

Land at Park Road Holmewood, Chesterfield Derbyshire



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**Archaeological Desk-based
Assessment and Walkover
Survey Report EH097/02**

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Archaeological Desk-based Assessment And Walkover Survey Report for Rick Bestwood Holmewood LLP

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Heritage Impact Assessment
Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
Historic Landscape Survey
Written Scheme of Investigation

Geophysical Survey
Trial Trench Evaluation
Archaeological Excavation
Archaeological Watching Briefs

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Summary

Eden Heritage Ltd was commissioned by Rick Bestwick Holmewood LLP to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey of land at Park Road, Holmewood, Chesterfield, Derbyshire (centred at National Grid Reference SK 4327 6618). The archaeological work was required to provide information to support a planning application for a proposed extension to an existing commercial cold store building. The proposed development would involve the clearance of an area of woodland to the south of the building, which was believed to have been part of the former Williamthorpe Wood. It was thought the development could therefore disturb any potential associated archaeological remains if present within the site boundary.

The assessment has revealed that there is a low potential for archaeological remains within the site boundary predating the post-medieval period. In the post-medieval period Williamthorpe was a small rural settlement located to the southwest of the proposed development area with Williamthorpe Hall located to the west (later renamed as Woodside Farm). The proposed development area was part of the former Williamthorpe Wood, which was associated with Williamthorpe Hall, with possible origins in the 17th century. The proposed development area was depicted as woodland on Ordnance Survey maps up to the end of the 19th century.

Coal mining was extremely important to the area. Holmewood Colliery was established from 1868 onwards to the southeast of Williamthorpe by The Hardwick Colliery Company. It appears that Williamthorpe Wood was cleared of trees in the early 20th century as part of the development of the village of Holmewood, which was formed by The Williamthorpe Colliery Company from 1905 onwards. The proposed development area subsequently become heathland or grassland in the early 20th century and was crossed by several tracks.

Holmewood Industrial Park developed along Park Road to the north of the proposed development at the end of the 20th century when tree belts and were apparently planted around the edges of the proposed development area, along with an earth bank to the west, to provide a visual buffer. The proposed development area was subsequently utilised as recreational land and planted with deciduous trees.

An assessment of LiDAR data covering the proposed development area has indicated the presence of footpaths crossing the site, which are modern in origin associated with recreational use. A post-medieval or modern boundary ditch was the only feature identified during the walkover survey. This corresponded with a boundary depicted on early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps. No other archaeological features were identified, and the research potential of the proposed development area was assessed as being low.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Circumstances

- 1.1.1 Eden Heritage Ltd was commissioned by Rick Bestwick Holmewood LLP (the client) to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey of land at Park Road, Holmewood, Chesterfield, Derbyshire (centred at National Grid Reference SK 4327 6618). The archaeological work was required to provide information to support a planning application for a proposed extension to an existing commercial cold store building on land to the south of Park Road.
- 1.1.2 The proposed development area lay to the north of Holmewood, which is situated approximately 6.5km to the southeast of Chesterfield in Derbyshire (Figure 1). The existing cold store lay immediately to the south of Park Road in Holmewood Industrial Park (Figure 2). The proposed development would involve the clearance of an area of woodland to the south of the building, which was believed to have been part of the former Williamthorpe Wood, as depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1884. It was believed the proposed development could therefore disturb any potential archaeological remains if they were present within the development area.
- 1.1.3 As a result, the archaeology team at Derbyshire County Council advised that a programme of archaeological work is required at the site, which was to comprise an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey focused on the proposed development area, followed by any such subsequent work as required to investigate and record the remains encountered. The work was to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which had been submitted to, and approved by, the archaeology team at Derbyshire County Council.
- 1.1.4 In accordance with the advice of Derbyshire County Council, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Eden Heritage Ltd for the archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey (Eden Heritage 2020). The WSI was submitted to the Development Control Archaeologist at Derbyshire County Council Historic for approval, prior to the commencement of the project.

2 Methodology

2.1 Scope of the Work

- 2.1.1 The project comprised an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey of c.3ha of land, which focused on the proposed development area as depicted on Figure 2.
- 2.1.2 In addition, a 1km study area was utilised centred on the proposed development area, in order to provide the historical and archaeological context of the area.
- 2.1.3 The general aim of the archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey was to help determine the potential for archaeological remains within the proposed development area and to attempt to re-construct the history and past-use of the site.

2.2 Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

- 2.2.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment is intended to determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area. The assessment will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices. All work was carried out in accordance with codes and practices outlined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists regarding historic environment desk-based assessments (CIfA 2020a).
- 2.2.2 In summary, the desk-based assessment consisted of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely presence of heritage assets, their interests and significance, and to provide information regarding the character of the study area.
- 2.2.3 Data was collected on the basis of a 1km study area, centred on the proposed development area, which was considered sufficient to establish the archaeological baseline and identify the heritage assets that may be sensitive to development within the site.
- 2.2.4 The primary sources consulted were Historic England and the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER), various online sources, and resources held by Eden Heritage Ltd. The Derbyshire Record Office was closed due to the Coronavirus pandemic, so only the online catalogue was accessible at the time of the project. The primary sources consulted are listed in Table 1 below.
- 2.2.5 The primary and secondary sources consulted during the assessment were combined to provide a historical narrative focused on the site, combined with a historic map regression (see Section 3).
- 2.2.6 A gazetteer is also provided in Appendix 1 listing all of the designated and non-designated heritage assets identified within the 1km search area. These are also located on Figure 3.

Source	Data
National Heritage List for England (NHLE)	Current information relating to designated heritage assets maintained by Historic England
Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER)	Heritage assets and events records. Records and were provided in PDF and shapefile format.
Archaeological Data Service (ADS) and National Monument record (NMR)	Additional sites and events records, research publications and archaeological fieldwork reports
Dept for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Google Earth	Remote sensing survey data and aerial imagery including Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data (2m available)
The Genealogist, National Library of Scotland & other cartographic websites	Historic mapping in digital format (Ordnance Survey maps and Tithe maps).
British Geological Survey (BGS) website	UK geological mapping (bedrock & superficial deposits)
Derbyshire Record Office: Record Office online catalogue	Charters, registers, manuscript collections (secular and ecclesiastical), deeds, wills, estate papers, electoral rolls, contemporary published accounts and investigations: Details as available through the online catalogue
The National Archives, British History Online and other online sources	Other records, publications and journal articles of relevance to the proposed development area

Table 1: Key data sources

2.3 Walkover Survey

- 2.3.1 The walkover survey comprised a visual walkover survey of the c.3ha area of the proposed new development, and the production of written account and photographic record. The survey was undertaken by walking transects of c.30m. Each archaeological or historic feature identified was recorded using *pro-forma* landscape survey record sheet, which was used to record location, period, condition and type; each feature being given a unique project identification number.
- 2.3.2 Photographs were taken using digital photography. Photographs were taken of all extant earthworks and any other historic features identified during the survey. Additional photographs were taken where appropriate to illustrate significant structural detail or relationships between features. General views were also photographed to show the survey area's wider context and landscape.
- 2.3.3 The locations and extent of any earthworks and other archaeological features were recorded using

a hand-held Magellan Mobile Mapper 6 GPS with an accuracy of 2-5m. The data was downloaded in the office and combined with Ordnance Survey data to create location plans with AutoCAD software.

