

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Lode Mill, Alstonefield, Staffordshire



1967 photograph of Lode Mill looking northwest (Staffordshire County Council)

Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Report No. 2009/88
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**An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Jim Campbell to undertake an archaeological desk based assessment of the proposed re-development of Lode Mill, Alstonefield, Staffordshire as a holiday cottage.

This assessment has identified a high potential for Post-Medieval remains and activity associated with the 19th century Lode Mill. A low potential for all other periods has been identified. It is uncertain whether the site of the earlier Post-Medieval Greenlow Mill is present within the study site. There is currently no evidence of earlier Post-Medieval structures or features present within the study site. Any archaeological deposits pre-dating Lode Mill may have been removed or truncated by the construction of the mill, mill race and pond.

It has been established that no Scheduled Ancient Monuments lie within the study site. Current evidence does not suggest that archaeological sites of national importance meriting preservation in situ will be present within the area of proposed development and the presence of other sites of sufficient importance to merit in situ preservation also appears highly unlikely. It is therefore considered that there is no archaeological reason to preclude the proposed area from development.

Proposed below ground development and associated infrastructure may impact on archaeological deposits associated with Lode Mill dating to the late Post-Medieval period. Archaeological mitigation, in the form of a watching brief, may be requested by the Local Planning Authority. Such work, if required, is likely to form part of a condition of planning consent.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Scope of work

- 1.1.1. This Desk-Based Assessment has been researched and prepared by Hannah Smalley of Archaeological Research Services Ltd, on behalf of Jim Campbell. The assessment aims to assess the archaeological potential and implications of development of Lode Mill, Alstonefield, Staffordshire, hereafter referred to as the study site.
- 1.1.2. The study site is centred at NGR 414590, 355100 and is approximately 0.35ha in extent and comprises Lode Mill and its former mill pond (see Figure 1).
- 1.1.3. The Desk-Based assessment has been carried out in accordance with government guidance on archaeology and planning (PPG 16) in line with 'The Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments' (Institute for Archaeologists 2008) and a brief produced by the Peak District National Park Authority.

1.2. Location and topography

- 1.2.1. The study site is situated in the parish of Alstonefield, Staffordshire, 16km east of Leek. The study site is bound to the east by the Rive Dove, which also forms the county boundary with that of Derbyshire. The study site is situated within the Peak District National Park.
- 1.2.2. The solid geology of the study site is Dinantian Rock (undifferentiated), comprising Limestone with subordinate Sandstone and Argillaceous Rocks. Alluvial deposits are likely to be present associated with the nearby River Dove.
- 1.2.3. The topography of the study site itself is relatively flat at approximately 180m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), the majority of which relates to the infilled former mill pond. An earthen bank and stone wall representing the eastern limit of the former mill pond runs along the eastern limit of the study site and abuts Lode Mill. To the immediate west of the study site, the land inclines to 255m AOD and forms the western face of the Dove Valley.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. The information within this report has been gathered from a number of sources, both primary and secondary, in accordance with the project brief and the Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance. The scope of the historic environment and cultural heritage interests included in the desk-based assessment were as follows:
 - Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings within 500m of the study site
 - Non-designated archaeological sites and finds within 500m of the study site

- Other heritage designations including Conservation Areas
- Historic landscape features and character

2.2. *Historic Environment Record (HER)*

The HER held at Staffordshire and Derbyshire County Council were consulted in order to obtain information on the location of all designated sites and areas of historic interest, as well as findspots, monuments, listed buildings and conservation areas. A list of these sites can be found in Appendix I. Short reports on previous archaeological investigations close to the study area were also consulted in order to help assess, the level of preservation and potential for archaeological remains to survive within the study area.

2.3. *Archives Service*

The Staffordshire Record Office (Stafford), William Salt Library and Stafford County Library were consulted in order to study historic documents specific to the study area. Historic maps of the area were studied, along with records relating to the use and development of buildings within the study area.

2.1 *Web sources*

A number of web sources were consulted for this investigation. Those that provided information relevant to the study area are listed below:

Magic Maps: <http://www.magic.gov.uk/>

Archaeological Data Service: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>

British Geological Survey: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index.htm>

British History Online: www.britishhistoryonline.co.uk

A Vision of Britain: www.vision.port.ac.uk

2.1 A study site visit was undertaken on 7th December 2009.

3. ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

The Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (SHER), Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (DHER) and published/unpublished sources have shown that no Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields are situated within or in the vicinity of the study site. Lode Mill is a Grade II listed building, along with Lode Mill Bridge 13m to the south and Lode Mill House 36m to the north of Lode Mill. The study site lies within the Milldale Lode Mill Extension Conservation Area and within the Peak District National Park.

3.1. Previous Archaeological Work

3.1.1. Lode Mill has previously undergone a Building Recording Survey (SHER EST1231), although the date of survey is unknown. A number of photographs of the mill were taken in the 1960s and 1980s. An archaeological field survey was carried out at Lode House, over 350m northwest of the study site (SHER 50326). The results of the survey identified evidence of a former field system comprising a series of lynchets and a section of ruined wall.

3.2. Prehistoric

- 3.2.1. The Prehistoric period of British history encompasses the Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age (c.650, 000BC – c. 10,500BC), the Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age (c.10, 500BC – c. 4000BC), the Neolithic or New Stone Age (c. 4000BC – c. 2500BC), the Bronze Age (c. 2500BC – 700BC), and the Iron Age (c. 700BC – AD43) and ends with the arrival of the Romans in Britain.
- 3.2.2. One record relating to the Prehistoric period is present within the search area, this relates to the site of a Bronze Age round barrow (SHER 00386), situated c.380m north of the study site. This funerary monument is one of many Bronze Age barrows situated within the local landscape. Although the presence of these monuments clearly demonstrates that the landscape was utilised during the Bronze Age period onwards, no evidence of settlement activity is present within the study site or surrounding area. On this basis, a low potential is considered for Prehistoric activity within the study site.

3.3. Romano-British

- 3.3.1. The Romano-British period runs from AD43 to AD410, from Claudius' invasion until the final withdrawal of Roman troops to protect the Western Roman Empire in mainland Europe. The north of Britain was under Roman control by the end of the 70's AD and by AD122 the northern boundary of the Roman Empire had been established by the building of Hadrian's Wall. The Roman period is characterized in the archaeological record by the arrival of a wide variety of imported material culture, increased agriculture, monumental stone buildings, roads and military structures markedly different to the earth and timber construction of the late prehistoric period.
- 3.3.2. There is no reordered Romano-British activity within the study site or surrounding area. Although Roman activity is known at Carsington 10 km east of the study site (site of a villa and lead mining) and Roman forts were established at Rocester, Derby and Chesterfield, no such evidence is present within the search area. Therefore a low potential for Romano-British activity is identified for the study site.

3.4. Early Medieval

- 3.4.1. The Early Medieval period began when the Romans withdrew from Britain. It is also known as the Anglo-Saxon period and is sometimes still referred to as the Dark Ages. The period covers the re-imposition of native British kingdoms along the old tribal boundaries of pre-Roman Britain and the invasions of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes from northern Europe and Scandinavia. The Anglo-Saxon kingdoms founded by the invaders were in turn invaded by the Danes in the latter part of the Early Medieval period, and the Early Medieval comes to a close with the Norman Conquest and the defeat of the last Anglo-Saxon King Harold Godwinson, at the Battle of Hastings. The Early Medieval period saw the reintroduction of Christianity and the founding of the earliest churches date from this period.

- 3.4.2. The study site contains no HER records relating to the Anglo-Saxon or Early Medieval period. The settlement name of Alstonefield is believed to derive from the Old English '*Alfstan's Feld*' or open ground (Victoria County History 1996, Poulton-Smith 1995) and prior to the Norman Conquest, Alstonefield was held by Godwin. However, Lode hamlet is situated over 1.5km southeast of the historic core of Alstonefield settlement. Scattered settlement developed outside the village from the 13th century onwards (Victoria County History 1996).
- 3.4.3. The study site is situated away from any known Early Medieval settlement and no known activity is present within the study site or surrounding area. The study site may have been situated within an area of woodland at this time. A low potential is considered for Early Medieval activity present within the study site.

