



**Bridge Farm, Dale Lane,
Simonswood, Lancashire, L33 3AU.
August 2016
V 2.0**

aeon archaeology



Archaeological Assessment
Project Code: A0089.1
Report no. 0095



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Simonswood, Lancashire, L33 3AU.
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Archaeological Assessment

Aeon Archaeology
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Project Code: A0089.1

Date: 05/08/2016

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr and Mrs N. Langton (owners) to carry out an archaeological assessment and field visit of a proposed development of a new golf course, located on land to the immediate north east of Bridge Farm, Dale Lane, Simonswood, Lancashire L33 3AU.

The archaeological assessment did not identify any sites considered to be above local importance within the proposed development site or indeed within the localised landscape. Moreover, the majority of the archaeological features recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record are agricultural features or buildings of post-medieval date.

There are no registered World Heritage Sites, Archaeological Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, or Listed Buildings within the site or within the localised landscape. Therefore, this assessment confirms that the Site does not contain any designated heritage assets for which there would be a presumption in favour of preservation in situ and against development. There are no known undesignated archaeological assets within the Site.

The archaeological potential for buried preserved remains of the Prehistoric, Roman, and medieval periods is considered to be unknown. The potential for buried remains relating to the post-medieval period is considered to be high and to most likely take the form of extant historic field boundaries.

On the basis of the evidence presented in this assessment the proposed development on the Site would not be contrary to any local or national policy.

2.0 INTRODUCTION, AIMS AND PROJECT DESIGN

Aeon Archaeology was commissioned by Mr and Mrs N. Langton (owners) to carry out an archaeological assessment and field visit of a proposed development of a new golf course, located on land to the immediate north east of Bridge Farm, Dale Lane, Simonswood, Lancashire L33 3AU (figure 1).

The assessment has been carried out in advance of planning application as part of a feasibility study into the viability and potential constraints of the proposed development.

This archaeological assessment is for the proposed development area, which includes two large enclosed agricultural fields forming an L-shape. As part of the archaeological assessment a 1.0km search area centred on the proposed development site was utilised for a search of the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER). This provided a background historical narrative of the area and included source material from the Lancashire Archives and Record Office, Preston. Information on Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings was obtained from Historic England.

The following report conforms to the guidelines specified in *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).

The archaeological assessment considered the following:

- (i) The history of the site;
- (ii) The significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally;
- (iii) The potential impact of the proposed development on known sites of archaeological importance including their setting.

The archaeological assessment was undertaken in four stages:

- (i) Archival research
- (ii) Field visit/site walkover of all accessible areas
- (iii) Written report
- (iv) Project archive



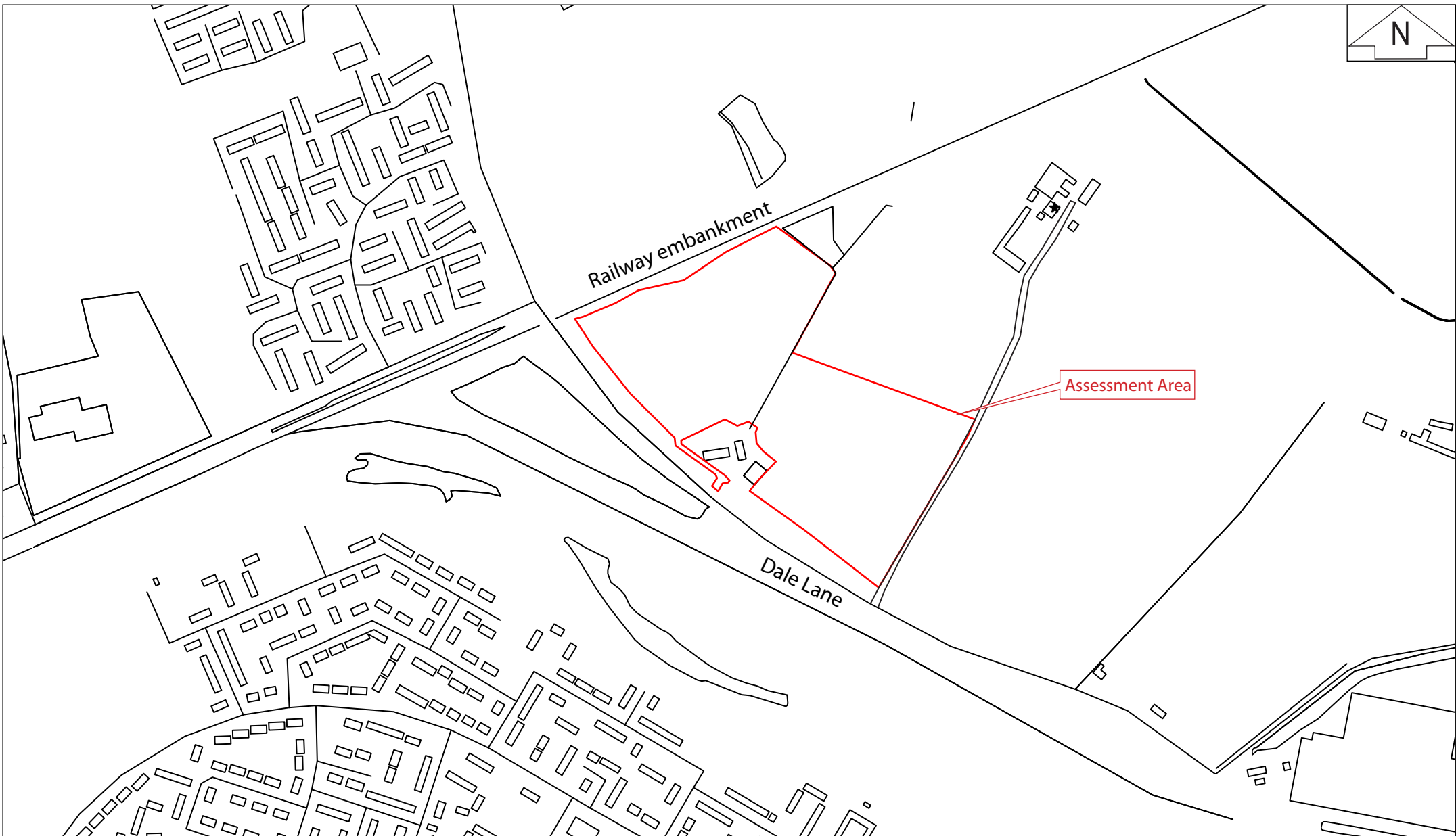
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Figure 01: Location of assessment area at Bridge Farm, Simonswood.

Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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Figure 02: Location of assessment area at Bridge Farm, Simonswood.
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3.0 METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

3.1 Archival research

The archaeological assessment involved the study of the following records:

- The regional Historic Environment Record (1 Carr House Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1SW) was examined for information concerning the study area. This included an examination of the core HER, and secondary information held within the record which included unpublished reports, the 1:2500 and 1:10,560 County Series Ordnance Survey maps, and the National Archaeological Record index cards and aerial photography.
- Information and locations of Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, historic battlefields, building preservation notices, certificates of immunity, heritage at risk register, historic parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites were obtained from Historic England.
- Secondary sources were examined, including works held within the regional libraries.
- Results from previous archaeological work within the area was also reviewed.

3.2 Site walkover

The site walkover was carried out on 3rd August 2016 by Richard Cooke BA MA MCifA, archaeological contractor and consultant at Aeon Archaeology. The weather conditions were ideal for the field search being both bright and clear. All archaeological sites and view points were photographed using a digital SLR (Canon 600D) set to maximum resolution.

3.3 Assessment report

All features identified from the archival research and site walkover were assessed and allocated to categories of international, national, regional/county, local and none/unknown importance as listed in section 6.0. These are intended to place the archaeological feature within a geographical context of importance and thus help inform the most suitable level of mitigatory response. The criteria used for allocating features to categories of importance are based on existing statutory designations and, for non-designated assets, the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria for Scheduling Ancient Monuments; these are set out in National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

3.4 Project archive

A full archive including plans, photographs and written material was prepared. All plans, photographs and written descriptions were labelled and cross-referenced using Aeon Archaeology pro-formas. A draft copy of the report was sent to the client and upon written approval from them paper and digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER (x1) (1 Carr House Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1SW), and to the Lancashire Development Control Archaeologist if planning application is made. A copy of the report will also be lodged with the online OASIS database. Copies of all notes, plans, and photographs from the assessment are stored at Aeon Archaeology under the project code **A0089.1** with the originals being lodged in a suitable repository to be agreed with the archaeological curator.

4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Topographic Description

The proposed development site occupies 5.79 ha located over two large enclosed agricultural fields situated perpendicular to one another in an L-shape to the immediate northeast of Dale Farm. The site is bounded by Dale Lane to the southwest; the Liverpool, Bolton and Bury railway line and embankment to the northwest; a single track access road also known as Dale Lane to the southeast; and enclosed fields to the northeast. The fields are given over to the production of hay and had recently been cut back to stubble. The land appears generally flat but in fact gently slopes from 36.0m OD in the northwest to 37.0m OD in the southeast.

The site lies within the parish of Simonswood within the historic county of Lancashire, centred on NGR SD 42506 00091. Mostly given over to agriculture the landscape is dominated by large fields enclosed by hedgerows and wire fence, and is utilised both for pastoral and arable farming. The two large development fields are separated by a field boundary orientated northeast to southwest and demarcated by a hedgerow and dyke.

The bedrock geology is of the Sherwood Sandstone Group, a sandstone sedimentary bedrock that formed approximately 229 to 271 million years ago in the Triassic and Permian Periods within an environment previously dominated by rivers. The superficial deposits are of the Shirdley Hill Sand formation, a sand deposit which formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period within an environment previously dominated by wind-blown deposits (British Geological Survey).

4.2 Statutory and non-statutory designations

4.2.1 Non-designated monument points from the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (figure 3)

The Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER) maintains a register of non-designated archaeological sites represented as single point data or as polygons. These are identified through their Primary Reference Number (PRN). These include sites which are of archaeological/historical interest, artefact find spots, documentary evidence, and locations of past events such as archaeological projects.

There are 9 non-designated monuments within 1.0km of the proposed development (see appendix I) but the following lie within 100.0m of the site boundary:

- (i) Approximately 10.0m southeast of the post-medieval *Liverpool and Bury Railway* (PRN: 42,078).

