



Bollinhurst Impounded Reservoir, Disley, Cheshire

Rapid Desk-based Research and Walkover Survey



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SUMMARY

United Utilities requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) undertake desk-based research and a walkover survey for an area of proposed safety works on Bollinhurst Impounded Reservoir, near Disley, Cheshire (NGR SJ 9732 8383). The reservoir is situated on the north-east fringes of Lyme Park, a National Trust property, which lies some 20km south-east of Manchester. The work was undertaken in August 2009.

In total, 26 sites of archaeological interest were identified within the study area from the rapid desk-based research. Twenty-one sites (Sites **01-21**) listed within The National Trust SMR had been previously identified within Lyme Park during an extensive historical landscape survey carried out by LUAU in 1997, which was updated and added to by OA North in 2006 and 2007. Two of the sites were identified during rapid desk-based research carried out by OA North in 2008 (Sites **22** and **26**) and three sites were recorded in the Cheshire HER (Sites **23-25**).

The 26 identified sites comprised a possible cup marked grit-stone block (Site **20**); two boundaries of possible medieval date (Sites **13** and **25**); a Grade II listed seventeenth century vicarage (Site **23**); a seventeenth century dry-stone wall surrounding Lyme Park (Sites **01-12** and **21**); post-medieval drainage features (Sites **14** and **19**); a shooting range (Site **16**), with a sunken earth feature of unknown function and date nearby (Site **15**); and two nineteenth century reservoirs (Sites **24** and **26**) and an associated building (Site **22**). There is also a modern pipeline (Site **18**) and a marker for it (Site **17**) towards the western extent of Lyme Park.

There is limited evidence for human activity around the study area in the Prehistoric period, comprising two find spots of Neolithic axes and the possible cup-marked grit-stone block found within the study area (Site **20**). A number of putative Bronze Age barrows have previously been reported within Lyme Park, but the 2007 archaeological survey of the park by OA North interpreted these as seventeenth century landscape features. There are no known Roman sites within the study area, although it has been speculated that the A6, to the north of the study area, may follow the route of a Roman road between Buxton and Manchester.

It is thought that during the first millennium AD, the Lyme area was occupied primarily by ancient woodland and that settlement was sparse. Some time between 1465 and 1793 two Anglo-Scandinavian sandstone cross-shafts were found at Disley Church and moved to the Bowstones to the south of the study area. The probable socketed base for the shafts was found at Disley Church in 1958. Fragments of cross-heads, have also been found in the vicinity of the study area, though they are thought to be from separate crosses to the Disley church examples. Although the Domesday survey does not make reference to any townships in the vicinity of the Lyme estate, the presence of the crosses indicates that the area was settled by at least the tenth century.

By the late fifteenth century Lyme Park comprised a deer park and hall, which had probably developed from a hunting lodge. This hall appears to have subsequently been demolished, as the present Lyme Hall dates from the mid-sixteenth century. By this time, the Forest of Macclesfield was divided into the townships that survive

today. Those within the study area are Disley to the north and Lyme Handley to the south, with the township boundary being the Bollinhurst Brook (Site **25**).

For much of the post-medieval period Lyme Park was used, as in the medieval period, for hunting, which included deer, cattle and rabbits, there was also some use of Lyme Park for stone quarrying and coal extraction. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Horse Coppice Reservoir (also known as Stockport Reservoir, Site **24**) and Bollinhurst Impounded Reservoir (Site **26**), to its east, were constructed on the Bollinhurst Brook, to provide water to Stockport. Bollinhurst Reservoir is a zoned earth dam, designed by the engineer George Henry Hill (1827-1919). A building to the north of Bollinhurst Reservoir, known as the Fisherman's Hut (Site **22**) was the subject of a rapid desk-based assessment carried out by OA North in 2008. The building is thought to be contemporary and associated with Bollinhurst Reservoir, perhaps housing some of the reservoir machinery and/or serving as an office for maintenance staff.

The walkover survey identified a further 11 post-medieval sites of archaeological potential, which have been added to the gazetteer (Sites **27-37**). These sites are mainly landscape features including field boundaries (Sites **29**, **31-32**, **34** and **37**) and evidence of former cultivation, such as ridge and furrow (Sites **30** and **35**). There was also a dry-stone wall (Site **27**), two quarries (Sites **28** and **36**), and a track (Site **33**). Many of the features, such as field boundaries, were illustrated on the earliest available map, the Disley Tithe Map of 1851.

The sites within the proposed works area, and therefore potentially impacted upon, include one part of the seventeenth century park wall (Site **09**), the Fisherman's Hut (Site **22**) and the reservoirs themselves (Sites **24** and **26**). Furthermore, six of the sites identified during the walkover survey will be impacted, specifically Sites **27**, **28**, **30**, **31**, **32** and **33**.

The Archaeological Planning Advisory Service of Cheshire Shared Services was consulted for recommendations of archaeological mitigation with regards to the proposed work. The recommendations received were that any unavoidable features located within the proposed works area should be subject to excavation and recording. This would include recording of any elements of the reservoirs that were proposed to be altered. The proposed compound and quarry area should be subject to topsoil stripping under archaeological supervision, and any archaeological features identified should then be recorded and excavated.

An English Heritage (2006b) Level I standard building survey has previously been recommended should the Fisherman's Hut be included in the area of the proposed works.

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank United Utilities for commissioning and supporting the project. Thanks also go to Jamie Lund at The National Trust and Rob Edwards in the Archaeology Planning Department of Cheshire Shared Services.

Kathryn Blythe undertook the desk-based research and produced the report. Karl Taylor carried out the walkover survey. Mark Tidmarsh produced the drawings. Alison Plummer managed the project and also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 United Utilities proposed safety works on Bollinhurst Impounding Reservoir, near Disley, Cheshire (Fig 1). The works will comprise the installation of a new spillway and the strengthening of the reservoir embankment. Following recommendations made by the Archaeological Planning Advisory Service of Cheshire Shared Services, United Utilities commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake rapid archaeological desk-based research and a walkover survey of the proposed works. The work was undertaken in August 2009.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The study area is located on the western edge of the Peak District, at the south end of the Pennines, *c* 10km to the south-east of Stockport (SJ 9732 8383). The proposed works are located on both sides of the Bollinhurst Brook, the northern side being within the township of Disley, and the southern side within the township of Lyme Handley, and within Lyme Park, a National Trust property. Two reservoirs are located on the south side of the Bollinhurst Brook, immediately north of the Lyme Park boundary: Horse Coppice Reservoir to the west, and Bollinhurst Impounded Reservoir, on which the works are proposed, to the east.
- 1.2.2 Lyme Park rises in a southerly and easterly direction and is drained by a number of streams, which, in the south of the park, have deep cut valleys or cloughs. Within the study area the land slopes down from *c* 230m AOD at the south extent, to *c* 210m AOD on the south side of the Bollinhurst Brook. On the north side of the brook, the land rises from *c* 200m AOD on the west side of the study area to *c* 220m AOD in the east.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the area consists of sandstones with coal measures and Carboniferous millstone grit. In the lower areas of Lyme Park in particular, the solid geology is overlain by boulder clay and fluvio-glacial Pleistocene gravels (Countryside Commission 1998). The coal measures and the streams ensured that the surrounding area was developed for industry, in particular coal mining and water and steam-powered textile production. Agriculturally, the area was marginal, and from the earlier medieval period seems to have been given over to woodland pasture, with areas of relatively dense tree cover existing until at least the later medieval period. This woodland pasture was primarily exploited for hunting and for common grazing (LUAU 1997; OA North 2006).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.1 The rapid desk-based research was carried out in accordance with the relevant IFA and English Heritage guidelines (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999, *Standard and guidance for archaeological Desk-based Assessments*; English Heritage 2006a *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE)).

2.2 RAPID DESK-BASED RESEARCH

- 2.2.1 A study area that extended 0.25km around the boundary of the proposed works area was examined in order to gain an understanding of the historical and archaeological background of the area, and to assess the potential impact of the development on sites of archaeological significance (Fig 2). A general historical and archaeological background of the area was compiled and map regression analysis was undertaken. Several sources of information were consulted as part of the research:
- 2.2.2 ***Historic Environment Record, Archaeology Planning Department of Cheshire Shared Services (CHER)***: the CHER is a list of all known sites of archaeological interest within Cheshire. A record, including grid reference and description, was obtained for any known sites within the study area.
- 2.2.3 ***National Trust***: the sites and monuments record maintained by The National Trust (NTSMR) was consulted for the portion of the study area which falls within Lyme Park.
- 2.2.4 ***Cheshire Record Office (CRO)***: historic mapping was consulted at the record office web site (http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/TwinMaps.aspx?township=EDT_137-2).
- 2.2.5 ***Cheshire East Borough Council***: the Conservation Officer at Cheshire East Borough Council was consulted for information on the Conservation Areas within the study area.
- 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). In particular, the current research made use of the extensive historical landscape survey carried out by LUAU in 1997, which was updated and added to by OA North in 2006 and 2007.

2.3 WALKOVER SURVEY

- 2.3.1 Following the rapid desk-based research, a level I-type survey (*Section 4*) was undertaken to relate the existing landscape to the research findings. This encompassed the area within 100m of the proposed works, walked in a systematic fashion. Archaeological features identified within the landscape were recorded using the relevant OA North *pro forma*, and the features located using differential GPS survey, which can achieve an accuracy of +/- 5m with respect to the OS national grid. A photographic archive of any archaeological features was produced using 35mm and digital SLR cameras.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) 2006a). The original record archive of project will be deposited with Cheshire Record Office.
- 2.4.2 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database *Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.

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 – 3,500 BC
Neolithic	3,500 – 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 – AD 1066
Late Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1540
Post-medieval	AD 1540 – c1750
Industrial Period	cAD1750 – 1901
Modern	Post-1901

Table 1: Summary of British archaeological periods and date ranges

3.2 BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Prehistoric:** there is limited evidence for human activity around the study area in the Prehistoric period. A Neolithic flint axe was found on Cage Hill (NGR SJ 9647 8312; NTSMR 52747), c 500m to the south-west of the study area, during the felling of a tree. The axe was approximately five inches long and was described as of 'Scandinavian type'. A polished jadeite axe was discovered on Park Moor, c 1.4km to the south-south-west of the study area, in 1930 in undisturbed clay during drainage works; the exact find spot is unknown, but the drainage ditch centres on NGR SJ 9667 8192 (NTSMR 52742). A possible cup-marked grit-stone block was found within the study area, near Coalpit Clough, which has linear grooves, as well as small cup marks (Site 20); however, such marks are not uncommon on gritstone and it is probable that the marks are of natural origin. A number of putative Bronze Age barrows have previously been reported within Lyme Park, but the recent archaeological survey of the park interpreted these as seventeenth century landscape features (OA North 2007).

