



CHAMBERHALL BUSINESS PARK, BURY GROUND, BURY, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Desk- Based Assessment



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SUMMARY

Bury Metropolitan Borough Council requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed site of Chamberhall Business Park (planning application reference 43885), on Bury Ground, Castle Croft Road, Bury, Greater Manchester (centred NGR SD 8008 1121). The assessment aimed to identify the archaeological potential of the site and establish the significance of the known archaeological resource.

The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in Great Manchester; the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston; and the Bury Archives and the local reference collection at Bury Library, as well as various institutions with online facilities, including the National Monuments Record (NMR), English Heritage, the National Trust and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

In total, 15 sites were identified and included four textile mills (Sites **2**, **3**, **4** and **5**), one manorial corn mill (Site **13**), a rope walk (Site **15**), two bleach works (Sites **8** and **11**) two sets of reservoirs (Sites **9** and **12**), a weir (Site **10**), the site of a hall (Site **1**), a row of dwellings and other premises (Site **14**), and two bridges (Sites **6** and **7**), one of which was a viaduct (Site **7**). Only four of the sites lie within the outlined development boundary (Sites **8**, **9**, **12** and **15**) and may be impacted upon. Seven of the 15 sites were recorded in the SMR, but they all lay on the periphery of the study area (Sites **1-7**). The remaining eight sites were established from cartographic sources, documentary references and the site inspection (Sites **8-15**). None of the sites had any statutory listings.

All of the sites were post-medieval to modern in date, although the corn mill (Site **13**) may have originally been medieval, but this could not be conclusively proven. They are all intrinsically linked to the industrial development of Bury and mostly centre on the textile industry and transport networks. The area of Bury Ground appears to have been in use almost exclusively for bleach works and later print works. Much of the area appears to have historically passed to the firm of Peel and Yates from about 1784. The Peel of the partnership was Robert Peel, father of Sir Robert Peel, creator of the police force and later Prime Minister of Britain. They lived at Chamber Hall, which was located on the eastern side of the study area, prior to its demolition in 1911 to make way for an electricity power station.

The western part of Bury in general seemed to have a concentration of bleaching works as there were numerous bleachers listed in Bury and Elton. Two bleaching works (Sites **8** and **11**) were located on Bury Ground. Four names are specifically mentioned in trade directories as being located in the area, including Samuel Allen, Spencer and Curedale, Francis Rixson and William Mason. There is also an entry in an 1850 directory of the company of Hardman, Price and Sons, bleachers and calico printers, being at Bury Ground. Spencer and Curedale were the last remaining company at Bury Ground and their factory closed in 1962-3, although the firm of Francis Rixson is mentioned in the local paper as late as 1959.

The exact relationship between the two bleaching works at Bury Ground is unclear, as accounts suggest that in the later years they may have been owned or operated by different companies; Spencer Curedale, a larger firm, in the south at the site of the Hesketh Forge Works (Site **11**), and Francis Rixson, a smaller firm, to the north (Site

8). This latter northern bleach works is clearly shown on the 1845 Town Map and may have come into existence at about 1838. The site consisted of several buildings located along a goit, of which a number of surviving remains, consisting of wall footings, up to a maximum height of 0.75m, can still be seen aligned roughly north/south and east/west. A short flight of steps was also visible. The remains are currently obscured by vegetation, but what does survive is in reasonable condition. There is also evidence of the remains of the associated reservoirs to the south (Site 12).

The sites situated within the proposed development area are of local and possibly regional significance. These are likely to be affected by the proposed development, either directly by removal or indirectly in terms of their spatial relationship. Therefore, further recording of the remains is recommended prior to development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Adrian Frost of Bury Metropolitan Borough Council for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Norman Redhead of Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU) SMR, and all the staff of the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston for their assistance with this project.

The desk-based assessment was undertaken by Vix Hughes, with the drawings produced by Christina Clarke. The project was managed by Emily Mercer, who also edited the report, together with Alan Lupton.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Bury Metropolitan Borough Council requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed site of Chamberhall Business Park, Castle Croft Road, Bury, Greater Manchester (centred NGR SD 8008 1121; planning application reference 43885). The archaeological assessment aimed to identify the known archaeological resource that may be impacted upon by the proposed development. The project design (*Appendix 2*) was prepared in accordance with a brief provided by the Greater Manchester Assistant County Archaeologist (*Appendix 1*). OA North were commissioned to undertake the work in September 2005.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in Great Manchester, the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston, and the Bury Archives and the local reference collection at Bury Library, as well as various institutions with online facilities, including the National Monuments Record (NMR), English Heritage, the National Trust and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). In addition to this, a site inspection was carried out on the site of the proposed development, in order to relate the landscape and surroundings to the results of the desk-based assessment. This report sets out the results 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 of the archaeological resource.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The town of Bury lies approximately nine miles to the north of the centre of Manchester and six miles to the east of Bolton. Bury became a Metropolitan Borough Council in 1974, and changed from Lancashire to what became Greater Manchester. The site of the proposed Chamberhall Business Park is located on a plot of land at Bury Ground (Fig 1). The area is roughly triangular and bounded by the River Irwell on the west, the East Lancashire railway line from Manchester to Rawtenstall to the east, and to the south by the A58.
- 1.2.2 The surrounding area is essentially a mixture of residential use to the west, and industrial to the east, with the site currently used for recreational purposes, evident from the Irwell Sculpture Trail and the cycle network.
- 1.2.3 The underlying solid geology of the area consists of Millstone Grits and Coal Measures. The Millstone Grits are fine grained rocks including shales, mudstones and sandstones (Carter 1962), deposited under the marine conditions of the Carboniferous period, between 345 and 280 million years ago. The natural occurrence of coal contributed to the success of the nearby towns, during the post-medieval period, by providing fuel for powering steam

driven machines, which enabled the dramatic expansion of the textile industry (*ibid*).

- 1.2.4 Overlying the solid geology, the drift geology is composed essentially of fluvial deposits with some glacial sediments along the Irwell valley, north of Bury (Johnson 1995). The soils of the area are not well mapped due to its urban nature. However, a series of boreholes were undertaken in the town centre in the 1960s, in preparation for the new road system and redevelopment of the area, and this showed that to the south-east of the present study area there were deposits of peat. This is due to the variable soils across the wet microclimates of the River Irwell and its meanders, and include localised pockets of peat (Fletcher nd). The area is part of the Manchester Pennine Fringe as defined by the Countryside Commission (1998). The study area lies between 80-90m aOD.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 2*) was submitted by OA North in response to a request by Bury Metropolitan Borough Council. This project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 **Introduction:** a desk-based assessment was undertaken as the first stage in the programme of archaeological assessment, prior to development of the site. The work aimed to provide an appraisal of the archaeological resource and a guide to any requirement for further archaeological work. The results were analysed using the set of criteria used to assess the national importance of an ancient monument (DoE 1990).
- 2.2.2 **Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record (SMR):** the SMR is held at the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU), and is a database of known archaeological sites within the county. It also holds an extensive library of unpublished materials for consultation.
- 2.2.3 **Lancashire County Record Office (CRO):** the Lancashire CRO is in Preston, and holds the main source of primary documentation; both maps and documents for the county. In addition, it holds numerous published sources such as the *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, the *English Place-names Society* and unpublished sources and reports. Prior to the reordering of counties in the 1970s, Bury had been within Lancashire. Therefore, most of the pertinent historical documents for the town are still retained within the Lancashire CRO.
- 2.2.4 **Bury Central Library and Archives:** the Central Library holds a reference collection on local history, copies of maps, various local newspapers and their archives, and the Bury Local History Society Journal. Unfortunately, the archives are currently closed.
- 2.2.5 **Metropolitan Borough of Bury:** the Conservation Officer and the Environment and Planning Department were consulted to determine what was held by the Borough Council.
- 2.2.6 **Lancaster Library:** the library holds an easily accessible number of directories for Lancashire, as well as general books on the history of Lancashire.
- 2.2.7 **Oxford Archaeology North:** OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the history of the region, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

2.3 SITE INSPECTION

- 2.3.1 A site inspection was undertaken of the site to relate the findings of the desk-based assessment to the current landscape, and any additional areas of potential not readily identifiable through the documentary sources.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 2*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Bury Archives (held at Bury Planning Department, Craig House, Bury) on completion of the project.

3. RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 The historical and archaeological background is principally compiled through secondary sources obtained from the SMR and other resources. It is intended to set the gazetteer sites and the proposed development in a wider context.

3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Prehistoric Period:** there are relatively few sites known from this period in the vicinity, although general patterns of settlement location indicate that the Irwell valley would have been a favourable location for occupation and transport routes, as were the more upland areas of the surrounding moors to the north. A Mesolithic site was discovered and subsequently destroyed during gravel extraction on the banks of the River Irwell, close to where it joins the River Roch. Features and finds from the period were also found at Radcliffe E's and at Withins Reservoir near Radcliffe. A Bronze Age funeral barrow/cairn (14m diameter) has been located at Whitelow Hill in nearby Ramsbottom, 10km to the north-east, where several ceramic urns were unearthed and another at Shuttleworth, to the north. A Bronze Age palstave was found in 1905 when the Ashworth Moor Reservoir was being excavated, 5.5km to the north-east (Middleton 1996).
- 3.2.2 Iron Age sites and remains are notoriously difficult to identify, in part due to a lack of distinct material culture (Haselgrove 1996, 64). However, in the area around Bury there are clear indications that the area was occupied during this period, with a defended settlement found just north of Bury at Castlesteads (Fletcher 1992). This was likely to have been part of the Brigantes territory (Cunliffe 1991). Pollen data from the various wetland areas show widespread forest clearance, which seems to indicate a possible increase in arable activity during this period, and the expansion into wider areas of land, both lowland and upland (Hall *et al* 1995).
- 3.2.3 Within the study area itself there are no known archaeological remains or finds from the prehistoric period.
- 3.2.4 **Roman Period:** the Romans probably arrived in the vicinity of Bury in the AD 70s with Agricola, the Governor of Britain, building roads out from the newly established fort at Manchester. One of the roads, Watling Street, (road 7b, Margary 1957), passed to the west of Bury, through Prestwich across the River Irwell at Radcliffe, and continued on through Affetside towards Ribchester (*ibid*). Thus, the population in the surrounding hinterland would have been aware of a Roman military presence and possibly produced goods to trade. However, there are no known sites or finds of Roman date within the study area.
- 3.2.5 **Early Medieval Period:** the period following the Roman military occupation saw the inhabitants of the region attempt to continue the Roman way of life. Remains that date to this period are rare, and much evidence is based on place

names, topographical elements, such as curved churchyards, and surviving stonework, such as cross fragments and architectural detailing in buildings (Newman 1996). There is relatively little known about the area around Bury during this period, as with many other places. The name Bury comes from the Old English ‘*Burh*’, meaning a place by the fort or stronghold (Ekwall 1922).

- 3.2.6 The museum at Bury holds a number of stone fragments dating to this period, although the provenance is not always well established. There are also several outlying sites which hint at occupation in the area around Bury; a silver Saxon coin from AD 790-6 was found at Whitelow; a pit dated to 996-1162 through radiocarbon dating, also from near Whitelow cairn; and Anglian cross fragments are recorded in a wall close to Prestwich parish church. There are no known sites within the study area dating to this period.
- 3.2.7 **Late Medieval Period:** in the years after the Norman Conquest, the Domesday Survey of 1086 shows much of the land in the north was held by Roger de Poitou (Hinde 2002). By the time of Henry II (1154-1189), the manor of Bury was probably part of the Royal manor of Tottington, held by John de Lacy, with the Montbegon family as the mesne lords on his behalf. The town of Bury is first mentioned in documents in 1194, and referred to as ‘*Biri*’ (*ibid*). The manor passed to Sir Henry de Bury and then into the Pilkington family, when it is known that in 1469 Edward IV (1460-1483) granted a licence to Sir Thomas Pilkington to ‘kernal and embattle’ his manor house of Bury, in other words fortify the property. As a result, the moated manor house became Bury Castle. Shortly after, the lands of Sir Thomas Pilkington were forfeited due to his allegiance to Richard III. Later, under Henry VII (1485-1509), the lands were granted to a staunch Royalist supporter, Thomas, Lord Stanley, Earl of Derby, and the land was held by the Earls of Derby through into the post-medieval period (CRO DDK).
- 3.2.8 Throughout the medieval period, the town of Bury was engaged in two main activities; agriculture, and wool production and manufacture. However, the fourteenth century was a period of extreme hardship, with a downturn in the climate and plagues amongst both the human and animal populations. As a result, throughout Britain many settlements saw a shrinkage in the size of the population accompanied by abandoned dwellings, and in rural areas the ‘desertion’ of villages. The impact within Bury is not known, but given its industrial reliance on sheep for wool, it is likely that houses and areas of land would have fallen into disrepair and disuse (Kenyon 1991).
- 3.2.9 Nevertheless, there was eventually a resurgence in the area with the dominance of sheep rearing and the flourishing of woollen production. This is likely to have contributed to Bury being granted a market in 1440 (Hall *et al* 1995, 124). Although the coming of the market is relatively late in comparison to other towns, it corresponds with a general rise in Britain of the exports of woollen cloth, which nearly trebled between the 1450s and 1550s (Coleman 1975, 25). Unfortunately, the market appears not to have amounted to much. The antiquarian, John Leyland, visited Bury at around 1540 at which time he found the town of ‘*Byri*’ to have a ‘*poore market*’, and ‘*a ruine of a castel by the paroch chirch*’. The parish church in question was that of St Mary’s, which had been apparently established in the twelfth century (Whellan and Co 1853)

and later restored in the fourteenth century, before later falling into disrepair, in the year 1654 (*ibid*).