4.2.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Scheduled monuments are those considered to be monuments of national importance. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 supports a formal system of Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for any work to a designated monument. Any works within a Scheduled area will require SMC; this includes non-invasive techniques such as geophysics or field-walking.

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 1.0km of the proposed development.

4.2.3 Listed Buildings

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport holds a List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, considered to be of national importance. Compiled under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the List includes structures from boundary walls and telephone boxes to cathedrals. Listing gives statutory protection and restrictions apply. Consent may be required for works to, or that affect the setting of, a Listed Building and the LPA conservation officer should be consulted if in doubt.

There are no Listed Buildings within 1.0km of the proposed development site.

4.2.4 Conservation Areas

A Conservation Area is an area considered worthy of preservation or enhancement because of its special architectural or historic interest, "the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance," as required by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (Section 69 and 70). There are additional planning controls over certain works carried out within the Conservation Area. The designation does not preclude development from taking place, but does require that developments preserve or enhance the historic character of the area, for example by ensuring that newly constructed buildings are of a high quality design. Conservation Area status also removes some permitted development rights that apply in undesignated areas.

There are no conservation areas within the site boundary or within 1.0km of the proposed development area.

4.2.5 Historic Parks and Gardens

Historic England holds a Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. These Registered landscapes are graded I, II* or II, and include private gardens, public parks and other green spaces. They are valued for their design, diversity and historical importance. Inclusion on the Register brings no additional statutory controls, but there is a presumption in favour of conservation of the designated site. Local authorities are required to consult English Heritage on applications affecting sites Registered as grade I or II* and the Garden History Society on sites of all grades.

There are no historic parks and gardens within the site boundary or within 1.0km of the proposed development area.

4.2.6 Historic Landscapes (figure 4)

The Lancashire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (HLC) aims to improve the understanding of the County's landscape, and provide a context for its archaeological sites and monuments. Historic landscape characterisation provides a framework for informed landscape management strategies, spatial planning, development control and conservation issues at a local, regional and national level. HLC underpins historic environment advice given to planners, district councils and other environment or conservation agencies, enabling future changes within the historic environment to be monitored. HLC promotes a framework, a background understanding and a better informed starting point from which to consider issues and proposals. It provides information, not judgements, and does not identify the "best" areas, rather allowing appropriate decisions to be made in the light of proposed change. HLC seeks to identify surviving time-depth - the legibility and past within the present landscape; thus, facilitating the sustainable management of the historic components and setting of the contemporary landscape.

The proposed development area lies within the following HLCs:

- (i) Wholly within the *Post-medieval enclosure* Historic Landscape Character Area (ref.352).

4.2.7 World Heritage Sites

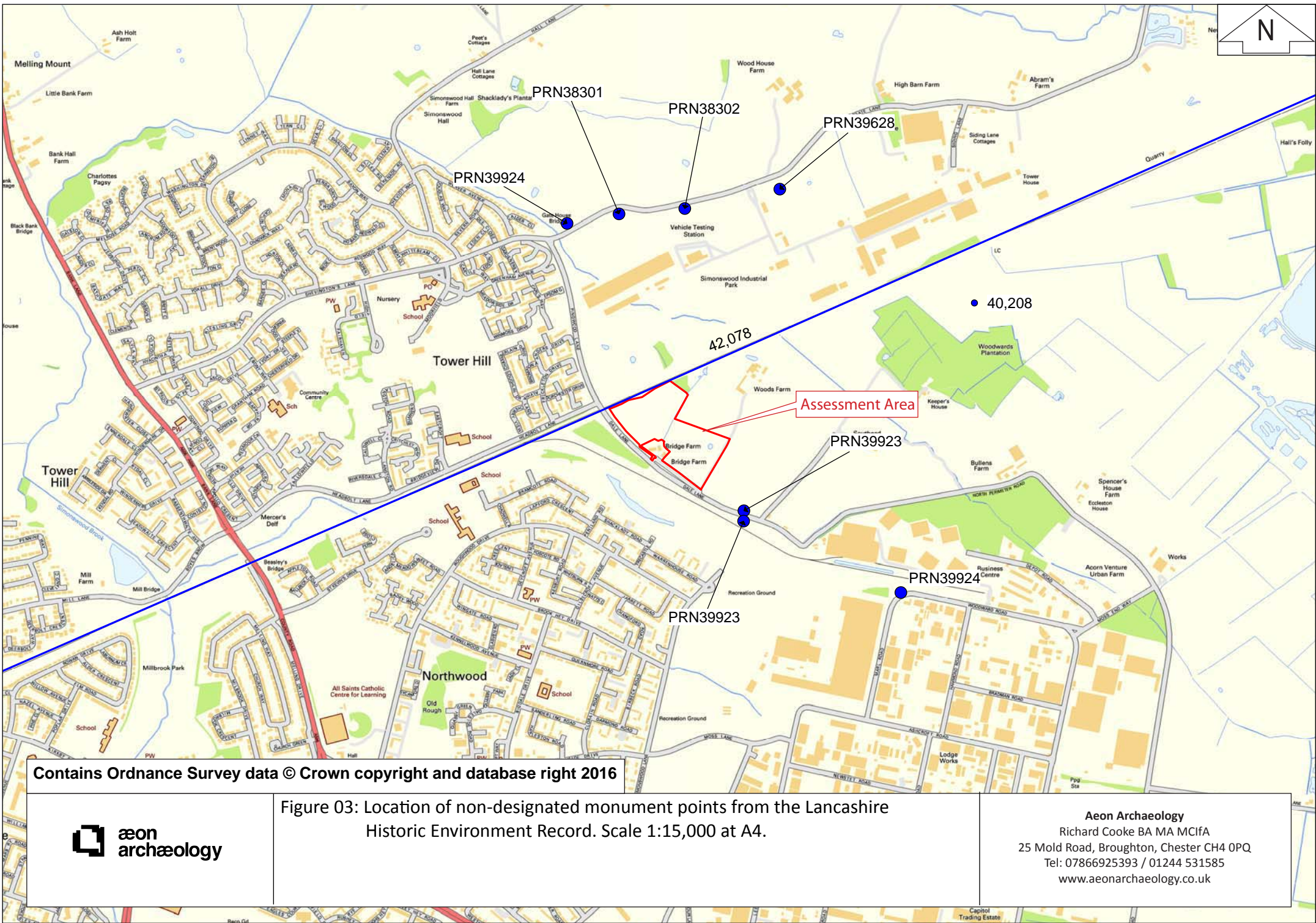
The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) seeks to encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity. This is embodied in an international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972. The programme catalogues, names, and conserves sites of outstanding cultural or natural importance to the common heritage of humanity.

National Planning Policy Framework defines a World Heritage Site as a designated heritage asset. Accordingly, great weight should be given to its conservation and substantial harm to a World Heritage Site's significance (the heritage aspects of its Outstanding Universal Value) or total loss of the site should be wholly exceptional.

There are no World Heritage Sites within the site boundary or within 1.0km of the proposed development area.

4.2.8 Events

There has not been any past project work undertaken by Aeon Archaeology or any other archaeological contractor within the proposed development site. The site was however included within the Knowsley Historic Settlement Study as part of the Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project undertaken by The Museum of Liverpool in 2011. This provided a brief historical narrative of the development of the township of Simonswood but did not provide any information directly relating to the proposed development site.

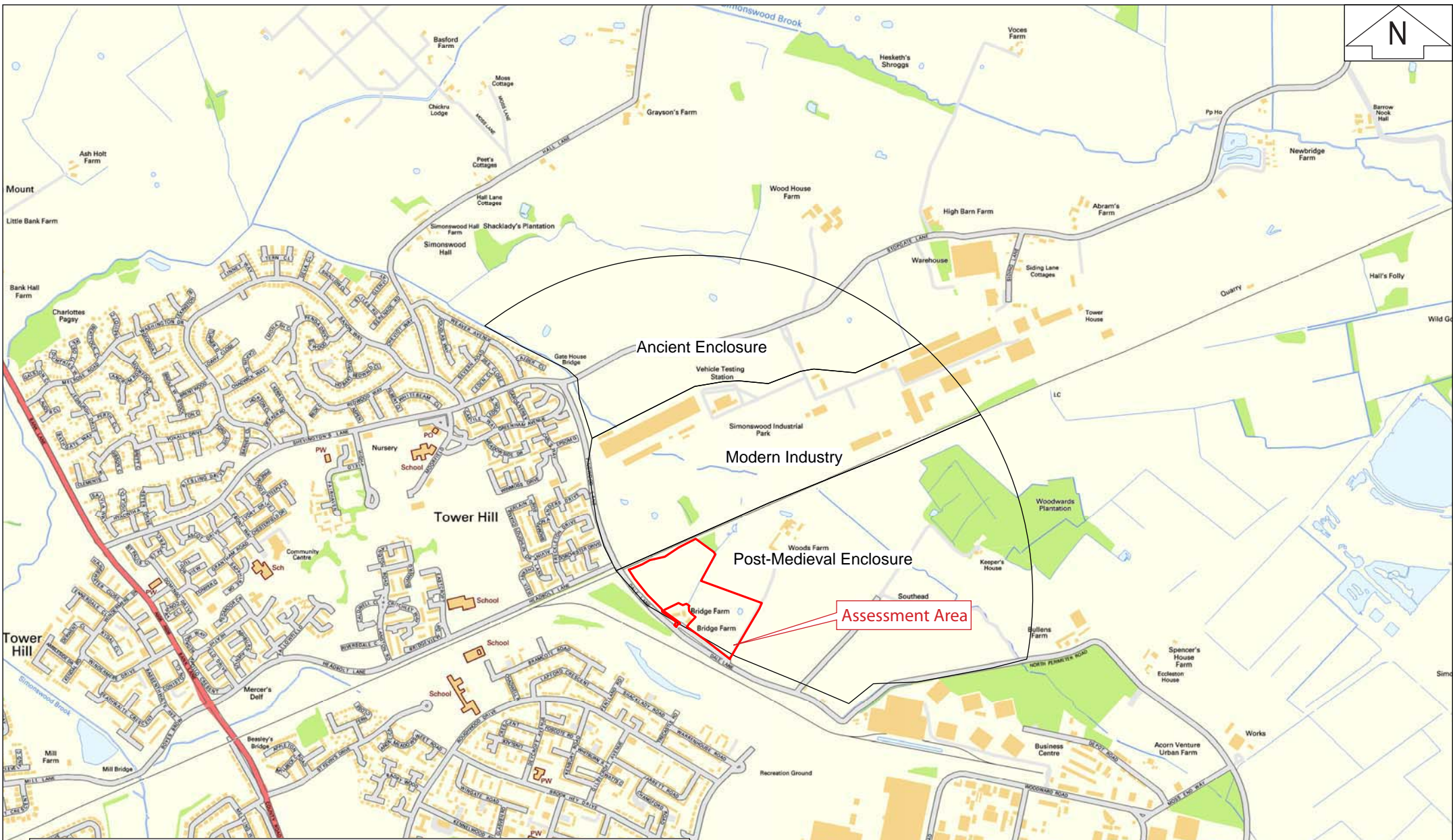


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Figure 03: Location of non-designated monument points from the Lancashire Historic Environment Record. Scale 1:15,000 at A4.