2.3.4 The results of the walkover survey were used to inform a written description of the proposed development area, and to support the account of the site's landscape development and past use.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 The project archive has been prepared in accordance with the recommendations in *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Brown 2011) and the *CifA Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CifA 2020b).

2.4.2 Copies of the final report (in PDF/A format) will be provided to the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER), where viewing will be available on request.

2.4.3 Eden Heritage Ltd supports the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this study will be made available by Eden Heritage Ltd as a part of this national project, and a copy of the report will be uploaded to OASIS, once agreed with the client. The OASIS reference for this project is: **edenheri1-413351**.

3 Background

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 Holmewood is a village in the North East Derbyshire district of Derbyshire, being a former coal mining village, located approximately 6.5km southeast of Chesterfield (Figure 1). The village is situated to the west of Junction 29 of the M1 Motorway, to the south of the A617 road between Mansfield and Chesterfield and is within the civil parish of Heath and Holmewood.
- 3.1.2 The proposed development area encompasses approximately 3ha of woodland to the south of Park Road at Holmewood Industrial Park, which is located on the north side of Holmewood (Figure 2). The existing commercial cold store building is located immediately to the north of the site. To the east is an area of woodland which will not to be developed under the current scheme. The land within the site rises gradually from c.135m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) in the west to c.147m in the east.
- 3.1.3 The geology of the site comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone, known as Pennine Coal Measures Formation. This sedimentary bedrock formed 310 to 318 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2021). Possible shallow mine workings are recorded to the east of the proposed development area (The Coal Authority 2021).
- 3.1.4 The Derbyshire Historic Landscape Characterization (HLC) broad class for the proposed development area is Ornamental, Parkland and Recreational. The site is classed as recreation ground within the area of 'Allotment gardens and recreation ground north of Heath Road, Holmewood' (HDR8972).

3.2 Locations of Designated and Non-Designated Heritage Assets

- 3.2.1 There are no designated or non-designated heritage assets recorded within the site boundary.
- 3.2.2 One designated heritage asset is recorded within the 1km study area, this being Williamthorpe Hall Farmhouse Shop (List Entry 1311716), which is a Grade II listed building located 750m to the east of the proposed development area (Asset 1).
- 3.2.3 The site is not located within a Conservation Area, National Park or World Heritage Site.
- 3.2.4 There are eight non-designated heritage assets recorded in the Historic Environment Record within the 1km search area, in addition to the designated heritage asset.

3.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.3.1 This historical and archaeological background is compiled from sources consulted during the desk-based research. It is intended only as a summary of historical developments within and around the proposed development site. The locations of known heritage assets as identified from the Lancashire

Historic Environment Record (HER) database, within the approximate 1km study area are illustrated in Figure 3 and summarised in Appendix 1.

- 3.3.2 The following chronological dates are based on Historic England's Period List. The date ranges have been provided to assist with the identification of archaeological and cultural periods, however these dates should not be taken as definitive or absolute, as time periods vary depending on geographical focus and archaeological science disciplines (FISH 2017).
- 3.3.3 **Prehistoric (up to c. AD43):** there is no recorded evidence for prehistoric activity within the 1km search area. Based on the available evidence, the potential for archaeological remains relating to the prehistoric period being present sub-surface within the site boundary is considered to be low.
- 3.3.4 **Romano-British Period (c.AD 43 to c. 410):** excavations in Derbyshire suggests a phase of Roman military activity in the AD 50s which included occupation of a fort at Chesterfield (Cooper 2006, 141).
- 3.3.5 No Roman sites are recorded within the 1km search area. The potential for archaeological remains dating to the Romano-British period within the proposed development area is considered to be low.
- 3.3.6 **Early Medieval (AD c. 410-1066):** throughout the region evidence for early medieval activity is very limited, one of the main sources of evidence for this period coming from place names. The placename element 'thorpe' in Williamsthorpe is Old Norse meaning 'outlying village' or 'secondary settlement' (Room 1998, 358).
- 3.3.7 A small silver ingot probably dating to the 10th century was found north of Mansfield Road at Temple Normanton (HER 13706) located just over 1km northwest of the site (Heritage Gateway 2021).
- 3.3.8 There are no known early medieval sites recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development area. The potential for archaeological remains dating to the early medieval period within the site boundary is therefore also assessed as being low.
- 3.3.9 **Medieval (AD 1066-1485):** there is believed to be evidence for medieval activity in the vicinity of the proposed development area. The settlement of Williamsthorpe is recorded in Domesday Book (1086) as 'Wilelmestorp' (The Domesday Book Online 2020). However, the location of the medieval settlement is uncertain and no evidence on the ground has yet been identified.
- 3.3.10 Williamsthorpe was located within the Parish of North Winfield in the hundred of Scarsdale and deanery of Chesterfield and was held by Walter Deincourt when the Domesday Survey was undertaken. The Deincourts gave the whole or a moiety (part or share) of the manor to Welbeck Abbey. Sir Ralph Longford is said to have possessed a moiety, in 1513, by descent from the Deincourts (Cadell & Davies 1817, 275-306).
- 3.3.11 In 1086 the manor of Pilsley (Pinneslei) and Williamsthorpe (Wilelmestorp) belonged to Walter Deincourt. Oliver de Barton, who married the heiress of Roger Deincourt, appears to have been possessed of the manor of Williamsthorpe in 1378. In 1415, William Babington conveyed it to Sir

Thomas Chaworth. It subsequently passed to various owners (Cadell & Davies 1817, 275-306).