3.3 THE HISTORIC PERIOD

- 3.3.1 **The Romano-British Period:** the study area is south-west of the heavily-fortified upland zone of the Peaks, but is not close to any known Roman site (Frere 1967, 128). The most likely context for Roman activity in the area would be the use of a trans-Pennine road. Evidence for this is inconclusive, but it has been argued that the original course of the A6 may follow the route of a

Roman road between Buxton and Manchester (Sylvester and Nulty 1958, 13). As such, this would have passed very close to the northern end of the study area. No finds or sites of Roman date have been discovered within the study area.

- 3.3.2 **Early Medieval (AD 410 - 1066):** it may be considered that during the first millennium AD, the Lyme area was occupied primarily by ancient woodland and that settlement was sparse. Certainly, this was the situation that seemed to exist at the end of the millennium as recorded in the Domesday Book (OA North 2007). Towards the end of the Anglo-Saxon period the study area was part of the hundred of Hamestan. The neighbouring Derbyshire hundred had the same name, and these two hundreds, together with the adjoining Staffordshire hundred of Totmonslow, are considered to form a discrete territorial unit. This is likely to have been the territory of a peoples known as the *Pecsaete*, who were recorded in the putative seventh century dated document known as the *Tribal Hidage* (Higham 1993, 176).
- 3.3.3 **Place-names:** it has been suggested that the distribution of place-names containing the element 'Lyme' reflect the former existence of a frontier zone between political entities. Lyme appears in a variety of names stretching from Staffordshire to Lancashire in a thin belt along the western edge of the Pennines (OA North 2007). This geographical distribution defines a strongly linear pattern, leading to the suggestion that the term may denote a boundary zone of political as well as topographical zones and be derived from the Roman term for a frontier, *limes*. It is therefore possible that 'Lyme' represents the edge of the Roman or pre-Roman civitas of the *Cornovii* (Higham 1993, 95-96), the tribal group inhabiting the region of Cheshire and Shropshire in the Roman period, and possibly during the pre-Roman Iron Age (*op cit*, 213). However, it is uncertain whether the precise boundaries of this Romano-British polity can be gauged with any confidence (Gelling 1989, 186).
- 3.3.4 By the medieval period the term 'Lyme' was a regional one applied to the western side of the Pennine spine and by the sixteenth century a common called Lyme within the Forest of Macclesfield is described as being about four square miles in extent, therefore implying that 'Lyme' was now applied to a reduced area, specifically the area around Lyme Handley (Renaud 1876, 225).
- 3.3.5 The Forest of Macclesfield was often referred to as the 'Forest of Lyme' (Cox 1905, 136) presumably because of its situation on the western flank of the Pennines and it is from this apparently ancient regional term that the later township and estate derives its name. It is also likely that several of the place-names of the study area and its immediate vicinity are of long standing, dating to the period before or around the Norman Conquest. These contain a high incidence of words connected with wood management and woodland and suggest that the region of Lyme Park was heavily wooded at least during the early medieval period (OA North 2007).
- 3.3.6 The name Bollinhurst, is taken from two words of Old English origin: *hyrst* denotes a wooded hill, while *bolling* is the action of pollarding, the cropping of shoots from a tree trunk for poles or wattles (Dodgson 1970). This indicates the presence of managed woodland in the early medieval period. The township

of Disley (*Destesleg* in c 1251), derives its name from the Old English suffix of *leah*, meaning a woodland clearing and an uncertain prefix possibly *dystels* meaning a mound or heap (Mills 1991, 106). Handley or Hanley is derived from the Old English combination of *leah* with the prefix *heah* (dative *hean*), meaning high (*op cit*, 156).

- 3.3.7 The topography of Cheshire caused a concentration of population in areas of good agricultural soils, such as the Wirral and the valleys of the Dee and Weaver. Settlement of the English peoples was late and thinly-spread, with political domination not being achieved until after AD 600 (Higham 1993, 68-79). The lack of pagan burials suggests that Anglo-Saxon domination did not generally occur until after their adoption of Christian-style burial practices. In East Cheshire there was some Danish settlement in the late pre-Conquest period, but there is only limited physical evidence for their occupation. It is unknown what the origins of the place-name 'Danebank' (to the north-east of the study area) are, but it is possible that this name refers to a local tradition of Scandinavian settlement, similar versions of this are found in other areas, such as Danes Hill on Skipwith Common in North Yorkshire (OA North 2008b).
- 3.3.8 **Anglo-Scandinavian cross-shafts:** sandstone cross-shafts were found at Disley Church, to the north of the study area, and subsequently moved to the Bowstones, to the south of the study area, some time between 1465 and 1793, possibly to rescue them from destruction by Protestant iconoclasts (Marshall 1975, 72). They are of an Anglo-Scandinavian type of cross-shaft peculiar to Mercia, with round shafts and cross-heads of square section (Sylvester and Nulty 1958, 14, 18). Two cross-heads were also found at nearby Black Farm in Higher Disley, to the north-east of the study area (CHER 1630) and moved to Lyme Hall (NTSMR 52741). These were made of sandstone, with interlaced bands and knots, cut on high relief (Earwaker 1880, 213); the smaller of the two had a cylindrical shaft. These cross-heads do not belong to the shafts from Disley church as the dimensions of the shafts are not compatible with those of the heads (CHER 1631). However, a socketed base (Grade II Listed; SM 25631; CHER 1636) for two crosses was found during the digging of a drain behind Disley Church in 1958 (Marshall 1975, 68-9). The sockets are circular and are 0.51m and 0.62 in diameter, which is not inconsistent with the shafts presently at Bowstones. A further fragment of cross has been recorded near Crow Wood, to the south-west of the study area (NTSMR 52729).
- 3.3.9 The Domesday survey of Cheshire does not make reference to any townships in the vicinity of the Lyme estate. The presence of crosses at Disley, however, indicates that the area was settled by at least the tenth century, and unless the area was subsequently deserted, the absence of settlement evidence recorded in the later eleventh century would not seem to be an entirely accurate reflection of the settlement situation around Lyme (OA North 2007). No finds or sites of early medieval date have been discovered within the study area.
- 3.3.10 **Medieval (AD 1066 - 1540):** Lyme Handley township today lies within the large historic parish of Prestbury, and Disley township within the parish of Stockport both formerly within the Hundred of Macclesfield. At the time of the Domesday survey, in 1086, this area lay within the Hundred of Hamestan.

This appears to have been the most remote and poorest hundred in Cheshire and contained the most references to extensive woodland (Higham 1993, 171; Terret 1948). Within Prestbury, townships were only recorded in its western half. The eastern part of the parish, within which the study area is located, bordering Derbyshire and extending to the Pennine uplands, appears to have been largely unpopulated. It was this area that was to become the Forest of Macclesfield. However, much of Hamestan Hundred is recorded differently in Domesday Book to the other manors of Cheshire (Higham 1993, 171), and it is possible that the area was never visited by the Domesday surveyors, the information on its manors being taken from existing geld lists. If the region was as remote and peripheral as it seems to have been, the lack of details recorded for its eastern parts in Domesday Book may simply result from a lack of available information rather than from a total lack of settlement activity in the area (OA North 2007).

- 3.3.11 The study area was part of the Forest of Macclesfield, which was established by the twelfth century as one of the four medieval forests of the Earls of Cheshire, along with Wirral, Mondrem and Delamere (Woodcock 1927). The designation of the area as 'forest' is a legal definition, denoting land outside the common law and held in demesne as a hunting reserve, rather than an indication of a wooded landscape character (Husain 1973, 55; Jones 1986 161; Rackham 1986, 130). However, the prevalence of place-names associated with woodland leave little doubt that, at least in the early medieval period, the Forest of Macclesfield was in places densely wooded, though the frequent *leah* suffixes also suggest that there were many clearings within the woodland (OA North 2007).
- 3.3.12 In 1237, with the suppression of the Earldom of Chester, the Forest passed to the Crown (Earwaker 1880, 2, 5). One of the earliest known references to Lyme as a distinct district within the Forest of Macclesfield occurs in 1259, when Henry III restored forest rights to the men of Lyme (Barraclough 1951, 103).
- 3.3.13 As early as King John's reign (1199-1216) areas of the Forest were recorded as being assarted for conversion into agricultural land (Husain 1973, 73; Hewitt 1967, 12); however, there were no manors within four miles of Lyme at this time (Sylvester and Nulty 1958, 21). In 1398, Richard II finally granted a parcel of land in Macclesfield forest called *Hanley* to Sir Piers Legh, forming, at least, the nucleus of the later Lyme Park estate (Angus-Butterworth 1932, 115-116). It is unclear whether Handley, a name first mentioned in 1269, refers to a settlement, later abandoned when part of this area became a deer park in the medieval period, or merely an area of woodland pasture (OA North 2007).
- 3.3.14 By 1465 the deer park included a hall, which probably began as a hunting lodge, and later became a high status establishment, capable of supporting a lord and his entourage (Earwaker 1880, 2, 293). However, this hall appears to have been demolished in the sixteenth century, as the oldest fabric surviving in the present structure of the hall dates to the mid-sixteenth century, when the house was rebuilt by Sir Piers Legh VII (Banks 1993). It has been suggested that the decorated timber beams present in Disley vicarage (Site 23), were

derived from the medieval house and that this house was located on a higher site to the south of the present hall site (Marshall 1975, 135), although there is no archaeological evidence for this (OA North 2007).

- 3.3.15 In the sixteenth century the Forest of Macclesfield was disafforested and any vestigial effects of Forest Law on the agricultural development of the region were removed (*ibid*). The forest was divided into the townships as survive today, although small parts remained unenclosed until after the Restoration of Charles II in the seventeenth century (Cox 1905, 136). Disley is thought to have developed as a settlement from the sixteenth century onwards, under the patronage of the Legh family at Lyme Park (<http://www.macclesfield.gov.uk/standardpage.asp?pageid=11308>). Aside from the township boundary between Disley and Lyme Hanley (Site **25**), which may be medieval, no finds or sites of medieval date have been discovered within the study area.
- 3.3.16 **Post-medieval (AD 1540 - present):** for much of the post-medieval period, Lyme Park was used, as in the medieval period, for grazing for cattle, and as a hunting ground for deer and rabbits. On the tithe map of 1851, the area to the immediate west of Bollinhurst Wood is named 'Old Warren'. The area west of this was named 'Cage Hill and Horse Coppice'. 'The Cage', located to the south of the study area was a sixteenth century hunting tower, rebuilt in stone in the eighteenth century (CHER 1633/2/1; NTSMR 52711; OA North 2007). A shooting range is located within the study area (Site **16**), with a sunken earth feature of unknown function nearby (Site **15**) The earliest surviving farms in the locality are seventeenth century in date and lie to the west of the park (OA North 2007).
- 3.3.17 **The Park Pale and the Park Boundaries:** the most significant defining landscape feature of a deer park, and one which physically expressed its private nature and distinctiveness from other areas of hunting such as forests and chases, was its enclosure by a fence known as a pale. The park pale kept the wild beasts in and unwanted people out. In 1465-6 the park pale mentioned in the description of Lyme Park, would have been similar to that surrounding nearby Macclesfield Park and made of wooden fencing, with timber presumably taken from Lyme Wood. In 1994 an archaeological watching brief uncovered possible traces of the original pale of the deer park, consisting of a 'U'-shaped ditch (NGR SJ 9660 8420), at the northern extremity of the present park, c 300m to the north-west of the southern end of the study area. In 1521 there are references to the '*ryng pale*' of the park (Earwaker 1880, 295), which was replaced by a dry-stone wall in c 1598 (Banks 1993). English Heritage's *Register of Parks and Gardens* (1985) claims that the present wall (Sites **01-12** and **21**) was built in 1665. A boundary bank is located towards the southern extent of the study area (Site **13**).
- 3.3.18 **Park Roads:** the main route north through Lyme Park appears to have been Green Drive, located to the west of the study area, which was in use at least by the end of the seventeenth century. It is shown extending perpendicularly out from the frontage of the hall on paintings of 1670 and 1695/6 and is also shown as a primary drive on the landscape proposal of 1730. The earliest map showing the local road system is Burdett's map of Cheshire of 1777, which records a large area surrounded by a park pale. The principal roads are shown

from the north, following the line of Red Lane to Disley (located at the northern end of the proposed access route) (OA North 2007). In 1810 the antiquarian Marriott described the ‘*road from Lyme to Disley, now modernised into an excellent state, but known anciently to have been a rough and incommodious passage between deepening banks*’ (Marriott 1810).