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Figure 04: Location of Historic Landscape Character Areas. Scale 1:15,000 at A4.



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Plate 01: View across field 1, from the west.



Plate 02: View across field 2, from the southeast.

5.0 THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The following sections describe the known archaeological record within the general area of the proposed development. Sites are identified by their Primary Reference Number (PRN) which is the number by which they are identified in the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER), or by their Scheduled Ancient Monument reference, Listed Building reference and/or their National Primary Reference Number (NPRN) if applicable. The intention of this section is to provide a historic and archaeological context to the site. This aids in establishing the relative importance of an archaeological feature within its landscape, as well as assessing the potential for unknown buried archaeological remains on the proposed development site.

The beginning and end of certain periods is a contentious issue. In the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (CHER) the following dates are used. This is a standard convention across all English HERs.

Table 1. Historic periods

Palaeolithic (prehistoric)	500,000 BC – 10,001 BC
Mesolithic (prehistoric)	10,000 BC – 4,001 BC
Neolithic (prehistoric)	4,000 BC – 2,351 BC
Bronze Age (prehistoric)	2,350 BC – 801 BC
Iron Age (prehistoric)	800 BC – 42 AD
Romano-British	43 AD – 409 AD
Post-Roman (Early Medieval)	410 AD – 1065 AD
Medieval	1066 AD – 1539 AD
Post-Medieval	1540 AD – 1900 AD
Modern	1901 AD – 2050 AD

5.1 Prehistoric and Roman Period

The prehistoric and Roman periods are poorly represented within the localised landscape and there are no known sites within 1.0km of the proposed development site.

The palaeo-environmental analysis of Simonswood Moss, located approximately 1.7km to the east of the proposed development site, has revealed phases of woodland clearance dating to 5440 BP +/- 160, 2730 BP +/- 100, and 790-257 BC. Evidence for crop cultivation dates to around 1000 BP, although eras of inactivity appear throughout the medieval period. Furthermore, prehistoric flint scatters have been found in fields to the north of the township and Romano-British coins were found in Simonswood Brook in the 19th Century (Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project, 2011).

5.2 Early Medieval, Medieval and Post-Medieval Periods

The Early Medieval period is poorly represented within the localised landscape and there is only one known Early Medieval site within 1.0km of the assessment area. This is the site of an Early Medieval/Medieval cross recorded in 1302 and lying approximately 900.0m to the northeast of the site boundary. This cross is now missing and the exact location is unknown (PRN: 40,208).

Simonswood was not listed in the Domesday Book. The first written documentation concerning the township is noted in the Victoria County History of Lancashire, vol 3 where the township name is recorded as *Simundeswude* in 1207; *Simundeswod* in 1297; and

Symondeswode in 1391. The Victoria County History records that ‘Simonswood was taken into the forest after the coronation of Henry II’. ‘In 1228 [it was] declared that it ought to be disafforested and restored to the heirs of Richards Son of Roger, lords of the vill of Kirkby’. In 1507 Simonswood was granted to William Molyneux, and the township remained within the Molyneux family until the 19th Century.

There was no nucleated settlement in the medieval and post-medieval periods, and evidence is lacking for medieval settlement of any form, although the township is unlikely to have been entirely devoid of settlement. The township was royal forest from the reign of Henry III until the early 16th Century. In 1507 it was described as ‘waste ground...overgrown with wood of little or no value and watery or Moorish and mossy ground with little or no grass on it’, but by the mid 18th Century the land was cleared and enclosed (Merseyside Historic Characterisation Project, 2011).

The proposed development site is first depicted on the Earl of Sefton Estate map of Simonswood of 1769 (figure 05). The map depicts Dale Lane to the southwest as well as Bridge Farm, which is shown as a rectangular building orientated northeast to southwest. The Liverpool and Bury railway had not been constructed by this point in time and the surrounding area, including the proposed development site, is shown as being occupied by enclosed fields. Field 1 of the development site is shown divided into three separate fields, as well as an associated garden to the farm, and part of another enclosed field to the northwest which was later cut through by the railway. The map shows the field names as being *Pingate, Ley Hey, Barn Hey, and Brick Kiln Croft*. The latter of these names suggests that a post-medieval brick kiln was likely sited within the field, which possibly provided the bricks for the construction of Bridge Farm itself.

Field 2 is shown much as it exists today, as a single field bound by both Dale Lanes and with a pond in the eastern field corner. The field name is shown as *Little Bean Stubble* and clearly references the crops being cultivated there.

The site is again shown in detail on the Earl of Sefton Estate map of Simonswood of 1784 (figure 06), 1839 (figure 07), and the Simonswood tithe map of 1840 (figure 08). All three of these maps depict the proposed development site the same as the 1769 estate map and no additional features are shown. Moreover, there does not appear to have been any alteration in the layout of Bridge Farm, the enclosed fields, or the location of the pond at the western end of the site. The tithe apportionment for the 1840 map does however provide the following field plot information:

Table 2. Apportionment to the 1840 tithe map of Simonswood

Field No	Landowner	Occupier	Field Name	Use	A/R/P
358	The Earl of Sefton	Joseph Woods	Ley Hey	Meadow	3/1/5
359			Barn Hey	Pasture	3/3/32
377			Little Bean Stubble	Clover	6/0/26
378			Brick Kiln Croft	Wheat	2/0/0
379			House, buildings and garden	Garden	0/1/19
380			Pingate	Pasture	3/0/0

As can be seen from the 1840 tithe apportionment, the proposed development site formed parts of six plots all within the ownership of the Earl of Sefton and tenanted by Joseph

Woods. The field names provided on the schedule match those shown on the earlier estate map of 1769.

By the production of the first edition 6" County Series Ordnance Survey map of c.1865 (figure 09) the assessment area more closely resembles how the site appears today. The Liverpool and Bury railway is shown bounding the north-western limit of the site and the plots within field 1 have been amalgamated to form one large enclosed field. An outbuilding is depicted to the northeast of Bridge Farm and the pond is still depicted in the eastern corner of the site. No other features of note are shown.

The proposed development site is again shown in detail on the first edition 25" County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1893 (figure 10), as well as on the second edition 25" County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1909 (figure 11), and on the third edition 25" County Series Ordnance Survey map of 1927 (figure 12). All three of these maps show the site exactly how it exists today and no features of note are depicted.



Figure 05: Location of assessment area on the estate map of Simonswood 1769.



Figure 06: Location of assessment area on the estate map of Simonswood 1784.

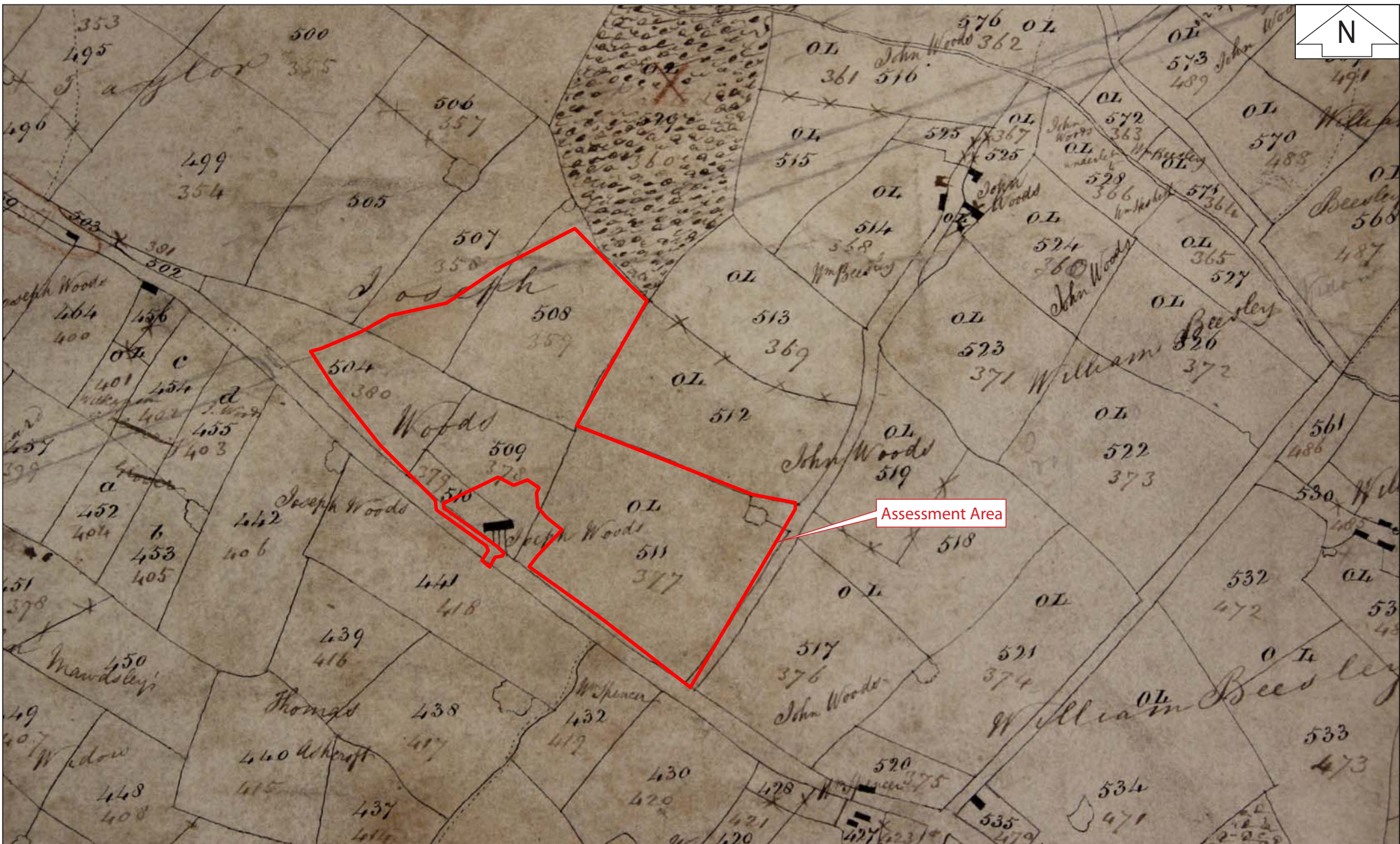


Figure 07: Location of assessment area on the estate map of Simonswood 1839.

