

Site 1, Couchman Road  
Saltley, Birmingham

**DESK BASED  
ASSESSMENT 2009**

**Project No. 1986**

**09/2009**

**Site 1, Couchman Road**

Saltley, Birmingham

**DESK BASED ASSESSMENT 2009**

**By**

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## **Site 1, Couchman Road, Saltley, Birmingham**

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, 2009

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## **Site 1, Couchman Road, Saltley, Birmingham**

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, 09/2009

### **SUMMARY**

*Birmingham Archaeology was commissioned in 09/2009 by Capita Symonds Ltd, to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment at Couchman Road, Saltley, Birmingham (centred on NGR SP 1051 8771).*

*The assessment comprised a search of the readily accessible documentary, archaeological, historic and cartographic sources and a site walkover, as well as consultation of the Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record.*

*The Sites and Monuments Record records a Palaeolithic hand-axe, and spot finds of Roman date in the wider study area.*

*The assessment found that the development site is within an area previously identified as a potential deserted medieval village. Cartographic and documentary evidence illustrates extensive brick-making industry in the area in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, including kilns and clay extraction pits within the site boundaries. Subsequent terraced housing development is prevalent within the wider study area in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, though none within the development site itself. A previous archaeological evaluation conducted by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 1997 identified the well-preserved remains of an 18<sup>th</sup> century farm building immediately to the west of the current site, fronting Couchman Road. Other archaeological work in the area suggests that the housing and industry have disturbed earlier remains.*

## Site 1, Couchman Road, Saltley, Birmingham

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, 2009

### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background to the project

- 1.1.1. In 09/2009, Birmingham Archaeology carried out an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) as a condition of planning consent for redevelopment of the site at Couchman Road, Alum Rock, Birmingham. The assessment was commissioned by Capita Symonds Ltd.
- 1.1.2. This report outlines the results of the assessment, which has been prepared in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (IFA 2001).
- 1.1.3. The assessment conformed to a Written Scheme of Investigation (Birmingham Archaeology 2009; Appendix 1) which was approved by the Local Planning Authority in advance of implementation.
- 1.1.4. This report has been prepared based upon information current and available as of 09/2009. Details of archaeological terms used in this report are given in the glossary appended as Appendix 2.

#### 1.2. The planning background

- 1.2.1. The desk-based assessment was required by Birmingham City Council as a condition of planning consent for redevelopment of the site at Couchman Road, Saltley, Birmingham in accordance with government guidelines laid down in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Planning and Archaeology* (PPG16, DoE 1990, Section B, paras 19-20) and Policy 8.36 of Birmingham Unitary Development Plan and the councils Archaeology Strategy adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

### 2. LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

#### 2.1. Site location

- 2.1.1. The proposed development site is located at Couchman Road, Saltley, to the east of Birmingham City Centre (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2. The development site covers a total area of 0.65 hectares and is centred on NGR SP 1051 8771. It comprises an irregular shaped area bounded to the south by Couchman Road and to the southeast by Parkfield Road. The northeast boundary abuts the rear of the gardens of properties along Parkfield Road. The north and west boundaries cut through open ground (Figure 2).
- 2.1.3. For the purposes of the current assessment, a buffer zone of 450m around the development site boundary has been included to place the site within its immediate archaeological and historical context. The development site and buffer zone together are referred to hereafter as the 'study area'. Where relevant, sites located beyond the study area have been included, where they have been shown to be of direct significance to the understanding the study area within its local context.

## **2.2. Geology**

- 2.2.1. The underlying geology of the study area comprises Mercia Mudstone. The development site is located immediately at the edge of the glaciofluvial sands and gravels associated with the River Rea.

## **2.3. Statutory designations**

- 2.3.1. The development site does not lie within a Conservation Area.
- 2.3.2. The development site does not contain any Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings or Locally Listed Buildings.
- 2.3.3. The study area does not lie within a Conservation Area, or contain any Scheduled Ancient Monuments. It does, however, include two Listed Buildings, the former St Peter's College (Saltley Training College) to the south, and 14, Naseby Road to the north. The Church of St Mary and St John, also to the north of the development site on Alum Rock Road, is a locally listed building (Figure 3).

## **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **3.1. General aims and objectives**

- 3.1.1. The general aim of the archaeological desk-based assessment, as stated within the WSI, was to collate existing archaeological and historic information relating to the proposed development site and its immediate environs (the study area), to enable informed decisions to be made regarding any further archaeological input which may be required by means of mitigation as the proposed development proceeds through the planning process.
- 3.1.2. The objective of the project was to gain an understanding of the archaeological and historical development of the development site and wider study area, and thereby assess the potential for the survival of below-ground archaeological remains.

### **3.2. Project-specific aims and objectives**

- 3.2.1. Project specific aims, as outlined in the WSI, were as follows:
- To assess the likelihood of archaeological remains relating to the putative medieval settlement to survive within the site
  - To assess the likelihood of post-medieval structures to be present within the site
  - To assess the impact of extensive clay extraction on the survival of archaeological remains
  - To assess the survival of any remains of the brick industry
- 3.2.2. The regional Research Agenda applicable to this assessment is the West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology ([http://www.arch-ant.bham.ac.uk/research/fieldwork\\_research\\_themes/projects/wmrrfa/intro.htm](http://www.arch-ant.bham.ac.uk/research/fieldwork_research_themes/projects/wmrrfa/intro.htm)).
- 3.2.3. The Regional Agenda themes applicable to this assessment are:
- The physical nature of rural settlement during the medieval period
  - How the impact of the 'transport revolution' is manifested in developing industries and communities

- Technical developments in regional industries, including brick-making
- The lives of the industrial workers and the impact of industrial development upon working people and communities
- Urban growth, the provision of housing by factory workers and the systematic laying out of large areas for terraced housing
- Specifically, in terms of post-medieval Birmingham, the West Midlands Regional Research Framework for Archaeology notes that Birmingham's industrial archaeology has tended to be seen in terms of better documented sites and those associated with well-known individuals, and there is a gap in our knowledge concerning lesser known archaeology (Hodder 2001).

## **4. METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1. Documentary research**

- 4.1.1. A search was made of the readily available primary and secondary historical and archaeological sources held at Birmingham Central Library and the libraries of the University of Birmingham. The Birmingham City Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the primary source for archaeological information for the county, was also consulted.

### **4.2. Walkover survey**

- 4.2.1. Subsequent to the completion of initial documentary research as outlined above, a walkover survey of the proposed development area was undertaken in order to assess the topography and any above-ground archaeology.

## **5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

### **5.1. Introduction**

- 5.1.1. This section of the assessment summarises the known archaeological and historical development of the study area within the context of the development of Birmingham as a whole; the development of the study area and development site itself is described in more detail in Section 6 below.

### **5.2. The prehistoric period**

- 5.2.1. While there is little in the way of archaeological evidence for the prehistoric period for Birmingham itself, there is evidence for activity during this period within the wider landscape (Rátkai and Forster 2008). Undeveloped parks and rural areas that ring the conurbation, such as Sutton Park, Sandwell Valley Country Park, and the area to the east of Sutton Coldfield have provided much evidence for prehistoric activity, including Mesolithic and Neolithic scatters. Bronze Age burnt mounds have been found adjacent to streams and rivers throughout the region (*ibid*).
- 5.2.2. Evidence for the Iron Age is also present within the wider region, with settlements and enclosures identified during works associated with the M6 Toll in 2001 to the north of Birmingham (Powell et al 2008).



- 5.2.3. One of the earliest finds in the area was a Palaeolithic hand-axe (BA1, Figure 3), found in the river gravels in Saltley, though this was unlikely to have come from a primary deposit (Hodder 2004, 21).

### 5.3. The Roman period

- 5.3.1. Like the prehistoric period, the Roman period in Birmingham is not particularly well represented. In terms of the wider area, there is the Roman fort at Metchley (Jones 2001 and 2005), to the southwest of the study area, with the Roman roads linking the fort to Wall, Alcester and Droitwich. None of these roads pass by the study area.
- 5.3.2. There is also evidence for settlement around Birmingham in the form of pottery wasters at Perry Barr and a kiln at Sutton Coldfield. Additional evidence was identified during investigations as part of the M6 Toll development, and there is evidence for Roman farmsteads at Kings Norton (Jones et al 2008).
- 5.3.3. However, it has been suggested that in the west Midlands in general, there is limited useage of Roman ceramics outside the urban, military or villa environment (Rátkai and Forster 2008, 55), which implies that even small amounts of Roman pottery locally can be significant (Hodder 2004, 69). The fragments found during archaeological work prior to the Bull Ring development at Park Street and Moor Street are suggested to be indicative of a farmstead in the area.
- 5.3.4. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, several hundred fragments of Roman pottery were collected from the clay pits at Saltley, which may also suggest Roman settlement or activity in the area (Hodder 2004, 70).