- 3.3.19 ***Extractive Industries:*** it has long been recognised that mineral extraction was carried out within the Lyme Park estate during the post-medieval period. This included stone quarrying on Cage Hill and coal mining at Coalpit Clough. Lyme Park lies across a geological boundary, with exposed deposits of the Coal Measures to the west and the Pennine Millstone Grit to the east (Sylvester and Nulty 1958, 6-7). The extraction of coal in East Cheshire was slow to develop as the regions of Macclesfield and Bollington were originally concerned primarily with the production of textiles (*ibid*). The coal itself was also of a poor quality with an excessive sulphurous content, and was generally only mined on a small scale for local and domestic use (Harris 1971, 92). By the end of the seventeenth century the Leghs were mining in the vicinity of Lyme Park, with documentary evidence indicating that this continued to the 1770s (OA North 2007).
- 3.3.20 ***Lyme Hall and Park:*** Lyme Park estate and park is dominated by the Grade I Listed Building (IoE 406869; HER 1633/1) Lyme Hall, an Elizabethan manor house, built in buff sandstone and Welsh slate, and dating to *c* 1570. During the 1720s, Giacomo Leoni, the Venetian architect and the Platt family of masons, transformed the Tudor hall to resemble an Italianate palazzo, whilst the nineteenth century saw an extensive programme of restoration and alterations under the supervision of the architect, Lewis Wyatt. It was during the mid-nineteenth century that the present garden was established. By the twentieth century the upkeep and maintenance of Lyme had become problematic for the family, and subsequently, in 1942, the third Baron Newton (Richard William Davenport Legh) gave Lyme Hall and its surrounding grounds to The National Trust, thus ensuring its future. Lyme Park was gradually converted into a landscape park in the post-medieval period and the Grade II* parkland (English Heritage 1633) now includes a 6.8-hectare Victorian garden featuring a sunken parterre, an Edwardian rose garden, lake and ravine garden. This garden is enclosed by the medieval deer park, with herds of red and fallow deer, that covers nearly 566 hectares of parkland, moorland and woodland. There are numerous drainage features within the park, including Sites **14** and **19** within the study area.
- 3.3.21 ***Horse Coppice and Bollinhurst reservoirs:*** Horse Coppice Reservoir (also known as Stockport Reservoir, Site **24**) and Bollinhurst Reservoir (Site **26**), to its east, were constructed on the Bollinhurst Brook towards the end of the nineteenth century. The Bollinhurst Reservoir removed the northern part of Bollinhurst Wood (OA North 2007). Both reservoirs provided water to Stockport (Henry 1919, 207-8).
- 3.3.22 Bollinhurst Impounded Reservoir is a ‘zoned earth’ dam that dates to *c* 1872, and was designed by the engineer George Henry Hill (1827-1919), under the terms of the Stockport District Waterworks Act 1863. Earth Dam constructions comprise the excavation of a ‘cut off’ trench, running the full

length of a dam, which is infilled with an impervious material to stop seepage beneath the dam (at Bollinhurst this is concrete). At Bollinhurst, the outlet tunnel from the valve shaft runs through the concrete cut off. Above the cut off, the dam is infilled and has a puddle clay core. There is a ledge on the upstream side constructed of clay, against the slope of the dam at the foot of a thick layer of stone pitching. A parapet runs along the crest of the dam, which measures 245m long, 17m high and 4.6m high, and is triangular in profile. The innovative design of the dam meant that its valve shaft was located in the reservoir, reached by a foot bridge. (<http://www.engineering-timelines.com/scripts/engineeringItem.asp?id=761>; OA North 2008a). A building to the north of Bollinhurst Reservoir, known as the Fisherman's Hut (Site 22) is thought to be contemporary and associated with the reservoir, perhaps housing some of the reservoir machinery and/or serving as an office for maintenance staff (OA North 2008a).

- 3.3.23 **Recent works:** a modern pipeline (Site 18) and a marker for it (Site 17) are located towards the western extent of the study area, within Lyme Park.

3.4 MAP REGRESSION

- 3.4.1 **Disley Tithe Map, 1851 (CRO EDT 137/2) and Lyme Handley Tithe Map, 1850 (CRO EDT 252/2) (Fig 3):** this mapping indicates that the study area is located within two townships. That to the north of the Bollinhurst Brook is Disley township in Stockport parish. This area is depicted as being covered by irregular fields, possibly indicating early piecemeal enclosure of the area. The land is listed as being owned by Thomas Legh (of the Lyme Park estate). The western part of the study area was mostly occupied by a John Barlow, who also occupied Cockhead Farm. The eastern portion of the study area was occupied by an Isaac Bullock. The use of the land across the study area was a mixture of meadow, pasture and arable. Cockhead Farm is not named on the map, but is listed as a house, buildings, yard and garden, with a further yard and lane to the east. An L-shaped structure lies to the north of the farmstead, with a pair of rectangular buildings to the south.
- 3.4.2 The area on the south side of the Bollinhurst Brook was Lyme Handley township in Prestbury parish. This area, including Bollinhurst Wood, and two large areas of pasture, Old Warren to the east, and Cage Hill and Horse Coppice to the west was within Lyme Park.
- 3.4.3 **Ordnance Survey 1st edition map 1881 (Fig 4):** although the Bollinhurst Reservoir had been constructed by this time (Section 3.3.22), this map does not depict its presence, but the Stockport Reservoir, to the south and south-west of Cockhead Farm, is depicted. To the north of the Bollinhurst Brook, some of the boundaries in the fields across this area have been removed, presumably to create larger fields.
- 3.4.4 **Ordnance Survey map 1909 (Fig 5):** Bollinhurst Reservoir at the northern end of Bollinhurst Wood, to the south-east of Cockhead Farm is depicted on this map, annotated as *Reservoir (Stockport District Water Works)*. The new 'zoned earth' dam is represented as a substantial earthwork aligned north/

south with an overflow marked at its north extent. Several small buildings associated with the reservoir are depicted to its west, and a sluice is marked towards the western end of the reservoir. There appears to be a path or track along the northern side of the reservoir. The remainder of the study area is depicted much as it was on the 1881 map, although some development to the south of Disley village is now depicted to the immediate north of the study area.

- 3.4.5 **Ordnance Survey maps 1924 (Fig 6), 1938 and 1954 (Fig 7):** there are no significant changes to the study area on these later maps.

3.5 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 3.5.1 **LUAU 1997, OA North 2006 and OA North 2007:** Lyme Park has been the subject of an extensive historical landscape survey, first in 1997 and then updated and with additions in 2006 and 2007. The results of this survey have been used for the current research.
- 3.5.2 **OA North 2008a:** a rapid desk-based assessment was carried out on the Fisherman's Hut at Cockhead (Site 22). It is a single-storey shed, constructed from coursed, rock-faced sandstone, with a flat roof of bitumen and sandstone flags. It is broadly aligned east/west along its main axis with access provided by a pair of doors at either end of the south elevation. These have well-cut lintels, as do the pairs of partially-boarded ventilator casements on the south and west elevations. The close proximity of the dam's overflow system to the shed, would suggest that the building is likely to house the mechanism for a valve shaft and probably has served as a general maintenance shed.

3.6 AERIAL PHOTOS

- 3.6.1 Aerial photographs available on line from the 1970s and 2000 were consulted (http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/tithemaps/TwinMaps.aspx?township=EDT_137-2). No additional features were added to the gazetteer as a result of this.

3.7 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

- 3.7.1 The CHER provided details of the historic landscape characterisation for the study area. Some of the areas are self-explanatory: Lyme Park is described as 'post-medieval ornamental parkland' and the reservoirs as 'artificial water bodies'. The majority of the area to the north is described as 'post-medieval planned enclosure', with the area east of Cockhead Farm, north of the Bollinhurst Reservoir, described as 'twentieth century enclosure', and the linear area of wood to the north-west of Cockhead Farm listed as 'post-medieval plantation'. The definition of post-medieval planned enclosure is 'planned field systems enclosed by private agreement or individual owner' (Edwards 2007, 101). This suggests that this area was enclosed earlier than any parliamentary enclosure in this area, and fits in with the physical appearance of this area on the tithe map of 1851, as covered by irregular fields.

3.8 CONSERVATION AREAS

- 3.8.1 The local planning authority may designate a section of land or buildings with special architectural or historic interest as a Conservation Area. This is designed to enhance or preserve the character or appearance under section 72 (I) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- 3.8.2 There are two Conservation Areas within the study area, Disley to the north and Lyme Park to the south (Figure 2). Disley Vicarage (Site **23**) is within the Disley Conservation Area (<http://www.macclesfield.gov.uk/standardpage.asp?pageid=11308>). The Lyme Park Conservation Area corresponds to The National Trust Lyme Park boundary, which follows the line of the wall within the study area (Sites **01-12** and **21**). In addition, Cockhead Farm is within an Article 4 Direction Area, which means that an application would have to be made to the Local Planning Authority for relatively minor changes to the external appearance of the buildings (*ibid*).

4. WALKOVER SURVEY

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The walkover survey was carried out in August 2009 and aimed to determine both the survival of above ground remains of sites recorded during the rapid desk-based research and also to identify previously unrecorded sites within the proposed works area. The visit also provided an understanding of the impact of the proposed works and the presence of any immediately visible constraints to the undertaking of intrusive archaeological investigation works.
- 4.1.2 The bulk of the study area is given over to the grazing of sheep and some cattle (Plate 1). Residential areas occupy the northern part of the study area, whilst woodland, the Horse Coppice and Bollinhurst Reservoirs are located within a valley at the southern end. The hamlet/farm of Cockhead is located in the centre of the study area, to the north of the reservoirs.

