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**Greater
Manchester
Spatial Framework**

**Historic
Environment
Assessment**

**Screening
Exercise**

Wigan District

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Greater Manchester
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Rachael Reader

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Author: Rachael Reader
Position: Heritage Consultant
Date: June 2019

Approved By: Norman Redhead
Position: Heritage Management Director

Date: 26/06/19

Signed: 

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Contact: Centre for Applied Archaeology, LG 19 – 25 Peel Building, University of Salford, the Crescent, Salford, M5 4WU.

Telephone: 0161 295 0145/0161 295 5522

Email: r.reader@salford.ac.uk/n.redhead@salford.ac.uk

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Contents

i. Summary	1
ii. Introduction	2
iii. Methodology Statement	3
GMA47 Land South of Pennington	7
GMA48 M6, Junction 25	15
GMA49 North of Mosley Common	25
GMA50 Pocket Nook	36
GMA51 West of Gibfield	44
Sources	54

i. Summary

In February 2019, GMAAS and the Centre for Applied Archaeology was commissioned by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to undertake a screening exercise of the historic environment interest on the Sites allocated within the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. This work is in the form of an assessment to understand the nature of the archaeology, built heritage, historic landscape, and setting for each land allocation. Each Site is placed within one of six categories, according to the nature of the heritage assets contained within and located further afield. These are colour coded according to whether sites have been screened in with archaeological and designated heritage asset considerations as well (red, categories 1 and 2), screened in but with archaeological or designated heritage asset considerations only (amber, categories 3-5) or screened out (green, category 6).

The report on the Wigan District consists of five individual allocations. The table below summarises the Wigan screening exercise and is colour-coded according to whether sites have been screened in with archaeological and designated heritage asset considerations as well (red, categories 1 and 2), screened in but with archaeological or designated heritage asset considerations only (amber, categories 3-5) or screened out (green, category 6). See section iii.ii for an explanation of the different categories.

Land Allocation Code	Name	Local Authority	Category
GMA47	Land South of Pennington	Wigan	Category 2
GMA48	M6, Junction 25	Wigan	Category 5
GMA49	North of Mosley Common	Wigan	Category 5
GMA50	Pocket Nook	Wigan	Category 2
GMA51	West of Gibfield	Wigan	Category 5

Table 1 Screening Exercise summary table for the Wigan District.

A number of recommendations have been made and the accompanying Summary Report provides further information regarding the next steps.

ii. Introduction

In preparing the revised Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) land allocations, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) commissioned GMAAS (Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service), with the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the University of Salford to provide a screening exercise of the historic environment interest. This work is in the form of an assessment to understand the nature of the archaeology, built heritage, historic landscape, and setting for each land allocation. It provides specific recommendations for more detailed assessment to help meet the requirements of NPPF.

The National Planning Policy Framework (published 2018, revised February 2019) stipulates that:

- The allocations have been informed by a proper assessment of the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets in the area, including their settings where appropriate (NPPF paragraphs 184, 185, 189, 190 and 194);
- There has been a proper assessment to identify new sites of archaeological or historic interest (NPPF paragraph 187);
- There has been a proper assessment to identify land where development would be inappropriate because of its archaeological and/or historic significance (NPPF paragraphs 190, 193-197)

In 2018, a pilot exercise was undertaken for the Salford City Council area. This comprised separate archaeological and designated heritage asset (including local listings) analyses which were then combined to form the final, published reports on 4 Spatial Framework allocations. The methodology adopted for the remaining 47 allocation sites across the other 9 districts of Greater Manchester is based on the Salford study. However, the following screening exercise is a more rapid assessment of the historic environment, therefore is less detailed than the Salford assessments but does combine designated, and non-designated heritage asset considerations.

iii. Method Statement

A screening exercise was applied to the five land allocation sites (referred to as 'Sites') across the Wigan District). This aimed to identify which of the Sites may impact directly, affect the setting or have a visual impact, on designated and non-designated heritage assets.

The site allocations were subject to further assessment and comprised:

- A review and enhancement of the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER) to identify and map non-designated and designated heritage assets (this also included any other relevant databases, such as the National Heritage List);
- An historic map regression exercise to identify previously unrecognised heritage assets with archaeological and/or built heritage interest;
- A review of the findings of previous archaeological investigations carried out on or near the sites, along with any relevant published or secondary sources. This includes grey literature, local publications, thematic surveys and also incorporated the North West Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NWRRF);
- Analysis of available historic and current aerial photography and LiDAR data;
- Collation of all non-designated and designated heritage assets, as identified by the above research within each Site, into a Gazetteer accompanied by a map showing their positions. A buffer zone of 250m was applied to each land allocation to identify heritage assets 'further afield' (i.e. not within the land allocation);
- site visits and walkover surveys to identify any further potential heritage assets, and assess the potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological remains as identified from the desk-based research. The Sites were visited over a period of 3 months between March and June 2019 and were limited to publicly accessible land and footpaths. Designated heritage assets which were visible from the Site and located further afield (beyond 250m), were also flagged up in the assessments.

The above was applied to the land allocation and a 250m buffer zone. The accompanying archaeological and historical background is informed by the following period allocations:

Period		Date Range
Prehistoric	Palaeolithic	Pre-10000 BC
	Mesolithic	10000 – 3500 BC
	Neolithic	3500 – 2200 BC
	Bronze Age	2300 – 700 BC
	Iron Age	700 BC – AD 43
Romano-British		AD 43 – AD 410
Early Medieval		AD 410 – AD 1066
Late Medieval		AD 1066 – AD 1540
Post-Medieval		AD 1540 – AD 1750
Industrial Period		AD 1750 – 1914
Modern		Post - 1914

Table 1: Summary of British archaeological periods and date ranges

iii.ii Screening Categories

Following an assessment of the available sources as detailed above, the Sites were screened in or out, according to a ‘traffic light’ system and are listed below in descending order of priority for further work on assessing the significance of the heritage assets identified:

- **Red:** Sites recommended for screening in. This has been split into two different categories.
 - **Category 1** The Sites that both have concerns over the impact on designated heritage assets within the boundary and also non-designated heritage assets which have the potential to be of high significance. These should be dealt with pre-planning and treated as the highest priority.
 - **Category 2** The second category outline the Sites that have concerns over the impact on designated heritage assets within the boundary, however the non-designated heritage assets can be dealt with through the planning process.
- **Amber:** Site is recommended for screening in. Designated heritage assets identified further afield may be impacted upon visually or through their setting and/or non-designated heritage assets may be impacted on directly. It is suggested that much of this work can be carried out as part of the planning process, or with further assessment be screened out altogether. This has been split into three categories:
 - **Category 3** Sites where the development could affect the setting of, or have a visual impact on, designated heritage assets and there is the potential for a direct impact upon non-designated heritage assets. 18 sites have been identified within this category
 - **Category 4** Sites where the development could affect the setting of, or have a visual impact on, designated heritage assets. 5 sites have been identified within this category
 - **Category 5** Sites were only non-designated heritage assets are likely to be impacted. 7 sites have been identified within this category

- **Green: Category 6** (Chapter 8) Sites recommended for screening out. Sites where there is thought to be no impact on designated heritage assets and with no or very low archaeological potential.

iii.iii Structure of the Report

This document is concerned with providing an understanding of the historic environment, which is defined as consisting of the archaeology, built heritage, historic landscape, and setting of the individual land allocations within the GMSF.

A report has been produced for each district, as well as for each cross-boundary land allocation. Each report contains a separate chapter on the land allocations identified according to their district, within the GMSF. Although the cross-boundary land allocations have been allocated their own report, they are referred to within the individual district sections, if they fall within the relevant area.

At the start of each chapter, a statement (in italics) summarises the reasons for screening out or in. Each land allocation has a section on the site location, topography and land use, including information on the geology as well. This can be useful in locating favourable areas for past settlement, in the absence of data on the historic environment. The historical background sets out the relevant historical, as well as archaeological information derived from previous work done within or adjacent to the land allocation. This is enhanced by historic map regression as well as the relevant HER data. Based on this information, the potential for the survival of archaeological remains is then assessed. An outline of previous archaeological work that has taken place within, or near the Site, is also provided, as well as any relevant planning applications.

A gazetteer details the designated and non-designated heritage assets that have been identified through the assessment. Each gazetteer entry (abbreviated to **HA**) has a summary description and a map is provided for each land allocation showing the location of heritage assets. A historic map extract is also provided, taken from the first edition Ordnance Survey, published between 1848 and 1882.

The conclusion summarises the outcome of the screening exercise and whether the Site is screened in for a more detailed heritage impact assessment. It outlines whether there are designated and non-designated heritage assets and whether they may be impacted directly, have their setting affected or be impacted upon visually, and outlines the possible work which may be required in order to satisfy the requirements of NPPF. In the case of designated heritage assets, the need for further assessment, which could include significance statements and setting assessments is flagged up. For non-designated heritage assets, further archaeological mitigation is outlined, although this is Site dependent; some assets may require more detailed desk-based studies and there may be a need to consider a landscape as a whole, even if no heritage assets have been identified. Further investigation, in the form of non-intrusive (e.g. fieldwalking, walkover surveys and geophysics) and intrusive (e.g. evaluation and excavation) methods, is outlined. For those sites that are screened in, the more

detailed assessment will determine at which point in the planning process identified archaeological sites can be dealt with.

There is also an accompanying Summary Report, which outlines the key conclusions from the screening exercise as well as recommendations for further work.

GMA47 Land South of Pennington (WI) - Screened In

It is recommended that this Site is screened in; there is one designated site within the land allocation which will require further assessment. There is potential for archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains, therefore further work is recommended

47.1 Site Location, Topography and Land Use

The Land South of Pennington Land Allocation (centred at NGR 365122, 397787) lies to the south of Leigh and 11km south-east of Wigan town centre. The Site is 53.1ha in size and is bounded by the A579 to the west and the A580 East Lancashire Road to the south. Open countryside defines the northern and eastern sides.

The Site lies on flat ground which gently rises to the west. Most of the Site lies under pasture although there is evidence for recent arable use as well. Historically, the north-western part may have been a former mossland and a number of drainage ditches are located in this area.

The geology is dominated by the Wilmslow Sandstone Formation, overlain by Glaciolacustrine deposits composed of clay and silt (British Geological Survey 2017).



47.2 Historical Background

47.2.1 Overview

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity within the Site and immediate surroundings and the geological conditions are generally not favourable for settlement. There is also very little evidence for Roman activity, with roads to Wigan running to the west and north of the Site

During the Medieval period, the Site fell within the township of Pennington, with the south-western extreme forming part of the Lowton township. There is very little evidence for occupation during this period and the north-western part may have been part of a former moss/carr. The agricultural land appears to have been fairly poor in this area during this period.

The north-western area may have been reclaimed during the later Post-Medieval period, which may explain the name given to this hamlet 'Land Side', with most of the Site subject to piecemeal enclosure during this period. A number of farmsteads within the Site were probably established during this period including Yew Tree Farm (**HA1**). Some of these farms could be Medieval in date and excavations at Heath Lane (Wardell Armstrong 2017) and Town and Lawson's Farm (OA North 2004) near Golborne have both revealed evidence for activity from this period.

A number of the farmsteads were modified and demolished during the 20th century and the area has remained predominantly rural.

47.2.2 Archaeological Potential

Due to the unfavourable geological conditions and presence of possible former wetlands, there is little likelihood of encountering Prehistoric and Roman activity. There may be potential for Medieval and Post-Medieval remains, particularly associated with the farmsteads. There may be potential for the recovery of palaeoenvironmental remains from the possible mossland.

47.2.3 Designated Heritage Assets

There is one designated heritage asset within the land allocation.

Asset Name	HER Number	Designation	NHLE Number
Yew Tree Farmhouse	4451.1.0	Grade II	1253277

Table 47.2.1 Designated Heritage Assets identified within the land allocation boundary

47.2.4 Previous Archaeological Work

There has been no previous archaeological work within the land allocation however there has been a number of projects around Lowton and Golborne (UMAU 2003; OA North 2004; Trippier 2014; Wardell Armstrong 2017) to the west. Stone House to the south of Leigh was also excavated recently (LP Archaeology 2019).