- 3.3.12 There are no recorded medieval sites within the 1km search area and no evidence for medieval activity within proposed development area. The potential for archaeological remains dating to the medieval period within the site boundary is therefore assessed as low.
- 3.3.13 **Post Medieval (AD 1485-1901):** In 1561 the manor of Pilsley and Williamsthorpe belonged to Edmund Lord Sheffield, and in 1638 to Sir William Cope. The trustees of Sir Anthony Cope, Bart., sold this manor, in 1676, to Sir Henry Hunloke, Bart. (Cadell & Davies 1817, 275-306). A 1675 map of the manor of Williamsthorpe belonging to Sir Henry Hunloke is held in the Derbyshire Record Office (Ref. D8000/A448). The map refers to a woodland but could not be viewed due to Coronavirus restrictions.
- 3.3.14 Derbyshire County Council has identified that the proposed development area may be a surviving section of the former Williamsthorpe Wood, which was associated with Williamsthorpe Hall, with origins in at least the early 17th century. County maps of Derbyshire from the 17th century depict the location of Williamsthorpe but are too small scale to provide any further detail (Figure 4).
- 3.3.15 The earliest map consulted to show the layout of the proposed development area in detail is the First Edition 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1884 (Figure 5a). This depicts the proposed development area within the southern portion of Williamsthorpe Wood, crossed by a track way (Figure 5a). The site boundary extends eastwards and westwards into agricultural land. Williamsthorpe is depicted 300m to the south west, and Williamsthorpe Hall is located 180m to the northwest on this map. Both appear to have been small agricultural settlements set within a pattern of fields and enclosed land.
- 3.3.16 The extant building today known as Williamsthorpe Hall is located 300m to the southwest of the site (at Williamsthorpe) and is an early 18th century house (now shop) of coursed sandstone with sandstone dressings, stone slate and welsh slate roofs (Asset 1). The building is Grade II listed.
- 3.3.17 In 1759 the road running east from Chesterfield through Heath and Glapwell was turnpiked to Mansfield (Asset 8). This road is now Mansfield Road located 850m to the north of the site boundary.
- 3.3.18 Coal, lead, iron, leather-working and textile production were foremost among a number of industries which came to characterise the East Midlands in the post-medieval period, and in the case particularly of coal and lead, these may be regarded as having been of national importance (Knight, Vyner and Allen 2012, 116). The earliest mining process was the digging of bell pits, which were dug vertically down into the rocks opening a small shaft and a bell-shaped chamber underground.
- 3.3.19 Coal mining in particular was extremely important to the area around Chesterfield. Holmewood Colliery was established from 1868 to the southeast of Williamsthorpe by The Hardwick Colliery Company. A short line of railway was also laid down to North Wingfield (Oldminer 2021).
- 3.3.20 The introduction of the railway transformed the area to the east of Williamsthorpe. The route of the main line of the Great Central Railway through Derbyshire, fully open in 1892 (Asset 4). A number of

branch lines were constructed to connect with nearby collieries and the vast majority of these were in use before the close of 1893. This included a branch line connecting to Holmewood Colliery. The Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company opened what was known as the Chesterfield Loop in 1892, although the line was taken over by the Great Central in 1897 (Asset 3).

- 3.3.21 The 25" Ordnance Survey map of 1899 shows the railway (Asset 4) passing to the east side of the proposed development area (Figure 5b). The Chesterfield Loop (Asset 3) joined the railway in the vicinity of Mansfield Road approximately 900m to the north of the site. Heath Station was constructed 140m to the east of the proposed development area and housing was introduced for the Great Central Railway workers adjacent to the station (Asset 6).
- 3.3.22 A Methodist Chapel (Wesleyan) was constructed at the junction of Shire Lane and Mansfield Road, located 1km to the northeast of the proposed development area, and is now a residence (Asset 9).
- 3.3.23 The proposed development area appears to have been maintained as woodland up to the end of the 19th century. The potential for archaeological remains dating to the post-medieval period within the site boundary is therefore assessed as being moderate and principally associated with the presence of woodland management features and potential early mining activity.
- 3.3.24 **Modern (AD 1901-Present):** the village of Holmewood was formed as a residence by The Williamthorpe Colliery Company from 1905 until 1970, when the colliery closed due to the high cost of deep seam mining. The 25" Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1917 shows the development of terraced housing immediately to the south of the proposed development area along Wood Street, Compton Street, North Road and Hunloke Road (Asset 5). Holmewood Hotel (public house) was incorporated into the centre of the main terrace on Heath Road (Figure 5c).
- 3.3.25 Mission Church (Asset 10) was constructed to the north in the early 20th century (founded after 1898) and was located within the eastern portion of the site boundary (Figure 5c). The church appears to have been quite large, possibly with a western turret block a nave and a small chancel, or apse. The church is not believed to have had a graveyard and is believed to have closed in the 1960s (Derbyshire Places of Worship 2021).
- 3.3.26 Also, in the early 20th century a road bridge was constructed over the colliery railway, comprising a blue brick railway bridge taking the Temple Normanton-Tibshelf road over the line of the former Midland Railway branch to Williamthorpe (Asset 7).
- 3.3.27 The majority of the proposed development area appears to have been cleared of trees in the early 20th century and is depicted as heath or grassland crossed by a footpath and trackway connecting Wood Street with the area to the north of Williamthorpe Hall (Figure 5c). A field boundary was introduced on the west side of the proposed development area at this time. Further trackways were added by 1947 and earthworks are depicted in the area of the north (Figure 5d). Williamthorpe Hall to the northwest of the site boundary had been renamed as Woodside Farm by this date.
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- 3.3.28 The 1970 Ordnance Survey map (not reproduced here) no longer shows the Mission Church and the whole of the proposed development area is shown as a recreation ground north of Wood Street. The railway to the east of the site had also been dismantled by this time. The area to the south of the site was the subject of a general improvement scheme in 1974 and the housing was replaced. Park Road was established immediately to the north of the proposed development area in the 1980s.
- 3.3.29 Modern satellite imagery shows the development of Holmewood Industrial Park along Park Road to the north of the proposed development at the end of the 20th century (Figure 6). The proposed development area is shown as recreational ground with trees planted in the eastern and western portions of the site and along the south boundary, presumably to provide a visual buffer. Two paths or tracks are depicted crossing the site, aligned northwest to southeast.
- 3.3.30 Based on this evidence the potential for the presence of remains relating to the modern period within the site boundary is high. However, the eastern part of the site containing the site of Mission Church (Asset 10) is excluded from the proposed development and will therefore not be impacted.

3.4 Previous Archaeological Works

- 3.4.1 Information obtained from the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record indicates that there has been no previous archaeological work undertaken within the proposed development area. However, there have been several archaeological interventions undertaken within the 1km search area.
- 3.4.2 In 1996 an archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken in advance of proposed opencast mining at Mill Lane, Heath approximately 1km to the east of the proposed development area. Possible cropmarks were identified but were thought to have been lost as a result of previous mining (Josephs 1996).
- 3.4.3 In 2011 an archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken on Mansfield Avenue in advance of a proposed development. The area was believed to be in the location of the possible medieval settlement of Williamthorpe, but the precise location of the settlement was uncertain (May 2011).
- 3.4.4 In 2014 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential development within allotment gardens immediately to the west of the proposed development area. A total of 18 trial trenches were excavated but only recent field drains were identified (Pringle & Wood 2014).