- 3.2.10 **Post-Medieval Period:** at the time of the Civil War, John Greenhalgh owned Chamber Hall (Site 1) that lay on the eastern edge of the proposed development boundary. A lease dating to 1629 details his property as including a water corn mill (Site 13) and three cottages (DDX/box 46 1629). The precise location of the manorial corn mill was not provided. However, it is likely to have been located at Bury Ground next to the river, given the proximity of the Hall and its associated properties, as nearly all such settlements would have had a mill in some form to process the estate's crops. This is further substantiated by the later 1790 Derby Estate plan (DDWo 1790), which names a field to the east of the River Irwell as 'mill field and croft' located on a 'goit', which was a deliberately cut channel diverting flow from the Irwell southwards (Fig 3). It is probable that the goit would have been the mill leat and race. To the south of this field is 'kiln meadow' likely to have been named after the kiln used to dry the corn.
- 3.2.11 John Greenhalgh was a staunch royalist during the Civil War and, as a result, the Greenhalgh lands and property, including the Hall, were subsequently forfeited (Baines 1824). The forfeit lands eventually passed into the Kay family; a lease dating to 1709 mentions James Kay, a clothier of Seedfield, owning Chamber Hall tenement, water mills and kilns (DDK/box 195 1709). Only nine years later, another lease shows John Kay, a clothier of Chamber Hall, owning the tenement and closes (DDK/box 67 1718). By the drawing up of the Tithe Schedule in 1838 (DRM/1/41 1838), Edmund Hardman owned the land with Allen Hardman as the tenant.
- 3.2.12 The region around Bury had emerged as a centre of the woollen industry during the later Middle Ages, but many firms converted to cotton manufacture during the later eighteenth century. In 1773, Bury was '*endowed with a new staple trade*' in the form of a calico-printing works that was established by Robert Peel (Williams and Farnie 1992, 42-43). Between 1775 and 1861 the population of Bury expanded faster than any other local cotton town, except for Salford (*ibid*). At about 1824 there were 6303 families living in Bury, of which 296 were employed in agriculture, 280 in miscellaneous activities and 5727 in trade, manufacturing and handicrafts (Baines 1824). During the first half of the nineteenth century the population nearly trebled, from 24,482 in 1801 to 70,000 in 1851 (Farrer and Brownbill 1911). This was in response to industrialisation and the exploitation of resources in Bury; its geographical location on a good crossing point of the River Irwell and the transport link provided by the Manchester to Bolton Canal, which was extended to Bury in 1797 (McNeil and Nevell, 2000); together with the exploitation of the local source of coal. This led to the town's increasing role in textile manufacturing (Williams and Farnie 1992).
- 3.2.13 **The Coal Industry:** coal-mining in general began in the fourteenth century, with output remaining relatively small. The earliest coal-workings consisted of open-cast outcrop extraction, which later on in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries took the form of shallow bell-pits (George 1977; Crossley 1990). Records of coal extraction exist for the Bury area from the medieval period: in 1599, there is a mention of extraction and Robert Massey, mercer of

Warrington, who purchased trees and poles from the Earl of Derby, of which many were decayed and not of much use '*because coals are gotten within a mile or two*' (Farrer and Brownbill 1911).

- 3.2.14 As shafts began to be cut deeper, soughs or adits were cut to drain the mines, and drifts opened to follow a seam; winding gear for haulage or drainage tended to be powered by horse gins or whimseys, of which none now survive in Lancashire (George 1977). The introduction of steam power saw coal deposits in the Bury hinterland being exploited, allowing deeper mining with the invention of the Newcomen Steam Engine in or around 1772, and with progressive improvement to these engines, the coal industry began to expand. This greater expansion was closely associated with the development of cotton spinning (*ibid*; Cranstone and Gould 1992) and the siting of cotton mills, as with other works, was intrinsically linked with the location of coal shafts (Bleachers' Association 1925). Around Bury coal was readily available, thereby enabling manufacturing costs to be kept relatively low (*ibid*). Such local sources were of prime importance to the industry. This, combined with the close proximity of easy transportation, such as the canals and then the railways, made locations such as Bury Ground favourable. Indeed, in many instances collieries, transport networks and mills were inextricably linked, such as with Peel Mills (Sites 2 and 3) and the East Lancashire Railway line (Fig 2). However, the coal industry in the area of Bury was fairly minor in comparison to that of the collieries immediately adjacent to Manchester, where the quality of the coal was superior and more easily accessible (George 1977).
- 3.2.15 ***The Cotton Industry:*** in the mid eighteenth century, Lancashire had a mainly agricultural landscape, with small towns and villages and, at its centre, the growing town of Manchester. For Bury cloth manufacture had been an important industry in the medieval period, concentrating mainly on the production of woollen items. Consequently, it had grown at the centre of a dense web of manufacturing villages. The domestic textile industry benefited greatly from the humid atmosphere as the thread was less likely to break, which made it cheaper to work cotton, and provided waterpower for small-scale workings (Williams and Farnie 1992). The old textile firms of Bury, which had previously carried out woollen manufacture, began to convert on a wholesale basis to cotton, using the waterpower of the rivers Roch and Irwell (*ibid*).
- 3.2.16 Water power had already been harnessed for use in corn mills sited along the Irwell valley, such as the manorial corn mill (Site 13) on Bury Ground. However, in 1773, Jonathan Howarth and William Yates, probably in association with Robert Peel, set up a calico printing works (Site 11) on Bury Ground (Gray 1970, xiv), probably in the south-west (Fig 3) near to the already established mill leat (DDWo 1790). The River Irwell could be used to power the various elements of the printing production. By the 1780s, national demand for textiles had increased, particularly for cotton. This led to the need to expand and, consequently, in 1784 the Earls of Derby leased the whole of the Chamber Hall tenement of 35 acres, including Bury Ground, to Peel and Yates (DDX/box 67 1784). The change in partnership and resulting enterprise brought an increased trade in textiles. The firm of Peel and Yates became very

successful and employed a large proportion of the population in Bury. A provision of housing in Peel and New Street, between Bury Lane and the print works, and at least two apprentice houses, demonstrated their investment of time and effort in their staff (Gray 1970, 83).

- 3.2.17 An account written one hundred years after the calico printing works (Site **11**) was established at Bury Ground provides a description of the initial visit Robert Peel made to Bury Ground (Barton 1874, 56). Peel apparently stayed in the Hope and Anchor Inn and the next day '*stood on a brow over the short rugged descent down to the ancient mill, the kiln where the grain for the mill was dried stood higher up in the lane, a little before the commencement of what was known as the paddle wall*' (a parapet to the road). Interestingly, it further describes the miller's house as being stood on rising ground above the mill (Site **13**) towards the lane, and that it was about 150 years old when Peel visited it in the early 1770s. The subsequent calico print works may have made use of the water-powered mill wheel, and the first block for the calico print works was apparently laid by Jonathan Howarth in 1774 (Gray 1970).
- 3.2.18 The cotton industry was dependent on the international imports of its raw material in order to maintain growth (Williams and Farnie 1992). It was, therefore, subject to frequent fluctuations in international prices, which had a serious effect on communities that oscillated between deficit causing famine for cotton workers, and surplus allowing for the creation of greater and better mills (*ibid*). Most cotton was imported from the slave plantations of the southern states of America until the American Civil War (1861-5). This led to the Cotton Famine of 1862-5 which saw the rate of local expansion checked by competition from Oldham, which was first to exploit Indian cotton (Gurr and Hunt 1998). The troubles in America led to imports from new markets, mainly in Egypt and India (Williams and Farnie 1992), but it was too late for Bury. Between 1861 and 1911, Bury operated below the Lancashire average, to a level half of that of Rochdale (*ibid*).
- 3.2.19 **Finishing Works; Bleaching and Dyeing:** inextricably linked to the textile industry was the finishing works of bleaching and dyeing. 'Whitsters', or bleachers, are first referred to in Britain in the sixteenth century and, more importantly, in East Lancashire in the eighteenth century (Higgins 1924). Essentially, it involved the removal of the natural colour of cloth and any impurities by an oxidation process (Jones 1996, 31). The technique involved a large amount of labour to wash and turn over the sheets of cloth, and large open areas to process it. Therefore, although most dye works clustered around Manchester where the spinning and weaving of cotton was concentrated, the bleachers needed to be based on the outskirts, mainly in the open countryside (Farrer and Brownbill 1911). The importance of this industry to Bury in the nineteenth century, is demonstrated in the fact that of the 271 industrial sites in the town, 37 of these were bleach works, with 33 dye works and 15 print works (UMAU 1999, 31).
- 3.2.20 The turning point for the bleaching industry was as a result of a book called '*Smegmatologia*' by James Dunbar, written in 1736. This listed the processes involved in bleaching. It encouraged farmers to convert their land for the process, which took at least six to eight months to complete, ideally

throughout the summer (Farrer and Brownbill 1911; Higgins 1924; Haggas-Brown 1950). An unfortunate consequence, however, was the robbery of cloth from the open land which frequently occurred, called ‘croft breaking’. Such instances are often mentioned in the Quarter Sessions of the period, and to be caught stealing was punishable by death (Higgins 1924); in 1786, a man was hanged on Bolton Moor for croft breaking. Around the mid eighteenth century, the open-air bleaching process was eventually discarded in favour of increased indoor practice due to two main technological breakthroughs, and the increased use of new chemicals in the production. The first bleaching works were established in the 1760s in the Bolton district (Farrer and Brownbill 1911). A pure water supply was a deciding factor in the location, with most favouring river valleys. This remained the case even after steam power replaced waterpower (Ashmore 1969). Consequently, the Irwell valley became a focus due to the streams that feed into the river from the gritstone moors, and the south-western part of Bury Ground, around the inlets and the southern end of the goit, appears to have been particularly attractive (such as Site 11). This water could be diverted through a water management system through weirs (Site 10) and fed into purpose built reservoirs (Sites 9 and 12).

- 3.2.21 Trade directories from the early nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century show the concentration of bleaching works in the area (Pigot and Co 1822-3; Slater 1879 and 1885; Kelly 1913). Four companies are specifically mentioned for Bury Ground; Samuel Allen, Spencer and Curedale (Site 11), Francis Rixson (Site 8), and William Mason. Spencer and Curedale were the largest firm and the last remaining bleaching company at Bury Ground when their factory closed in 1962-3, and Rixson’s was the smallest (Campbell 1988, 7), mentioned in the local paper as late as 1959.
- 3.2.22 The Bleachers’ Association had been established in 1900 to curb competition and reduce working costs. It consisted of the amalgamation of 53 firms and companies, mainly in Lancashire (Farrer and Brownbill 1911; Timmins 1998), with the number of people working in the county increasing from 28,873 in 1881 to 31,439 in 1901. This organisational change allowed increased modernity in the factories and a continued expansion of the industry.
- 3.2.23 Archaeologically, little remains of the bleaching works around Bury (Ashmore 1969), other than records and place-name evidence: for example, Whitefield, south of Bury, originate from the Old English ‘*hwit*’ meaning ‘land with a white surface’, indicating cloth laid out in the open fields to whiten, similarly ‘Blechefeld’ or ‘bleach field’, (Farrer and Brownbill 1911; Higgins 1950; Mills 1976; Field 1993).
- 3.2.24 **Transport Networks:** in order to serve the growing industries in the area, the transport network developed into a complex system, connecting various modes of transport and serving many locations. In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries the canals through Lancashire were developed and linked with suitable river systems (Hadfield 1984). They were related to the expansion of heavy and extractive industries, such as coal, and were used to import raw materials, such as cotton, and export the finished goods. To the west of the proposed development area is the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal, constructed in 1791, which brought coal to the town by barge directly from

Worsley, through the Bridgewater Canal, and the Castlefield Basin in Manchester (Ashmore 1969). This canal was also able to transport cotton imported into Manchester via the Manchester Ship Canal, which led to the construction of the Irwell Bridge Mills (Sites 4 and 5) in the early nineteenth century on the terminus of the canal, principally for the spinning of cotton (UMAU 2000a; Williams 1986).