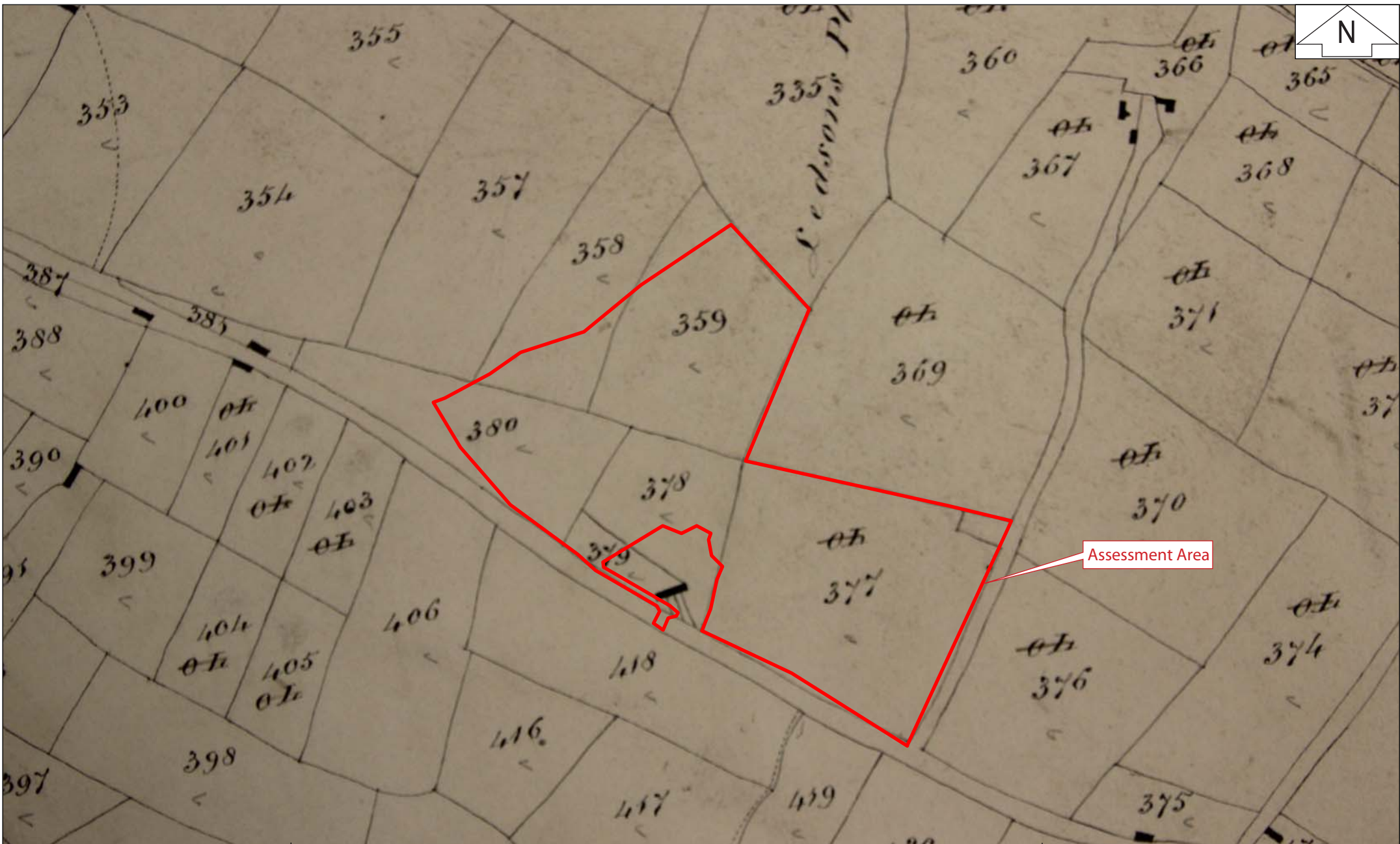


Figure 08: Location of assessment area on the Simonswood tithe map of 1840.

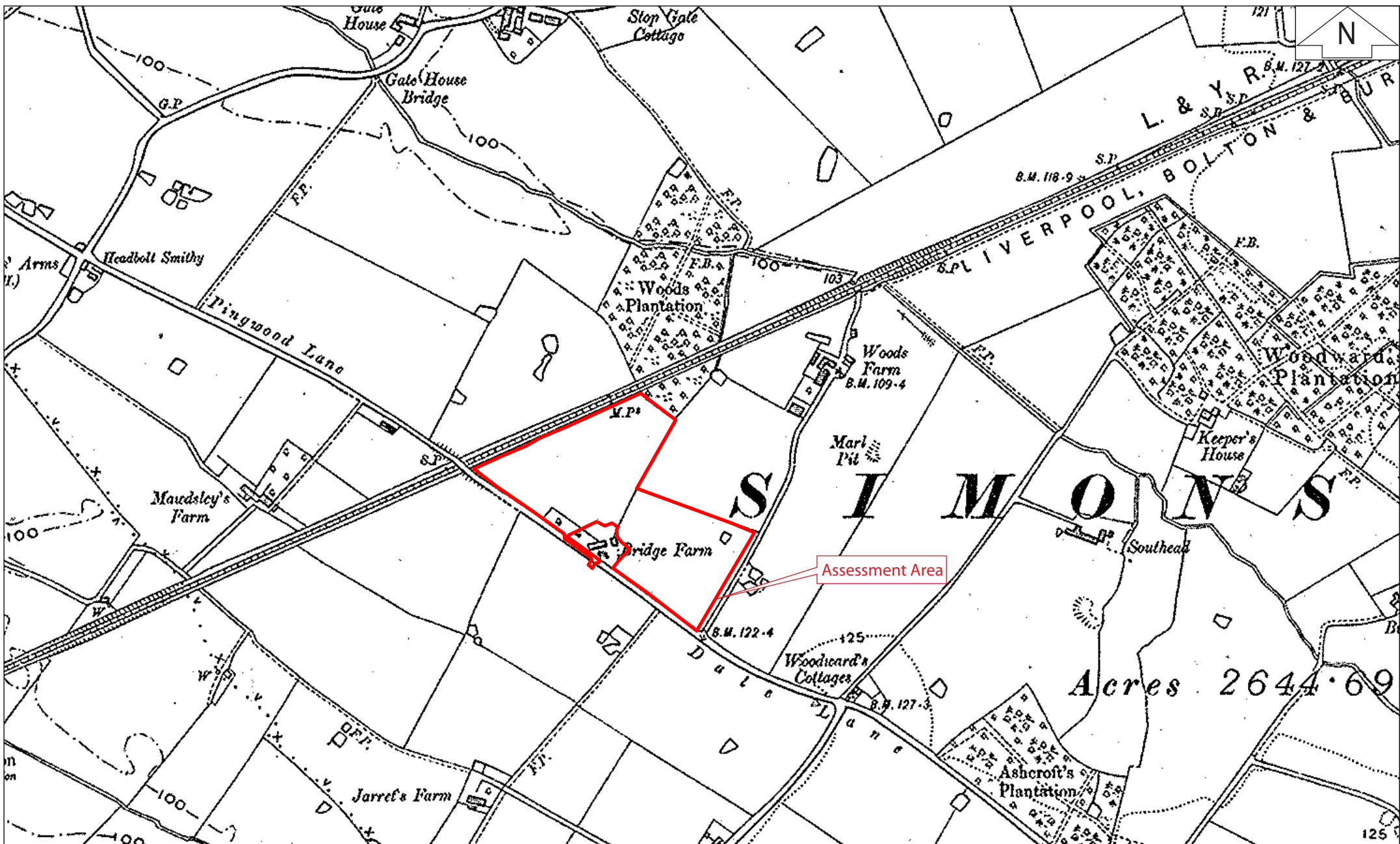


Figure 09: Location of assessment area on the First Edition County Series 6" Ordnance Survey map of c.1865.