3.5. Medieval

- 3.5.1. The Medieval period runs from the Norman Conquest in 1066 and the accession of William I to the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII in 1539. In this period it is common to see the emergence in rural areas of a more familiar landscape and many of the place names and street layouts that are still there today. The majority of the Medieval period saw 'single field' agriculture, leaving a distinctive archaeological trace visible from aerial photographs and quite often on the ground.
- 3.5.2. The 13th century saw the development of scattered settlement outside that of Alstonefield. The mill at Milldale, 760m southwest of the study site, was probably in existence from 1282. However, Lode only appears to have been an established settlement by the 1670s (Victoria County History 1996).
- 3.5.3. Place-names suggest that several sites in the parish were first occupied as outlying dairy farms, using pasture beside rivers and streams for grazing (Victoria County History 1996). The study site at this time may have been under pasture or remained an area of woodland.
- 3.5.4. During this period the study site is situated away from known settlement activity and at this time may have been utilised as pasture for sheep or cattle or remained an area of woodland. On this basis, a low potential for Medieval activity is identified for the study site.

3.6. Post-Medieval

- 3.6.1. The Post-Medieval and Modern periods extend from the end of the Medieval period up to the present day. In rural areas, enclosure continued to shape the landscape and was enforced by Parliament in a series of Enclosure Acts during the 18th and 19th centuries. The movement toward 'Enclosure' of land not only set out the landscape of large enclosed fields that can be seen today but also provided a number of maps and charts showing the Enclosures which are of use in tracing the evolution of a landscape. No Enclosure or Tithe map was available of the study site.
- 3.6.2. In the 1630s the parish was characterized by smallholdings, the land was used mainly as pasture and contained a large area of moorland waste, suitable for

rough grazing (Victoria County History 1996). The ford crossing at Lode, the precursor to the Grade II listed Lode Bridge (SHER 06357, DHER DDR3355), was described as 'at the Lode End' in 1658 and Lode was considered to have been an established settlement by the 1670s.

3.7. 18th and 19th centuries

- 3.7.1. It has been suggested that Lode Mill was the site of an earlier lead smelting mill active between 1741 and 1760, known as Greenlowfield Mill, as a nearby field on the Derbyshire side of the River Dove is known as Greenlow (Robey 1994). However, the location of the mill remains uncertain. The SHER entry for Lode Mill states that the 19th century corn mill is on the site of an earlier mill and that the location of the mill is shown on Yates' 1775 map of Staffordshire (Figure 3). A mill is marked at the crossing of the Dove River along with a building, identified as 'Load', further along Lode Lane which relates to an earlier structure at Lode House (NMR 274385). However, it is possible that the earlier lead smelting mill was situated on the eastern bank of the River Dove within or adjacent to the field known as Greenlow. Robey suggests that the name Lode Mill may be a corruption of Lead Mill. However, the name may well derive from the Old English *lad*, meaning a watercourse or a crossing of a watercourse (Victoria County History 1996) and is likely to have taken its name from the established hamlet of Load/Lode and the ford crossing.
- 3.7.2. The Grade II listed Lode Mill (SHER 02270) was 'evidently newly built in 1814' (Victoria County History 1996). This may also suggest that the site had not been previously occupied by the lead smelting mill. The nearby listed Lode Mill Bridge (SHER 06357) and Lode Mill House (SHER 06356) were also constructed in the 19th century. Although mainly used for grinding corn, it has been suggested that the mill may have initially ground calamine before a Hurst frame was fitted. An 1818 trade directory lists Ralph Adams as a corn dealer in Alstonefield, based at the Harpurs Arms Public House. Later, Whites 1832 directory records a William Adams (probably Ralph's son) as Corn Miller residing at *Load*. The Adams family continue corn milling at Lode Mill until the early 1900s. From 1904, the Hope family take over the running of the mill. Which continues in operation until the c.1930s. The 1932 Kelly's Directory states that John Hope, formerly listed as the corn miller, is recorded simply as a farmer at Lode Mill.
- 3.7.3. Although not listed in the trade directory, John Hope, the miller's son, sets up a joiners, undertakers and wheelwright business at Lode Mill and converts the drive shaft from the mill to belt drive a circular saw (information supplied by client).
- 3.7.4. The study site is considered to have a high potential for Post-Medieval activity associated with the 19th century Lode Mill. There is no conclusive evidence that the earlier lead smelting mill known as Greenlow (identified on Yates' 1775 map of Staffordshire) is situated within the site of Lode Mill. The construction of the head race, mill and mill pond are likely to have removed or truncated earlier archaeological deposits within the area. Listed building consent will need to be obtained prior to development.

4 MAP REGRESSION

The following section discusses the developments specifically within the study area. The information has been taken from primary sources such as maps, plans and trade directories.

- 4.1. *Yates' 1775 map of Staffordshire (Fig.3)*
This map shows the presence of a mill along the River Dove. Load House is marked further along Lode Lane. The map is of insufficient detail to determine the exact location of the mill. It may be interpreted that the mill is situated on the eastern bank of the River Dove.
- 4.2. *Late 1820s Estate map (Fig.4)*
The late 1820s Harpur Estate map shows a single rectangular building and associated leat/race of Lode Mill. Unfortunately, the associated apportionment was not available to confirm the owner and occupier of the mill.
- 4.3. *1839 Enclosure map (Fig.5)*
The Alstonefield Enclosure map shows the single rectangular building of Lode Mill, mill pond and leat/race. A break is visible between the retaining wall and earthen bank of the mill pond, allowing water to flow back into the River Dove when required.
- 4.4. *1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1881 (Fig.6)*
The 1881 map provides the earliest detailed map of Lode Mill. The mill comprises a main rectangular building, wheel house and an extension to the northeast side of the mill building. The mill pond, race and sluice gates are clearly mapped along with the earthen bank and retaining walls of the mill pond. Lode Mill House is present to the northwest of the mill.
- 4.5. *1922 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig.7)*
The 1929 map shows no change to the study site itself. An area of woodland has been cleared around Lode Mill House. Dove Cottages have been constructed on the eastern bank of the River Dove and additional buildings have been built along the roadside to the west of Lode Mill.
- 4.6. *1975 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig.8)*
By 1975, the mill race and pond have been filled and small alterations are visible to the adjoining building situated on the northeast side of the main mill building.

5 SITE VISIT

- 5.1 A site visit was undertaken on the 7th December 2009 forming part of a detailed walkover survey of the study site (Archaeological Research Services 2009a). An historic building recording of Lode Mill has also been carried out (Archaeological Research Services 2009b).
- 5.2 The survey area comprises Lode Mill and its former mill pond (Figures 9 and 10). An earthen bank and retaining wall with raised bank form the western boundary of the former mill pond which is now in filled and is currently an area of grass and shrub (Figures 11). The retaining wall abuts the mill building and would have directed the water to the wheel house, to the rear of this wall is the raised bank that abuts the north-eastern extent of the mill. A retaining wall forms the eastern extent of the raised bank. Parts of the retaining wall are in poor condition and a number of stones have fallen out. An overflow drain is situated approximately half way along the wall. A large stone flag on top of the wall marks the position of an inspection chamber.
- 5.3 The western boundary of the mill pond is represented by a stone wall positioned at the bottom of a natural slope (Figure 12).
- 5.4 Much of the original mill workings are still present within the mill building (Figures 13-14). A millstone is currently used as a door step positioned in front of one of the mill entrances (Figure 15).

6. OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- 6.1. This assessment has identified a high potential for Post-Medieval activity associated with the 19th century Lode Mill. The HER contains no records relating to archaeological activity predating the Post-Medieval period within the study site. Although Prehistoric activity is known within the wider landscape, no such evidence for settlement, monuments or findspots has been identified within the search area. It is uncertain whether the site of an earlier Post-Medieval mill is present within the study site. There is currently no evidence of earlier Post-Medieval structures situated within the study site. Any archaeological deposits pre-dating Lode Mill may have been removed or truncated by the construction of the mill, mill race and pond.

7. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL

- 7.1. This assessment has identified a high potential for Post-Medieval remains and activity associated with Lode Mill. A low potential for all other periods has been identified.
- 7.2. The 19th construction and development of the mill and mill pond is likely to have removed or truncated earlier archaeological deposits present within the area.
- 7.3. Lode Mill is a grade II listed building. Lode Mill House and Lode Bridge are also Grade II listed. The study site is situated within the Milldale Lode Mill Extension

Conservation Area. Any proposed development of Lode Mill will require listed building consent.

8. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 8.1. The Grade II listed building of Lode Mill is being proposed for development as a holiday cottage. The development will comprise the refurbishment and structural repair of the mill building, carried out under the guidance of the Conservation Architect at the Peak District National Park. There is no material change to the structure of the property. However, works will require listed building consent. Work carried out to date under the approval of essential listed building works has included re-roofing, replacement of the purlin ends, the removal of unsafe floors and repairs to joists, the support and repair of the collapsing kiln roof, rebuilding of the gable wall and repairs to doors and door lintels.
- 8.2. It is understood that external development will be limited to areas of soft landscaping/planting. Hard standing for vehicles will be provided with limestone hardcore and chippings and it may be desirable to expose a likely cobble yard at the frontage of the mill. The character and setting of the area will not be changed and the property will be enhanced by essential structural work that is urgently required. A below-ground two-dwelling mini-treatment plant sited on raised ground to the north of the mill building is proposed. The installation of the treatment tank and the cutting of service trenches may impact on archaeological deposits associated with the mill.
- 8.3. It has been established that no Scheduled Ancient Monuments lie within the study site. Current evidence does not suggest that archaeological sites of national importance meriting preservation in situ will be present within the area of proposed development and the presence of other sites of sufficient importance to merit in situ preservation also appears highly unlikely. It is therefore considered that there is no archaeological reason to preclude the proposed area from development. Appropriate mitigation measures may be requested by the Local Planning Authority to establish or record the presence of archaeological deposits encountered during any below ground development. Deposits are likely to be limited to that of 19th or 20th activity. If archaeological mitigation is requested, it is likely to form part of a condition of planning consent.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1. Proposed below ground development may impact on archaeological deposits associated with Lode Mill dating to the late Post-Medieval period. Archaeological mitigation, in the form of a watching brief, may be requested by the Local Planning Authority. Such work, if required, is likely to form part of a condition of planning consent.

10. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

- 10.1. Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 10.2. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

11. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

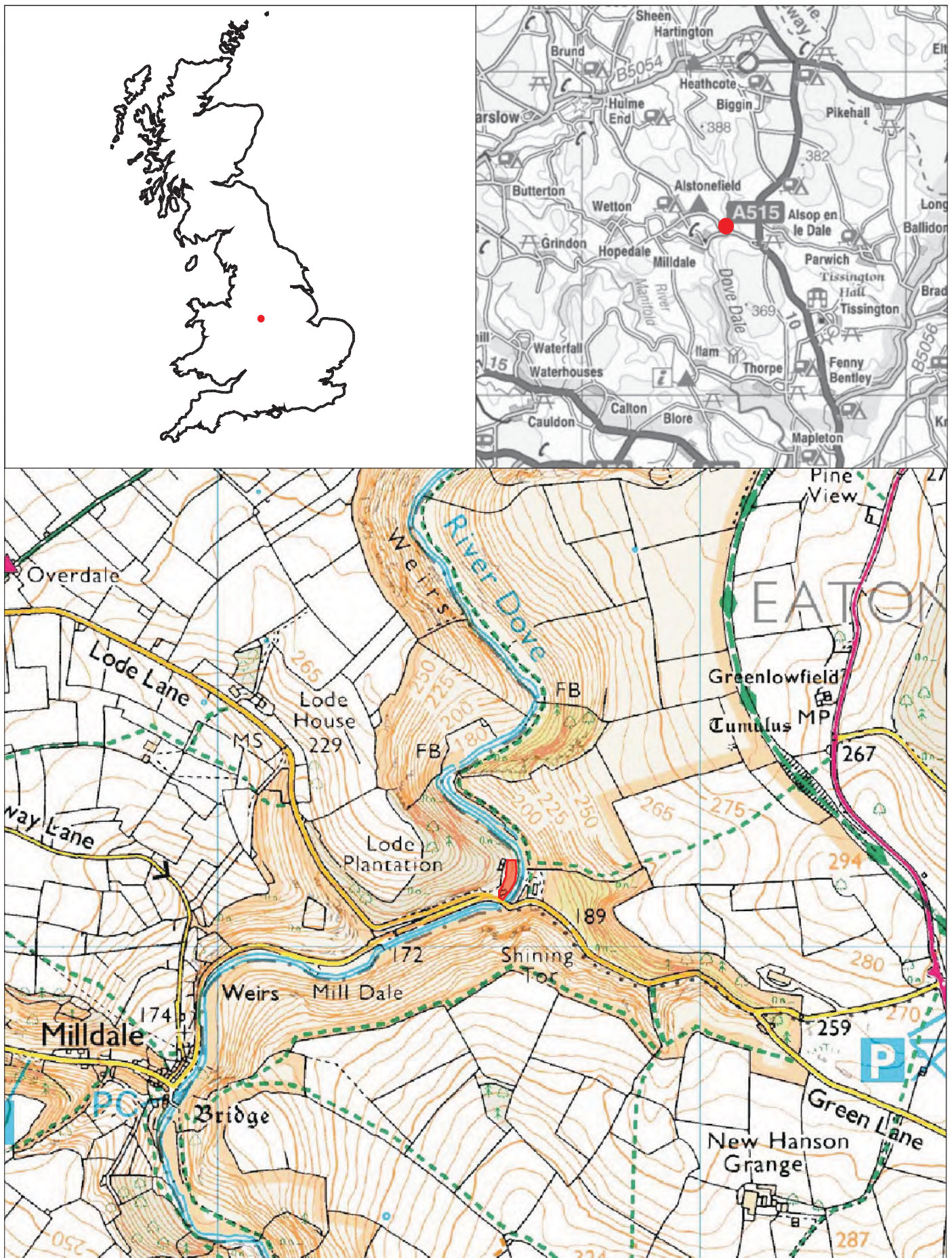
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12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 12.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank Jim Campbell for commissioning the assessment. Thanks are also expressed to Sarah Whiteley at Peak District National Park, Suzy Blake at Staffordshire County Council, Nichola Manning at Derbyshire County Council and all those at the consulted archives.

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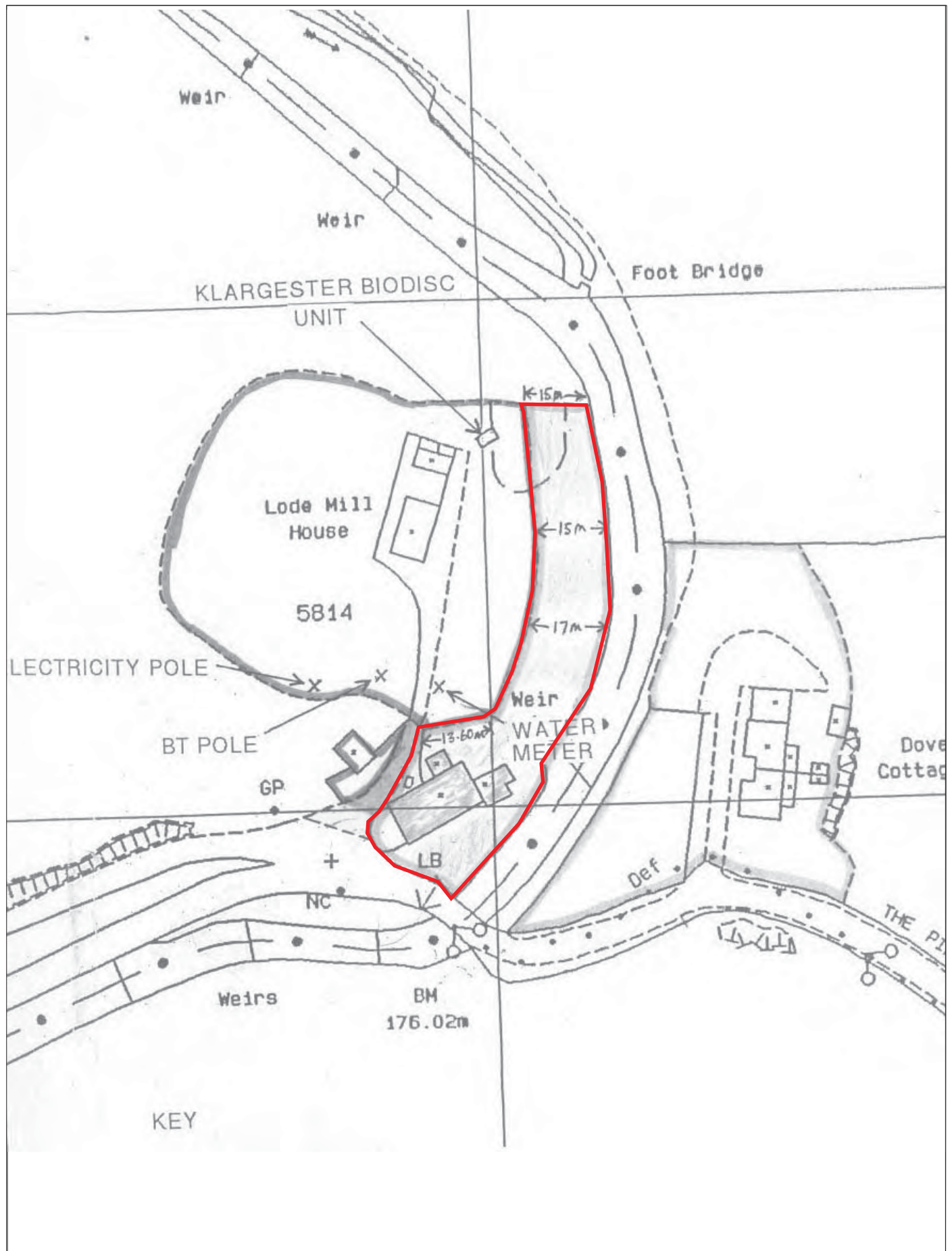
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Figure 1: Site Location




