

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit  
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**An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey of  
Land Around Merebrooksough Engine house, Wirksworth, Derbyshire  
1998**

by  
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**An Archaeological Desk-  
Based Assessment and  
Walkover Survey of Land  
Around Merebrooksough  
Engine House, Wirksworth,  
Derbyshire**

*B.U.F.A.U.*



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## An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey of

### Land Around Merebrooksough Engine House, Wirksworth

#### 1.0 Summary

A desk-based assessment, commissioned by Haslam Homes, was carried out ahead of proposed development of the land surrounding Merebrooksough Engine House, Wirksworth, Derbyshire. The assessment examined the available documentary, cartographic and photographic evidence which led to the identification of discrete zones of potential surviving archaeological remains. The activity on the site itself was particularly characterised by lead mining activity in the 18th and 19th centuries. A series of recommendations is proposed, based on the findings of this assessment.

#### 2.0 Introduction

Any proposed residential development of land surrounding Merebrooksough Engine House (hereafter the Survey Area) may result in the disturbance of buried archaeological remains. An assessment of the above and below ground archaeology was therefore required by the Department of Planning and Environment, Derbyshire County Council to permit the formulation of appropriate mitigation strategies for the archaeological resource.

The following report describes the results of a first stage of archaeological assessment of land surrounding Merebrooksough Engine House (NGR SK 2284 5457), based upon a search of documentary and cartographic sources, published and unpublished written records and a walkover survey of the Survey Area. Sources of information are referenced in Appendix 1. The report was produced by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of Haslam Homes, following a brief prepared by Dr. Andrew Myers, Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Records Officer, Derbyshire County Council. The brief for this work is reproduced as Appendix 2. The guidelines set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994) were followed.

A general introduction will first place the Survey Area in its context. It is followed by a consideration of the area's present character, which will incorporate the results of a walkover survey, its historical and archaeological profile, the below ground information, an assessment of the archaeological implications of enhancement works, and recommendations for an archaeological response to those works. Illustrative maps and photographs are included to depict aspects of the area's archaeological and historical character.

### 3.0 Location of Survey Area (Figures 1 & 2)

The Survey Area is a parcel of land to the north of Wirksworth and encompasses an area of land bounded on the east by a disused mineral railway track and in the south by a pond and The Fanny Shaw Playing Field. To the west, Thorn tree and Ecclesbourne cottages border the proposed development. Merebrooksough Engine House is in the centre of the overall Survey Area, but within a plot of land under different ownership and subject to separate planning permission.

### 4.0 Geology and Topography

The majority of the region is located on Carboniferous Limestone, the earliest formation of which is the Hoptonwood limestones, beneath the Lower Matlock Lava formation. The youngest limestone formation is the Cawdor Group, which is overlain by the shales of the Namurian Millstone Grit formation, which, in turn, is capped by Ashover Grit and Chatsworth Grit (Oakman 1980, 232; Smith et al. 1967,8-9). The region also contains a number of faults, which has lent itself to the mining industry over several centuries. These converge under Wirksworth and create a shatter belt, providing many suitable mining outcrops. The most relevant to the Survey Area is the Gulf Fault, along with the Rantor Vein and the Gang Vein ( Smith et al. 1967, 45).

The Survey Area is located on the lowest slopes of the southern side of Black Rock, at between 150m and 160m A.O.D. It is generally a grassy, undulating, area with some zones of overgrown vegetation and modern waste dumping. The two, dilapidated buildings of the Engine House dominate the central area and there are three capped mining shafts evident.

### 5.0 The Survey Area in a Historical Context

The earliest recorded sites in the Wirksworth region relate to chance finds of Roman pottery (SMR 15551) and an Augustan Roman coin hoard (SMR 15553), but these may only represent transitory Roman activity in the area. There is the possibility that the Roman lead-mining district recorded as *Lutudarum* on lead ingot inscriptions and in the *Ravenna Cosmography* was in the vicinity, but this remains unconfirmed (SMR 15580). It would seem likely that there were Roman lead mines in this region, the remains of which have been destroyed in later mine workings or covered over by waste heaps (Hart 1981, 106).

The evidence of sub-Roman and early Anglo-Saxon settlement is non-existent and the next record of Wirksworth was in a document dated to A.D. 835, which outlines the granting of land by the Abbess of Repton to a Mercian nobleman, Humbert, in return for an annual payment of lead worth 300 solidi, to go to the Archbishop of Canterbury (Hart 1981, 111; SMR 15553). This indicates that there was some lead mining taking place in the region at this time. A coffin lid uncovered in front of the altar in St.Mary's Church, Wirksworth, in 1820, has also been dated to the 9th century A.D., and was found along with a fragment of a 10th-century Saxon cross (SMR 15532). This dates the origins of the church, and possibly the settlement, to the same period, although, architecturally, it is much later (ibid.).

The Domesday Book of 1086 recorded three lead works (*plumbariae*) at Wirksworth, referred to as *Wershamworde*, and that it was a royal manor worth 10 shillings in the time of King Edward and 7 shillings in 1086 ( V.C.H. (I), 316 & 349). There are no exact locations for these Medieval lead mines and it is plausible that they have been obscured by later workings.

The lead mining continued throughout the Medieval and Tudor period and into this century, although it had peaked in the 19th century (V.C.H. (II), 324-49; Kiernan 1989). Meanwhile, Wirksworth developed as a market town, after it was granted the right to a yearly fair in 1307 (ibid., 346), with the lead trade an influential factor in its development. The town and the surrounding villages also developed as centres of mining communities. The market place itself can still clearly be seen on the First and Second Edition Ordnance Survey maps of the town.

The stability of the mine shafts was compromised, throughout the Medieval period, by the presence of water, and by the 17th century this had caused many mines to stop or slow down. Engines were designed to alleviate the problem, but by the end of the century the construction of soughs had become the principal method of draining water from the mines. A sough was “an adit or tunnel driven specifically to drain a mine” (Kiernan 1989, x). In 1665 the Wirksworth barmote decreed that if the owners did not take reasonable action to drain their mines, when they stood unworked, then other parties could undertake this action and take possession of the mines, subject to their approval (V.C.H. (II), 341). This, along with the development of an improved gunpowder blasting method (Rieuwerts 1980, 259-60), prompted a growth in the construction of these soughs, with Cromford sough, noted as the first major sough of this period, finished in 1688 (ibid., 342). The Survey Area contains the Engine House for the Merebrooksough, which was one of the many drainage channels constructed in the late-17th and 18th centuries.

The lead mining industry declined in the mid- to late-19th century when the mines became too deep to profitably exploit and the ore became of increasingly low quality, while massive lead mines abroad were able to produce and ship lead at a lower price (V.C.H. (II), 347). This is reflected in the census returns for numbers employed in the lead mines, with 2,333 employed in 1861, declining to 285 in 1901 (ibid., 348). The majority of the lead miners moved into employment in the coal industry in Staffordshire or more local limestone quarries, which continued to be the main source of local employment until the second half of this century.