47.3 Gazetteer

The Gazetteer primarily references sites that are within, or immediately adjacent, to the land allocation boundary and are listed with designated heritage assets first, then non-designated heritage assets. A table at the end of the gazetteer outlines additional non-designated heritage assets from the HER which are either outside the land allocation or are of negligible importance (such as former extraction pits, or ponds).

HA Number: 1
Site Name: Yew Tree Farmhouse
Designation: Grade II (1253277)
HER No: 4451.1.0; 3296.1.0
Site Type: Residential/Agricultural
Period: Early 18th Century
NGR: 365137, 397864
Sources: National Heritage List; OS Mapping
Description: Farmhouse. Early C18, altered C20. Red brick, Welsh slate roof. 2 storeys twin-gabled front, double depth. Part of larger farm complex, labelled Urmston's on first edition OS, however the listed structure appears to be the only surviving element; the rest of the complex is later 20th century in date. Within the land allocation

HA Number: 2
Site Name: Land Side
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 4263.1.0
Site Type: Settlement
Period: Post-Medieval
NGR: 365405, 398051
Sources: OS Mapping
Description: Settlement, shown on Yates 1786. Consists of a number of isolated farmsteads, including Yew Tree Farm. Some of the farmsteads still survive.

HA Number: 3
Site Name: Collier's Tenement
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 4145.1.0
Site Type: Agricultural
Period: 18th Century
NGR: 365441, 397786
Sources: OS Mapping
Description: Farmstead, date of 1717 recorded. Shown on OS mapping. Still standing

HA Number: 4
Site Name: Yates' Farm (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No:
Site Type: Agricultural
Period: Post-Medieval
NGR: 364646, 397561
Sources: Yates 1786; OS Mapping

Description: Farmstead, shown on Yates 1786 and part of the Landside hamlet. Added to during the 20th century however the original farm complex appears to have been demolished. Site appears to be undeveloped

HA Number: 5

Site Name: Close's Farm (site of)

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No:

Site Type: Agricultural

Period: Post-Medieval

NGR: 364790, 397751

Sources: OS Mapping

Description: Farmstead, shown on Yates 1786 map and part of the Landside hamlet. Demolished mid-20th century. Site remains undeveloped

HA Number: 6

Site Name: Dean's Farm (site of)

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No:

Site Type: Agricultural

Period: Post-Medieval

NGR: 365108, 397915

Sources: Yates 1786; OS Mapping

Description: Farmstead, shown on Yates 1786 map and part of the Landside hamlet. Demolished mid-20th century and most of the Site appears to have been replaced with modern buildings.

HA Number: 7

Site Name: Arrowsmith's (site of)

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No:

Site Type: Agricultural

Period: Post-Medieval

NGR: 365457, 398026

Sources: Yates 1786; OS Mapping

Description: Farmstead, shown on Yates 1786 map and part of the Landside hamlet. Demolished mid-20th century and a number of late 20th century buildings now occupy the site.

HA Number: 8

Site Name: Possible road (site of)

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No:

Site Type: Communications

Period: Undated

NGR: 365288, 397973

Sources: Satellite

Description: Possible road, running in a NW-SE direction to the north-east of Yew Tree farm. Visible on 2005 aerial mapping and possibly LiDAR. Date is unknown however it crosses a possible former wet area therefore is probably Post-Medieval or later. Coincides with part of a footpath labelled on the first-edition Ordnance Survey.

HER Number	Record Type	Site Name	Period/Date	Grid Reference
3299.1.0	Building	Landside Farm	Post-Medieval	SJ 6560 9820

Table 47.3.1 Non-designated Heritage Assets identified within 250m of the land allocation boundary

47.4 Site Visit

The site visit was conducted over the course of one day on 3rd June 2019. The site visit confirmed that much of the land is under pasture and the topography is relatively flat. Yew Tree Farm was not accessible at this time, however the building was surrounded by later 20th century farm structures. A number of mature hedgerows were noted as well.



Plate 47.4.1 Looking south-east towards Yew Tree Farm (not visible) across GMA47



Plate 47.4.2: Looking south-east across the possible former mossland

47.5 Conclusion

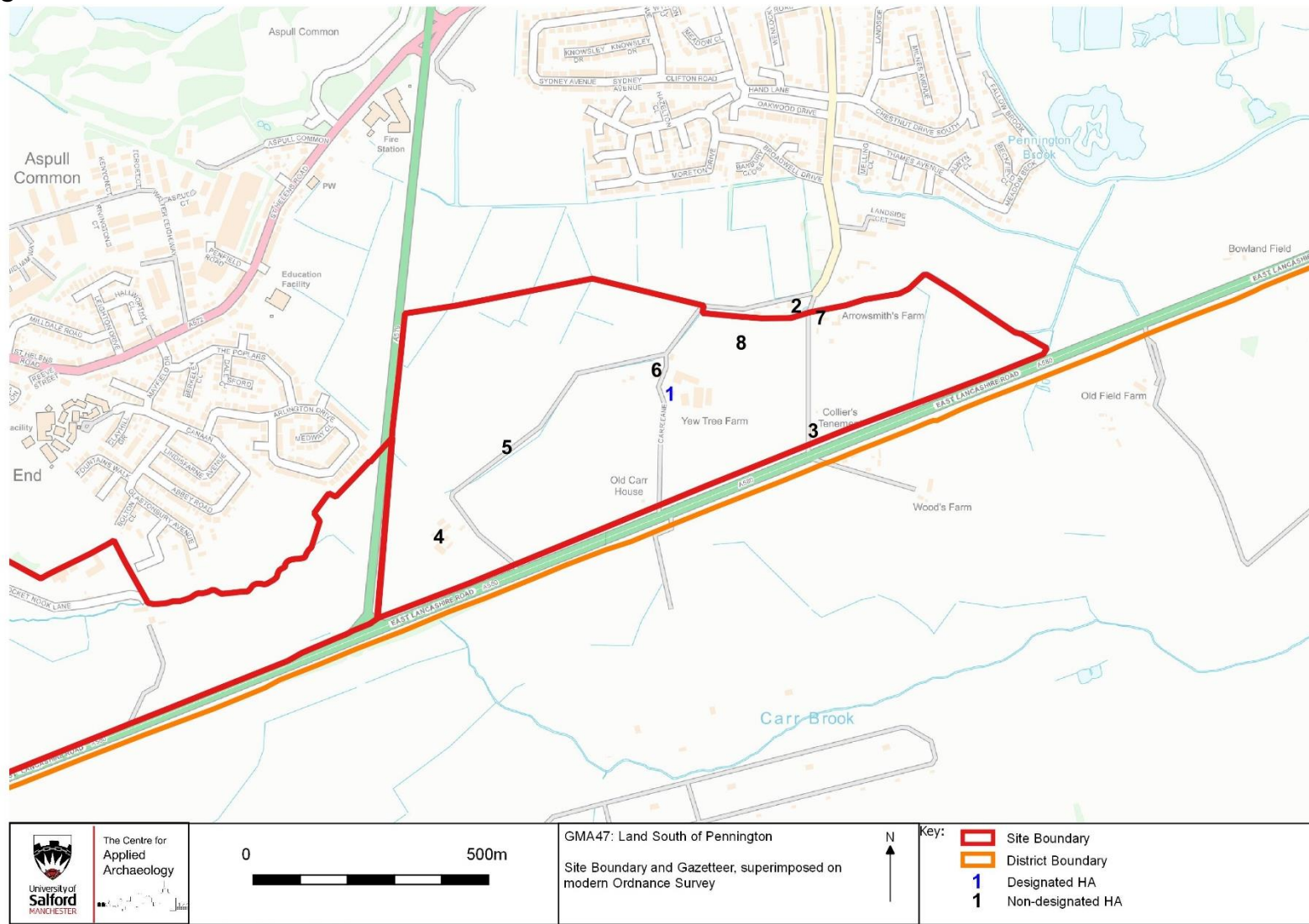
It is suggested that Site Allocation GMA47: Land South of Pennington is screened in and placed within Red, Category 2. There is one designated heritage asset contained within the Site and there is potential for archaeological remains, although these are unlikely to pre-date the Medieval period. There is also potential for palaeoenvironmental evidence, particularly from the north-west part of the Site. There appears to be little potential for historic hedgerows.

Further work is recommended, including:

- Further assessment of the designated heritage asset within the land allocation.
- Historic building assessments and research focusing on the farmsteads.
- Assessment of the potential mossland.
- Targeted intrusive work and sampling based on the results of the above work.

This work has the potential to answer a number of questions from the updated regional research framework, particularly relating to the Prehistoric and Post-Medieval periods

47.6 Figures



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019

Figure 47.6.1

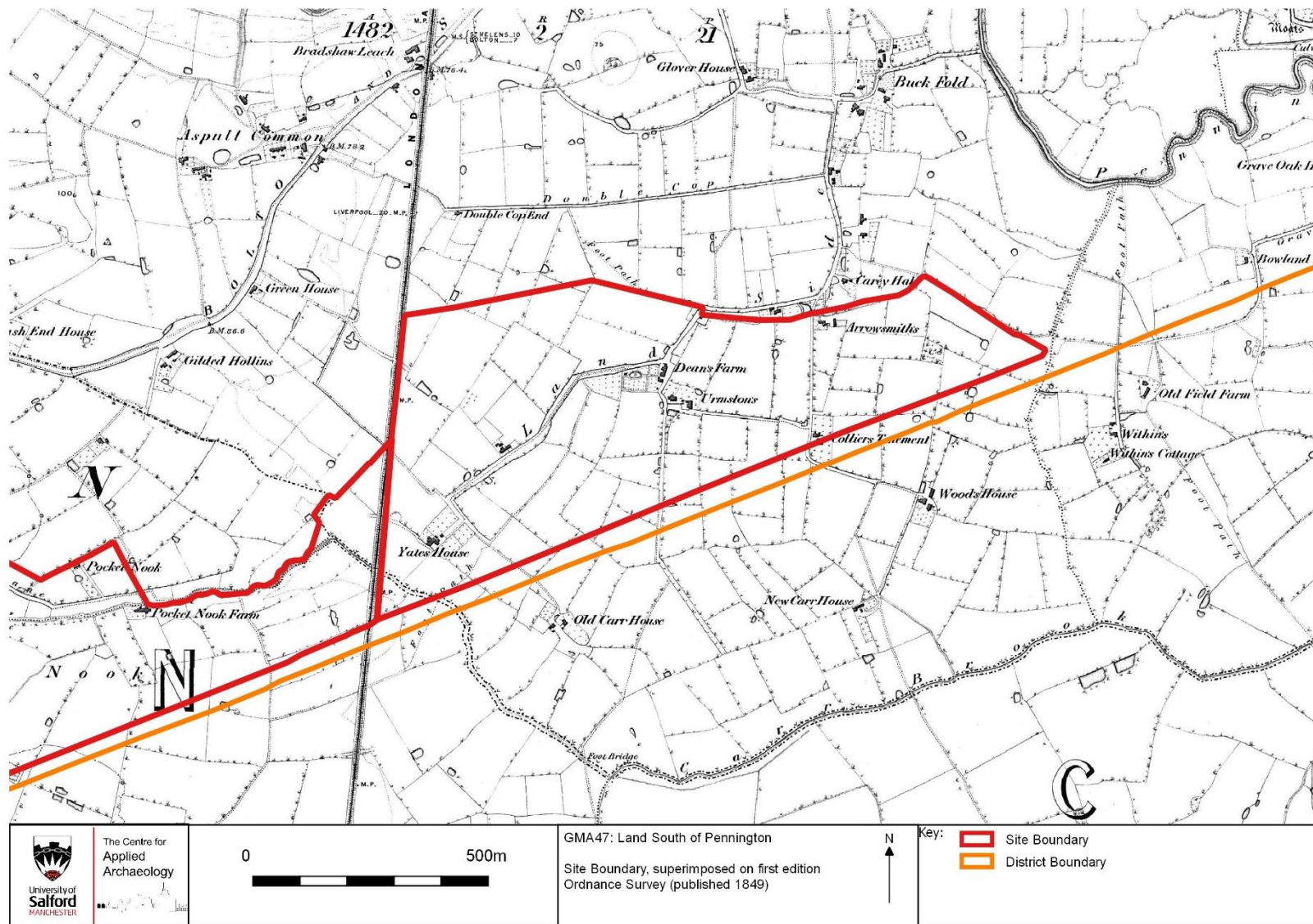


Figure 47.6.2

GMA48 M6, Junction 25 – Screened In

It is recommended that this Site is screened in; there are no designated sites within the land allocation, and none have been identified further afield. Opencast mining has affected the survival of archaeological remains across the Site, however there is potential for Post-Medieval remains therefore further work is recommended

48.1 Site Location, Topography and Land Use

The M6, Junction 25 Land Allocation (centred at NGR 356099, 401906) lies to the north of Bryn and 4km south-west of Wigan town centre. The site is 73.7ha in size and is bounded by the M6 along its western, southern and most of its eastern side, the A49 along the rest of its eastern side and Marus Bridge to the north.