4.2 RESULTS

- 4.2.1 The walkover survey identified a further 11 sites of archaeological potential which have been added to the gazetteer (Sites **27-37**; *Section 5*). These sites are mainly landscape features, including field boundaries and evidence of former cultivation, such as ridge and furrow. Six of the sites are contained within the area outlined for development and may be directly affected by the proposed works (Fig 2). Many of the features, such as field boundaries were illustrated on the earliest available map (Disley Tithe Map, 1851).
- 4.2.2 The most common features observed during the walkover survey were field boundaries (Sites **27, 29, 31, 32, 34** and **37**). Site **27** comprises dry-stone wall field boundaries, surrounding the area outlined for rock removal (Fig 2), and will almost certainly be affected by any development. These are, for the most part, still standing but appear to be in a fragile state. The remaining extant field boundaries (Sites **29, 31** and **34**) comprised earthwork bank and ditches with patches of hedgerow planting being present. Post and wire fencing has been added along the length of these banks (Plate 2). All of the extant boundaries were illustrated on the earliest available mapping (Disley Tithe Map, 1851; Fig 3) and may possibly have earlier origins. Two relict field boundaries (Sites **32** and **37**) are not present on any mapping and, therefore, predate the earliest available mapping. A stone gatepost is associated with Site **32**. The relict boundary (Site **34**) comprises an alignment of three standard trees along a slight linear depression (Plate 3). The lane providing access to Cockhead is sunken at the southern end (Site **33**), which may indicate it is of some antiquity.
- 4.2.3 Other features of possible archaeological significance include faint ridge and furrow cultivation present in two of the fields (Sites **30** and **35**). This obviously alludes to previous agricultural activity. There are also two possible quarries (Sites **28** and **36**) which present themselves as shallow depressions in

the ground. These may be associated with Cockhead and may have supplied stone for the buildings. None of these is illustrated on any of the maps consulted.

- 4.2.4 During the walkover survey it was observed that certain features associated with the reservoirs fall within the areas outlined for development and that they may be affected by the works. These include features such as the boundary walls of the reservoir (Site **26**), as well as the overflow, weir and sluices (Plates 4 and 5). The dry-stone boundary walls are very similar in appearance and construction to Sites **09** and **10**, and appear to be contemporary with the 1872 construction date for the Bollinhurst Reservoir (*Section 3.3.22*). There is also a set of wrought iron gates, which also appear to be contemporary with the reservoir. The Stockport Reservoir (Site **24**) will be affected to a lesser extent, with only the eastern end being within the development area.

5. GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site Name	Wall Following Track to North of the Treatment Works
Site number	01
NGR	SJ 9670 8408 - SJ 9689 8395
HER no	NT 52783*15
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 245m long section of dry-stone wall still used as a boundary but no longer stock-proof due to its condition. It stands to between 1.5m and 2.1m on the high side and 0.8m to 1.5m on the low side, with a base width of 0.8m. It is constructed in double-style using randomly-coursed, undressed almost square stones, and unmortared triangular dressed top stones angled downhill with no coverband. The wall also contains a water smoot and a stile with steps to the top.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Wall North-West of Treatment Works
Site number	02
NGR	SJ 9689 8395 - SJ 9682 8385
HER no	NT 52783*16
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 119m long section of dry-stone wall in excellent condition with no fallen stones or structural defects, which stands to a height of 1.8m and has a base width of 0.6m. It is constructed in single-style, using randomly coursed, thoroughly dressed, almost square stones and mortared semi-circular dressed vertical/even top stones with no coverband. It also contains a wall head without a stoup at the stream and a gate wide enough for a person.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Wall South-West of the Treatment Works
Site number	03
NGR	SJ 9682 8385 - SJ 9687 8382
HER no	NT 52783*17
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 60m long section of dry-stone wall in excellent condition with no fallen stones or structural defects, which stands to 1.8m in height and has a base width of 0.6m. It is constructed in single-style using randomly coursed, thoroughly dressed, almost square stones and mortared semi-circular dressed vertical/even top stones with no coverband.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Wall North-West of Embankment South of Treatment Works
Site number	04
NGR	SJ 9687 8382 - SJ 9678 8373

HER no	NT 52783*18
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 130m long section of dry-stone wall in good condition with some fallen stones and repairs but very few structural defects which stands to 1.4m high on the low side and 1.7m on the high side and has a base width of 0.6m. It is built in double-style using randomly coursed, undressed, almost square stones and mortared square dressed vertical high/low top stones with no coverband, and has a 0.2m high post and wire fence on top with barbed wire.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Wall West of Horse Coppice Reservoir
Site number	05
NGR	SJ 9678 8373 - SJ 9689 8354
HER no	NT 52783*19
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 217m long section of dry-stone wall in excellent condition with no fallen stones or structural defects standing to 1.7m in height with a base width of 0.6m. It is built in double-style using randomly coursed, undressed almost square stones and mortared square dressed vertical high/low top stones with no coverband.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Wall South West of Horse Coppice Reservoir
Site number	06
NGR	SJ 9689 8354 - SJ 9688 8348
HER no	NT 52783*20
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 72m long section of dry-stone wall in excellent condition with no fallen stones or structural defects and standing to 1.6m in height with a base width of 0.6m. It is constructed in double-style using randomly coursed, undressed almost square stones, and square dressed vertical high/low top stones, mortared in places and unmortared in others, with no coverband.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Wall South West of Horse Coppice Reservoir
Site number	07
NGR	SJ 9707 8348 - SJ 9715 8357
HER no	NT 52783*21
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 175m long section of dry-stone wall in excellent condition with no fallen stones or structural defects and standing to 1.4m in height with a base width of 0.6m. It is

Assessment	constructed in double-style using coursed undressed horizontal laminar stones and unmortared square-dressed vertical high/low top stones with no coverband. The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.
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Site Name	Wall at South East of Horse Coppice Reservoir
Site number	08
NGR	SJ 9715 8357 - SJ 9728 8360
HER no	NT 52783*22
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 158m long section of dry-stone wall, which is almost complete but shows signs of future problems, and stands to between 1.4m and 1.7m in height with a base width of 0.7m. It is built in double-style using coursed, undressed, horizontal laminar stones and unmortared square-dressed vertical high/low top stones with no coverband and a 0.4m high post and barbed wire fence on top.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Wall West of Bollinhurst Reservoir
Site number	09
NGR	SJ 9728 8360 - SJ 9725 8349
HER no	NT 52783*23
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 112m long section of dry-stone wall in excellent condition with no fallen stones or structural defects, which stands to between 1.5m and 1.8m in height, and has a base width of 0.8m. It is built in double-style using randomly coursed, undressed stones, half of which are almost square and the other half are horizontal laminar, and mortared semi-circular dressed vertical/even top stones with no coverband. It also has a wall head at the junction between this wall and wall (Site 08) and a 0.4m high post and barbed wire fence on top of the wall. The wall is of similar appearance to others which surround the reservoir on the north and east sides.
Assessment	The site within the proposed works area and may be impacted.

Site Name	Wall South of Bollinhurst Reservoir
Site number	10
NGR	SJ 9725 8349 - SJ 9740 8340
HER no	NT 52783*24
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 178m long section of dry-stone wall in excellent condition with no fallen stones or structural defects standing to 1.8m in height with a base width of 0.8m. It is constructed in double-style using randomly coursed, undressed stones, half of which are almost square and the other half are horizontal laminar, and mortared semi-circular dressed vertical/even top stones with no coverband. The wall also contains a gate which was originally wide enough for a farm vehicle but is now filled in and is topped by a 0.4m high barbed wire fence.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Wall West of Bollinhurst Wood
Site number	11
NGR	SJ 9740 8340 - SJ 9739 8323
HER no	NT 52783*25
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 175m long section of dry-stone wall still used as a boundary but no longer stock-proof due to its condition. It stands to 1.9m in height and has a base width of 0.8m. It is built in double-style using randomly coursed, undressed, horizontal laminar stones and unmortared triangular-dressed top stones angled downhill with no coverband.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Wall South of Bollinhurst Wood Running to East Lodge
Site number	12
NGR	SJ 9739 8323 - SJ 9754 8301
HER no	NT 52783*26
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 275m long section of dry-stone wall still used as a boundary but no longer stock-proof due to its condition. It has a base width of 0.8m. It is constructed using randomly-coursed, undressed, horizontal laminar stones with occasional random through stones and unmortared-triangular dressed top stones angled downhill with a coverband over 50% of the wall length.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Linear Boundary south east of Coalpit Clough.
Site number	13
NGR	SJ 9710 8331 - SJ 9749 8242
HER no	NT 52828*0
Site Type	Boundary bank
Period	Medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A substantial section of linear boundary that runs for almost 1km across the eastern side of the estate. The feature is defined by a single bank with two ditches in places. At the northern end one of the ditches has been recently recut to provide drainage and throughout the southern section both ditches are visible. The northern section (north of site NTSMR 52832) is defined by a deep ditch, 1m deep, with a shallow bank, 0.4m high and 2.5m wide, and occasionally lengths of the second ditch. The southern section is far better defined in terms of the classic two ditch profile and, although it is heavily disturbed by localised areas of quarrying, it can be easily traced for most of its length. The bank in this section is 3m wide and up to 0.4m high, whilst the ditches are approximately 1m wide and 0.3m deep.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Two intersecting ditches near the treatment works.
Site number	14
NGR	SJ 9681 8390
HER no	NT 52795*0
Site Type	Drainage ditch

Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A series of two ditches running perpendicular to each other across an area of boggy ground. Their intersection point is the given grid reference. The first ditch is 1m wide at the top and 0.6m deep with a 1m wide bank alongside one edge. The other varies, being similar to the first ditch at its western end but deeper and wider at its eastern end. Both are probably linked to the drainage of this area.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Sunken earthen feature near Shooting Range
Site number	15
NGR	SJ 9679 8382
HER no	NT 52794*0
Site Type	Hollow
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A circular hollow with a raised mound in the centre. The feature is earthfast and set into the side of a steep slope just east of Site 16 (Shooting Range). The site measures 10m by 10m and is 0.6m deep.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Shooting Range near treatment works.
Site number	16
NGR	SJ 9677 8381
HER no	NT 52793*0
Site Type	Shooting range
Period	Modern
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A modern feature that consists of a concrete structure covered by an earthen mound with an opening on one side. The mound measures 15m by 7m and stands to 2.5m. The concrete is relatively thick and could be the remains of an air raid shelter, but this interpretation is extremely dubious.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Marker Stone on Pipeline, Lyme Park.
Site number	17
NGR	SJ 9671 8378
HER no	NT 52786*0
Site Type	Marker stone
Period	Modern
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A dressed stone block marking the route of an underground pipeline, the stone stands to around 0.4m in height and is relatively modern.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Pipeline running through Northern Half of Lyme Park.
Site number	18
NGR	SJ 9673 8377