3.5 LiDAR Assessment

- 3.5.1 Existing LiDAR data captured in 2019 covering the proposed development area was assessed for possible archaeological features. This showed at least one trackway or footpath crossing the proposed development area, corresponding to one seen on the 2000 aerial imagery. Several possible small mounds were also visible but these were indistinct and their nature was uncertain (Figure 7).

4 Walkover Survey

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The walkover survey was conducted on the 22nd January 2021. The site was inspected for any evidence for features of archaeological/historic interest within the proposed development area. The evidence was also assessed for previous landscaping and levelling activities, to determine if they may have had an impact on any potential buried archaeological remains at the site (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 The vast majority of the survey area was wooded at the time of the walkover survey, the land being planted with a mixture of deciduous species. Ground visibility was good, there being no leaves on the trees at the time of the visit, and no ground vegetation apart from some patches of brambles. The site was crossed by several public footpaths and bounded by metal and wooden fences. The periphery of the proposed development area had been subject to fly-tipping at several locations.
- 4.1.3 Only one potential archaeological feature was identified within the 3ha survey area, comprising a boundary ditch of likely post-medieval or modern date. The location is shown on Figure 8.

4.2 Site Conditions

- 4.2.1 The proposed development area was accessed from the north from Park Road via a public footpath to the west of the existing cold store building leading to a narrow strip of land (Plate 1 and Plate 2).
- 4.2.2 From here the footpath split into three separate paths leading east, south east and south across the proposed development area (Figure 8).



Plate 1: Public footpath entering the site from Park Road, looking south



Plate 2: The northwest portion of the site crossed by a public footpath, looking southeast



Plate 3: Public footpath along the northern edge of the site showing change in levels, looking east

- 4.2.3 Land along the northern edge of the proposed development area became more elevated moving eastwards, compared to the land occupied by the industrial park to the north, suggesting that the land within the industrial park had been reduced to create a level development platform (Plate 3).
- 4.2.4 To the west an earth bank was identified (running west outside of the proposed development area) which is believed to be an earthwork associated with the creation of the industrial park (Plate 4).



Plate 4: Earth bank bounding the south side of the industrial part to the west, looking northwest



Plate 5: Wooded central portion of the proposed development area, looking west

- 4.2.5 Apart from the bank along the northern edge of the survey area, the site was predominantly level, with a slight rise to the east. Trees covered the majority of the survey area, which were noted to be planted in regular rows, which is typical of a modern plantation (Plate 5).
- 4.2.6 The area to the east (outside of the proposed development area) was also inspected but no features were identified in this area, and there was no visible evidence for the Mission Church (Asset 10).

4.3 Survey Results

- 4.3.1 A single ditch was identified on the west side of the survey area within the wooded area, aligned north to south, which appeared to relate to an earlier period of activity than the woodland (Plate 6).



Plate 6: Ditch on the west side of the proposed development area, looking west



Plate 7: South end of the ditch, looking north

- 4.3.2 The ditch had a U-shaped profile, being approximately 30m long, 1.3m wide and between 0.5m and 0.3m deep, becoming progressively shallower to the south (Plate 7). The ditch was partially covered by brambles and filled with leaf litter. At the north end, two mature hawthorns were growing on the western edge of the ditch suggesting the ditch pre-dated the trees, but this was uncertain (Plate 8).



Plate 8: North end of the ditch showing hawthorns, looking east

4.4 Discussion

- 4.4.1 The results of the walkover survey confirmed that linear features identified on the LiDAR survey (Figure 7) related to existing public footpaths crossing the site, which are modern in origin.
- 4.4.2 A ditch was also identified which did not appear in the LiDAR survey data and is believed to be a remnant of a post-medieval or modern field boundary ditch. The location of the ditch corresponds to a boundary depicted on historic Ordnance Survey maps of the site suggesting it is a late 19th century or early 20th century feature (see Figure 5c).
- 4.4.3 The ditch appears to be located immediately to the east of an administrative boundary, which is depicted on 19th and 20th century mapping crossing the site but does not in itself appear to be an ancient boundary feature.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Proposed Development Area

- 5.1.1 The proposed development area encompassed approximately 3ha of land on the south side Park Road, on the north side of Holmewood in Derbyshire. The proposed development area is mostly wooded and is currently classified as recreational land, which has been subject to fly tipping.
- 5.1.2 The assessment has revealed that there is a low potential for archaeological remains within the site boundary predating the post-medieval period. The settlement of Williamthorpe is recorded in Domesday Book (1086) as 'Wilemestorp'. However, the location of the medieval settlement is uncertain and no evidence on the ground has yet been identified. In the post-medieval period Williamthorpe was a small rural settlement located to the southwest of the proposed development area and Williamthorpe Hall was located 200m to the west (later renamed as Woodside Farm). The proposed development area was part of the former Williamthorpe Wood in the post-medieval period, which was associated with Williamthorpe Hall, with possible origins in the 17th century. The area is depicted as woodland on historic Ordnance Survey maps up to the end of the 19th century.
- 5.1.3 Coal mining was extremely important to the area. Holmewood Colliery was established from 1868 onwards to the southeast of Williamthorpe by The Hardwick Colliery Company. The route of the main line of the Great Central Railway through Derbyshire passed to the west side of the proposed development area, being fully open in 1892 with a branch line to Holmewood Colliery. It appears that Williamthorpe Wood was cleared of trees in the early 20th century as part of the development of the village of Holmewood, which was formed by The Williamthorpe Colliery Company from 1905 onwards. The proposed development area seems to have subsequently become heathland or grassland in the early 20th century and was crossed by several tracks. Earthworks were also present to the north of the site boundary, which may indicate industrial activity was taking place nearby.
- 5.1.4 Holmewood Industrial Park developed along Park Road to the north of the proposed development at the end of the 20th century when tree belts and were apparently planted around the edges of the proposed development area, along with an earth bank to the west, to provide a visual buffer. The proposed development area was subsequently utilised as recreational land and planted with trees.

5.2 Research Potential

- 5.2.1 An assessment of LiDAR data covering the proposed development area has indicated the presence of footpaths crossing the site, which are modern in origin associated with recreational use. A post-medieval or modern boundary ditch was the only feature identified during the walkover survey. This corresponded with a boundary depicted on early 20th century Ordnance Survey maps. No other archaeological features were identified, and the research potential of the site was assessed as low.