The Site generally slopes downwards from west to east, between 55m aOD and 85m aOD, and most of the land is currently under pasture with small plantations as well although there has been some arable use in recent years.

The geology across the Site consists of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures to the west and Middle Coal Measures to the east, with bands of sandstone. The superficial geology consists of Till (British Geological Survey 2017).



48.2 Historical Background

48.2.1 Overview

There is no recorded prehistoric activity within the Site and evidence from the wider area is limited. The geological conditions are generally unfavourable for settlement of this period also.

The Warrington to Wigan Roman road (**HA1**) possibly runs along the eastern edge of the Site, along or close to the modern A49. Its course has been recently excavated to the south at Land Gate, Ashton in Makerfield (see below). There are no other recorded Roman finds or activity within the Site or immediate vicinity.

During the Medieval period, the Site lay within the Ashton in Makerfield township and remained peripheral to the main settlement, remaining under cultivation or managed as woodland (RSK 2018, 16). Early mapping suggests that most of the Site was probably enclosed in a piecemeal fashion, possibly from the Medieval period onwards.

There is evidence to suggest that Cranberry Lea farmstead (**HA2**) and Coroner's Nook (**HA5**) are Post-Medieval in date; Cranberry Lea is recorded in 1658, for example. Most of the Site remained in agricultural use however there is also documentary evidence to suggest that coal was being mined as early as 1640. Evidence for early, unrecorded workings, including bell pits, were uncovered during opencast mining in the late 1970s (RSK 2018, 17). Low Brooks Farm (**HA3**) may have been established in the latter end of this period and there is also the suggestion of possible Industrial activity from field names recorded on the Tithe Mapping (e.g. Smithy Meadow).

During the earlier 19th century, much of the Site remained under agricultural use, as evidenced from the Tithe Mapping. A number of small cottages were established along Brocstedes Lane and there is suggestion of small scale industrial activity from the field names. However from the later 19th century onwards, the landscape was transformed with the establishment of High Brooks colliery (**HA9**) and opencast mining within the area.

This continued well into the 20th century and areas that were fully worked, were reinstated and returned to agricultural use particularly to the west during the mid-20th century. However mining records show that further areas of opencast were excavated during the 1970s and 1980s in other areas of the Site (RSK 2018, 22-25). However these areas have been reinstated and returned to agricultural use.

48.2.2 Archaeological Potential

Much of the Site consists of reinstated agricultural land and opencast mining will have destroyed any archaeological remains. Therefore the potential is low for remains pre-dating the Post-Medieval period however there is potential for remains relating to Post-Medieval farmsteads.

48.2.3 Designated Heritage Assets

There are no designated heritage assets within the land allocation and none have been identified further afield where the visual impact and/or effect on setting is a concern

48.2.4 Previous Archaeological Work

A Desk-Based Assessment was carried out across most of the land allocation by RSK in 2018, in advance of a proposed employment site (A/18/85947/MAJES). Several desk-based assessments have also been carried out in advance of a proposed A5225 Bypass between Wigan, Hindley and Westhoughton (GMAU 1991; GMAU 1993; 1994; Higgins 2001) and one of the routes was proposed across the Site. The Wigan/Warrington Roman Road has recently been subject to a programme of

archaeological work at Land Gate in Ashton-in-Makerfield just to the south of the Site (TEP 2016; Magnitude Surveys 2017; OA North 2017; Salford Archaeology 2019)

48.3 Gazetteer

The Gazetteer primarily references sites that are within, or immediately adjacent, to the land allocation boundary and are listed with designated heritage assets first, then non-designated heritage assets. A table at the end of the gazetteer outlines additional non-designated heritage assets from the HER which are either outside the land allocation or are of negligible importance (such as former extraction pits, or ponds).

HA Number: 1

Site Name: Wigan to Warrington Roman Road

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No: 4226.1.3; 4226.1.4

Site Type: Communications

Period: Roman

NGR: 356828, 402340

Sources: OS Mapping; RSK 2018 (012)

Description: Road between the Roman settlements at *Coccium* and Wilderspool. Its course has been well documented over the years and recently recorded south of Landgate School. Thought to run along or close to the line of the A49 which forms eastern boundary of the Site.

HA Number: 2

Site Name: Cranberry Ley

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No:

Site Type: Agricultural

Period: Post-Medieval

NGR: 355739, 401931

Sources: OS Mapping; GMAU 1994 (31)

Description: Farm complex, recorded in the 17th century. Shown on OS mapping. Some 20th century additions however most of the historic complex appears to still survive

HA Number: 3

Site Name: Low Brooks Farm

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No: 8088.1.0

Site Type: Agricultural

Period: 18th Century

NGR: 356001, 401386

Sources: OS Mapping; GMAU 1991 (171); GMAU 1994 (22); RSK 2018 (026)

Description: Farmstead, shown on 18th century mapping. Expanded during the 20th century but most of the historic complex appears to still survive.

HA Number: 4
Site Name: Cranberry Ley Cottage (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 4519.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 355788, 401827
Sources: OS Mapping; Arrowsmith 1991 (1); GMAU 1994 (28); RSK 2018 (005)
Description: House, probably early 19th century. Demolished early 20th century. Site appears to have been destroyed by open cast mining

HA Number: 5
Site Name: Coroner's Nook (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 3212.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 355836, 401774
Sources: OS Mapping; RSK 2018 (004)
Description: House, probably early 19th century. Renamed High Brooks in the late 19th century. Current properties appear to be late 19th century in date with a range of later 20th century outbuildings. Still standing

HA Number: 6
Site Name: Bakehouse Meadow (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 4520.1.0
Site Type: Industrial
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 355876, 401713
Sources: OS Mapping; Arrowsmith 1991 (2); GMAU 1994 (32); RSK 2018 (007)
Description: Field name recorded on Tithe Mapping, suggesting the presence of a bakehouse. A small square structure is shown on mapping within the eastern part of the field. Not shown on subsequent mapping. Site probably affected by open cast mining

HA Number: 7
Site Name: High Brooks (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 8087.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 355913, 401563
Sources: OS Mapping; GMAU 1991 (176); GMAU 1994 (23); RSK 2018 (006)

Description: Houses, probably early 19th century in date. Renamed Coroner's Nook in the late 19th century (may have been confused with the buildings to the north). Demolished mid-20th century. Site remains undeveloped and appears to have been unaffected by open cast mining.

HA Number: 8

Site Name: Soap Waste Field (site of)

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No:

Site Type: ?Industrial

Period: Post-Medieval

NGR: 356270, 401780

Sources: Tithe Mapping 1838; GMAU 1994 (49)

Description: Field name recorded on the Tithe Mapping and suggests that some sort of Industrial process was taking place, possibly associated with the textile industry. Site appears to be unaffected by opencast mining

HA Number: 9

Site Name: High Brooks Colliery (site of)

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No: 8090.1.0; 16637.1.0

Site Type: Industrial

Period: 19th Century

NGR: 355729, 401652

Sources: OS Mapping; Arrowsmith 1991 (4); GMAU 1994 (25); GMAU 1991 (180); RSK 2018 (002; 003)

Description: Colliery, first recorded during earlier 19th century. Expanded later 19th century into two separate sites. Western site went out of use early 20th century and the eastern one closed mid-20th century. Archaeological remains may have been affected by open cast mining.

HA Number: 10

Site Name: Smithy Meadow (site of)

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No:

Site Type: ?Industrial

Period: Post-Medieval

NGR: 355600 401910

Sources: Tithe Mapping 1838; GMAU 1994 (27)

Description: Field name recorded on the Tithe Apportionment and may indicate the presence of Industrial activity within the area. Appears to have been affected by open cast coal mining

HA Number: 11
Site Name: Further Shale Field (site of)
Designation: Non-designated heritage asset
HER No:
Site Type: Industrial
Period: 19th Century
NGR: 355860, 401710
Sources: Tithe Mapping 1838; Arrowsmith 1991 (3); GMAU 1994 (33)
Description: Fieldname which appears on the 1838 Tithe Apportionment and indicates the presence of shale and possible earlier mining activity

HA Number: 12
Site Name: Brocstedes Lane
Designation: Non-designated heritage asset
HER No:
Site Type: Communications
Period: ?Post-Medieval
NGR: 355800, 401800
Sources: OS Mapping; GMAU 1994 (30)
Description: Shown on an 1823 map and named Shale Lane. Still survives

HA Number: 13
Site Name: Great Common (site of)
Designation: Non-designated heritage asset
HER No:
Site Type: Agricultural
Period: Post-Medieval
NGR: 355800 401600
Sources: Tithe Mapping 1838; Arrowsmith 1991 (5); GMAU 1994 (24)
Description: Group of 4 adjacent fields named 'Great Common' or 'Common' fields. This suggests that this land was open/common land. Site has been destroyed by open cast mining

HER Number	Record Type	Site Name	Period/Date	Grid Reference
3221.2.0	Monument	Glass House Barn (site of)	18 th Century	SD 5674 0255
3224.1.0	Building	Derbyshire House Farm	Post-Medieval	SD 5685 0228
4658.1.0	Monument	Cranberry Lodge (site of)	Post-Medieval	SD 5688 0185
5413.1.0	Monument	Barlows (site of)	18 th Century	SD 5682 0250
8086.1.0	Monument	Bretton's Cottage (site of)	18 th Century	SD 5585 0130

8089.1.0	Building	Doe Ridings	19 th Century	SD 5635 0161
8091.1.0	Monument	Cropmarks, Field System (site of)	Undated	SD 5650 0170
8092.1.0	Monument	Cropmark (site of)	?Prehistoric	SD 5670 0180
8093.1.0	Monument	Buildings off Wigan Road (site of)	Early 19 th Century	SD 5685 0209
8094.1.0	Monument	Cranberry Lodge Cottages (site of)	Early 19 th Century	SD 5689 0193
8095.1.0	Monument	Park Lane Smithy (site of)	Early 19 th Century	SD 5689 0195
8096.1.0	Monument	Building (site of)	Early 19 th Century	SD 5693 0193
16636.1.0	Monument	Bretton's Cottage (site of)	Early 19 th Century	SD 5589 0128
16639.1.0	Monument	Terraced Housing (site of)	19 th Century	SD 5686 0219
16640.1.0	Building	Red Lion Hotel	Early 19 th Century	SD 5690 0187
16643.1.0	Monument	Group of Buildings, Park Lane (site of)	Early 19 th Century	SD 5694 0184

Table 48.3.1 Non-designated Heritage Assets identified within 250m of the land allocation boundary

48.4 Site Visit

The site visit was conducted over the course of one day on 3rd June 2019. The site visit confirmed the desk-based study; the topography is gently undulating though generally slopes from west to east. Most the Site appears to be under unused pasture.



Plate 48.4.1: Looking west across GMA48, towards Cranberry Lea Farm

48.5 Conclusion

It is suggested that Site Allocation GMA48: M6, Junction 25 is screened in and placed within Amber, Category 5. There are no designated heritage assets contained within the Site, nor have any been identified further afield. Due to extensive opencast mining across the Site, the potential for archaeological remains is limited to Post-Medieval period onwards. There is also little potential for historic hedgerows.

Further work is recommended including:

- Historic building assessments and further research of Cranberry Lea Farm (**HA2**) and Low Brooks Farm (**HA3**), with targeted intrusive works.
- Targeted archaeological watching brief on areas previously undisturbed by opencast mining.

This work has the potential to answer a number of questions from the updated regional research framework, particularly relating to the Prehistoric and Industrial periods.