HER no	NT 52787*0
Site Type	Pipeline
Period	Modern
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	An underground pipeline that runs across the northern half of the estate. The pipeline is defined by a long low linear bank standing to around 0.1m high. The site becomes vague in places and was not located after crossing the river on an aqueduct.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Linear ditch south east of Coal Pit Clough
Site number	19
NGR	SJ 9711 8339 SJ 9735 8324
HER no	NT 52829*0
Site Type	Drainage ditch
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A large well defined linear drainage ditch approximately 290m long 1.2m wide and 1.2m deep with associated bank, 2m wide and 0.6m high. The site is probably drainage and leads down into Coal Pit Clough.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Boulder, Cup-Marked? - Near Coalpit Clough
Site number	20
NGR	SJ 9720 8320
HER no	NT 52768*0
Site Type	Possible cup marked boulder
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A possible cup-marked boulder set into a stone slab. The block has substantial grooves across it, which are possible natural solution lines and the 'cups' appear to form lines in places whereas others do not fit into any recognisable pattern. Such features are not uncommon on exposed gritstone and it is probable that they are of natural origin. There is also a very faint arc-shaped groove at one end of the slab, which could possibly be a ring mark.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Former wall East of the Cage
Site number	21
NGR	SJ 96888348 - SJ 97078348
HER no	52783*154
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	NTSMR
Description	A 1130m long former line of dry-stone wall now completely destroyed.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Fisherman's Hut, Cockhead, Bollinhurst Reservoir
Site number	22
NGR	SJ 9730 8360
HER no	-
Site Type	Building
Period	Late nineteenth/early twentieth century
Statutory Designation	-
Source	OA North 2008a
Description	A building located on the east side of Cockhead Farm, immediately north of the Bollinhurst reservoir. Despite its name, it appears to have either housed reservoir equipment or served as an office for the reservoir maintenance staff.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Disley Vicarage, Red lane
Site number	23
NGR	SJ 9735 8445
HER no	1638/2
Site Type	Building
Period	Seventeenth century
Statutory Designation	Grade II Listed Building - 406853 / within Disley Conservation Area
Source	CHER
Description	Disley Vicarage, No.1 Red Lane, possibly began in the sixteenth century as a priest's house at Chantry Chapel. The west front has three beams in the upper rooms, which are larger and heavier than required, and were possibly brought from the old Lyme Hall. The house became the residence of the priests of the Chantry, but by 1530 their own Chantry House had been built to the east. The present building has a later seventeenth century core, which was altered and added to 1861.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Stockport Reservoir and Dam
Site number	24
NGR	SJ 9705 8359
HER no	4397
Site Type	Reservoir and dam
Period	Nineteenth century
Statutory Designation	-
Source	CHER
Description	Reservoir and dam first marked on the Ordnance Survey First Edition map of 1881, and still in use. There is also a weir and a sluice.
Assessment	The site within the proposed works area and may be impacted.

Site Name	Township Boundary
Site number	25
NGR	SJ 9723 8366
HER no	-
Site Type	Township boundary
Period	Unknown
Statutory Designation	-
Source	CHER
Description	Township boundary between Lyme Handley to the south and Disley to the north. It is not known when the townships in this area were established, there are none mentioned in the Domesday Survey. This area was part of the Forest of Macclesfield, within which townships had been established by the sixteenth century, therefore the

Assessment	boundary could be medieval in date. In this area the boundary was marked by the course of the Bollinhurst Brook, which has been subsumed by the nineteenth century Stockport and Bollinhurst Reservoirs. The boundary was removed in the nineteenth century, and replaced by the Bollinhurst and Stockport Reservoirs. The boundary will therefore not be impacted by the proposed works.
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Site Name	Bollinhurst Reservoir and Dam
Site number	26
NGR	SJ 9750 8354
HER no	-
Site Type	Reservoir and dam
Period	Nineteenth century
Statutory Designation	-
Source	Map Regression; OA North 2008
Description	Bollinhurst Impounded Reservoir is a 'zoned earth' dam that dates to c 1872, and was designed by the engineer George Henry Hill (1827-1919), under the terms of the Stockport District Waterworks Act 1863. Earth Dam constructions comprise the excavation of a 'cut off' trench, running the full length of a dam, which is infilled with an impervious material to stop seepage beneath the dam (at Bollinhurst this is concrete). At Bollinhurst, the outlet tunnel from the valve shaft runs through the concrete cut off. Above the cut off, the dam is infilled and has a puddle clay core. There is a ledge on the upstream side constructed of clay, against the slope of the dam at the foot of a thick layer of stone pitching. A parapet runs along the crest of the dam, which measures 245m long, 17m high and 4.6m high, and is triangular in profile. The innovative design of the dam meant that its valve shaft was located in the reservoir, reached by a foot bridge.
Assessment	The site within the proposed works area and may be impacted.

Site Name	Dry-stone Walls
Site number	27
NGR	SJ 9742 8373
HER no	-
Site Type	Boundary wall
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	Map regression, Walkover survey
Description	Lengths of dry-stone wall are present around the proposed area of rock removal. These are illustrated on the Disley Tithe Map of 1851. The walls are now semi-ruinous.
Assessment	The site within the proposed works area and may be impacted.

Site Name	Quarry
Site number	28
NGR	SJ 9751 8370
HER no	-
Site Type	Quarry
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	Walkover survey
Description	A bowl-shaped depression is located in a field at the east end of the proposed area of rock removal. This may be evidence of past quarrying, although it is not shown on any mapping.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed works area and may be impacted.

Site Name	Field Boundary
Site number	29
NGR	SJ 9750 8378
HER no	-
Site Type	Field boundary
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	Walkover survey
Description	A field boundary with bank and ditch and some remnant sections of hedging. The boundary is illustrated on the Disley Tithe Map of 1851.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed works area and may be impacted.

Site Name	Ridge and Furrow
Site number	30
NGR	SJ 9751 8374
HER no	-
Site Type	Ridge and furrow
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	Walkover survey
Description	An area of possible ridge and furrow cultivation aligned north-south to the north of the quarry (Site 28).
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed works area and may be impacted.

Site Name	Field Boundary
Site number	31
NGR	SJ 9736 8389
HER no	-
Site Type	Field boundary
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	Walkover survey
Description	A field boundary with bank and ditch and some remnant sections of hedging. The boundary is illustrated on the Tithe map of 1851.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed works area and may be impacted.

Site Name	Relict Field Boundary
Site number	32
NGR	SJ 9731 8400
HER no	-
Site Type	Relict field boundary
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	Walkover survey
Description	A single stone gatepost is located adjacent to the proposed temporary access route. This is associated with a slight depression running across the field to the east, which appears to be a relict field boundary.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed works area and may be impacted.

Site Name	Track
Site number	33
NGR	SJ 9730 8383

HER no	-
Site Type	Track
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	Walkover survey
Description	The southern end of the track to Cockhead is sunken, suggesting it is of some antiquity.
Assessment	The site lies within the proposed works area and may be impacted.

Site Name	Field Boundary
Site number	34
NGR	SJ 9725 8386
HER no	-
Site Type	Field boundary
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	Walkover survey
Description	A field boundary with bank and ditch and some remnant sections of hedging. The boundary is illustrated on the Tithe map of 1851.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Ridge and Furrow
Site number	35
NGR	SJ 9725 8382
HER no	-
Site Type	Ridge and furrow
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	Walkover survey
Description	An area of possible ridge and furrow cultivation aligned south-west/north-east to the north of Cockhead.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Quarry to the northwest of Cockhead
Site number	36
NGR	SJ 9716 8377
HER no	-
Site Type	Quarry
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory Designation	-
Source	Walkover survey
Description	A bowl-shaped depression located in the corner of a field. This may be evidence of past quarrying, although it is not shown on any mapping.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

Site Name	Relict Field Boundary
Site number	37
NGR	SJ 9713 8374
HER no	-
Site Type	Relict field boundary
Period	Post-medieval
Statutory	

Designation	-
Source	Walkover survey
Description	A slight depression running across the field to the west of Cockhead, which appears to be a relict field boundary. There are three standard trees together with a ditch.
Assessment	The site lies outside of the proposed works area and will not be impacted.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1 Rapid research of the available evidence obtained from the Cheshire HER, historic maps, and the OA North library as well as a walkover survey, has identified 37 sites of archaeological interest within the study area and shown that there is some potential for previously unknown archaeological remains within the proposed works area.
- 6.1.2 There is some evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in the environs of the study area. In the post-Roman period the area appears to have been densely wooded, with place-names indicating some woodland management and possible sparse settlement. Finds of several fragments of Anglo-Scandinavian crosses in the area, including a socketed base and fragments of cross-shafts from Disley Church, indicate that there was some settlement by at least the tenth century.
- 6.1.3 During the medieval period the study area was part of the Forest of Macclesfield and would predominantly have been used as hunting ground. By the late fifteenth century Lyme Park comprised a deer park and hall, which had probably developed from a hunting lodge. This hall appears to have subsequently been demolished, as the present Lyme Hall dates from the mid-sixteenth century. By this time, the Forest of Macclesfield was divided into the townships that survive today. Those within the study area are Disley to the north and Lyme Handley to the south, with the township boundary being the Bollinhurst Brook (Site **25**), though this has largely been removed within the study area by the nineteenth century construction of Horse Coppice and Bollinhurst Reservoirs.
- 6.1.4 For much of the post-medieval period, Lyme Park was used, as in the medieval period, for cattle grazing and deer and rabbit hunting, there was also some use of Lyme Park for stone quarrying and coal extraction. The park pale was replaced at the end of the sixteenth century by a dry-stone wall, which was rebuilt in 1665, parts of this wall are within the study area (Sites **01-12** and **21**). Other features within the portion of Lyme Park that lies within the study area are a shooting range (Site **16**), with a sunken earth feature of unknown function nearby (Site **15**); a boundary bank (Site **13**); and drainage features (Sites **14** and **19**). There is also a modern pipeline (Site **18**) and a marker for it (Site **17**) towards the western extent of Lyme Park.
- 6.1.5 Horse Coppice Reservoir (also known as Stockport Reservoir, Site **24**) and Bollinhurst Impounded Reservoir (Site **26**), to its east, were constructed to provide water to Stockport. Bollinhurst Reservoir is a zoned earth dam, designed by the engineer George Henry Hill (1827-1919). A building to the north of Bollinhurst Reservoir, known as the Fisherman's Hut (Site **22**) is thought to be of modern construction and associated with Bollinhurst Reservoir, perhaps housing some of the reservoir machinery and/or serving as an office for maintenance staff.

