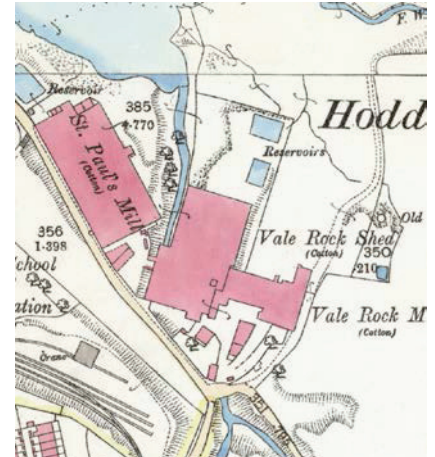


HODDLESDEN MILL, HODDLESDEN, DARWEN, BLACKBURN, LANCASHIRE

Heritage Assessment



Client: Kingswood Homes

Planning ref: 10/21/0008

NGR: 371780 422490 (centre)

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November 2021



The Site	
Site Name	Hoddlesden Mill, Hoddlesden, Darwen, Blackburn
County	Lancashire
NGR	371780 422490 (centre)

Client	
Client Name	Kingswood Homes
Client's architect	N/A

Planning	
Pre-planning?	No
Planning Application No.	10/21/0008
Plans (e.g. conversion, extension, demolition)	Erection of 79 dwellings and associated remediation work (also including potential additional area to the south-east)
Condition number	18
Local Planning Authority	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Planning Archaeologist	Doug Moir, Lancashire County Council

Archiving	
Relevant Record Office(s)/Archive Centre(s)	Preston
Relevant HER	Lancashire

Staffing	
Desk-based assessment	Dan Elsworth
Site visit	Dan Elsworth
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Contents

Illustrations.....	2
List of Figures.....	2
List of Plates.....	2
Summary.....	4
Acknowledgements.....	4
1. Introduction.....	5
1.1 Circumstances of the Project.....	5
1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography.....	5
2. Methodology.....	7
2.1 Desk-Based Assessment.....	7
2.2 Site Visit.....	7
2.3 Archive.....	7
3. Results.....	8
3.1 Introduction.....	8
3.2 Desk-Based Assessment.....	8
3.3 Map and Image Regression.....	8
3.4 LIDAR.....	14
3.5 Site Visit.....	15
4. Site History.....	20
4.1 Background History.....	20
4.2 Prehistoric Period (c11,000 BC – 1 st century AD).....	20
4.3 Romano-British to Early Medieval Period (1 st century AD – 11 th century AD).....	21
4.4 Medieval Period (11 th century AD – 16 th century AD).....	21
4.5 Post-Medieval Period (16 th century AD – present).....	21
5. Discussion.....	25
5.1 Introduction.....	25
5.2 Significance of Known Resource.....	25
5.3 Potential.....	25
5.4 Disturbance.....	26
5.5 Impact.....	26
5.6 Conclusion and Recommendations.....	26
6. Bibliography.....	27
6.1 Primary and Cartographic Sources.....	27
6.2 Secondary Sources.....	27
Appendix 1: Significance Criteria.....	30

Illustrations

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location	6
Figure 2: Phase plan.....	23

List of Plates

Plate 1 (left): Extract from Yates.....	8
Plate 2 (right): Extract from Hennessey's map of 1830	8
Plate 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1849.....	9
Plate 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey maps of 1893	10
Plate 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey maps of 1911	11
Plate 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey maps of 1930	12
Plate 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1947	13
Plate 8: Aerial view of the site from the north-east (LRO LCC 4254/14 1988).....	14
Plate 9: Aerial view of the site from the west (LRO LCC 4254/16 1988).....	14
Plate 10: Drawing of Vale Rock Mill from the west (after Rothwell 1992, 11)	14
Plate 11: Drawing of St Paul's Mill from the north-east (after Rothwell 1992, 12)	14
Plate 12: Lidar imagery of the site	15
Plate 13 (left): The track leading through the north end of the site, viewed from the south	16
Plate 14 (right): View along Johnson New Road from the south-east.....	16
Plate 15 (left): Spoil heap on the site of St Paul's Mill, viewed from the south-west.....	16
Plate 16 (right): Crushed spoil north of the Vale Rock weaving sheds, viewed from the north	16
Plate 17 (left): General view of the concrete reservoirs, from the south-west.....	16
Plate 18 (right): Timber structure associated with the concrete reservoirs, viewed from the south	16
Plate 19 (left): Central reservoir, viewed from the south	17
Plate 20 (right): Eastern reservoir, viewed from the north-west	17
Plate 21 (left): Brick-built filter beds, viewed from the south	17
Plate 22 (right): Dividing trackway, showing brick structure, viewed from the south-west.....	17
Plate 23 (left): Adjoining building showing scars of the Vale Rock weaving shed roof, viewed from the north	17
Plate 24 (right): The south wall of Vale Rock mill/weaving shed, viewed from the north.....	17
Plate 25 (left): The west wall of Vale Rock mill/weaving shed, viewed from the east.....	18
Plate 26 (right): Return in the west wall of Vale Rock mill/weaving shed, viewed from the east	18
Plate 27 (left): Sub-station building on the south side of the site, viewed from the north	18
Plate 28 (right): Interior of the sub-station building on the south side of the site, viewed from the south-east.....	18
Plate 29 (left): Standing buildings within the potential additional area, viewed from the east (photograph provided by Kingswood Homes, taken 25/10/2021).....	19
Plate 30 (right): Standing buildings within the potential additional area, viewed from the south-east (photograph provided by Kingswood Homes, taken 25/10/2021).....	19
Plate 31 (left): Standing building on the east side of the potential additional area, viewed from the south (photograph provided by Kingswood Homes, taken 25/10/2021)	19

Plate 32 (right): Standing buildings on the north-east side of the potential additional area, viewed from the north (photograph provided by Kingswood Homes, taken 25/10/2021) 19

Summary

Following the submission of a planning application for the construction of 79 dwellings and associated remediation work at the former Hoddlesden Mill, Hoddlesden, Darwen, Blackburn, Lancashire, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to produce a heritage assessment. This primarily comprised the examination of documentary sources, principally old maps, but also other sources, as well as a site visit, in order to assess the significance of any archaeological remains that might be present. The area comprised that of the planning application, and also an potential additional area to the south-east.

The site is located within in a wider area containing remains of prehistoric and Roman date, and Hoddlesden was, in the medieval period, a vaccary on the edge of the forest of Rossendale. However, the site is primarily of historical importance because of its connections to the textile industry. The whole area was essentially entirely filled by a former textile mill, the origins of which are thought to have been as a calico printing works in the late 18th century, which developed into a substantial cotton mill in the middle of the 19th century, known as the Vale Rock Mill. This was enlarged with the addition a large weaving shed and a second mill, St Paul's, in the later 19th century. The site continued in use until the late 20th century but was badly damaged by fire in 1998 and demolished shortly afterwards.

The site visit revealed that some structural elements of the main mill buildings are still evident on site, as well as ancillary structures such as reservoirs. Within the potential additional area a number of structures survive that originally formed part of the Vale Rock Mill and are now used as industrial units.

The Vale Rock Mill was Listed Grade II until its demolition, but the site remains of some importance as one of the earliest of its type in the area and there is still the potential for archaeological remains, primarily relating to the mill, to be present. It is considered that this could be best explored through a programme of building recording and topographic survey of the standing remains and targeted archaeological evaluation of the site of the earliest mill buildings in order to establish the presence of any surviving structural remains.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thanks Kingswood Homes for commissioning the project, in particular Andrea Fortune for providing information about the site. Additional thanks are due to Joanne Smith, Planning Officer at the Lancashire County Council Historic Environment Team, for providing the HER data, and the staff of the Lancashire Record Office in Preston for assisting with access to the archive sources.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 The circumstances of the project are set out in the tables on the inside cover of this report.

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located on the north-east side of Hoddlesden, at the confluence of the Pickup Bank Brook and Hoddlesden Moss Brook, north-east of Johnson New Road (Figure 1). Hoddlesden is less than 0.5km east of Darwen and 3km south-east of the edge of Blackburn. It is located at approximately 210m above sea level (Figure 1). The solid geology is typically coarse-grained sandstone (gritstone) overlain by boulder clay derived from the last ice age and cut by streams into deep gorges (Countryside Commission 1998, 107). Although containing various urbanised and industrial landscapes the wider landscape is dominated by upland moor, heather and rough grazing (*op cit*, 109).