48.6 Figures

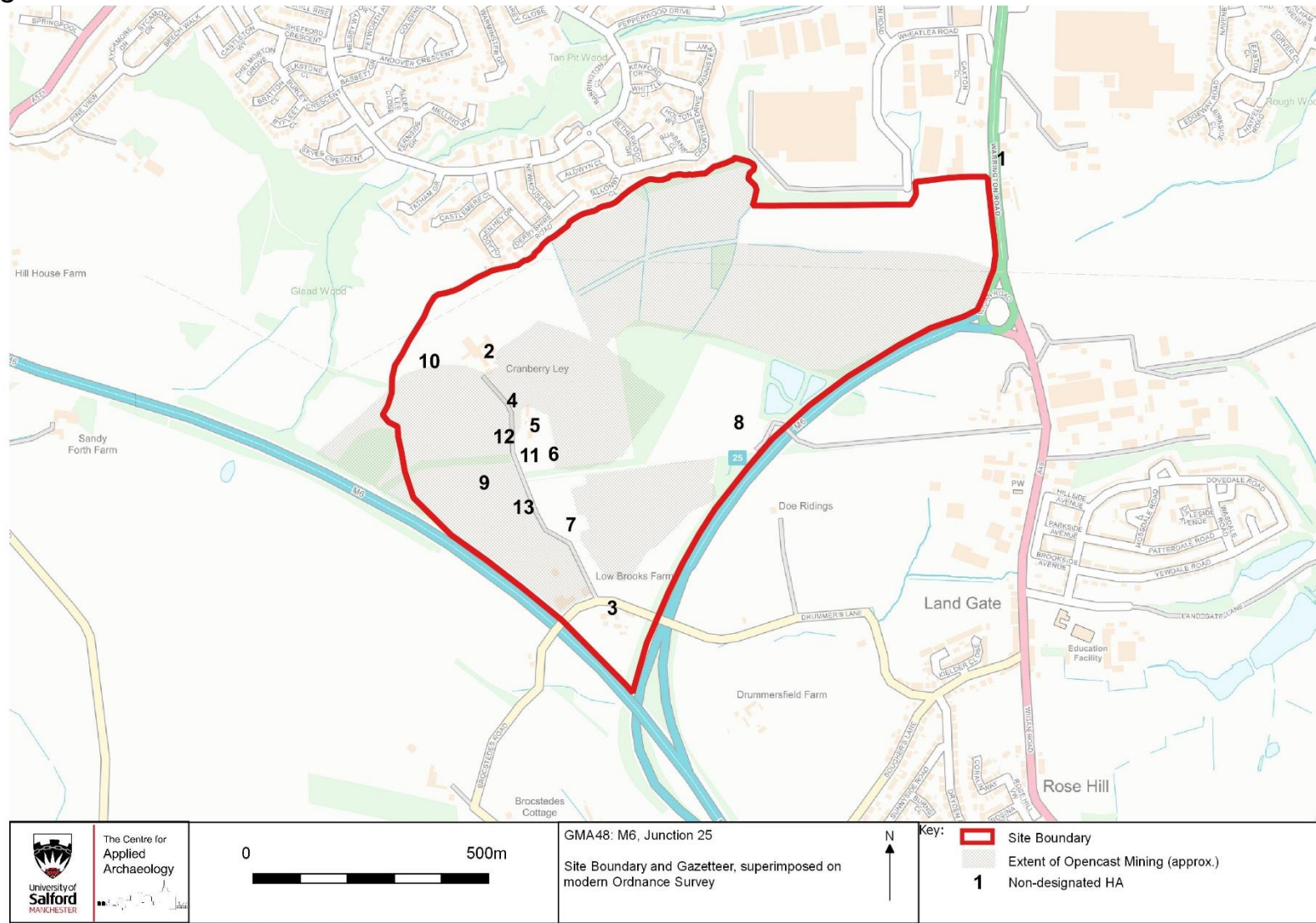
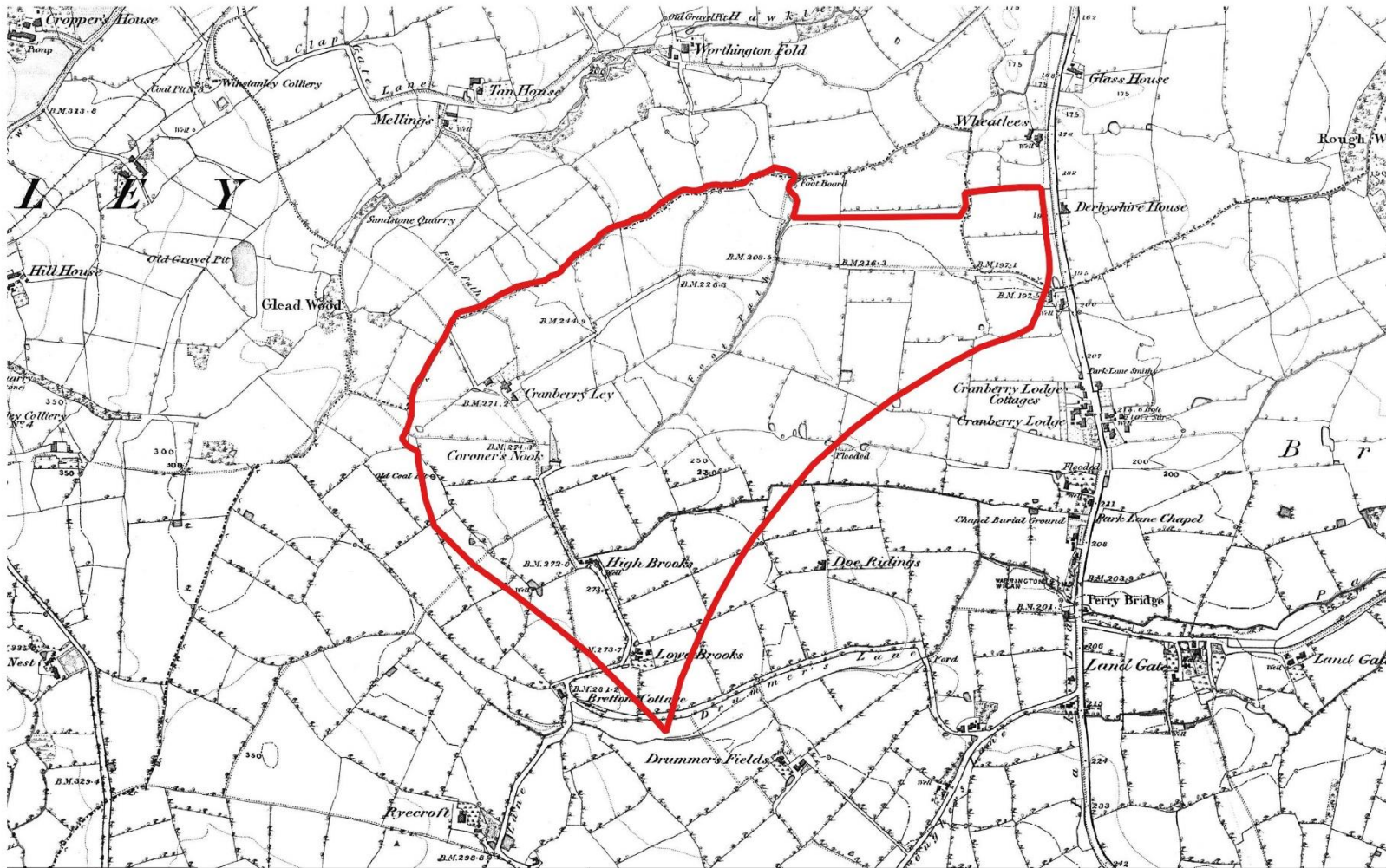





Figure 48.6.1 The extent of the Opencast Mining is taken from RSK 2018



 <p>The Centre for Applied Archaeology</p>	<p>0 500m</p> 	<p>GMA48: M6, Junction 25</p> <p>Site Boundary, superimposed on first edition Ordnance Survey (published 1849)</p>	<p>key:  Site Boundary</p> <p>N ↑</p>
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Centre for Applied Archaeology, Peel Building, The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

Figure 48.6.2

GMA49 North of Mosley Common (WI) – Screened In

It is recommended that this Site is screened in; there are no designated sites within the land allocation, and none have been identified further afield. There is potential for archaeological remains to survive therefore further work is recommended.

49.1 Site Location, Topography and Land Use

The North of Mosley Common Land Allocation (centred at NGR 371687, 401961) lies to the north of Mosley Common and north-east of Parr Brow and 14km south-east of Wigan, close to the eastern boundary with the Salford District. The Site is 64.6ha in size and bounded by City Road and New City Road to the east, Bridgewater Road to the south, Parr Brow to the west and countryside to the north.

The Site is fairly undulating but slopes downwards in a south-westerly direction and slopes from approximately 68m aOD at the northern end to 52m aOD. Much of the Site is currently in agricultural use with isolated farmsteads across the area, however the Guided Busway cuts across the Site in an east-west direction.

The geology across the Site consists of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation, interspersed with bands of Nob End Rock (sandstone). This is overlain with Till with a concentration of alluvium around Honksford Brook (British Geological Survey 2017).



49.2 Historical Background

49.2.1 Overview

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity within the Site and further afield. The underlying geology is generally not conducive to prehistoric settlement although there is a possibility for activity around Honksford Brook.

The Roman Road between Manchester and Wigan (**HA1**) is purported to cross the Site on the western side, from south-east to north-west. The road can be seen on LiDAR and satellite data and it was revealed near Sheep Lane in 1957 however recent excavations at Parr Brow failed to find its course (Salford Archaeology 2018). Coin hoards have been recovered from Boothstown, which were located close to the road (MAP 2017, 14).

During the Medieval period, the Site lay within the township of Tydesley cum Shakerley; Mosley Common to the south east is recorded in the 14th century. The Site appears to have been subject to piecemeal enclosure, which may have begun in the Medieval period. However there is little evidence for occupation until the 17th century with Turncroft Farm (**HA3**), Stone House (**HA2**) and Platts Fold (**HA4**) all recorded at this time.

A number of small farms such as Hursts (**HA7**) may have been established during the 18th century and subsequently small rows of housing were established particularly along the eastern fringe.

A number of fields have been agglomerated, erasing former field systems and some of the farmsteads and housing have been subject to modification and/or demolition in the 20th century. The Site remains predominantly rural.

49.2.2 Archaeological Potential

Generally, there appears to be little potential for prehistoric archaeological remains due to the poor geological conditions; however there is some potential for them close to Honksford Brook. There is high potential for remains of the Roman road to be recovered. There is also potential for the remains of now-demolished farmsteads dating from the Post-Medieval period onwards.

49.2.3 Designated Heritage Assets

There are no designated heritage assets within the land allocation, and none have been identified further afield where the visual impact and/or effect on setting is a concern.

49.2.4 Previous Archaeological Work

Some archaeological work has taken place within the Site, including a desk-based assessment in advance of proposed open cast mining, which included the northern fringe of the Site (GMAU 1991). Some of the Site to the east of Maxilead Metals Recycling was subject to a DBA and evaluation recently (MAP 2017; Salford Archaeology 2018). Further afield, a DBA was carried out to the west of the Site in advance of a gas pipeline between Mawdesley and Warrington (Network Archaeology 1998)

49.3 Gazetteer

The Gazetteer primarily references sites that are within, or immediately adjacent, to the land allocation boundary and are listed with designated heritage assets first, then non-designated heritage assets. A table at the end of the gazetteer outlines additional non-designated heritage assets from the HER which are either outside the land allocation or are of negligible importance (such as former extraction pits, or ponds).

HA Number: 1

Site Name: Manchester to Wigan Roman Road (site of)

Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset

HER No: 25.1.5

Site Type: Communications

Period: Roman

NGR: 371325, 402038

Sources: OS Mapping; Arrowsmith 1991

Description: Roman road, traced on LiDAR and the first edition OS crossing Mosley Common from south-east to north-west. Partially visible on satellite imagery as well.

HA Number: 2

Site Name: Stone House

Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset

HER No: 4937.1.0

Site Type: Agricultural

Period: Post-Medieval

NGR: 371600, 402090

Sources: OS Mapping; Arrowsmith 1991 (20)

Description: Farmstead building, possibly 17th century in date. Was originally part of a larger complex however other buildings were cleared early 20th century. Number of later 20th century additions flank the building.