- 3.2.25 Canals were eventually superseded by the railways, which developed rapidly during the mid-nineteenth century. To the east of the proposed development area was the East Lancashire Railway line, in full operation by 1851, and used to serve the late nineteenth century Peel Mills (Sites 2 and 3; Ashmore 1982; UMAU 2000b; Williams 1986). Since its heyday in the early twentieth century, the route went out of use and was dismantled in 1970.
- 3.2.26 The turnpike road network was well in place by the mid eighteenth century, and the road south from Bury Bridge (Site 6) to Manchester was established in 1754 (Lord 1903). However, by around 1873 the system of tolls had gone out of use (Harrison 1988, 80). In recent years, the road system has seen minor modifications, but these have had a dramatic impact in the area around Bury Ground. This is particularly evident along the southern side where the modern A58 road runs across Bury Bridge (Site 6), on an east/west axis, through the town. The bridge was widened and upgraded in 1883, and on the southern side of the present bridge the 1883 date stone can still be seen on the parapet. The bridge was again widened in the 1960s, and appears to have been re-widened since the mid 1970s. The last phase of activity completely obliterated the dwellings and premises that had been situated along the northern side of the road (Site 14). Originally, these buildings may have been eighteenth century and were certainly well established by 1848. They were located on the main route into the town.
- 3.2.27 With such an extensive transport network system throughout the county, there has been continued development of the economy, moving away from primary industrial processing towards secondary forms of manufacturing, distribution and retailing.
- 3.2.28 ***The Growth of Bury:*** the development of Bury, as a town, followed a similar trend seen elsewhere across East Lancashire, with a period of rapid expansion in the nineteenth century. This was closely associated with the expansion of trade and manufacturing and the improvements in the transport networks, along with the gravitational pull of an increasing population to the towns. The results were often visible as a spread of urban areas, and large numbers of new houses being constructed, as well as upgrading buildings and, with increased prosperity and entrepreneurial spirit, more public buildings and amenities. In the space of a year between 1st May 1823 and 1st May 1824, it was recorded that 200 new buildings were erected in Bury, and with improvements to numerous old buildings (Baines 1824, 579). Earlier buildings were often of local stone that was a readily available source of building material. However, brick became the dominant building medium from about the mid nineteenth century, when production costs decreased and capacity increased. It was used progressively more for both the rebuilding of residences and for new structures, and fulfilled the heightening demand for buildings, such as mills

and workers houses (Hallam 1980). This transition to brick is illustrated by Chamber Hall, which was a stone structure built in the seventeenth century and had mullioned and transomed windows. The front was taken down at about 1786-7, and rebuilt to the same height in very plain brickwork, completed by 1788 (Walker and Tindall 1985).

3.3 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 3.3.1 **Saxton 1577:** the purpose of Saxton's map was to show the settlements of the county of Lancashire and their relative locations, distinguishing some as more prominent than others. Bury is shown as is the bridge across the River Irwell, demonstrating that this was an important crossing point.
- 3.3.2 **Yates 1786:** this relatively small-scale printed map shows the entire county, but the details and locations of settlements, when compared to Saxton's, is relatively reliable. The town and layout of Bury is easily discernible and, although stylised, there are some buildings. Chamber Hall (Site 1) is clearly and prominently marked, indicating its relative importance at the time. The name of Robert Peel esquire is given to the area around the Hall showing his ownership. The town is shown as being concentrated around the parish church, and around the main roads running east/west (what is now the A58), together with the road running south from the church (now the A56). Despite mention of a calico printing works in documentary sources at Bury Ground by this time it is not shown, and there are no other structures visible along the River Irwell.
- 3.3.3 **Derby Estate Plan 1790 (DDWo)**(Fig 3): this was a plan of the land within the Earls of Derby Estate, and depicts both field boundaries and buildings. When compared to the tithe map (CRO/DRM/1/41) of 1838 it appears reliable in its information, as many of the details are consistent. The fields are reasonably large and each plot is named. Chamber Hall (Site 1) is shown with the road leading up to it clearly marked. North along the River Irwell is a weir (Site 10), used to divert water along the clearly marked goit, which is straight and obviously deliberately constructed, southwards to 'Wharf Field', where there a number of structures are depicted. Some of these were probably the premises of the Yates and Howarth calico print works (see 3.2.19, above), known from documentary sources. The fields they occupy are referred to as 'Wharf Field' and 'Mill Field', insinuating their involvement in milling or transporting goods from an earlier period. Evidence of this is clear from the wharf accessed by channels from the River Irwell. To the immediate east of the channel are what appear to be two possible reservoirs. These are quite small and have curving, slightly irregular boundaries and may be the precursors of the later large southern reservoirs on the site, Site 12.
- 3.3.4 **Tithe Map for the Township of Elton (DRM 1/41 1838):** this hand-drafted map is at a scale of 1": 6 chains. The map is very similar to the estate map (Fig 3), drawn up 48 years earlier, in that it depicts Chamber Hall and the other associated buildings. There are several additional buildings, particularly north of Chamber Hall (Site 1), on the later site of Peel Mills (Sites 2 and 3) and more importantly, adjacent to the weir (Site 10) on the River Irwell. These two buildings may be related to the bleach works (Site 8). The field layout is

almost identical, as are the names of the fields, which demonstrates relatively little change in the field system in the intervening period. The most obvious change is the deliberate enlargement of the reservoirs (Site 12), which are now more regular in plan and appear to have a deliberate drainage and overflow system constructed. The individual fields are clearly numbered and these correspond to entries in the Tithe Schedule, which describes the value, size, use, owner and tenant, and the field name. Most of the field names are commonplace, and all the open land was used as pasture or meadow.

- 3.3.5 ***Benson's Town Plan, (DDX 187/89) 1845:*** this was a town plan produced in a period immediately prior to the publication of the Ordnance Survey maps. The map is small scale, but shows a reasonable level of detail. Its aim was essentially as a product to sell to people and organisations, but despite this, it is fairly reliable. The area of Bury Ground contains numerous buildings, including the print works (Site 11), and along the southern limit, north of Bury Street (now the A58), there are private dwellings and inns (Site 14). The two, now enlarged, reservoirs are shown (Site 12) in addition to two new reservoirs (Site 9) shown next to the weir (Site 10), which are very regular rectangular features and smaller by comparison. These were obviously created in the intervening eight years between the Tithe Map of 1838 and this town plan of 1845. Chamber Hall (Site 1) is still clearly depicted.
- 3.3.6 ***Ordnance Survey First Edition Map, 1848, 6":1 mile*** (Fig 4): the first printed map occurs only ten years later, and is very similar to both the Tithe Map (DRM 1/41) and Benson's Town Plan (DDX 187/89). The First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps were often surveyed by ex-military surveyors and are the first attempts at the accurate surveying of the country. Many can be shown to be consistently accurate to the modern maps and are a reliable source.
- 3.3.7 The field layout is broadly recognisable to previous cartographic sources, with the dominant features being the two large reservoirs (Site 12), with one smaller to the south. The water system shows continuation from the Estate Plan of 1790 (DDWo), with the same water courses diverting part of the Irwell's flow via the weir (Site 10), and the various channels linking both sets of reservoirs (Sites 9 and 12). Bury Ground is labelled as the area to the south-west of the reservoirs, where the print works (Site 11) are also marked. The individual buildings are shown and can be seen to cluster around the inlets from the River Irwell, and the lower weir near Bury Bridge is visible. Chamber Hall (Site 1) is shown, but its main access road runs east/west, linking the structures next to the weir (Site 10), marked by the word 'Lump' (Site 8). Here, a small probable orchard is depicted, which may suggest that perhaps these structures were related to the weir and water management rather than actually bleaching or printing, and may have been occupied.
- 3.3.8 ***Ordnance Survey First Edition, 1891, 25":1 mile:*** the area is covered by two 'quarter' sheets, surveyed in 1889, 45 years after the OS First Edition 6" map. The level of detail is much clearer and includes the names of some properties. Along the southern part of the area, north of Bolton Street (now the A58) the density of occupation is unchanged. The two inns are shown with the Bridge Inn next to Bury Bridge (Site 6) and the Hope and Anchor Inn further east.

Different elements are also shown, such as chimneys. The site adjacent to the northern weir (Site 10) is now labelled as a 'Bleach Works' (Site 8) and has acquired a third rectangular reservoir (Site 9). A pump is also shown to the north of this, lying to the east of the goit. Peel Mills has by now been constructed (Sites 2 and 3) and is shown to the east of Chamber Hall (Site 1). The map shows the addition of the branch railway line to Holcombe, with the associated viaduct (Site 7) crossing the Irwell north of the bleach works.

- 3.3.9 **Ordnance Survey Second Edition, 1893, 6":1 mile** (Fig 5): this map essentially duplicates the OS 1891 map, with slightly less detail. The reservoirs (Sites 9 and 12) and water courses are shown with all the associated elements including weirs (including Site 10), sluices, aqueducts, feeder channels and goits. The stylised reed symbols at the margins of the southern reservoirs (Site 12) suggest that they may not have been pristine open water bodies and that some silting and vegetation has occurred. The south-western part of Bury Ground shows the site as being occupied by the bleach works, cotton works, together with a hat works to the west, and a chemical works to the north (Site 11).
- 3.3.10 **Ordnance Survey 1910, 6":1 mile** (Fig 6): by 1910 there are relatively few changes to the site; the buildings are all shown as being used for the same purposes. There are the same number of reservoirs and the water system is identical. The three obvious changes are the addition of a rope walk (Site 15) in the field to the south of the large reservoirs (Site 12). This is aligned roughly east/west and is a straight feature used for the production of rope. The second change is that the extreme southern end of the main goit is no longer depicted and the numerous smaller buildings near here appears to have been replaced by one larger structure. This suggests that the goit had been blocked off or culverted and covered over. Finally, to the east of the large reservoirs the fields have been subdivided, and one is shown as having a football field on it, demonstrating the use of the area for recreational purposes.
- 3.3.11 **Ordnance Survey 1936, 6":1 mile** (Fig 7): by 1936 the site is still relatively unchanged. The bleach works (Sites 8 and 11) remain the same, although the two very northern rectangular reservoirs (Site 9) appear to have been amalgamated, as they were on the 1910 map. The football field has been replaced by Castlecroft Road, and a playing field now exists to the east of the bleach works. Chamber Hall (Site 1) has now been replaced by the electricity station, complete with cooling towers. The cooling towers were an addition to the electricity station after the bleach works company complained about the temperature rise as a result of water being taken from the reservoir to be used for cooling (Townley 2000). This secondary use of the reservoirs may explain the aqueduct added at the north end of the second largest reservoir (Site 12) and the reference to an intake chamber not shown previously. The rope walk (Site 15) clearly visible on the 1910 map has by this time gone out of use and has become a route way, formalised as Carlyle Street.
- 3.3.12 **Ordnance Survey 1959/60, 6":1 mile**: as with previous OS mapping, there are very few changes on this map. Perhaps the most intriguing is the circular structure shown in the south-west part of Bury Ground, behind the row of

dwellings and shops fronting onto Bolton Street. The main reservoirs are all still present.

- 3.3.13 **Ordnance Survey 1967/69, 6":1 mile:** the reservoirs and most of the buildings remain intact although some of the southern buildings appear to have been demolished. The circular structure also remains.
- 3.3.14 **Ordnance Survey 1982/84, 1:10,000:** by this stage the reservoirs have been infilled, but the eastern large reservoir belonging to Site **12** is shown as a pond or body of open water. However, it is unlikely that it was an actual body of open water as other sources, such as photographs, show it being full of vegetation and presumably silted up. The other major change is the loss of all the buildings along the north side of Bolton Street (Site **14**), east of Bury Bridge (Site **6**), due to the road widening. The circular structure is also no longer shown.
- 3.3.15 **Ordnance Survey 1999/modern, 1:10,000:** the final maps show the areas as it is today with the area criss-crossed by recreational footpaths and no evidence of the reservoirs ever having been present. A few obscure lines to the east of the weir are all that indicate where the northern bleach works (Site **8**) was sited, whereas the southern area (Site **11**) remains much more intact.

3.4 SITE INSPECTION

- 3.4.1 A visit was made to Bury Ground on 14th September 2005. The area is currently in use as a large recreational park interlaced with footpaths. For the purposes of description, the site was subdivided into seven areas, referred to as Areas A-G (Fig 2), in accordance with the current footpath layout. Each area was intensively walked and visual observations made and noted, particularly with reference to gazetteer sites.
- 3.4.2 **Area A** (Plate 5): this area is at the northern end of the park and is overlooked by the footpath on the Fernhill Viaduct (Site **7**). Below the viaduct is a stone-built weir (Site **10**) with obvious modern elements, and rubbish has gathered in the River Irwell. The park in this area has a number of medium-sized clumps of mature mixed species trees, deliberately placed which help break the large area into smaller secluded parts. The paths here are either tarmac or grit. There were no remains of sites in this area but the large Peel Mills (Site **2** and **3**), can easily be seen to the east.
- 3.4.3 **Area B** (Plate 6): the main central part of Area B was ringed by trees, which creates a wide vista of maintained grassland, which is short and virtually flat. On the western side of Area B, the remains of the smaller rectangular reservoirs (Site **9**), associated with the northern bleach works (Site **8**), were visible as features in the mid 1970s. However, the landscaping of the park has removed all above ground remains. On the eastern side of this area was a small area of scrub undergrowth. A curvilinear channel was visible running east/west from the current path for about 100m, before turning southwards. It was approximately 1m wide with a 1.5m bank on the north side, and it was 0.5m deep. The channel was dry and slightly over-grown. It was not clear

what date it was constructed but it is unlikely to be part of the original water system connecting the reservoirs. Clearance and detailed survey of the feature would locate it more accurately.