### 5.4. The Anglo-Saxon period

- 5.4.1. Activity during the Anglo-Saxon period is hinted at in the landscape by the use of Old English placenames. Birmingham itself means 'land-unit of Beorma's people' (Buteux 2003, 7), and it has been conjectured that the Parsonage Moat (depicted on later maps) or St Martins church may have earlier origins (Rátkai and Forster 2008, 56). There are also several placenames in the area ending in 'ley', including Bordesley and Saltley, meaning clearing in woodland or settlement in a woodland area (ibid). Saltley itself is suggested to mean 'clearing among the willows' (Jones 1974, 2).

### 5.5. The medieval period

- 5.5.1. Saltley was originally part of the Parish of Aston, and first mentioned in the 12<sup>th</sup> century (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=22962>). It was owned at this time by William fitzAnsculf. Gervase Paynel married fitzAnsculf's daughter, and granted Saltley to Henry de Rokeby. The manor then passed to Sir John Gobaut, who sold it to Walter de Clodeshale in 1343. At this time there were only seven tax payers in the whole of the manor (Jones 1974, 3).
- 5.5.2. It is suggested by Jones (1974, 3) that Clodeshale lived at Saltley at a moated site near Adderley Park, roughly 1km to the southwest of the development site, in an area marked on the Tomlinson map of 1760 as Great Moat Piece.
- 5.5.3. Saltley Hall was constructed to the north of this field in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Adderley family, and was let to a farmer in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that Prince Rupert lodged at Saltley Hall during the civil war (Jones 1974, 4).

## **5.6. The post-medieval period**

- 5.6.1. At the time of Tomlinsons map of 1760 there the manor of Saltley was still relatively unpopulated, with less than 50 houses depicted in the whole of the manor suggesting a population of around 200 (Jones 1974, 6).
- 5.6.2. Washwood Heath Road, to the north of the study area was turnpiked, and the improved access to Saltley encouraged wealthy Birmingham residents to relocate out of the city centre (Jones 1974, 7).
- 5.6.3. The railways came before the canals in Saltley, with the London to Birmingham railway opening in 1838, and the Birmingham and Derby Junction Railway arriving in 1842. The Birmingham and Warwick Junction Canal was opened in 1844 (Jones 1974, 9).
- 5.6.4. The new infrastructure encouraged massive industrial growth in Saltley, though this was centred to the west of the development site, closer to Birmingham City Centre. The new industries included three major gas works and many brick works. Brick works were set up to utilise the mercia mudstone to the east of Birmingham.
- 5.6.5. The rise of the brick-making industry is documented in the trade directories. The Post Office Directory of Birmingham 1867 records one brick and tile maker in Saltley, P Payton and Co at the College works. The Post Office Directory of Birmingham 1872 lists the College works, and two other brick and tile makers in Saltley. By 1880, the number of brick and tile makers listed in Saltley had doubled, with Thomas Lewis and Co recorded at the College Works. There were still six brick and tile makers in the area in 1886, though the College Works are no longer listed. By 1890 the number had decreased to four, and in 1895 only three were listed in the area.
- 5.6.6. In 1845 Joseph Wright set up a railway carriage works in Saltley, and steel rolling and engineering companies such as the Adderley Park Rolling Mills were also present (Community Development Project 1978).
- 5.6.7. Large amounts of terraced housing were erected to house the factory workers, and St Peters College, Saltley (also known as Saltley Training College, to the south of the development site) was opened as Worcester Diocesan Training School in 1852 as part of a national movement to train teachers to improve the education of the poor (Twist 2001).

## **5.7. The modern period**

- 5.7.1. During the modern period, the manufacturing potential of the area was given over to the war effort. As a result, the area was heavily targeted for bombing.

## **6. THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE STUDY AREA**

### **6.1. Introduction**

- 6.1.1. This section of the assessment describes the known archaeological and historical development of the study area including the proposed development site. It is based upon information current and available as of 09/2009. Other areas of archaeological or historical importance, not presently recorded, may be identified during subsequent phases of field investigation.

## 6.2. Known archaeological sites

- 6.2.1. A total of eight sites are registered on the SMR within the study area; of these, one coincides with the development site itself (the extent of the medieval village, BA 5 Figure 3, depicted in pink). In addition, there is a locally listed building, the Church of St Mary and St John (BA 9 Figure 3), which does not have an SMR number.
- 6.2.2. For the purposes of this assessment, all sites have been issued with a unique Birmingham Archaeology reference number (BA1-9), which together form a single continuous sequence. These are summarised in tabulated form below and locations are illustrated in Figure 3.

**TABLE 1: Sites registered with the SMR within the development site and wider study area** (see Figure 3).

BA Ref	SMR Ref	Type*	Site name/ description	NGR	Period/ Date
BA1	SMR 01663	FS	Palaeolithic handaxe and possible associated quartzite and flint	SP 1003 8741	Prehistoric
BA2	SMR 20124	FS	Alum Rock Roman coin hoard	SP 1070 8770	Roman
BA3	SMR 02908	FS	Alum Rock Road, Roman coin	SP 1048 8781	Roman
BA4	SMR 02901	FS	Saltley Roman and medieval pottery	SP 1003 8741	Roman and medieval
<b>BA5</b>	<b>SMR 20656</b>	<b>AS</b>	<b>Saltley medieval Village</b>	<b>Centred on SP 1035 8766</b>	<b>medieval</b>
BA6	SMR 20508	AS and PAW	18 <sup>th</sup> century building, found during evaluation	SP 1039 8767	Post-medieval
BA7	SMR 01204	LB	Saltley Training College 19 <sup>th</sup> century, former St Peters College	SP 1011 8744	Post-medieval
BA8	SMR 03626	LB	Saltley Teal Patents 19 <sup>th</sup> century building	SP 1057 8787	Post-medieval
BA9	-	LLB	Church of St Mary and St John	SP 1059 8785	Post-medieval

**\* Site classification:**

AS: Archaeological Site  
 FS: Archaeological Find-spot  
 LB: Listed Building  
 LLB: Locally Listed Building  
 PAW: Previous Archaeological Work

## 6.3. The prehistoric period

- 6.3.1. The prehistoric period within the study area is represented by a Palaeolithic handaxe found by Joseph Landon in the gravels of the River Rea at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (BA 1). The axe may potentially be as old as 500,000 BP. While the

presence of the find in the gravels suggests this was not primary deposition, it does highlight the potential for these gravels to contain remains of this period.

#### **6.4. The Roman period**

6.4.1. Activity during the Roman period within the study area is suggested by the identification of several find spots recorded on the SMR (BA 2 to 4). In 1919 a coin hoard, reported to have consisted of a small number of large bronze coins, was discovered in the garden of 27 Jackson Road (BA 2). Details of this find, however, are vague. Another coin, a denarius of Antoninus Pius AD 150, is reported to have been found in 1915 in a garden behind 303 Alum Rock Road (BA 3). Pottery fragments of Roman and medieval date, counted in the hundreds, are recorded to have been recovered by Joseph Landon in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (BA 4), at the same time he recovered the flint axe.

#### **6.5. The Anglo-Saxon period**

6.5.1. There are no entries on the Sites and Monuments Record relating to the Anglo-Saxon period.

#### **6.6. The medieval period**

6.6.1. As well as the Roman pottery, Joseph Landon of Saltley College recovered an amount of medieval pottery in the upper gravels of the River Rea (BA 4). In addition to this, settlement in the area is suggested by the pattern of roads, fields and field names depicted on Tomlinsons Map of Saltley 1760 (BA 5, Figure 4). These consist of a triangular area, possibly a former village green, with narrow fields on each side of this, possibly representing former tofts and crofts (SMR 20656). The west side of the development site is within the extent of this potential medieval village.

#### **6.7. The post-medieval period**

6.7.1. Archaeological remains dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century were identified during an evaluation of the area in 1997. These remains were present in a trench immediately to the west of the current development site, and consisted of a brick wall, brick and cobbled floors, a metalled track and a basement containing mid-18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (BA 6, Soden 1997). This building is present on Tomlinsons Map of Saltley 1760 (Figure 4). Other sites dating from the later post-medieval period are also present within the study area. To the south is Saltley Training College, a Grade II listed building (BA 7), and to the north is Saltley Teal Patents building, also a Grade II listed building (BA 8). Both these buildings are 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. The Church of St Mary and St John (BA 9) is adjacent to BA 8, and is a locally listed building.

#### **6.8. The modern period**

6.8.1. There are no sites dating to the modern period recorded on the Sites and Monuments record. However, a plan of WWII bomb sites was produced during previous archaeological work in the area (Soden 1997), showing that the area was severely bombed during this period, probably due to the broader areas importance as an arms manufacturing centre (*ibid*). The suggested locations of these bombs have been reproduced in Figure 3.