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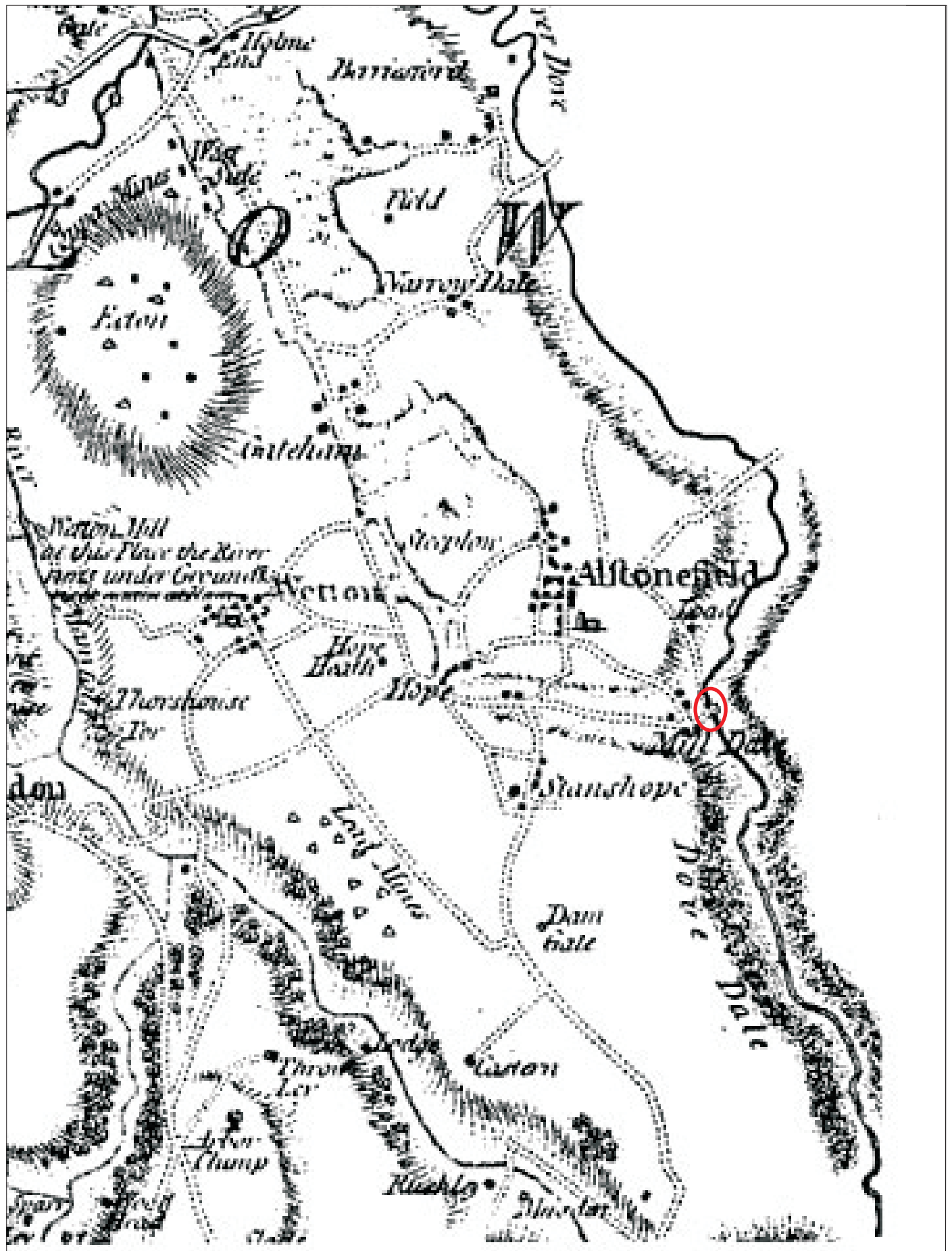
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Figure 2: Detailed site location



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Figure 3: Yates' 1775 map of Staffordshire




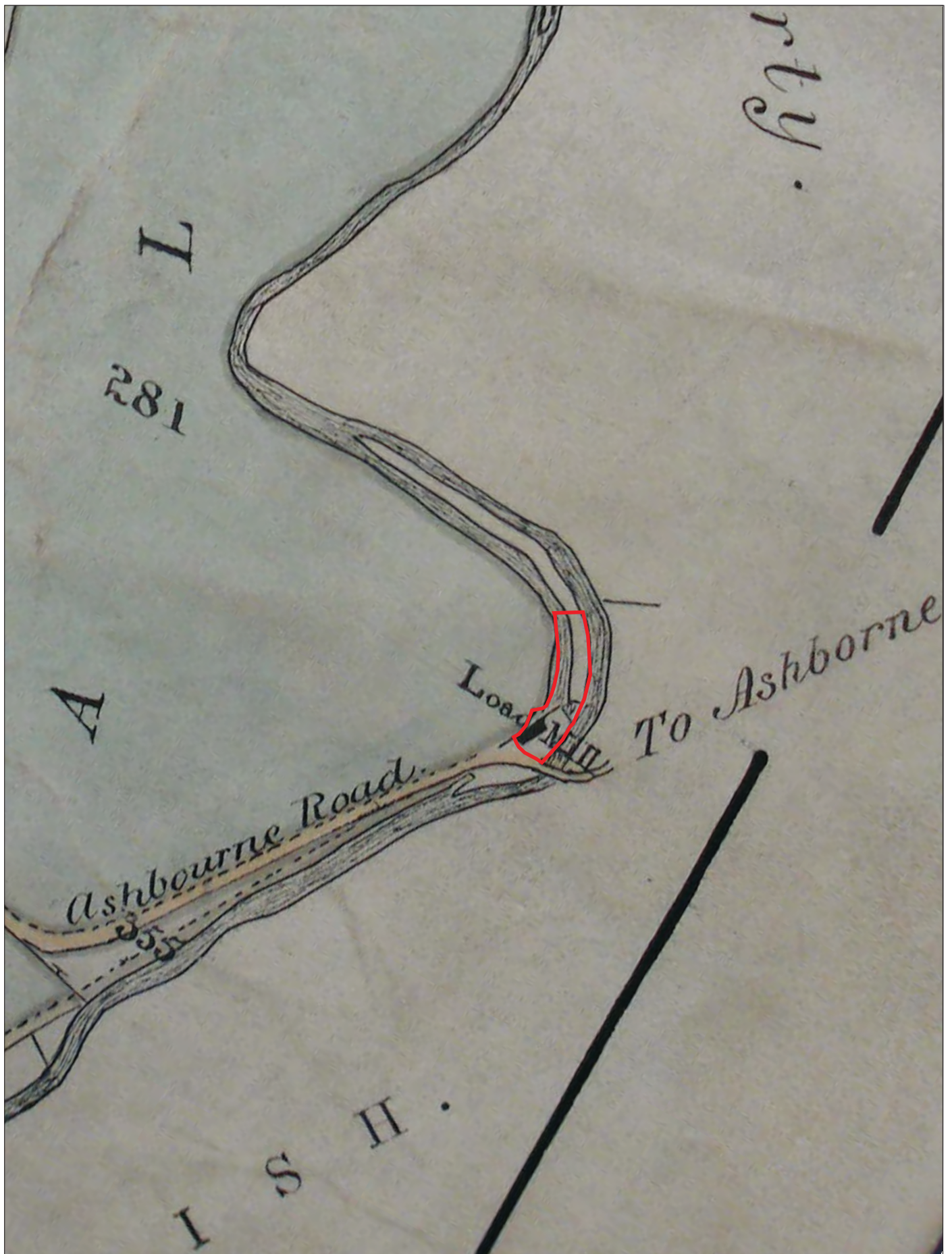
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Figure 4: late 1820s Estate map (Stafford Record Office)