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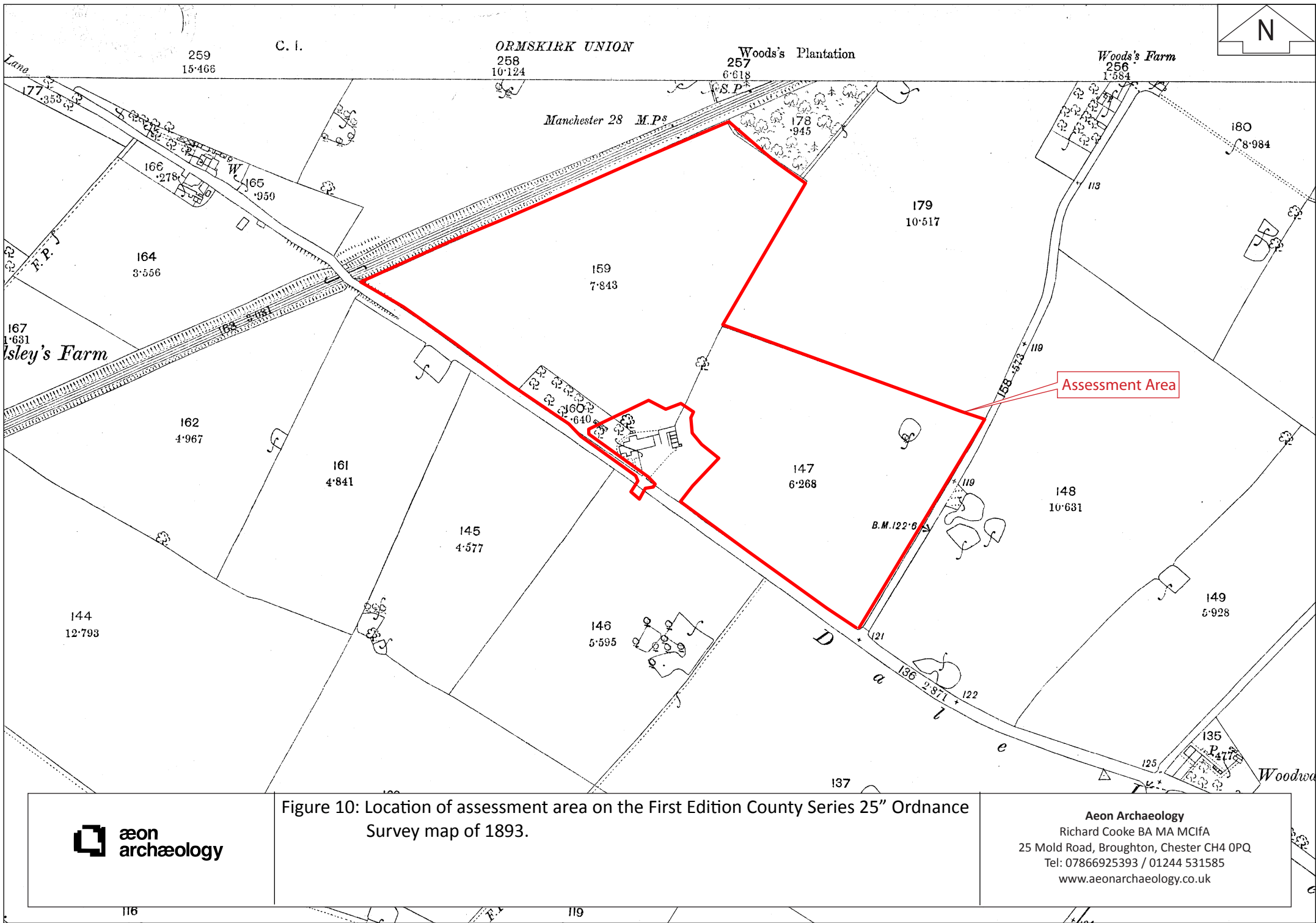


Figure 10: Location of assessment area on the First Edition County Series 25" Ordnance Survey map of 1893.



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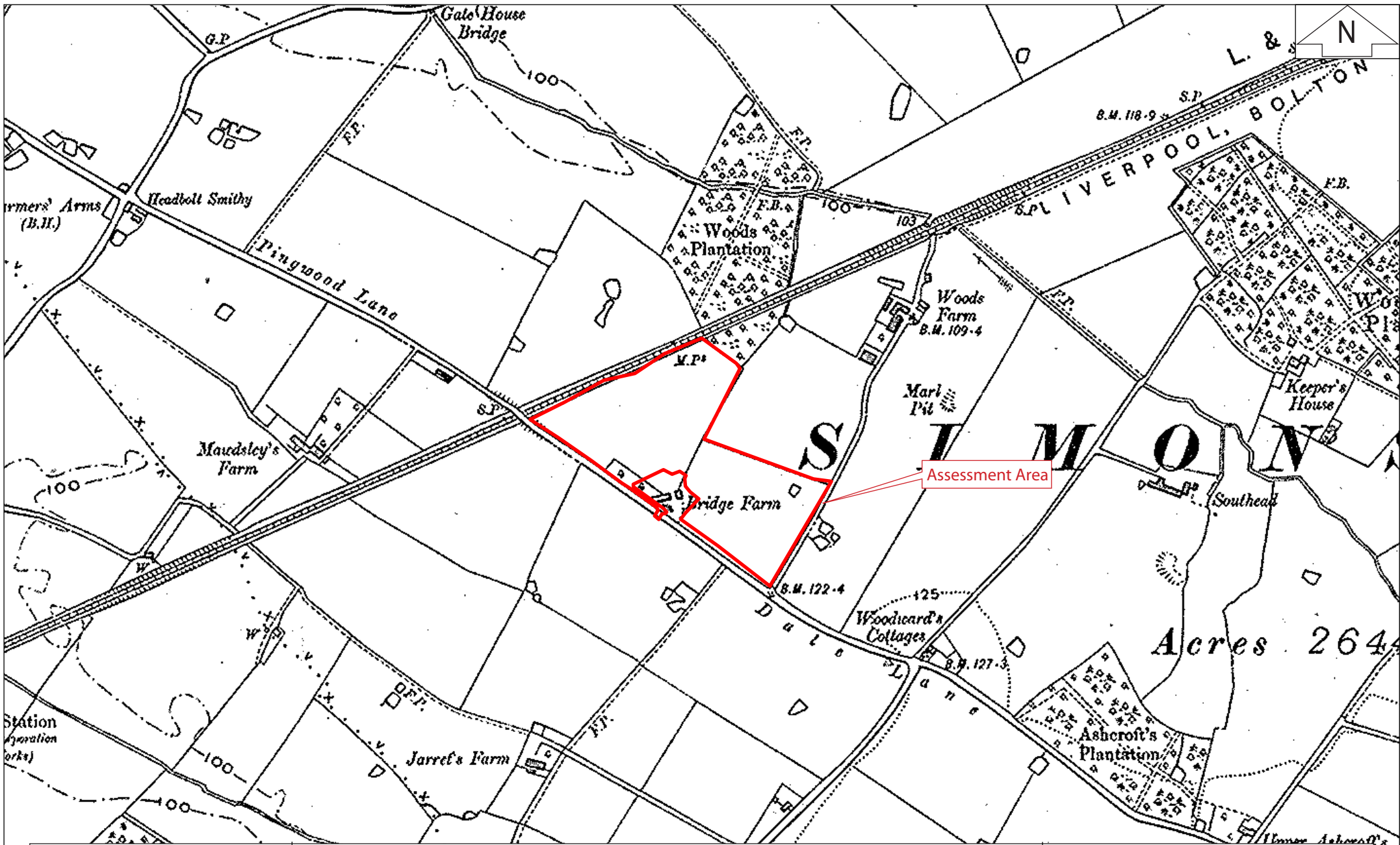


Figure 11: Location of assessment area on the Second Edition County Series 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1909.



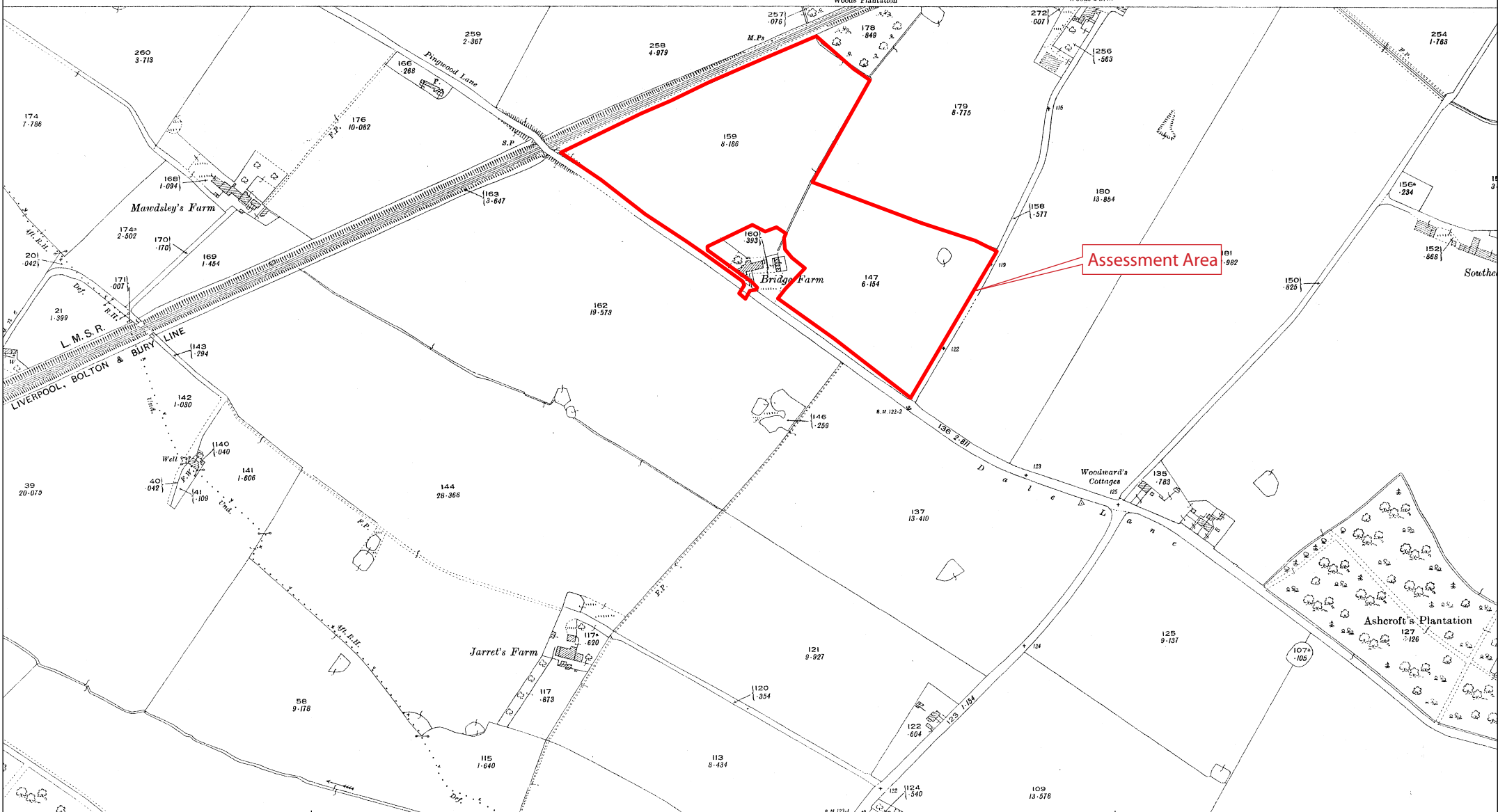
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38, 139, 142, 143, 145, 146, 150, 151, 152, 156, 163, 167, 168, 172.