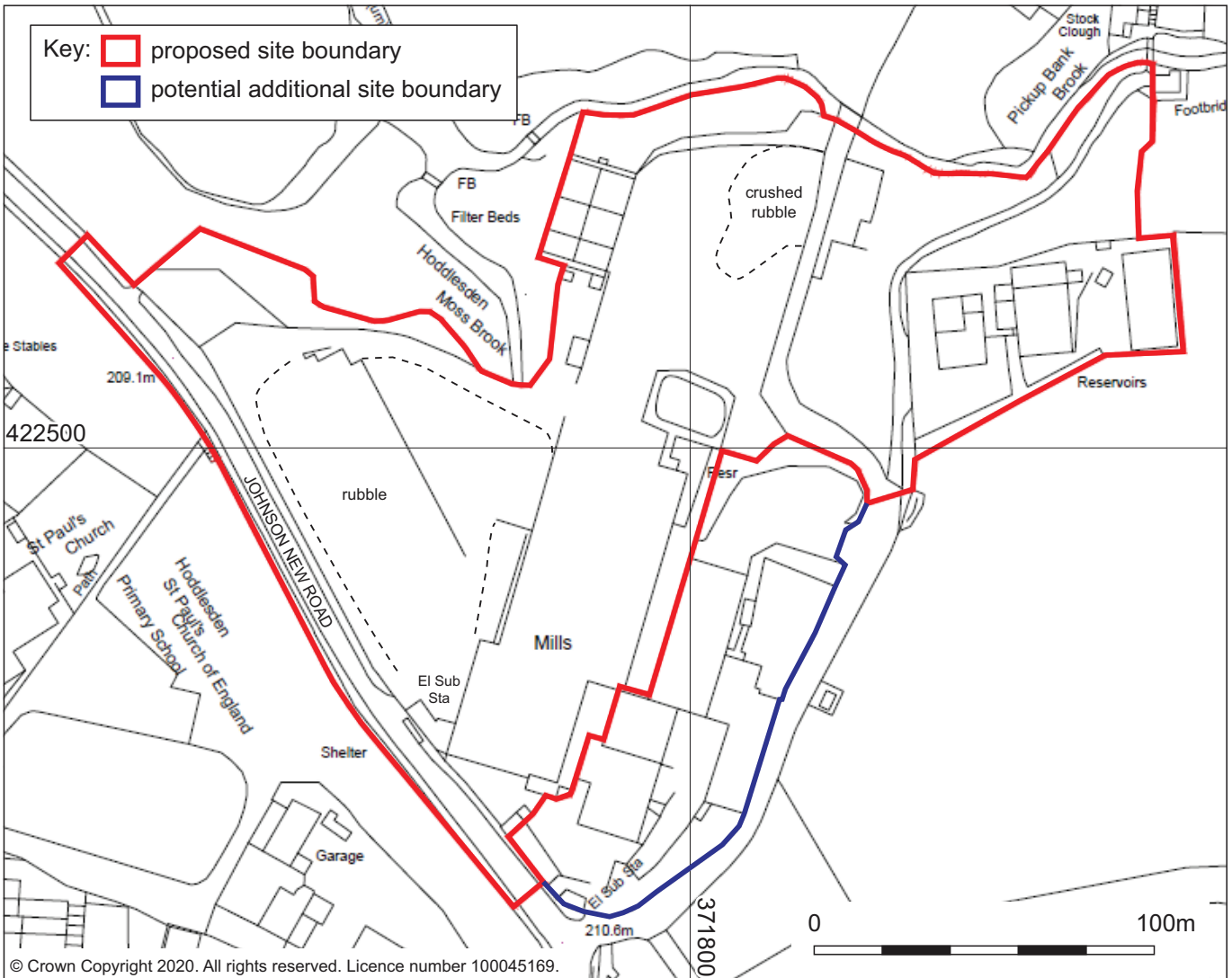
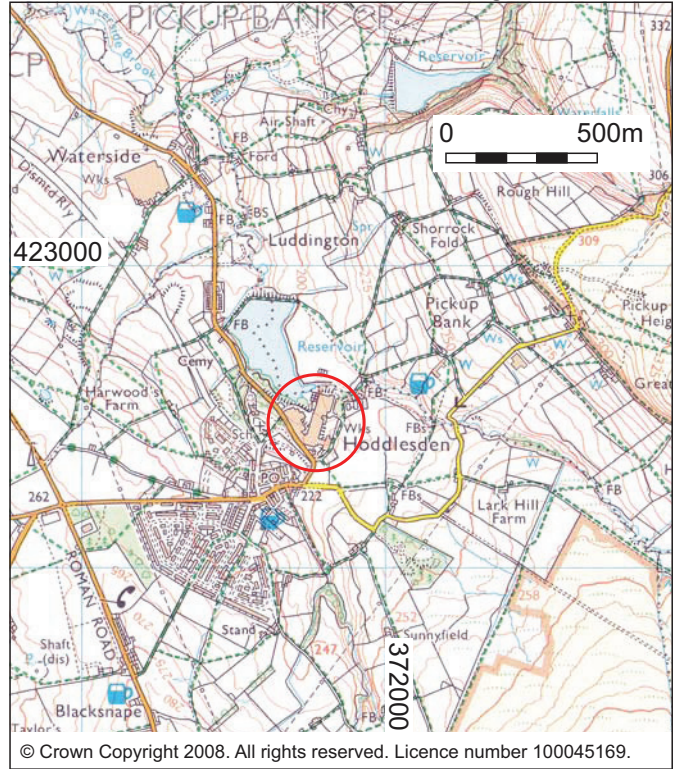
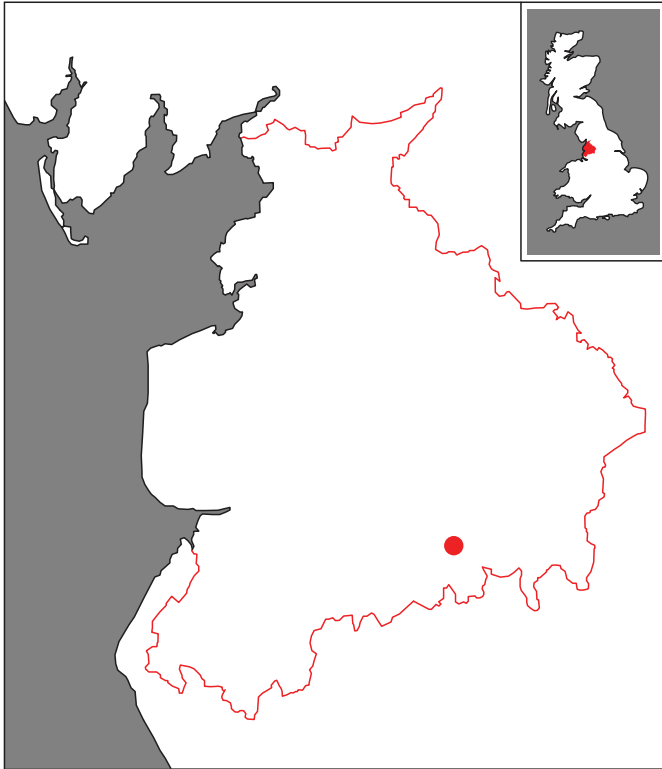


Figure 1: Site location

Client: Kingswood Homes

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2. Methodology

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 The main part of the heritage assessment is the production of an archaeological desk-based assessment, which was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a). This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the compilation of the desk-based assessment:

- **Record Office/Archive Centre:** the majority of original and secondary sources relating to the site are deposited in the relevant Record Office(s) or Archive Centre(s), as specified in the cover sheet of this report. Of principal importance are early maps of the site. These were examined in order to establish the development of the site, date of any structures present within it, and details of land use, in order to set the site in its historical, archaeological, and regional context. In addition, any details of the site's owners and occupiers were acquired where available;
- **Online Resources:** where available, mapping such as Ordnance Survey maps and tithe maps were consulted online;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** Greenlane Archaeology's office library includes maps, local histories, and unpublished primary and secondary sources. These were consulted where relevant, in order to provide information about the history and archaeology of the site and the general area.