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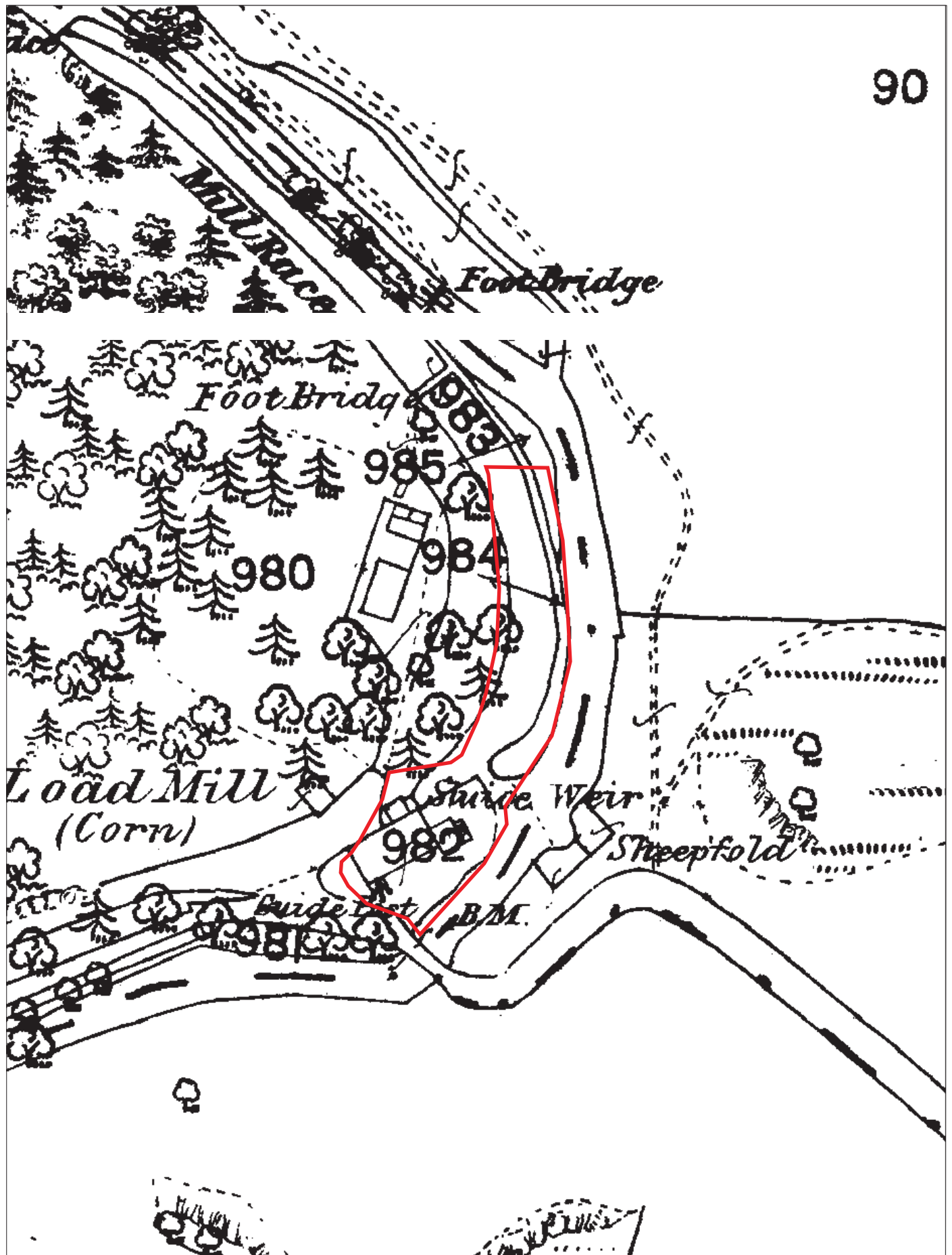
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Figure 5: 1839 Enclosure map (Stafford Record Office)



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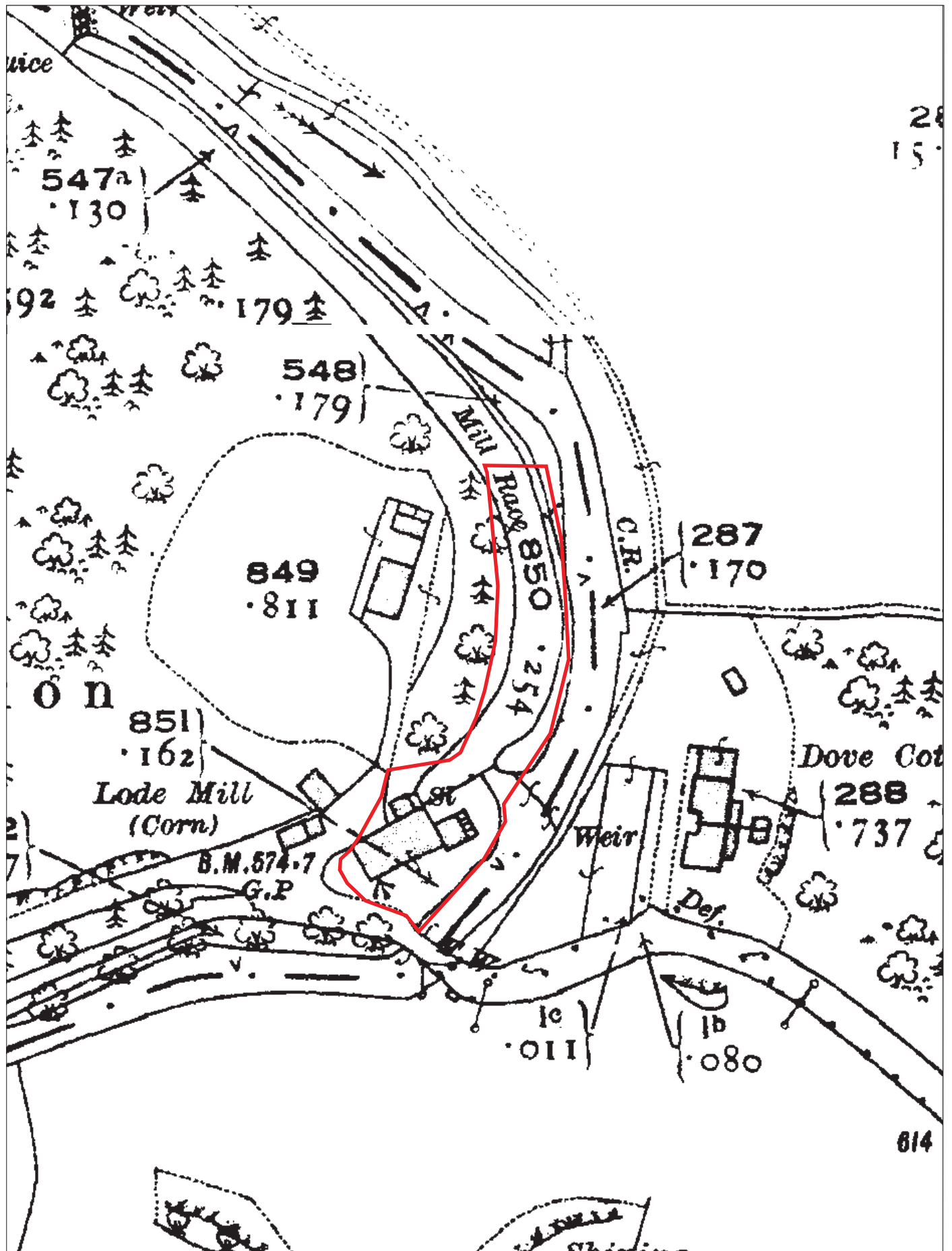
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Figure 6: First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1881