EDITION OF 1927

C. I. ORMSKIRK UNION WEST LANCASHIRE R.D. AREAS TO PLAN EDGE ONLY



Assessment Area



Figure 12: Location of assessment area on the Third Edition County Series 25" Ordnance Survey map of 1927.

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6.0 ASSESSMENT OF HISTORICAL ASSETS

6.1 Definitions

Definitions of importance, impact, and significance of effect as used in the gazetteer (section 6.2) are listed below.

1. Definition of Categories of importance

The following categories were used to define the importance of the archaeological resource.

Significance	Description
International (Very High)	Archaeological sites or monuments of international importance, including World Heritage Sites. Structures and buildings inscribed as of universal importance as World Heritage Sites. Other buildings or structures of recognised international importance.
National (High)	Ancient monuments scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, or archaeological sites and remains of comparable quality, assessed with reference to the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria. Listed Buildings. Undesignated structures of national importance.
Regional/ County (Medium)	Conservation Areas Archaeological sites and remains which, while not of national importance, score well against most of the Secretary of State's criteria.
Local (Low)	Archaeological sites that score less well against the Secretary of State's criteria. Historic buildings on a 'local list'.
Negligible/None	Areas in which investigative techniques have produced no or only minimal evidence for archaeological remains, or where previous large-scale disturbance or removal of deposits can be demonstrated.
Unknown	Archaeological sites whose importance cannot be determined with the information currently at hand. This can include sites where the extent of buried remains is unknown.

2. Definition of Impact

The direct impact of the proposed development on each site was estimated. The impact is defined as follows:

Magnitude	Direct Impacts	Indirect Impacts
High Adverse	Complete removal of an archaeological site. Complete destruction of a designated building or structure.	Radical transformation of the setting of an archaeological monument. A fundamental change in the setting of a building.
Medium Adverse	Removal of a major part of an archaeological site and loss of research potential. Extensive alteration (but not demolition) of a historic building or feature, resulting in an appreciable adverse change.	Partial transformation of the setting of an archaeological site (e.g. the introduction of significant noise or vibration levels to an archaeological monument leading to changes to amenity use, accessibility or appreciation of an archaeological site). Partial adverse transformation of the setting of a designated building.
Low Adverse	Removal of an archaeological site where a minor part of its total area is removed but the site retains a significant future research potential. Change to a historic building or feature resulting in a small change in the resource and its historical context and setting.	Minor change to the setting of an archaeological monument or historic building.
Negligible/ Neutral	No impact from changes in use, amenity or access. No change in the ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its historical context and setting.	No perceptible change in the setting of a building or feature.
Low Beneficial	Land use change resulting in improved conditions for the protection of archaeological remains or understanding/ appreciation of a historic building or place	Decrease in visual or noise intrusion on the setting of a building, archaeological site or monument. Improvement of the wider landscape setting of a building, archaeological site or monument.
Medium Beneficial	Land use change resulting in improved conditions for the protection of archaeological remains, or understanding/ appreciation of a historic building or place, including through interpretation measures (heritage trails, etc). Removal of harmful alterations to better reveal the significance of a building or structure, with no loss of significant fabric.	Significant reduction or removal of visual or noise intrusion on the setting of a building, archaeological site or monument; and Improvement of the wider landscape setting of a building, archaeological site or monument Improvement of the cultural heritage amenity, access or use of a building, archaeological site or monument.
High Beneficial	Arrest of physical damage or decay to a building or structure;	Exceptional enhancement of a building or archaeological site, its cultural heritage amenity and access or use

3. The significance of effect

The significance of effect is derived from the importance of the resource and the magnitude of the impact upon it.

Very large - A serious impact on a site of international or national importance with little or no scope for mitigation. These effects represent key factors in the decision making process.

Large - Lesser impacts on sites of national importance and serious impacts on sites of regional importance, with some scope for mitigation. These factors should be seen as being very important considerations in the decision making process.

Moderate - Moderate or minor impacts on sites of regional importance and minor to major impacts on sites of local or minor importance. A range of mitigatory measures should be available.

Slight - Negligible impacts on sites of regional, local or minor importance and minor and moderate impacts on minor or damaged sites. A range of basic mitigatory measures should be available.

Neutral - No perceptible effect or change to sites of all categories.

The significance of effect will be determined using the table below, a basic matrix combining archaeological value and magnitude of impact.

Determination of Significance of Effect

Archaeological Value	International	Neutral	Moderate or Large	Large or Very Large	Very Large
	National	Neutral	Moderate or Slight	Moderate or Large	Large or Very Large
	Regional	Neutral	Slight	Moderate	Moderate or Large
	Local	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Slight	Moderate or Slight
	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral or Slight	Neutral or Slight	Slight
		None	Low	Medium	High
		Magnitude of impact			

7.0 SITE GAZETTEER – PHYSICAL IMPACTS

The field walkover discovered 8 sites of archaeological and historic interest within the proposed development site with one additional site being identified from historic maps, as listed below.

In accordance with Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework each heritage asset has been assigned a level of importance ranked from International through to National, Regional/County, Local, and None. If it is not possible to assess the importance of the site from the visible remains, then it is ranked Unknown with the suspected importance level placed in brackets if possible. Identified sites were also assigned a level of impact ranked from High through to Medium, and Low. Levels of impact can be considered as both adverse or beneficial, and can be direct (physically impacting upon a site) or indirect (indirectly physically impacting upon a site). The significance of effect is determined from the importance level of the resource and the magnitude of the impact upon it. Where it is expected that a site will be impacted upon by the proposed works then mitigation/assessment recommendations are provided. All archaeological/historical sites identified are depicted on figure 13 and the location and orientation of photographs are shown on figure 14.

1. Hedgerow field boundary	
Figure: 13 and 14	Plate: 3
NGR: SD 42316 00156 – SD 42611 99899	Period: Post-medieval
<p>Description A hedgerow field boundary runs from southeast to northwest marking the southern limit of the proposed development site. It measures approximately 1.0m - 2.0m in height and is made up primarily of bramble and other shrubs. The field boundary is first depicted on the Earl of Sefton's Estate map of Simonswood 1769 (figure 05) and although the actual age of the boundary is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered "important" if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts.</p> <p>It is expected that the hedgerow will be retained as part of the development and as such no further assessment or mitigatory measures are recommended.</p>	
Category of importance: Local	
Level of impact: None	
Significance of effect: Neutral	
Recommendations for further assessment: None	
Recommendations for further mitigatory measures: None	



Plate 03: Hedgerow field boundary (feature 1), from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.

2. Hedgerow field boundary	
Figure: 13 and 14	Plate: 4
NGR: SD 42316 00156 – SD 42512 00245	Period: Post-medieval
<p>Description A hedgerow field boundary runs from southwest to northeast marking the western limit of the proposed development site. It measures approximately 3.0m - 4.0m in height and is made up primarily of hawthorn trees. The field boundary is first depicted on the First edition 6” County Series Ordnance Survey map of c.1865 (figure 09) and was established to form the eastern limit of the Liverpool-Bury railway embankment in 1848. Under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts.</p> <p>It is expected that the hedgerow will be retained as part of the development and as such no further assessment or mitigatory measures are recommended.</p>	
Category of importance: Local	
Level of impact: None	
Significance of effect: Neutral	
Recommendations for further assessment: None	
Recommendations for further mitigatory measures: None	



Plate 04: Hedgerow field boundary (feature 2), from the southeast. Scale 1.0m.

3. Hedgerow field boundary	
Figure: 13 and 14	Plate: 5
NGR: SD 42512 00245 – SD 42569 00201	Period: Post-medieval
<p>Description A hedgerow field boundary runs from northwest to southeast marking the northern limit of the proposed development site. It measures approximately 10.0m - 15.0m in height and is made up primarily of hawthorn and mature deciduous trees. The field boundary is first depicted on the Earl of Sefton’s Estate map of Simonswood 1769 (figure 05) and although the actual age of the boundary is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts.</p> <p>It is expected that the hedgerow will be retained as part of the development and as such no further assessment or mitigatory measures are recommended.</p>	
Category of importance: Local	
Level of impact: None	
Significance of effect: Neutral	
Recommendations for further assessment: None	
Recommendations for further mitigatory measures: None	



Plate 05: Hedgerow field boundary (feature 3), from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.

4. Hedgerow field boundary	
Figure: 13 and 14	Plate: 6
NGR: SD 42569 00201 – SD 42489 00055	Period: Post-medieval
<p>Description A hedgerow field boundary runs from northeast to southwest marking the division between field 1 in the west and field 2 in the east. It measures approximately 6.0m - 7.0m in height and is made up primarily of hawthorn and mature deciduous trees. The field boundary is first depicted on the Earl of Sefton’s Estate map of Simonswood 1769 (figure 05) and although the actual age of the boundary is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts.</p> <p>It is expected that the hedgerow will be retained as part of the development and as such no further assessment or mitigatory measures are recommended.</p>	
Category of importance: Local	
Level of impact: None	
Significance of effect: Neutral	
Recommendations for further assessment: None	
Recommendations for further mitigatory measures: None	



Plate 06: Hedgerow field boundary (feature 4), from the northwest. Scale 1.0m.

5. Wooden bridge	
Figure: 13 and 14	Plate: 7
NGR: SD 42493 00065	Period: Post-medieval
<p>Description</p> <p>A wooden bridge measuring 4.0m in length by 2.0m in width spans the field boundary ditch at this point. The bridge is constructed from reused railway sleepers and links field 1 with field 2. The age of the bridge is unknown as it is not depicted on any of the estate maps or later tithe or Ordnance Survey maps, although it was probably considered too ephemeral to depict. The provenance of the property name of Bridge Farm is uncertain and it is not clear whether the name derives from this small footbridge or from the 1848 bridge over the railway on Dale Lane. The farm is certainly not referred to by name until the production of the first edition 6" County Series Ordnance Survey map of c.1865 at which point the railway bridge had been constructed.</p> <p>It is expected that the bridge will be retained as part of the development and as such no further assessment or mitigatory measures are recommended.</p>	
Category of importance: Local	
Level of impact: None	
Significance of effect: Neutral	
Recommendations for further assessment: None	
Recommendations for further mitigatory measures: None	



Plate 07: Bridge (feature 5), from the northwest. Scale 1.0m.