## **6.0 A Detailed Assessment of the Survey Area**

The evidence will be discussed and evaluated under the following sub-headings: Present Character; Historical and Archaeological Profile; Below-Ground Information; Standing Structures and Archaeological Potential.

**Present Character** incorporates the results of a walkover survey and includes a description of the modern environment. The **Historical and Archaeological Profile** outlines historical development and provides details of any previous archaeological work. **Below-Ground Information** covers information from a site inspection and anticipated ground disturbance. **Standing Structures** describes any existing structures within the Survey Area. The section

on **Archaeological Potential** summarises the potential of the Survey Area for further archaeological field evaluation in the light of evidence gleaned by archaeological assessment to date, and is designed to give an indication of the potential importance of surviving archaeological deposits. This section should be read in conjunction with the following **Recommendations for an Archaeological Response** to potential housing development.

## 6.1 Present Character

The Survey Area is bounded on the east by a disused mineral railway track and sidings, with a pond, adjacent to The Fanny Shaw Playing Field, defining the southern limit of the site. The western limit is defined by the property boundaries of the Thorntree and Ecclesbourne Cottages and the north-western side by Cromford Road. A parcel of land surrounding the Merbrooksough Engine House is under separate ownership and subject to a separate development programme.

The northern part of the Survey Area was a former area of allotment gardens and now forms a small grassy plateau which, on its east side, slopes down to the railway track. There is evidence of a raised, gravelled road/track running from Cromford Road, south east, towards the Engine House. This is probably the remains of an access route to the former allotment gardens. The boundary adjacent to the railway is overgrown and lined with trees, as are the south-east and south-west corners of the site. The land gently slopes from west to east, and is generally flat, although there are undulating patches of terrain, particularly in the area surrounding the former mine buildings. This part of the Survey Area was very boggy and small areas of standing water were observed. Three brick capped mine shafts were also noted.

In the south-east corner, adjacent to the pond, is a bowl-shaped dip in the topography, which may have been an excavated pit or some type of water feature associated with the pond.

At the eastern end of Sough Lane is an ad hoc parking area for the existing residential cottages and there are areas of the site which have been subjected to tipping, and possibly some type of temporary storage, specifically a patch of roughly constructed hard-standing immediately south of two of the capped mine shafts.

It is unclear the extent to which the terrain has been affected by excavations and workings associated with the former lead mine, but there remains a high probability that little of the original ground surface remains, except in the area of the former allotment gardens.

## 6.2 Historical and Archaeological Profile

As no archaeological investigation has been conducted within the Survey Area this profile is based solely on a study of the available documentary, cartographic and photographic sources.

There is no evidence of activity pre-dating Merbrooksough lead mine in the Survey Area, either in the form of existing earthworks or from any of the historical sources. The SMR entry (SMR 15588) for this site lists it as a late-18th to mid-19th century lead mine, containing an Engine House, Miners Hut and capped shafts.



A wider search of a kilometre radius centred around this Survey Area, however, revealed a number of recorded sites, the earliest of which referred to chance finds of a hoard of Roman coins (SMR 15528) and Roman pottery (SMR 15551). These may have been associated with the Roman settlement of *Lutudarum* (SMR 15580), although its exact location in the Wirksworth area is not known.

There is a lack of recorded sites or documents dating to the sub-Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, with the next group of sites dating to the early-Medieval period. St. Mary's Church (SMR 15553) and its Churchyard Cross (SMR 15554, Scheduled Ancient Monument 23351), in the centre of Wirksworth, date from the 13th century, although a coffin lid found near the altar has been dated to c. 800 A.D. (SMR 15532), which corresponds with a documented reference to Anglo-Saxon lead mining in the area, dated to 835 A.D. (SMR 15553). A Medieval lead seal, also possibly dating from the 13th century, has been recorded in this area (SMR 15540).

In the 14th and 15th centuries, the possible location of the Medieval park of Wirksworth has been noted (SMR 15569), along with the site of the ruined Priest's House (SMR 15567).

The record of late Medieval and Post-Medieval Buildings in the region is much more substantial, the earliest of which is Gell's Bedehouse, founded by Anthony Gell in 1584 (SMR 15556). A number of other buildings within the town centre of Wirksworth date to the 17th century. These include: the Old Manor House, Coldwell Street (SMR 15558); 15 Coldwell Street (SMR 15557); 1-3 Green Hill (SMR 15559); 2-6 North End (SMR 15561); Royal Oak Inn, North End (SMR 15562); Babbington House (SMR 15560); 15 and 32 St. John's Street (SMR 15563 & 15564); The Old Hospital (SMR 15570) and The Gatehouse (SMR 15575). All these buildings date to a period of expansion in the lead mining industry and the subsequent development of the town itself.

This expansion of the town continued into the 18th century and this is reflected by the number of notable buildings and sites recorded, which include the Washgreen Cupola, which had been a lead smelting mill prior to 1750 (SMR 15550); 1 Coldwell Street, (SMR 15576); 15 Market Place (SMR 15577); Red Lion Hotel, Market Place (SMR 15578) and the Toll House (SMR 15507) on the opposite side of Cromford Road to the Survey Area. The Nether Ratchwood and Rantor Lead Mines (SMR 15589, Scheduled Ancient Monument 24986) date from this period, along with Merebrooksough mine, and reflect an important period of lead mining in the history of this region.

The cartographic evidence indicates that the Survey Area was an area of open fields up to the beginning of the mining in the 18th century. One of the earliest maps (not illustrated) of this region, the 1769 'Map of Wirksworth Township', indicates that the Area was owned or leased, this is not clear, by a Robert Spencer and Thomas Gell and bordered, in the east, onto a plot of land referred to as Hammer Hill. The course of Cromford Road depicted on this map appears to be very similar to its modern course.

The 1806 'Parliamentary Enclosure Map' (not illustrated) does not depict the area in detail, but the southern and eastern boundaries are partially discernible, the plot of land within these boundaries being attributed to a John Woods. A later, 1826, 'Plan of the Land and Veins lying within the Tithing of Wirksworth' shows no detail of land use, but reiterates the field

boundaries observable on the Enclosure Map, twenty years earlier, and begins to define the block of land adjacent to Cromford Road, now occupied by residential cottages.

The 1849 Title Map (Map 1) indicates that the present Survey Area was located over the conjunction of several plots of land, title awards 1364, 1365, 1366, 1369 and 1370. These awards are not complete and the only available details refer to awards 1364 and 1366, which were owned by a John Stacey and recorded as meadows.

This early cartographic evidence is inconclusive as to the former usage of the Survey Area, indeed it contradicts the documentary sources which suggest that the Merebrooksough was begun in 1772, superseding the earlier Cromford Sough, and through some five miles of tunnels drained into the River Derwent (Smith 1967, 251). This does not necessarily mean that the Engine House and shafts of the mine appeared at this time, but by 1849 one would possibly expect some indication of the presence of any mine workings.