- 3.4.4 **Area C** (Plate 7): this area lies to the south of Area B, and borders Area E, to the east (Fig 2). The parkland in this area is a mixture of medium-sized open areas with clumps of trees breaking up the vista, with rounded peripheries and gently undulating ground. Within this area is the site of the largest of all the reservoirs (Site **12**), associated with the southern bleach works (Site **11**), but there were no visible, above ground, remains.
- 3.4.5 **Area D** (Plate 8): at the southern end of Bury Ground park is a large derelict area that has trees and grass on the western fringe. For the majority of the area the ground is covered in a loose surface of hardcore material, with areas of tall weeds. The southern limit of the study area runs along the route of Carlyle Street. The road follows the alignment of the earlier rope walk (Site **15**). The current road has two small turnings off to the north. These and the hardcore surface are the remains from when the area has been used for fairs in recent history (Adrian Frost pers comm).
- 3.4.6 **Area E** (Plate 9): this area lies north of Area D and east of Area C (Fig 2) and borders Castlecroft Road. The area is dominated by a large patch of reeds, that stand over 2m tall, in an area corresponding with the site of the eastern large reservoir (Site **12**) associated with the southern bleach works (Site **11**). The reservoir may still be present as an infilled waterlogged feature, reflected by the dramatic difference in vegetation. Around the reeds the area consists of scrub and trees and to the north is a picnic area, with several wooden benches.
- 3.4.7 **Area F** (Plate 10): to the south-west of the main part of the park and directly south of the study area defined as the Hesketh Forgeworks (Fig 2), is an area of dense scrubland and trees. The area borders the main A58/A56 dual carriageway and the River Irwell runs along the western margin. The area is undulating and the density of vegetation makes the visibility of any features minimal. It is known that the area has had a significant amount of disturbance as a large overflow pipe has been inserted, running roughly east/west and can be seen emerging downstream of the weir just below Bury Bridge.
- 3.4.8 **Area G** (Plate 11): along the extreme western side of the park, adjacent to the River Irwell is a long narrow area, (Fig 2), which slopes gently downwards from the main part of the park to the River Irwell. It is covered by numerous trees and undergrowth. The area incorporates the northern bleach works remains (Site **8**), including a short flight of steps and low walls, surviving up to a maximum height of 0.75m. The walls appear to be of local stone, built to courses, with cement bonding. The structures are aligned roughly north/south and east/west. A distinct square structure lies immediately adjacent to the current path through the park but is barely visible. It measures 5m by 5m and the walls are 0.60m wide. To the west is the stone-built weir (Site **10**) shown on the 1790 map (DDWo). There was no above ground evidence of the goit that ran to the east of the River Irwell and marked on maps from 1790 onwards.

4. GAZETTEER OF SITES

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Site number | 01 |
| Site name | Chamber Hall |
| NGR | SD 8032 1123 |
| Site type | Site of Hall |
| Period | Seventeenth–twentieth century |
| SMR No | 353.1.0 |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | (DDX/box195); Earls of Derby Estate Plan 1790 (DDWo); Tithe Map for the Township of Elton 1838 (DRM 1/41); Benson's Town Map of Bury 1845, (DDX/187/89); OS First Edn 1848, 1:10560; OS First Edn 1891, 1:2500; OS Second Edn 1893, 1:10560; OS 1910; Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 135-6; Walker and Tindall 1985 |
| Description | <p>The Hall was originally a seventeenth century house of three storeys of rough-coursed stone, mullioned and transomed windows, and had a datestone of 1611 in the north wall. This inscribed stone is now held by Bury Museum. It was once owned by the Greenhalgh and Kay families, and was leased to Robert Peel for his cotton printing works. His son Sir Robert Peel was born at the Hall in 1788.</p> <p>In the eighteenth century the front to the house was rebuilt to that of equal height but only two storeys, in very plain brickwork, leaving only the northern rear part dating to the seventeenth century. Chamber Hall was demolished in 1909 to make way for an electric power station. A pre-seventeenth century structure is inferred by a lease of 1709 (DDK/box195). Mapping of the mid nineteenth century shows there to be two main buildings, outbuildings and grounds. Between 1866–74 it was in use as a baptist chapel.</p> |
| Assessment | The site of the demolished hall lies outside of the outlined development area and will not be affected. |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Site number | 02 |
| Site name | Peel Mills |
| NGR | SD 8026 1142 |
| Site type | Building; mill |
| Period | Late nineteenth century to present day |
| SMR No | 3841.1.0 |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | Ashmore 1982; Williams 1986 |
| Description | <p>Peel Mills was erected in 1885-7, and was marked on the early twentieth century mapping as a cotton mill, and was one of the most impressive of Bury's cotton mills, principally engaged in spinning. It is five storeys high and two distinct construction phases are evident. Phase 1 is late nineteenth and consists of 30 x 5 bays built of brick, and has rectangular windows with stone sills and brick arches. The engine house is attached to the east side of Phase 1 and dates from the late nineteenth century. Phase 2 is early twentieth century and consists of 25 x 5 bays and again brick-built, with tall rectangular windows with flat tops. The warehouse is brick-built three storeys high and has 17 x 3 bays. There are traces of an engine house and a rope drive nearby. The office building is late nineteenth century, two storeys high and has 9 x 2 bays. The word 'Peel' is visible on the water tower.</p> |
| Assessment | The mill lies outside of the outlined development area and will not be affected. |

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Site number | 03 |
| Site name | No. 1 Peel Mills |
| NGR | SD 8030 1134 |
| Site type | Site of Building; mill |
| Period | Late nineteenth –twentieth century |
| SMR No | 3841.1.1 |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | UMAU 2000 |
| Description | No 1 Peel Mills was a cotton spinning mill designed by the Stott family, and is one of two surviving examples of the Stott and Sons quadruple brick arch system. It was erected in 1885 and began working in 1887 for the Peel Spinning and Manufacturing Co. Ltd. The site originally had five storeys and a basement, but was later reduced to two storeys. The main mill had 12.5 x 6 bays with a two-bay single-storey carding shed at ground floor level on the western side. The basement extends under the carding shed, and has a single-storey loading bay area with a cast iron roof supported by three cast-iron columns. A staircase tower projected from the north-west corner, with tall narrow rectangular windows with stone sills and lintels, and shallow brick pilasters at each corner. There are also a number of external projecting structures at the southern end of the mill. The exterior elevations are characterised by tall shallow-arched windows with stone sills, and a brick pilaster to each corner of the mill. The main elevations rest on a deep brick plinth c 2m high. The only areas of ornamentation appear to have been on the western elevation of the office block and the entranceway into a large irregular courtyard that exists between Peel Mills No 1 and No 2 to the north. Forming the eastern side of the courtyard was a large boiler complex that served both mills, which originally had a chimney. |
| Assessment | The site of the now demolished mill lies outside of the outlined development area and will not be affected. |

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|--------------------------|--|
| Site number | 04 |
| Site name | Irwell Bridge Mills No 1 |
| NGR | SD 7975 1102 |
| Site type | Mill |
| Period | Nineteenth –twentieth century |
| SMR No | 3824.1.0 |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | OS First Edn 1848, 1:10560; OS 1930, 1:10560; Williams 1986 |
| Description | The site was marked as a cotton mill on the 1848 and 1908 OS maps, but disused on the 1930 map. However, the 1848 map shows the site as Bridge Mill. The site is essentially an early nineteenth century cotton mill that has been spoilt by later additions. Three distinct phases of construction are evident. Phase 1 is early nineteenth century, suggested to be around 1800, and was water powered. It is a stone-built four storey building with 4 x 4 bays. The windows are small and square with stone lintels and sills, and there is a gable roof of slate. Phase 2 is mid nineteenth century and built of brick. It is three storeys high and has 12 x 3 bays. The windows are small and rectangular with stone lintels and sills. The roof of this phase is also gabled and of slate but has embellished brickwork to the eaves. There is an internal engine house. Phase 3 is late nineteenth century, brick-built and four storeys high, with 5 x 4 bays. The windows are the same as those seen for Phase 2. There is also a distinctive two storey office building that has 2 x 2 bays. |
| Assessment | The mill lies outside of the outlined development area and will not be affected. |

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|--------------------------|---|
| Site number | 05 |
| Site name | Irwell Bridge Mills No 2 |
| NGR | SD 7973 1101 |
| Site type | Site of Mill |
| Period | Nineteenth –twentieth century |
| SMR No | 3824.1.1 |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | BIAS 1999; UMAU 2000 |
| Description | A survey of the mill complex was recently conducted prior to its redevelopment. Irwell Bridge Mills was founded in the early nineteenth century, and located beside Manchester, Bolton and Bury canal terminus. It is a stone and brick-built complex and comprised three elements; at the northern end of the range was a four |

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| | storey stone and brick wing of 5 x 4 bays; to the south, and in the middle of the complex, lay a three-storey brick spinning mill, with 13 x 4 bays; and at the southern end of the building lay a four-storey brick and stone wing of 3 x 4 bays. The earliest structures to survive were the northern and southern wings which flanked the main spinning block built around 1825-7. Stylistically, both buildings were built as warehouses, although the southern wing had four shipping holes, whereas the northern wing had none. These two stone structures pre-date the main brick cotton spinning block, which fills the gap between the two. Sections of the northern wing were rebuilt in the twentieth century, using modern machine-made bricks with casement windows. Attached to the southern elevation was a two storey irregularly shaped brick building. The cotton spinning block was built between 1835-43. Originally it may have had a fourth floor, but this would have been lost when the new roof was put on. A large single-storey weaving shed was also built between 1835-43 on the western side of the canal. The shed was demolished in 1986. |
| Assessment | The site of the mill lies outside of the outlined development area and will not be affected. |

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|--------------------------|--|
| Site number | 06 |
| Site name | Bury Bridge |
| NGR | SD 7975 1094 |
| Site type | Bridge |
| Period | Sixteenth century |
| SMR No | 81.1.0 |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | Saxton 1577 |
| Description | The bridge straddles the River Irwell at Bury and is shown on Saxton's map of Lancashire (1577). The Bridge is said to have consisted of three gothic arches and is mentioned in several documents as requiring repairs. The bridge was a 'Hundred' bridge, which meant funds for repair were raised from the inhabitants of the hundred, in this case, the Hundred of Salford. The township book of Halliwell recorded payment towards repairs in 1648. Then in 1661 investigations were made into the state of the bridge and found it to be ruinous. Three years later, in 1664, the bridge was apparently repaired. The bridge was widened and upgraded in 1883, and on the southern side of the present bridge the 1883 date stone can still be seen on the parapet. The bridge was again widened in the 1960s and appears to have been re-widened since the mid 1970s. |
| Assessment | The site of the now replaced bridge lies of the outlined development area and will not be affected. |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Site number | 07 |
| Site name | Fernhill Viaduct |
| NGR | SD 8015 1167 |
| Site type | Standing bridge |
| Period | Nineteenth – twentieth century |
| SMR No | 9278.1.0 |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | OS First Edn 1891, 1:2500 |
| Description | This bridge carried the former Bury to Holcombe Brook railway line and is sometimes referred to as the Woodhill Bridge. It is constructed of five semi-circular arches, with the three middle arches over the River Irwell, plus a smaller arch at the north-west end. The overall width is 16 feet 6 inches (4.95m), the foundation piers would allow for widening on the north side. The arch spans are about 35 feet (10.5m) giving a total length for the bridge of 270 feet (81m). The height of the bridge is 28 feet (8.4m). There appears to be some cracking inside the voussoir rings. The bridge was built between 1878-82 by the Bury and Tottington District Railway Company. It was acquired in 1888 by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway and was closed to passengers in 1952. It was subsequently |

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| | closed to goods in 1960 and the line has since been taken up and the route over the bridge tarmaced. It is now in use for recreational purposes. Below it, and slightly to the south, is a weir across the River Irwell. |
| Assessment | The site lies outside of the outlined development area and will not be affected. |