- 6.1.6 The walkover survey identified 11 sites of possible archaeological potential, comprising extant field boundaries (Sites **27**, **29**, **31** and **34**) and relict field boundaries (Sites **32** and **37**). In addition, two possible quarries (Sites **30** and **36**), a sunken track (Site **33**), and two areas of ridge and furrow (Sites **30** and **35**) were observed. This illustrates the agricultural nature of the archaeological resource.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 The sites within the proposed works area and therefore potentially impacted upon include part of the seventeenth century park wall (Sites **09**), the Fisherman's Hut (Site **22**) and the reservoirs themselves (Sites **24** and **26**). Furthermore, six of the sites identified during the walkover survey will be impacted upon, specifically Sites **27**, **28**, **30**, **31**, **32** and **33**.
- 6.2.2 The Archaeological Planning Advisory Service of Cheshire Shared Services was consulted as to recommendations for archaeological mitigation with regards to the proposed work. The recommendations received were that any unavoidable features located within the proposed works area should be subject to excavation and recording. This would include recording of any elements of the reservoirs that were proposed to be altered. The compound and quarry area should be subject to topsoil stripping under archaeological supervision, and any archaeological features identified should then be recorded and excavated.
- 6.2.3 In particular, Sites **28** and **30** should be subject to a topographic survey. Site **27** should, if possible, be avoided. In addition, it is recommended that Sites **31** to **33** should be subject to a watching brief.
- 6.2.4 An English Heritage (2006b) Level I standard building survey has previously been recommended should the Fisherman's Hut be included in the area of the proposed works.

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<http://www.engineering-timelines.com/scripts/engineeringItem.asp?id=761> - for information on the construction of the Bollinhurst Reservoir.

<http://www.macclesfield.gov.uk/standardpage.asp?pageid=11308> - for information on Conservation Areas (n.b. Macclesfield Borough Council is now part of Cheshire East Council).

<http://www.promap.co.uk/promap/index.jsp> - for historic OS mapping.

8. ILLUSTRATIONS

8.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Gazetteer sites plan

Figure 3: Extract from the Lyme Handley Tithe Map, 1850 and the Disley Tithe Map, 1851

Figure 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map, 1881

Figure 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map, 1909

Figure 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map, 1924

Figure 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map, 1954

8.2 PLATES

Plate 1: General view of study area

Plate 2: An example of a possible early field boundary (Site **29**)

Plate 3: A possible relict field boundary (Site **37**)

Plate 4: The top of the dam of the Bollinhurst Reservoir

Plate 5: The sluices of Bollinhurst Reservoir

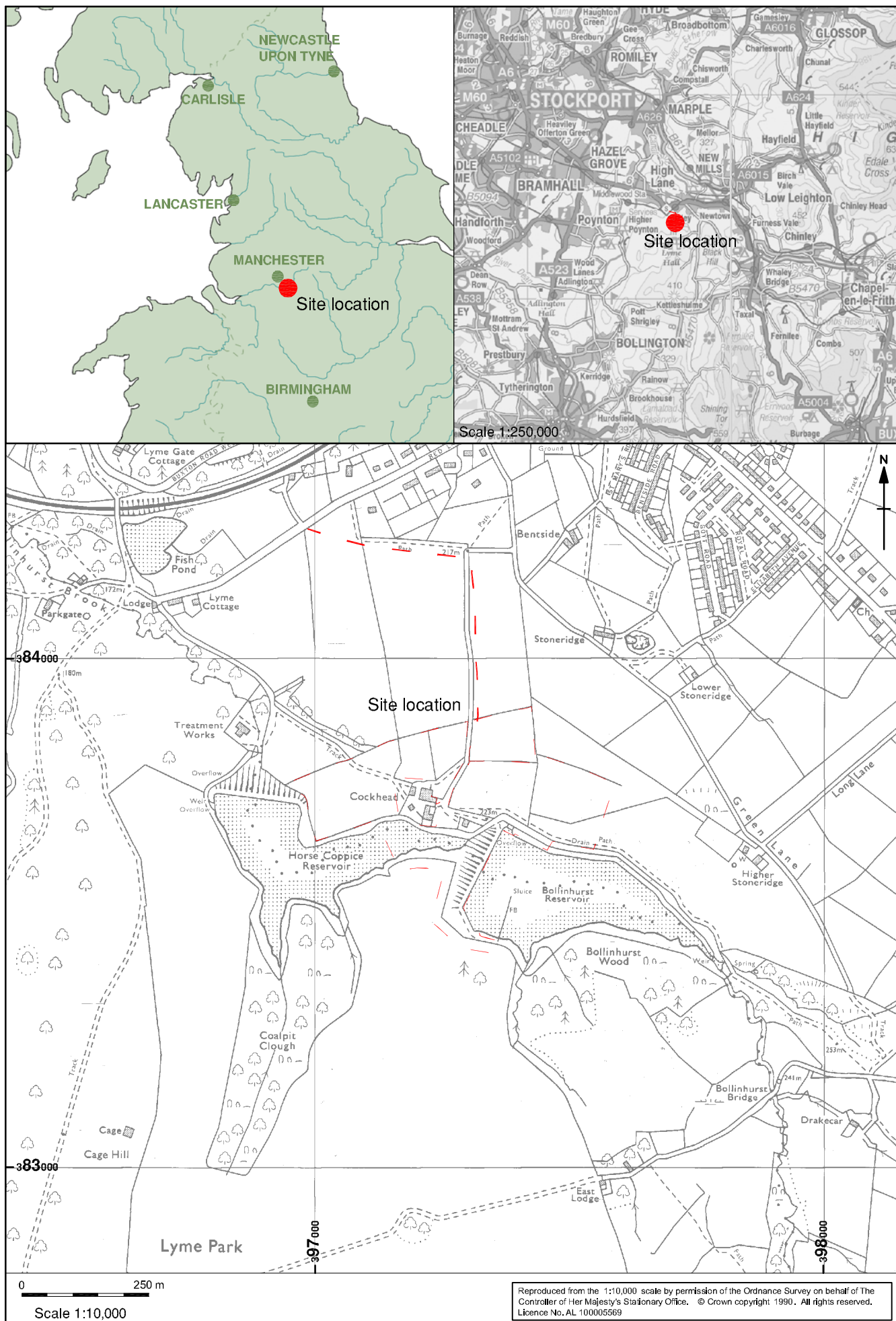
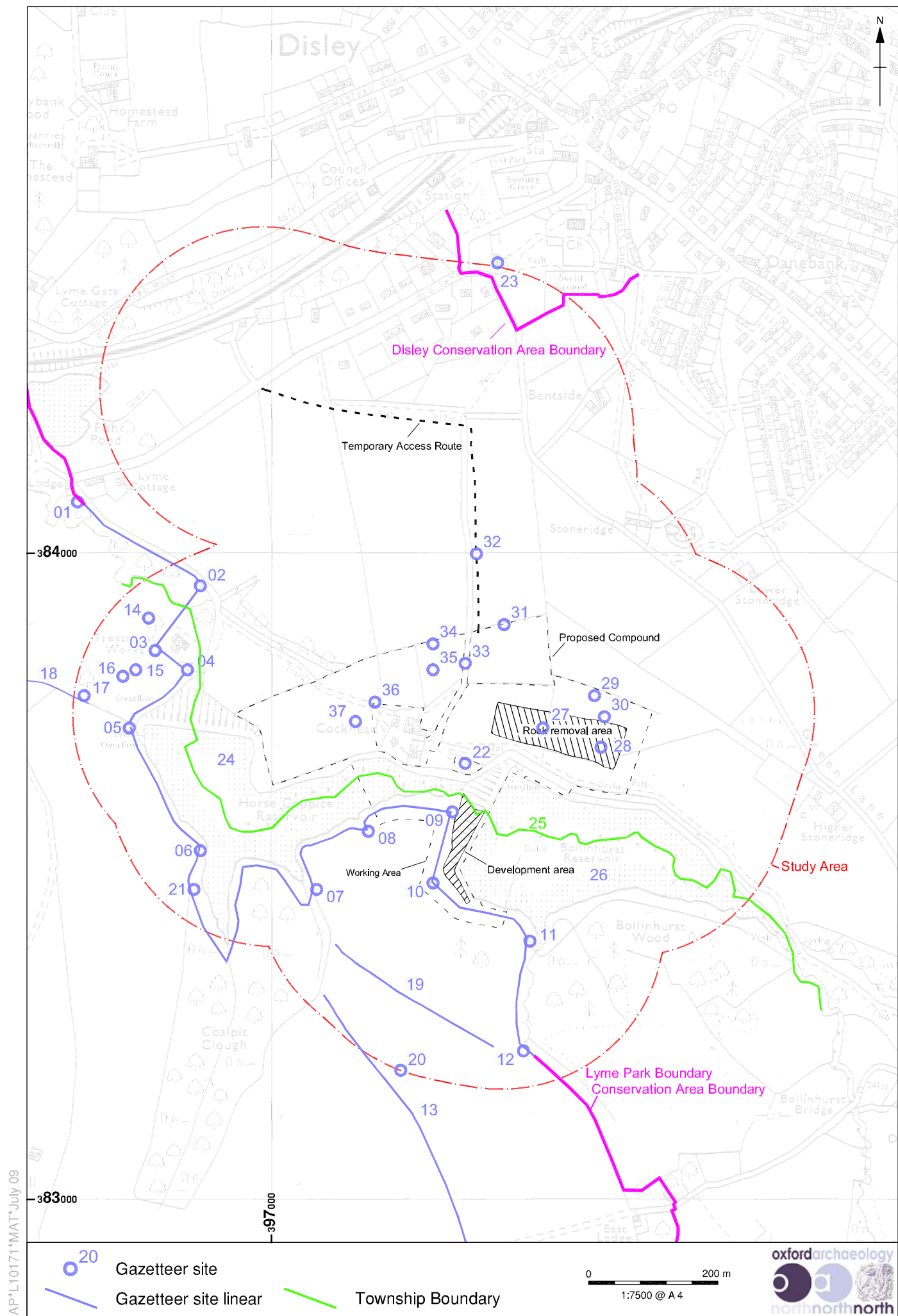
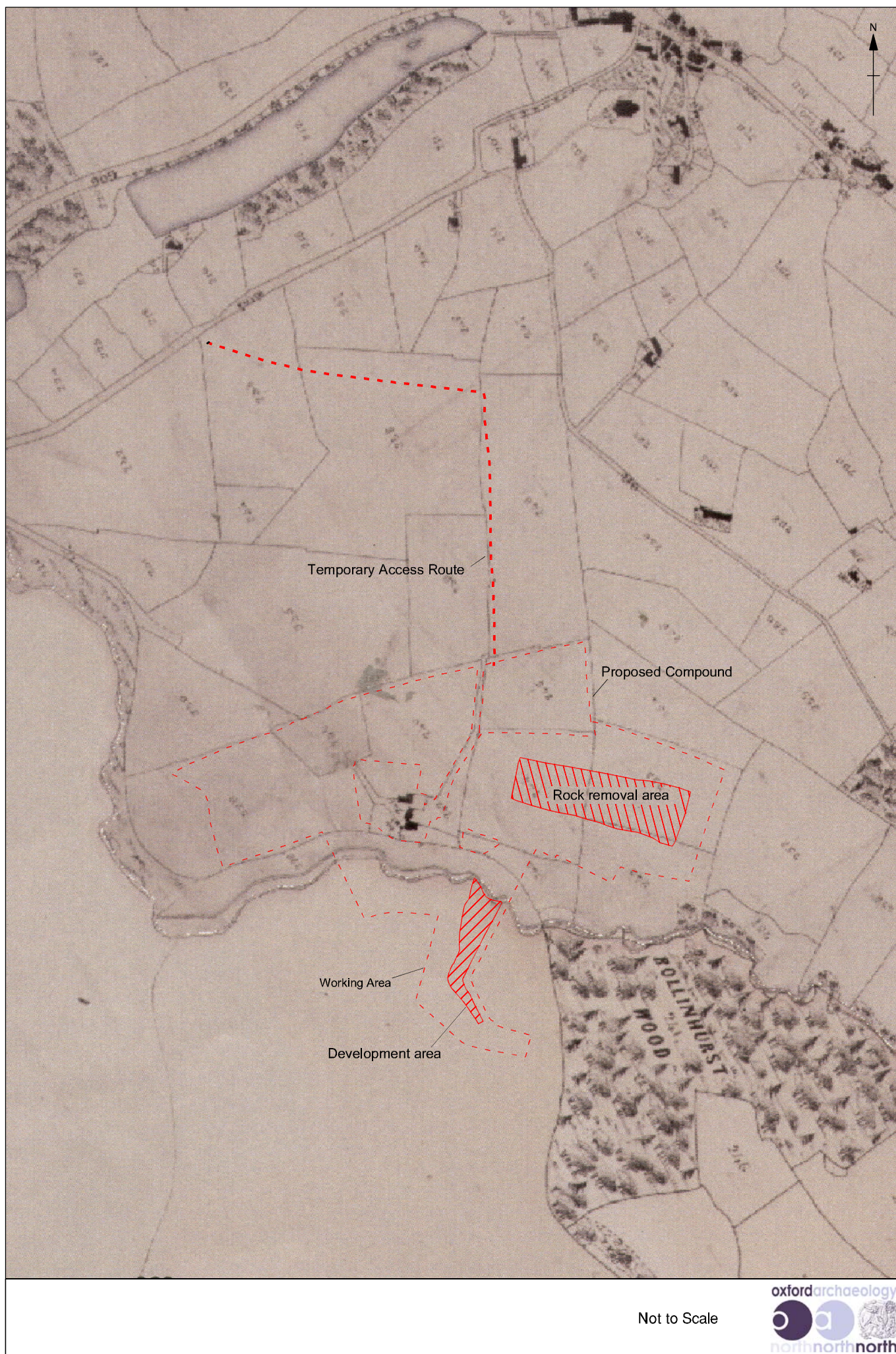


