

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

**LICKERS LANE,
HALSNEAD, WHISTON,
MERSEYSIDE**

For Stewart Milne Homes North West England

Rachael Matthews BSc

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

LICKERS LANE, HALSNEAD, WHISTON, MERSEYSIDE

Client: Stewart Milne Homes North West England

Local Authority: Knowsley Borough Council

NGR: 347016, 390326

Planning App ref: Pre-Planning

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Doc Ref: LP2743C-DBA-v1.0

Date: February 18

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Abstract

This report contains results of cartographic, archaeological and documentary research into the site undertaken by L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Stewart Milne Homes North West England. The site is divided into two sites, located to the southeast of Whiston, Merseyside. Site one is located on land to the east of Windy Arbor Road and site two is on land immediately south of Lickers Lane, both within Halsnead Park and are proposed for redevelopment.

The proposed development is for 62 domestic dwellings with associated amenities on site one and 187 domestic dwellings with associated amenities on site two.

The sites lie outside of the historic core of Whiston. There are no Scheduled Monuments, Listed buildings, Registered Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens within the sites.

There is a monument within site one, a small structure (MME6298) associated with Princes' House. Above ground linears and a possible culvert were identified within this area during the site walk over. The wider study area shows evidence of multiple Listed Buildings, heritage assets and several findspots including a Neolithic stone axe and prehistoric flints, as well as, Medieval and Post Medieval ceramics, identified through field walking in the north of the study area. The historic mapping shows both sites have undergone little change, with the exception of adjustments to field boundaries, until the latter half of the 20th century. During this period site one has been developed as a garden centre with structures and associated amenities.

Research has shown Whiston, Cronton and Prescott have a vast coal mining history, with multiple collieries and shafts recorded around both sites. The 1894 map of Bug Mine shows a shaft located in the southeast corner of site two.

Development within the site would impact any below ground remains associated with the coal mining, and any potential Medieval or earlier buried archaeological deposits.

1. Introduction

1.1. This Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) considers two parcels of land off Lickers Lane, Halsnead, Whiston, Merseyside. It has been researched and prepared by Rachael Matthews of L - P : Archaeology on behalf of Stewart Milne Homes North West England.

1.2. The sites are both irregular polygon plots, site one covers an area of approximately 2.13ha of developed land, and site two covers 8.1ha over undeveloped land. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 347016, 390326.

1.3. The local planning authority is Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council (KMBC).

1.4. The following terms are used in this report:

- ◆ “the study area” - a 1km radius from the centre point of the site (FIGURE 1).
- ◆ “the site” - The area defined by the perimeter of the site itself (FIGURE 2).

1.5. The assessment seeks to address the following issues:

- ◆ To assess the potential for archaeology.
- ◆ To assess the significance of potential archaeology.
- ◆ To assess the condition of potential archaeology.
- ◆ To assess the impact of the proposed development on the potential archaeology.

1.6. The assessment is based on the results of documentary and cartographic research as well as published and unpublished literature.

2. Planning Background

2.1. In March 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government issued the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (DCLG 2012). Section 12 of the NPPF document sets out planning policies on the conservation of the historic environment.

2.2. In addition, the following legislation is considered by this assessment:

- ◆ Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- ◆ Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

2.3. When considering planning applications KMBC is also bound by policies within Knowsley Local Plan (adopted January 2016) the relevant policy regarding the historic environment is:

Policy CS20: Managing the Borough's Historic Environment

1. Development proposals in Knowsley should preserve or enhance the borough's historic and architectural assets, including Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens and archaeological remains, together with other local areas, buildings and structures of historic importance.

The council will:

- a) Require preservation of the local distinctiveness and character of historic assets through sensitive design of new development, including appropriate integration with their setting and immediate landscape;
- b) Prevent demolition and/or development which would result in substantial harm or the loss of a designated historic asset or its setting, unless the proposal would result in substantial public benefits which clearly outweigh the harm or loss;
- c) Where a development proposal will result in less than substantial harm to a designated heritage asset or its setting, assess such harm against the benefits of the proposal;
- d) Facilitate long term conservation and enhancement of local assets and areas of historic importance, including through the preparation of Conservation Area Management Plans.

2. The re-use of vacant and underused historic assets will be encouraged, with favourable consideration given, where appropriate, to proposals which will:

- a) Enable a use for a purpose sympathetic to its conservation;
- b) Retain or introduce public access; and
- c) Enhance the importance of the asset for local tourism, leisure or the economy.

3. Development proposals on sites which include, or are considered to have the potential to include, heritage assets or comprising archaeological interest, should be accompanied by a heritage impact statement.

4. Locally important historic assets which are not subject to statutory designation will be identified in a local list and will be afforded consideration in the decision making process.

2.4. On matters concerning archaeology and the historic environment KMBC take impartial advice from the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS).

2.5. The site does not fall within any Areas of Archaeological Importance, Conservation Areas, there are no Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Historic Parks and Gardens or World Heritage Sites within the site.

2.6. There is a single monument listed in site one, the site of a former small ruin (MME6298) associated with Prince's House and thought to be a garden feature, it is seen on the 1850 Ordnance Survey Map but is gone by the 1893 OS.

2.7. No previous archaeological works have been undertaken on the site.

2.8. Within a 1km radius of the sites, there are 9 Listed Buildings (and two de-listed) and a further 10 buildings listed as monuments dating from the Medieval to Post Medieval Period; further monuments include two landscapes and 38 sites.

2.9. There are five findspots recorded within the search area: a single Neolithic stone axe, flints and Medieval and Post Medieval ceramics.

2.10. There are four intrusive and six non-intrusive events recorded within the study area, these include fieldwalking, building surveys and archaeological investigation at Lickers Lane (MEE15823) to the northeast of the site, and Carr House Farm to the West (EME2388, 2500). The former recovered Medieval ceramics and the latter Post-Medieval features. Geophysical Survey (EME2527,2528) and an evaluation (EME2529) were also undertaken to the east at Knowsley cemetery. A Desk Based Assessment was undertaken on Halsnead Park (EME2520) in 2016/7.

2.11. In accordance with government guidelines and best practice, this report has been completed at the early stages of the planning process to accompany a planning application and to inform all parties of any archaeological concerns affecting the development site.

3. Methodology

3.1. This report has been researched and written according to L - P : Archaeology's in house standards for Desk Based Assessments. In accordance with the guidance set out below, the report analyses the sources listed below to create a model of the archaeological and heritage significance of the study site.

3.2. GUIDANCE

3.2.1. The following guidance was consulted:

- ◆ Standards and guidance for historic environment desk based assessments (CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS 2014).
- ◆ Historic Environment Good Practice advice in Planning Note 1 (HISTORIC ENGLAND 2015A).
- ◆ Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2 (HISTORIC ENGLAND 2015B).
- ◆ Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (HISTORIC ENGLAND 2015C).
- ◆ Conservation Principles: Policy and guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment (ENGLISH HERITAGE 2008).
- ◆ Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (ENGLISH HERITAGE 2009).

3.3. SOURCES

3.3.1. The heritage assets were identified from the following sources:

- ◆ A search of the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (MHER) based on a 1km radius around the centre point of the site (ERROR: REFERENCE SOURCE NOT FOUND).
- ◆ Data from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (BRITISH MUSEUM 2017).
- ◆ Examination of historic maps.
- ◆ Examination of aerial photographs.

- ◆ Examination of the available 1m DSM LiDAR data (ENVIRONMENT AGENCY 2015).
- ◆ Data on scheduled monuments and listed buildings held by Historic England (HISTORIC ENGLAND 2017).

3.3.2. Site visits were carried out on the 8th of January 2018 by Rachael Matthews and the 8th February by Dan Garner.

3.4.SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

3.4.1. A heritage asset is defined in the NPPF as:

A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

3.4.2. The significance of the heritage assets is determined using the following criteria:

Value	Description
Very High	World Heritage Sites; designated or undesignated sites, buildings or landscapes of international importance
High	Scheduled monuments; Grade I and II* Listed Buildings; Conservation Areas or Parks and Gardens containing very important monuments or buildings; designated or undesignated sites, buildings or landscapes of national importance
Medium	Grade II Listed Buildings; Conservation Areas or Parks and Gardens containing monuments or buildings that contribute to their historic character; designated or undesignated sites, buildings or landscapes of regional importance
Low	Locally Listed monuments and buildings; designated or undesignated sites, buildings or landscapes of local importance
Negligible	Sites, buildings or landscapes with little or no significant historical interest
Unknown	Archaeological sites where the importance has not yet been ascertained; buildings with hidden potential for historic significance

Table 1 - Significance criteria used in this report

3.5.LIMITATIONS OF THE METHODOLOGY

3.5.1. The assessment relies on the accuracy of the data provided by the sources described above. There is always some degree of uncertainty in relation to these sources which include:

- ◆ The data from the MHER can be limited because it is not based on a systematic search of the county but rather, the records are reliant upon

chance finds, opportunities for research and public contribution.