HA Number: 3

Site Name: Turncroft Farm

Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset

HER No: 8104.1.0

Site Type: Agricultural

Period: Post-Medieval

NGR: 371713, 401936

Sources: OS Mapping; Arrowsmith 1991 (21)

Description: Farmstead, recorded in 1659. Complex was rebuilt in 1859, just to the east of the original buildings. Modified during the 20th century and recently converted to residential. Site of the original farm lies to the west and appears to be undeveloped.

HA Number: 4
Site Name: Platts Fold
Designation: Non-designated heritage asset
HER No: 8006.1.0
Site Type: Agricultural
Period: Post-Medieval
NGR: 371910, 402240
Sources: OS Mapping; GMAU 1991 (147)
Description: Farm complex, possibly 17th century in origin. Buildings heavily modified and added to during 20th century. The part that lies within the land allocation appears to consist of 20th century structures

HA Number: 5
Site Name: Brick House Farm (site of)
Designation: Non-designated heritage asset
HER No:
Site Type: Agricultural
Period: ?Post-Medieval
NGR: 372109, 401509
Sources: Yates 1786; OS Mapping
Description: Farmstead, possibly shown on Yates Map. Later known as Yew Tree cottages. Demolished later 20th century however site remains undeveloped

HA Number: 6
Site Name: Mill Brow
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 8003.1.0
Site Type: Agricultural
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 371715, 402003
Sources: OS Mapping; Arrowsmith 1991 (21)
Description: Farmstead, probably early 19th century in date. Two buildings shown on the mapping; western one demolished mid-20th century. The surviving building is a shippon and converted in residential.

HA Number: 7
Site Name: Hursts (site of)
Designation: Non-designated heritage asset
HER No:
Site Type: Agricultural
Period: 19th Century
NGR: 371945, 401519
Sources: OS Mapping
Description: Farm complex, probably early 19th century in date. Partially demolished early 20th century and cleared during the later 20th century. Site remains undeveloped

HA Number: 8
Site Name: Strawberry Hill (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 8004.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 371707, 402216
Sources: OS Mapping; GMAU 1991 (143)
Description: House, probably early 19th century in date. Appears unchanged on subsequent mapping and demolished in late 20th century. Site remains undeveloped

HA Number: 9
Site Name: The Gore (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 8005.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 371716, 402122
Sources: OS Mapping; GMAU 1991 (144; 145)
Description: Houses, probably early 19th century in date. Demolished mid-20th century. Site remains undeveloped

HA Number: 10
Site Name: Keeper Delph (site of)
Designation: Non-designated heritage asset
HER No: 8002.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 371929, 401869
Sources: OS Mapping; Arrowsmith 1991 (21)
Description: House, probably early 19th century in date. Demolished mid-20th century. Site remains undeveloped

HA Number: 11
Site Name: Valley (site of)
Designation: Non-designated heritage asset
HER No:
Site Type: ?Agricultural
Period: Early 19th century
NGR: 372112, 401955
Sources: OS Mapping

Description: Farmstead, possibly early 19th century in date. Demolished mid-20th century. Site remains undeveloped

HA Number: 12

Site Name: New Row (site of)

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No:

Site Type: Residential

Period: Late 18th Century

NGR: 372175, 402096

Sources: OS Mapping

Description: Small group of terraced houses, probably early 19th century in date, straddling both sides of Lower New Row. Built for miners working in the Duke of Bridgewater's collieries. Building shown on west side and within Site demolished by late 19th century. Later known as Gatley Row but cleared during later 20th century. Western part remains undeveloped

HA Number: 13

Site Name: Houses west of Mosley Common (site of)

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No:

Site Type: Residential

Period: Early 19th century

NGR: 372188, 401703

Sources: OS Mapping

Description: Terraced housing, possibly early 19th century in date. Demolished early 20th century. Site remains undeveloped

HA Number: 14

Site Name: Smithy (site of)

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No:

Site Type: Industrial

Period: Early 19th century

NGR: 372134, 401539

Sources: OS Mapping

Description: Smithy, shown on first edition OS but not labelled as such until the late 19th century. Demolished by mid-1950s. Site remains undeveloped

HA Number: 15

Site Name: Mill Field (site of)

Designation: Non-designated heritage asset

HER No:

Site Type: Industrial
Period: 19th century
NGR: 371693, 402105
Sources: OS Mapping; GMAU 1991 (146)
Description: Field named on Tithe Mapping; could indicate past milling activity

HA Number: 16
Site Name: Eccles, Tyldesley and Wigan Railway (site of)
Designation: Non-designated heritage asset
HER No: 8001.1.0
Site Type: Communications
Period: 19th Century
NGR: 371687, 401830
Sources: OS Mapping
Description: Railway, opened in 1864. Closed in 1969 and subsequently dismantled. Now converted into a guided busway

HER Number	Record Type	Site Name	Period/Date	Grid Reference
3277.1.0	Monument	Mosley Common Collieries (site of)	Late 19 th Century	SD 7241 0156
8007.1.0	Place	Shude Hill (site of)	Early 19 th Century	SD 7232 0230

Table 49.3.1 Non-designated Heritage Assets identified within 250m of the land allocation boundary

49.4 Site Visit

The site visit was conducted over the course of one day on 3rd June 2019. Most of the land allocation is a mix of unused and used pasture land. Part of the western fringe is currently under development as part of the former Maxilead Metals recycling plant. Mature hedgerows were also noted during the site visit.



Plate 49.4.1: Looking north across the southern part of the land allocation (south of the Guided Busway)



Plate 49.4.2: Looking north-east across the northern part of the land allocation

49.5 Conclusion

It is suggested that Site Allocation GMA49: North of Mosley Common is screened in and placed within Amber, Category 5. There are no designated heritage assets contained within the Sites and none have been identified further afield. There is limited potential for prehistoric remains and this is concentrated around Honksford Brook, however there is high potential for the archaeological remains of the Manchester-Wigan Roman road. There is also potential for remains relating to Post-Medieval farmsteads. There also appears to be some potential for historic hedgerows.

Further work is recommended, including:

- Targeted geophysical and walkover survey to identify any potential prehistoric potential around Honksford Brook, as well as the Roman Road (**HA1**).
- A historic hedgerow survey.
- Historic building assessments and further research of the farmstead complexes.
- Targeted intrusive work, including demolished farmsteads.

This work has the potential to answer a number of questions from the updated regional research framework, particularly relating to the Prehistoric, Roman and Post-Medieval periods

49.6 Figures

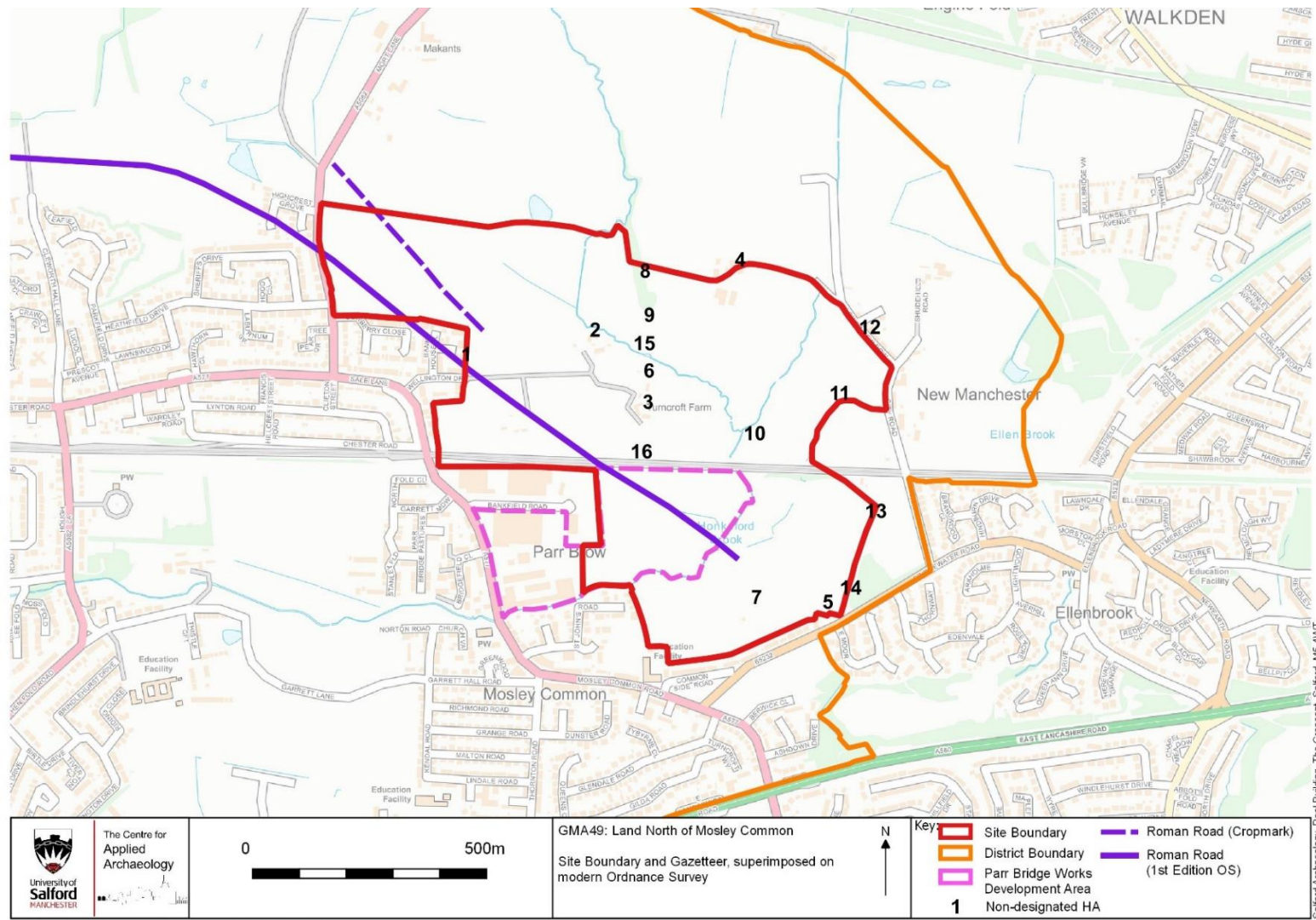
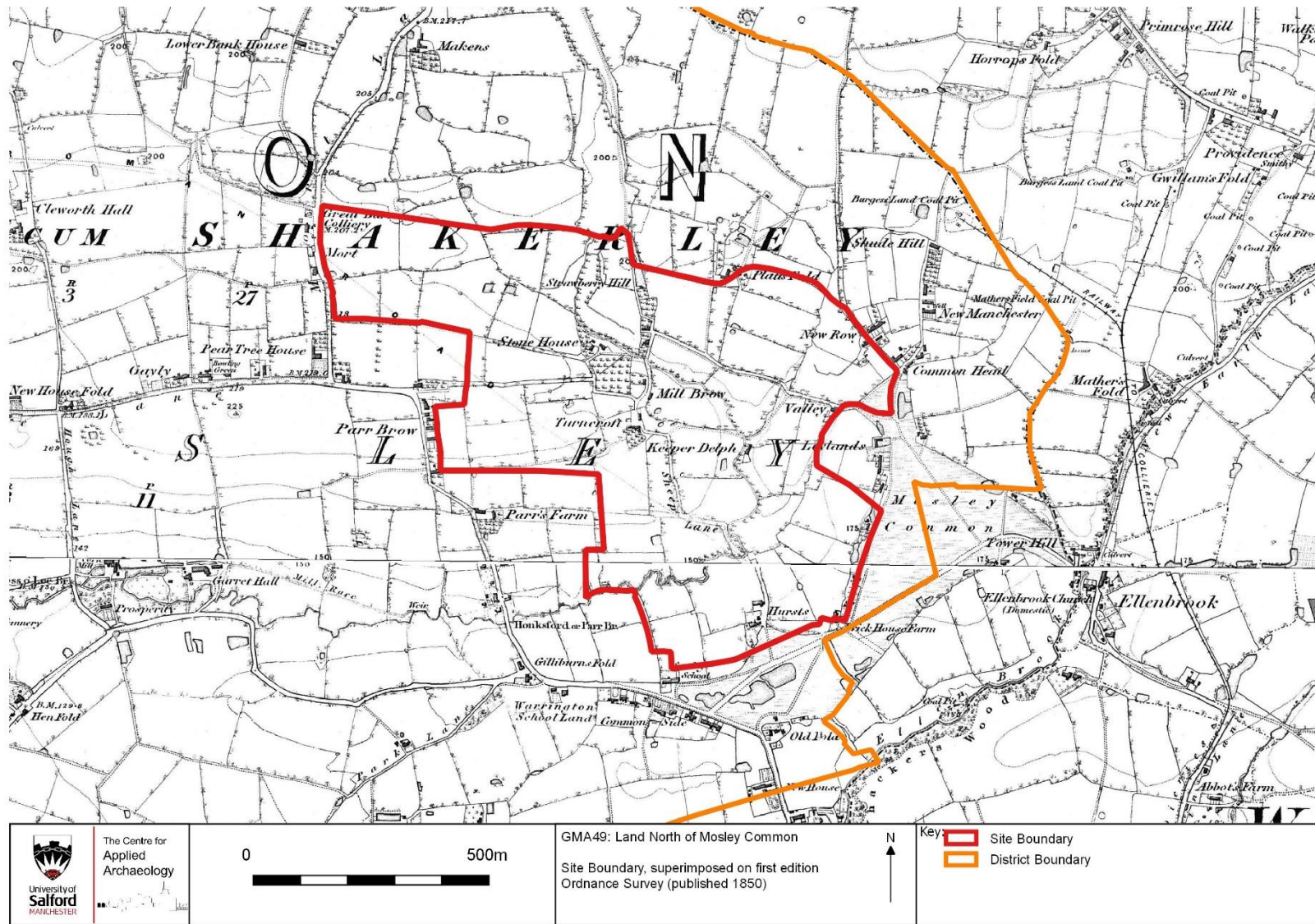