2.2 Site Visit

2.2.1 A brief site visit, equivalent to an English Heritage Level 1 survey (English Heritage 2007), was carried out covering the proposed development area and other areas that might be affected. Particular attention was paid to the identification of features of historical or archaeological interest, but other relevant features were recorded such as later aspects of the site that may have impacted on the earlier remains or could constrain further investigation. Colour digital photographs showing the general arrangement of the site and any features of interest were taken.

2.3 Archive

2.3.1 The archive of the project will be deposited with the relevant Record Office or Archive Centre, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report, together with a copy of the report. The archive has been compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014b). In addition, details will be submitted to the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public. A copy of the report will be provided to the client and a digital copy of the report will be provided for the relevant Historic Environment Record, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report.

3. Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The study area comprised only the extent of the proposed development area, which was almost entirely filled by a single site of archaeological interest: the former Vale Rock mill and weaving shed and the adjoining St Paul's Mill (Figure 1).

3.2 Desk-Based Assessment

3.2.1 The results of the heritage assessment have been used to produce two main elements. Firstly, all available maps of the area were compiled into a map regression, demonstrating how the site physically developed (Section 3.3). The second purpose of the desk-based assessment is to produce a background history of the site. This is intended to cover all periods, in part to provide information that can be used to assess the potential of the site, but more importantly to present the documented details of any sites that are known (see Section 4).

3.2.2 Once this information has been compiled the significance of those sites of archaeological interest within the study area, their potential, and the degree to which they are likely to be affected is considered (Section 5) and based on this possible mitigation work is then suggested.

3.3 Map and Image Regression

3.3.1 **Introduction:** early maps of the area tend to be relatively lacking in detail, such as Yates's plan of 1786 and Hennet's map of 1830 (see below), and no tithe map is available for the area. The earliest useful maps therefore date from the mid-19th century.

3.3.2 **Yates's Map of Lancashire, 1786:** nothing is marked in the area on Yates's map of 1830 (Plate 1). Some buildings are shown, which probably relate to Hoddlesden, although it is not specifically named on the map and nothing is shown close to the branching watercourse to the north.

3.3.3 **Hennet's map of Lancaster, 1830:** buildings are shown which may represent the mill building(s) at Hoddlesden, but this is unclear (Plate 2).

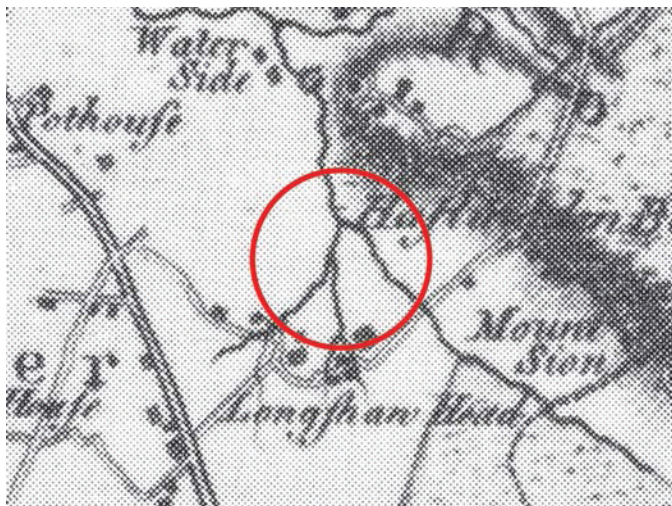


Plate 1 (left): Extract from Yates

Plate 2 (right): Extract from Hennet's map of 1830

3.3.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1849:** the 1849 edition of the Ordnance Survey shows the confluence of Hoddlesden Brook (north/south) and Pickup Bank Brook (east/west) to the north of the area, with smaller channels running to a pond north of Vale Rock Mill cotton mill (Plate 3).



Plate 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1849

3.3.5 **Ordnance Survey, 1893:** Vale Rock Mill has expanded considerably and is neighbour to Vale Rock Shed (cotton) and the newly built St Paul's Mill cotton mill (Plate 4). Additional outbuildings can also be seen, including some that are shown to be open sided. A large reservoir has been created at the confluence of the two brooks to the north and additional, smaller rectangular reservoirs can be found within the area. The smaller offshoots from Pickup Bank Brook are no longer shown where a footpath is depicted to the east side of the area. The Hoddlesden Branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway has been built and terminates south-west of the area.

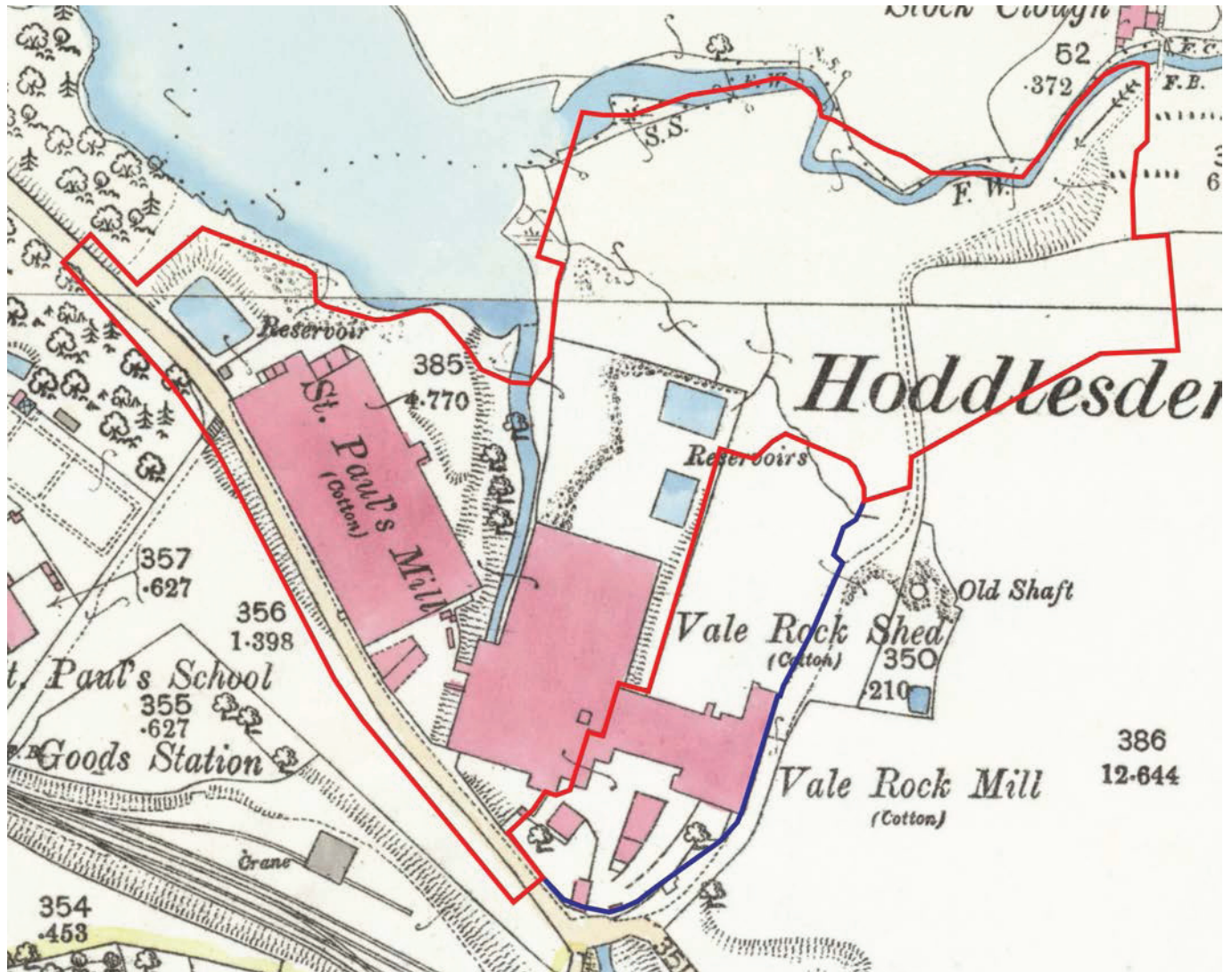


Plate 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey maps of 1893

3.3.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1911:** some minor alterations have been made to St Paul's Mill and Vale Rock Mill (Plate 5; cf. Plate 4). A chimney shown to the east side of Vale Rock Shed is labelled (it was previously shown but not labelled on the 1893 edition).