## 7. MAP REGRESSION

### 7.1. Early maps

- 7.1.1. The earliest map of the study area consulted is Tomlinsons Plan of Saltley 1760 (Figure 4), which shows the study area and surrounding environs as completely rural. The map shows the development site within three fields, one named croft, and two without a name. They are owned by Edward Bennett. A building is depicted near the southwest corner of the development site, although nothing else is depicted within these fields. A field immediately to the northwest is named Hovel Close, which is perhaps indicative of early brick-making industry in this area. The wider landscape depicts clusters of buildings to the northwest, west, and Shaw Hill Farm to the northeast. Earlier field systems are depicted to the northwest in the form of strip fields, and to the west, field names include 'furlong', also suggestive of earlier origins. The fields that the development site is within are also relatively long and thin, and may potentially have been further subdivided in the past. The pattern of roads, fields and fieldnames in the immediate vicinity of the site possibly indicates the location of a former village (BA 5, SMR 20656).
- 7.1.2. Bloods Map of Birmingham and its Environs 1857 (Figure 5) shows a building adjacent to the road in the south of the development site, and further buildings immediately to the west. The Training School and railway are present to the south of the development site, and there are other buildings abutting the roads within the adjacent fields. Other than this, the area is still rural in character, although the strip fields depicted on the earlier map have now been converted into larger fields.

### 7.2. Ordnance Survey maps

- 7.2.1. The Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1890 (Figure 6) shows the development site in detail. Within the site boundary there are two rectangular kilns, and a long rectangular building labelled brick works present to the northeast. It is possible that Woodbine Cottage, depicted immediately to the west of the development site is the same building(s) present on Bloods map of 1857. There are also the remains of a large old clay extraction pit within the present site boundaries. The development site and its immediate vicinity are still rural in nature, although there are pockets of terraced housing to the north and south, and terraced housing and speculative development extending towards the site to the west from Birmingham city centre.
- 7.2.2. The Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1904 (Figure 7) shows substantial new terraced housing to the south and west of the development site, though none within the site itself. The old clay pit is still depicted as an earthwork, although the kilns are no longer present. The brick works are labelled 'disused'.
- 7.2.3. The Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 1915 (Figure 8) depicts the surrounding area as now intensely developed with terraced housing. Parkfield Road is now laid out to the east of the development site. The development site itself, however, is still open, apart from a couple of possible buildings. A building at the southwest of the development site is annotated Woodbine Cottage, and there is a Mission Church adjacent to this. The property boundary of the church is outside the development site. The clay pit is no longer depicted.
- 7.2.4. The Ordnance Survey 4<sup>th</sup> Edition 1937 (Figure 9) shows even more intensive terraced housing development, although again, the development site itself remains undeveloped. The buildings or structures identified on the earlier map, in the centre of the site, are no longer present.

- 7.2.5. Later maps (not illustrated) record the demolition of sections of these terraced housing and subsequent redevelopment of the area. It is likely that much of this redevelopment occurred after the bombing of the area during WWII.

## **8. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK**

- 8.1.1. A summary of previous archaeological work within the development site and wider study area is given below together with a brief statement of their results. The locations of previous trenches and test pits are illustrated in Figure 3.

### **8.2. Within the development site**

- 8.2.1. The Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) records two known archaeological fieldwork events within the development site.
- 8.2.2. An archaeological desk-based assessment was conducted in 1997 by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Soden and Shaw 1997), which included the current development site within its study area. This report highlighted the potential presence of a former village centred around a green or open space to the north of Couchman Road.
- 8.2.3. An archaeological evaluation conducted subsequently in 1997 by Northamptonshire Archaeology comprised six trenches, one of which is located in the north of the current development site. No archaeological features were identified in this trench. However, a trench excavated immediately to the west of the current development site revealed the remains of an 18<sup>th</sup> century building fronting Couchman Road (BA 6). Other trenches excavated during this phase of work (outside the development site) identified the foundations and services of the former terraced housing, and the remains of a former clay pit (Soden 1997).

### **8.3. Within the study area**

- 8.3.1. The Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) records three other archaeological fieldwork events within the wider study area, all with negative results.
- 8.3.2. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in June 2001 by Northamptonshire Archaeology, comprising two trenches at the junction of Clodeshall Road and Couchman Road (Hayward 2001). No archaeological features were identified.
- 8.3.3. Another archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Alum Rock Road in December of the same year, again by Northamptonshire Archaeology. This work comprised two trenches and seven geotechnical test pits (Webster 2001). No archaeological features were identified.
- 8.3.4. A watching brief was conducted at Saltley Primary Care and Well-being Centre in August 2009, comprising two trenches and 52 test pits (Hogg 2009). No archaeological features were identified.

## **9. WALKOVER SURVEY**

- 9.1.1. The walkover survey identified that the development site comprises an area of publicly accessible land adjacent to Couchman Road which is grassed and contains footpaths across it (Plates 1 to 3), and an area of concreted former sports court, which is fenced off (Plate 4). The two are separated by a grassed bund. The open grassed area is landscaped, with much of the southeast corner of the development

site raised substantially above the level of the roads. This landscaping may represent spoil heaps from the former brick works and clay extraction, or from the terraced housing development, or represent demolition or landfill from the WWII bombing in the area.

## **10. DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS**

### **10.1. Archaeological potential of the study area**

- 10.1.1. The present study has shown that there is the potential for archaeological remains to be present within the development site.
- 10.1.2. The western edge of the development site coincides with the edge of the former medieval village green depicted on the 1760 map (Figure 4). The remains of buildings, structures, pits and property boundaries within the crofts fronting the green may survive within the development site, in areas not truncated by later industry.
- 10.1.3. There is also the possibility of remains of further buildings associated with the 18<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings identified in 1997 adjacent to Couchman Road, and the remains of the kilns, brick works and clay extraction pits identified on the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map of 1890. The lack of subsequent development suggests that archaeological remains might be well preserved if present. While the later industry, especially the clay extraction pits, will have severely truncated any earlier remains, they have themselves archaeological merit.
- 10.1.4. It is also feasible that earlier remains dating to the Roman period are present within the development site in areas not truncated by later industry.

### **10.2. Possible impacts of development**

- 10.2.1. Redevelopment of the site is likely to affect any archaeological remains present, though the extent of this impact will depend on the nature of the development.
- 10.2.2. The proposed development will not impact on the setting of any Listed Buildings, Locally Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Conservation Areas.

### **10.3. Relevant planning policy and guidance**

- 10.3.1. Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16; DoE, 1990) Section B, para 30 states that 'No development shall take place within the area indicated (this would be the area of archaeological interest) until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.'

### **10.4. Suggested archaeological mitigation**

- 10.4.1. Given the potential for archaeological deposits within the study area, an initial programme of archaeological evaluation comprising trial trenching may be required ahead of development by way of mitigation. Details of trench locations will need to be defined in the light of detailed design proposals and in consultation with the Planning Archaeologist for Birmingham City Council.
- 10.4.2. Comments in this report are subject to review and revision by Mike Hodder, Planning Archaeologist for Birmingham City Council.

## **11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The project was commissioned by Capita Symonds Ltd; thanks are extended to Simon Deakin of Capita Symonds Ltd for his help and cooperation throughout the course of the project. Thanks are also due to Dr Mike Hodder, Planning Archaeologist Birmingham City Council, and to the staff of Birmingham Central Library.

The historical research and site assessment were undertaken by Eleanor Ramsey of Birmingham Archaeology who also produced the current report. The project was managed for Birmingham Archaeology by Alex Jones, who edited this report.