- ◆ Documentary sources may be biased, inaccurate or difficult to interpret.
- ◆ The presence of buried archaeology is not always obvious during walk over surveys.
- ◆ Grid coordinates for heritage assets may be rounded to such an extent that the actual location of the asset can be difficult to locate.
- ◆ The radial boundaries used in this report have been established in order to maintain the focus and manageability of the data but still be large enough to rigorously consider context and character. It is important to note that any set boundaries on the report should be considered as permeable. Areas do not develop in isolation, and thought must always be given to significant relationships with places and events outside the area selected or defined.

4. Site Background

4.1. GEOLOGY

- 4.1.1. The British Geological Survey (BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 2017) shows the site to be located on a bedrock of Pennine Middle Coal Formation (mudstone, siltstone and sandstone) overlain by superficial Devensian till deposits.
- 4.1.2. The data provided by GeoIndex is low resolution data and should only be considered as a rough guide to the geology of the site.

4.2. LANDSCAPE AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.2.1. The sites lie 0.5km south-southeast of the historic core of Whiston, on the west and north border of Halsnead Park. Site one is 100m to the southwest of Site two, with a complex of buildings in the space between. Both Sites are surrounded by a mix of housing and open fields.
- 4.2.2. Both sites are sub-rectangular in shape, site one has been developed post 1953 and site two remains open fields.
- 4.2.3. Site one lies to the east of Windy Arbor Road, bounded by Main Drive to the north and east; with housing a park and fields bordering the south. The site has previously been developed as a nurseries and garden centre, but it now consists of abandoned extant buildings, with a tarmac parking area, over grown paths/nursery plots and a small wooded area to the southeast.
- 4.2.4. The boundaries of site two consist of Lickers Lane to the north, to the east an area of open scrub land; to the south and west are wooden and barbed wire fencing, with a shallow ditch and bank, to the west are also trees and hedges. A single row of detached houses borders part of the northwest corner.
- 4.2.5. The Merseyside Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for Knowsley lists the site as *Field System Broad Type* (MHER).
- 4.2.6. The topography of the area is undulating; the average elevation is approximately 150m OD.

4.3.SITE CONDITIONS

4.3.1. A visit was undertaken to Site 1 by Dan Garner on the 8th of February 2018. The conditions were dull and overcast, with intermittent fine rain. The site held extant buildings and remains associated with a previous development 'Saunders nurseries and garden centre' which appears to have gone out of business c.2005 (PLATE 1). The original entrance to the site was accessed from Windy Arbor Road, however, access for the site walkover was gained from the rear (east) of the site from Main Drive.



Plate 1 - Extant buildings at site 1, facing south.

4.3.2. Areas of the site have reverted to natural woodland scrub but there are areas of hard standing and a grid of interconnecting paths which are still present across the site.

4.3.3. The site has a natural slope from west to east (PLATE 2), but this seems to have been formalised with a series of artificial terraces, which covered much of the site for the creation the nurseries. This has created large flat areas which were probably the former sites of greenhouses/polytunnels, for which some evidence still remains.

4.3.4. The entire site is encompassed by part metal and part concrete fencing. To the north, west and east boundaries of the site are Windy Arbor Road and Main Drive, with domestic buildings further east. To the south is partial housing, a

play park and open fields.



Plate 2 - Sloping terraces through the centre of site 1, from west to east.

- 4.3.5. The western end of the site was formerly a car parking area and the main entrance; it is covered by an uneven tarmac surface suggesting that no significant ground reduction was carried out during the car park construction.
- 4.3.6. The southwestern corner of the site is occupied by two relatively modern standing buildings (PLATE 1). The first is a single storey brick and stone bungalow with a stone chimney stack at the southern end and a tile roof (PLATE 3). This may have functioned as either a shop or on-site residence for the garden centre staff. The second building is a long rectangular two-storey steel-framed warehouse with block infill, corrugated steel cladding and a corrugated steel roof. There is a small flat-roofed single-storey brick building situated between the bungalow and the warehouse which may have functioned as a toilet block for customers to the garden centre.



Plate 3 - Bungalow structure in the west of the site, facing east.

4.3.7. The central part of the site was covered in hardstanding presumably to house the poly tunnels and display boxes. A number of sunken chambers were scattered across the site, many of which are associated with a network of drains. There is at least one larger chamber which is of uncertain function, but clearly modern.



Plate 4 - Central part of site, facing east.



Plate 5 - Sunken breeze block chambers.

- 4.3.8. The southeastern corner of the site is a mixture of more mature trees and woodland scrub. This corner is somewhat higher than much of the eastern end of the site possibly suggesting that it was not disturbed during the development of the nurseries. There has clearly been a series of dumping episodes in this area which are probably contemporary with the establishment of the nurseries as there are piles of concrete blocks, roof tiles and other debris visible on the surface.
- 4.3.9. Nevertheless, there are a number of topographic features surviving in the southeastern corner which may relate to the 'ruins' shown on the 2nd edition OS map (FIGURE 5). These include two linear earthen banks (PLATE 6) which are roughly at right-angles to one another and have relatively mature trees growing on them and a linear depression with some upright stones set within it which might represent an earlier drain/culvert (PLATE 7).



Plate 6 - Earthen bank visible in southeast corner of site one. facing southeast.



Plate 7 - Possible culvert feature in southeast area of site 1, facing south.

4.3.10. A visit was undertaken to Site 2 by Rachael Matthews on the 8th January 2018.

The conditions were sunny but cold; the ground was frozen underfoot. The site consisted of a large open field, a wooded area and an area of scrub. Access was gained from a public trackway leading from Lickers Lane, along the northern border of the site.

4.3.11. There were no extant buildings on Site 2.

4.3.12. The landscape of the site was sloping downhill from the east to west, and gently sloped from the north to south. The ground was undulated, with visible raised bands on a northwest to southeast alignment. These linears can be seen on the LiDAR data, and correspond with contours noted on the historic mapping. There was evidence of agricultural use, with ankle-high crop stalks remaining in the field. Ground surface visibility was high at 90%.



Plate 8 - Site 2 from the southwest corner, facing northeast.

4.3.13. The northern boundary of the site, was delineated by Lickers Lane, with the northwest corner by brambles and patches of private fencing belonging to domestic housing fronting Lickers Lane. Domestic housing, a primary School and Religious building are seen to the north beyond the boundary.

4.3.14. The western boundary constructed of a dilapidated wooden post and barbed wire fence, with overgrown brambles and trees; a small ditch and bank also ran parallel to this boundary. Further west, were small areas of grass, scrub and trees, with various buildings further again.

4.3.15. Along the southern boundary of the site the wooden post and barbed wire fence continued; a shallow ditch and bank also ran along the boundary of this field. A small field containing horses, with domestic housing beyond this boundary.



Plate 9 - Shallow bank and ditch boundary to the south of the site, facing east.

- 4.3.1. There was no visible boundary to the eastern limit, this area was part of a larger scrub land, with trees, grassy paths and overgrown bushes. This continued to the east, towards the cemetery on Fox's Bank Lane.
- 4.3.2. Along the northern part of the site was a wooded area, this can be seen on the historic mapping and is labelled as plantation on the 1840 tithe map. The ground was uneven, with many depressions and established trees. A path was evident through the woodland, clear in the central part, but disappearing at the east and west ends. The historic mapping depicts a pathway through this area from the 1892 Ordnance Survey (OS) onwards, this can also be identified on the LiDAR data. Where accessible, a shallow ditch and bank was seen. This plantation area originally expanded further south into the open field, but was reduced and eventually removed post 1953.



Plate 10 - Facing east, Wooded area on the northern part of site 2



Plate 11 - Facing West, the boundary ditch between the wooded area and open field.

4.3.3. The eastern end of the site had a boundary dividing a large open field and wild scrub area, this was seen as a partly collapsed wooden post and barbed wire fence, with grasses and trees aligned north to south up the field. This scrub area was like a small wild area, with grassy pathways through trees, overgrown bushes, brambles and tall grasses. Within this area two large earthworks were identified, these appeared to be man-made and are not seen on the historic

mapping. Several small linears aligned north to south were also identified, these may date to the creation of the scrub area post 1953.



Plate 12 - Looking north, the open field to the left and start of the scrub land to the right.