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|--------------------------|--|
| Site number | 08 |
| Site name | Bury Ground Bleach Works (north) |
| NGR | SD 8002 1143 |
| Site type | Site of |
| Period | Eighteenth – twentieth century |
| SMR No | - |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | Benson 1845 DDX 187/89; OS First Edn 1848, 1:10560; OS First Edn 1891, 1:2500; OS 1910, 1:10560; OS 1930, 1:10560; OS 1936, 1:10560; OS 1959/60, 1:10560; Campbell 1988; Site visit |
| Description | The site consists of the site of a bleach works, towards the northern end of Bury Ground. The exact relationship with the southern premises is unclear as accounts suggest that in the later years they may have been owned or operated by different companies; Spencer Curedale a larger firm would therefore be in the south and Francis Rixson, a smaller firm would therefore be to the north. The bleach works is clearly shown on the 1845 Town Map (DDX/187/89) but may have come into existence after 1838 (DRM/1/41). The site consisted of several buildings located along the goit which probably existed pre-1790 (DDWo). The maps show a pump house on later maps, slightly to the north of the main buildings. The site presently has a number of surviving remains which include low walls, surviving up to a maximum height of 0.75m. The walls appear to be of local stone, built to courses, with cement bonding. The structures are aligned roughly north/south and east/west. A short flight of possible steps was also visible. A distinct square structure lies immediately adjacent to the current path through the park but is barely visible. It measures 5m by 5m and the walls are 0.60m wide (Plates 12 and 13). |
| Assessment | The remains of the site are obscured by vegetation, but it appears to survive in a relatively reasonable condition. The site may be affected and further recording is recommended. |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Site number | 09 |
| Site name | Bury Ground Reservoirs (north) |
| NGR | SD 8003 1143 |
| Site type | Site of |
| Period | Eighteenth – twentieth century |
| SMR No | - |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | OS First Edn 1891, 1:2500; OS 1910, 1:10560; OS 1930, 1:10560; OS 1936, 1:10560; OS 1959/60, 1:10560; Campbell 1988; Site visit |
| Description | The site lies to the east of Site 8 and comprises three rectangular reservoirs. The southern reservoir was a later addition built sometime between the OS maps of 1848 and 1891. It is not known how the reservoirs were constructed but they were infilled and remained visible up to the mid 1970s. |
| Assessment | The site lies in an area which may be affected by the proposed development and further investigations are recommended prior to any ground works. |

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Site number | 10 |
| Site name | Bury Ground Weir (north) |
| NGR | SD 8000 1143 |
| Site type | Site of |
| Period | Eighteenth –twentieth century |
| SMR No | - |
| Stat. Designation | None |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Sources | Derby Estate Plan 1790 DDWo; Benson 1845 DDX 187/89; OS First Edn 1848, 1:10560; OS First Edn 1891, 1:2500; OS 1910, 1:10560; OS 1930, 1:10560; OS 1936, 1:10560; OS 1959/60, 1:10560; Site visit |
| Description | The site lies on the River Irwell itself, immediately west of Site 8 . It can be observed through cartographic sources from as early as 1790 (DDWo). It consists of a semi-circular weir and was used to divert water from the Irwell southwards, initially to Site 11 , but later also Site 8 . It is built of squared stone blocks, laid randomly, in a stepped formation projecting outwards downstream. Larger blocks are seen at the top. There are at least five steps and the visible structure is about 1.5m–2m deep. Side walls contemporary with the main weir run a short distance downstream on both banks. On the northern bank is modern monitoring station. |
| Assessment | The site of lies outside on the edge of the outlined development area and may not be affected. |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Site number | 11 |
| Site name | Bury Ground Printing and Bleach Works (south) |
| NGR | SD 7990 1121 |
| Site type | Site of |
| Period | Eighteenth – twentieth century |
| SMR No | - |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | DDK/box67 1784; Derby Estate Plan 1790 DDWo; Tithe Map 1838 DRM 1/41; Benson 1845 DDX 187/89; OS First Edn 1848, 1:10560; OS First Edn 1891, 1:2500; OS 1910, 1:10560; OS 1930, 1:10560; OS 1936, 1:10560; OS 1959/60, 1:10560 |
| Description | This site to the south, presently occupied by the Hesketh Forgeworks, housed a bleach, printing and chemical works, and later a hat works and an iron foundry. This would appear to be the site leased by Yates and Peel in 1784 (DDK/box67), since it also appears on the 1790 map (DDWo) as a complex of structures around the wharf. The original works almost certainly harnessed the water power originally used by the manorial mill (Site 13), and may have made use of the water channels and even the water wheel. |
| Assessment | The site lies outside of the outlined development area and will be not impacted by the proposed development. |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Site number | 12 |
| Site name | Bury Ground Reservoirs (south) |
| NGR | SD 8020 1120 |
| Site type | Site of |
| Period | Eighteenth – twentieth century |
| SMR No | - |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | Derby Estate Plan 1790 DDWo; Tithe Map 1838 DRM 1/41; Benson 1845 DDX 187/89; OS First Edn 1848, 1:10560; OS First Edn 1891, 1:2500; OS 1910, 1:10560; OS 1930, 1:10560; OS 1936, 1:10560; OS 1959/60, 1:10560 |
| Description | This site consists of two large and one small reservoirs, all associated with the southern bleach works (Site 11). The reservoirs appear, from cartographic sources, to have been constructed after 1790 (DDWo) and before 1838 (DRM 1/41). They were quite extensive and the two larger ones were adjacent to each other and aligned north/south, in the area between the River Irwell and Chamber Hall (Site 1). Associated water management features include a system of channels, sluices, and overflows, linking the reservoirs and the original goit and River Irwell. The reservoirs survived well until the later part of the twentieth century and were eventually filled in. Presently, there is no trace of the western or southern reservoir but there is a large area of tall reeds occupying the location of the eastern reservoir. |
| Assessment | The site may be directly affected and further investigation is recommended. |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Site number | 13 |
| Site name | Bury Ground Manorial Corn Mill |
| NGR | SD 7980 1100 |
| Site type | Site of |
| Period | Eighteenth – twentieth century |
| SMR No | - |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | DDK/box 46, 1629; Derby Estate Plan 1790 DDWo; Barton 1874 |
| Description | The site of the corn mill lay adjacent to the River Irwell, near Bury Bridge. There is a mention of a water corn mill and three cottages in a lease of John Greenhalgh in 1629 (DDK/box 46), suggesting it is established by this date. Antiquarian accounts suggest that the mill was no longer extant by the eighteenth century (Barton 1874), but give an impressionistic description of the miller's cottage. The mill probably belonged to the manor and served a wide area, processing the corn crops. The goit shown on the 1790 (DDWo) map indicates that the mill had a deliberately constructed water system for powering the water wheel. There are no surviving above ground remains of any of the elements of the mill, and towards the southern part of the area below ground survival is likely to be low due to the amount of modern disturbance. |
| Assessment | The exact location is unknown but the site probably lies outside the outlined development area. |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Site number | 14 |
| Site name | Bolton Street Premises |
| NGR | SD 7988 1120 |
| Site type | Site of |
| Period | Eighteenth – twentieth century |
| SMR No | - |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | Derby Estate Plan 1790 DDWo; Tithe Map 1838 DRM 1/41; Benson 1845 DDX 187/89; OS First Edn 1848, 1:10560; OS First Edn 1891, 1:2500; OS 1910, 1:10560; OS 1930, 1:10560; OS 1936, 1:10560; OS 1959/60, 1:10560 |
| Description | There were a number of premises located along the northern side of Bolton Street, east of Bury Bridge (Site 6). These included two inns and various buildings that may have been used for trade or domestic dwelling. The origin of the occupation of the site is unknown, although as a main route into Bury, buildings may have been here as early as the medieval period. The structures are clearly visible on various cartographic sources by 1790 (DDWo). The buildings probably underwent numerous alterations and were finally removed in the late 1970s-1980s when the dual carriage-way was installed along this section of the A58. |
| Assessment | The site lies on the very periphery of the study area and although there may be some degree of impact, there is a low potential for any survival of any significant archaeology. |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Site number | 15 |
| Site name | Bury Ground Rope Walk |
| NGR | SD 8020 1101 |
| Site type | Site of |
| Period | Eighteenth –twentieth century |
| SMR No | - |
| Stat. Designation | None |
| Sources | OS 1910, 1:10560; OS 1930, 1:10560 |
| Description | This rope walk lies under the present course is fossilised by the course of Carlyle Road. From cartographic sources, it was built sometime between 1893 and 1910 and was out of use by 1930. |
| Assessment | The site lies within the outlined development area, but there is a low potential for any survival of significant archaeology. |

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REMAINS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 In total 15 sites were identified, of these only four lay within the proposed development area (Sites **8**, **9**, **12** and **15**). Seven sites were recorded in the SMR (Sites **1-7**), but these are all positioned on the periphery of the development area. The remaining eight sites (Sites **8-15**) were established from cartographic sources, documentary references and the site inspection.

5.1.2 All of the sites were post-medieval to modern in date, although the corn mill, Site **13**, may have originally been medieval, although this could not be conclusively proven. None of the sites had any statutory listings.

| Period | No. of sites | Site Numbers |
|---------------------|--------------|--|
| Pre 1700 | 3 | Hall (1), Bridge (6), Mill (13) |
| 1700-1800 | 3 | Weir (10), Bleach Works (11), Reservoirs (12) |
| 1800-1900 | 8 | Mill (2-5), Viaduct (7), Bleach Works (8), Reservoirs (9), Buildings (14) |
| 1900-2005 | 1 | Rope Walk (15) |
| Total post-medieval | 15 | 1-15 |

Table 1: 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, with the results below.

5.2.2 **Period:** the sites are all post-medieval in date, but within this broad time frame different subdivisions have been used to categorise the sites, as seen in Table 1; the period prior to 1700; after 1700, with the rate of progress increased with the agricultural revolution, intrinsically followed by the industrial revolution; and then the modern period, often defined as from 1900 onwards. Three sites in the early post-medieval period, Sites **1**, Chamber Hall; **6**, Bury Bridge; and **13** the manorial mill, are in existence by the seventeenth century, although their exact date of origin could not be established. These sites reflect Bury’s nature at the time, with the bridge demonstrating transport links (**6**); Chamber Hall being a residence of higher status, then owned by the Greenhalgh family (**1**); and the suggested manorial mill (**13**), used to process the corn crops probably from the entire manor and harnessing available water power.

- 5.2.3 In the last quarter of the eighteenth century, Sites **10**, **11** and **12** are all referred to in documents, such as leases and maps and can, therefore, be securely dated to this period. There is the possibility that Site **10**, the weir shown on the 1790 Estate Plan (DDWo), may have originated in an earlier period since it may have been part of the water system for the manorial mill. Site **11**, Bury Ground printing and bleaching works, was probably in place by 1800, since the land was leased in 1784 and several buildings are shown in the area on the 1790 map. Site **12**, the larger reservoirs associated with the bleaching works, are not shown on the 1790 map, which suggests that they may have been constructed after that date but probably before 1800.
- 5.2.4 During the nineteenth century eight sites became established, reflecting the general trend of increased development in Bury and the region. The bleach works (**8**) to the north were constructed, along with two reservoirs, expanded to three later (**9**). There is obvious expansion and development to Site **11**, the bleach works to the south, as this site and the newly built mills at Irwell Bridge (Sites **4** and **5**) were served by the canal. Later in the nineteenth century the complex at Peel Mills (Sites **2** and **3**), was constructed served by the railway and Fernhill Viaduct (**7**). Finally, the houses along the southern side of the area, (Site **14**), are known to have been existence at this point, clearly shown on the maps.
- 5.2.5 **Rarity:** the sites are all reasonably common place within urban industrial environments. In the nineteenth century there were 271 industrial sites in the Bury area, which included 37 bleach works, 33 dye works and 15 print works (GMAU 1999, 31). Using these figures shows that 13% of the sites were bleach works, which suggests they were fairly common in the period but it also indicates that there area may have been specialising in bleaching and that it is therefore a distinct characteristic element in the development of Bury. No survey has been made of the number of sites of each category which remain today, and it is not clear, therefore, how rare the surviving remains are. As with many other industrial sites from the nineteenth century, huge numbers have been left derelict, demolished or had their use altered to such an extent that they no longer reflect the original form and function. The Fernhill Viaduct (**7**) as part of the railway network is not a rare type of site. Sites similar to Chamber Hall (**1**), Bury Bridge (**6**), the weir (**10**), manorial mill (**13**) and houses (**14**) are also relatively common place throughout the area, region and country. Although, these were less common in the local environment.
- 5.2.6 **Documentation:** the relative lack of documentation directly relating to the works at Bury Ground and the various associated sites may be a result of records not being deposited or that they are held within large unlisted collections. Three sites in particular are only evident through the documentary evidence, the now demolished Chamber Hall (**1**); Bury Bridge in its original form (**6**); and the manorial mill (**13**). The reservoirs (**9** and **12**) are also best preserved through documentary evidence from maps.
- 5.2.7 **Group Value:** the various sites at Bury Ground form a significant group of sites associated with the textile industry and its inextricable links with transportation, through canals and railways, and the significant use of the river for a power source. The weir (**10**) and the associated goits and channels demonstrates the early harnessing of power both for the manorial mill and then

for the bleach works (8 and 11), which eventually led to the construction of the reservoirs, essential for the process (12 and 9). The Peel and Irwell Bridge mills (2-5) were involved in the importation of raw material and spinning of cotton, influenced by the positions of the bleach works, canals, and river. The Fernhill Viaduct (7) indicates the symbiotic relationship between the development of the textile industry with improved transport of both the raw goods and the completed products. Throughout this period, both locally and regionally this became a well established pattern of urban development. The bulk of the textile industry became centred on Manchester and the outlying areas, including Bury, and for a considerable period the region was the centre of world textile production.