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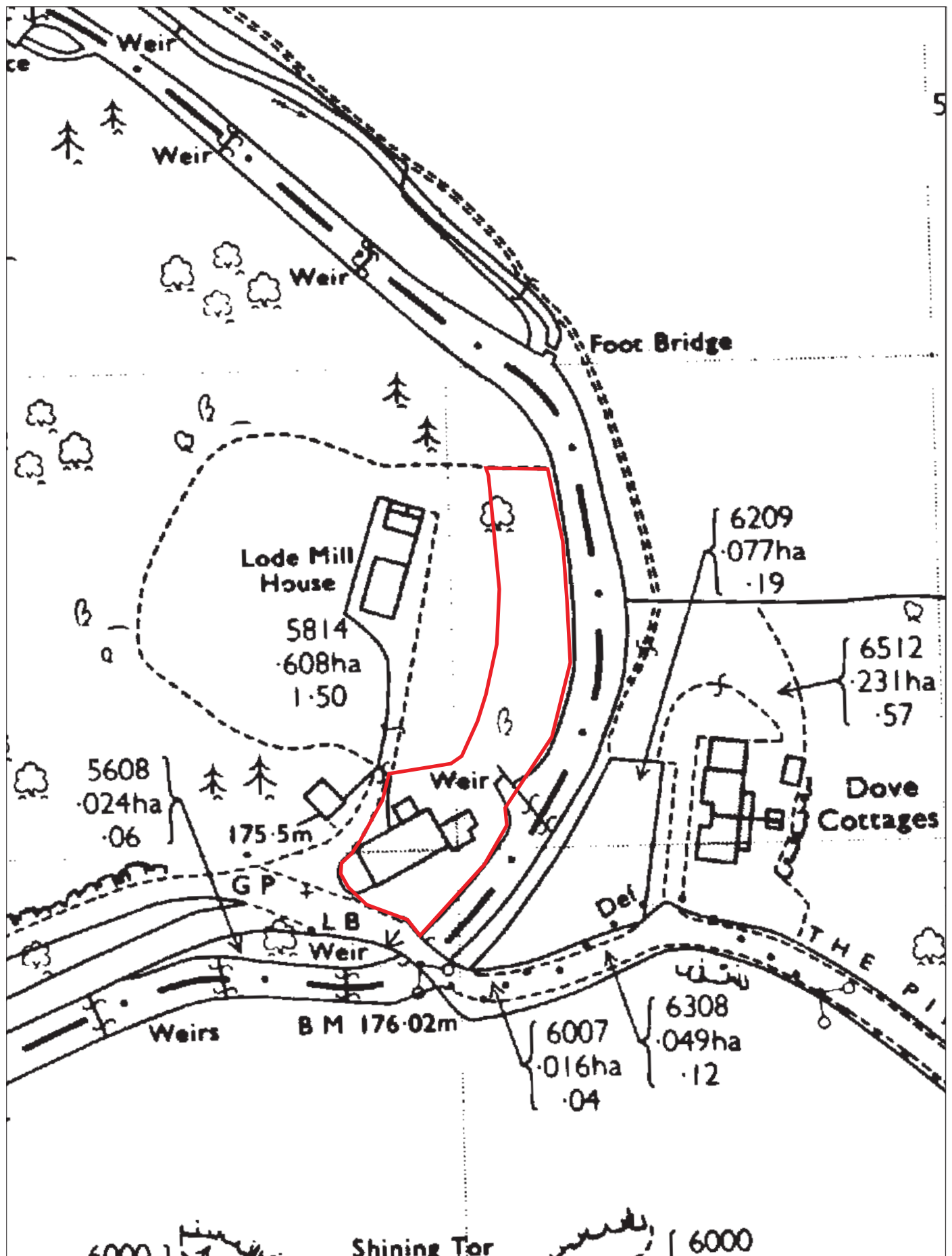
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Figure 7: Ordnance Survey map 1922



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Figure 8: Ordnance Survey map 1975



Figure 9: Looking north towards Lode Mill over the River Dove



Figure 10: In the area of the former mill pond, looking south towards Lode Mill and the wheelhouse



Figure 11: Section of the raised bank and retaining wall of the former mill pond



Figure 12: Western boundary of the former mill pond



Figure 13: Mill workings present within Lode Mill



Figure 14: Mill workings present within Lode Mill



Figure 15: Millstone used as doorstep at an entrance to the mill

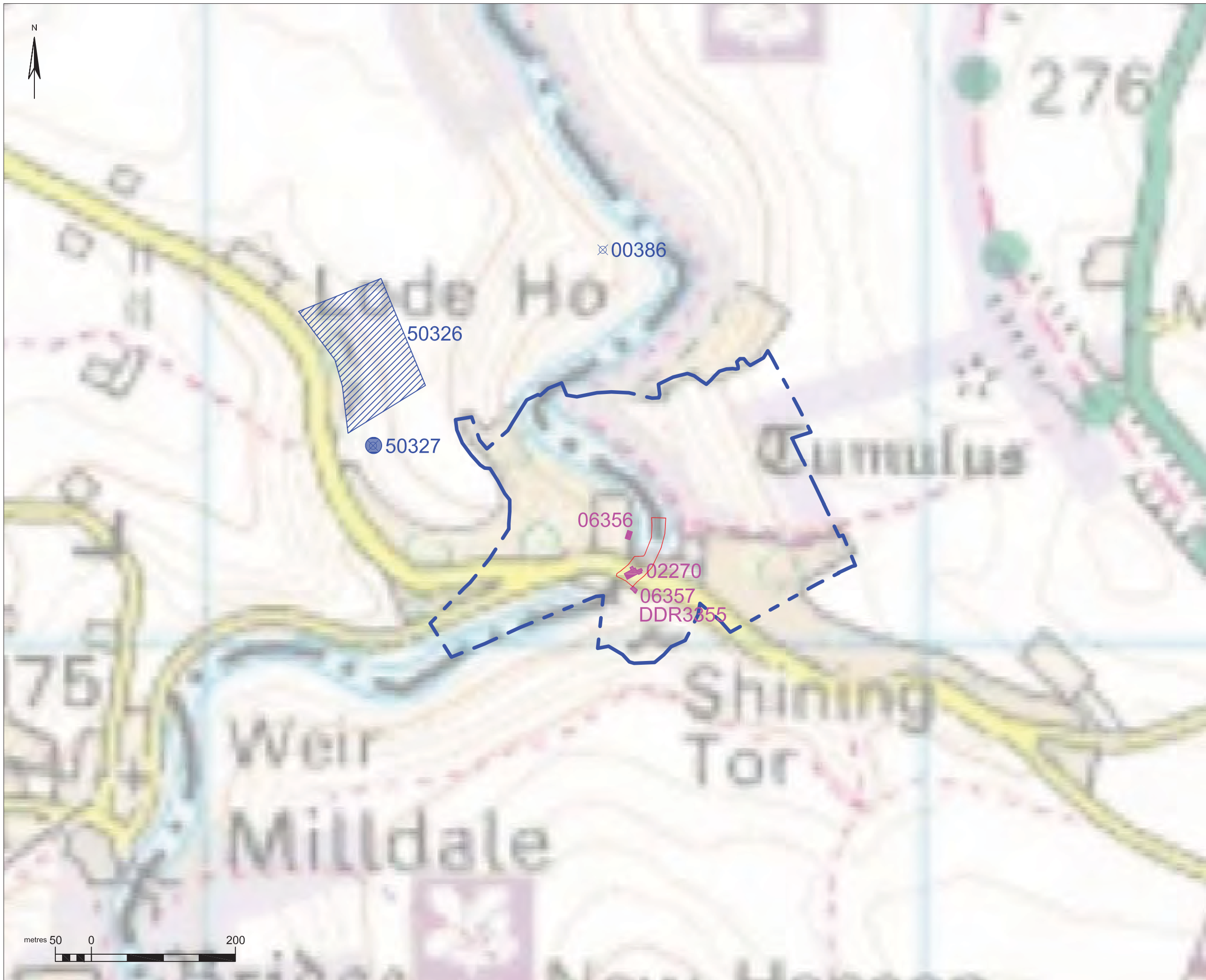
APPENDIX I: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT REGISTER