Figure 49.6.1



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Figure 49.6.2

GMA50 Pocket Nook (WI) – Screened In

It is recommended that this Site is screened in; there is one designated site within the land allocation, which will require further assessment. There is potential for archaeological remains, particularly from the Post-Medieval period onwards therefore further archaeological work is recommended

50.1 Site Location, Topography and Land Use

The Pocket Nook Land Allocation (centred at NGR 363897, 397268) lies to the east of Golborne and 9.5km south-east of Wigan town centre. The Site is 52ha in size and is bounded by the A580 East Lancashire Road to the south, Lowton to the west and north and the A579 to the east.

The Site gently slopes from west to east and lies at around 25m aOD. Most of the Site is currently under pasture.

The geology across the Site consists of the Wilmslow Sandstone Formation, interspersed with a band of the Chester Formation (sandstone). The superficial geology consists of Till over to the west, with Galciolacustrine deposits over to the east, interspersed with a band of alluvium around Carr Brook (British Geological Survey 2017).



50.2 Historical Background

50.2.1 Overview

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity within the Site and immediate surroundings and the geological conditions are generally not favourable for settlement. There is also very little evidence for Roman activity, with roads to Wigan running to the west at Golborne.

During the Medieval period, the Site lay within the townships of Lowton and Kenyon with Lowton itself sitting on a raised sandstone ridge. The Site itself lies on the lower, wetter ground to the east of the historic centre of Lowton however there is little evidence for settlement during this period. According to the HLC, this area may have been formed of strip fields, which were then agglomerated in the Post-Medieval period.

There is evidence for settlement in the Post-Medieval period, with Fair House (**HA1**) dating to the 17th century and Pocket Nook House (**HA2**) and Farm (**HA3**) may also date to this period. These were added to and modified into the 20th century. The railways also crossed through the Site and to the east, with the first public railway in Lancashire opening in 1828 and now part of the A579 (**HA6**). The Wigan Junction Branch railway was opened in 1879 (**HA5**), however there is little evidence for any further Industrial activity. A number of former ponds can be seen across the Site, which are probably former marl pits. The area remains predominantly rural today and most of the fields have been agglomerated further during the 20th century.

50.2.2 Archaeological Potential

There is little potential for archaeological remains predating the Post-Medieval period due to the unfavourable geological conditions, although it should be noted that excavations at Heath Lane to the west revealed ephemeral Medieval features surviving below later structures (Wardell Armstrong 2017). There is potential for remains of Post-Medieval farmsteads and at least one is still standing, though this appears to be restricted to the locations of current farms.

50.2.3 Designated Heritage Assets

There is one designated heritage asset within the land allocation.

Asset Name	HER Number	Designation	NHLE Number
Fair House Farmhouse	5447.1.0	Grade II	1162964

Table 50.2.1 Designated Heritage Assets identified within the land allocation boundary

50.2.4 Previous Archaeological Work

There has been no previous archaeological work within the land allocations however there has been a number of projects around Lowton and Golborne (UMAU 2003; OA North 2004; Trippier 2014; Wardell Armstrong 2017). Stone House to the south of Leigh was also excavated recently (LP Archaeology 2019).

50.3 Gazetteer

The Gazetteer primarily references sites that are within, or immediately adjacent, to the land allocation boundary and are listed with designated heritage assets first, then non-designated heritage assets. A table at the end of the gazetteer outlines additional

non-designated heritage assets from the HER which are either outside the land allocation or are of negligible importance (such as former extraction pits, or ponds).

HA Number: 1
Site Name: Fair House Farmhouse
Designation: Grade II (1162964)
HER No: 5447.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 363634, 397536
Sources: National Heritage List; OS Mapping
Description: House. C17. Timber-framed structure which is concealed by render. Repairs and additions in brick. Slate roof. 3-unit, lobby-entrance plan with total of 5 bays and 2 storeys. Labelled as Fairy House on 1st edition OS mapping. Located within the land allocation

HA Number: 2
Site Name: Pocket Nook House
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No:
Site Type: Residential
Period: Post-Medieval
NGR: 363400, 397350
Sources: Yates 1786; OS Mapping
Description: Farm complex, possibly shown on Yates 1786 map. Most of the historic complex appears to still survive. Expanded during the later 20th century

HA Number: 3
Site Name: Pocket Nook Farm
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No:
Site Type: Agricultural
Period: Post-Medieval
NGR: 364022, 397398
Sources: Yates 1786; OS Mapping
Description: Farmstead, possibly shown on Yates 1786 map. Expanded during later 20th century but original complex of buildings appear to still survive

HA Number: 4
Site Name: Pocket Nook
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No:
Site Type: Residential
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 363877, 397494

Sources: OS Mapping
Description: House, later a farm complex, possibly early 19th century in date. The original house appears to still survive

HA Number: 5
Site Name: Wigan Junction Branch Railway (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No:
Site Type: Communcations
Period: Late 19th Century
NGR: 363366, 397112
Sources: OS Mapping; <https://spellerweb.net/rhindex/UKRH/GreatCentral/WiganJct.html>
Description: Branch line opened 1879 linking the Wigan coalfields and the Cheshire Lines Committee Line at Glazebrook. Closed to passengers in 1964 and to goods in 1968, subsequently dismantled but still survives within the landscape.

HA Number: 6
Site Name: Bolton and Leigh Railway (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 496.1.0
Site Type: Communcations
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 364504, 397482
Sources: OS Mapping; GMAU 1991 (104); 1993 (94); 1994 (26); <http://disused-stations.org.uk/c/chequerbent/index.shtml>
Description: Part of the former Bolton and Leigh railway, completed 1828 to designs by George Stephenson and the first public railway in Lancashire. Opened to passengers in 1831. Line was closed gradually during 1950s and 1960s. This section was converted into the A579

HER Number	Record Type	Site Name	Period/Date	Grid Reference
568.1.0	Monument	Lowton Hall (site of)	Post-Medieval	SJ 6311 9738

Table 50.3.1 Non-designated Heritage Assets identified within 250m of the land allocation boundary

50.4 Site Visit

The site visit was conducted over the course of one day on 3rd June 2019. Fair House Farmhouse was not accessible at this time and most of the Site is not accessible either.



Plate 50.4.1: Looking south-west across the land allocation from Pocket Nook lane



Plate 50.4.2 Farm Complex at Fair House (the listed structure was not visible at the time of the site visit)

50.5 Conclusion

It is suggested that Site Allocation GMA50: Pocket Nook is screened in and placed within Red, Category 2. There is one designated heritage asset contained within the Site although none have been identified further afield. There is little potential for archaeological remains pre-dating the Post-Medieval period due to the poor geological conditions. There is potential for Post-Medieval remains, especially relating to the farmsteads that currently stand. There appears to be little potential for historic hedgerows.

Further work is recommended including:

- Further assessment of the designated heritage asset within the land allocation.
- Historic building assessments of Pocket Nook House (**HA2**), Pocket Nook Farm (**HA3**) and Pocket Nook (**HA4**).
- Targeted intrusive work at the farmsteads.

This work has the potential to answer a number of questions from the updated regional research framework, particularly relating to the Post-Medieval period.