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APPENDIX 1: Heritage Asset Gazetteer

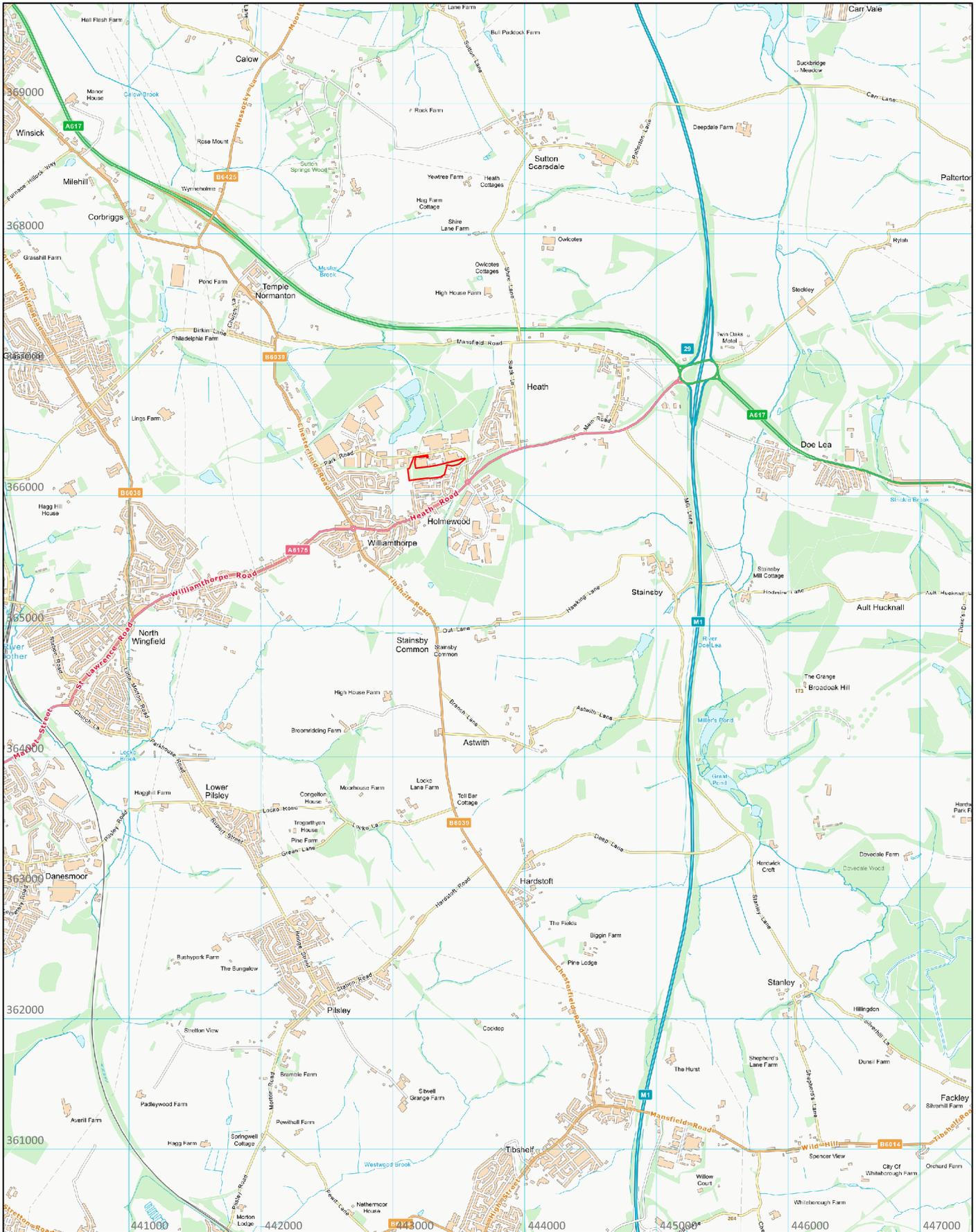
Site No.	HER Ref.	Name	Summary	Designation	Period	Grid Coordinates
1	3158	Williamthorpe Hall Farmhouse Shop, Searston Avenue	Early 18th century house (now shop) of coursed sandstone with sandstone dressings, stone slate and welsh slate roofs. Two storeys. East elevation has symmetrical twin bays. Central doorway with massive stone jambs and lintel. To the left, a glazing bar sash with flush stone surround. To the right, a 2-light square section flush mullion window. To the first floor, two 2-light square section flush mullion windows. A 19th farmhouse is attached to the south and 19th barns attached to the north, neither being of listable quality.	Grade II Listed Building: List entry 1311716	Post-medieval	442973,365849
2	11508	Possible Road, Heath	Stones, revealed while ploughing, have been identified as a possible road surface by Mr. Spendlove of Gildage Forge Farm	Non-designated	Unknown	444600,366100
3	10948	Great Central Railway, Chesterfield Loop, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire	The Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company opened what was known as the Chesterfield Loop in 1892, although the line was taken over by the Great Central in 1897. A tunnel was built for the railway to pass below Chesterfield itself, with the station at the northern end of the tunnel. The railway was constructed across an old clay pit to the north of	Non-designated	Post-medieval	443352,367173

Site No.	HER Ref.	Name	Summary	Designation	Period	Grid Coordinates
			Chesterfield, shown on the OS map of 1876. Its construction also required some straightening of the Rother, with implications for the Chesterfield Canal, as the tracks cut off access to the original canal basin. Railway now dismantled.			
4	11055	Great Central Railway, Derbyshire Main Line (route of), Derbyshire Dales, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire	The route of the main line of the Great Central Railway through Derbyshire, fully open in 1892; now dismantled. The Great Central Railway undertook the construction of its Derbyshire lines in the late 19th century, which were to extend the company's metals to the Great Northern at Annesley junction and its trains to Nottingham. The first section of main line, from Beighton to Staveley Works, was brought into use on December 1 1891 and public traffic between Beighton and Staveley Town began on June 1 1892. The next section of main line, from Staveley Town to Annesley Junction, was opened on October 24 1892. On the new line the intermediate stations were Killamarsh, Eckington & Renishaw, Staveley Works, Staveley Town, Sheepbridge & Brimington, Heath, Pilsley, Tibshelf town and Kirkby & Pinxton. A number of branch lines were constructed to connect with nearby collieries and the vast majority of these were in use before the close of 1893.	Non-designated	Post-medieval	443514,366088