Plate 13 - Earthworks in the scrub area, facing northeast.



Plate 14 - Pathways through rough scrub area, facing north.



Plate 15 - Small linears in scrub area.

4.3.4. The main part of the site consisted of a large open field accessed by several paths from the main road. The path to the west of the site was littered with debris and building brick fragments, this does not extend into the main part of the field.

4.3.5. The field was undulating, evidence of the historic footpath down the western side was not discernible during the walkover, as this part of the field has obviously been truncated by regular walking and vehicular movement. A subtle

depression was identified in the northwest corner of the site, this corresponds with the original edge of the plantation and can also be seen on the LiDAR data. A brick manhole service hatch was seen to the west of the site and appears to connect with an east to west linear seen on the LiDAR but not seen on the walk over.



Plate 16 - Small depression in the northeast corner of site 2, the original limit of the the plantation.



Plate 17 - Brick manhole to the western side of site 2. Looking north-northeast.

4.3.6. A map of Bug Mine dated 1894 shows an old mine shaft in the southeast corner of the site. This was not evident as an earthwork on the walk over, however, a circular crop mark was visible in this area and may or may not be related.



Plate 18 - Possible evidence of old shaft, facing east.



Plate 19 - Close up of possible old shaft, facing north.

4.3.7. No other features of archaeological potential were identified in this area during the site walkover.

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1. Archaeological and built heritage assets described in the following sections are referenced in brackets using the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (MHER) number e.g. (MME 15940).

5.2. The sites do not fall within an Area of Archaeological Importance, Conservation Area, or any Historic Parks or Gardens. There are no Scheduled Monuments. There is one monument listed on site one, with possible below ground remains of a structure relating to Princes' House.

PERIOD	FROM	TO
PREHISTORIC		
PALAEOLITHIC	450,000	12,000 BC
MESOLITHIC	12,000	4,000 BC
NEOLITHIC	4,000	2,400 BC
BRONZE AGE	2,400	800 BC
IRON AGE	800	43 AD
HISTORIC		
ROMAN	43	410 AD
EARLY MEDIEVAL	410	1066 AD
MEDIEVAL	1066	1485 AD
POST MEDIEVAL	1485	PRESENT

Table 2 - Timescales used in this report

5.3. The following analysis is from a 1km diameter search of the MHER around the study site.

5.4. Between 2003 and 2011 the MHER conducted the Merseyside Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, to identify the significance of the archaeological resource and highlight priority zones for future archaeological work. The development does not lie near an Area of Archaeological Potential.

5.5. PREHISTORIC

5.5.1. No Prehistoric activity has been recorded on the sites, however, Mesolithic activity has been identified at Ochre Brook by fragments of worked flint, with

cores, blades, flakes and a possible scrapper. The Portable Antiquity Scheme (PAS) also records a lithic tool found in Halewood to the southwest of Whiston (WWW.FINDS.ORG.UK).

5.5.2. A Neolithic stone axe was found to the north of Whiston (MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY SERVICE 2011), the polished stone axe (MME6866) was found in a garden at Dragon Lane in 1941, made from Cornish greenstone and now at Liverpool Museum. Field walking at Ropers Farm (EME1938) to the northwest of the site in 1986 produced two flint flakes (MME13386) however, they remain undated (MME13218) (MHER).

5.5.3. The PAS records two Neolithic artefacts within the Knowsley area, a flint scrapper and the butt-end of a stone mace; also a bronze age spear head and an Iron Age cast copper alloy bead (WWW.FINDS.ORG.UK).

5.5.4. The potential for Prehistoric archaeological remains is low within the site boundary but should any be identified it would be of a medium significance.

5.6.ROMAN

5.6.1. No Roman find spots or sites have been recorded in the MHER search area. However three artefacts are listed on PAS, two from Halewood an enamel brooch and a copper coin; from within the Knowsley area a cast lead spindle whorl has also been recorded (WWW.FINDS.ORG.UK).

5.6.2. The name Windy Arbour Road, which lies to the immediate west of site one, is thought to have been adopted by the Wigan miners who came to work in the local collieries. Places with this name, such as that in Wigan, are thought to be associated with Roman roads and refer to a deserted Roman building which would have provided shelter (KNOWLES 1982).

5.6.3. Southwest Lancashire it thought to have had no major urban or military sites, with Romano British emphasis placed on smaller farmsteads with rural populations (CROSBY 1998). Romano British occupation has been seen at excavations in Tarbock to the south of Whiston (MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY SERVICE 2011).

5.6.4. The site has low potential for Roman archaeology but if any were exposed it

would be of a medium significance.

5.7. EARLY MEDIEVAL & MEDIEVAL

- 5.7.1. The settlement origins of Whiston began in the 6th to 7th century (MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY SERVICE 2011), when the Angles migrated from Yorkshire and Northumberland into Lancashire. Some arrived in small family groups and others as part of King Ethelfrith's army, after the Battle of Chester (c.614-16) (BAGLEY 1976). By AD923 a predominantly Mercian population was established (LEWIS 2002).
- 5.7.2. Whiston, Prescott and Halsnead are not recorded in the Domesday Book. The Manor of Knowsley or *Chenuelueflei* was held along with five others in the West Derby Hundred, by Uhtred, as 2 hides. Woodland 2 leagues long and wide; 2 hawk's eyries (MORRIS 1978). It is from Old English and thought to mean a 'woodland clearing of a man called *Cēnwulf* or *Cynewulf*'.
- 5.7.3. Whiston or *Quistan* is thought to derive from Old English, dating from c.1190, meaning 'the white stone'; Prescott or *Prestecota*, is from the Old English meaning 'Priests' cottage' and thought to date to c.1178 (MILLS 1991).
- 5.7.4. Halsnead is recorded in the 12th century as *Grewinton Halfsnede* thought to originally be part of Cronton to the southeast, 'snede' being Old English for small piece. The origins of Lickers Lane is unknown, however, Erkwel suggests several origins: that it could be derived from Cattle lick; or Lickhurst meaning place on a hill or slope; or Leche meaning a stream flowing through a boggy land/muddy ditch (KNOWLES 1982).
- 5.7.5. Prescott was a Medieval town, holding regular markets which grew to more than 2500 people by 1720 (CROSBY 1998). It retains much of its original layout and the grid pattern of streets date from this time (LEWISH & FARR 2011). Archaeological investigations at Cronton to the southeast have identified the Shaw Medieval Estate (MME16079), first recorded in c.1190, it was seen as an oval-curvilinear enclosure, thought to have originally been wooded, but now mostly open fields with scattered buildings (MHER).
- 5.7.6. During the Medieval period there were several small hamlets within the

Knowsley area, including Halsnead in the township of Whiston. In the late 13th century the boundaries of Halsnead are believed to be located within the current Halsnead Park. The western boundary of Halsnead was recorded as 'following a deep clough (ravine) as far as the Casselache in the north'. Located to the west of Halsnead Hall, running north-south between the two sites. During the 12th century this area may have been known as 'Cronton half-piece' (COWELL 2002).

5.7.7. The MHER records Medieval find spots within the study area, Medieval pottery (13th- 14th century in date) has been recovered from evaluations in 2012 at Lickers Lane (MME15823). To the southwest of the site, a watching brief (EME2390) and 13 trench evaluation (EME2384) were undertaken at junction 6 of the M62, they provided evidence of Medieval Ploughing, a clay floor (MME15679), sandstone wall (MME15678) and late Medieval Pottery (MME15680) (MHER).

5.7.8. The PAS records 10 Medieval finds located within the Knowsley area, these include five silver coins, two spindle whorls, a strap end, mount and ampulla (WWW.FINDS.ORG.UK).

5.7.9. There is medium potential for archaeological features attesting to the Medieval period within the site. Should any archaeological features be exposed they would be of low significance.

5.8. POST MEDIEVAL & MODERN

5.8.1. Twelve artefacts are recorded on PAS dating to the Post Medieval period from the Knowsley area, these include coins, lead alloy weights/spindle whorls, a copper alloy buckle, ring, pin, a small lead alloy incomplete male figurine and musket ball (WWW.FINDS.ORG.UK).

5.8.2. The historic core of Whiston is thought to be centred around Pottery Lane and Dragon Lane 500m to the north-northwest of the site. The 1840 tithe map supports this picture, showing the centre formed around open fields or a large open green space. By the time of the tithe, field enclosure had taken place in the area, with the common at Copped Holt enclosed by 1651. The enclosure process continued until the mid 18th century, when tenements were

constructed within these spaces. Enclosure can be identified by the regular fields in the north of Whiston, compared to those in the south and these include the enclosure of Medieval open field systems (COWELL 2002).