50.6 Figures

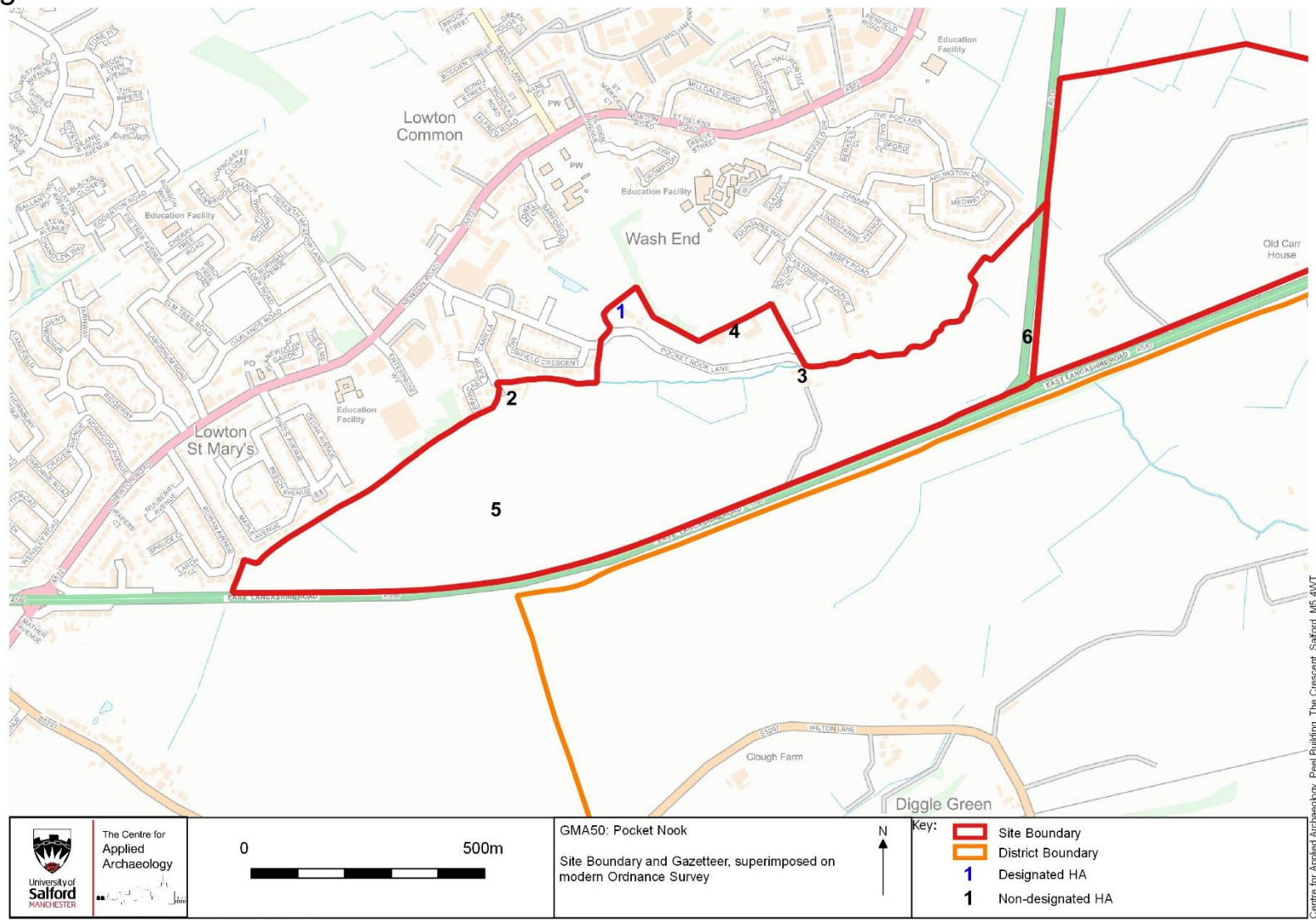


Figure 50.6.1

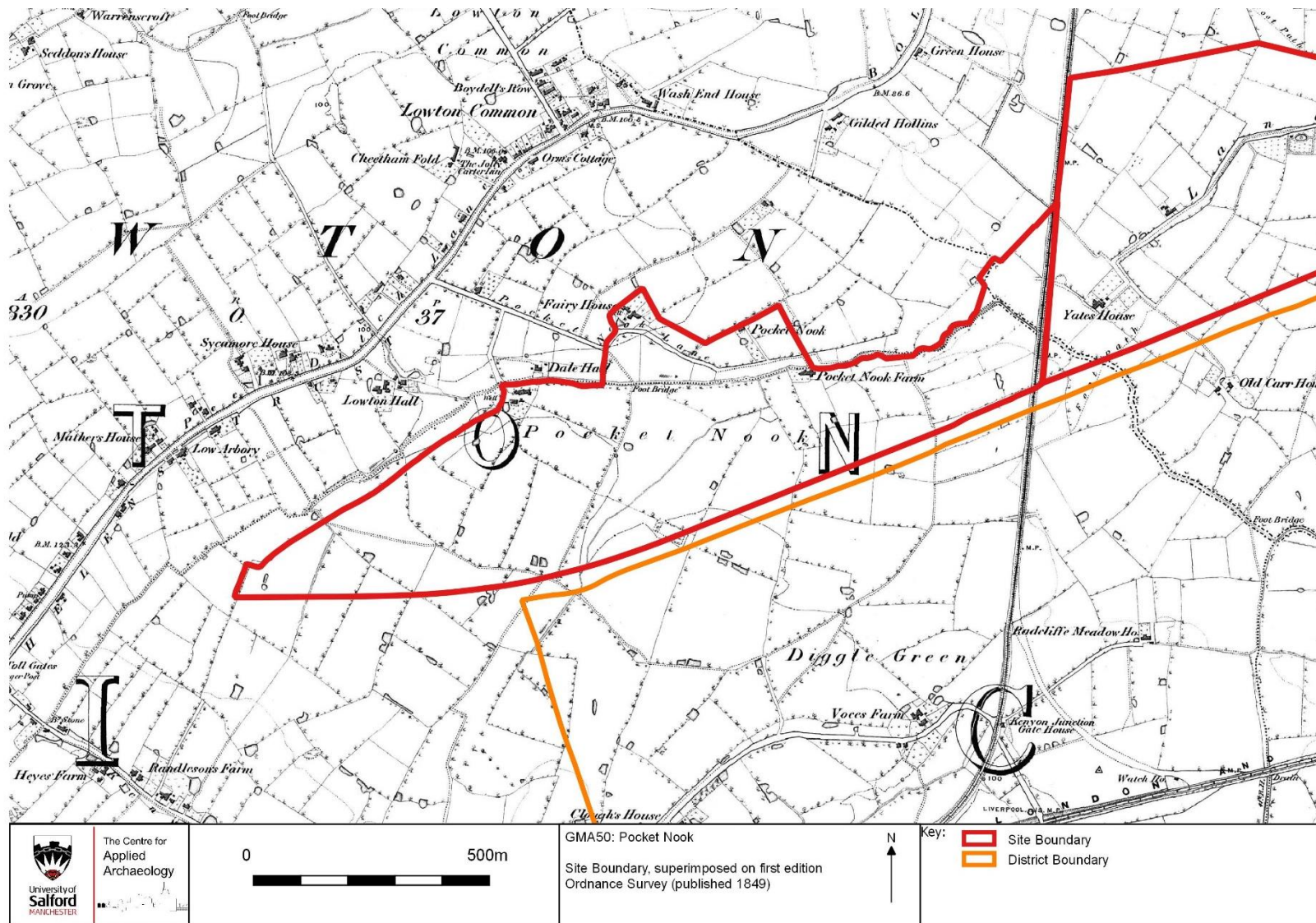


Figure 50.6.2

GMA51 West of Gibfield (WI) – Screened In

It is recommended that this Site is screened in; there are no designated sites within the land allocation, however at least one has been identified nearby which will require further assessment. There is some potential for archaeological remains therefore further archaeological work is recommended

51.1 Site Location, Topography and Land Use

The West of Gibfield Land Allocation (centred at NGR 366142, 403993) lies to the west of Atherton and 8km south-east of Wigan town centre. The Site is 53.9ha in size and is bounded by Manchester – Wigan railway line to the north, Hag Fold to the east, Wigan road to the south and open countryside to the west.

The site gently slopes from south to north and lies at around 60m aOD climbing to around 80m aOD at the northern end. The topography is artificial as most of the area was subject to open cast mining in the past although most of it has been reclaimed and restored to agricultural use. There is also a large coal waste heap forming the southern part of the land allocation, derived from the open cast mining to the north.

The geology across the Site consists of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation, interspersed with a band of Cannel Rock (sandstone). The superficial geology consists of Till (British Geological Survey 2017).



51.2 Historical Background

51.2.1 Overview

There is little evidence for prehistoric activity within the Site and its immediate vicinity and the geological conditions are not suited to settlement from this period. A flint flake was recovered from the Gadbury Fold excavations to the south-east but it was not *in-situ*. The course of the Manchester-Wigan Roman road (**HA1**) is projected to run NW-SE close to the southern boundary; it was positively identified at Gadbury Fold however it was heavily truncated (UMAU 2006, 2). An earthwork (**HA9**) identified within the Site has been tentatively identified as Roman due to its close association with the course of the road.

During the Medieval period, the Site lay within the township of Atherton however there is no evidence for occupation within the land allocation during this period. It is likely that at this time, the wider area consisted of grassland with areas of arable farming and/or woodland (UMAU 2006, 53). Excavations at Gadbury Fold have revealed evidence for occupation in this period from 12th century onwards.

Evidence for later Medieval industrial exploitation has been found near the Site. Quarry pits for extracting coal and ironstone have been revealed at Gadbury Fold, as well as evidence for ironworking. Working areas appear to have been split into plot divisions and there is evidence for associated buildings. However this activity was relatively short-lived as the area shifted to agrarian use in the Post-Medieval period (*ibid* 54-56).

The Site appears to have remained rural and there is evidence for the establishment of farmsteads during the Post-Medieval period. Excavations at Nicholas Fold, just outside the Site, established it was built during the early 17th century (GMAU 1994, 12) and Moons is recorded in 1724. The area is known for its nail making, which would have been carried out alongside farming utilising a putting-out system.

There is evidence for small-scale coal mining during the early 19th century within the Site (**HA6**); a small number of cottages (**HA4; 5; 6**) were constructed along Colliery road alongside coal pits and a small tramway. Although this was short lived, the cottages survived into the later 20th century. During the early 20th century, the southern part of the Site was used as a colliery waste heap, probably from Gibfield Colliery to the east. This still survives within the landscape although it has been restored to agricultural use; the area to the north remained predominantly agricultural however it was subject to open cast mining at the end of the 20th century. This has since been infilled and restored.

51.2.2 Archaeological Potential

There is some potential for archaeological remains, however this is limited to the Post-Medieval period onwards. Large parts of the Site have been affected by open cast mining and use for tipping colliery waste.

51.2.3 Designated Heritage Assets

There are no designated heritage assets within the land allocation, and none have been identified further afield where the visual impact and/or effect on setting is a concern

51.2.4 Previous Archaeological Work

There have been several pieces of work both within the Site and nearby; a DBA was carried out prior to open cast mining within the northern part of the Site in the early 1990s (GMAU 1991). This led to excavation at the site of Nicholas Fold, just beyond the western Site boundary (GMAU 1994). A further DBA was carried out on the southern part of the Site (UMAU 1997). Another DBA was carried out that took in part of the Site but also the area around Gadbury Fold; this work was followed up by further excavation to the south-east of the Site (UMAU 2006). Excavation was also carried out, just beyond the eastern part of the Site recently (OA North 2017). A DBA was also carried out to the north, beyond the railway line in the late 1990s (Wessex Archaeology 1997) and further afield, a DBA was carried out at land south of Dangerous Corner recently (Lanpro 2018).

51.3 Gazetteer

The Gazetteer primarily references sites that are within, or immediately adjacent, to the land allocation boundary and are listed with designated heritage assets first, then non-designated heritage assets. A table at the end of the gazetteer outlines additional non-designated heritage assets from the HER which are either outside the land allocation or are of negligible importance (such as former extraction pits, or ponds).

HA Number: 1

Site Name: Manchester to Wigan Roman Road (probable) at Gadbury Fold

Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset

HER No: 25.1.18

Site Type: Communications

Period: Roman

NGR: 366349, 402914

Sources: OS Mapping; UMAU 2006

Description: Course of Manchester to Wigan Roman road was revealed during excavations at Gadbury Fold, c.200m south of the land allocation and is thought to run north-westwards towards Wigan and pass close to the southern boundary

HA Number: 2

Site Name: Moons (site of)

Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset

HER No: 4872.1.0

Site Type: Residential

Period: Post-Medieval

NGR: 366112, 403848

Sources: OS Mapping; Arrowsmith 1991 (3); UMAU 1997 (2)

Description: Farmstead, recorded in the early 18th century. Demolished late 20th century. May have been affected by open cast mining

HA Number: 3

Site Name: Schofield Lane (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 4871.1.0
Site Type: Communications
Period: Post-Medieval
NGR: 366060, 403798
Sources: OS Mapping; Arrowsmith 1991 (2); Arrowsmith 1993 (79)
Description: Road, shown on a 1724 Estate Plan. Led to Moons and Nicholas Fold. Still survives as a footpath.

HA Number: 4
Site Name: Cottages, shops and gardens (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 9448.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 365955, 403606
Sources: OS Mapping; UMAU 1997 (9)
Description: Terraced properties, probably early 19th century in date. Tithe mapping describes them as a cottage, shop and garden. Demolished late 20th century. Appears to remain undeveloped

HA Number: 5
Site Name: Cottages, shops and gardens (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 9447.1.0
Site Type: Residential
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 366032, 403572
Sources: OS Mapping; UMAU 1997 (11)
Description: Terraced properties, probably early 19th century in date. Tithe mapping describes them as a cottage, shop and garden. Demolished late 20th century. Appears to remain undeveloped

HA Number: 6
Site Name: Cottage and coal pits (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 9442.1.0; 9443.1.0; 9444.1.0
Site Type: Industrial
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 366084, 403567
Sources: OS Mapping; UMAU 1997 (13; 14)
Description: Small colliery, early 19th century in date. A cottage, as well as two coal pits and a tramway are shown on the first edition OS. Disappears from

later mapping although the small cottage survives until the mid-20th century Appears to remain undeveloped

HA Number: 7
Site Name: Bolton and Leigh Railway (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 496.1.0
Site Type: Communcations
Period: Early 19th Century
NGR: 366447, 403324
Sources: OS Mapping; GMAU 1991 (104); 1993 (94); 1994 (26)
Description: Part of the former Bolton and Leigh railway, completed 1828 to designs by George Stephenson and the first public railway in Lancashire. Opened to passengers in 1831. Line was closed gradually during 1950s and 1960s. This section now falls within woodland

HA Number: 8
Site Name: Gibfield Sidings (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No:
Site Type: Communications
Period: Early 20th century
NGR: 366372, 403290
Sources: OS Mapping; UMAU 1997 (25; 26)
Description: Two single lines of track leading from the main railway line, early 20th century in date. Possibly used for dumping the colliery spoil to the west. Dismantled mid-20th century

HA Number: 9
Site Name: Earthwork (site of)
Designation: Non-designated Heritage Asset
HER No: 12261.1.0
Site Type: Earthwork
Period: Undated
NGR: 366000, 403090
Sources: OS Mapping; UMAU 2001
Description: Small triangular shaped earthwork, located on crest of spur overlooking the course of a possible Roman road to the south within an area considered to have a Roman fort. Appears to remain undeveloped