Site No.	HER Ref.	Name	Summary	Designation	Period	Grid Coordinates
5	11108	Colliery Housing, Holmewood	Colliery housing associated with the Wingerworth Colliery Company's Holmewood Colliery, comprising long late 19th century terraces with some ornate features. Holmewood Hotel (public house) is incorporated into the centre of the main terrace. The area was the subject of a general improvement scheme in 1974.	Non-designated	Post-medieval	443307,366045
6	11109	Railway Cottages (formerly Central Cottages), Heath Road, Holmewood	Late 19th century housing for Great Central Railway workers, comprising four blocks of two former GCR houses adjacent to the site of the former GCR station. Brick with tile roofs; ornate woodwork and porches.	Non-designated	Post-medieval	443634,366230
7	11116	Road Bridge, Chesterfield Road, North Wingfield	Early 20th century road bridge over colliery railway, comprising a blue brick railway bridge taking the Temple Normanton-Tibshelf road over the line of the former Midland Railway branch to Williamthorpe.	Non-designated	Modern	442347,366377
8	11649	Chesterfield to Mansfield (via Hasland) Turnpike Road, North East Derbyshire, Chesterfield and Bolsover	In 1759 the road running east from Chesterfield through Heath and Glapwell was turnpiked to Mansfield. Authorised by an Act of 32.Geo.II c.37. Despite an expenditure of some £4000 on its repair, the road was in a wretched condition in 1780, and threatened with indictment with a falling income at a time when heavy expenditure was essential.	Non-designated	Post-medieval	443249,367158