- 5.2.8 **Survival/Condition:** of the 15 sites considered, nine no longer exist in any recognisable form in the landscape. Those that do exist are Peel Mills (2), Irwell Mills (4), Fernhill Viaduct (7), bleach works (8 and 11) and the weir (10). Peel Mills is the best preserved and retains most of its external character. The Fernhill Viaduct exists as a period bridge but is no longer in use for railway transport. The weir appears to be in good condition, but how much of it is original is unknown. The southern bleach works at Bury Ground has many elements that appear to retain their original form. The northern bleach works survive in part, and consist of some upstanding features in reasonable condition. The original Bury Bridge has been removed and no elements exist.
- 5.2.9 As a group the remains do form a cohesive collection of elements of the textile industry in Bury. Importantly, are those elements that have been lost and do not survive as visible features, of which the reservoirs are perhaps the most evident. Where once they occupied a considerable area of Bury Ground there is now no evidence for them, except for the area of reeds towards the eastern side that retains the overall shape of one of the reservoirs, but this fact is not acknowledged and remains obscured to users of the park. From map evidence, it can also be demonstrated that a number of buildings have been demolished at the northern bleach works, and there is also no trace of the goit which ran to the east of the River Irwell and provided the power for the manorial mill and the later bleach works.
- 5.2.10 **Fragility/Vulnerability:** a number of sites are considered vulnerable to development for various reasons. The northern bleach works (8) are currently invisible and overgrown and essentially not maintained. The two reservoir sites (9 and 11) are also potentially vulnerable. There may be surviving remains below ground and these could be at risk from any proposed development.
- 5.2.11 **Diversity:** the sites as a group demonstrate a limited range of diversity. The majority are closely associated with the textile industry and cotton, manufacture and finishing in particular. The sites do indicate, however, the changing status of Bury Ground, from the water-powered manorial corn mill (13) and the isolated high status residence of Chamber Hall (1), gradually giving way to bleach works (8 and 11) and mills (2, 3, 4, 5) as Bury's industrial nature expanded and transport links were established.
- 5.2.12 **Potential:** the greatest potential is that the site has the potential to provide information regarding the industrial heritage of Bury to supplement the documentary records, including the processes involved in bleaching. There are

above ground remains of the northern bleach works (8) that offer good potential for their examination and recording. There is also the potential to examine what remains of the reservoirs and the water management system through further investigations.

5.3 SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.3.1 The sites have a significance on the local level as they form part of the nineteenth century industrial landscape of Bury, and at a regional level when linked to the industrial economy of Manchester. Such landscapes have been taken for granted in the past and, unfortunately, they are an ever-decreasing historic resource, and much of the context for the early development is being lost. No exact record of what proportion of bleach works survive intact to the present day in the region, and it is possible that the remains at Bury Ground could contribute to this corpus of information. Indeed, these bleach works are of local significance if not regional, as they were originally set up by the company of Peel and Yates. The Peel family went on to establish the prominent Peel Mills and employ a large proportion of the local population. The family also occupied Chamber Hall and the famous Sir Robert Peel would have spent his formative years on or near the site, prior to creating the police force and becoming Prime Minister of Britain. Another locally significant aspect is the longevity of the bleach and printing works, which lasted from 1784 to 1962.

6. IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 IMPACT

6.1.1 Of the 15 sites investigated within the Bury Ground proposed development area, four lie within the proposed development area, Sites **8**, **9**, **12** and **15**. Site **8**, the northern bleach works, consists of extant structural remains in gradual decay and dereliction. It is likely that these will be impacted and removed by the proposed works. Sites **9** and **12**, the reservoirs, do not exist as visible features in the parkland at present. However, remains may exist below ground, which could provide information as to their nature in the past. Site **15** belongs to the rope walk, of which nothing is thought to remain, although its position has been fossilised by Carlyle Street. The remaining 12 sites lie outside of the outlined development boundary.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.2.1 The table below summarises the recommendations suggested by this assessment. The main recommendations are the enhancement and recording of Site **8**, the northern bleach works, and an investigation of the below ground survival of the reservoirs and associated water systems. Any forthcoming geotechnical information could be examined to determine the infill material for the reservoirs and their original depths. It may be advisable to subsequently evaluate the sites through archaeological trial trenching to see if any structural remains survive.

| Site No | Type | Impact | Recommendations |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1 | Site of Chamber Hall | None | None |
| 2 | Peel Mills | Not affected | None |
| 3 | No. 1 Peel Mills | Not affected | None |
| 4 | Irwell Bridge Mills | Not affected | None |
| 5 | Irwell Bridge Mills | Not affected | None |
| 6 | Bury Bridge | Not affected | None |
| 7 | Fernhill Viaduct | Not affected | None |
| 8 | Northern bleach works | Likely to be affected | Topographic survey and evaluation trenching |
| 9 | Northern reservoirs | Likely to be affected | Evaluation of any forthcoming geotechnical works, possible evaluation trenching |

| | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 10 | Weir | Unlikely to be affected | None |
| 11 | Southern bleach and printing works | Not affected | None |
| 12 | Southern reservoirs | Likely to be affected | Evaluation of any forthcoming geotechnical works, possible evaluation trenching |
| 13 | Manorial corn mill | Not affected | None |
| 14 | Bolton Street houses | Not affected | None |
| 15 | Rope walk | Likely to be affected | Watching brief on any ground works |

Table 2: Recommendations for sites to be impacted

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

7.1 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

DDWo 1790 Earls of Derby Estate Plan

DDX/187/89 Benson, W, 1845 Town Map of Bury

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Saxton 1577 Map of Lancashire

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7.2 PRIMARY SOURCES

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8. ILLUSTRATIONS

8.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites

Figure 3: 1790 Earls of Derby Estate Plan (DDWo)

Figure 4: Ordnance Survey First Edition 1848, 1:10, 560

Figure 5: Ordnance Survey Second Edition 1893, 1:10, 560

Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 1910, 1:10, 560

Figure 7: Ordnance Survey 1936, 1:10, 560

8.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Chamber Hall in the nineteenth century, birth place of Sir Robert Peel, with Peel Mills visible in the background (Craven 1985)

Plate 2: Aerial view of Bury in the 1930s, looking north-west. Bury Ground is at the top left hand corner

Plate 3: Aerial view of Bury Ground in the 1970s

Plate 4: Netherplace Bleach Works, East Renfrewshire. A comparable example of how a bleach works may have looked when in use

Plate 5: View from viaduct (Site 7) in Area A, looking south along the River Irwell

Plate 6: General view of Area B, looking north-east towards Peel Mills, Site 2

Plate 7: General view of Area C looking south, across the infilled reservoir, Site 12

Plate 8: General view of Area D, looking south

Plate 9: General view of Area E looking south, across the infilled reservoir, Site 12

Plate 10: General view of Area F looking east along Bury Bridge, Site 6

Plate 11: General view of Area G looking north at Sites 8 and 10

Plate 12: Surviving stonework of Site 8, the northern bleach works

Plate 13: Surviving stonework of Site 8, the northern bleach works steps

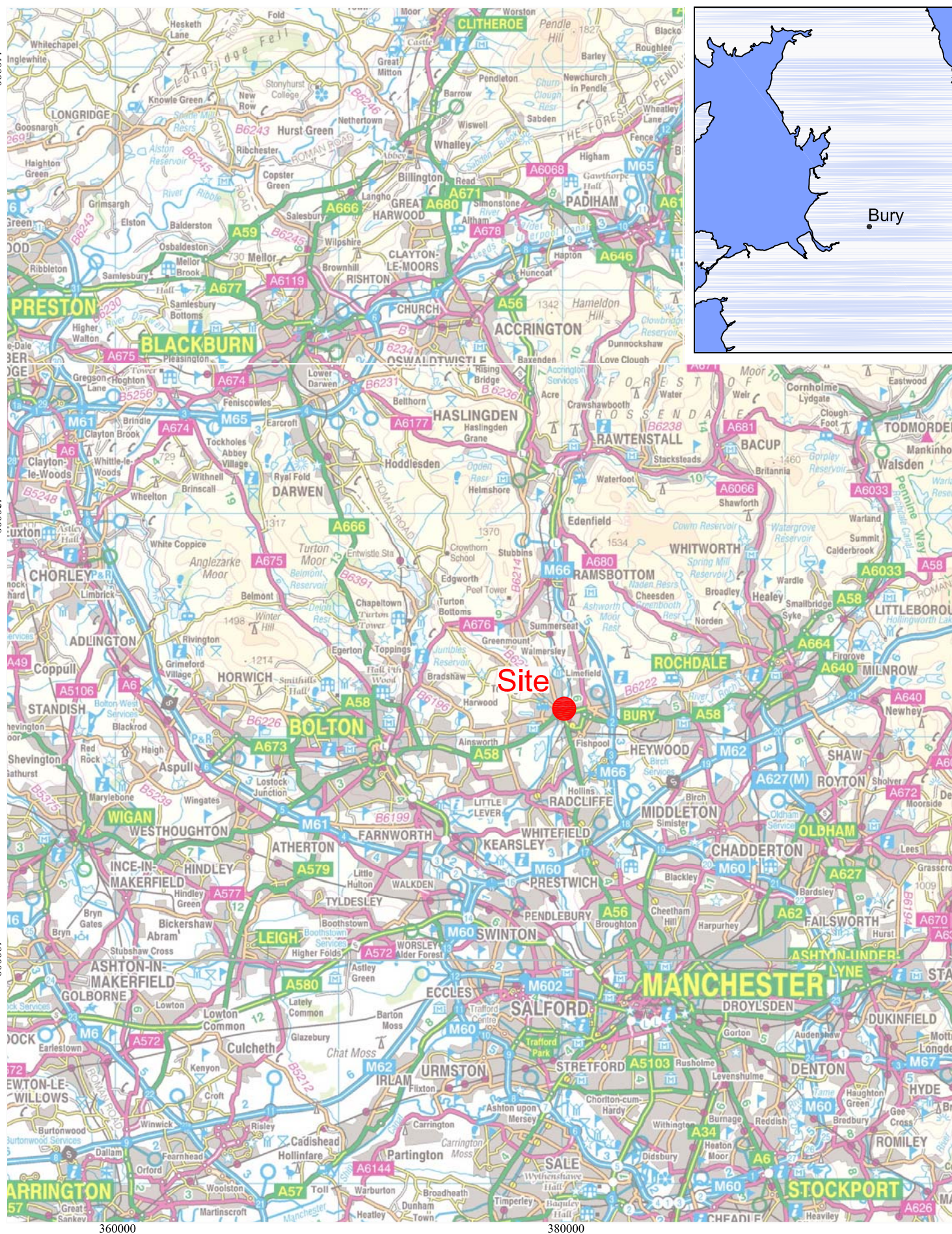
Plate 14: Fernhill Viaduct (Site 7), looking north

Plate 15: Carlyle Street, site of rope walk (Site 15), looking east

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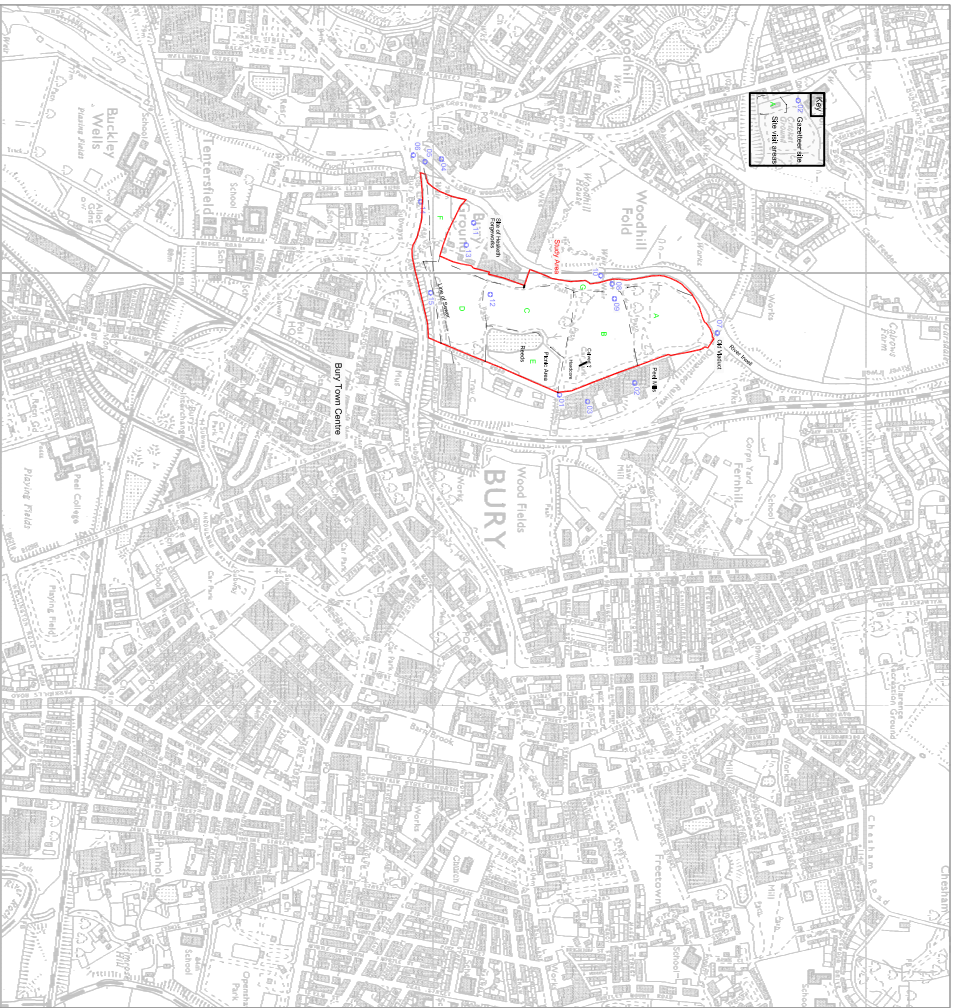