## **12. LIST OF SOURCES**

### **12.1. Cartographic sources**

- 1760 Tomlinsons Map of the Manor of Saltley
- 1857 Bloods Map of Birmingham and its Environs
- 1890 Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 map, 1st Edition
- 1904-5 Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 map, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition
- 1915-27 Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 map, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition
- 1937-8 Ordnance Survey County Series 1:2500 map, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

### **12.2. Secondary sources**

Buteux, S., 2003. *Beneath the Bull Ring: The Archaeology of Life and Death in Early Birmingham*

Community Development Project Report 1978 *The Costs of Industrial Change*

Hayward, S., 2001 *Clodeshall Road/ Couchman Road, Saltley, Birmingham: Archaeological Evaluation* Northamptonshire Archaeology Report

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Ratkai, S. and Forster, A., 2008 '*...that great, dirty leviathan*' *Archaeology and Development in Birmingham City Centre, AD 1100-1900*



Soden, I., 1997. *An Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Saltley, Birmingham* Northamptonshire Archaeology Report

Soden, I. and Shaw, M., 1997. *Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at Saltley Birmingham November 1996* Northamptonshire Archaeology Report

Twist, M., 2001. *Images of England: Saltley, Duddeston and Nechells*

Webster, M., 2001. *Archaeological Field Evaluation at Alum Rock Road, Saltley, Birmingham* Northamptonshire Archaeology Report

### **12.3. Trade directories**

1867 Post Office Directory of Birmingham (Trades)

1872 Post Office Directory of Birmingham

1880 Kelly's Directory of Birmingham (Commercial, Trades and Official)

1886 Kelly's Directory of Birmingham (Trades)

1890 Kelly's Directory of Birmingham (Trades)

1895 Kelly's Directory of Birmingham with its suburbs (Trades section)

### **12.4. On-line sources**

British History On-line (Victoria County History)

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk>

[http://www.arch-ant.bham.ac.uk/research/fieldwork\\_research\\_themes/projects/wmrrfa/seminars.htm](http://www.arch-ant.bham.ac.uk/research/fieldwork_research_themes/projects/wmrrfa/seminars.htm)

Hodder, M. 2003 *Birmingham in the late post-medieval period* WMRRFA Seminar 7 (Post-medieval (industrial and after)

[http://www.arch-ant.bham.ac.uk/research/fieldwork\\_research\\_themes/projects/wmrrfa/seminar7/Mike%20Hodder.doc](http://www.arch-ant.bham.ac.uk/research/fieldwork_research_themes/projects/wmrrfa/seminar7/Mike%20Hodder.doc)