Site No.	HER Ref.	Name	Summary	Designation	Period	Grid Coordinates
9	13412	Methodist Chapel (Wesleyan) (site of), Junction of Shire Ln and Mansfield Rd, Heath	Site of a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel shown on the 2nd edition 25" Ordnance Survey map of c.1900, now the site of a residence, possibly utilising some of the original chapel.	Non-designated	Post-medieval	443940,367190
10	N/A	Mission Church (site of), Holmewood	Site of Mission Church (now demolished) which is first depicted on the 1917 25" Ordnance Survey map (founded after 1898). The church appears to have been quite large, possibly with a western turret block a nave and a small chancel, or apse. The church is not believed to have had a graveyard and is believed to have closed in the 1960s.	Non-designated	Modern	443456,366249

APPENDIX 2: Figures



Eden Heritage Ltd 2021

PROJECT: Land at Park Road, Holmewood, Chesterfield, Derbyshire
 CLIENT: Rick Bestwick Holmewood LLP
 REPORT: EH097/02
 SCALE: 1:40,000 at A4
 DRAWN BY: MDR
 DATE: January 2021

KEY:

 site boundary



Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2018)

Figure 1: Site Location.

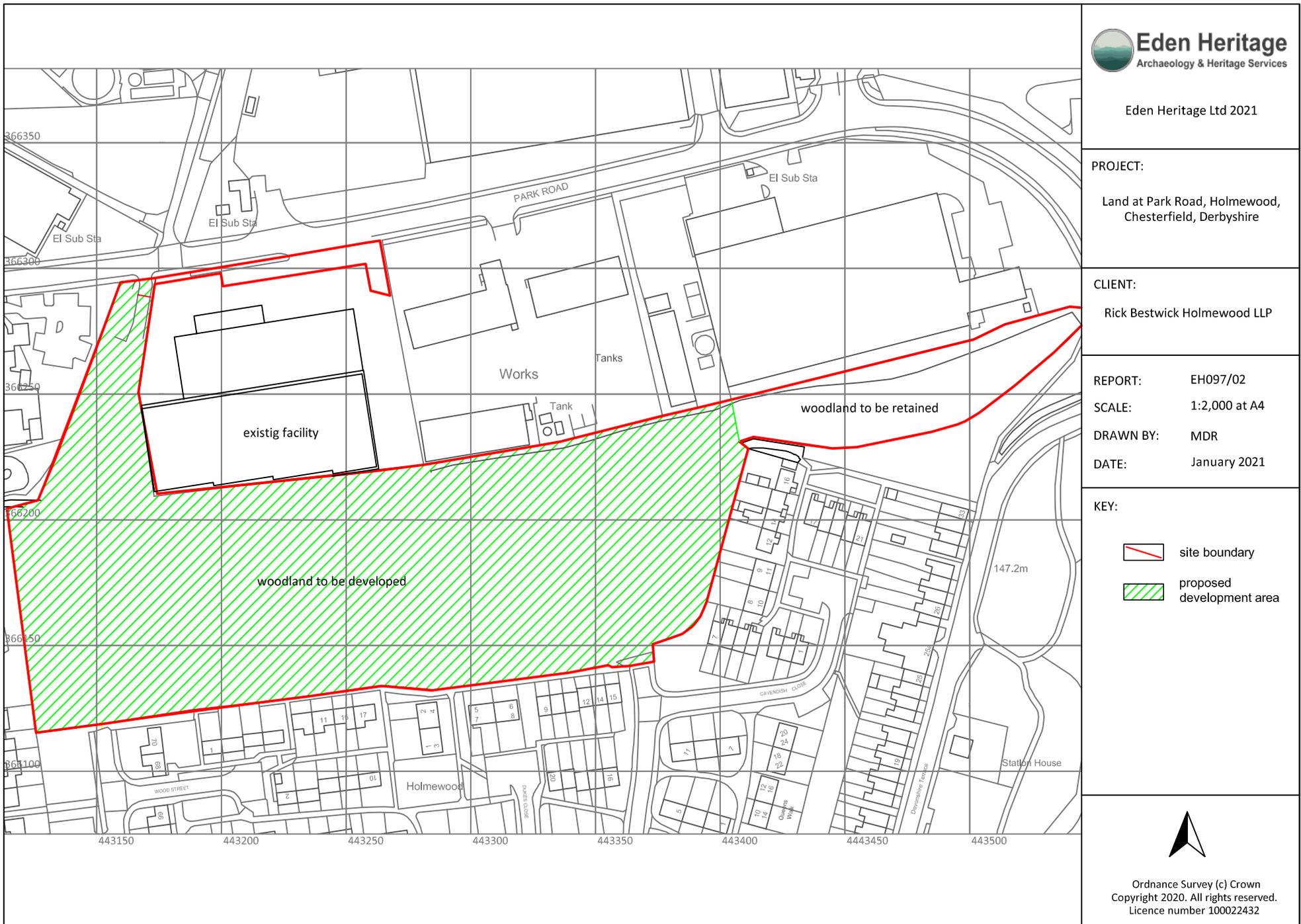
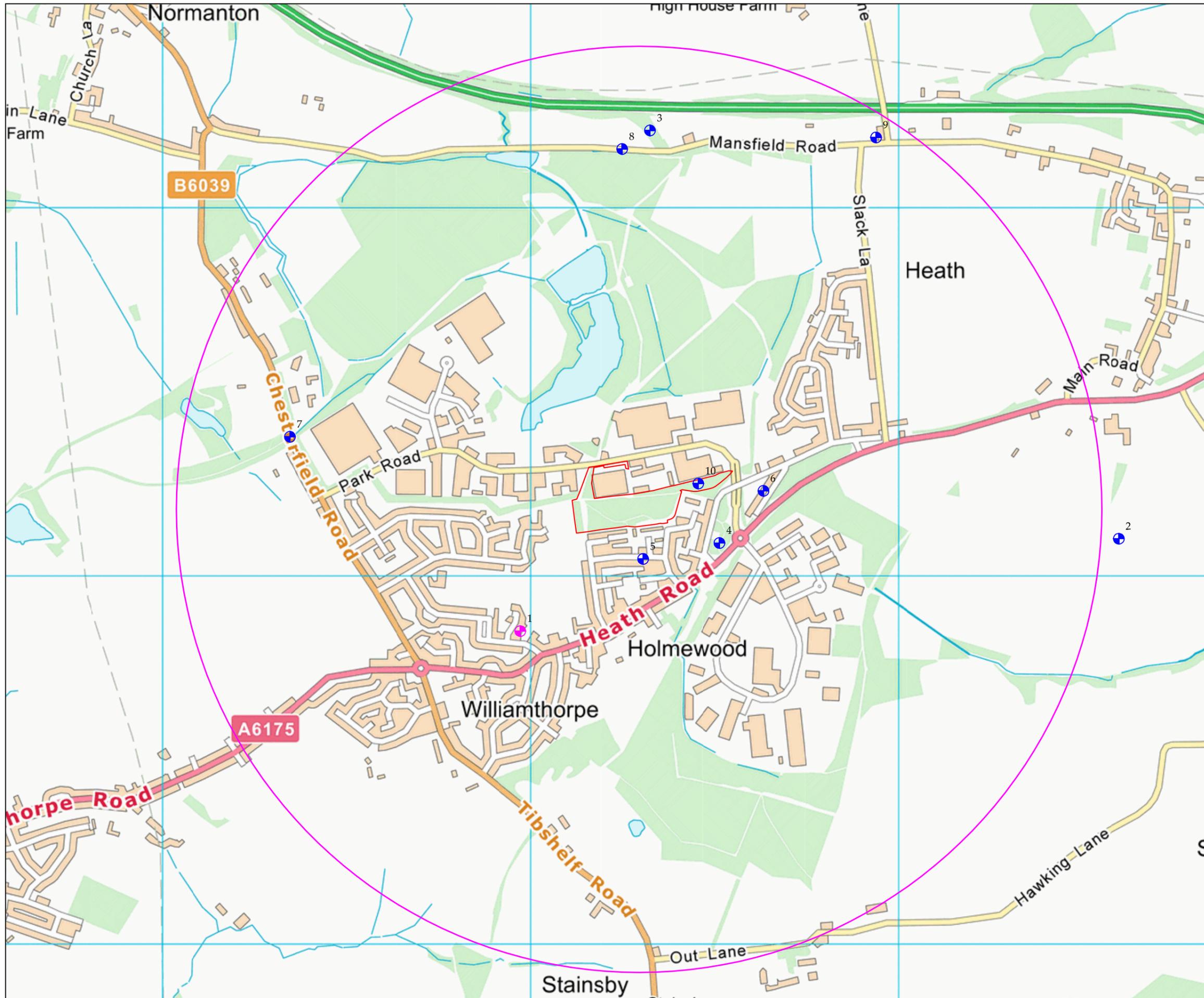