The first cartographic evidence including the Survey Area is on the 1880 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Map 2), where one can clearly see the mine depicted, the Engine House and its outbuildings. The area of the allotment gardens belongs to another plot of open land, although these boundaries are still visible today. The most significant appearance on the map is that of the mineral railway track, which must have been constructed between 1849 and the production of this map in 1880.

The 1898 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (Map 3) depicts the Survey Area in a very similar shape to today. The Ecclesbourne and Thorntree Cottages have been built on the west side of the area, and there appears to be an additional rectangular building immediately east of the Engine House, which was not present on the First Edition map. The area of the allotments has been reduced by the development of the cottages and has the same shape that it currently retains. Probably, the most significant addition on this map is the *disused* legend next to that of *Merebrooksough Mine*, which would suggest that the lead mining stopped in between the production of these two maps, in the late-19th century, which is consistent with the general reduction in the regional lead mining industry during this period. The sough itself seemed to have been used for extracting water in the early-20th century and into the late 1960s by the South Derbyshire Water Board (Smith 1967, 251), but not in the Survey Area, but at its outlet on the River Derwent.

There was no more significant re-mapping of the Survey Area until the 1971 First Edition 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map (Map 4), which shows no significant change from the 1898 Second Edition map, with the land divisions and usage as they are today.

### 6.3 Background Information

No specific geotechnical information is available for the Survey Area and no previous archaeological work has been carried out.

## 6.5 Standing Structures

There are two buildings, the Engine House and Miners' Hut, and three capped mining shafts within the Survey Area. Listed as Grade II, which the SMR entry (SMR 15588) describes as follows:

"Engine House- made of limestone rubble with dressed quoins and lintels. Plain tile roof with gabled ends. Two storeys with a variety of openings, some with round arched heads and a doorway with crested head. Stone stairs to first floor west door....It is stated that this is the earliest remaining winding house in Derbyshire. The engine was removed c.1870...."

Plates 1 and 2 illustrate this and show the dilapidated state of the Miners' Hut or Coe, and a collapsed lean-to on the Engine House. The shafts have been capped with stone in a 'beehive' shape as illustrated in Plate 3.

Brief reference only is made to these standing structures, as they are subject to a separate planning application, but have obvious relevance in characterising the remainder of the Survey Area.

## 6.5 Archaeological Potential

As stated above, without specific below-ground information from archaeological evaluation trenches and geotechnical investigation, definition of areas of archaeological survival may best be characterised in terms of zones of potential survival (Zones 1-6, Figure 3).

The region of Wirksworth has been characterised by lead mining and its associated industries and any early historical and archaeological references to this mining tradition are vague. The growth of this industry from the 17th century onwards, catalysed by technological advancements, particularly accounts for the important known activity within the Survey Area. The lead mining and its associated processes at Merebrooksough can only have had a detrimental effect upon any earlier archaeology. Any archaeology may survive in pockets, or as truncated deposits, and probably will relate to the activities of the lead mine.

**Zone 1** comprises the area of the former allotment gardens and is defined by Cromford Road, the mineral railway, Zone 2 and the cottage properties to the south. The historical maps indicate that this area has been relatively undisturbed, especially by the mine workings. It is possible, therefore, that below ground deposits may have survived in this area, although it is unclear whether any levelling of the ground has previously taken place in this zone.

**Zone 2** comprises the land directly north of the standing structures, bounded by Zones 1 and 6, the railway track and Ecclesbourne Cottages; it also includes two capped mine shafts. There is evidence to have been considerable activity in this zone relating to the working of the mine according to the historical sources. Any below-ground deposits would be heavily disturbed and truncated, although there might be greater potential for the survival of deposits in the northern part of this zone.

**Zone 3** comprises a block of land south of the standing structures, bordered by the Thorntree Cottage, the railway track and Zones 2, 4, 5 and 6. The 1880 Ordnance Survey map

indicates a high degree of pitting in this zone, which appears to have been levelled by the 1898 map, and similarly there are no excavated areas visible at present. This suggests that any below-ground deposits would have been heavily disturbed and truncated, although there should be deposits relating to the 19th century lead mining surviving.

**Zone 4** is a small parcel of land in the south-west corner of the application area and bordered to the north by Zone 5. This area may have been disturbed by the lead mining, as indicated by the Ordnance Survey maps. There still exists the evidence of a cutting into the ground in the east of this zone, and any below-ground deposits are, therefore, likely to have been truncated.

**Zone 5** is a small area of land in the south-east corner of the Survey Area, bordered by Zone 3 and the railway track. The historical maps suggest that this area was relatively untouched by the activities of the lead mine, although it does lie at the northern end of a railway siding. An excavated bowl-shaped feature was also observed in this undulating area, which may have truncated any below-ground deposits.

**Zone 6** is a parcel of land surrounding the Listed Buildings. These buildings have a high level of importance in the history of the lead mining industry in Derbyshire, but as they are subject to a separate planning application this is not considered here.

#### **7.5 Recommendations for an Archaeological Response**

The recommendations below provide an outline of the stages of archaeological mitigation which may be required for the Survey Area as a whole, and for each of the six zones of potential archaeological survival, if the housing development is approved. Each of the identified zones may require a different level of response. However, the precise nature of such mitigation would be dependent upon any additional information provided by geotechnical and other below-ground works, and would need to be approved by Derbyshire County Council.

Recommended levels of archaeological mitigation are as follows:

##### **Zone 1**

As the zone with most potential for the survival of early deposits it is recommended that archaeological trial trenches be excavated in this area. The excavation of trenches parallel to Cromford Road and perpendicular to it would provide a more detailed picture of the below-ground deposits and enable a more appropriate mitigation strategy to be developed for this zone.

##### **Zone 2**

The disturbance in this zone may negate the value of the excavation of any archaeological trial trenches. However, the excavation of a north-south trial trench in the northern area of the zone would provide a more detailed picture of the level and character of any below-ground deposits in the zone. Alternatively, the monitoring of any geotechnical investigations or groundwork activity may provide more detailed information to assess the extent of disturbance.

### Zone 3

The ground disturbance in this zone negates the value of the excavation here of archaeological trial trenches. Although the monitoring of any groundwork activity in this zone may allow investigations of any unexpected deposits directly affected by the planned development.

### Zone 4 and 5

As it is unlikely that any archaeological deposits will have survived in these zones, due to the degree of disturbance associated with the lead mine, no further archaeological mitigation is recommended.

### Zone 6

It seems inappropriate for any recommendations to be made for this zone in this report.

## 8.0 References

Hart, C.R. 1981 *The North Derbyshire Archaeological Survey to A.D. 1500.*

Hodges, R. & Smith, K. 1991 *Recent Developments in the Archaeology of the Peak District.* Sheffield Archaeological Monographs 2.

Kierman, D. 1989 *The Derbyshire Lead Industry in the Sixteenth Century.* Derbyshire Record Society Vol. XIV.

