



Historic Environment Assessment

Places for
Everyone Land
Allocations,
Rochdale

JPA20 Castleton
Sidings

Client:
Rochdale Borough
Council

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Introduction

This brief statement is designed to aid planners in setting out future development parameters relating to the historic environment in relation to the Castleton Sidings land allocation (JPA20; herein referred to as ‘the Site’) which has been identified for development within Places for Everyone (PfE). The summary statement provides recommendations for the buried archaeological resource, built heritage, and historic landscape.

Access to the Site was not granted prior to the deadline for this summary statement and therefore the intended site visit could not be undertaken.

This document should not be treated as a Heritage or Archaeology Impact Assessment to be relied upon for any current or future planning application.

Built Heritage

There are no designated heritage assets within the Site, however a number of designated heritage assets have been identified within a wider radius, whose setting could potentially be affected by development within the Site; these are described in Table 1, below. Figure 1 identifies the locations of these designated assets.

Gazetteer Number (see Figure 1)	Asset Name	Designation	Description
1	Church of St Martin	Grade II	Church built 1860-62 and designed by Ernest Bates. Built of coursed rubble with slate roof. Nave with clerestory, aisles, transepts and a north-west tower and entrance. Built in a late 13th century style. Located outside the Site.
2	Rochdale Canal Lock 52 and Towpath Bridge	Grade II	Lock and towpath bridge, constructed between 1794 and 1804 and designed by William Jessop. Dressed stone with random stone to bridge parapet walls. Located outside the Site.
3	Rochdale Canal Lock 53	Grade II	Lock, constructed between 1794 and 1804 and designed by William Jessop. Dressed stone. Located outside the Site.
4	United Reformed Church	Grade II	Chapel built in 1866. Rock face stone with ashlar dressings and slate roof. 20th century single storey extension to the north. Located outside the Site.
5	Castleton (South)	Conservation Area	Settlement characterised by its Victorian and Edwardian townscape with grid-plan residential streets of two storey terraces. Development focuses around the canal and railway. Located outside the Site.

Table 1: Designated Heritage Assets identified in the vicinity of the Site

Church of St Martin

The Church was built between 1860 and 1862 to a design by Ernest Bates and is of coursed rubble construction with a slate roof. There is a nave with clerestory, aisles and transepts, however its most distinguishing feature is its north-west tower which is landmark locally. It was built to serve the rapidly expanding population of Castleton at this time. It has both associative and illustrative historical value, designed aesthetic value and social communal value.

The Church sits on a slight eminence, within a densely developed townscape which developed quickly from the late 19th century onwards. The church is surrounded by 19th and 20th century houses townscape predominantly consists of low-rise, two storey residential terraces with

some later 20th and early 21st century suburban-style development. The most sensitive element of the church's setting is the immediate land parcel including its churchyard, whilst the setting also benefits from the fact that church sits in an elevated position and is not 'challenged' by any tall buildings in the network of residential streets immediately around it. This affords the church a prominence in the local landscape. Although the church tower can be viewed from the Site, any development within the Site is unlikely affect the significance of the setting of the church. It is, however, recommended that efforts are made within the Masterplan design to incorporate sight lines and viewpoints towards the Church (and the conservation within which it sits) from the Site.

Rochdale Canal: Lock 52 and Towpath Bridge and Lock 53

The locks and towpath bridge were built between 1794 and 1804 and overseen by the engineer William Jessop and are part of the Rochdale Canal which runs for 32 miles between Manchester and Sowerby Bridge. They have both illustrative and associative historical values, as well as design aesthetic value.

The canal sits at a low point in the landscape and until recently there has been relatively little development and this area marks the transition from a more open to a densely developed landscape. The locks and bridge can only be visually appreciated from close up and there are no long range views due to the low lying nature and curves in its course. The immediate setting makes a minor positive contribution to the significance of the canal and the structures. The Site itself however, does not form part of the setting of the designated assets and nor will development within the Site affect the significance of its setting.