Figure 2: Detailed site location.



PROJECT:

Land at Park Road, Holmewood,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire

CLIENT:

Rest Bestwick Holmewood LLP

REPORT:

EH097/02

SCALE:

1:10,000 at A4

DRAWN BY:

MDR

DATE:

January 2021

KEY:

-  site boundary
-  1km search area
-  1 heritage asset
-  1 listed building



Figure 3: Locations of heritage assets.



Eden Heritage Ltd 2021

PROJECT:
Land at Park Road, Holmewood,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire

CLIENT:
Rick Bestwick Holmewood LLP

REPORT: EH097/02
SCALE: Not to scale
DRAWN BY: MDR
DATE: January 2021

KEY:
 approximate site location

Figure 4: Extract from Comitatus Darbiensis (1670-1690).

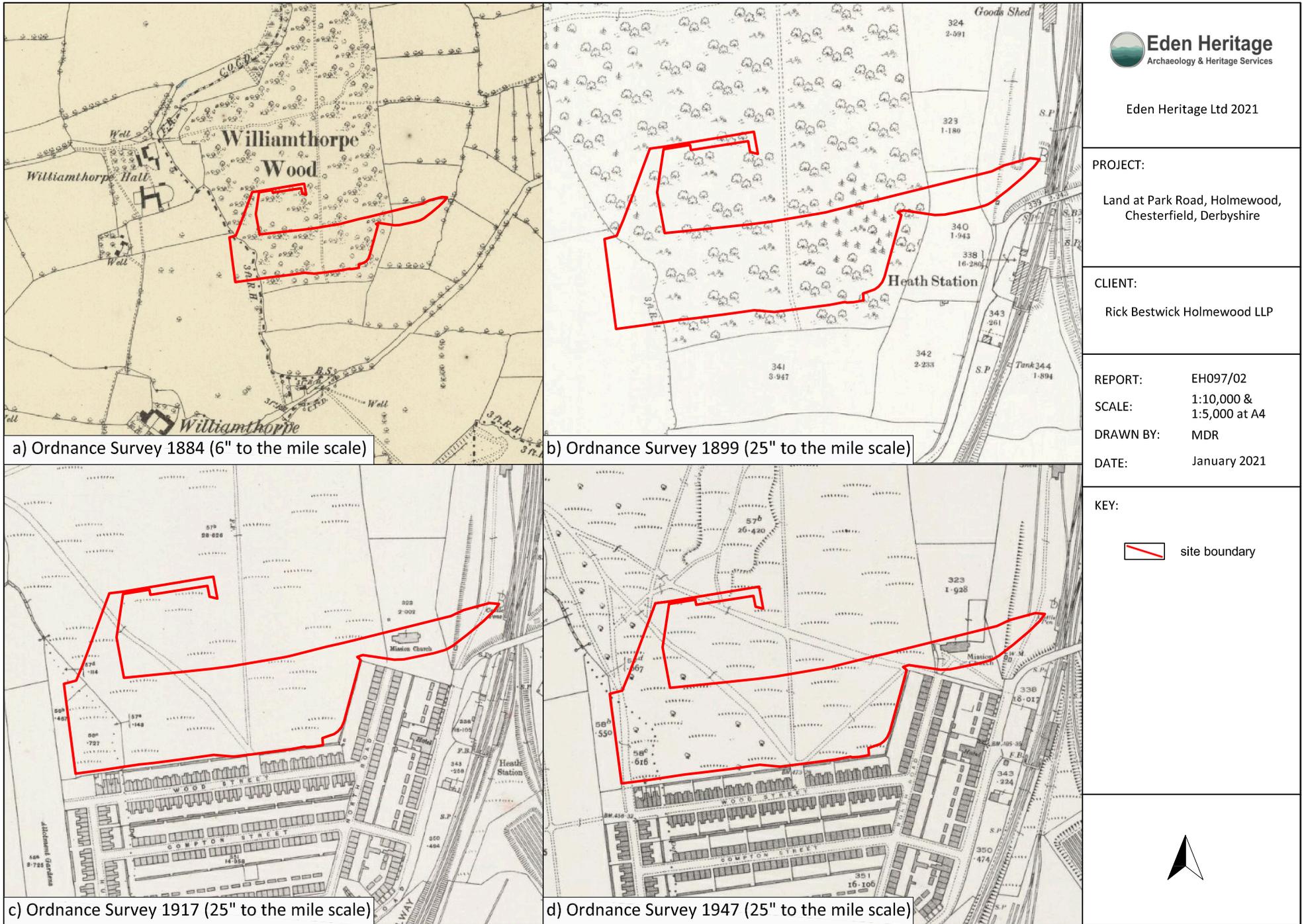


Figure 5: Extracts from historic Ordnance Survey maps (1884-1947).



Eden Heritage Ltd 2021

PROJECT:

Land at Park Road, Holmewood,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire

CLIENT:

Rick Bestwick Holmewood LLP

REPORT: EH097/02

SCALE: 1:5,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: MDR

DATE: January 2021

KEY:

 site boundary



Google Earth © 2000

Figure 6: Modern satellite imagery (2000).



Eden Heritage Ltd 2021

PROJECT:

Land at Park Road, Holmewood,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire

CLIENT:

Rick Bestwick Holmewood LLP

REPORT: EH097/02

SCALE: 1:5,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: MDR

DATE: January 2021

KEY:

 site boundary



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Figure 7: Digital surface model using 2m LiDAR data (2019).

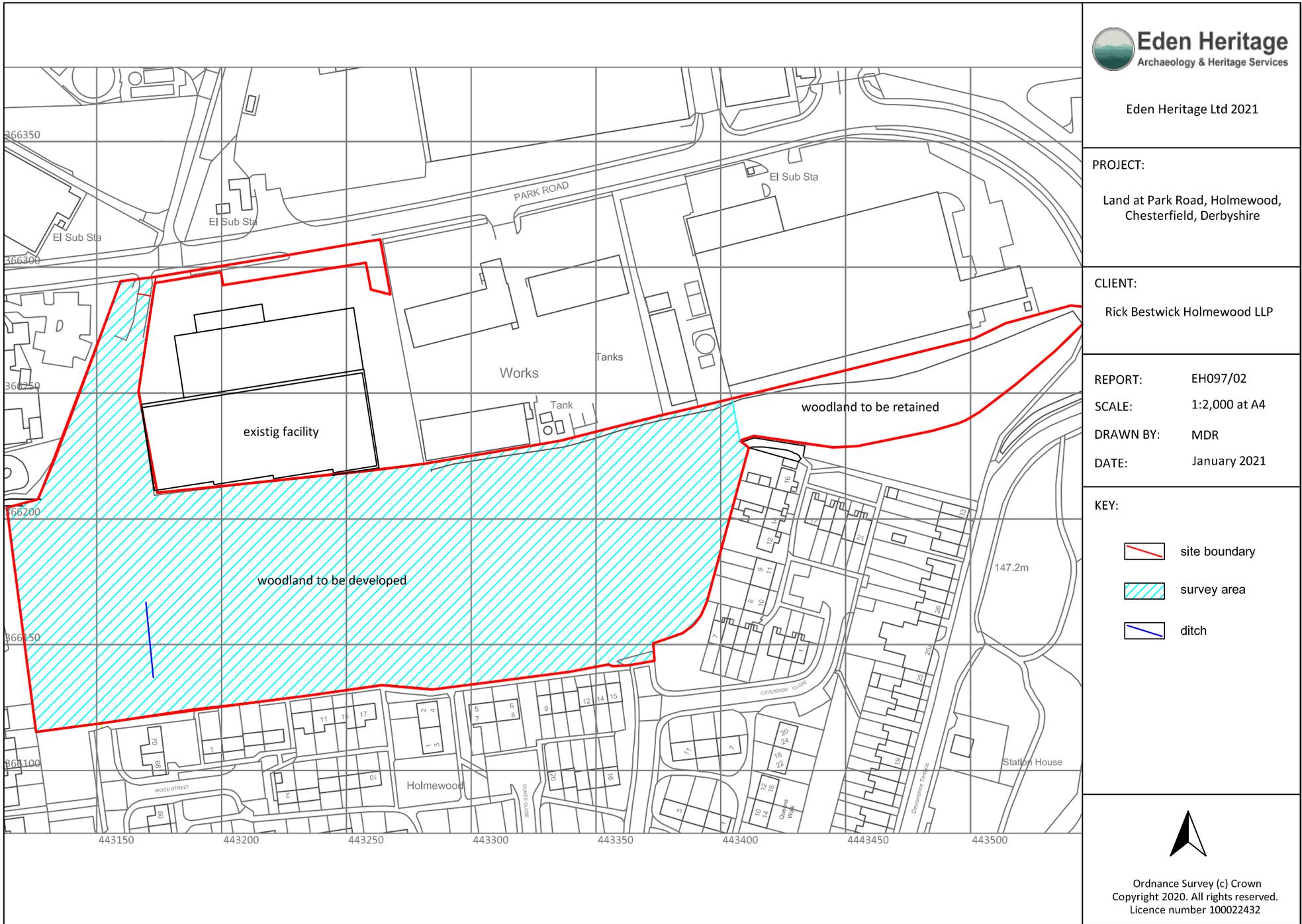


Figure 8: Results of the walkover survey.

**Heritage Impact Assessment
Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
Historic Landscape Survey
Written Scheme of Investigation**

**Geophysical Survey
Trial Trench Evaluation
Archaeological Excavation
Archaeological Watching Briefs**

