessment. These sites are therefore, perhaps, the most likely areas of medieval activity. The known archaeology within the study area is, however, predominantly post-medieval relating to small-scale coal mining or agricultural practices, such as marl extraction. Consequently, the potential of the proposed development area is for further sites of this nature and associated finds, which have a low level of significance, and are only of very local interest.

5.3 SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.3.1 Table 3 shows the sensitivity of the site scaled in accordance with its relative importance using the following terms for archaeology issues, with guideline recommendations for a mitigation strategy.

Importance	Examples of Site Type	Negative Impact
National	Scheduled Monuments (SMs), Grade I, II* and II Listed Buildings	To be avoided
Regional/County	Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens (Statutory Designated Sites) Sites and Monuments Record/Historic Environment Record	Avoidance recommended
Local/Borough	Sites with a local or borough value or interest for cultural appreciation Sites that are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion into a higher grade	Avoidance not envisaged
Low Local	Sites with a low local value or interest for cultural appreciation Sites that are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion into a higher grade	Avoidance not envisaged
Negligible	Sites or features with no significant value or interest	Avoidance unnecessary

Table 3: Criteria used to determine Importance of Sites

- 5.3.2 Based on the above criteria, one of the sites in the study area is a Grade II Listed Building (Site **03**), which automatically makes it of national significance. The remaining sites recorded in the HER (Sites **01** and **02**) are, similarly, at least of regional or county significance as a result. The remaining sites within the gazetteer, including the four sites within the proposed development area (Sites **06**, **10**, **13** and **14**), are of low local importance.
- 5.3.3 The above conclusions are based on the current state of knowledge and the subsequent discovery of additional features or evidence relating to these sites could alter their assessed levels of significance.

6. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 IMPACT

6.1.1 In its Planning Policy Guidance *Note 16*, the Department of the Environment (DoE) advises that archaeological remains are a continually diminishing resource and *‘should be seen as finite, and non-renewable resource, in many cases, highly fragile and vulnerable to destruction. Appropriate management is therefore essential to ensure that they survive in good condition. In particular, care must be taken to ensure that archaeological remains are not needlessly or thoughtlessly destroyed’*. It has been the intention of this study to identify the archaeological potential of the study area, and assess the impact of redevelopment, thus allowing the advice of the DoE 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 proposed development;
- 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.

6.1.2 The impact is assessed in terms of the sensitivity or importance of the site to the magnitude of change or potential scale of impact during the future redevelopment scheme. The magnitude, or scale, of an impact is often difficult to define, but will be termed as substantial, moderate, slight, or negligible, as shown in Table 4, below.

Scale of Impact	Description
Substantial	Significant change in environmental factors; Complete destruction of the site or feature; Change to the site or feature 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 site or feature 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 site or feature 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 site or feature. No real change in our ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its cultural heritage or archaeological value/historical context and setting.

Table 4: Criteria used to determine Scale of Impact

- 6.1.3 The interaction of the scale of impact (Table 4) and the importance of the archaeological site (Table 3) produce the impact significance. This may be calculated by using the matrix shown in Table 5, below.

Resource Value (Importance)	Scale of Impact Upon Archaeological Site			
	Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
National	Major	Major	Intermediate/ Minor	Slight
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 5: Impact Significance Matrix

- 6.1.4 The only sites within the proposed development area are a possible area of coal pits (Site **10**), and the sites of three ponds (Sites **06**, **13** and **14**). The survival of these features beneath the ground is not known, and it is possible that previous agricultural activity and/or levelling connected with the recent use of the site for a school may have removed any remains of these features.

6.2 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 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 works associated with the development, and the present condition of the archaeological assets/sites. The results are summarised in Table 6, below, in the absence of mitigation.

Site Number	Nature of Impact	Significance	Scale of Impact	Impact Significance
06	Possible disturbance of below ground remains	Local (low)	Negligible	Neutral
10	Possible disturbance of below ground remains	Local (low)	Moderate	Minor
13	Possible disturbance of below ground remains	Local (low)	Negligible	Neutral
14	Possible disturbance of below ground remains	Local (low)	Slight	Minor/ Neutral

Table 6: Assessment of the impact significance on each site during development

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

7.1 INTRODUCTION

- 7.1.1 In terms of the requirement for further archaeological investigation and mitigation, it is necessary to consider only those sites that will be affected by the proposed development. Current legislation draws a distinction between archaeological remains of national importance and other remains considered to be of lesser significance. Those perceived to be of national importance may require preservation *in situ*, whilst those of lesser significance may undergo preservation by record, where high, local or regional significance can be demonstrated.

7.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.2.1 The following recommendations are based on the current understanding of the proposed development from a plan provided by the client. Should the plans for the proposed development change, advice should be sought from GMHES as to any required mitigation.
- 7.2.2 Of the four known sites within the proposed development area, only two (Sites **10** and **14**) appear to be in areas, identified on the plan provided by the client, that may be impacted. Site **14**, the site of a pond is of negligible interest, and no further work is recommended for this site. Any remains pertaining to coal mining (Site **10**) would be of low local importance. It is therefore recommended that a watching brief is carried out on any groundworks undertaken in this area of the site, west of Newhouse Road, in the northern portion of the area currently occupied by the college buildings. This work should be carried out in consultation with Greater Manchester Historic Environment Service (GMHES), who would provide a project brief.