Figure 1: Site Location





Not to Scale

Figure 3: Extract from the Lyme Handley Tithe, 1850, and the Disley Tithe, 1851

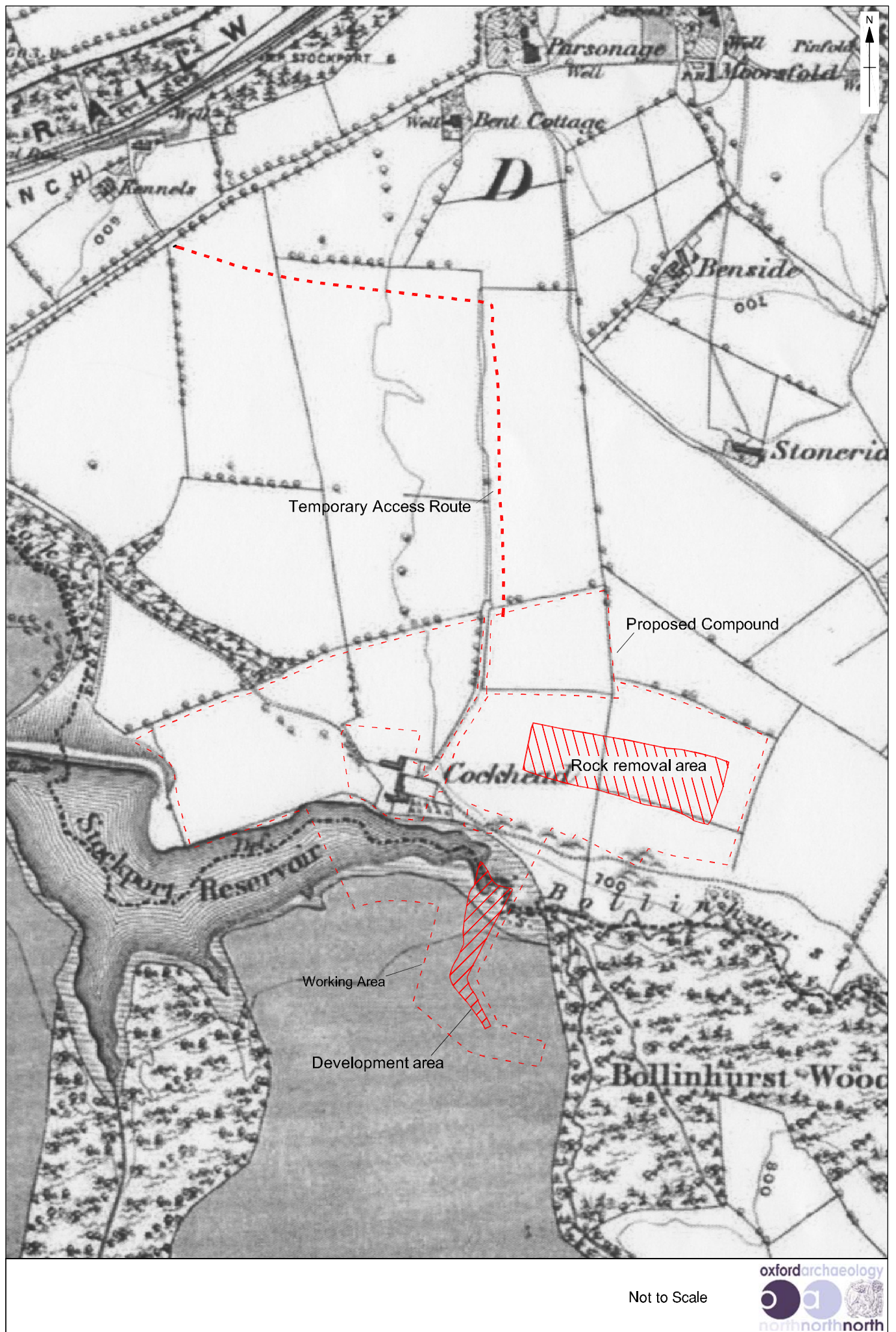
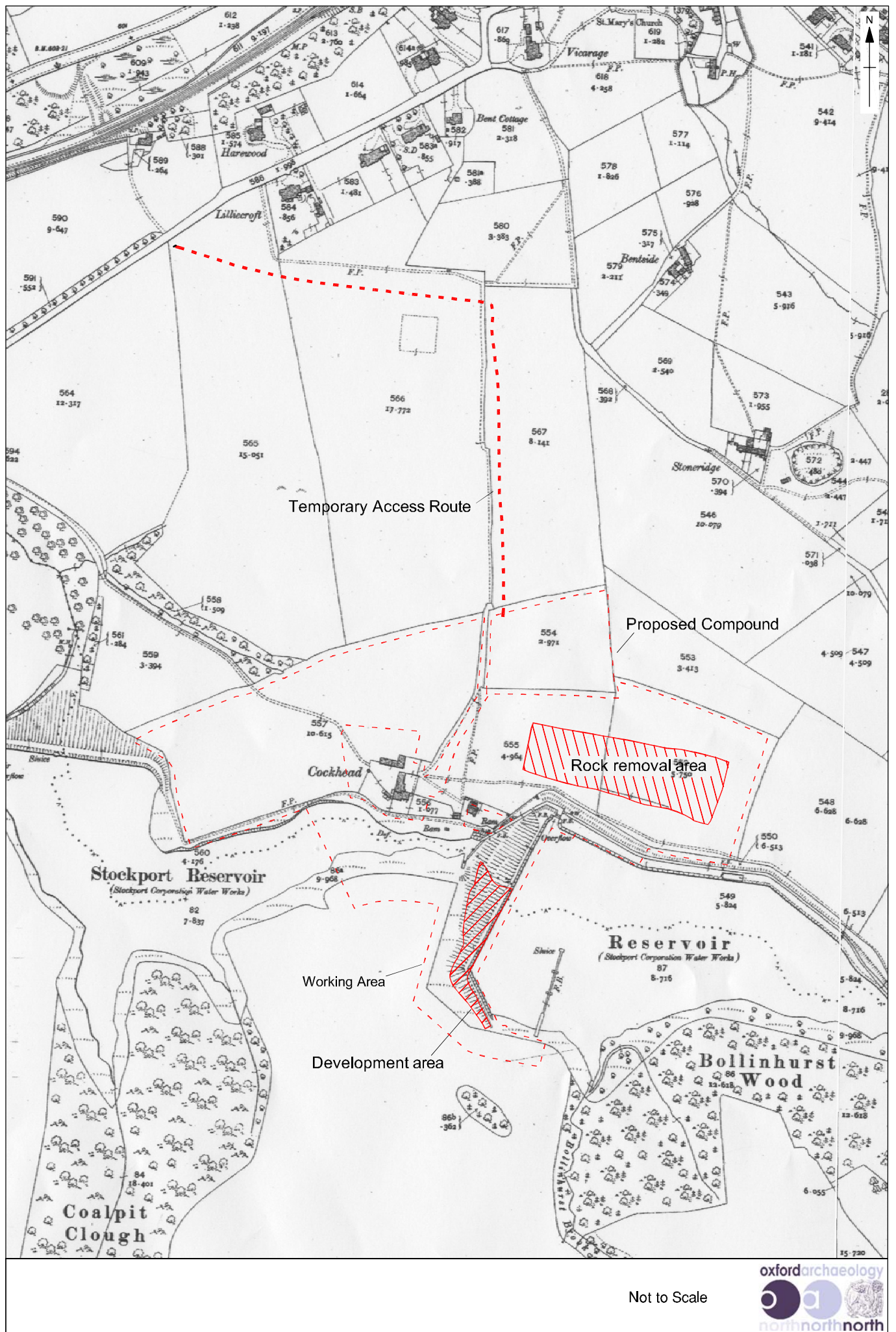
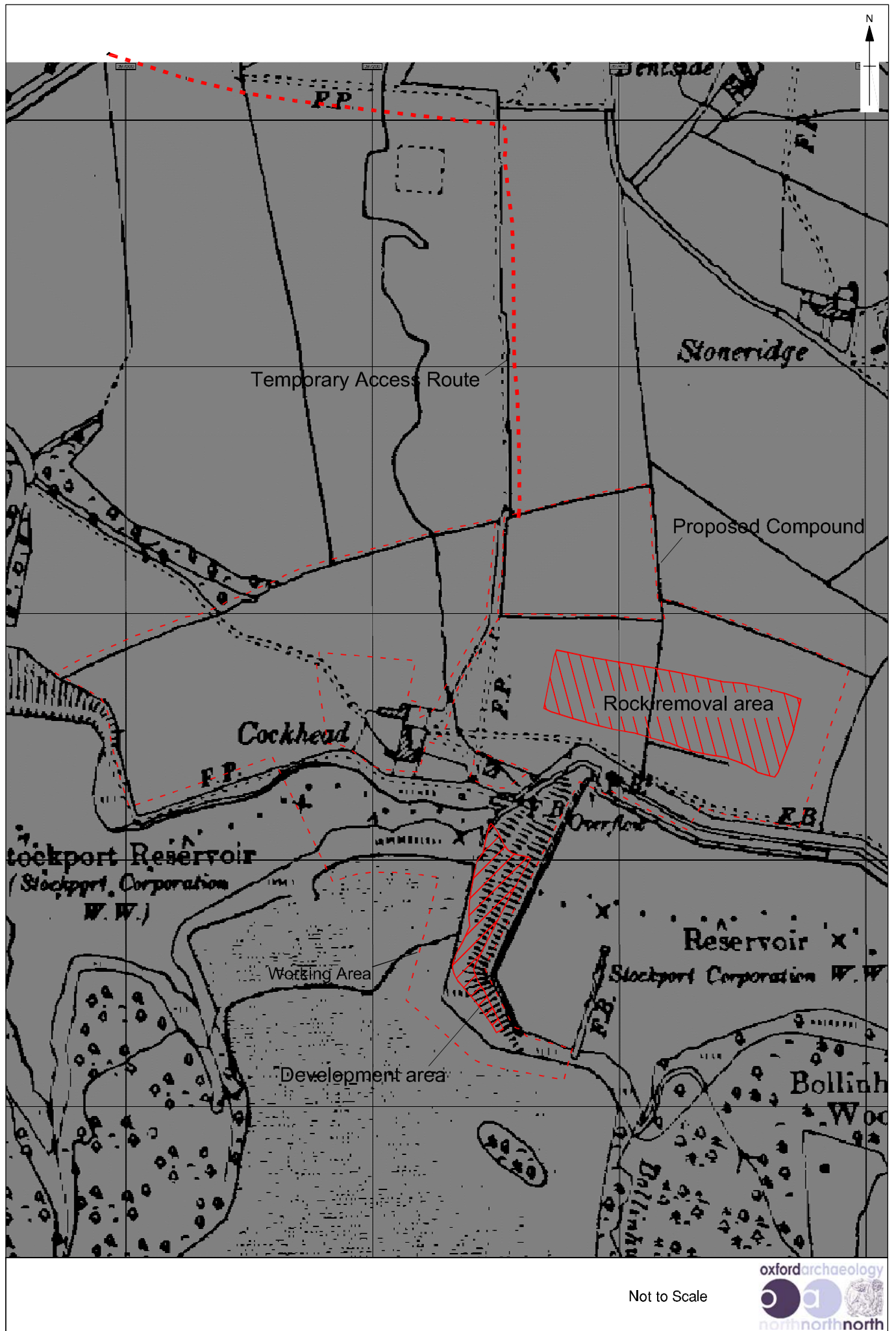