- 5.8.3. The 1662 Hearth Tax lists 55 buildings in Whiston, with 11 containing 3 or more hearths, by 1668 this had risen to 18 suggesting a growing wealth within the township (KNOWLES 1982).
- 5.8.4. Halsnead Park (MME15147) in which the sites are located, is thought to date to the mid 18th century, first seen on the 1818 Greenwood Map. The Hall (MME6856) was built in 1684 by Thomas Willis and became known as the 'red hall' as a result of the red sandstone it was built from, it was later modified in 1789 and demolished in 1932 (MHER, LEWISH & FARR 2011, COWELL 2002).
- 5.8.5. From the 16th century small scale coal mining was taking place in Whiston (from 1521AD), Tarbock and Prescott (LEWISH & FARR 2011), with a high potential for some mining originating in the Medieval period. Shallow pits were dug to locate coal seams near the surface, with steeper 'adit' sunk into the steep banks and hills. Bell pits were used for deeper seams and abandoned when they flooded or collapsed (KNOWLES 1982).
- 5.8.6. Prescott became an important centre for coal mining during the 17th century containing multiple small scale collieries; a result of which was major drainage problems within the Prescott and Whiston areas (CROSBY 1998). A Newcomen steam engine was used for pumping from 1716, with the new pump first used in Whiston and then in the surrounding collieries. This enabled the excavation of deeper and thicker shafts in the search for coal. In 1831 a branch line was constructed from Huyton quarry to Halsnead Colliery and was known as the Willis Branch. Soon after, further lines were built to Prescott and Carr Colliery (KNOWLES 1982). Pre world war one, there was over 87,000 men employed in the coal industry in Lancashire, producing 25,000,000 tons annually (BADLEY 1976).
- 5.8.7. There was a large concentration of collieries within Whiston, many now protected or listed. Shafts were sunk in the 1760s at Carr Collier; 1802 at Whiston Colliery (MME6301, 6302, 13097, 15270) which closed in 1890;

Halsnead colliery (MME6306, 13104, 13102) 1802 and closed 1895 and Cronton Colliery 1913 which closed 1984 (MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY SERVICE 2011), Houghton's Hey Colliery (MME6299, 6300) at Stadt Moers Park; Hig Hey Colliery (MME6303, 6304) and Prescott Colliery (MME16658) on Dragon Lane (MHER). Stadt Moers Park and Halsnead Park (former Crontons Colliery) became Tushinghams Brickworks (MME10037) built in the 1890s to 1976. They became used as a landfill site and since 1983 have undergone regeneration and landscaping to transform them into country parks (MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY SERVICE 2011).

5.8.8. Other industries in the township included a Stone Quarry at Holt to the northeast. To the immediate north of Site 2, small scale pottery, watch making (particularly in Prescott), tool-making (COWELL 2002), nail making, pipe making and brickmaking at Tushinghams. During the 17th century a smithy and shoemaker are also recorded within Whiston (KNOWLES 1982).

5.8.9. The VCH (1907) describes Whiston as a 'very prosaic neighbourhood of coal-mines' with the grounds of Halsnead Park as 'rather bare, [a] sparsely timbered estate'. The surrounding lands are noted as fertile and used for pasture and cultivated with root vegetables and corn. The London and North Western company railway runs through the centre of the village and the St Helens branch through the northern area. In 1901 the population was 3430. The main industry was the collieries, with flower pots and file and tool makers. A sanatorium, isolation hospital and workhouse are also noted here.

5.8.10. The borough was formed in 1974 from urban and rural districts in Lancashire, it was predominantly rural with small villages, with North Huyton noted as the most populated area and Prescott West the least (MERSEYSIDE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY SERVICE 2011).

5.8.11. There are several Listed buildings and multiple monuments within a 1km radius of the sites, these are generally Grade II listed 18th and 19th century domestic dwellings, as well as sites of former houses, inns and structural features.

5.8.12. To the north of the site is the delisted Ropers Farmhouse (DME108), and

Ropers bridge (DME3162) built c.1829. Other heritage assets include the site of the former Engine Inn (MME6309), Horse Shoe Inn (MME13152), Firgrove Cottage (MME6295), Pinfold House (MME6876), an 18th century barn (MME13217), 19th century Wesleyan Chapel (MME6297) and associated buildings (MME6296), the former site of 19th century stocks (MME6875) and a cross site (MME6869).

5.8.13. To the east the assets include Sandford House (DME103), the North East Lodge to Halsnead Park (DME100), (now 73 Fox's Bank Lane (MME6862)) the associated Gate Piers (DME106), and a delisted barn at Fairchilds Farm (DME101). Monuments include the 19th century Purlins and End Barn (MME15926) and Meadowbrook house and barn (MME6859).

5.8.14. A series of geophysical surveys have also been undertaken at Knowsley Cemetery (EME2527, 2528) followed by an evaluation (EME2529) which located an 18th-19th century ditch (MME15822) containing fragments of coal, brick and 19th century ceramics, however, it does not correspond with any known boundaries in the area.

5.8.15. Listed buildings to the south are a Barn at Snape Gate (DME102) and Old Halsnead (DME116) a stone building built in 1680. Monuments include the former site of Snape Gate Cottages (MME6855) and of Halsnead (MME6856).

5.8.16. There are several Listed Buildings to the west, the 17th century Carr House Farmhouse (DME107), Carr Cottage (MME6283) and associated outbuildings (MME13132). A series of building recordings have also been undertaken (EME2388) followed by a watching brief (EME2500) in 2008 which uncovered previous floor levels. Further buildings include a 19th century paddocks and stables (DME111) and the 1864-68 Anglican Church of St Nicholas (DME121). The Monuments are a Georgian House at 10 Windy Arbor Brow (MME6284), the former site of Holland House (MME6280), former houses at Coalgate Lane (MME15269, 15267) and Paradise Lane (MME15268); and the site of a Weighing machine (MME6305) at Paradise farm (MME13163).

5.8.17. Between the two Sites lies the former site of Princes' House Farm

(MME13083) built c.1818, with outbuildings (MME6857), an icehouse (MME15781) and a coal pit (MME6865) (MHER). A Mr Ottiwell Ward was listed in the directories as the farmer here during 1891 and 1898 (KNOWSLEY 1982).

5.8.18.The 1840 tithe map for the township of Whiston (FIGURE 4), depicts site one over four individual plots. All are owned and occupied by Richard Willis Esquire. Plot 461 and 471 are both listed as plantation, along the western boundary and southeastern boundary respectively. The two central plots 469 Coal Pit Hey and 470 Little Cumber Carr are both pasture. Three small structures are seen but not listed, within plots 496 and the border between 470 and 471. The former is listed as a monument in the MHER (MME6298) and thought to be connected to Princes' House. A small structure is also seen at the northern border of plot 469, but this again is not referenced, perhaps also associated with Princes' House or potentially with mining activity; as suggested by the name 'Coal Pit Hey'.

5.8.19.Site two is seen over two plots, both owned and occupied by Richard Willis Esquire. Plot 412 to the north is listed as a plantation and 422 as North Park, used as pasture with a trackway down the western boundary.

5.8.20.The first Ordnance Survey (OS) map for the area is 1850 (FIGURE 5), shows only one minor deviation from the Tithe map. On site one, a tree lined boundary has appeared between plot 470 and 469, the boundary of the southeast corner has changed to the current layout of the road, in alignment with the site boundary. On site two, scattered trees are depicted within what was plot 412 on the tithe. However between the two sites a coal pit is noted in the grounds of Princes House.

5.8.21.The 1892 OS map (FIGURE 6) shows the larger eastern plot now as a wooded area with the two buildings no longer identified. Two small ponds have appeared in the centre, to the north. On site two, a track is now noted going east to west through the plantation area; the eastern end of this area appears to have a new boundary connecting it to the wooded area to the east. A new field boundary has also been established in the main field, this boundary is retained in

the present day; the southern aspect correlating to the site boundary.