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9. ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Gazetteer of sites

Figure 3: Extract from Yates' map of Lancashire, 1786

Figure 4: Extract from the Siddal Moor enclosure map, 1815

Figure 5: Extract from Hennessey's map of Lancashire, 1830

Figure 6: Extract from the Pilsworth Tithe, 1838

Figure 7: Extract from the Hopwood Tithe, 1840

Figure 8: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile, 1851

Figure 9: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile, 1890

Figure 10: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile, 1910

Figure 11: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile, 1932

Figure 12: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile, 1927-8, with additions in 1938-9

Figure 13: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560, 1965

Figure 14: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560, 1977

PLATES

Plate 1: Twentieth century housing beyond the northern perimeter of the playing fields on Newhouse Road

Plate 2: Siddal Moor College from Newhouse Road

Plate 3: Perimeter fencing around the college

Plate 4: Courts on the western side of the college

Plate 5: Track along the western side of the playing fields in front of the college

Plate 6: An area of large, open fields to the south of the sewage works

Plate 7: Hares Hill Farm

Plate 8: A track running in a south-easterly direction from Hares Hill Farm

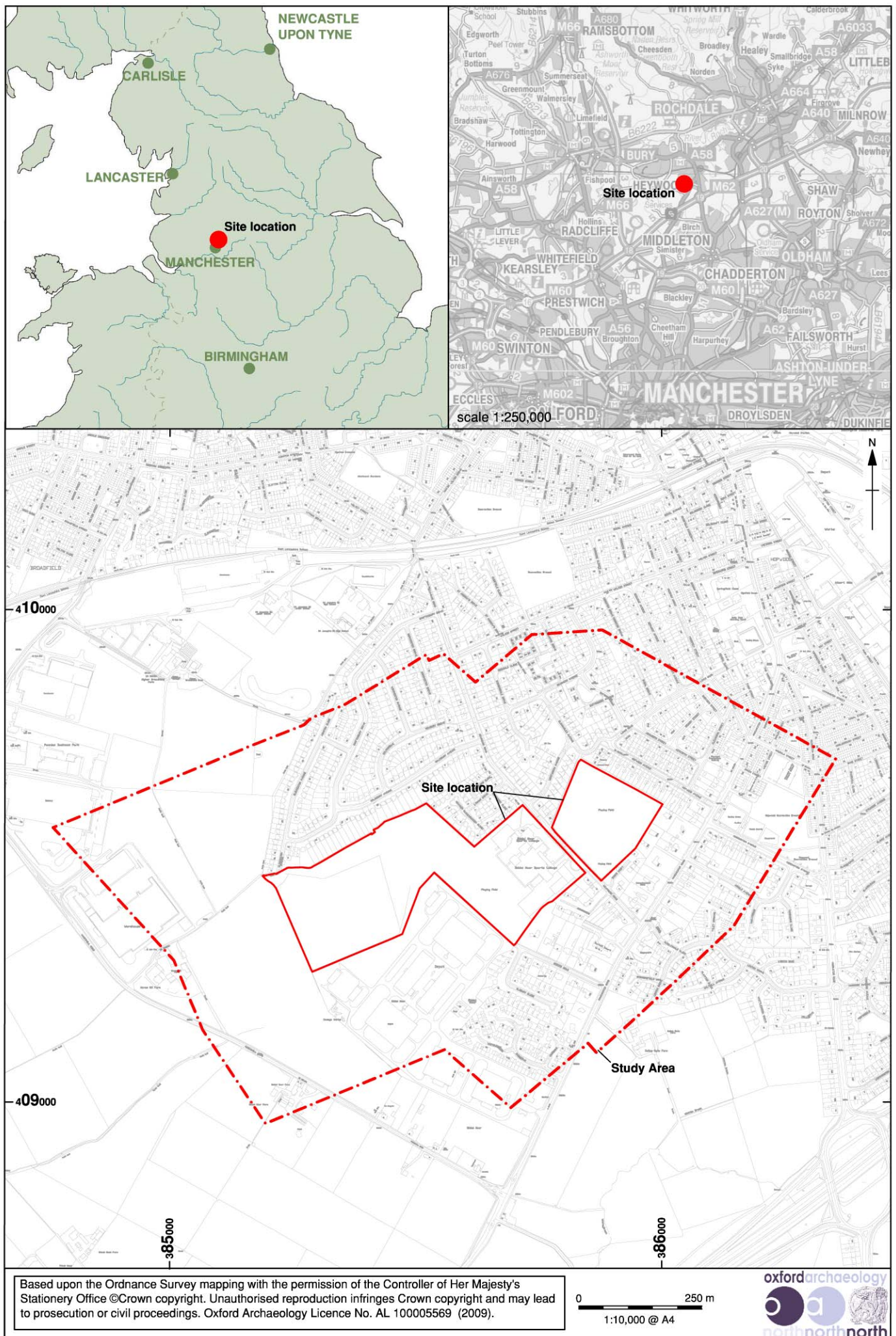


Figure 1: Site location

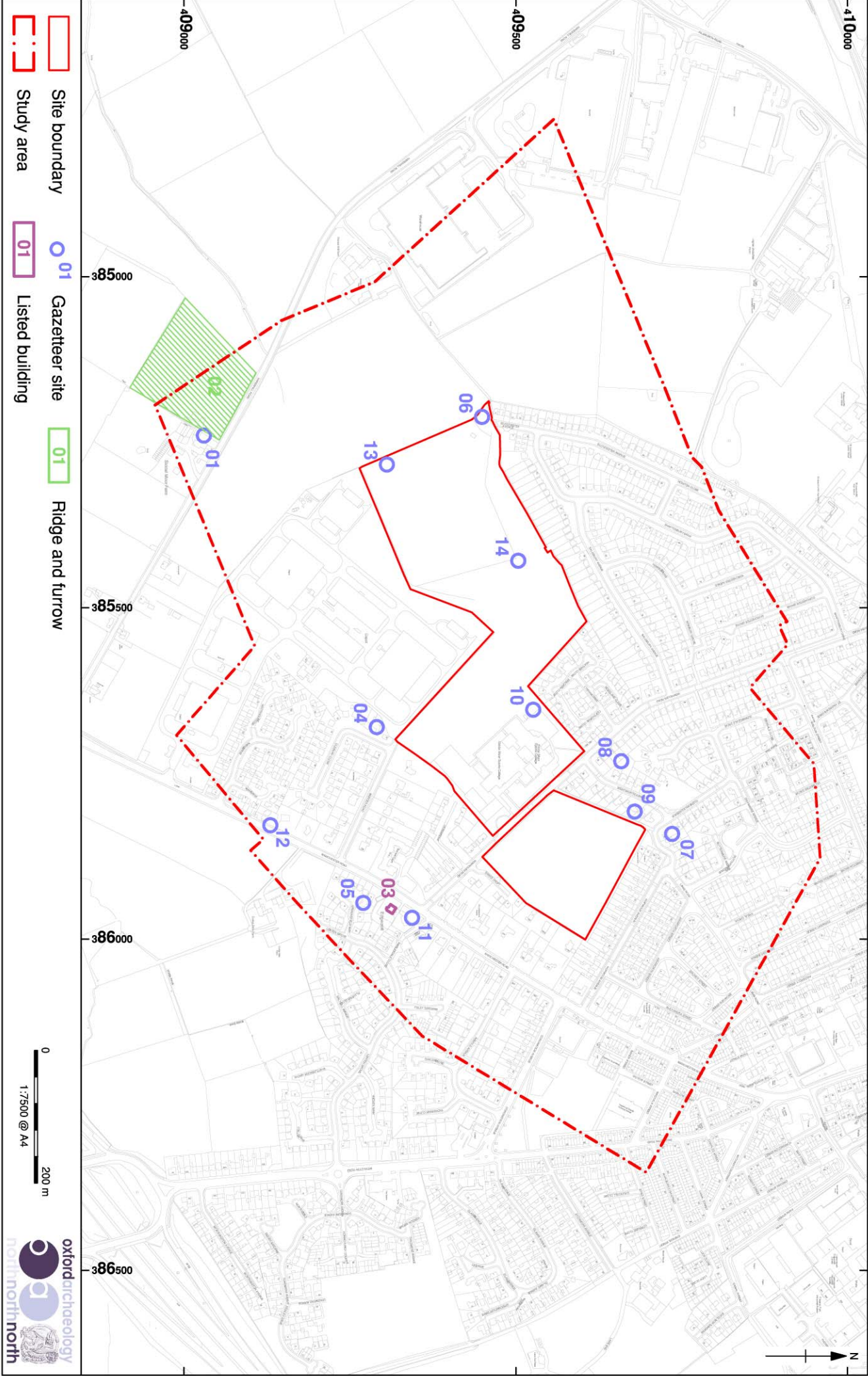


Figure 2: Gazetteer of sites

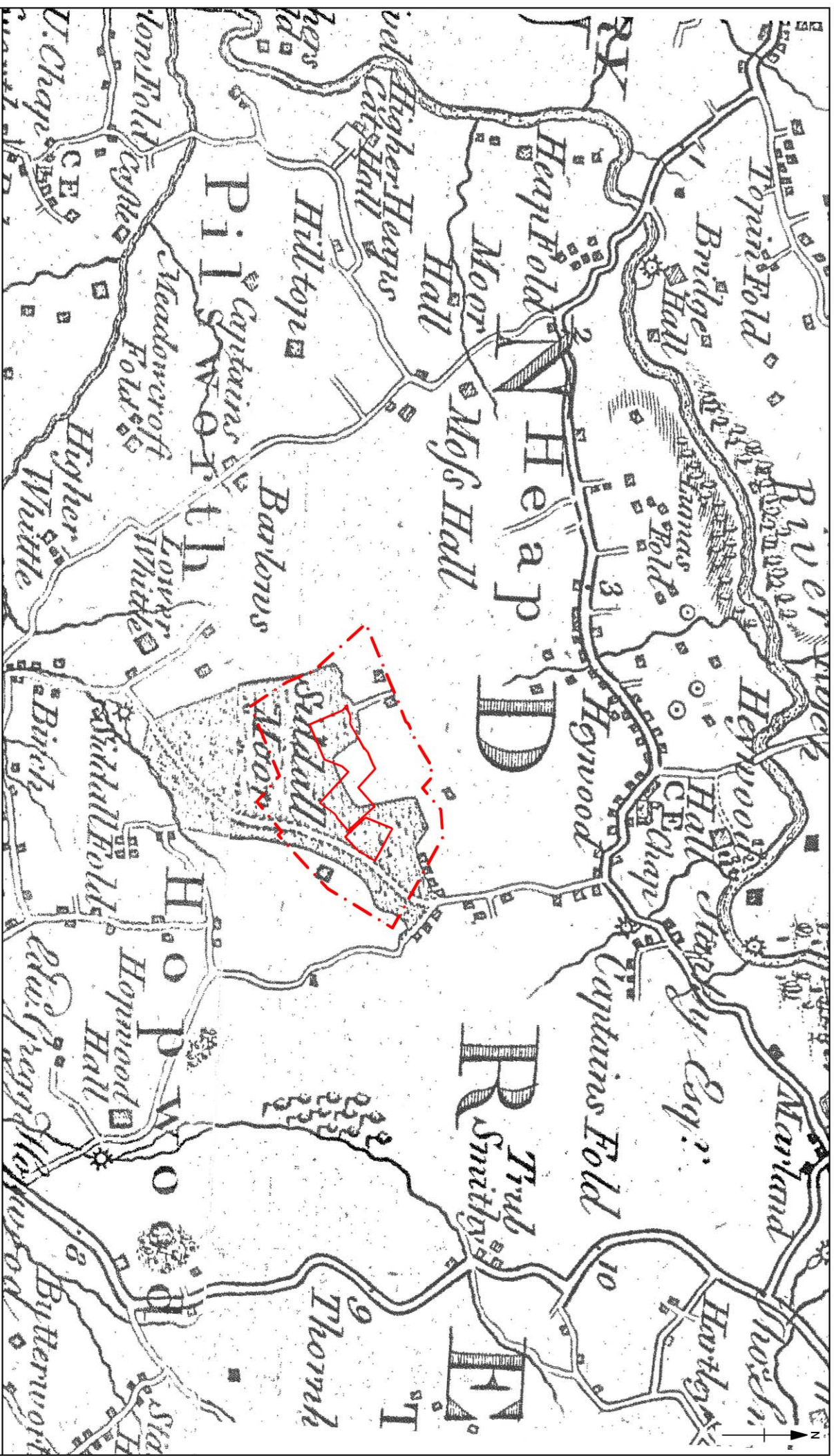


Figure 3: Extract from Yates' map of Lancashire, 1786

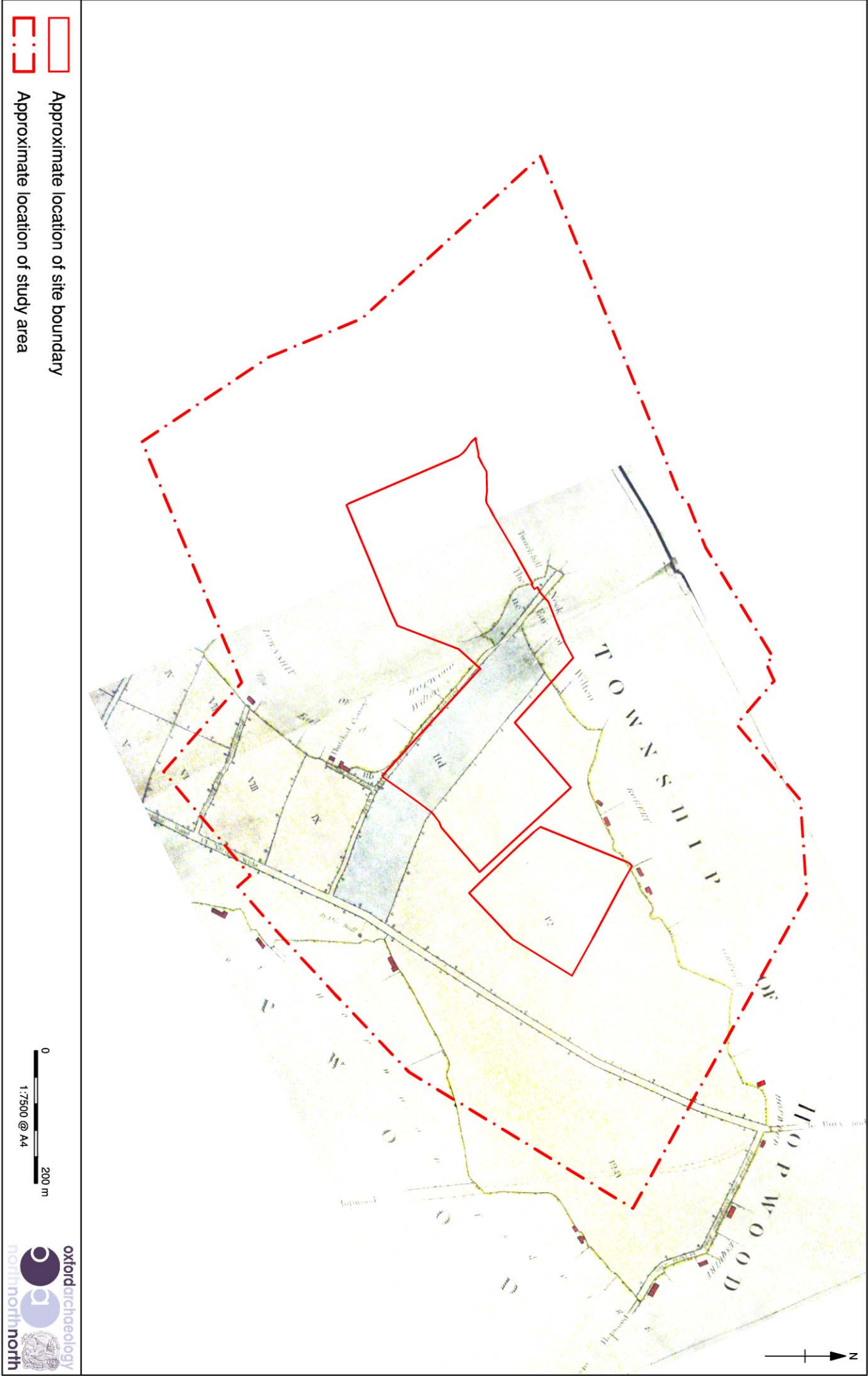


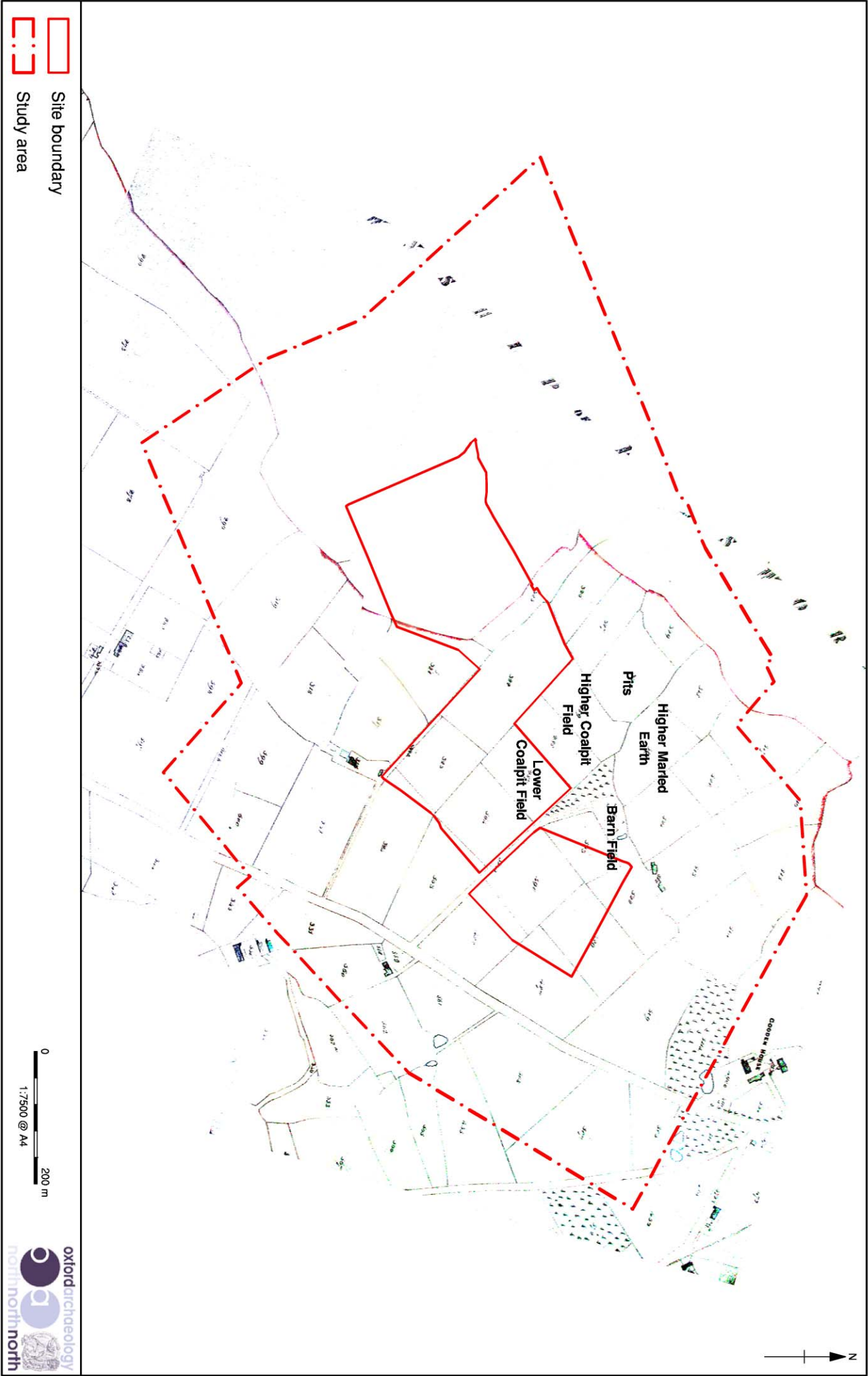
Figure 4: Extract from the Suddal Moor enclosure map, 1815