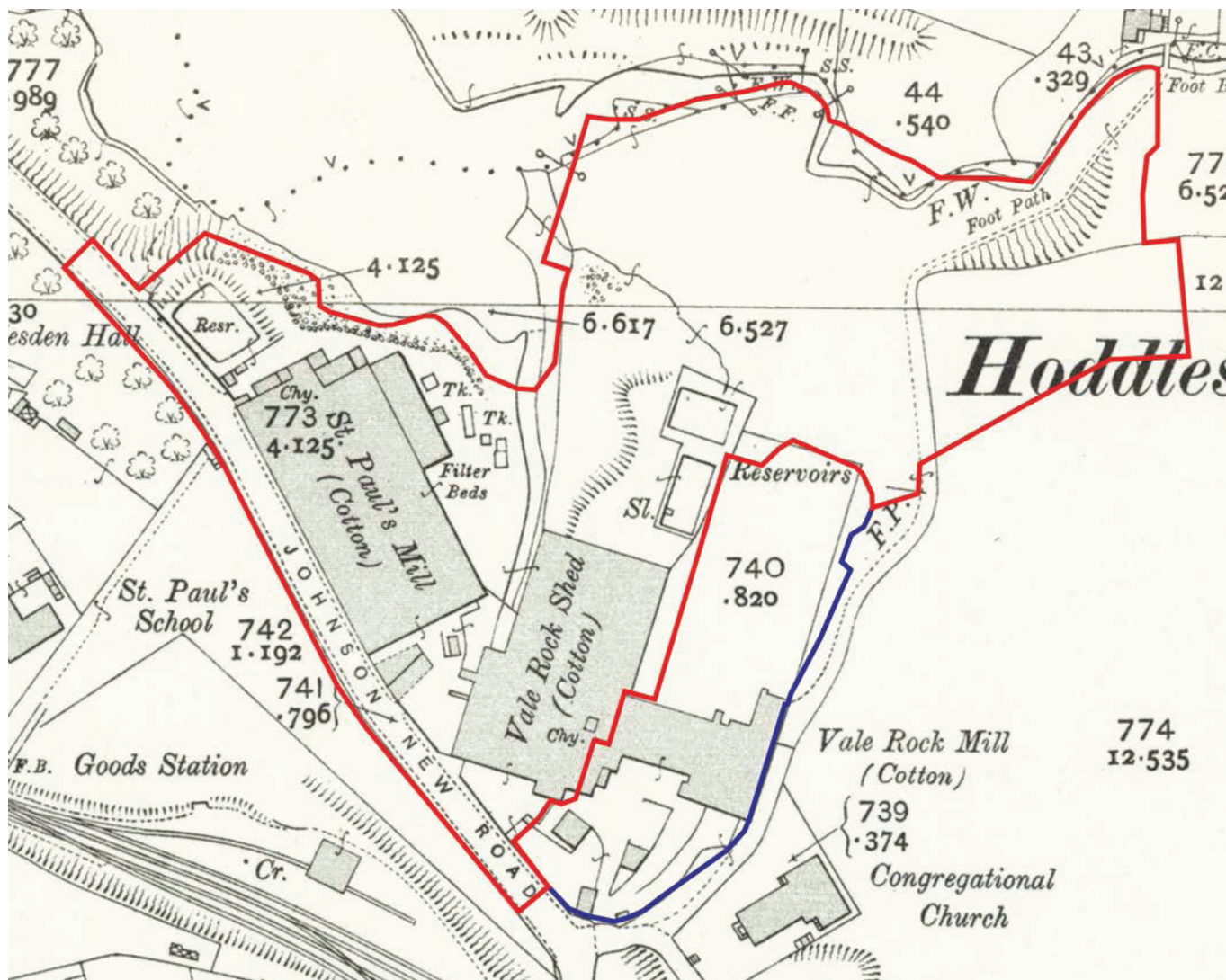


Plate 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey maps of 1911

3.3.7 **Ordnance Survey, 1930:** the complex of buildings comprising St Paul's Mill, Vale Rock Shed and Vale Rock Mill has hugely expanded, especially to the north-east, and more rectangular reservoirs have been constructed to the north-east corner of the area (Plate 6; cf. Plate 5).

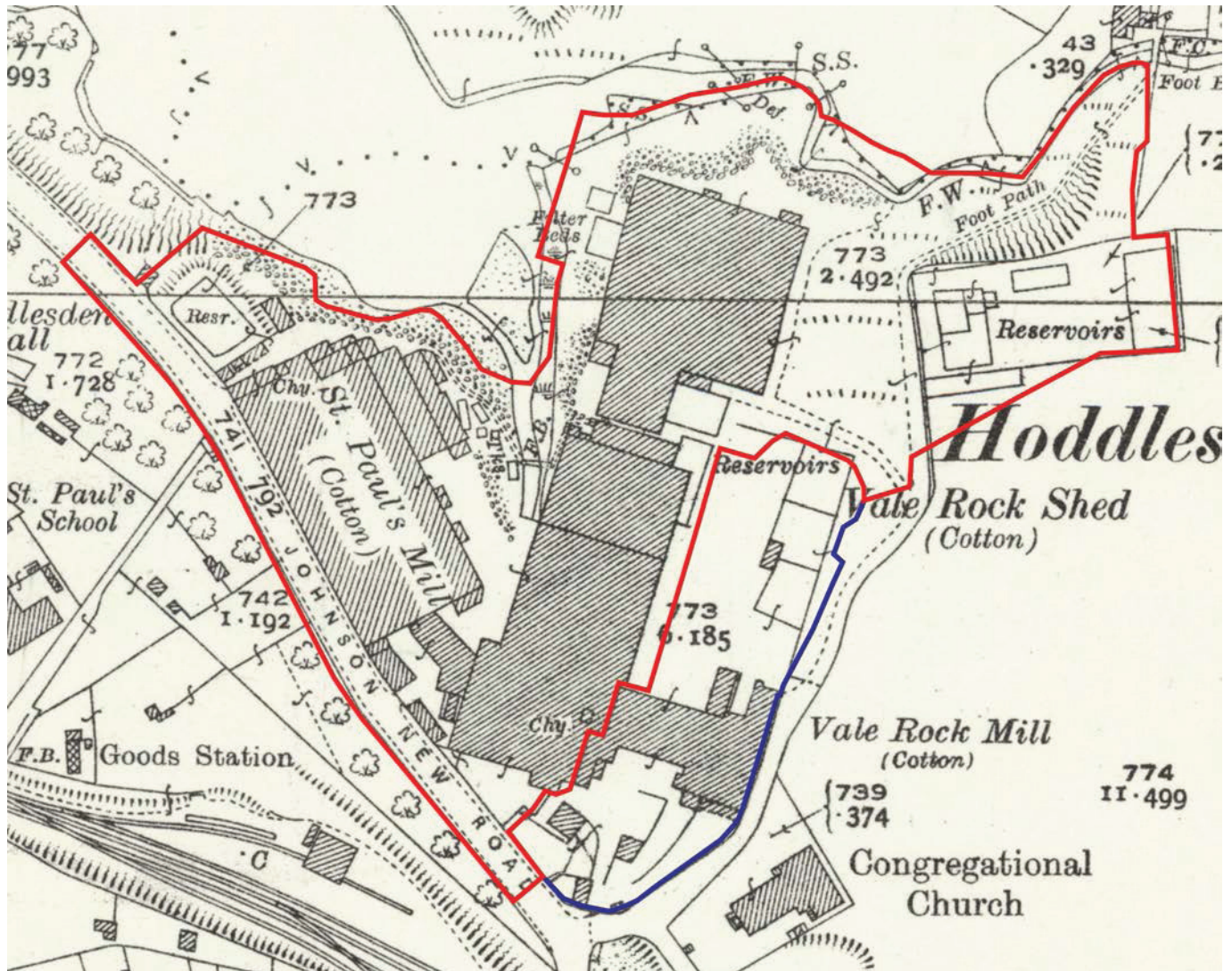


Plate 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey maps of 1930

3.3.8 **Ordnance Survey, 1947:** the site is unchanged to the 1947 edition of the Ordnance Survey map, which includes additions from 1938 (Plate 7; cf. Plate 6).