- 5.8.22. The only change noted on the 1894 OS map (FIGURE 7), is one of the ponds is no longer visible on site one.
- 5.8.23. Knowsley Archives contain a Map of Bug Mine dating to 1894 (FIGURE 8), on this is hand shaded the mine workings, which cover the entire area of both sites, along with the locations of several 'old shafts' and collieries; a shaft is noted in the southeast corner of site two. This shaft is not noted on any other map.
- 5.8.24. There is little change on the 1907 OS map (FIGURE 9). On site one, part of the wooded area to the east has been converted back into pasture. No change is seen on the 1908 OS.
- 5.8.25. A 1908 map of the High Florida Mine (FIGURE 10) shows working to the south of Halsnead Park. However, drawn on this map at the mines northern border, is written 'Against old workings' suggesting the potential for mining work to have taken place near both of the sites.
- 5.8.26. The 1927 OS (FIGURE 11) shows minor changes, a boundary has disappeared on site one, creating one wooded plot rather than two, to the east. On site two, all trees have been cleared from the main field. No change is noted on the 1928 OS.
- 5.8.27. The Trencherbone map of 1928 (FIGURE 12), shows mining activity to the immediate northwest of site two and extending further west, this is most likely to be associated with the Halsnead Colliery.
- 5.8.28. The 1939 OS (FIGURE 13) shows site one has undergone some modification, with the plantation bordering the western side (Windy Arbor Road) now gone and all trees cleared, in the field, the wood to the east still remains. The eastern part of the trackway through the plantation on site two has been removed, but otherwise there is no change to this site.
- 5.8.29. The 1953 OS (FIGURE 14) shows that the cleared area in site one has become one large plot, the structure previously seen to the west of the site has now gone. Site two has not changed, however, the trackway to the east which had

disappeared on the prior map has returned.

5.8.30. The potential for Post Medieval buried archaeological remains in the form of structures or shafts associated with mining to the southwest of the site, and of agricultural features such as pits and field boundaries is high, but any remains would be of low significance.

5.9. AERIAL DATA

5.9.1. 1m DSM LiDAR Data was examined (ENVIRONMENT AGENCY 2015), the LiDAR Data (FIGURE 3), although being of low resolution it highlights the extant structure on site one, with foundations of post 1950s buildings.

5.9.2. In the area of site one the LiDAR suggested the survival of earlier field boundaries, however the site walkover identified that these were actually modern terracing associated with the former use as a garden centre. To the southeast of the site a rectangular feature is seen, however, this was not visible on the ground during the walk over. Linears identified on the data in this area correlated with paths seen on the ground.

5.9.3. In the area of site two, old boundaries to the plantation are visible along the northern area, the foot paths down the western boundary and through the woodland can also be identified. A modern service hatch and linear extending eastwards are visible with a raised band loosely aligned north-south across the site. This was seen on the ground and corresponds with a contour line on the historic mapping, this is thought to be natural, but could be associated with mining. The area of rough scrub to the east is not on the historic mapping pre-1953, and during the latter part of the 20th century this area is noted as under going landscaping, the earthworks and linears are thought to date to this time.

5.9.4. A search of aerial photographs, as available from Merseyside BioBank, GoogleEarth and BritainFromAbove (1947-present) show no signs of features of archaeological potential within the site.

5.9.5. Aerial photography from 2000 (FIGURE 15) shows site one as an active garden centre, with the bungalow building seen on the site visit and multiple temporary greenhouse type structures adjacent to the car park and along the

southern part of the site. The central area appears to have open or raised plant beds and the wooded area to the southeast remains untouched. A small area which looks red in the photo could be the remains of the ruin structure, however, this was not identifiable on the walkover. The main part of site two remains unaltered, however the rough area to the east of the site is more established and the man made earthworks are now visible.

5.9.6. The 2005 aerial photographs show site one (FIGURE 16) as disused. Half of the more permanent structures are gone and most of the temporary structures have been removed, leaving empty terraces and garden debris. In the 2005 image, site two (FIGURE 17) remains unchanged, with some trees appearing a little more established in the eastern area.

6. Proposed Development

6.1.PREVIOUS IMPACTS

- 6.1.1. The movement of field boundaries can be seen on both sites throughout the historic mapping between the 1850 OS and 1953 OS map (FIGURE 5, FIGURE 14).
- 6.1.2. Site one was developed in the late 20th century into a garden centre with nurseries; extant buildings with an associated car park remain on the site, This closed c.2003 and has been left in a dilapidated state. A wooded area to the southeast has persisted, seen through the historic mapping it has grown and shrunk over time.
- 6.1.3. An old mine shaft was identified solely on the 1894 map (FIGURE 8) and the eastern part of the site may have been landscaped post 1953 (FIGURE 14). The site remains undeveloped.

6.2.PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT

- 6.2.1. The site is currently in the early stages of pre-planning development by Stewart Milne Homes North West England, for the construction of 62 domestic dwellings and associated amenities on site one and 187 domestic dwellings and associated amenities on site two.

7. Conclusions

7.1. The two sites are located within Halsnead Park, site one to the east of Windy Arbour Road and site two to the south of Lickers Lane (FIGURE 2). They are in the pre-planning stages of proposed for development into 62 and 187 domestic dwellings respectively, with associated gardens and amenities. Site one is currently comprised of extant buildings, disused footings and parking area, with a small wooded area to the southeast; the north and west boundaries are defined by two roads. Site two comprises, of a large open arable field with a shallow ditch and bank at the west and north boundaries, a long wooded area to the north bounded by Lickers Lane, and an area of rough scrubland to the east which joins a larger scrub area.

7.2. POTENTIALLY IMPACTED ASSETS.

7.2.1. The potential for significant Prehistoric remains to be found within the site boundary is low.

7.2.2. Roman activity in the wider area is limited to several findspots within Knowsley. The potential for Roman archaeological remains to be found within the site boundary is low.

7.2.3. The manor of Knowsley was occupied from the Early Medieval period to the present day, with the Hamlet of Halsnead dating to the Medieval period. The potential for Medieval archaeology is low/medium and the likely significance of anything found would be low.

7.2.4. From the 16th century onwards industrial activity is identified through coal mining, with the immediate and surrounding area undergoing extensive mining in the 18th and 19th century. An 'old shaft' is located in the southeast corner of site two on the 1894 Bug Mine map (FIGURE 8), though this is not identified on any other map. Agricultural activity is also taking place on the site during the Post Medieval period. The potential for any archaeology associated with this period is high, whilst the significance is low.

7.2.5. Recorded in the western half of site one is a former structure (MME6298) listed as a ruin on the 1850 OS map (FIGURE 5), it is thought to be associated with Prince's House, potentially a garden feature. The site walk over identified

earthen banks (PLATE 6) and a possible drain or culvert (PLATE 7) within this area.

7.2.6. Development within site one may encounter above and below ground archaeological remains. On site two, in the location of the mine shaft below ground remains are likely.

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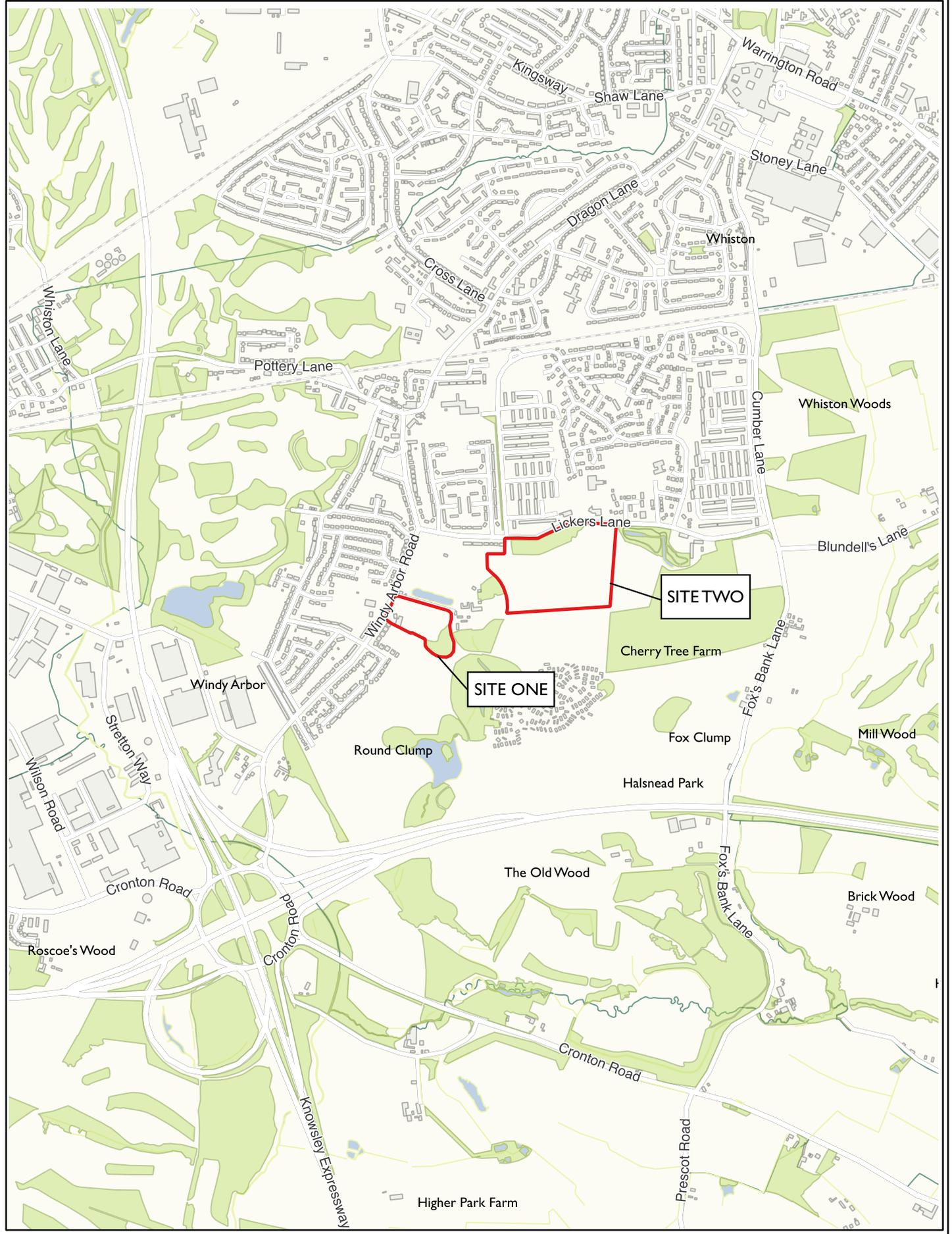
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FIGURES