HER Number	Record Type	Site Name	Period/Date	Grid Reference
615.1.0	Monument	Moat, Langley's Farm (site of)	Medieval	SD 6674 0474
3230.1.0	Building	Smith's Farm	18 th century	SD 6588 0298
3231.1.0	Building	Astley's Farm Barn	Post-Medieval	SD 6575 0353
4077.1.0	Monument	Nicholas Fold Farmhouse (site of)	Post-Medieval	SD 6613 0392
4077.2.0	Monument	Nicholas Fold Barn (site of)	Post-Medieval	SD 6612 0394
4087.1.0	Monument	Wigan House (site of)	Early 19 th century	SD 6666 0345
4133.1.0	Monument	Gib Field Colliery (site of)	Early 19 th century	SD 6650 0340
4183.1.0	Monument	Bolton to Kenyon Junction (site of)	19 th century	SD 6630 0290
4551.1.0	Monument	Fine Hoskars (site of)	18 th century	SD 6588 0386
4552.1.0	Monument	Yew Tree Farm (site of)	18 th century	SD 6594 0390
4554.1.0	Monument	Ridge and Furrow earthworks east of Mountain Farm	Medieval/Post-Medieval	SD 6635 0462
4555.1.0	Monument	Reeves (site of)	18 th century	SD 6650 0484
4870.1.0	Monument	Far Atherton (site of)	Post-Medieval	SD 6597 0370
4873.1.0	Monument	Brick Kiln Field (site of)	18 th century	SD 6630 0400
4899.1.0	Monument	Furna Field (site of)	18 th century	SD 6600 0390
4946.1.0	Monument	Ridge and Furrow earthworks	Post-Medieval	SD 6631 0448
4949.1.0	Monument	Platt Lane	Medieval	SD 6673 0529
7807.1.0	Monument	Buildings, Lower Leigh Road (site of)	18 th century	SD 6595 0397
8074.1.0	Monument	Smithey Fields (site of)	18 th century	SD 6600 0380
12240.1.0	Monument	Farmstead (site of)	18 th century	SD 6597 0397
12243.1.0	Monument	Cottage (site of)	19 th century	SD 6646 0369
12244.1.0	Monument	Reservoir (west of Albion Mill)	19 th century	SD 6658 0395
12245.1.0	Monument	Workers' Housing (site of)	19 th century	SD 6664 0399
12247.1.0	Monument	Knight's Farm (site of)	19 th century	SD 6669 0398
12249.1.0	Monument	Reservoir (Hall Brook)	Early 19 th century	SD 6651 0362
12250.1.0	Monument	Reservoir near Gib Field Colliery (site of)	Late 19 th century	SD 6646 0353
12251.1.0	Monument	Ivy Cottage (site of)	Early 19 th Century	SD 6589 0353
12252.1.0	Monument	Gadbury Brick Works (site of)	Late 19 th century	SD 6638 0301
12253.1.0	Monument	Tramway/Mineral Railway (site of)	Late 19 th century	SD 6636 0296
12255.1.0	Monument	Gadbury Fold (site of)	18 th century	SD 6636 0293
12262.1.0	Monument	Mineral Railway (site of)	Early 20 th century	SD 6643 0301
12263.1.0	Monument	Atherton East Curve (railway) (site of)	19 th century	SD 6632 0269
13601.1.0	Building	Gibfield Pithead Baths	Early 20 th century	SD 66585 03313
16208.1.0	Monument	Ditch at Gadbury Fold	Medieval	SD 6633 0289
16209.1.0	Monument	Industrial Activity at Gadbury Fold	Medieval/Post-Medieval	SD 6634 0289

Table 51.3.1 Non-designated Heritage Assets identified within 250m of the land allocation boundary

51.4 Site Visit

The site visit was conducted over the course of one day on 3rd June 2019. Most of the land is unused pasture and grassland.



Plate 51.4.1: Looking north-west across the southern part of the land allocation. The higher ground is the old colliery tip



Plate 51.4.2: Looking north across the northern part of the land allocation; this area is reclaimed opencast mining land

51.5 Conclusion

It is suggested that Site Allocation GMA51: West of Gibfield is screened in and placed within Amber, Category 5. There are no designated heritage assets contained within the Sites and none have been identified further afield where the visual impact and/or effect on setting is a concern. There appears to be little potential for archaeological remains due to coal mining and tipping activities, however some areas have been identified for further work. There also appears to be little potential for historic hedgerows.

Further work is recommended, including:

- Targeted survey and, depending on the results, intrusive work to the south of Colliery Lane, focusing on the early 19th century coal mining activity and associated cottages (**HA4; 5; 6**), Moons (**HA2**) and the earthwork site (**HA9**).

This work has the potential to answer a number of questions from the updated regional research framework, particularly relating to the Prehistoric, Roman and Industrial periods

51.6 Figures

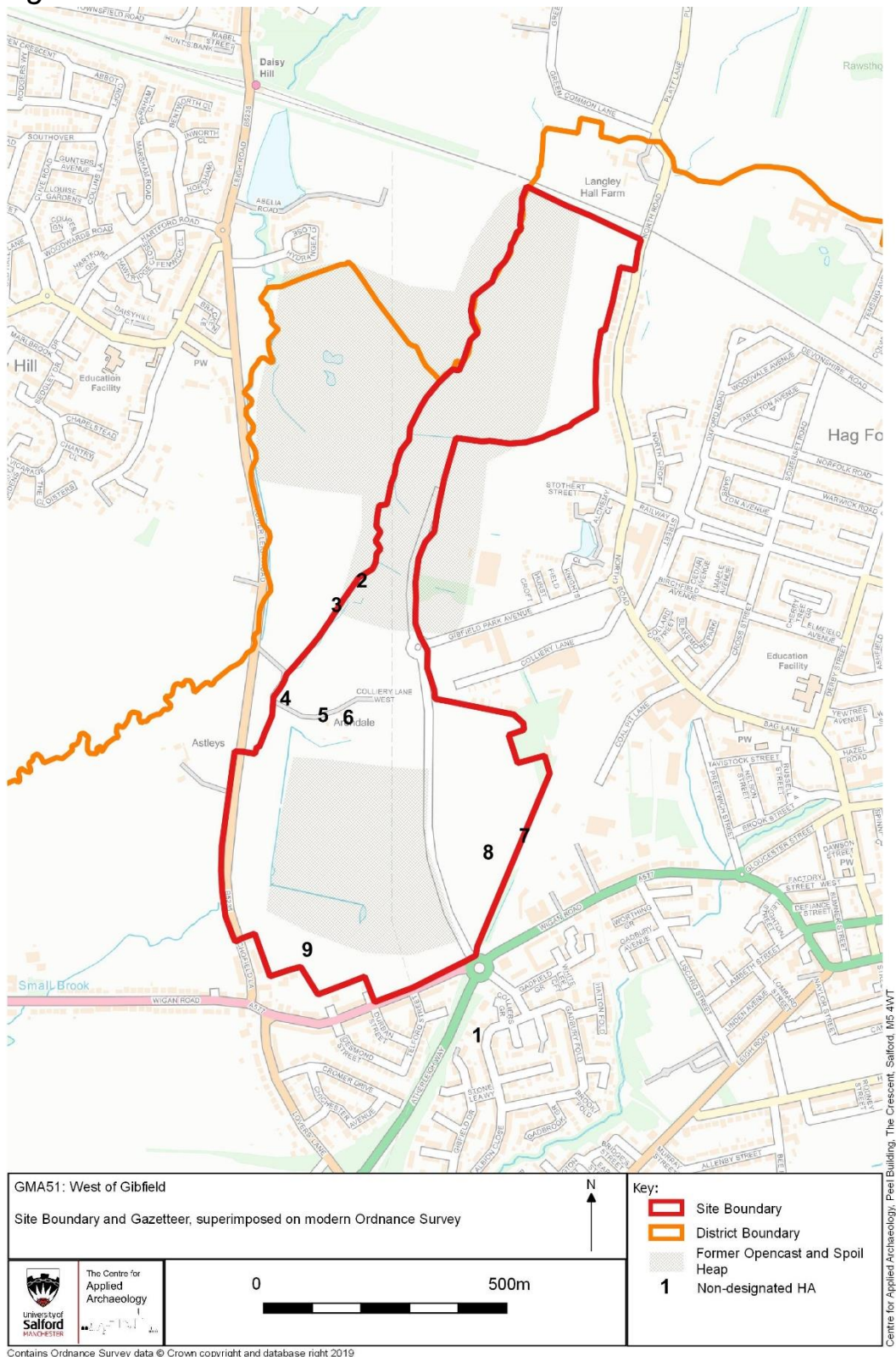


Figure 51.6.1

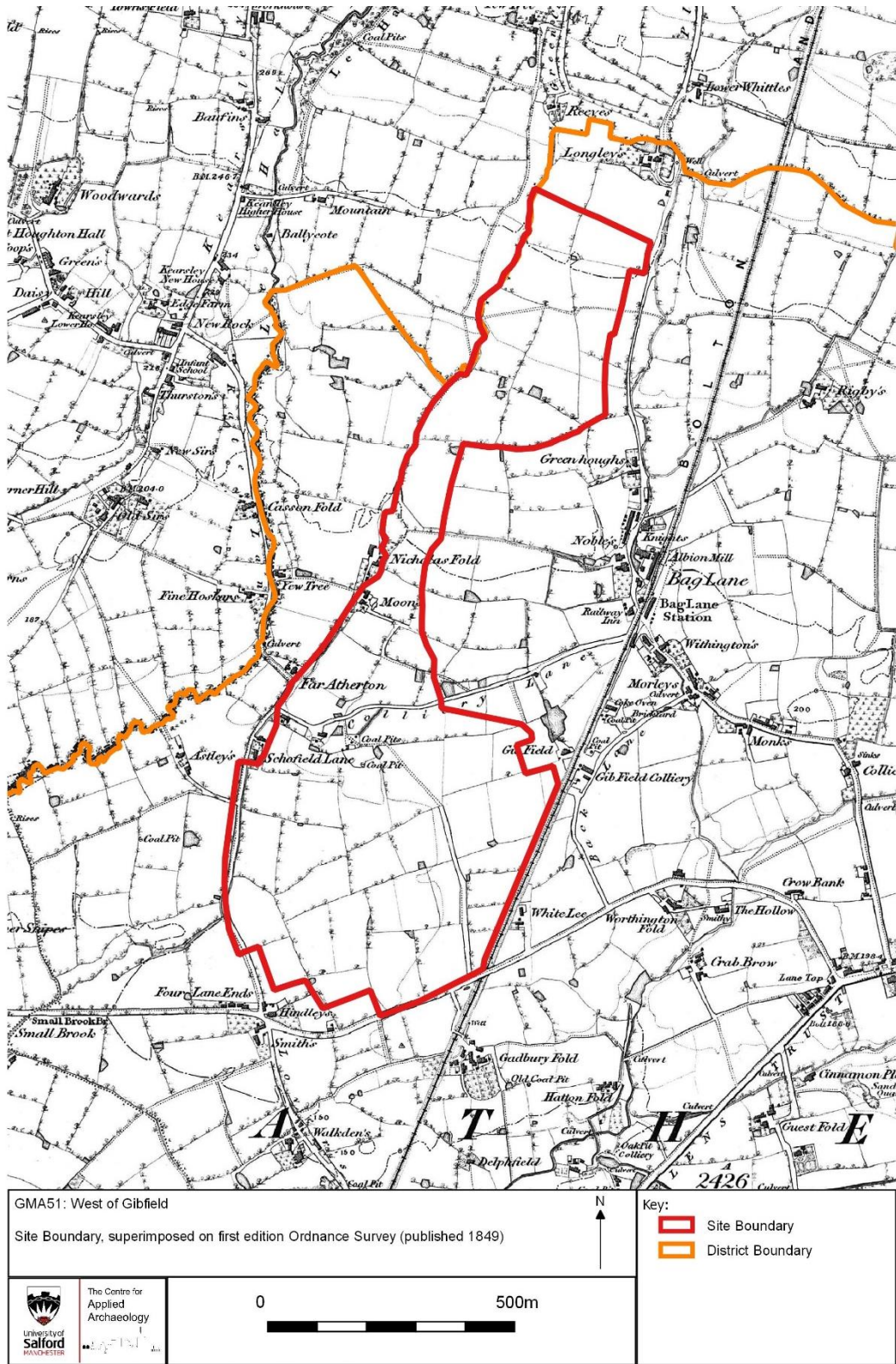


Figure 51.6.2

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