United Reformed Church

The URC dates to 1866 and is constructed of rock-faced stone with ashlar dressings and slate roof. with first floor meeting hall. It is no longer used for worship and has been converted into provision for childcare.

The church originally sat in a relatively isolated location along the edge of the settlement at Castleton however the setting has slowly been enveloped within residential development from the mid-20th century onwards.

The sensitive aspects of the church's setting can be understood as the immediate land parcel within which it sits, including its walls, gates and railings, as well as its relationship with the contemporary terraced houses on the opposite side of Heywood road, with are constructed of similar materials to the church. This setting can best be appreciated looking west along Heywood Road. Development within the Site will have not affect the significance of the setting of the church.

Castleton South Conservation Area

Castleton predominantly developed during the late 19th century, when the area was connected to the railway in 1841. It was initially known as Blue Pits and rapidly expanded, with industry springing up along the canal and railway, houses and shops along the spine of Manchester Road and residential areas to the north and east. This has led to the development of distinct character areas and this distinctive townscape remains today. Its significance is drawn from its illustrative value as an example of rapid expansion due to the influence of the industrial revolution.

The wider setting consists of further later 19th century onwards development although it is predominantly mid-late 20th century in date and does not contribute to the significance of the conservation area.

Although the Site does not contribute to the significance of the setting of the conservation area, it is located immediately west of the railway line which is recognised as an important aspect of the conservation area's character and a historic gateway to the town. Therefore, it is recommended that development within the Site respects the density of existing residential development to the north and east, and that efforts are made not to obliterate views towards the conservation area (including the Church of St Martin) from the Site.



Plate 2: View from the Site looking east. Note the pleasant view east towards the Church of St Martin and the Castleton South conservation area. Efforts should be made within the design of the development to incorporate sight lines and vantage points from where this view can be appreciated. Photo copyright Bill Boaden.

Archaeological Resource

Desk-based research has shown:

- Part of the Site was former mossland, known as Maden Moss (GE **06**; see Figure 1 and Table 2, below)
- The Site was extensively developed during the late 19th century as sidings and engineering stores at the junction of Liverpool, Bolton and Bury and Lancashire and Yorkshire railway lines. It was expanded again in the mid-20th century.
- These buildings have now been cleared and the Site is vacant

The later 19th century buildings are of little significance and it is thought that any earlier archaeological remains will have been severely truncated by later development. There is, therefore, thought to exist no buried archaeological resource of any significance within the Site.

Gazetteer Number (see Figure 1)	Site Name	Significance	Period	NGR	Description
6	Maden Moss (site of)	Negligible (very low)	Unknown	387803, 410061	Site of Maden Moss, a possible area of peat marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey. Likely destroyed during the development of Castleton Sidings.
7	Castleton Sidings and Engineering Stores (site of)	Negligible (very low)	Industrial	387625, 410017	Late 19th century engineering stores and sidings at the Castleton North Junction. Most of the buildings were demolished during the mid-20th century and completely cleared during the late 20th century. Buried remains of these may survive within the Site, although their significance is very low.

Table 2: Archaeological resource within the Site

Historic Landscape

The Site was heavily developed during the later 19th century and there are no surviving features of historic landscape interest within the Site.

Recommendations for the Historic Environment

Heritage Area	Key Issues	Recommendations
Archaeology	Site of former mossland however later 19 th century development is likely to have removed this	None (No further archaeological work is recommended).
Built Heritage	Castleton South conservation area, including Church of St Martin.	It is recommended that development within the Site generally respects the density and height of existing residential development to the north and east. It is also recommended that efforts are made within the Masterplan design to incorporate sight lines and viewpoints towards the Church (and the conservation within which it sits) from the Site.
Historic Landscape	Site was redeveloped during the late 19 th century and no historic landscape features survive.	None.