FIGURE 1 // Site Location - General



PROJECT // 2743C - Lickers Lane, Halsnead, Whiston, Merseyside

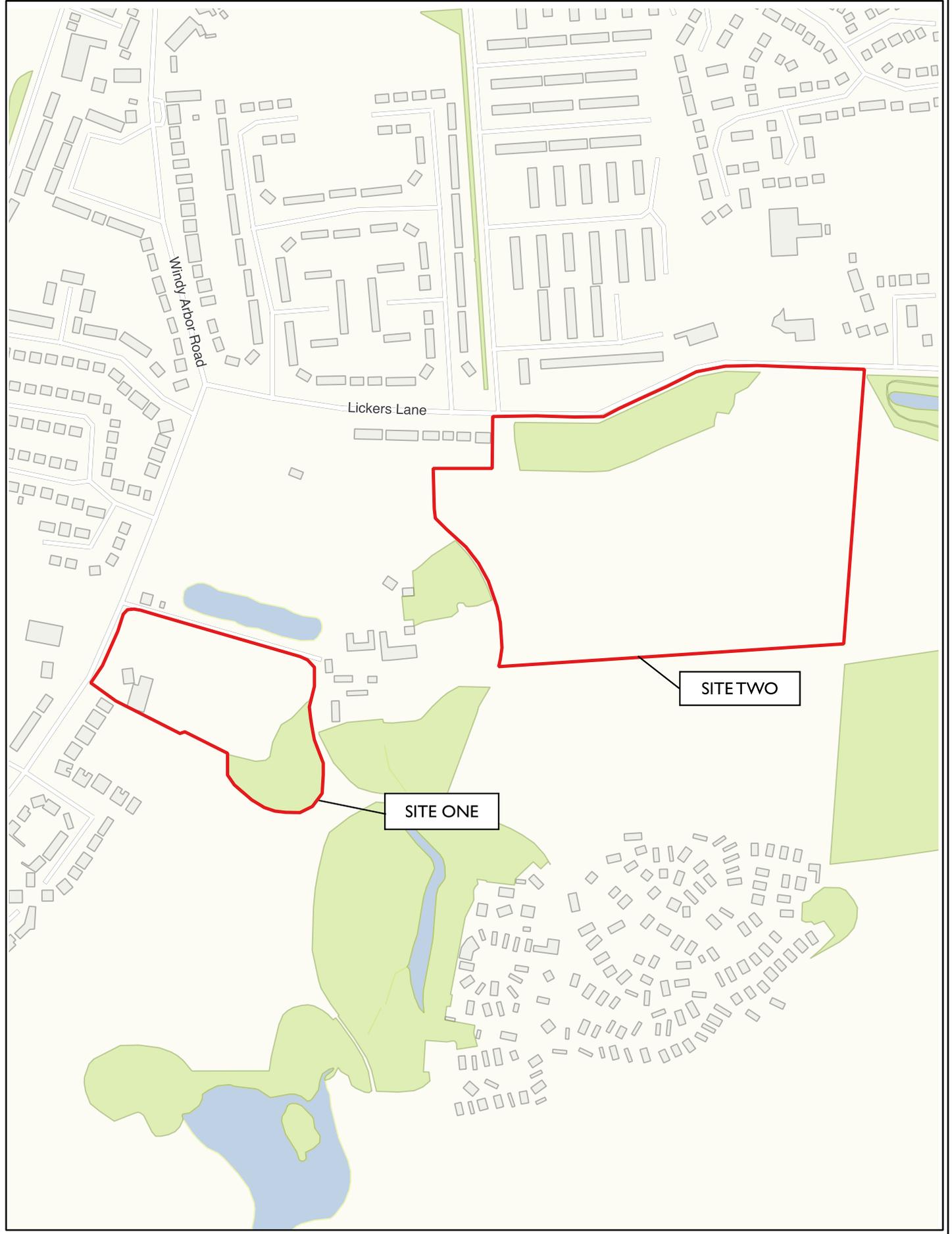
DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 2 // Site Location - Detail



SITE TWO

SITE ONE

0 100 m



PROJECT // 2743C - Lickers Lane, Halsnead, Whiston, Merseyside

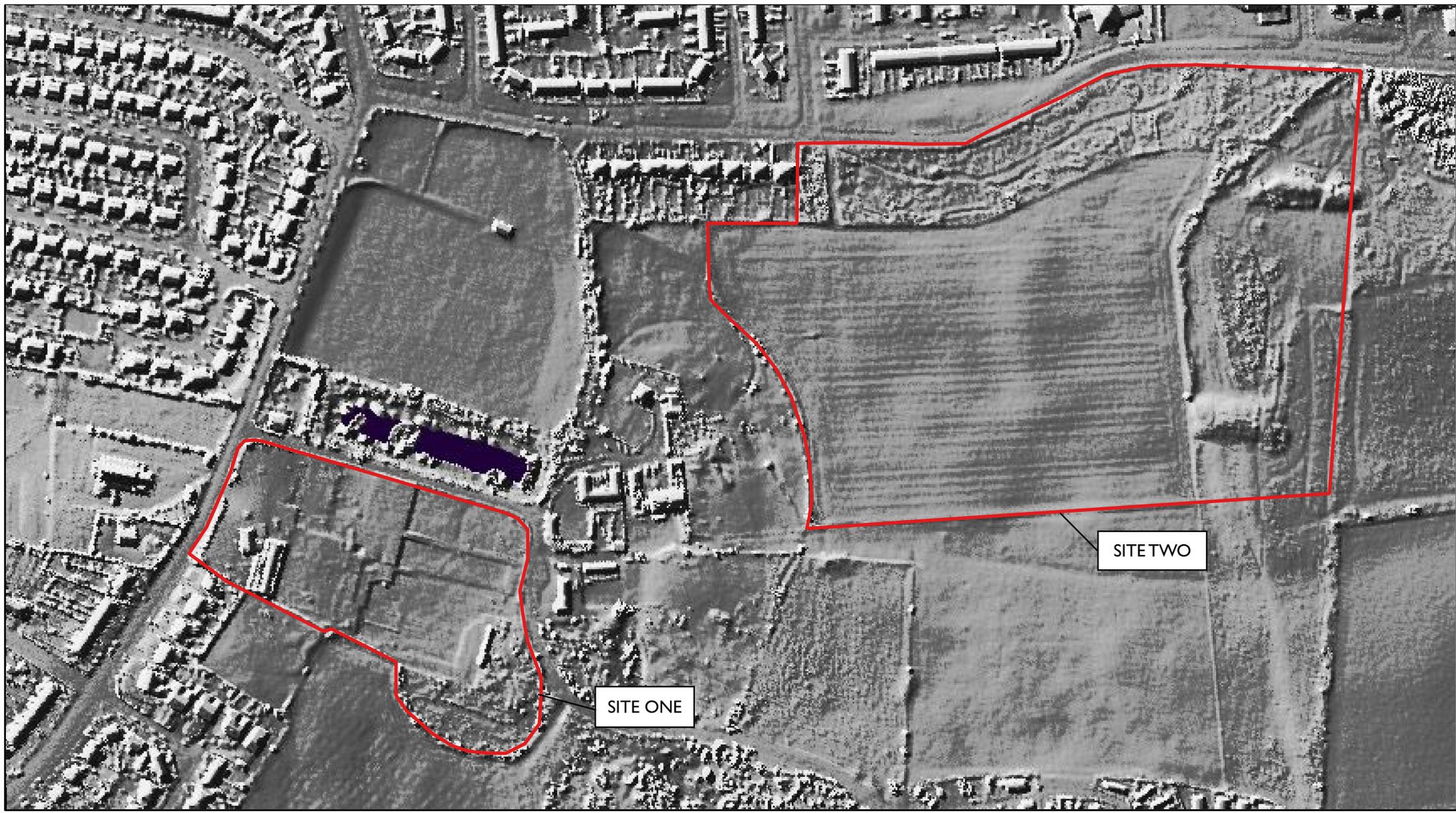
DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 3 // LiDAR