Figure 5: Extract from Hennet's map of Lancashire, 1830



Figure 6: Extract from the Plisworth Tithe, 1838



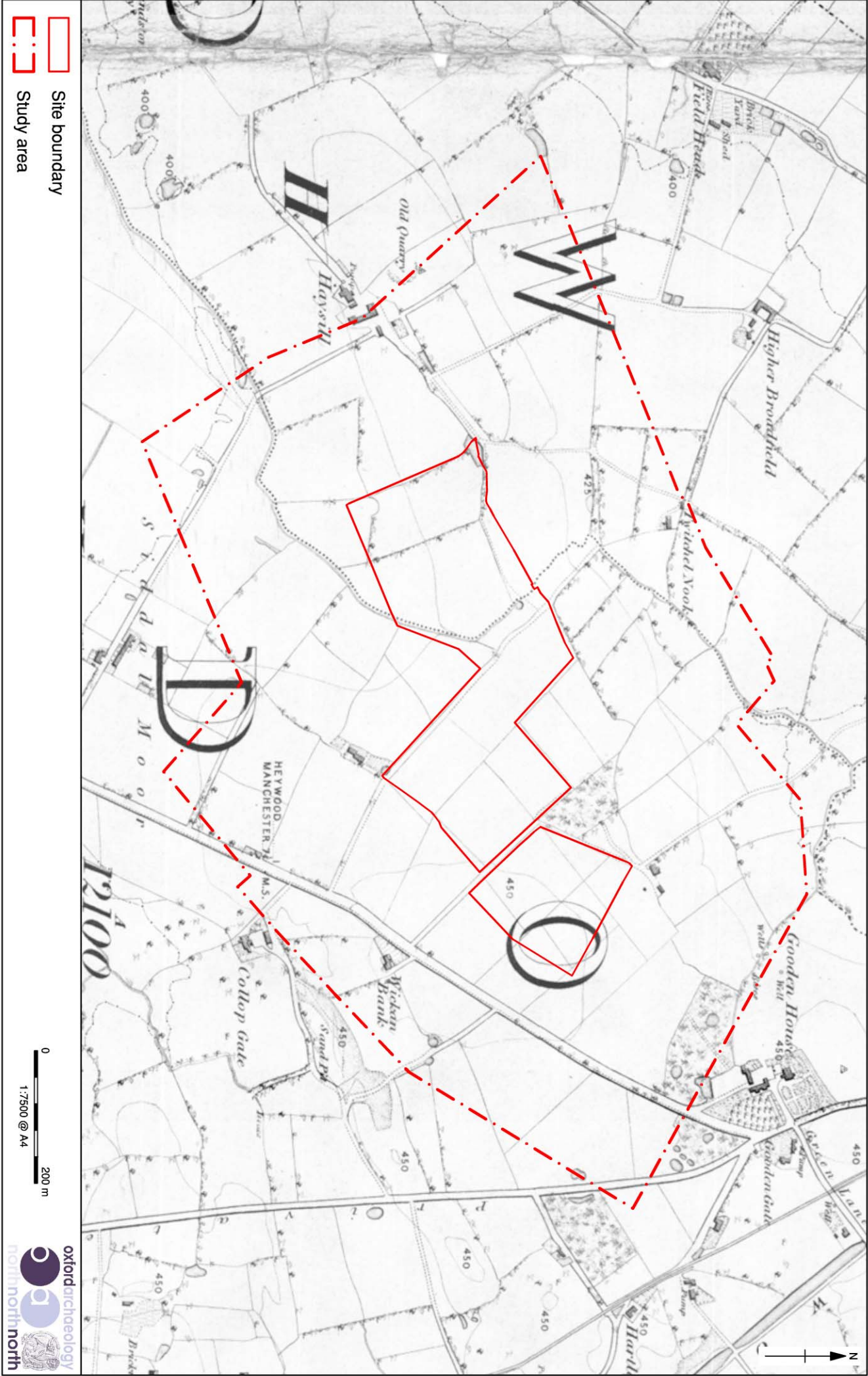


Figure 8: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile, 1851

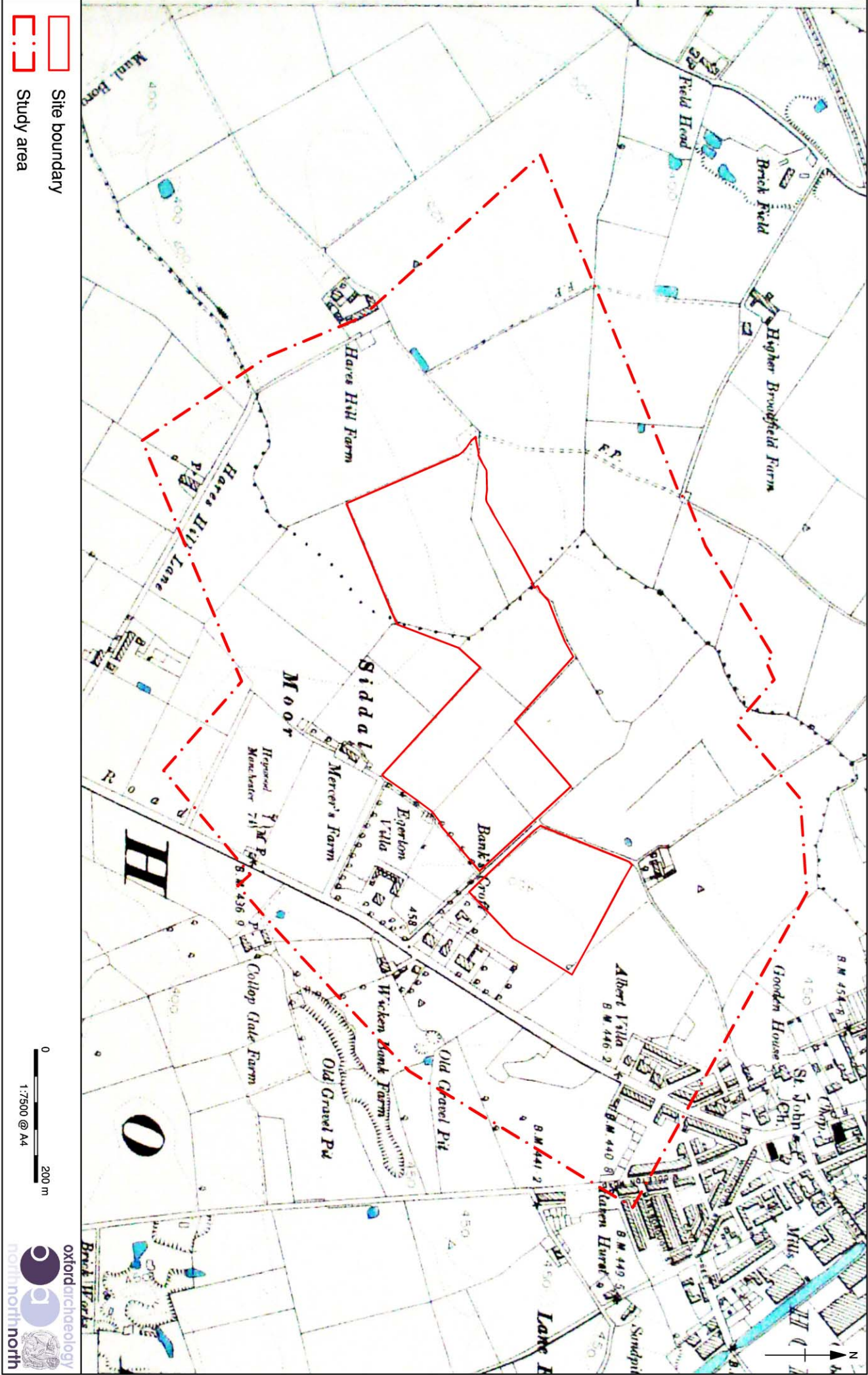


Figure 9: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile, 1890