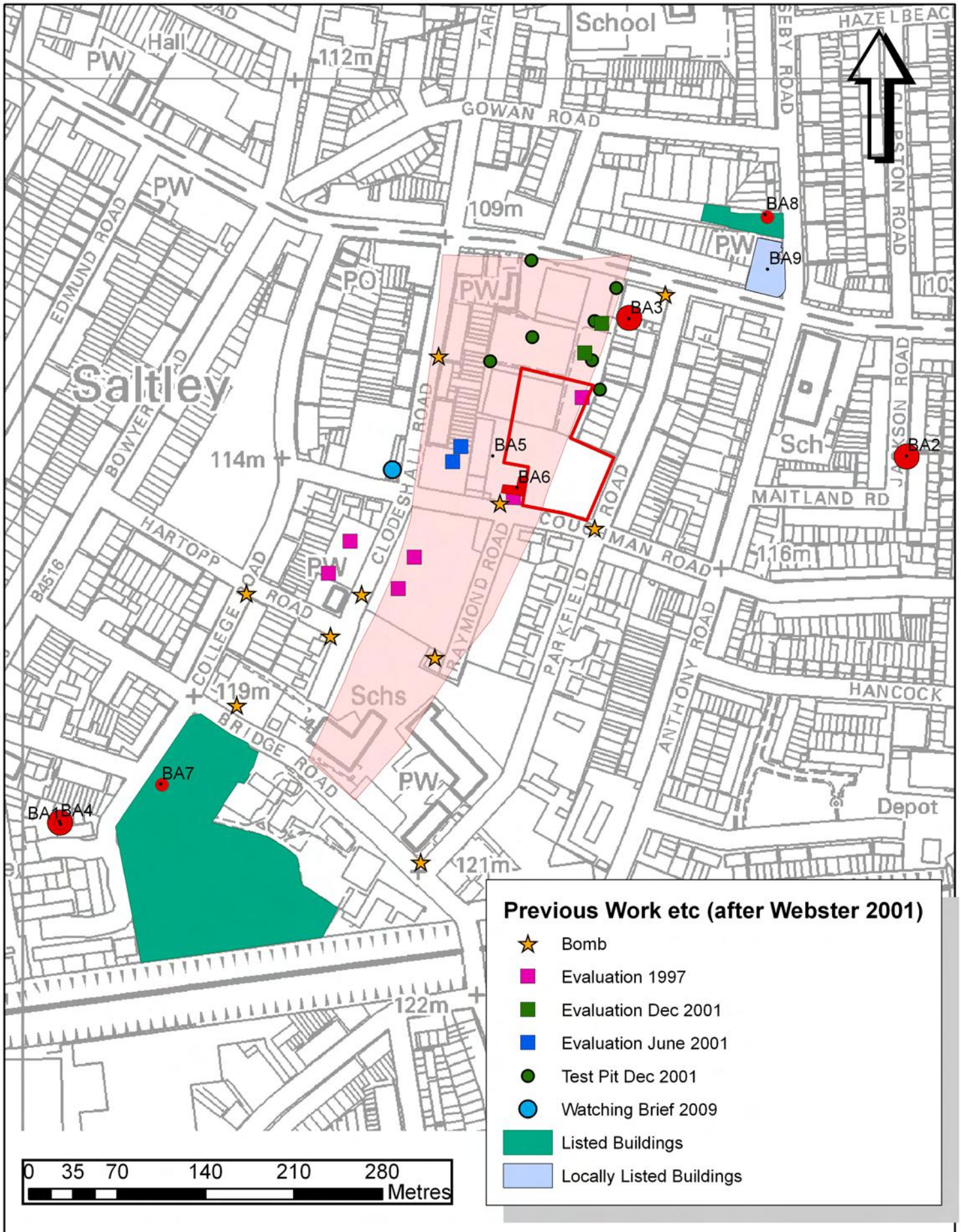


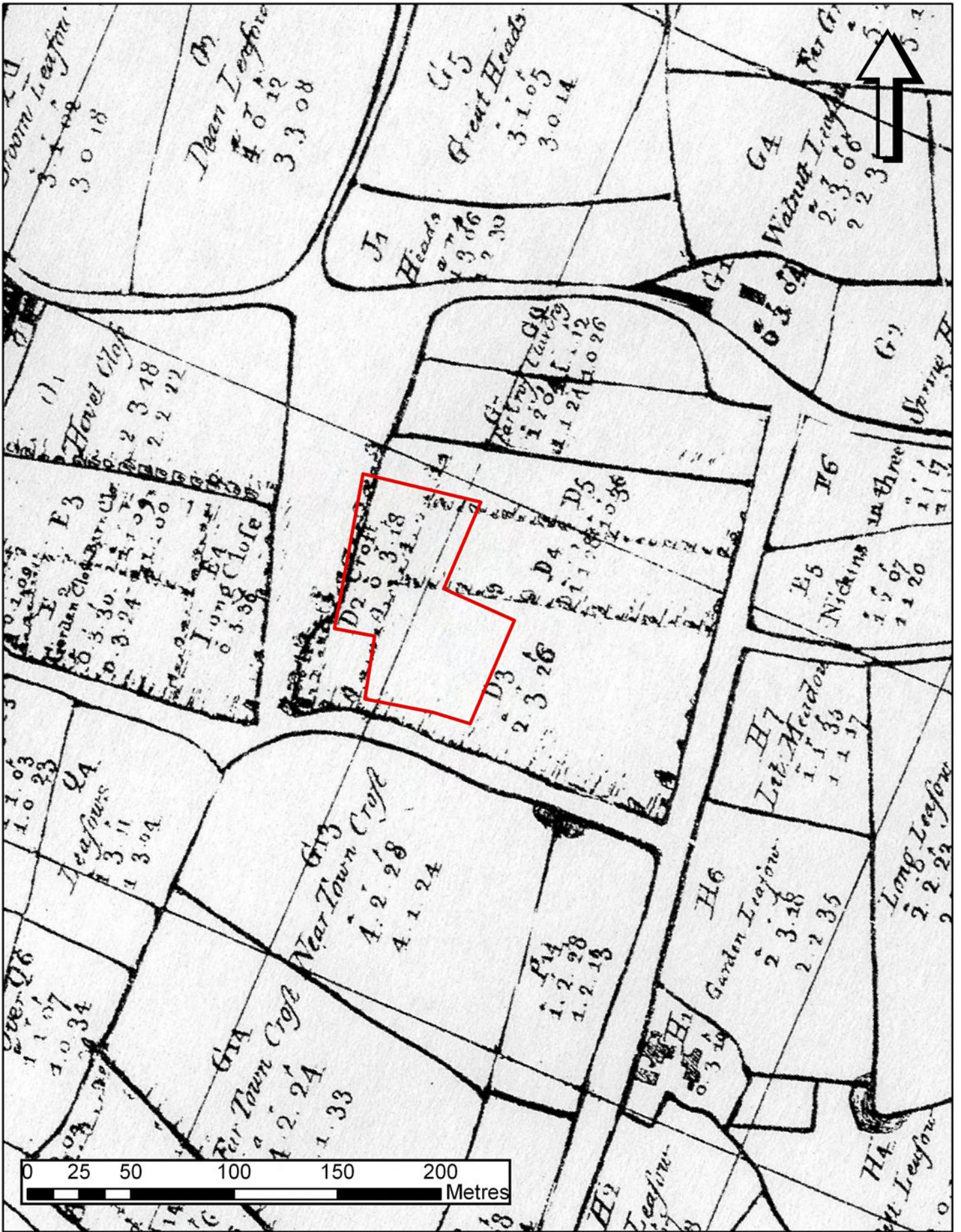


PN: 1986

Site 1, Couchman Road

Figure 2: Site Plan

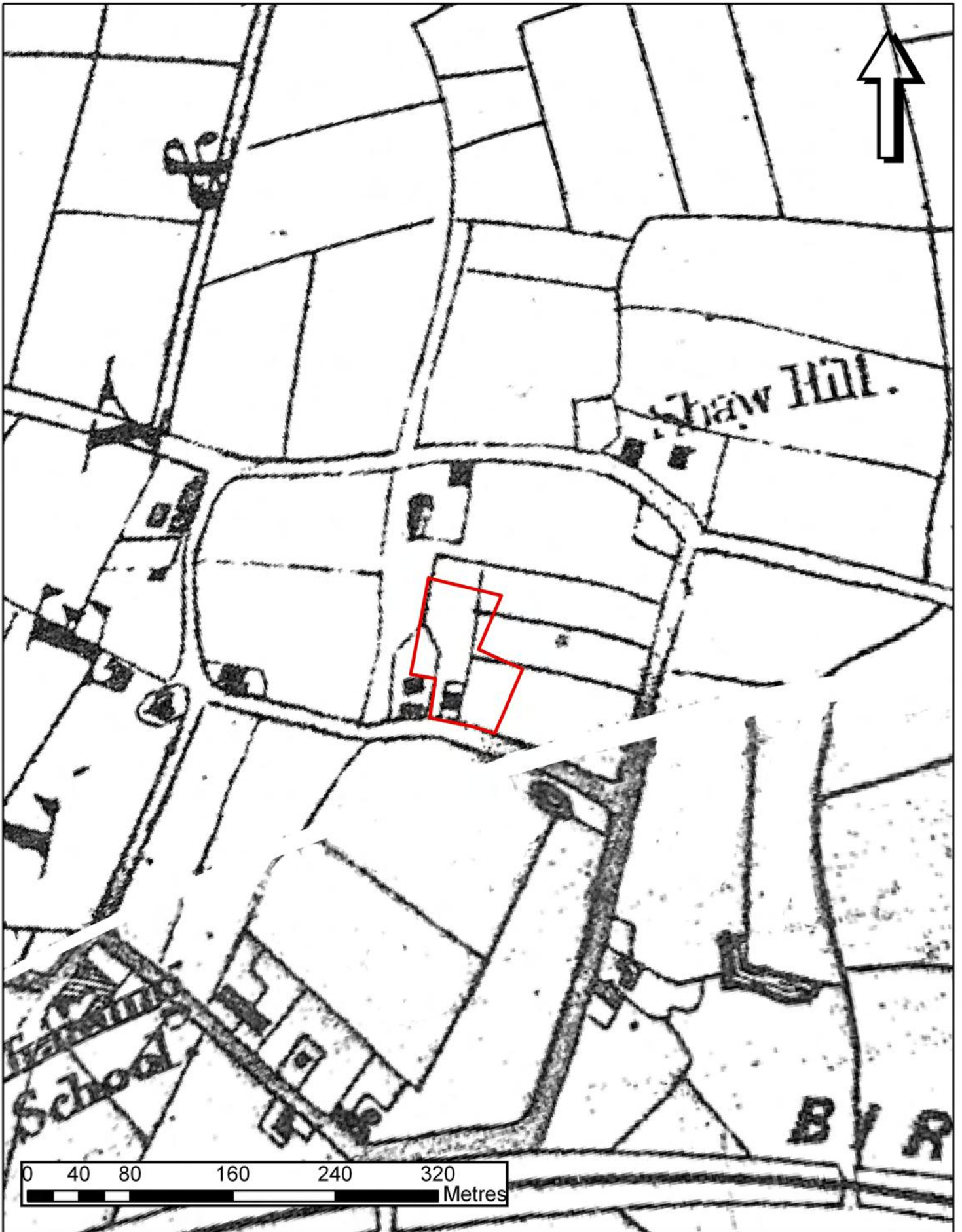


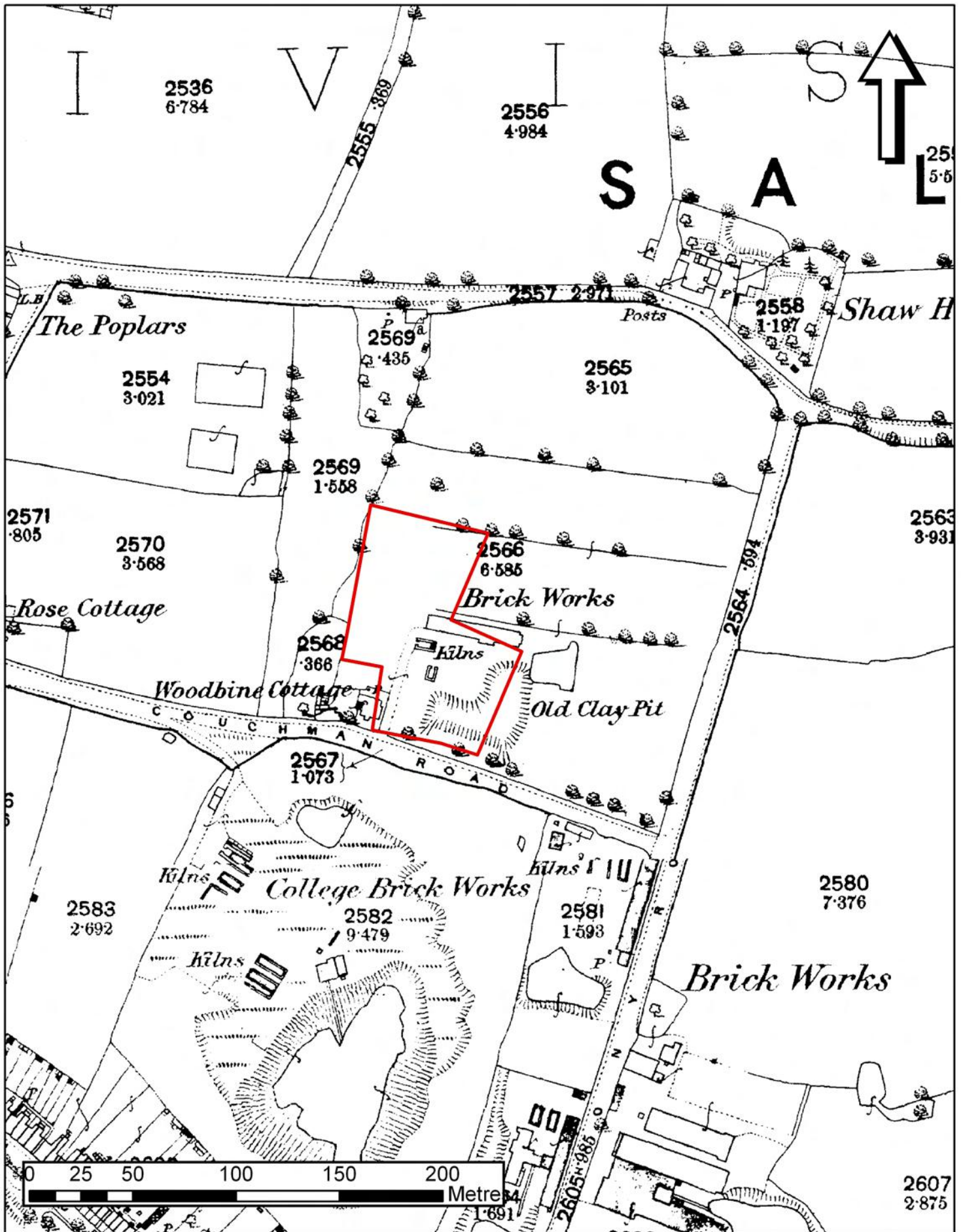


PN: 1986

Site 1, Couchman Road

Figure 4: 1760 Tomlinsons Plan of Saltley

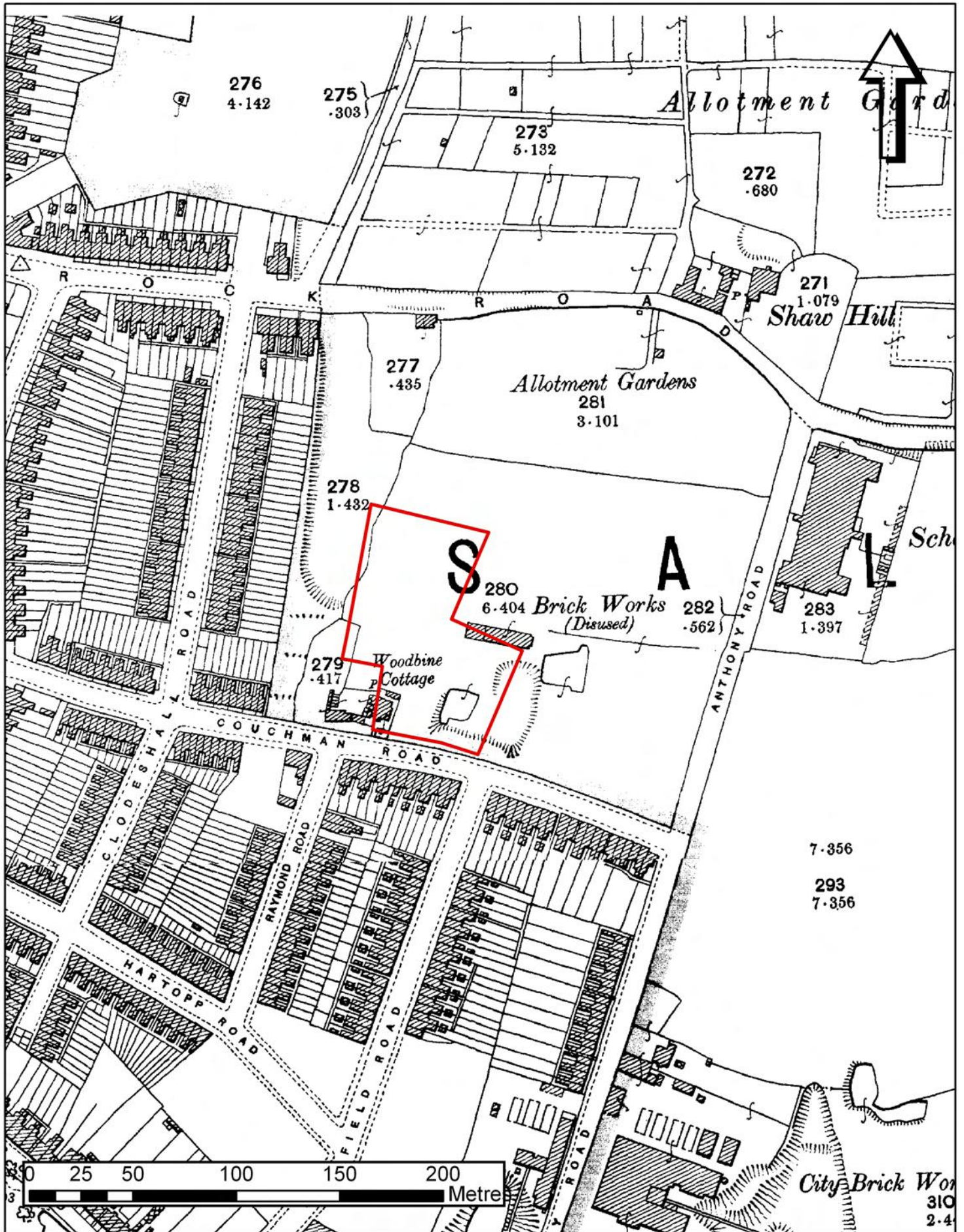




PN: 1986

Site 1, Couchman Road

Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1890

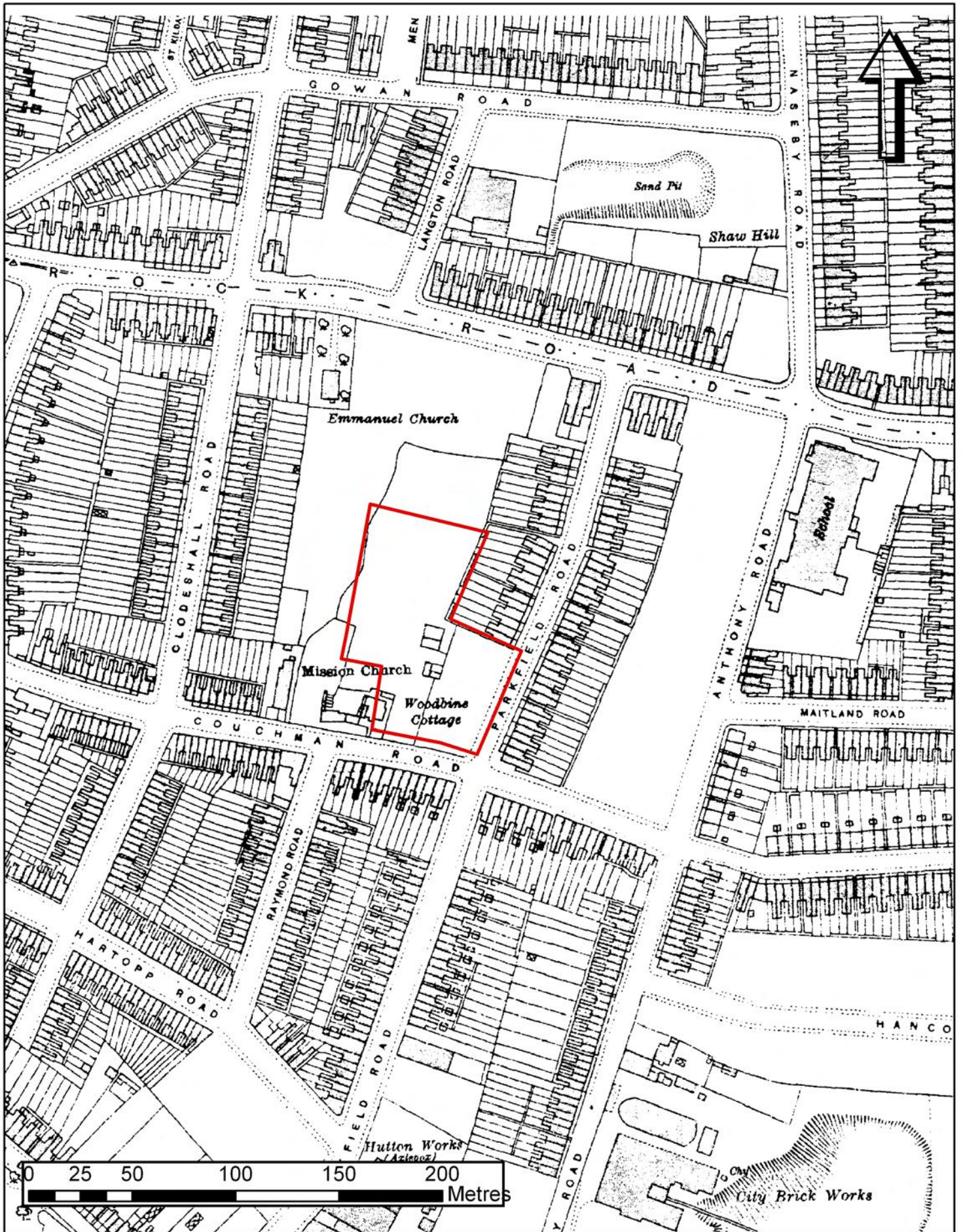


PN: 1986

Site 1, Couchman Road

Figure 7: Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1904-5





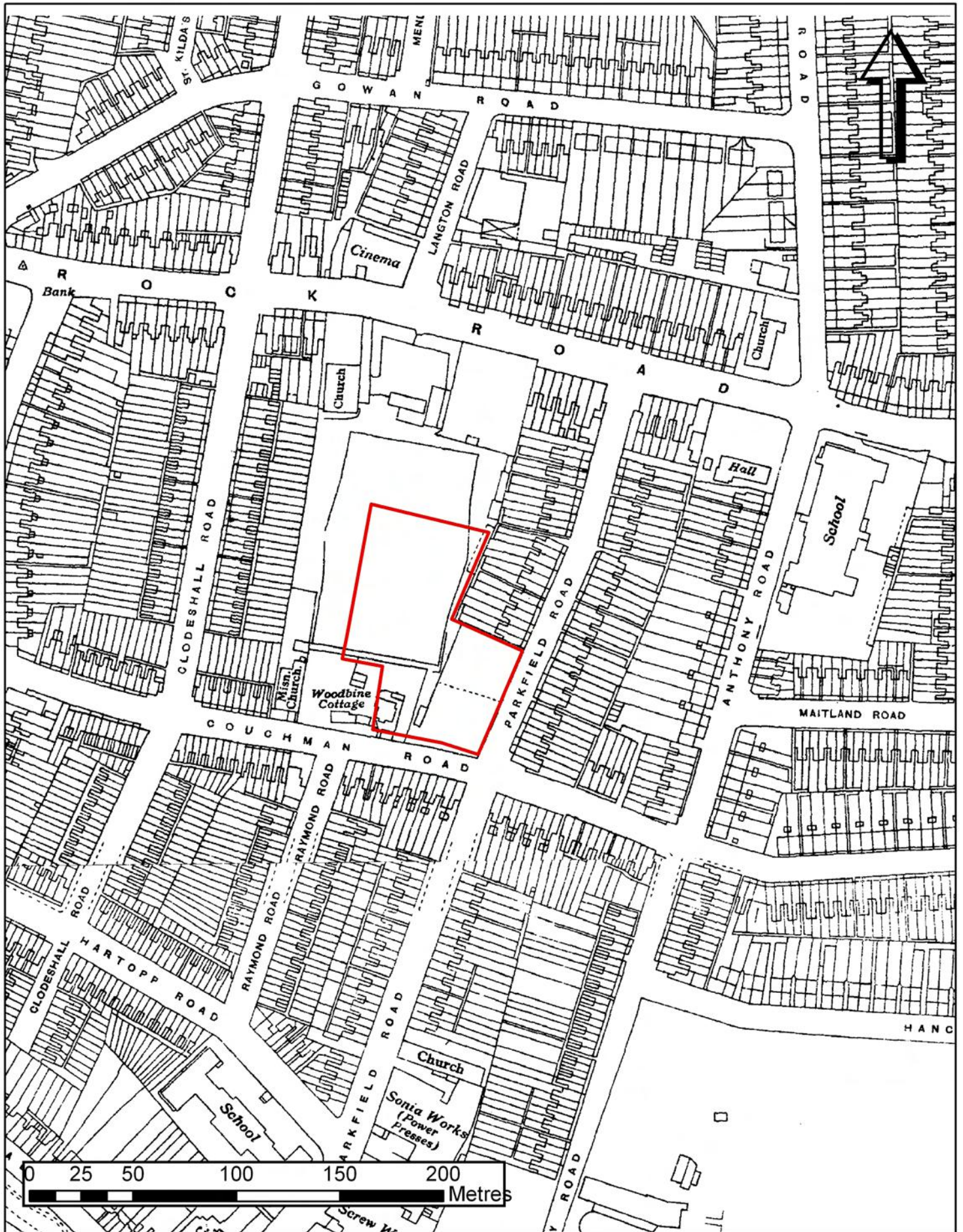




Plate 1: Development site looking northeast from southeast corner



Plate 2: Development site looking north from southeast corner



Plate 3: Development site looking southwest from the eastern edge of the site



Plate 4: Concrete sports court and grassed bund at the northern section of the site, looking west

## **APPENDIX 1: Written Scheme of Investigation**

**Site 1 and Site 4 Couchman Road, and Site 2 Raymond Road  
Saltley, Birmingham  
Written Scheme of Investigation for Desk-based Assessment  
NGR: SP 1037 8766  
Archaeological Contractor: Birmingham Archaeology**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This document describes the programme of work required to undertake an archaeological investigation at the above sites. It forms the written scheme of investigation for the work. Any variation in the scope of work would be agreed with Mike Hodder, Planning Archaeologist, Birmingham City Council before implementation.
- 1.2 As the proposed development sites potentially contain remains of possible archaeological significance an archaeological desk-based assessment was recommended by the Planning Archaeologist, Birmingham City Council to support an application to redevelop the sites. This is in accordance with government advice contained with PPG 16 (DoE 1990).

## **2 SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION**

- 2.1 The sites are located in Saltley, to the east of Birmingham City Centre. Site 1 Couchman Road is located on the corner of Couchman Road and Parkfield Road and covers an area of 1.6 acres, centred on NGR SP 1042 8770. Site 4 Couchman Road is located on the corner of Couchman Road and Clodeshall Road, and covers an area of 718 sq.m, centred on SP 1032 8769. Site 2 Raymond Road is located along Raymond Road and covers an area of 0.62 acres, centred on SP 1038 8760 (Fig. 1).
- 2.2 The underlying geology consists of Mercia Mudstone, at the edge of glaciofluvial sands and gravels associated with the River Rea.