SITE ONE

SITETWO

0 100 m



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DESCRIPTION // LiDAR

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FIGURE 4 // 1842 Tithe Map



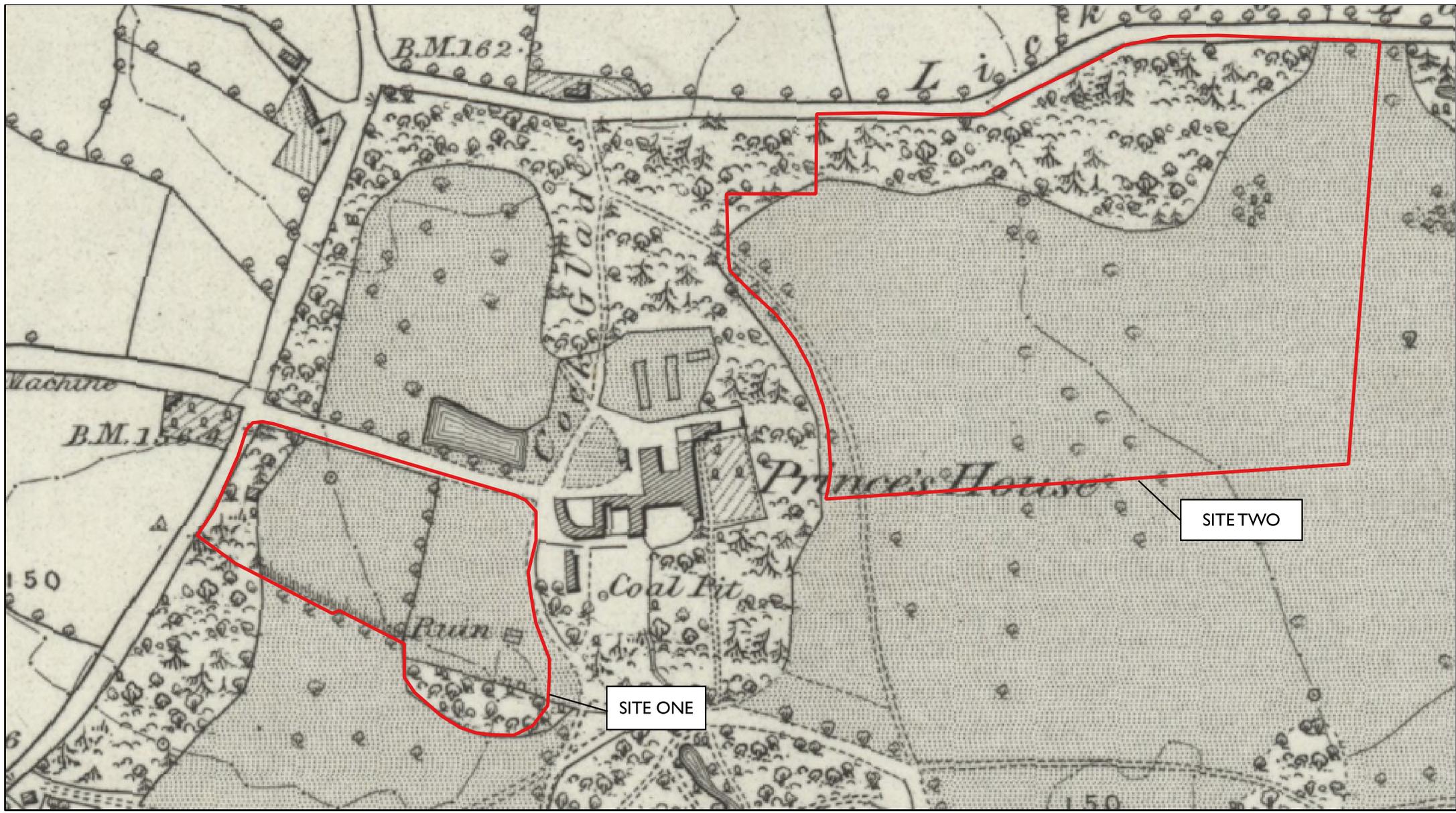
PROJECT // 2743C - Lickers Lane, Whiston, Merseyside