Oakman, C.D. 1980 *The Artificial Drainage of the Wirksworth - Cromford Area.* Bulletin of the Peak District Mines History Society Vol.5 No.5. pp. 231-240.

Rieuwerts, J.H. 1980 *The Earliest Lead-Mine Soughs in Derbyshire.* Bulletin of the Peak District Mines History Society Vol.5. No.5., pp. 241-314.

Smith, E.G., Anys, G.H. & Eden, R.A. 1967 *Geology of the Country around Chesterfield, Matlock and Mansfield.*

Victorian County History of Derbyshire. Volume I.

Victorian County History of Derbyshire. Volume II

## 9.0 Acknowledgements

This project was sponsored by Hastam Homes, and we are grateful to David Harding and Andy Wilson for their assistance. Thanks also to Dr. Andrew Myers, County Sites and Monuments Records Officer, Derbyshire County Council and the staff at the Derbyshire Record Office for their information and assistance. The staff at the Peak District Mining Museum provided valuable guidance. The research and walkover was carried out by Gary Cullen and in the production of this report. Figures were prepared for this report by John Hursted and it was edited by Iain Ferris.

## Appendix I

**Appendix 1 : Catalogue of Cartographic, Documentary and Photographic  
Sources Consulted**

Map of Wirksworth Township, 1709

Parliamentary Enclosure Plan, 1806

Land and veins in the Hollow of Wirksworth, and part of Middleton & Cromford,  
1826

Tithe map and awards of the Township of Wirksworth, 1849

Ordnance Survey First Edition 34/14, 1880

Ordnance Survey Second Edition, 34/14, 1898

Ordnance Survey, 1:10,000, 1971

## Appendix 2



**BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT: LAND  
AROUND MEERBROOKSOUGH ENGINE HOUSE, WIRKSWORTH**

**FOR: BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT  
ACTING ON BEHALF OF: HASLAM HOMES**

**FILE REF: 5760**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

This briefing document provides the objectives for an archaeological desk top assessment of land around Meerbrooksough Engine House, Wirksworth. The brief has been requested by Haslam Homes.

**2.0 Aims of the Assessment.**

The objective of the assessment will be to assemble known information about the archaeology and archaeological potential of the site and to present this information to the CAO. This information will then provide the basis for the CAO to make recommendations to the LPA on the likely impact of any development upon the archaeological interest and the need for further work.

**3.0 Sources to be consulted**

Sources of documentary and other information which should be consulted include,

Derbyshire SMR (\*see information supplied below),

Public Record Office,

Sheffield Archives ,

Derbyshire Records Office,

Derbyshire Local Studies Library.

RCHME Records Centre, Swindon (APs)

Peak District Mining Museum

A copy of the SMR entry for Meerbrooksough Lead Mine is attached. Should a wider search be required contact the SMR with details.

In addition a site inspection and walkover survey should be undertaken and a visual inspection of any earthworks or other features of potential interest carried out.

the product of the assessment.

The product of the assessment should be a report which:

- 1) assembles, summarizes and orders the available evidence
- 2) synthesises it and places it in the local and/or regional context
- 3) comments on the quality and reliability of the information and indicates how it might need to be supplemented by field evaluation to provide the information required for planning purposes.

Copies of the report should be submitted to the CAO and the SMR. The SMR will require,

- 1) a hard copy
- 2) a digital copy of the report capable of being read in WORD97.

In the event that the work is undertaken with reference to a specific planning application a copy should also be submitted to the relevant planning officer with the Local Planning Authority.

The contractor will be expected to abide by the Code of Practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

County Archaeologist: Dr. D. Barrett

County Sites and Monuments Records Officer: Dr. A. Myers.

4/12/98

A list of historic resp references to Wirksworth known to the Derbyshire SMR is:

Wirksworth	Mining map *	1622	PRO	DL 44/1171
Wirksworth	Notes and rough draft map *	1709	DRO	(258/42/6)
Wirksworth	Medow Farm, house and barn *	c. 1709	DRO	(258/61/26b)
Wirksworth	Map of township	1709	DRO	(258 M/42/5)
Wirksworth	Photocopy of a plan of Gell estate	1710	DRO	D1892 Z/Z 1
Wirksworth	Copy plan of roads between Rowsley Bridge and Wirksworth Moor	1759	DRO	D3713/1
Wirksworth	'Rights, privileges and boundaries of Wigwall Grange' *	18th C	DRO	(369 G)
Wirksworth	Plan of the town centre and Bolehill area showing lands of the Dean & Chapter of Lincoln. 19th century tracing of ?late 18th century map.	18th C	DRO	(D 161)
Wirksworth	Parliamentary Enclosure Plan (Mf)	1806		Q/RI 107
Wirksworth	Estate belonging to the Corporation of Etwall & Repton (John Port Charity)	1806	DRO	(769 B/P 16)
Wirksworth	Plan of mines, veins, soughs, etc. north of Wirksworth	1807	SA	Bag C 587-39-8
Wirksworth	Estate at Wirksworth	1811	DRO	(769 B/P 21)
Wirksworth	Land and veins in the Hollow of Wirksworth, and part of Middleton & Cromford	1826	DRO	D282 Z/P1
Wirksworth	Photocopy of a plan of Gell estate	1826	DRO	D504 B/LP 17,18
Wirksworth	Tithe Map (Mf)	1849	DRO	D2360/DL 12a

PRO = Public Record Office

DRO = Derbyshire Record Office

SA= Sheffield Archives

NAR NO. SK 25 SE 122 FORMS PART OF.

SMR NO. 15588.

COUNTY/DISTRICT/PARISH. Derby/Derbyshire Dales/Wirksworth.

SITE NAME AND MAIN FEATURES Meerbrooksough Lead Mine

HEIGHT O.D. (IN METRES).

NGR (WITH QUALIFIER). SK 28845457 [GCE];

AREA STATUS: CA,

SCHEDULED MONUMENT NO(S):

LISTED BUILDING GRADE: II

TYPE/PERIOD/FORM:

Engine House/PM/RUINED BUILDING

Miners Hut/PM/RUINED BUILDING

Shaft/PM/OTHER STRUCTURE

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL HISTORY [EVENT/DATES/NAME/RCHME REF NO.]:

RCHME (AND FORMER OS) FIELD SURVEY(S):

LAND CLASSIFICATION:

OWNER/OCCUPIER:

DESCRIPTION:

Meerbrooksough Mine, late C18 - mid C19 lead mine.