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Figure 1: Location Map



411000

380000

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Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites

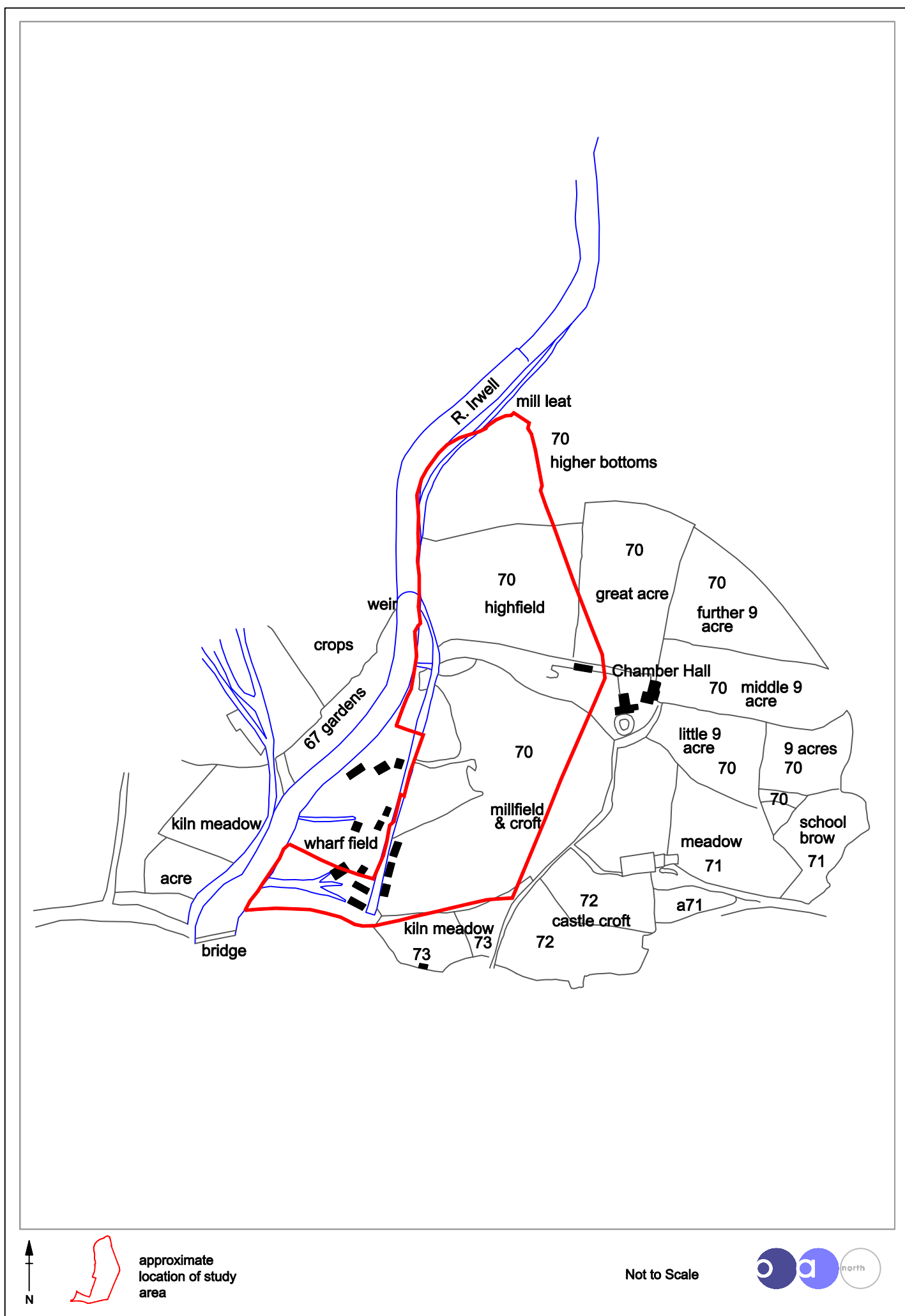


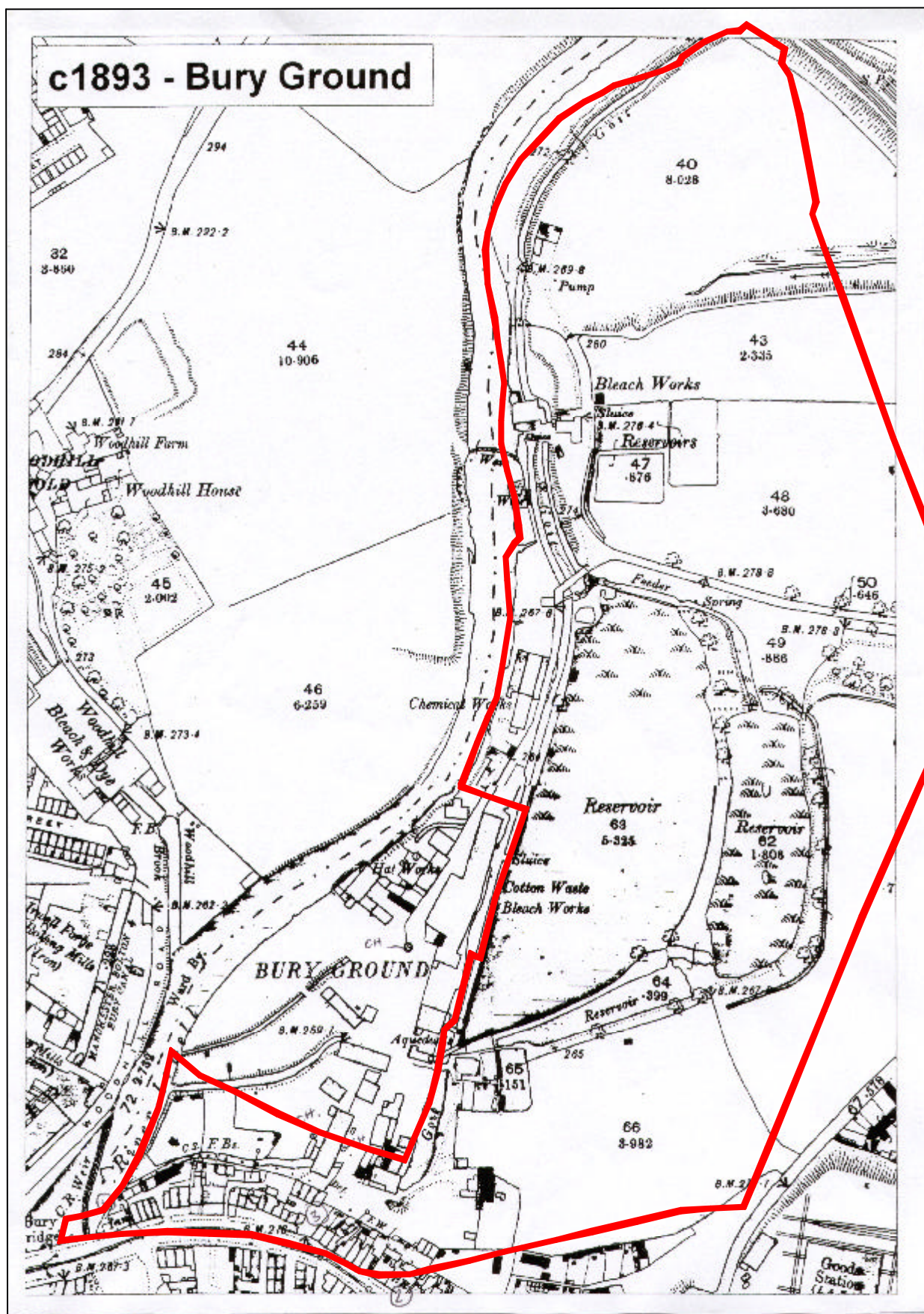
Figure 3: Earls of Derby Estate Plan, 1790 (DDWO)



Not to Scale



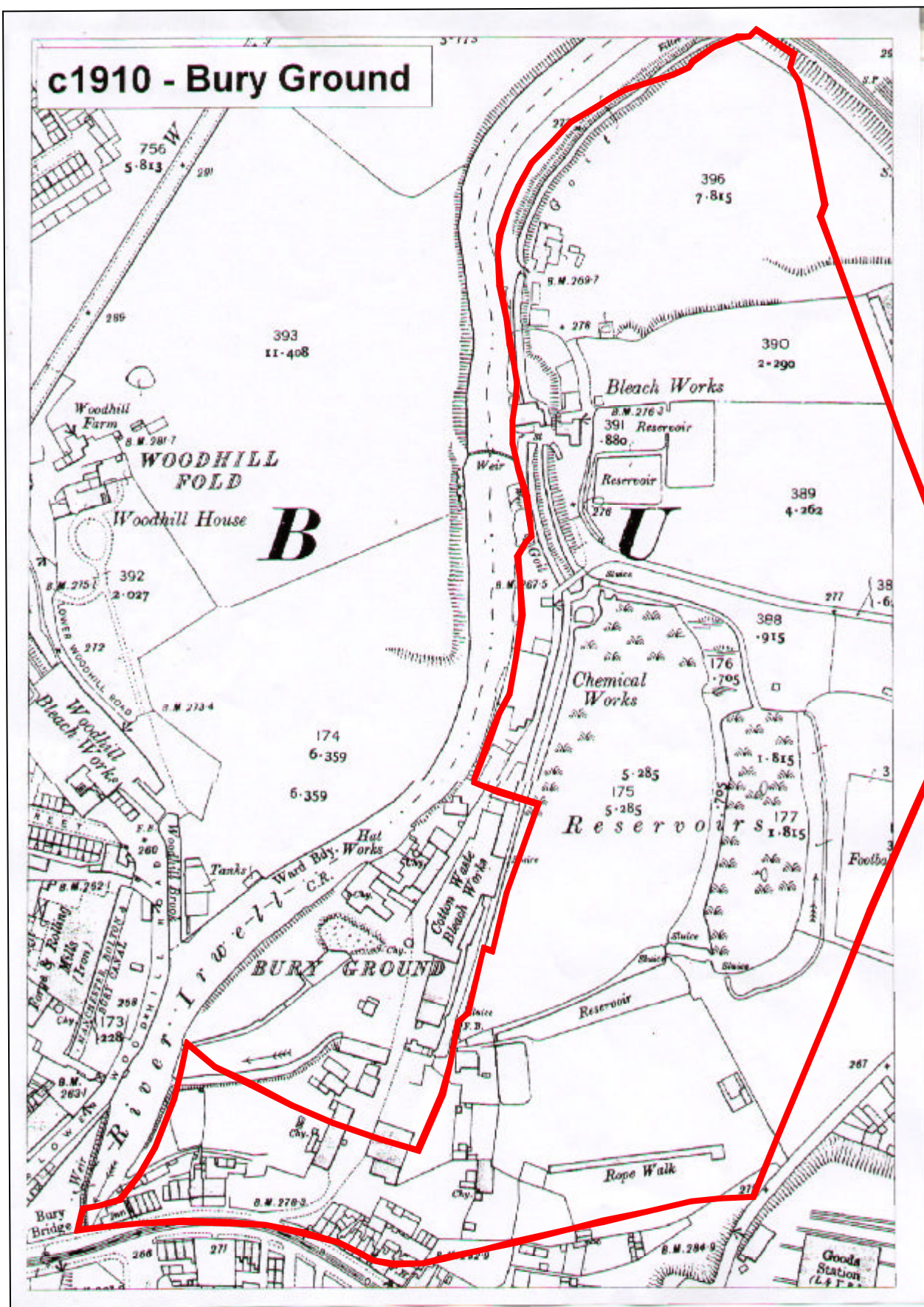
Figure 4: Ordnance Survey First Edition map, c1848, 1:10,560