- 2.3 The present character of the sites is open ground. Sites 2 and 4 were formally occupied by early 20<sup>th</sup> century terraced housing.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 One of the earliest artefacts found in Birmingham was a Palaeolithic hand-axe, found in the river gravels overlying the Mercia Mudstone in Saltley. It was discovered in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century during clay extraction for the flourishing brick-making industry (Hodder 2004, 21). Roman pottery was also collected from clay pits in the area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting some level of settlement or activity in the Roman period (ibid, 70).

- 3.2 Saltley manor was originally part of the Parish of Aston, and sparsely populated during the medieval period. Tomlinsons Plan of Saltley 1760 (not illustrated) shows few buildings in the area, though does depict extensive strip-field systems to the east of the development sites.
- 3.3 In the early post-medieval period Saltley remained essentially rural, though industrialisation, urbanisation and transport infrastructure such as railways and canals rapidly spread from the centre of Birmingham and brought development to the area later in this period. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Saltley was home to several important industries, including brick-making, that utilised the natural clay resources in the area. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the area was dominated by terraced housing, providing homes for the ever increasing numbers of factory workers.

#### **4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 4.1 The principle aim of the desk-based assessment is to collate existing archaeological and historic information relating to the site and its immediate environs, to enable informed decisions to be made regarding any further archaeological input that may be required by means of mitigation as the proposed development at the site proceeds.
- 4.2 Project specific aims are to:
- Assess the likelihood of archaeological remains relating to the putative medieval settlement to survive within the development sites
  - Assess the likelihood of post-medieval structures to be present within the development sites
  - Assess the impact of clay extraction on the survival of archaeological remains
  - Assess the survival of any remains relating to the brick-making industry

#### **5 METHODOLOGY**

- 5.1 The objective would be achieved in the following manner:
- A search of all relevant and readily available published and unpublished documentary source material, including historic maps, early photographs and drawings, written descriptions, and primary source and secondary sources related to the study area held by the Birmingham Archives and Heritage Service at Birmingham Central Library and the libraries of the University of Birmingham.