Table 3: Heritage recommendations

Sources

Sinclair, C. 2012 *Castleton (South): Conservation Area Appraisal* Rochdale MBC Report

Wardell Armstrong 2013 *Trub Farm, Rochdale: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*

Wardell Armstrong 2014 *Trub Farm, Rochdale: Archaeological Evaluation Report*

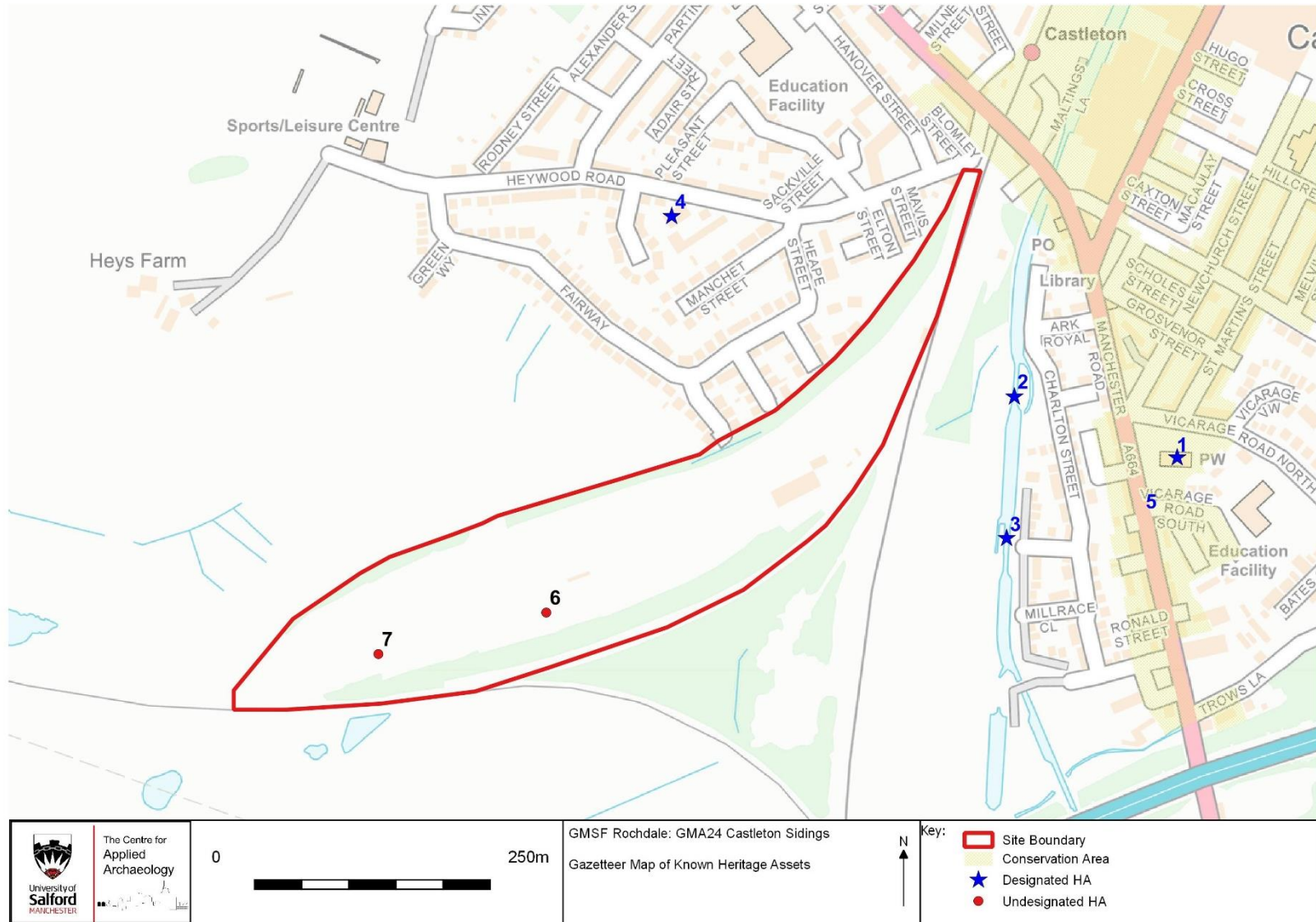


Figure 1: Map showing location of the gazetteer entries, or 'HAs' (heritage assets) in relation to the Site