STAFFORDSHIRE HER MONUMENT POINTS

OBJECTID	MonUID	Name	MonType	PrefRef	Notes	LB_Status	LB_Grade
12818	MST2260	Lode Mill, Milldale Lode Mill Bridge, Lode Lane,	WATERMILL	02270	Monument	Listed Building	II
23629	MST6611	Alstonefield	BRIDGE	06357	Monument	Listed Building	II
23630	MST6612	Lode Mill House, Lode Lane, Alstonefield	HOUSE	06356	Building or Structure	Listed Building	II
11408	MST11432	Field System, Lode House, Alstonefield	FIELD SYSTEM	50326	Monument		
11409	MST11433	Limekiln, Lode House, Alstonefield	LIME KILN?	50327	Monument		
23628	MST386	Barrow, North of Lode House, Alstonefield	ROUND BARROW	00386	Monument (Extent Undefined)		

STAFFORDSHIRE HER MONUMENT POLYGON

OBJECTID	MonUID	Name	MonType	PrefRef	Notes	LB_Status	LB_Grade
18407	MST6612	Lode Mill House, Lode Lane, Alstonefield	HOUSE	06356	Building or Structure	Listed Building	II
11541	MST11432	Field System, Lode House, Alstonefield	FIELD SYSTEM	50326	Monument		
12997	MST2260	Lode Mill, Milldale Limekiln, Lode House,	WATERMILL	02270	Monument	Listed Building	II
11542	MST11433	Alstonefield	LIME KILN?	50327	Monument		
18406	MST6611	Lode Mill Bridge, Lode Lane, Alstonefield	BRIDGE	06357	Monument	Listed Building	II



Archaeological Research Services Ltd
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 Cross Street
 Sale
 Manchester
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Site Code: Lode Mill
 Drawing Ref: Appendix 1
 Date: December 2009
 Drawn: HS
 Scale: 1:5000 at A3





















Title:
 Results of HER search

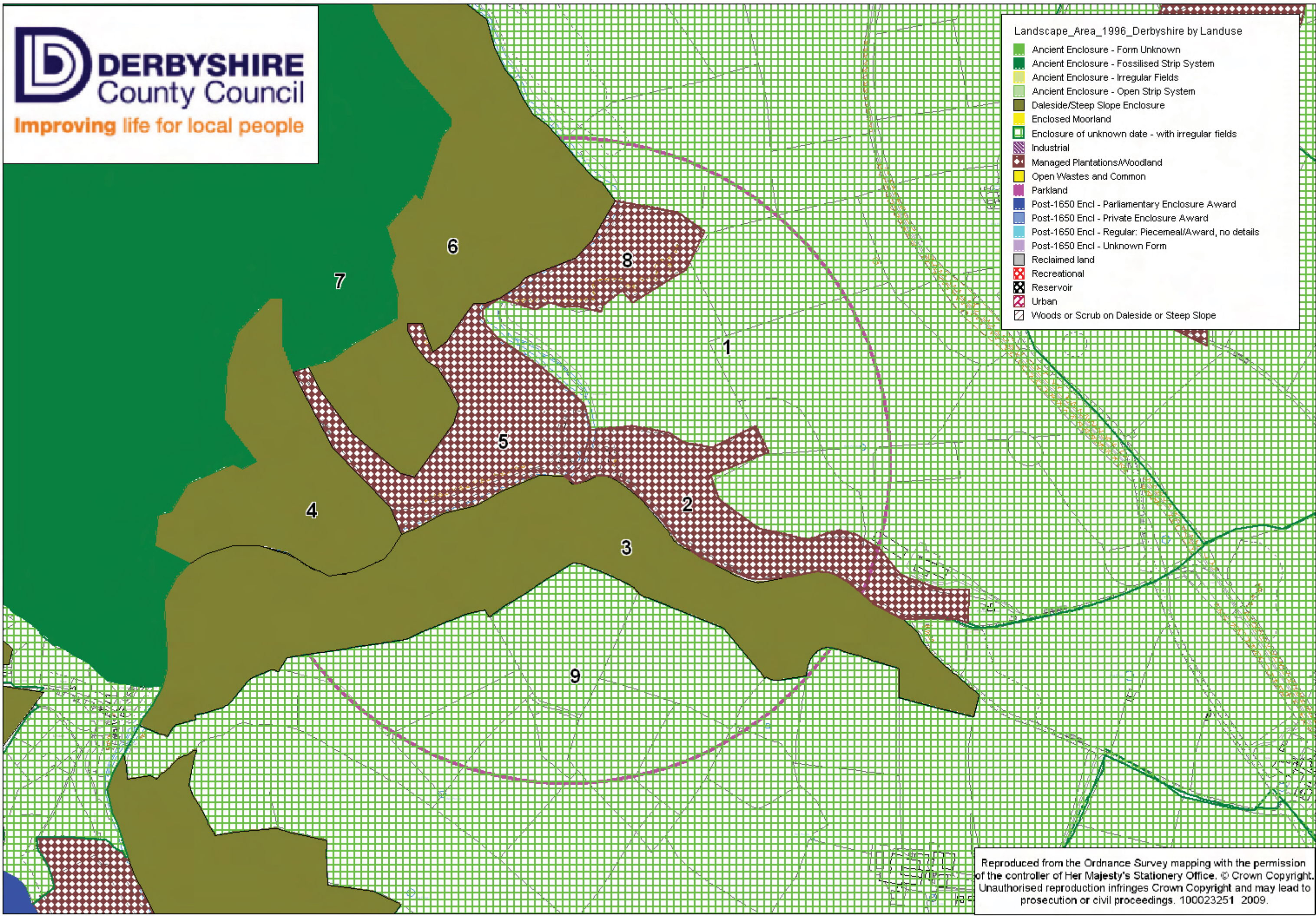
Key:
 — Study site
 ■ Listed building
 ▨ HER record
 - - - Milldale Lode Mill Extension Conservation Area

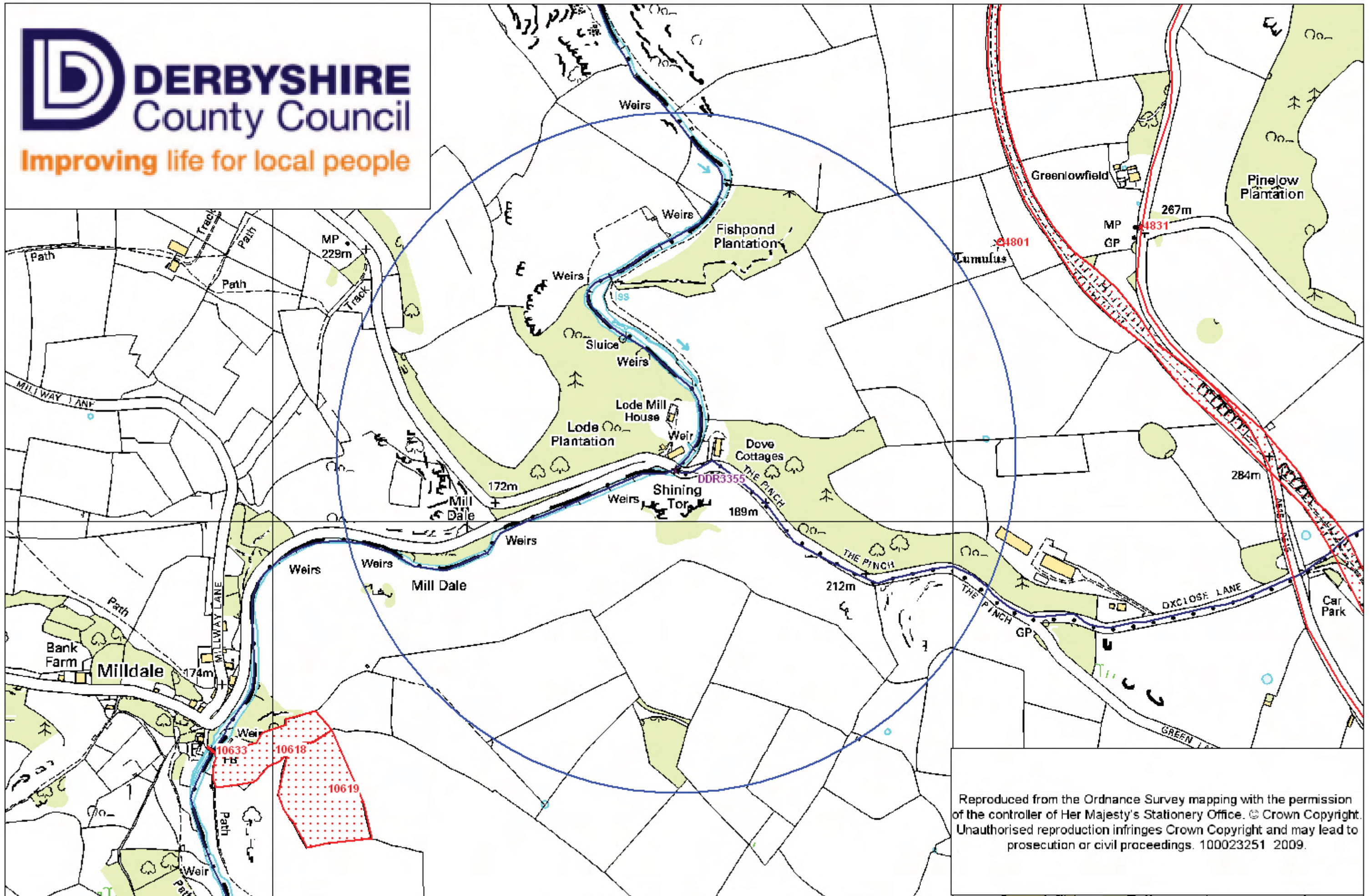
Notes:

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Landscape_Area_1996_Derbyshire by Landuse

-  Ancient Enclosure - Form Unknown
-  Ancient Enclosure - Fossilised Strip System
-  Ancient Enclosure - Irregular Fields
-  Ancient Enclosure - Open Strip System
-  Daleside/Steep Slope Enclosure
-  Enclosed Moorland
-  Enclosure of unknown date - with irregular fields
-  Industrial
-  Managed Plantations/Woodland
-  Open Wastes and Common
-  Parkland
-  Post-1650 Encl - Parliamentary Enclosure Award
-  Post-1650 Encl - Private Enclosure Award
-  Post-1650 Encl - Regular: Piecemeal/Award, no details
-  Post-1650 Encl - Unknown Form
-  Reclaimed land
-  Recreational
-  Reservoir
-  Urban
-  Woods or Scrub on Daleside or Steep Slope





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APPENDIX II: SPECIFICATION

**BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING APPRAISAL AT LODE MILL,
ALSTONEFIELD, STAFFORDSHIRE**

Proposal: Development of redundant water-powered corn mill for holiday home

Planning application number: NP/ SM12081104

Location: Lode Mill, Alstonefield

Grid Reference: SK1459 5510

Geology: Milldale limestones

Area of proposal site: see accompanying plan

Land use and vegetation cover: Built over/grassed over

1. Introduction

1.1 A planning application for the above development involving Lode Mill, a grade II listed building which is also registered on the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (no. 2270), has been submitted to the Peak District National Park Authority.

1.2 This brief has been produced to guide a scheme of recording which will comply with the recording advice for archaeology and listed buildings given in section 3.22; 6.1-5 of PPG15 *Planning and the Historic Environment* (September 1994) and section 18 of PPG16 *Archaeology and Planning* (November 1990). It will also provide the Historic Building Architect and Senior Conservation Archaeologist for the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) with information to inform the application for alteration and repair.

2. Summary

2.1 A planning proposal has been made to the Peak District National Park Authority for alterations to Lode Mill, a former corn mill and malting kiln, at Alstonefield, Staffordshire. The building is grade II listed and also registered on the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (no. 2270). As a consequence the Senior Conservation Archaeologist for the Peak District National Park Authority has advised that building appraisal and recording is an essential requirement to supply information to inform any planning applications involving the building.

3. Purpose

3.1 The purpose of the buildings appraisal is to identify and record significant historic fabric and produce a buildings analysis and interpretation which will determine and identify the multiphase nature and context of the extant buildings and the probable form of their precursors. The current scheme of proposed works will result in the

renovation and re-furbishment of Lode Mill. Any building appraisal project should be comprehensive and should expand on existing information to supply details necessary for sensitive development of the buildings.

3.2 The appraisal would provide an enhanced understanding of the development of the buildings. This will allow an informed consideration to be given to any listed building consent application. It should also be at a sufficient level to inform any requirements for recording the fabric of a Listed Building which might be altered or removed under the guidelines of PPG15.

4. Site Description

4.1 The site lies within Milldale adjacent to the River Dove. A silted up mill pond lies immediately to the north-east of the mill buildings. The second edition 1:2500 O.S maps shows a sluice and weir at the north-east end of the pond.

5. Description of Buildings and Historic Background

5.1 The current structure is of 19th century origin and has surviving contemporary water-driven equipment. There is also a malt kiln in the centre of the range. The entry for the site in the Staffordshire HER suggests that the current structure is on the site of an earlier mill. Some drawn survey has been undertaken of the operational parts of the mill, copies of which are held by the HER.

6. Specific Project Requirements

6.1 The aims of the brief are to provide a building appraisal which will better inform existing knowledge of the building, provide a record of historic fabric and provide information which will aid informed renovation and repair.

6.2 It should provide a record of existing fabric and architectural features in advance of possible change and repair both internally and externally. The survey should be illustrated by annotated plans (preferably at 1:100) and elevations, and include written descriptions. The written description should include details of fabric and construction with appropriate photographic coverage. Where measured plans or elevations already exist these can be used as a base for identification of features and chronological phasing. Otherwise the elevations should be compiled from photographic coverage and should be adequate in scale to identify and record features and phases. The survey should include phased plans at all floor levels where possible.

6.3 An analysis of the buildings should be made which suggests a development and possible reconstruction for phases of building, these may be represented in sketch form.

6.4 In addition a desk top survey should be undertaken which is aimed at enhancing knowledge of both the historical context and physical state of the building complex. This should include documentary information, old maps and illustrations. Searches should include the Staffordshire Historic Environment record, local archives, local

reference libraries and should cover the possibilities of private archives where they exist. Where relevant, national sources should be used (e.g. for Augmentation Returns). The survey should cover the immediate general area rather than focussing only on the buildings themselves and documentary sources should include any estate maps, enclosure/tithe maps, early O.S. and other maps, lay subsidy and hearth tax returns and any other documentary sources which may relate to the building. The sources for this survey should be discussed with the archaeological monitor before submission of the final report.

6.5 The buildings analysis and documentary survey should both be used to produce an interpretation of the building complex and its significance in local and national contexts.

6.7 The final project report should include a non-technical overview of the project results.

6.8 All the work included in this brief should be the subject of a specification to be approved by the Historic Building Architect and Senior Conservation Archaeologist for the Peak District National Park Authority.

6.9 Archaeological evaluation of sub-surface features within the footprint or curtilage of the buildings may also be required, either to inform the planning application or as a condition of planning permission. This should be the subject of a separate brief which will be produced by the Senior Conservation Archaeologist for the Peak District National Park Authority.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

7.1 Reasonable prior notice (14 days) of the commencement of the evaluation is to be given to the Historic Building Architect and Senior Conservation Archaeologist for the Peak District National Park Authority.

8. Reporting Requirements

8.1 Copies of the final report are to be deposited with the Peak District National Park Cultural Heritage team and with the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record.

The Staffordshire Historic Environment Record is taking part in the pilot study for the *Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. If the archaeological contractor does not have internet access a paper copy of the form can be obtained from the Peak District National Park Authority. Contractors are advised to contact the Staffordshire HER prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by forming part of a planning application or being otherwise submitted to the Staffordshire HER in response to a statutory duty or requirement the HER may place the information on a website. Please ensure that you and your client agree to

this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the Staffordshire HER .

9. Archive Deposition

9.1 Upon completion of the survey, the field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data (in a format to be agreed by the repository museum).

9.2 After agreement with the landowner, the field archive should be deposited with the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Handley, Stoke on Trent SD1 3DW. The archaeological contractor should contact Katy Banks/Debbie Ford Curators of Archaeology (telephone number: 01782 232173) at the beginning of the project to arrange this.

10. Publication and Dissemination

10.1 The results of the work may be published in an the appropriate archaeological/architectural journal.

10.2 A summary text of no more than 500 words, and, if appropriate, an illustration, will be provided to the Authority for inclusion in any review of archaeological work in the Peak District that might be published. The material should be in digital form.

Sarah Whiteley
Senior Conservation Archaeologist

November 09