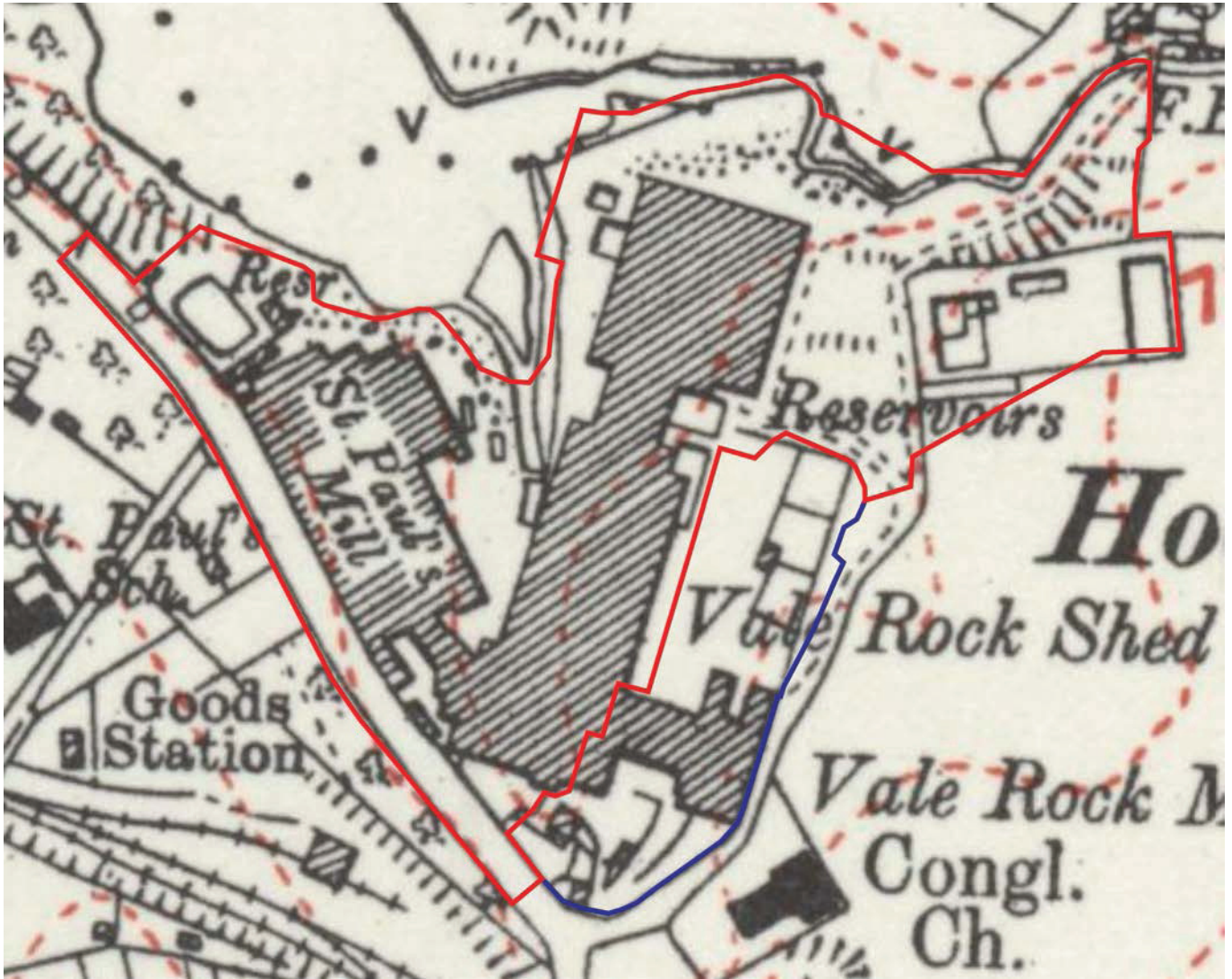


Plate 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1947

3.3.9 **Aerial Photographs, 1988:** a series of eight aerial views of the site were captured as part of the Lancashire Mills Survey in 1988 (LRO LCC 4254/13-20 1988). These show the site essentially entirely intact as it was by the mid-20th century, although with some obvious modern additions to the east side of the Vale Rock weaving shed.

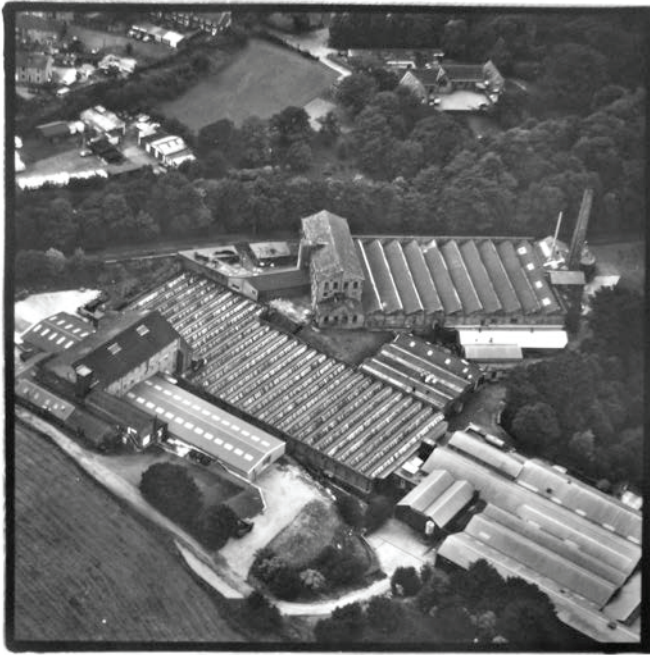


Plate 8: Aerial view of the site from the north-east (LRO LCC 4254/14 1988)

Plate 9: Aerial view of the site from the west (LRO LCC 4254/16 1988)

3.3.10 **Drawings, 1992:** Rothwell's detailed account of the site (Rothwell 1992, 11-13) is accompanied by two drawings of some of the buildings as they were at that time.

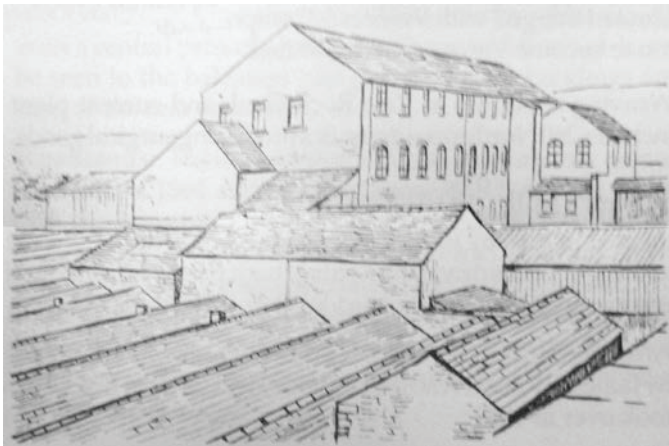


Plate 10: Drawing of Vale Rock Mill from the west (after Rothwell 1992, 11)

Plate 11: Drawing of St Paul's Mill from the north-east (after Rothwell 1992, 12)

3.4 LIDAR

3.4.1 **Lidar:** various elements of the former mill buildings can be seen on lidar imagery of the site freely available online. This shows the extent of the standing remains on the site, in particular the footprint of the main buildings, the reservoirs and other structures.