Engine House made of limestone rubble with dressed quoins and lintels. Plain tile roof with gabled ends. Two storeys with a variety of openings, some with round arched heads and a doorway with arched head. Stone stairs to first floor west door. The engine house is associated with the driving of the Meerbrook sough, constructed for the draining of the Meerbrook lead mine. It is stated that this is the earliest remaining winding house in Derbyshire. The engine was removed c.1870. (1a)

Coe substantially preserved within curtilage of the engine house, and shafts retain beehive shaped stone cappings. (1b)

The engine house probably does not date from the 'driving' of the sough during the late eighteenth century, but was associated with pumping and use of the sough. (1c)

SOURCES:

- 1a DONH. Listed Building Notification: 3/2854/110
- 1b Pers Comm: PDMIS, Mr. Nurier
- 1c Lead Mining in the Peak District, 1975. Ford and Rieuwerts

COMPILERS:

Up to authority 1 compiled by R! A Myers 04-MAY-95

REPORT COMPLETED

Records printed: 1 \*

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**Figures**

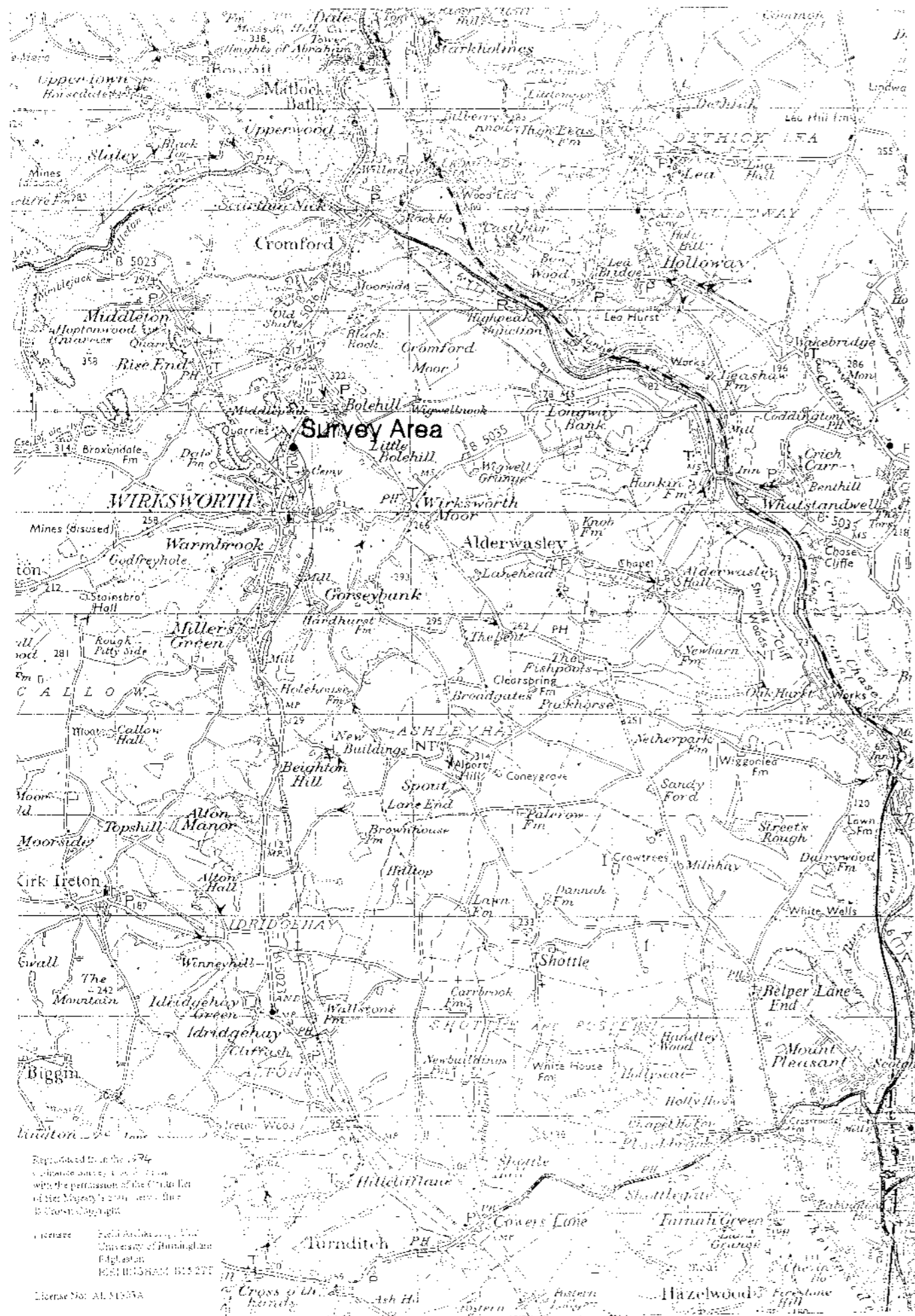


Fig 1

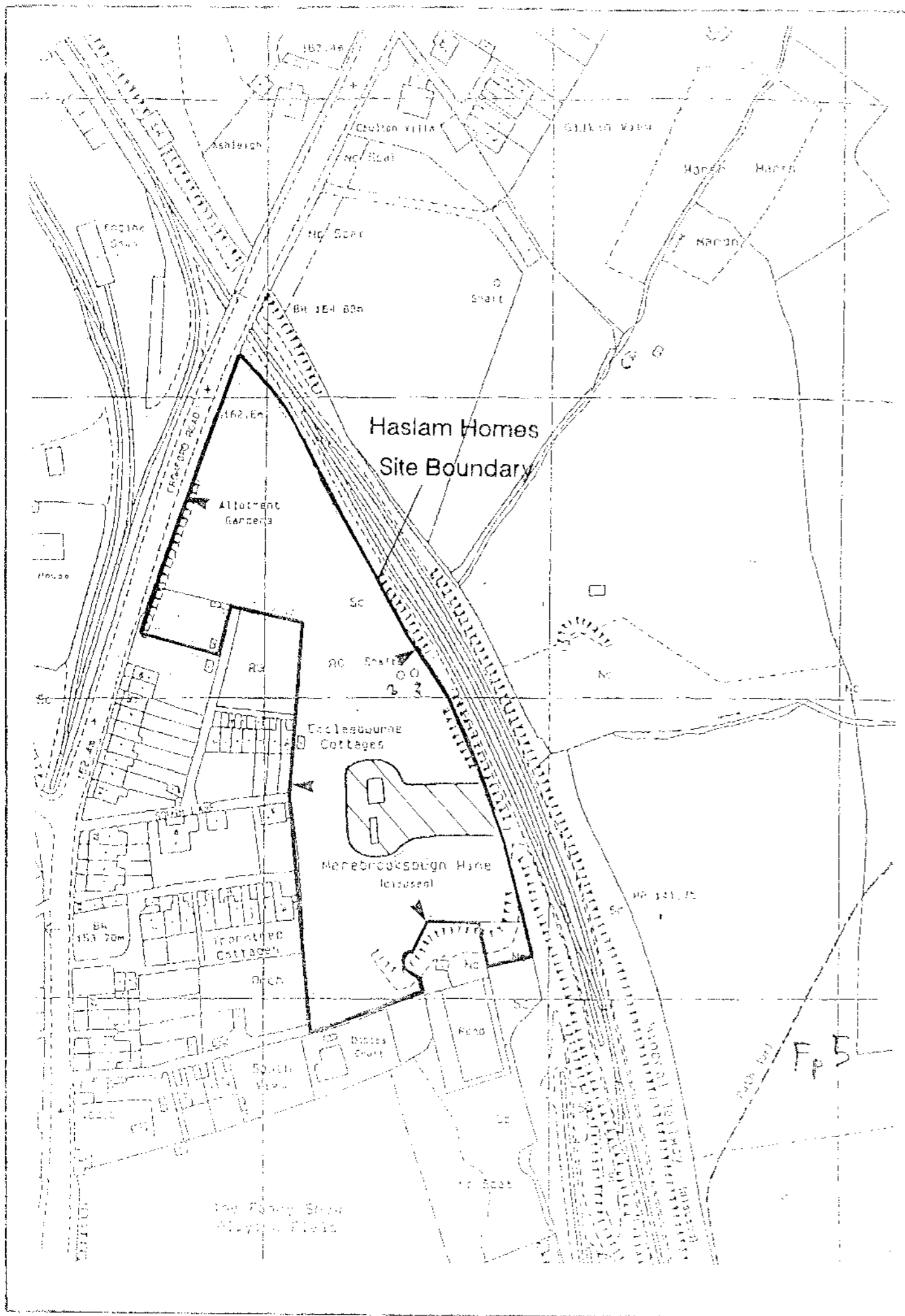


Fig.2



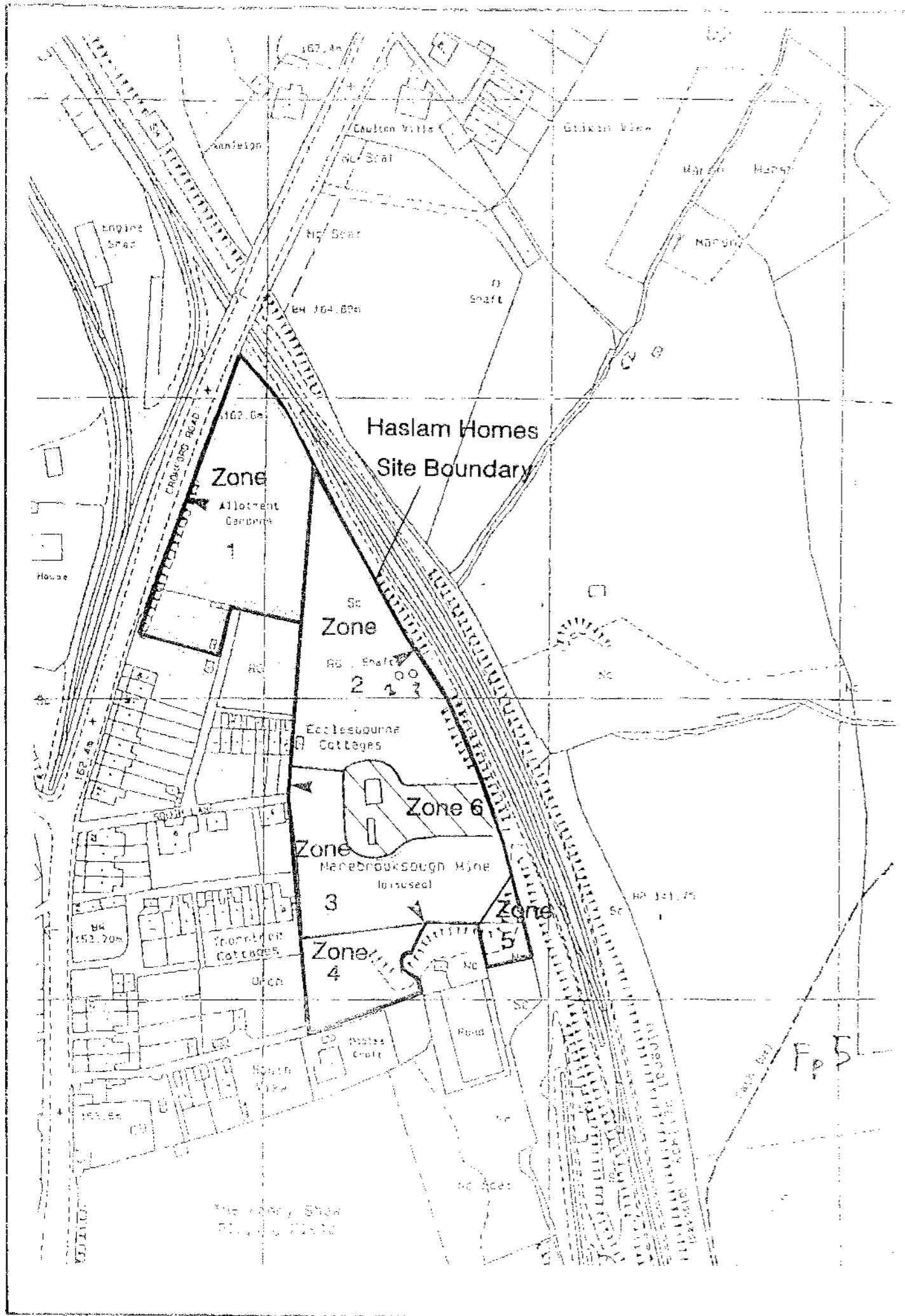
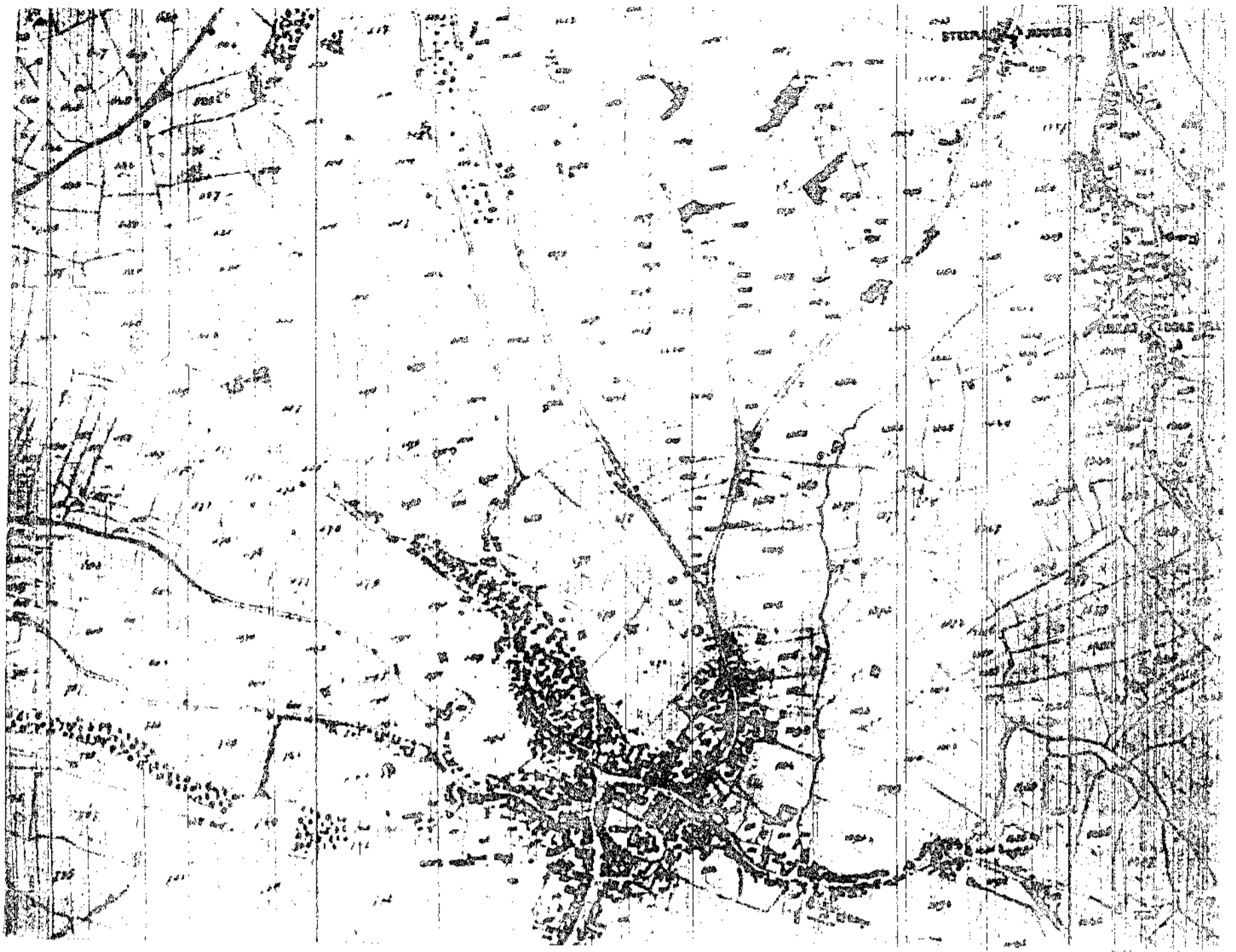
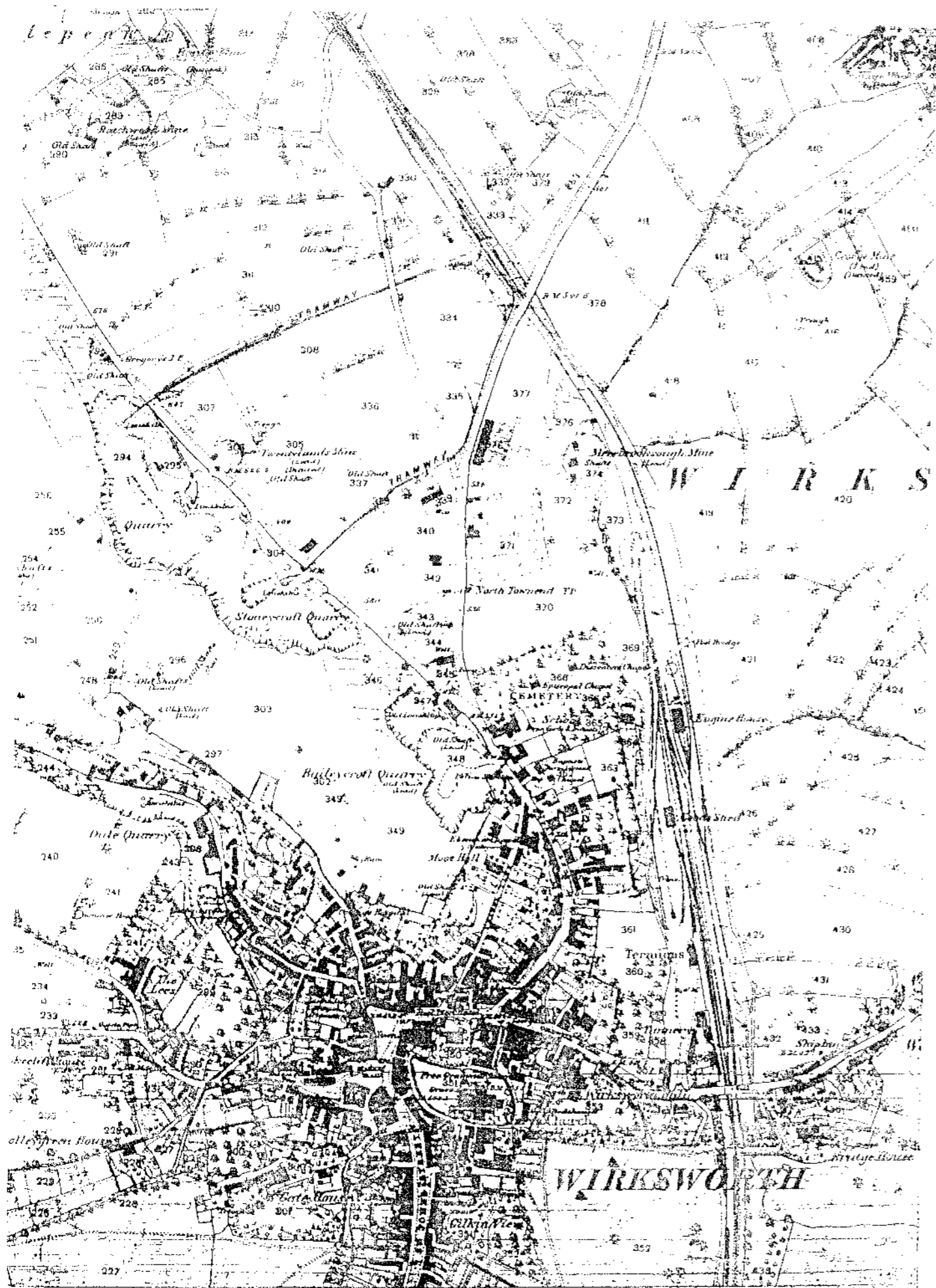