6. Hedgerow field boundary	
Figure: 13 and 14	Plate: 8
NGR: SD 42528 00123 – SD 42705 00057	Period: Post-medieval
<p>Description</p> <p>A hedgerow field boundary runs from northwest to southeast marking the northern limit of field 2. It measures approximately 5.0m in height and is made up of sparse hawthorn reinforced by a wooden post and wire fence. The field boundary is first depicted on the Earl of Sefton’s Estate map of Simonswood 1769 (figure 05) and although the actual age of the boundary is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts.</p> <p>It is expected that the hedgerow and field boundary will be relocated approximately 10.0m further to the north to incorporate a strip of land within the neighbouring field. It is expected that there will be a high adverse direct physical impact resulting in a slight adverse significance of effect during the construction phase. Moreover, it is expected that there will be a mild frustration to the historic field pattern resulting in an low adverse indirect non-physical (visual) and low adverse indirect physical impact resulting in a neutral or slight adverse significance of effect both during the construction and completion phases.</p> <p>It is therefore recommended that a basic record be taken of this boundary prior to removal, however the record presented in this report should be seen as commensurate with a basic record level and as such no further recommendations are made.</p>	
Category of importance: Local	
<p>Level of impact: High adverse direct physical (during construction phase) Low adverse indirect physical and non-physical (visual) (during construction and completion phases).</p>	
<p>Significance of effect: Slight adverse physical (during construction phase) Neutral to slight adverse indirect physical and non-physical (visual) (during construction and completion phases).</p>	
Recommendations for further assessment: None	
Recommendations for further mitigatory measures: Basic record – completed as part of assessment report.	



Plate 08: Hedgerow field boundary (feature 6), from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.

7. Pond	
Figure: 13 and 14	Plate: 9
NGR: SD 42611 00040	Period: Post-medieval
<p>Description</p> <p>A pond measuring approximately 15.0m in diameter and surrounded by vegetation is located in the eastern corner of the proposed development site. The pond is first depicted on the Earl of Sefton's Estate map of Simonswood 1769 (figure 05) and is shown on every map afterwards. The pond appears to have been a watering hole for livestock and was primarily accessed from the Dale Lane bordering the eastern limit of the site. Similar ponds are shown within several of the fields within the localised landscape suggesting that they had been excavated as part of post-medieval land improvement.</p> <p>The pond will be removed in its entirety by the proposed development but is considered to be of negligible importance, resulting in a Slight Adverse significance of effect. Due to the low importance of the feature it is not recommended that any further assessment or mitigatory response be undertaken beyond that of the basic record presented in this report.</p>	
Category of importance: Negligible	
Level of impact: High adverse direct physical	
Significance of effect: Slight adverse	
Recommendations for further assessment: None	
Recommendations for further mitigatory measures: Basic record – complete	



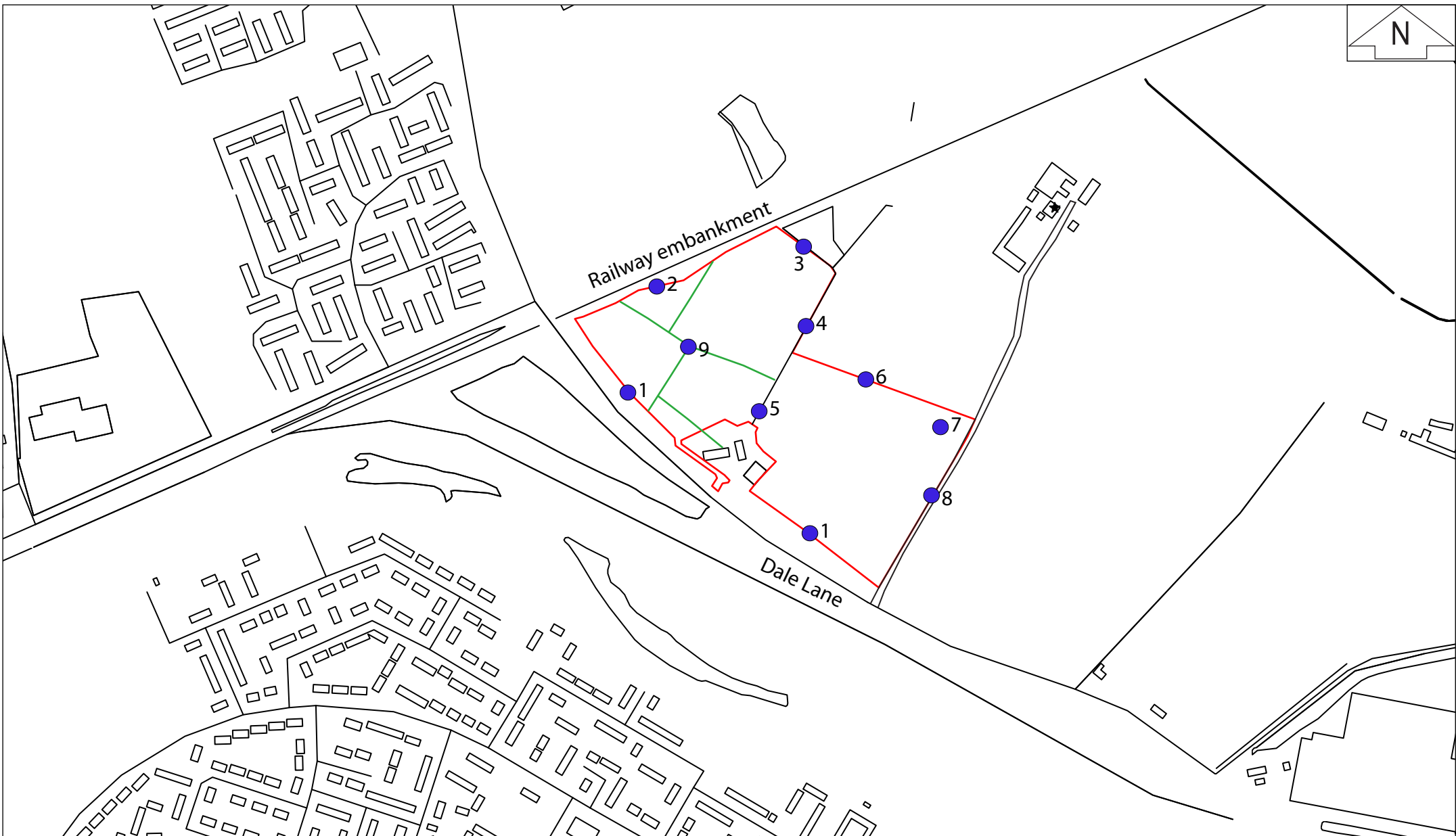
Plate 09: Pond (feature 7), from the west. Scale 1.0m.

8. Hedgerow field boundary	
Figure: 13 and 14	Plate: 10
NGR: SD 42705 00057 – SD 42611 99899	Period: Post-medieval
<p>Description A hedgerow field boundary runs from northeast to southwest marking the eastern limit of the proposed development site. It measures approximately 2.0m in height and is made up primarily of hawthorn. The field boundary is first depicted on the Earl of Sefton’s Estate map of Simonswood 1769 (figure 05) and although the actual age of the boundary is unknown, under The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 a hedgerow is considered “important” if it is greater than 30 years old and is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts.</p> <p>It is expected that the hedgerow will be retained as part of the development and as such no further assessment or mitigatory measures are recommended.</p>	
Category of importance: Local	
Level of impact: None	
Significance of effect: Neutral	
Recommendations for further assessment: None	
Recommendations for further mitigatory measures: None	



Plate 10: Hedgerow field boundary (feature 8), from the northwest. Scale 1.0m.

9. Extant historic field boundaries	
Figure: 13 and 14	Plate: n.a.
NGR: SD 42430 00139 (centre)	Period: Post-medieval
<p>Description</p> <p>A series of four field boundaries, now extant and without physical trace, are shown on the Earl of Sefton Estate map of Simonswood 1769 (figure 05) up until the production of the Simonswood tithe map of 1840 (figure 08). All of these boundaries were located within field 1 and separated the field into five separately enclosed fields. As part of post-medieval land improvement of the mid 19th Century these fields were amalgamated to create a single large enclosed field.</p> <p>The extant field boundaries are considered to be of local importance and are likely to exist at buried level as in-filled ditches. The proposed development is expected to have a high adverse direct physical impact upon these buried remains during the construction phase resulting in a Slight adverse significance of effect.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that there will be any indirect impact upon this feature as it has been previously removed and exists merely at buried level.</p>	
Category of importance: Local	
Level of impact: High adverse direct physical (during construction phase)	
Significance of effect: Slight adverse (during construction phase)	
Recommendations for further assessment: None	
Recommendations for further mitigatory measures: It is recommended that these features be mitigated for through a suitably worded condition applied to any planning consent.	