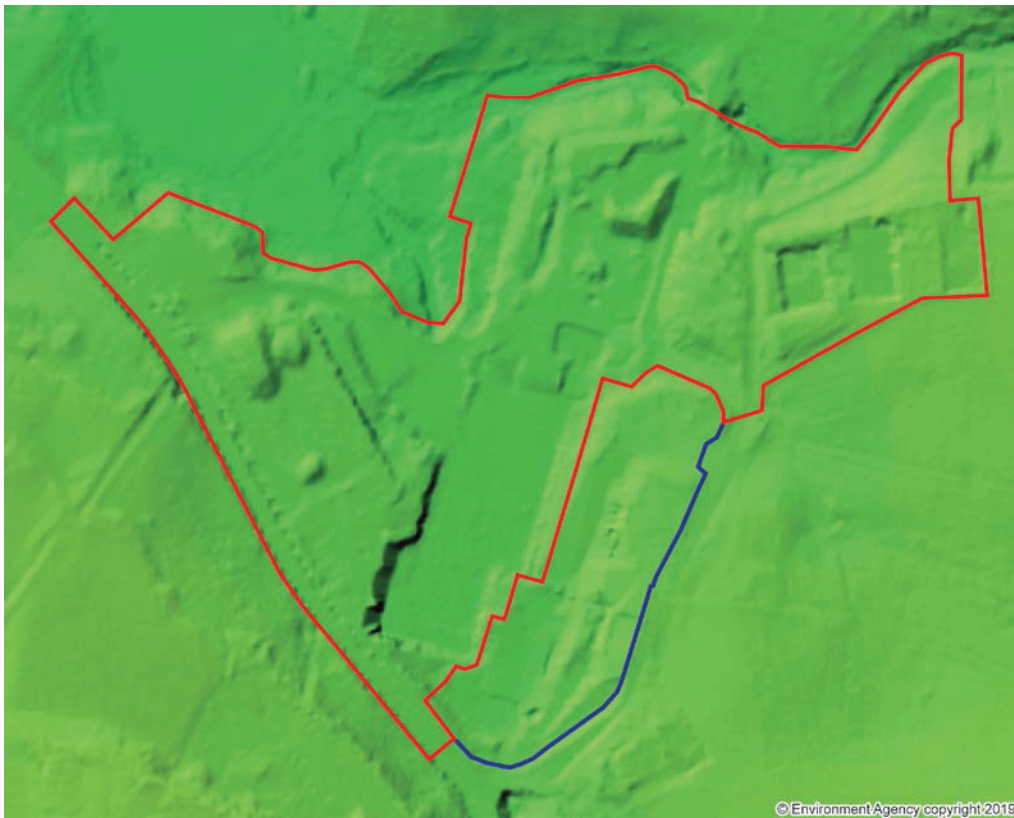


Plate 12: Lidar imagery of the site

3.5 Site Visit

3.5.1 **Site Arrangement and Character:** the site now comprises a very overgrown piece of land orientated approximately east/west, bounded by Pickup Bank Brook to the north with a trackway crossing this part of the site (Plate 13), part of Hoddlesden Moss Brook to the west (the remainder presumably culverted beneath the site), Johnson New Road to the south (Plate 14), and extant industrial units to the east, some of which were originally part of Vale Rock Mill. There is a large pile of rubble on the west side of the site on the footprint of the former St Paul's Mill (although part of its wall remains to the east and in the western boundary of the site; Plate 15), and a pile of crushed rubble is located on the north side of the site north of the site of the Vale Rock weaving shed (Plate 16). An extant group of reservoirs of concrete construction and timber structures remains on the east side of the site (Plate 17 and Plate 20), and brick-built filter beds to the west (Plate 21), between which are other brick structures surviving to the east of the access track (Plate 22). Within the main part of the site, at the south end, extant walls denote the position where the Vale Rock weaving shed met the main mill building, and the scars of the north-light windows are evident (Plate 23 to Plate 25), as well as the return of a substantial wall (probably denoting the line of the original mill building before the weaving sheds were constructed; Plate 26). To the south-west of this a small extant building still remains, now apparently an electrical substation (Plate 27 and Plate 28) but corresponding to a structure shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1930 (Plate 6).



Plate 13 (left): The track leading through the north end of the site, viewed from the south

Plate 14 (right): View along Johnson New Road from the south-east



Plate 15 (left): Spoil heap on the site of St Paul's Mill, viewed from the south-west

Plate 16 (right): Crushed spoil north of the Vale Rock weaving sheds, viewed from the north



Plate 17 (left): General view of the concrete reservoirs, from the south-west

Plate 18 (right): Timber structure associated with the concrete reservoirs, viewed from the south



Plate 19 (left): Central reservoir, viewed from the south



Plate 20 (right): Eastern reservoir, viewed from the north-west



Plate 21 (left): Brick-built filter beds, viewed from the south



Plate 22 (right): Dividing trackway, showing brick structure, viewed from the south-west



Plate 23 (left): Adjoining building showing scars of the Vale Rock weaving shed roof, viewed from the north



Plate 24 (right): The south wall of Vale Rock mil/weaving shed, viewed from the north



Plate 25 (left): The west wall of Vale Rock mill/weaving shed, viewed from the east

Plate 26 (right): Return in the west wall of Vale Rock mill/weaving shed, viewed from the east



Plate 27 (left): Sub-station building on the south side of the site, viewed from the north

Plate 28 (right): Interior of the sub-station building on the south side of the site, viewed from the south-east

3.5.2 Within the potential additional site area there are a number of buildings still standing and in use as industrial units, the core of which is part of the original Vale Rock Mill buildings. These are in a generally poor condition and are evidently truncated from their original size in some cases.



Plate 29 (left): Standing buildings within the potential additional area, viewed from the east (photograph provided by Kingswood Homes, taken 25/10/2021)

Plate 30 (right): Standing buildings within the potential additional area, viewed from the south-east (photograph provided by Kingswood Homes, taken 25/10/2021)



Plate 31 (left): Standing building on the east side of the potential additional area, viewed from the south (photograph provided by Kingswood Homes, taken 25/10/2021)

Plate 32 (right): Standing buildings on the north-east side of the potential additional area, viewed from the north (photograph provided by Kingswood Homes, taken 25/10/2021)

3.5.3 **Constraints:** there are evident constraints to further archaeological work on the site in the form of, presumably still live, services (water and electricity) on the south side of the site. There is also the potential risk of collapsing walls or rubble within the footprint of Vale Rock mill and weaving sheds and the standing buildings to the east. The presence of at least one active culvert beneath this part of the site carrying Hoddlesden Moss Brook must also be assumed, although it was not identified during the site visit.

4. Site History

4.1 Background History

4.1.1 The background history to the site helps our understanding of the development and use of the site, where known, making use of the map evidence presented above (see *Section 3*) where relevant. The background to the site is intended to place the results of the project in its local context and in order to do so a brief discussion of the earlier history of its wider environs is also necessary.

4.2 Prehistoric Period (c11,000 BC – 1st century AD)

4.2.1 While there is generally limited evidence for human activity in the wider region in the period immediately following the last Ice Age, there are occasional finds that demonstrate that the wider area was occupied from an early date, although probably not very intensely. Approximately 35km north-west of the site the so-called Poulton Elk was discovered in 1970; this comprised a skeleton of a male elk, later carbon dated to the early post-Glacial period, associated with antler harpoon points, at least some of which were evidently lodged in its body, which, with other injuries, show that it had been hunted by humans (Hallam *et al* 1973). Elsewhere in the wider region habitation of this date is typically found in cave sites, with a number known on the northern edge of Morecambe Bay and east into Yorkshire, with excavations at a small number of cave sites revealing the remains of animal species common at the time but now extinct in this country and artefacts of Late Upper Palaeolithic type (Cowell 1996, 20-21; Young 2002). Human remains from one of these have also recently been dated to approximately 7,100 BC (Smith *et al* 2013). The county was clearly more densely inhabited during the following period, the Mesolithic (c8,000 – 4,000 BC), as large numbers of artefacts of this date have been discovered from across Lancashire (Barrowclough 2008, 48-53). Sites of this date typically comprise collections of distinctive artefacts, microliths, often discovered during field walking and eroding from river banks (*ibid*). Coastal areas and river valleys are notably places where such material is frequently found in the wider region (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152; Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 26). However, on the higher ground, in areas such as the North Pennines, numerous such artefacts have been discovered where they have eroded from peat (Cowell 1996, 21; Spikins 1999).