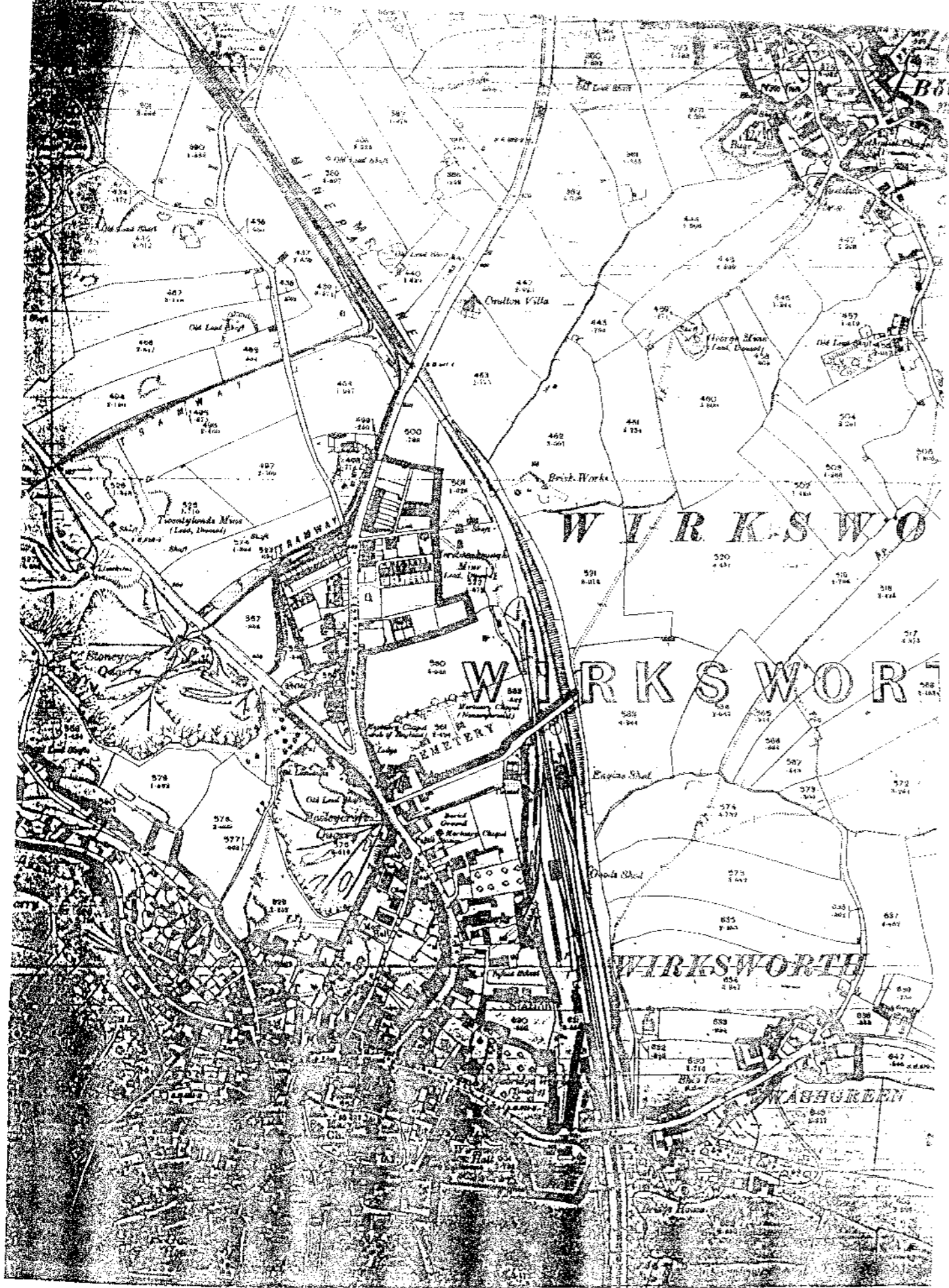
Fig.3



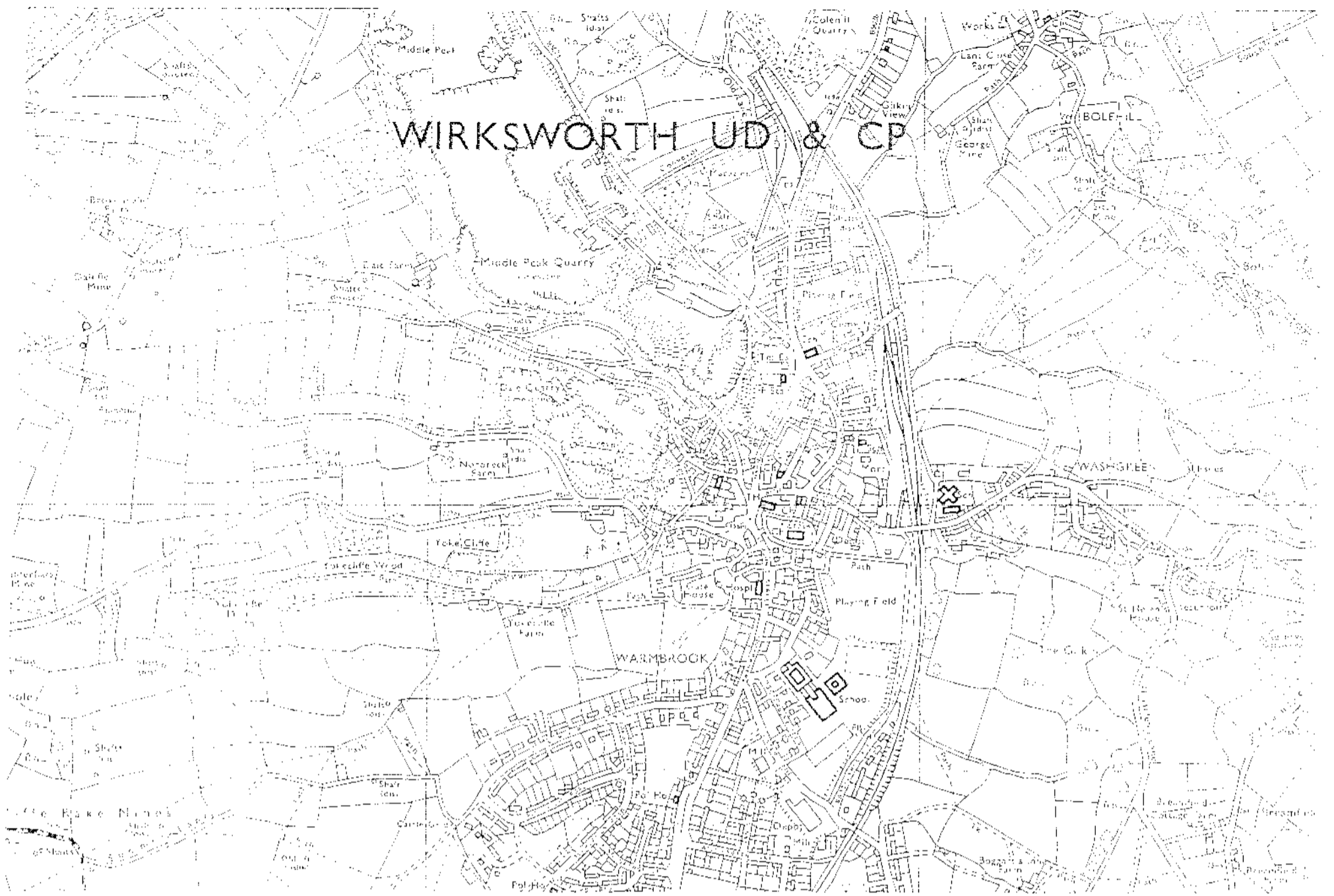
Map 1



Map 2



Map 3



Map 4

## Plates



**Plate 1**



**Plate 2**



**Plate 3**