  - Consultation of the Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record, the principal source of archaeological data for the City.
  - A site inspection in order to assess the above and below-ground archaeological potential.

#### **6 STAFFING**

- 6.1 The project will be managed and directed for Birmingham Archaeology by Alex Jones MIFA. The documentary research will be undertaken by Eleanor Ramsey.

## 7 REPORT

7.1 A separate report will be produced for each of the 3 development sites. On completion of the documentary research, the results will be presented in a report containing the following information:

### Text

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Site location and description
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Archaeological and historical context
- Historical development of the development site
- Map regression analysis
- Previous archaeological work
- Site assessment (walkover survey)
- Discussion and implications
- List of sources consulted

### Figures

- Appropriate illustrations including location plan and a selection of historic maps
- A selection of colour plates showing the current land use and physical context of the development site

7.2 The written reports will be made publicly accessible, as part of the Birmingham Sites and Monuments Record within six months of completion. A digital copy of each report will be lodged with the Planning Archaeologist, Birmingham City Council. Summary reports will be submitted for inclusion in West Midlands Archaeology. Digital copies of the grey-literature reports will be logged with OASIS.

## 8 TIMETABLE

8.1 The work would normally start within one week of instruction to proceed and the report would ordinarily be completed within a week of completion of the research.

## 9 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

9.1 The project will follow the requirements set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (IfA, 2008a).

9.2 Birmingham Archaeology is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA); all project staff will adhere to the *Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists* (IfA, 2008c) at all times.

## 10 HEALTH AND SAFETY

10.1 All current health and safety legislation, regulations and guidance will be complied with. The excavation will conform to the *Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992*, *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999*, and *Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007* and any other health and safety legislation were appropriate. Work will be carried out in accordance with guidelines laid out in the



*Birmingham Archaeology Health and Safety Manual (revised 2008) and Health & Safety in Field Archaeology Manual (SCAUM 2007).*