4.2.2 In the following period, the Neolithic (c4,000 – 2,500 BC), large scale monuments such as burial mounds and stone circles begin to appear in the region. One of the most recognisable tool types of this period, the polished stone axe, is found in large numbers across the county, particularly in the north (Barrowclough 2008, 76), having been manufactured at Langdale in the central Lake District (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 45). There is clearly, in general, some continuity from the preceding Mesolithic, with recent work at New Laund Farm, Whitewell in the Forest of Bowland to the north of Hoddlesden, revealing evidence for continued occupation into the Iron Age (Anon nd). During the Bronze Age (c2,500 – 600 BC) monuments, particularly those thought to be ceremonial in nature, become more common still; with substantial examples including the multi-period Bleasdale Circle, again to the north of Hoddlesden, which comprised a number of different elements including a circle of timber posts (Dawkins 1900; Varley 1938). Closer is the stone circle at Mosley Heights near Burnley, which contained a range of burials alongside the stones (Barrowclough 2008, 121-123). Funerary monuments, including stone circles, have typically been examined more often than settlement sites (*op cit*, 108-129) with burials of 'Beaker' type more commonly found around the higher ground in the east of Lancashire (*op cit*, 130-133), with a large collection of material retrieved during excavations in the late 19th century at Whitehall near Darwen probably the closest example (*op cit*, 124-125). One characteristic of the lower areas, which have more wetland, is the ritual deposition of metal artefacts, particularly weapons, in water, with one style of metalwork being characteristic of the Fylde area (*op cit*, 152). Sites of Iron Age date are considerably less common in Lancashire, or at least examples that are well dated. Throughout the county settlement sites (burials are almost unknown) tend to comprise small enclosed groups of hut circles, although these are very difficult to identify in the archaeological record (*op cit*, 192) with larger hill-top hillforts found where there is suitable topography. There is likely to be considerable continuity in settlement sites from the end of the Bronze Age, with the Iron Age representing a period of even greater land enclosure and management, but the excavated sites of this period are mostly in the south of the county (*op cit*, 193),

with the exception of a recently excavated site near Poulton-le-Fylde, which is, at present, unpublished (Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014; 2018). There is likely to have been a considerable overlap between the end of the Iron Age and the beginning of the Romano-British period, at least in terms of 'native' settlement; it is evident that in rural parts of the wider region, initially at least, the Roman invasion had a minimal impact on settlement patterns (Philpott 2006, 73-74).

4.3 Romano-British to Early Medieval Period (1st century AD – 11th century AD)

4.3.1 Hoddlesden lies approximately 12km south of the Roman fort at Ribchester, and immediately east of the main Roman road between the fort at Manchester and Ribchester. The Roman heritage of Ribchester, which was known as *Bremetanacum*, is well documented and has occasioned several large excavations and important finds, including the 2nd century Ribchester parade helmet. Past excavations have demonstrated the well-preserved nature of the Roman archaeology, which encompasses a complete sequence from the 1st to 5th centuries AD (Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000). The history of the fort and *vicus* are also relatively well known through inscriptions and documentary evidence. These demonstrate that the VI and XX Legions, the *Ala Secundae Asturum* (a Spanish cavalry unit), and Sarmatian auxiliary cavalry units were stationed there (Buxton and Howard-Davis 2000). By contrast, evidence for Roman activity in the area immediately around Hoddlesden is more limited, with the most tangible evidence being the road linking Manchester and Ribchester, which is located between Hoddlesden and Darwen to the west. This is still in use as a road but remains of the *agger* and traces of metalling have been reported (Margary 1957, 102-103). This road was probably established during the period of consolidation of Roman rule in the north-west that occurred from the late 1st century and into the early 2nd (Shotter 2004, 52-72).

4.3.2 It is becoming increasingly evident that activity in the post-Roman period continued at many major sites, such as Ribchester. A wooden church dedicated to St. Wilfrid is alleged to have been built within the remains of the standing fort in the late 6th century, which was supposedly replaced by a stone structure in the 7th century (Baines 1870). The situation in more rural areas is typically less certain, with evidence generally very limited and relies on a much smaller range of evidence (Newman 1996, 93-106). However, place-name evidence demonstrates that many settlements in the area were in existence from at least this period, with Hoddlesden itself deriving from the Old English personal name *Hod* and word for a deep narrow valley (Ekwall 1922, 10 and 75). Nearby Darwen is named after the river, which derives from an even earlier British word for oak trees (*op cit*, 66) and shows the longevity of names in some cases.

4.4 Medieval Period (11th century AD – 16th century AD)

4.4.1 As already seen, the place-name evidence indicates that the area was populated in the early medieval period, but the majority of settlements are only recorded in documentary sources, with Hoddlesden first recorded at the end of the 13th century and Darwen only slightly earlier (Ekwall 1922, 66 and 75). Hoddlesden was historically located in the township of Over Darwen, which belonged to the barons of Newton in Makerfield from whom it was split into several descents (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 269-275). In the 12th century it represented the westernmost limit of the Forest or Chase of Rossendale until this was gradually broken up and in 1296 it is referred to a vaccary belonging to the Lord of Clitheroe but there is also reference to the supply of timber to a forge or smelting furnace (*ibid*).

4.5 Post-Medieval Period (16th century AD – present)

4.5.1 Over Darwen was recorded as containing a well-established textile industry from at least the 17th century (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 269-275) and this remained the most significant aspect of the wider area's development in the post-medieval period. The site saw significant development as a result of the mechanisation of this industry during the 18th and 19th centuries, which has been covered in some detail by Rothwell (1992, 11-13; OA North 2010, 79-80; HER ref 2077) and is summarised below. The site is thought to have been the earliest surviving industrial site in Hoddlesden, which was started as a calico printing works in c1778 by the Hargreaves family, although by 1786 Oliver and Mary Hargreaves were using it for cotton spinning and by 1814 it was occupied by John Heap who was using water power for

spinning mules. In 1819 John Crompton took the site on as a bleachworks and added new buildings. It may have been left vacant for a short time but was being used for power loom weaving by 1837 and was massively remodelled in 1843-1844 and a weaving shed added in the 1850s and became known as the Vale Rock Mill. By 1861 it comprised a spinning mill for 15,000 spindles and a weaving shed for 500 looms, occupied by J & J Place and continued by John Place & Son. At this time a separate enterprise, St Paul's Mill, was also constructed, again by J & J Place, and this contained a further 600 looms powered by a pair of horizontal engines, with a new engine installed in 1895 and some enlargement to the site in 1912. Vale Rock Mill continued in use until 1980, with 4000 condenser mule spindles and 87 looms producing towelling by the 1890s and the original beam engine replaced in 1911 by a horizontal tandem.

4.5.2 The Vale Rock weaving shed became a separate enterprise, taken over by the Hoddlesden Manufacturing Co in 1884, which was formed by local residents, but was destroyed by a fire in 1889. It was later rebuilt and a new engine installed in 1907, replacing that of 1844. It continued in use until the 1990s.

4.5.3 The Vale Rock Mill was ultimately designated a Grade II Listed Building, but the whole complex was badly damaged by fire in 1998 and partially demolished by 2000 (Anon 1998), although elements were still apparently standing as late as 2009 (Pye 2009). A summary of the site's development, based on the available mapping but incorporating the documentary history, is presented in (Figure 2).