Figure 10: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile, 1910



Figure 11: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile, 1932

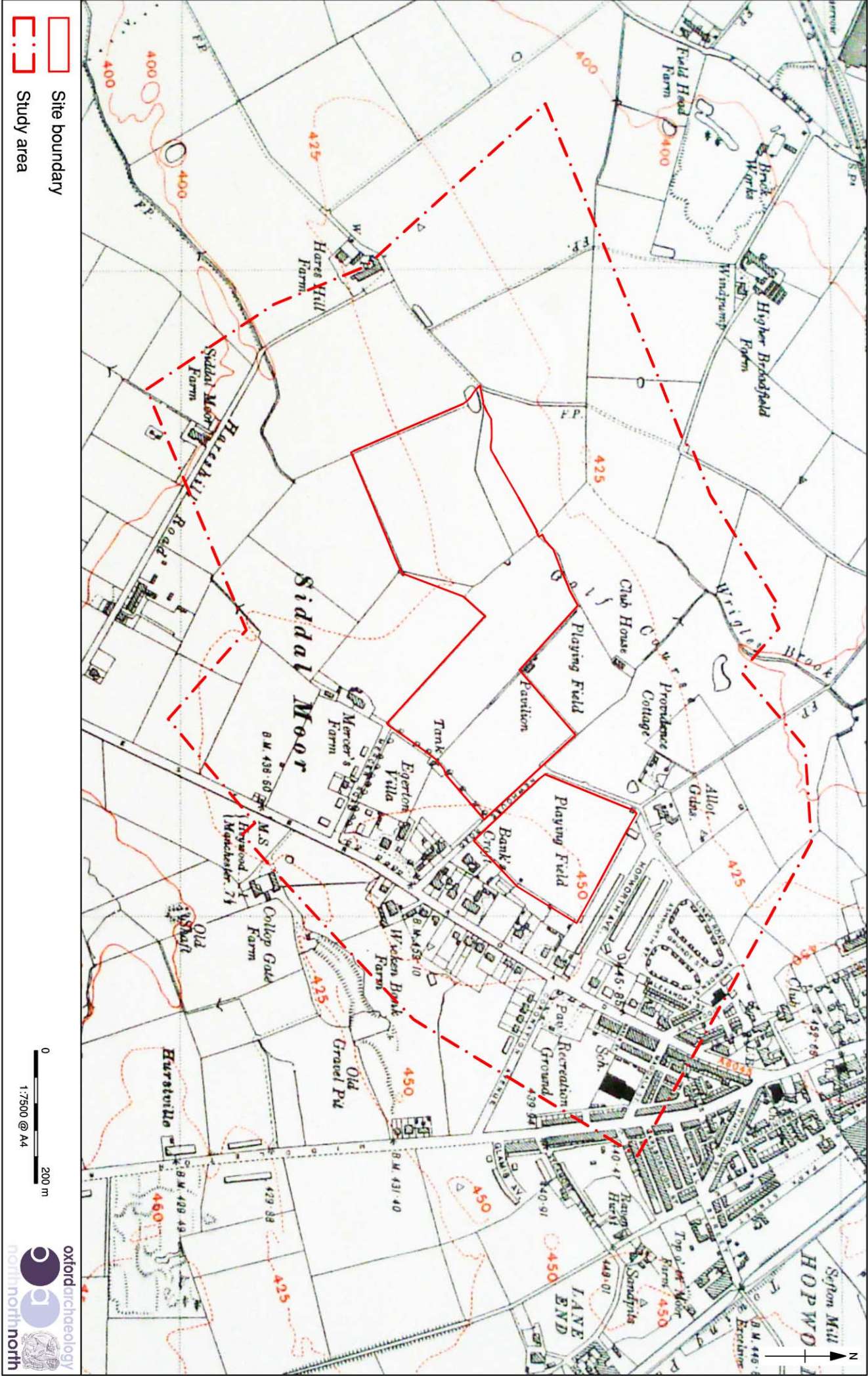


Figure 12: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile, 1927-8, with additions in 1938-9