Figure 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey First Edition 6"-1 mile map, 1881



Not to Scale

Figure 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25"-1 mile map, 1909



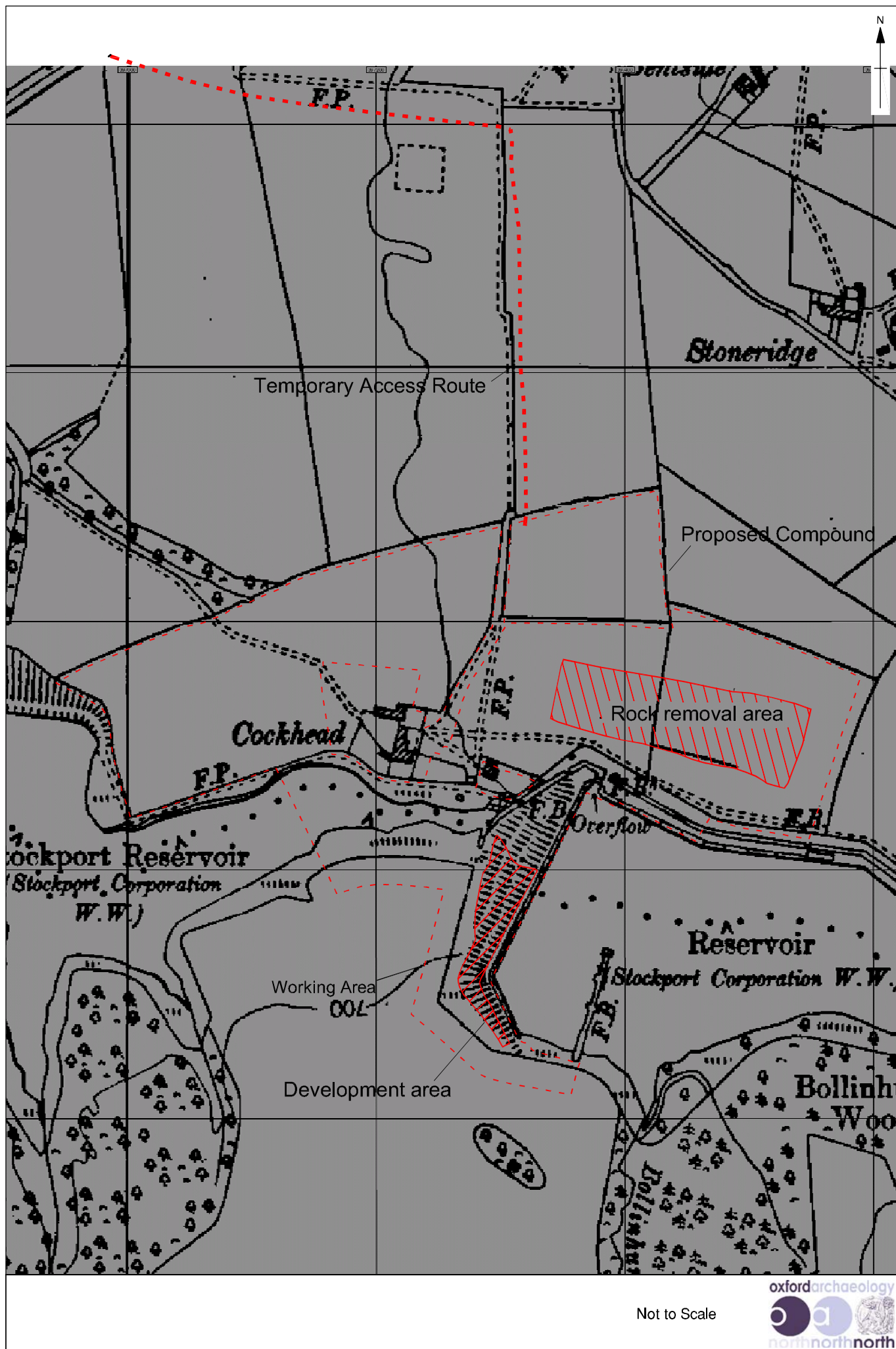


Figure 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey First Edition 6"-1 mile map, 1954



Plate 1: General view of study area



Plate 2: An example of a possible early field boundary (Site **29**)

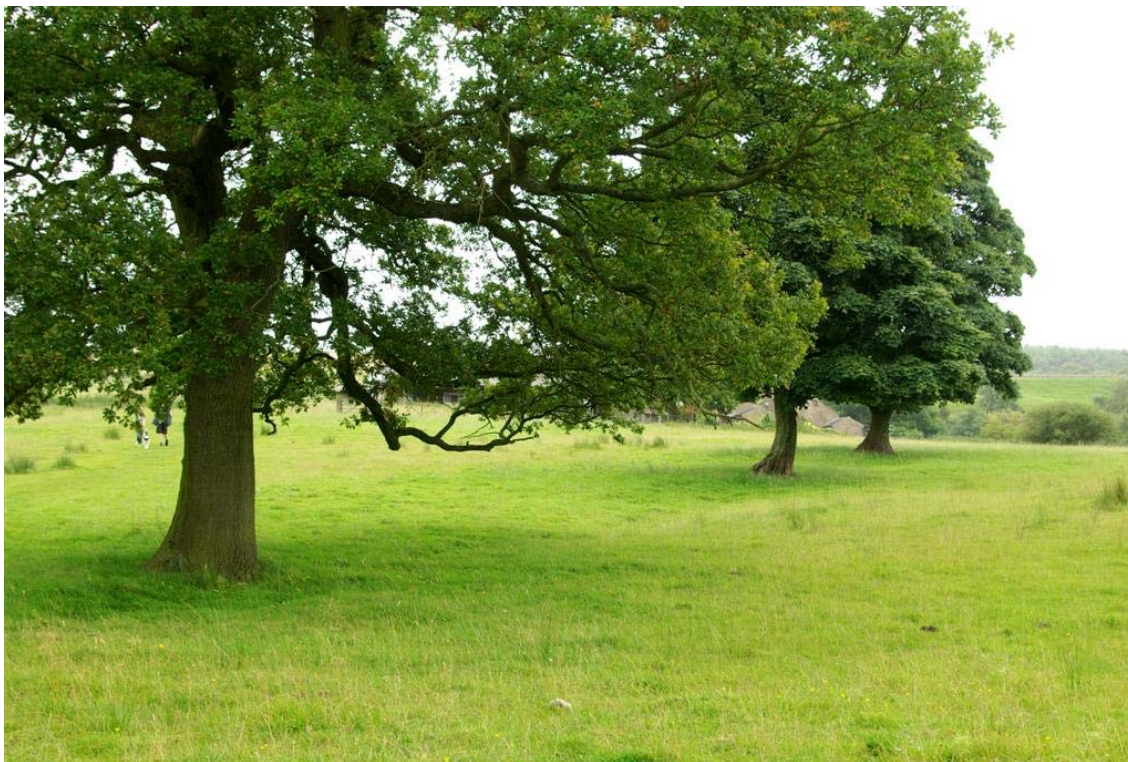


Plate 3: A possible relict field boundary (Site 37)



Plate 4: The top of the dam of the Bollinhurst Reservoir



Plate 5: The sluices of Bollinhurst Reservoir