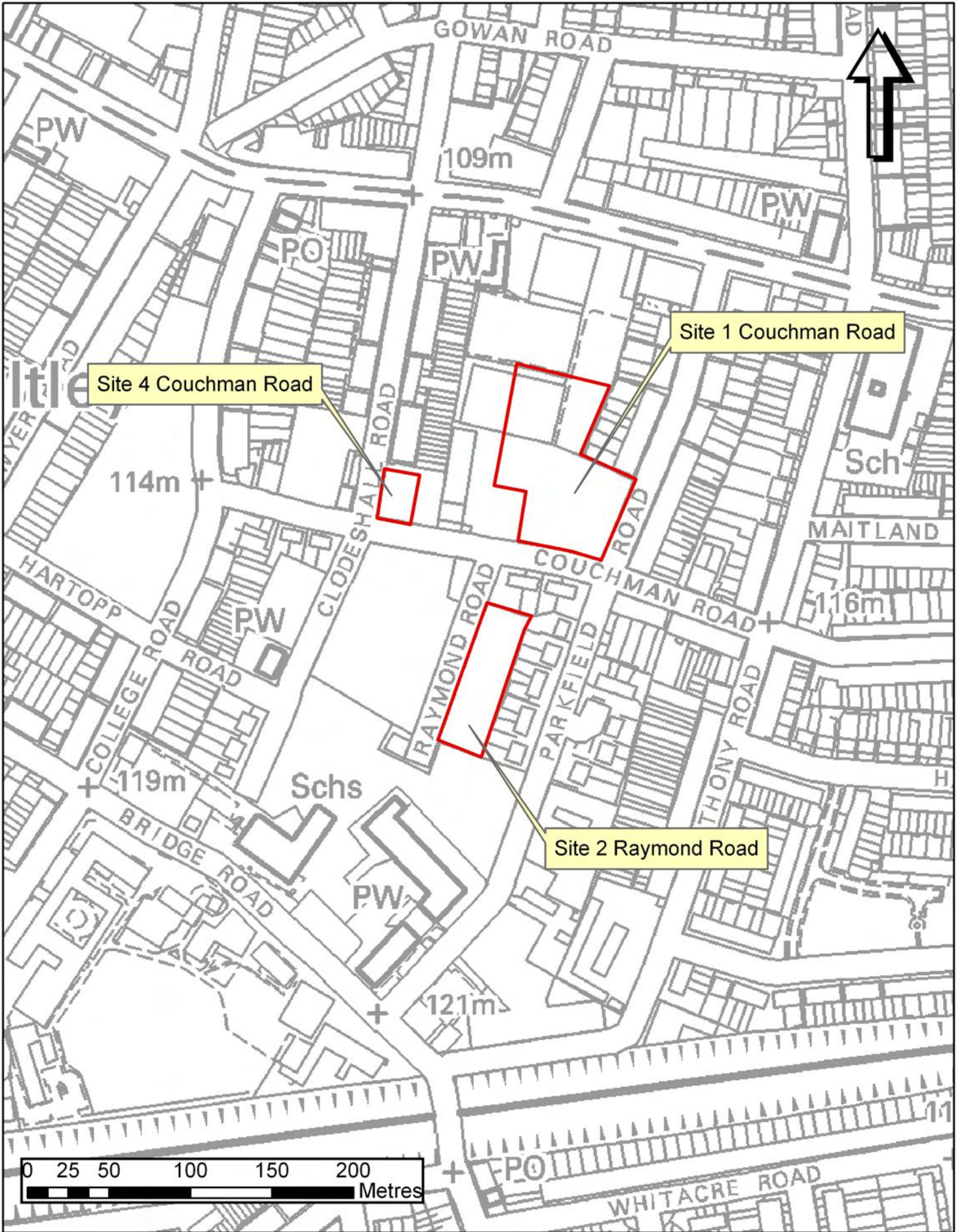
## **11 REFERENCES**

Hodder, M., 2004. *Birmingham: A Hidden History*

IfA, 2008a. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*

IfA, 2008b. *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*

IfA, 2008c. *Code of Conduct.*



## APPENDIX 2: Glossary of terms

### Archaeological periods and date ranges

Period	Date range
<b>Prehistoric</b>	
Paleolithic	500,000 BC – 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	10,000 BC – 4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 BC – 2,400 BC
Bronze Age	2,400 BC – 700 BC
Iron Age	700 BC – AD 43
<b>Historic</b>	
Roman	AD 43 – AD 410
Anglo-Saxon/ Early medieval	AD 410 – AD 1066
Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1539
Post-medieval	AD 1540 – AD 1800
Industrial Revolution	c.AD 1750 – AD 1825
Modern	AD 1801 - present

### Statutory designations

#### **Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM)**

'Scheduling' is the process through which nationally important sites and monuments are given legal protection. A schedule has been kept since 1882 of monuments whose preservation is given priority over other land uses. The current legislation, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, supports a formal system of Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC, see below) for any work to a designated monument.

#### **Conservation Area (CA)**

Conservation Areas are any areas of '*special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance*' and are designated by Local Authorities. There are now more than 8,000 conservation areas in England. Designation introduces a general control over the demolition of unlisted buildings and provides the basis for policies designed to preserve or enhance all the aspects of character or appearance that define an area's special interest.

#### **Listed Building (LB)**

A 'Listed Building' is a structure that has been placed on the statutory lists of buildings of '*special architectural or historic interest*' compiled by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on advice from English Heritage. When a building is listed, it is listed in its entirety, which means that both the exterior and the interior are protected. In addition, any object or structure fixed to the building, and any object or structure within the curtilage of the building, which although not fixed to the building, forms part of the land and has done so since before 1 July 1948, are treated as part of the listed building.

#### **Locally Listed Building (LLB)**

A Locally Listed Building is a building, structure or feature which, whilst not Statutorily listed by the Secretary of State, a local authority feels makes a significant contribution to the local environment and an important part of an area's heritage due to its architectural, archaeological significance or historical associations. Inclusion on a Local List does not give a building any statutory protection.

#### **Registered Parks and Gardens**

The *Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England*, compiled and maintained by English Heritage, currently includes nearly 1450 sites, divided into three grade bands. The majority of the sites identified through the *Register* as being of a sufficiently high level of interest to merit a national designation, are designated Grade II. Around 30% of the 1450 are considered to be of exceptional

historic interest and are awarded a star giving them Grade II\* status while a further 10% are of international importance, and are classified as Grade I.

### **Historic Battlefields**

The English Heritage Register of Historic Battlefields identifies forty-three important English battlefields. Its purpose is to offer them protection and to promote a better understanding of their significance.

## **The planning process**

### **Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC)**

The Secretary of State must be informed about any work which might affect a monument above or below ground, and English Heritage gives advice to the Government on each application. In assessing each application the Secretary of State will try to ensure that damage done to protected sites is kept to a minimum. **Written consent must always be obtained before any work can begin.** Some development may also need planning permission.

### **Listed Building Consent (LBC)**

Listed Building Consent (LBC) is required in order to carry out any works to a Listed Building which will affect its special value for listing purposes. This will almost certainly be necessary for any major works, but may also be necessary for minor alterations and possibly even repairs and maintenance. LBC may also be necessary for a change of use of the property. **It is a criminal offence to carry out work which needs listed building consent without obtaining it beforehand.**

## **The archaeological process**

The principal stages for handling archaeology within the planning process, in line with the Government's *Planning Policy Guidance notes PPG 15 and PPG16* are:

- **Pre-determination:** desk-based assessment, archaeological evaluation;
- **Post-determination:** preservation *in situ*, preservation by record (excavation).

## **Stages of archaeological work**

### **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)**

Any programme of archaeological work will normally be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), clearly stating the scope and extent of work, the aims and objectives, and the methodology to be employed during the course of work. The WSI will be prepared by the contracted archaeological organisation and approved in advance of work by the archaeological officer of the relevant LPA.

### **Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA)**

An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) constitutes a first stage, non-invasive assessment of the archaeological potential of a site, undertaken in advance of any development. Research will normally comprise a search of all readily available documentary and archival sources pertaining to a site combined with an on-site 'walkover' survey to assess surviving archaeological remains/ built heritage of the area.

### **Archaeological Evaluation**

An archaeological evaluation is a limited programme of intrusive or non-intrusive fieldwork undertaken to establish the extent of survival of archaeological deposits within a site and to determine the character, date, state of preservation and potential significance of any buried remains. An evaluation is often required prior to the determination of a planning application for development and will normally be undertaken subsequent to a desk-based assessment. A variety of techniques may be employed including geophysical survey, fieldwalking, trial trenching and test pitting. The results of evaluation will be used to establish the necessity for and determine the requirements of any further stage of archaeological work.

### **Archaeological Excavation**

An archaeological excavation is a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork, normally undertaken by means of open area excavation, with the purpose of examining and recording archaeological deposits, features and structures identified by documentary research and/ or archaeological evaluation. Archaeological excavation will normally lead on to a programme of post-excavation analysis and publication.

***Archaeological Watching Brief***

An archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within an area or site where there is a possibility of archaeological deposits being disturbed or destroyed. Groundworks will normally be undertaken by a principal contractor under the supervision of an attending archaeologist.

***Preservation in-situ***

Foundation design to avoid or minimise impact on archaeology may be sought. This might include locating buildings to avoid archaeology; display of remains; sympathetic location of piled foundations and piling techniques; raising floor or ground beam levels; the routing of services; management of ground water. Landscaping and planting may also be constrained. Monitoring over a number of years after completion may be needed to assess if the preservation techniques have been successful.

***Historic Building Recording (HBR)***

A Historic Building Record (HBR) is a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, structure or complex and its setting. A programme of historic building recording will often be required as a condition of planning consent/ listed building consent, to be taken in advance of (pre-determination) and/ or during building refurbishment/ alterations/ demolitions (post determination).

HBR can be undertaken to a range of different levels (Levels 1 – 4 as defined by English Heritage) dependent upon the significance of the building under consideration and the extent of the proposed works.