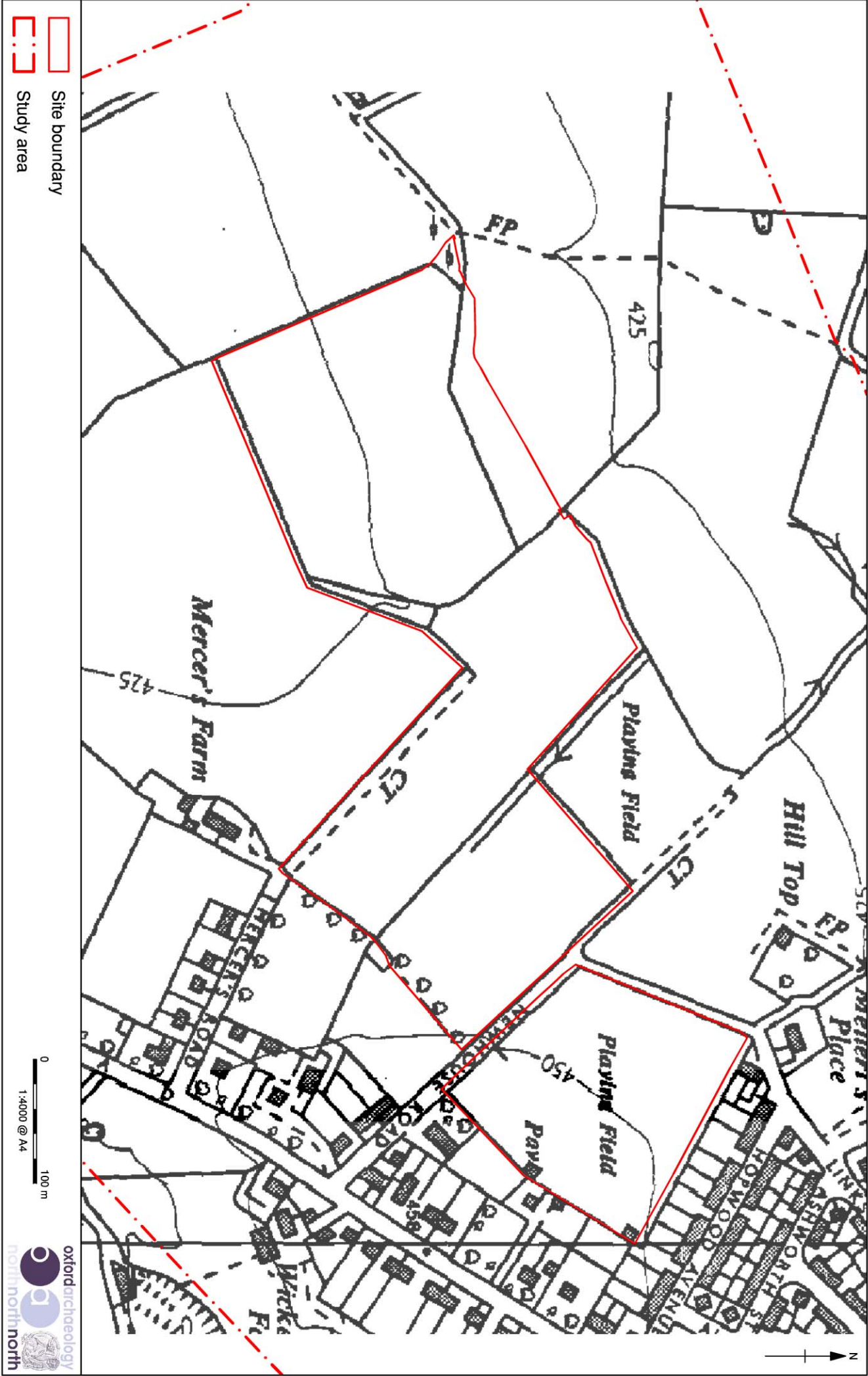


Figure 13: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560, 1965

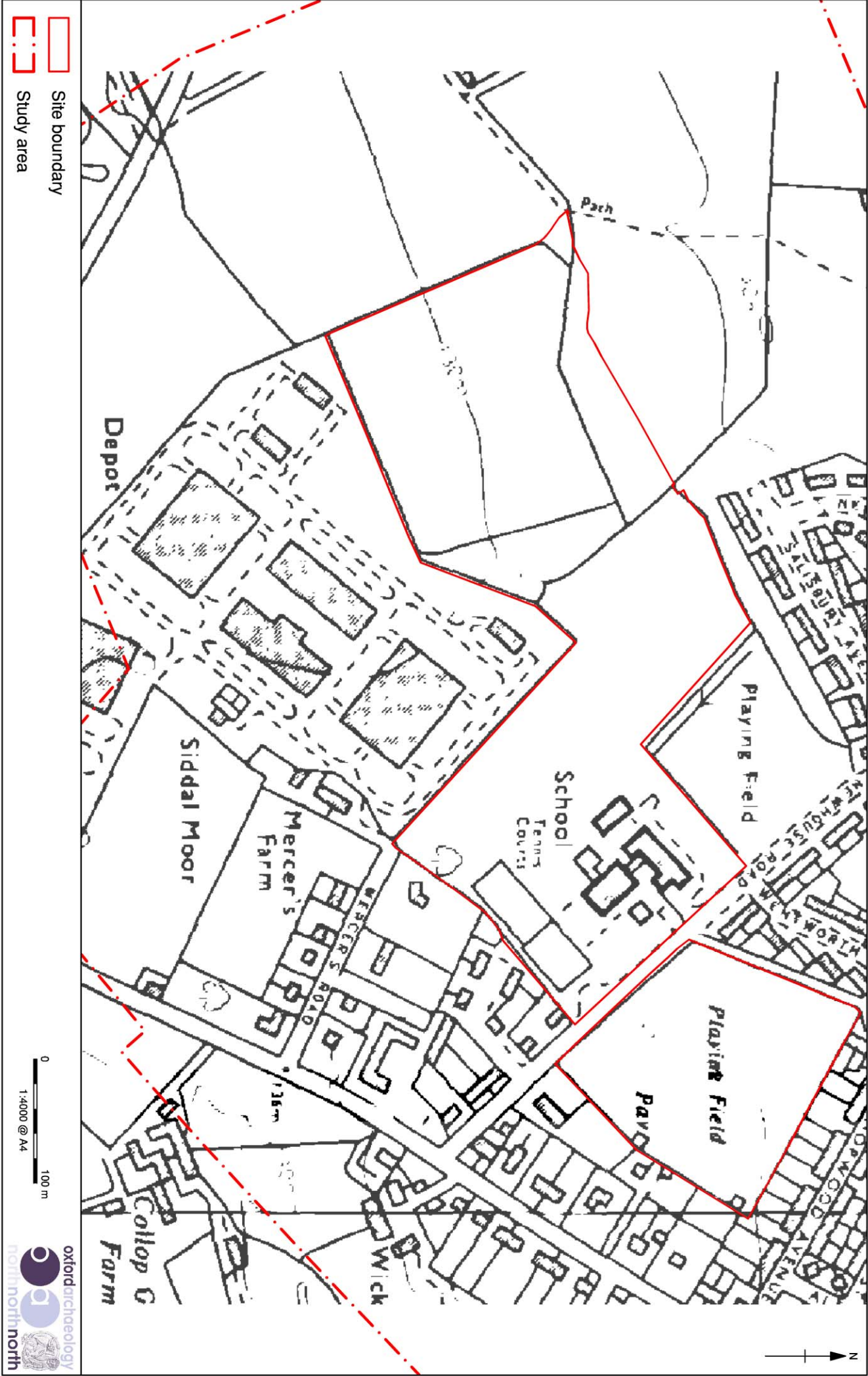


Figure 14: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560, 1977



Plate 1: Twentieth century housing beyond the northern perimeter of the playing fields on Newhouse Road



Plate 2: Siddal Moor College from Newhouse Road



Plate 3: Perimeter fencing around the college



Plate 4: Courts on the western side of the college



Plate 5: Track along the western side of the playing fields in front of the college



Plate 6: An area of large, open fields to the south of the sewage works



Plate 7: Hares Hill Farm



Plate 8: A track running in a south-easterly direction from Hares Hill Farm