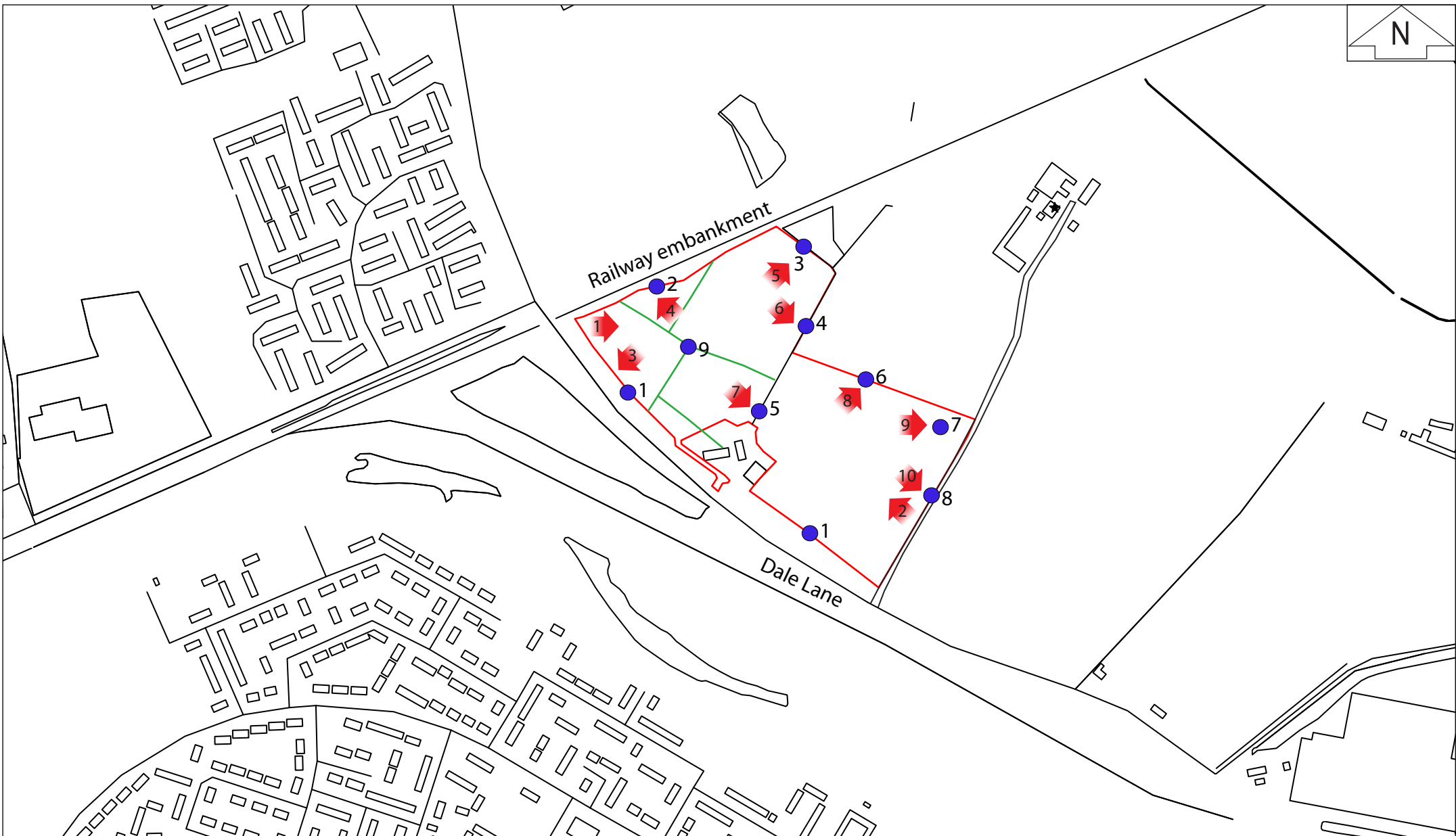


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Figure 13: Location of sites identified during the field visit (blue circles) and sites identified from 1769-1840 historic maps (green lines) at Bridge Farm, Simonswood. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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Figure 14: Location and orientation of photographs (numbered arrows) at Bridge Farm, Simonswood. Scale 1:5,000 at A4.

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Table 2: Summary of archaeological features.		GREEN = no action required; RED= Action required				
Number	Name	Importance	Impact	Significance of effect	Further Assessment	Mitigation Recommendations
PHYSICAL DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS						
1	Hedgerow field boundary	Local	None	Neutral	None	None
2	Hedgerow field boundary	Local	None	Neutral	None	None
3	Hedgerow field boundary	Local	None	Neutral	None	None
4	Hedgerow field boundary	Local	None	Neutral	None	None
5	Wooden bridge	Local	None	Neutral	None	None
6	Hedgerow field boundary	Local	High adverse direct physical; Low adverse indirect physical and non-physical (visual) (during construction and completion phases).	Slight adverse physical (limited to construction phase); Neutral to slight adverse indirect physical and non-physical (visual) (during construction and completion phases).	None	Basic record - complete
7	Pond	Negligible	High adverse direct physical	Slight adverse (limited to construction phase)	None	Basic record - complete
8	Hedgerow field boundary	Local	None	Neutral	None	None
9	Extant historic field boundaries	Local	High adverse direct physical	Slight adverse (limited to construction phase)	None	Mitigation to be secured by condition

8.0 IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Direct physical impact

Construction phase

The proposed development scheme is expected to have a *high adverse direct physical* impact upon three sites of archaeological importance (features 6, 7 and 9) during the construction phase. All of these features are post-medieval in date and are considered to be of *local* (features 6 and 9) and *negligible* (feature 7) importance thus resulting in a *slight adverse* significance of effect.

Completion phase

The proposed development scheme is not expected to have any direct physical impact upon any known sites of archaeological and historical significance upon completion.

8.2 Indirect physical and non-physical (visual) impact

Construction phase

The proposed development scheme is expected to have a low indirect physical and non-physical impact upon one feature of archaeological importance (feature 6 hedgerow field boundary) during the construction phase. This feature is considered to be of local importance and will thus result in a neutral to slight adverse indirect physical and non-physical (visual) significance of effect.

Completion phase

The proposed development scheme is expected to have a low indirect physical and non-physical impact upon one feature of archaeological importance (feature 6 hedgerow field boundary) during the completion phase. This feature is considered to be of local importance and will thus result in a neutral to slight adverse indirect physical and non-physical (visual) significance of effect.

8.3 Site Specific Recommendations

The proposed scheme will impact upon three archaeological features, a hedgerow field boundary (feature 6), a pond (feature 7), and extant historic field boundaries (feature 9). All of these features are likely to be of post-medieval date and as such are considered to be of *local* (features 6 and 9) and *negligible* (feature 7) importance. The photographs and descriptions provided within this report should be considered commensurate with a basic archaeological record level and as such no further recommendations are made for assessment or mitigatory measures for features 6 and 7 at this stage.

Due to the potential for preserved remains of the extant historic field boundaries (feature 9) to exist at buried level it would be right for these to be mitigated for through a suitably worded archaeological condition if permission is granted. It should however be noted that this condition should be of a scale appropriate to the local importance of the feature.

8.4 Historic Landscape Character Areas

The proposed development site lies wholly within the 'post-medieval enclosure' historic landscape character area (ref. 352). This is in the form of enlarged and re-organised fields

and 'C20th Field Systems' in the form of large modern fields, created by extensive field enlargement and the creation of new field systems to facilitate mechanisation and other changes in agricultural practice.

Although the proposed development will result in an alteration of the historic landscape, the very nature of golf courses as green areas and the retention of the historic field boundaries would help mitigate this impact. The two land parcels would however ultimately be removed from the historic landscape character area.

With respect to indirect impact on the setting of the historic landscape parcels outside the site's boundaries it is noted that many heritage assets and their settings within any given landscape may be visible from a number of locations – publically accessible areas such as footpaths, streets and the open countryside and also private spaces such as dwellings and private land. The majority of sightlines from, to, into and across heritage assets are, therefore, incidental and are not intrinsically or intimately associated with the significances assigned to any given heritage asset. Taking into account these considerations the historic landscape parcels do not require a detailed setting assessment as there is no perceptible impact on setting.

8.5 General recommendations

The archaeological assessment did not identify any sites considered to be above local importance within the proposed development site or indeed within the localised landscape. Moreover, the majority of the archaeological features recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record are agricultural features or buildings of post-medieval date.

There are no registered World Heritage Sites, Archaeological Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, or Listed Buildings within the site or within the localised landscape. Therefore, this assessment confirms that the Site does not contain any designated heritage assets for which there would be a presumption in favour of preservation in situ and against development. There are no known undesignated archaeological assets within the Site.

The archaeological potential for buried preserved remains of the Prehistoric, Roman, and medieval periods is considered to be unknown. The potential for buried remains relating to the post-medieval period is considered to be high and to most likely take the form of extant historic field boundaries and the remains of a probable brick kiln, as identified in the field name *brick kiln field* on the 1769 estate map.

On the basis of the evidence presented in this assessment the proposed development on the Site would not be contrary to any local or national policy.

This Assessment enables an informed, sustainable and responsible approach to the development of a new golf course at Bridge Farm. The information provided meets the expectations of NPPF in that the applicant has described the significance of known archaeological assets that may be affected by proposed development. It is considered that the level of detail provided is proportionate to the assets' importance and provides sufficient information to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of archaeological remains. Ultimately, therefore, and without prejudice to the findings of any future archaeological, or other investigations at the Site, it is considered that the archaeological interest at the Site could be safeguarded by the imposition of a suitably worded condition on consent, should it be forthcoming for the application. The condition should require the applicant, or the successors in title, to record and advance understanding of the significance of any archaeological assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive

generated) publicly accessible. This recommendation is in line with the relevant provisions in NPPF.

9.0 SOURCES

Maps

DDM14 – 48-52. *Maps of Simonswood (Earl of Sefton)*

1st edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey Map of c.1865.

1st edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1893.

2nd edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1909.

3rd edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map of 1927.

OS 1:10 000 Series sheet SD 40NE, SD 40SE, SD 40SW, and SD 40NW.

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APPENDIX 1: SCHEDULED AND NON-SCHEDULED SITES WITHIN 1.0KM

Undesignated monuments within 1.0km of the proposed development site as listed on the Lancashire HER (figure 3)

Prn	Name	Type	Period
36126	Warren's Farm, Simonswood	Farmstead (lcc date1: pre-1850)	Post-medieval
36127	Stop Gate Tavern, Simonswood	Public house (lcc date1: pre-1850)	Post-medieval
38294	Stopgate Lane, Simonswood	Farmstead (lcc date1: pre-1850)	Post-medieval
38793	Dale Lane, Tower Hill,, Simonswood	Farmstead? (lcc date1: pre-1850), house? (lcc date2: pre-1850), well (lcc date3: pre-1850)	Post-medieval
38794	Dale Lane, Tower Hill,, Simonswood	Farmstead? (lcc date1: pre-1850), house? (lcc date2: pre-1850), well (lcc date3: pre-1850)	Post-medieval
38796	Woodward Road, Knowsley Industrial Estate, Simonswood	Farmstead (lcc date1: pre-1850)	Post-medieval
38797	Gate House, Stopgate Lane, Simonswood	Farmstead (lcc date1: pre-1850)	Post-medieval
40208	Site of an Early Medieval/Medieval cross recorded in 1302, site unlocated.	Religious	Early medieval / medieval
42078	Liverpool and Bury railway	Transport	Post-medieval