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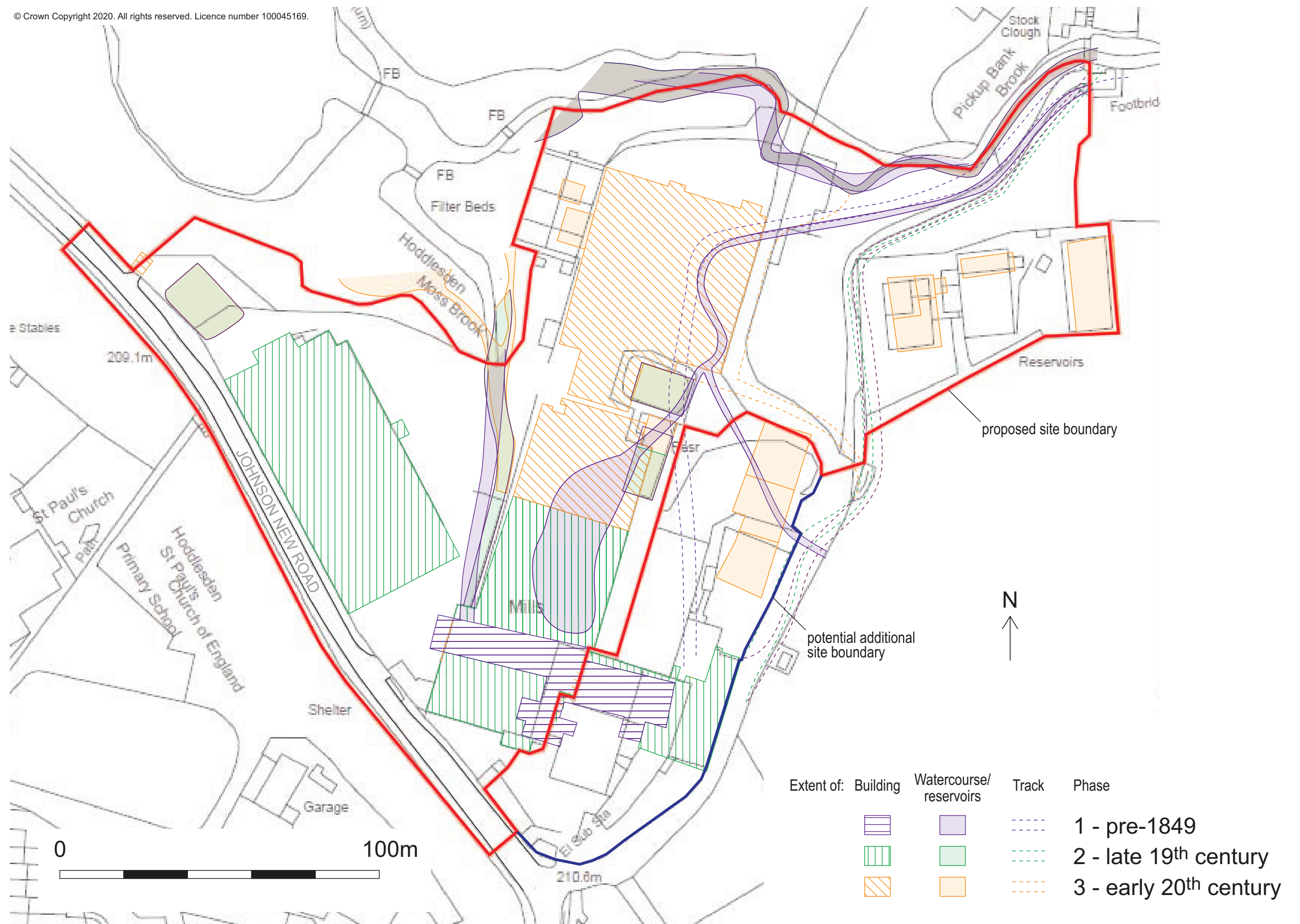


Figure 2: Phase plan

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5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The discussion of the results of the desk-based assessment and site visit is intended to determine the archaeological significance and potential of any known remains (above or below ground) and the potential of these remains and for any further, as yet unidentified, remains being present. The system used to judge the significance of the remains identified within the development area, or those thought to have the potential to be present within the development area, is based on the criteria used to define Scheduled Monuments (DCMS 2013, Annex 4; *Appendix 1*).

5.2 Significance of Known Resource

5.2.1 A single site of archaeological interest is recorded within the proposed development site, the former Vale Rock Mill and associated weaving shed, with St Paul's Mill included as part of the wider site.

5.2.2 The Vale Rock Mill was a Grade II Listed Building and therefore statutorily protected and of national significance, but since demolition was de-listed in 2014 (Heritage Gateway nd). There are therefore now no sites of significance that are automatically protected. However, the remains of the former Vale Rock Mill are still of some significance as a local industrial site, especially given its late 18th century origins.

5.2.3 The level of significance of the features of archaeological interest that do survive within or adjacent to the proposed development area is therefore only relative to the site itself and the local area, and can be categorised on that basis. The sites have been assessed, according to the criteria used for Scheduled Monuments (see *Appendix 1*), as high, medium, or low. An average of these has been used to produce an overall level of significance for each site (see Table 1 below: H=high, M=medium, L=low).

Site	Vale Rock Mill and weaving shed	St Paul's Mill
<i>Period</i>	M	L
<i>Rarity</i>	M	L
<i>Documentation</i>	H	M
<i>Group value</i>	H	H
<i>Survival/condition</i>	M	L
<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	H	M
<i>Diversity</i>	H	L
<i>Potential</i>	H	M
Significance	M-H	L-M

Table 1: Significance by site

5.2.4 As can be seen the Vale Rock Mill and associated weaving sheds are of medium to high significance, this is primarily because of the considerable group value and documentary evidence relating to them, specifically the references to a calico works of the late 18th century. While there are also some remains of these buildings surviving, they are extremely vulnerable to complete loss, either as a result of the development, or just over time through gradual erosion and collapse. The former St Paul's Mill, by contrast, now has very little physical evidence remaining and was a much later development on the site and so is therefore of less significance.

5.3 Potential

5.3.1 Details of the archaeological remains present within the proposed development area are presented in the results of the desk-based assessment (*Section 3*; Figure 2) and the importance of these sites is discussed above (*Section 5.2*). The potential for as yet unidentified archaeological remains to be present, however, is based on the known occurrence of such remains in the study area and local environs (see *Section 4*). Where there are no remains known within the study area the potential is based on the known occurrence within the wider local area. The degree of potential is examined by period and

the results are presented in Table 2 below; in each case the level of potential is expressed as low, medium, or high.

Period	Present in area?	Potential
Late Upper Palaeolithic	No	L
Mesolithic	No	L
Neolithic	No	L
Bronze Age	No	L
Iron Age	No	L
Roman	No	L
Early Medieval	No	L
Medieval	No	M
Post-medieval	Yes	H

Table 2: Potential for unknown archaeological remains by period

5.3.2 In terms of the consideration of these periods, while the likelihood of prehistoric, Roman and early medieval remains being present is extremely unlikely, it is possible, given its apparent origins in the 18th century and the early industrialisation of the area, that a medieval predecessor to the textile mill might have been located on the site. Its situation close to suitable water courses would make this a possibility.

5.4 Disturbance

5.4.1 The construction of the mill and its various phases of development and enlargement during the 19th and early 20th centuries means that any early activity, be it 18th century or even earlier, would have been disturbed by this, although these changes in themselves form part of the archaeological record. The subsequent fire and demolition of the buildings would have caused even more disturbance, but it is clear from the site visit that some structural elements of the main mill building and ancillary structures have survived. The standing buildings within the potential additional area to the south-east clearly represent parts of the mill complex, but these have been truncated and subject to other modifications so there has been some disturbance to their original fabric.

5.5 Impact

5.5.1 It is likely that the proposals will result in the destruction of what remains of the former mill buildings and ancillary structures.

5.6 Conclusion and Recommendations

5.6.1 It is evident that, despite the demolition of the mill buildings following the fire, there are substantial parts of the complex still standing, the most significant of which are those relating to the Vale Rock Mill on the south side of the site (see Plate 23 to Plate 26) and the standing buildings within the potential additional section to the south-east (see Plate 29 to Plate 32). The former area is also likely to contain below ground remains relating to the earliest known mill on the site, as show in the Ordnance Survey map of 1849, from which the rest of the site developed (Plate 3; Figure 2).

5.6.2 It is therefore recommended that the site be subject to building recording and topographic survey, focussed on the standing remains of the Vale Rock Mill, but also including the well-preserved ancillary structures such as the reservoirs to the east, and filter beds, and the sub-station building. This would provide further information about the physical development of the site, in the absence of the majority of the standing buildings. In addition, an archaeological evaluation should be carried out in the southern section of the footprint of the Vale Rock Mill targeting the area of the early mill building, as shown in the map of 1849. If this revealed substantial surviving remains in this area such as original floors or structures, a subsequent strip, map and record of this entire area would also be beneficial.

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Appendix 1: Significance Criteria

After DCMS 2013, Annex 1: '*Principals of Selection for Scheduled Monuments*'

- i) *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation;
- ii) *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context;
- iii) *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of record of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records;
- iv) *Group Value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement and cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group;
- v) *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features;
- vi) *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection which scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed historic buildings;
- vii) *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high-quality features, others because of a single important attribute;
- viii) *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.