Not to Scale



Figure 5: Ordnance Survey Second Edition map, 1893, 1:10,560

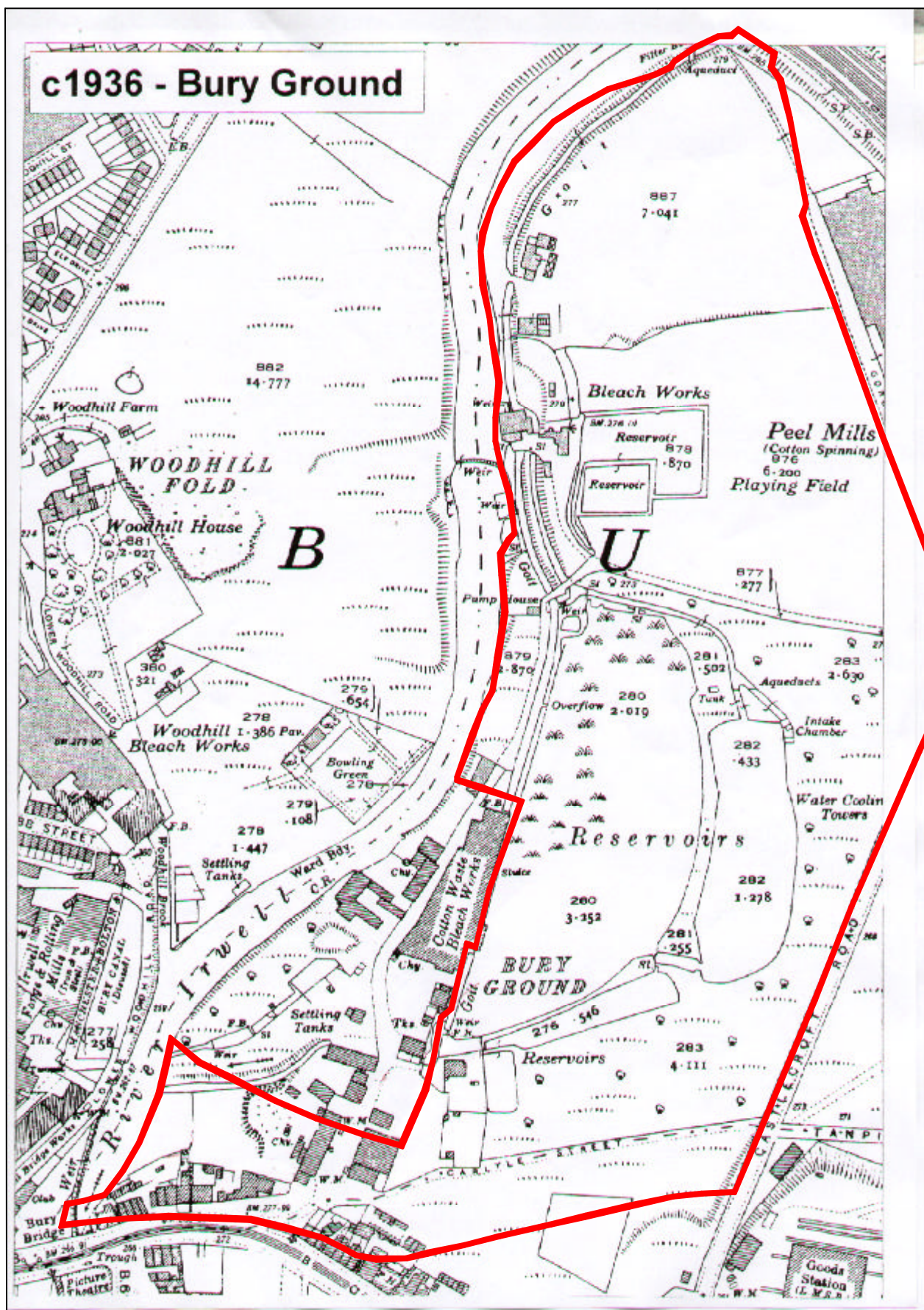


approximate
location of study
area

Not to Scale



Figure 6: Ordnance Survey map, 1910, 1:10,560



approximate
location of study
area

Not to Scale



Figure 7: Ordnance Survey map, 1936, 1:10,560



Plate 1: Chamber Hall in the nineteenth century, birthplace of Sir Robert Peel in 1788, with Peel Mills visible in the background (Craven 1985)



Plate 2: Aerial view of Bury in the 1930s, looking north-west.
Bury Ground is at the top left hand corner



Plate 3: Aerial view of Bury Ground in the 1970s

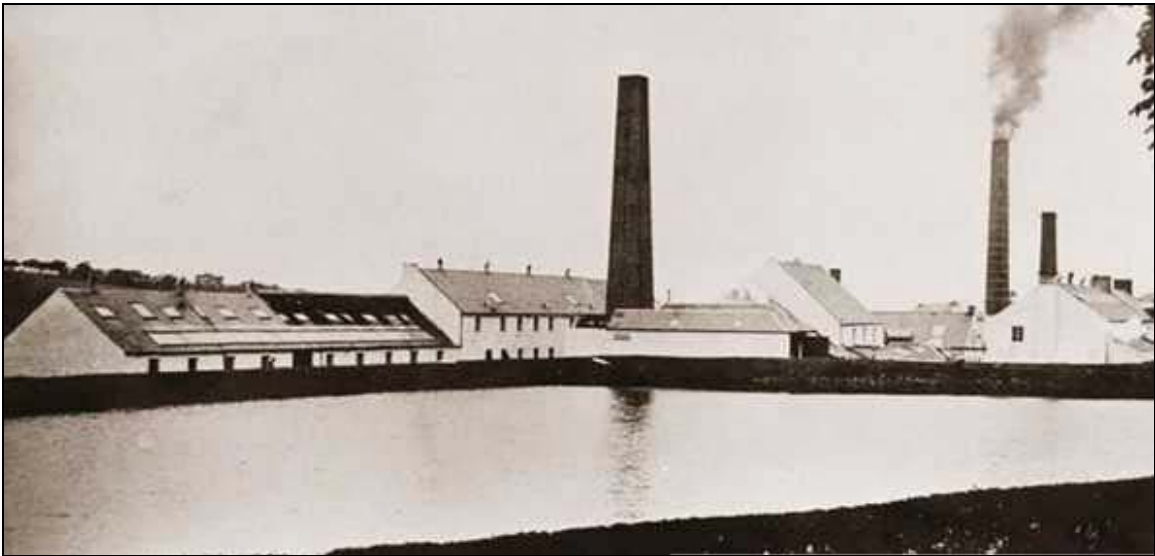


Plate 4: Netherplace Bleach Works, East Renfrewshire.
A comparable example of a bleach works



Plate 5: View from viaduct (Site 7) in Area A, looking south along the River Irwell



Plate 6: General view of Area B, looking north-east towards Peel Mills, Site 2



Plate 7: General view of Area C looking south, across the infilled reservoir, Site **12**



Plate 8: General view of Area D, looking south



Plate 9: General view of Area E looking south, across the infilled reservoir, Site **12**



Plate 10: General view of Area F looking east along Bury Bridge, Site **6**



Plate 11: General view of Area G looking north at Sites **8** and **10**



Plate 12: Surviving stonework of Site **8**, the northern bleach works



Plate 13: Surviving stonework of Site 8, the northern bleach works steps



Plate 14: Fernhill Viaduct (Site 7), looking north



Plate 15: Carlyle Street, site of rope walk (Site **15**), looking east

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Bury MBC (hereafter the 'client') has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Bury Ground, Castle Croft Road, Bury, Greater Manchester (centred SD 8008 1121). The client is looking to redevelop the site and an archaeological assessment is required to identify an appropriate mitigation strategy. This project design has been prepared, and should be read, in accordance with a brief provided by the Assistant County Archaeologist, GMAU.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North has considerable experience of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 24 years. Evaluations, assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to identify any potential surviving archaeological deposits that may be impacted by groundworks for the proposed redevelopment.
- 2.2 *Desk-based Assessment:* to provide a desk-based assessment of the site to identify the archaeological potential (in accordance with the IFA standards (1999)).
- 2.3 *Site Inspection:* to undertake a visual inspection of the site to relate the findings of the desk-based assessment to the current landscape, and any additional areas of potential not readily identifiable through documentary sources.
- 2.4 *Report and Archive:* a report will be produced for the client within eight weeks, unless a report submission deadline is agreed with the client at the time of commission. An archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2 (1991)).

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 3.1.2 **Introduction:** a desk-based assessment is usually undertaken as the first stage of a programme of archaeological recording. Prior to development of the site, further intrusive investigation may be required. It is not intended to reduce the requirement for evaluation, excavation or preservation of known or presumed archaeological deposits, but it will provide an appraisal of archaeological constraints and a guide to any requirement for further archaeological work.
- 3.1.3 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The level of such work will be dictated by the time scale of the project.
- 3.1.4 **Documentary and Cartographic Material:** this work will include consultation of the Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), as well as the Lancashire County Records Office in Preston, Bury Archives and Bury Archaeology Society. A review of all known and available resources of information relating to the site of the proposed development, and the study area consisting of 0.5km radius centred on the site. The aim is to give consideration not

only to the application site, but also its setting in terms of historical and archaeological contexts. These include;

- published and unpublished documentary sources
- data held in local and national archaeological databases
- printed and manuscript maps
- place and field-name evidence
- evidence for township, ecclesiastical and other ancient boundaries
- aerial photographs in both national and local collections
- other photographic/illustrative evidence
- local museum catalogues and artefactual evidence
- engineering/borehole data where applicable
- geological/soil surveys

3.1.5 **Greater Manchester SMR:** the SMR is a database of known archaeological sites within the County. It also holds an extensive library of published materials for consultation.

3.1.6 **Lancashire County Record Office:** the office in Preston holds the main source of primary documentation; both maps and documents for Lancashire.

3.1.7 **Map regression analysis:** a cartographic analysis will be undertaken as it has the potential to inform the post-medieval occupation and land-use of the area and its development through to its modern-day or most recent use. This provides one method of highlighting areas of potential archaeological interest. Particular emphasis will be on the early cartographic evidence and will include estate maps, tithe maps, and Ordnance Survey maps through to present day mapping.

3.1.8 Features of archaeological and historic significance will be plotted onto a modern OS map, showing the site's development and phasing.

3.1.9 **Geological/Soil Surveys:** a rapid desk-based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, topographical and palaeoenvironmental information will be undertaken. It will be based on published geological mapping and any local geological surveys in the possession of the County Council or the client.

3.2 SITE INSPECTION

3.2.1 Following the desk-based assessment, the site will be visited in order to relate the existing topography and land use to research findings, and assess evidence not available through documentary sources. It will also provide an understanding for areas of potential impact by the proposed redevelopment.

3.2.2 The survey will note present land use, the condition and visibility of features identified in the documentary research and any features of potential archaeological interest, any areas of potentially significant disturbance, and hazards and constraints to undertaking any further archaeological work on the site.

3.3 REPORT

3.3.1 One bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, two copies will be supplied to Bury Conservation Officer, and copies will be forwarded to GMAU and the Bury Archives within eight weeks of completion of the final report. A further copy will also be offered to the National Monuments Record. The report will include;

- a site location plan related to the national grid
- a front cover to include the planning application number, where applicable, and the NGR
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results
- the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken

- description of the methodology, including the sources consulted
- a summary of the historical background of the study area
- a gazetteer of identified sites within the study area, with NGRs and a short note for each
- a discussion of the below-ground remains of potential archaeological significance
- an interpretation of the results and their significance, using the 'Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments' included as Annex 4 of PPG 16 (DoE 1990)
- appropriate plans showing the location and position of features or sites located
- a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the proposed development, together with recommendations for further work and appropriate mitigation
- monochrome and colour photographs as appropriate
- a copy of the project brief, this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design
- the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted
- an index to the project archive
- a completed report form for the annual CBA North West reports publication.

3.3.2 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

3.4 ARCHIVE

3.4.1 The results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with Appendix 3 of the current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North will deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the Bury Archives.

4 WORK TIMETABLE

4.1 **Desk-Based Assessment:** approximately 6 days will be required for this element.

4.2 **Site Inspection:** one day will be required to visit and walk the site.

4.3 **Report:** client reports are normally completed within eight weeks. However, a more definitive timetable and deadline for completion may be agreed with the client at the time of commission.

4.4 OA North would require a formal written agreement one week before commencement in order to schedule the work as above.

5 STAFFING

5.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc AIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

5.2 The desk-based assessment will be undertaken by **Jo Dawson** (OA North supervisor) who is very experienced in such work and capable of carrying out projects of all sizes.

6 INSURANCE

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

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