DESCRIPTION // 1842 Tithe Map

DOC REF: LP2743C-DBA-v1

L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 5 // 1850 OS



SITE TWO

SITE ONE



PROJECT // 2743C - Lickers Lane, Halstead, Whiston, Merseyside

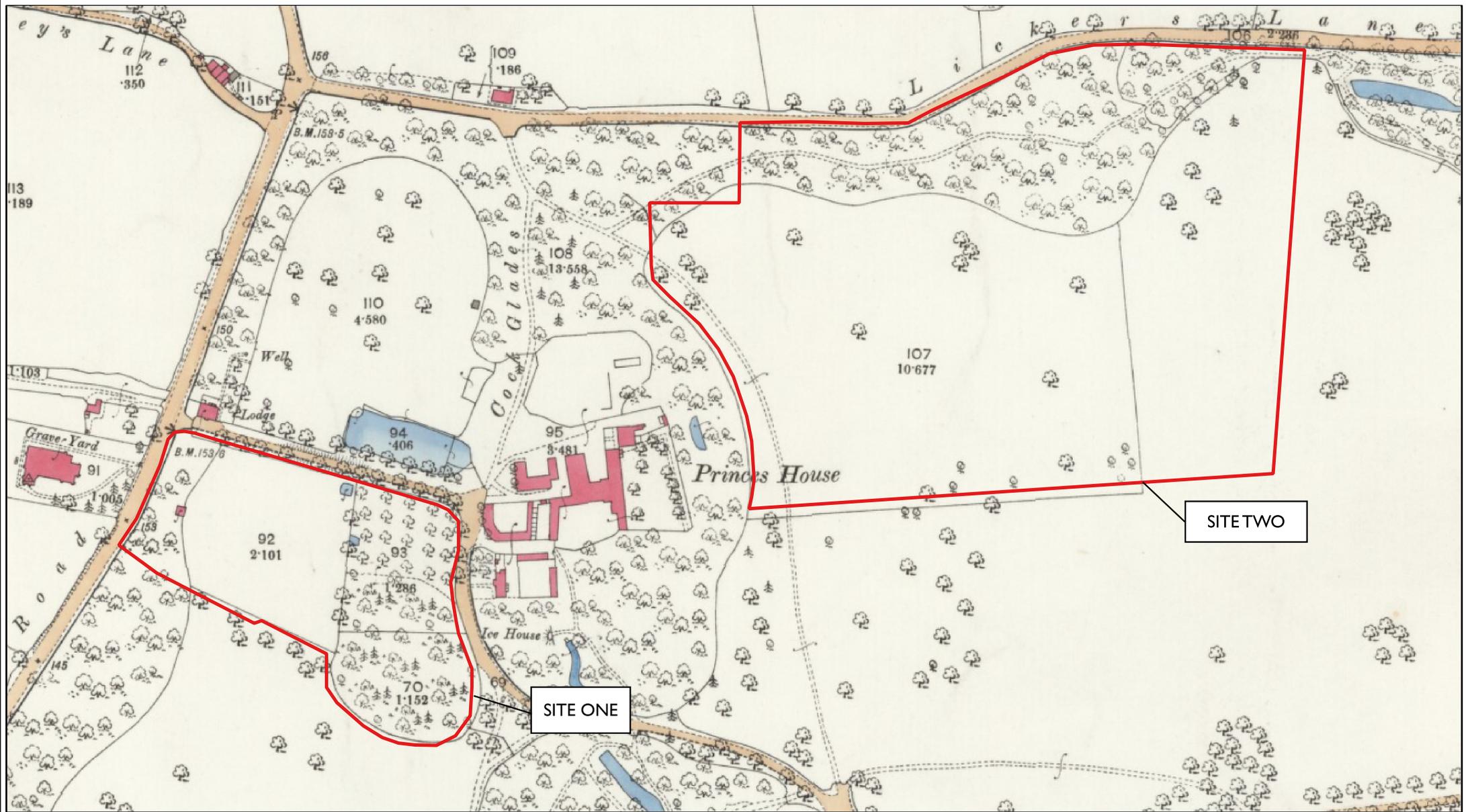
DESCRIPTION // 1850 Ordnance Survey Map

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FIGURE 6 // 1892 OS



SITE ONE

SITE TWO



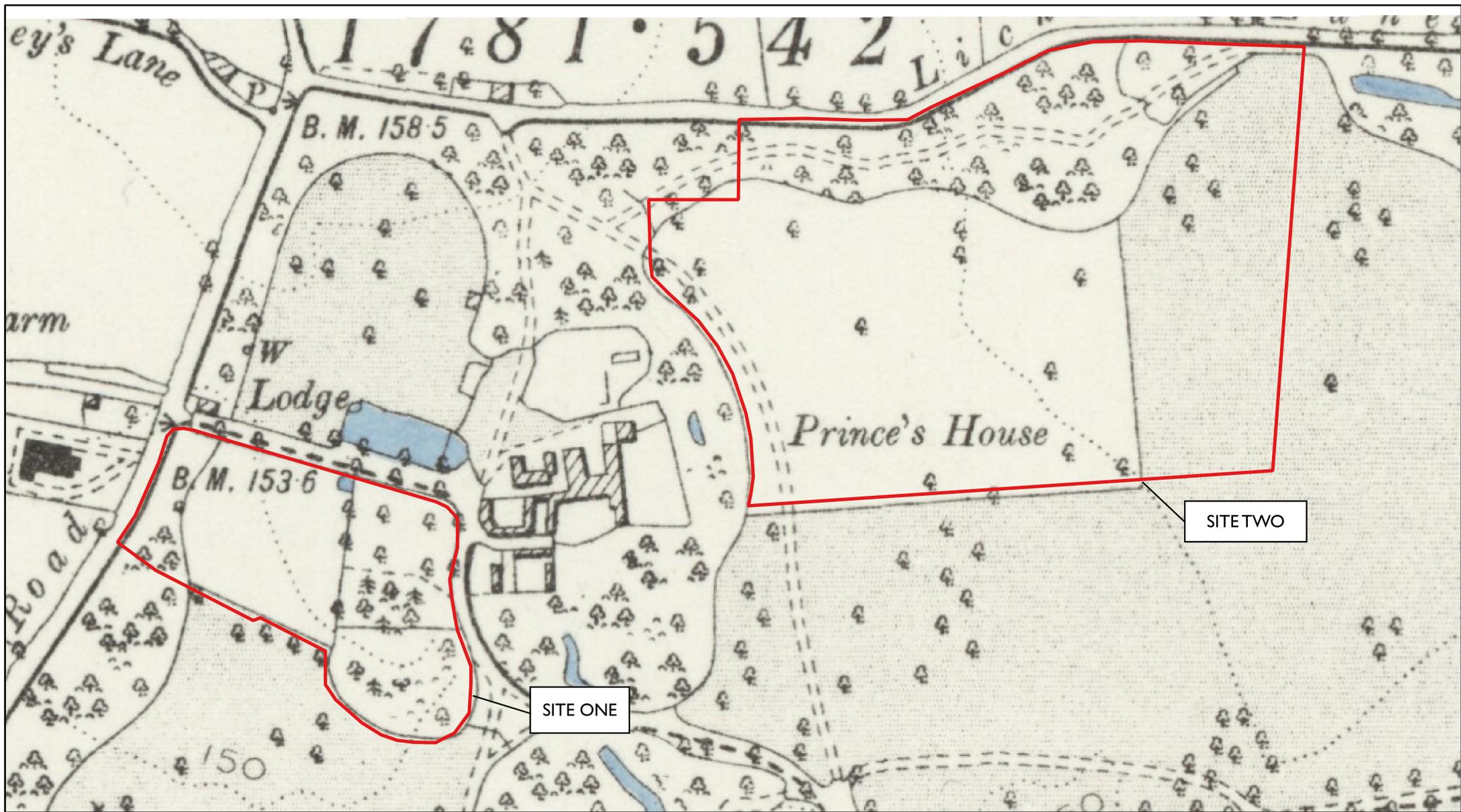
PROJECT // 2743C - Lickers Lane, Halstead, Whiston, Merseyside

DESCRIPTION // 1892 Ordnance Survey Map

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SITE TWO

SITE ONE



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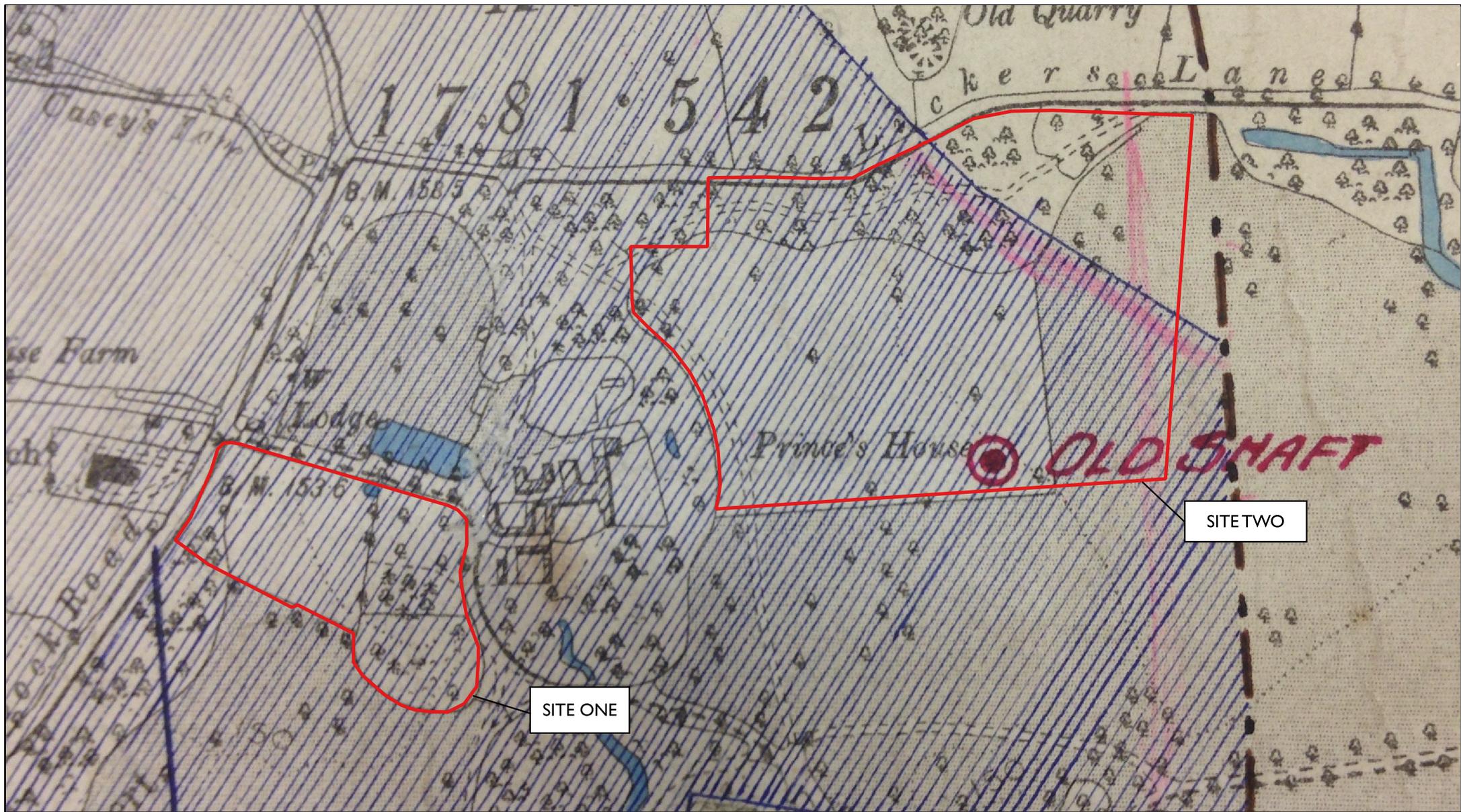
DESCRIPTION // 1894 Ordnance Survey Map

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FIGURE 8 // 1894 Bug Mine



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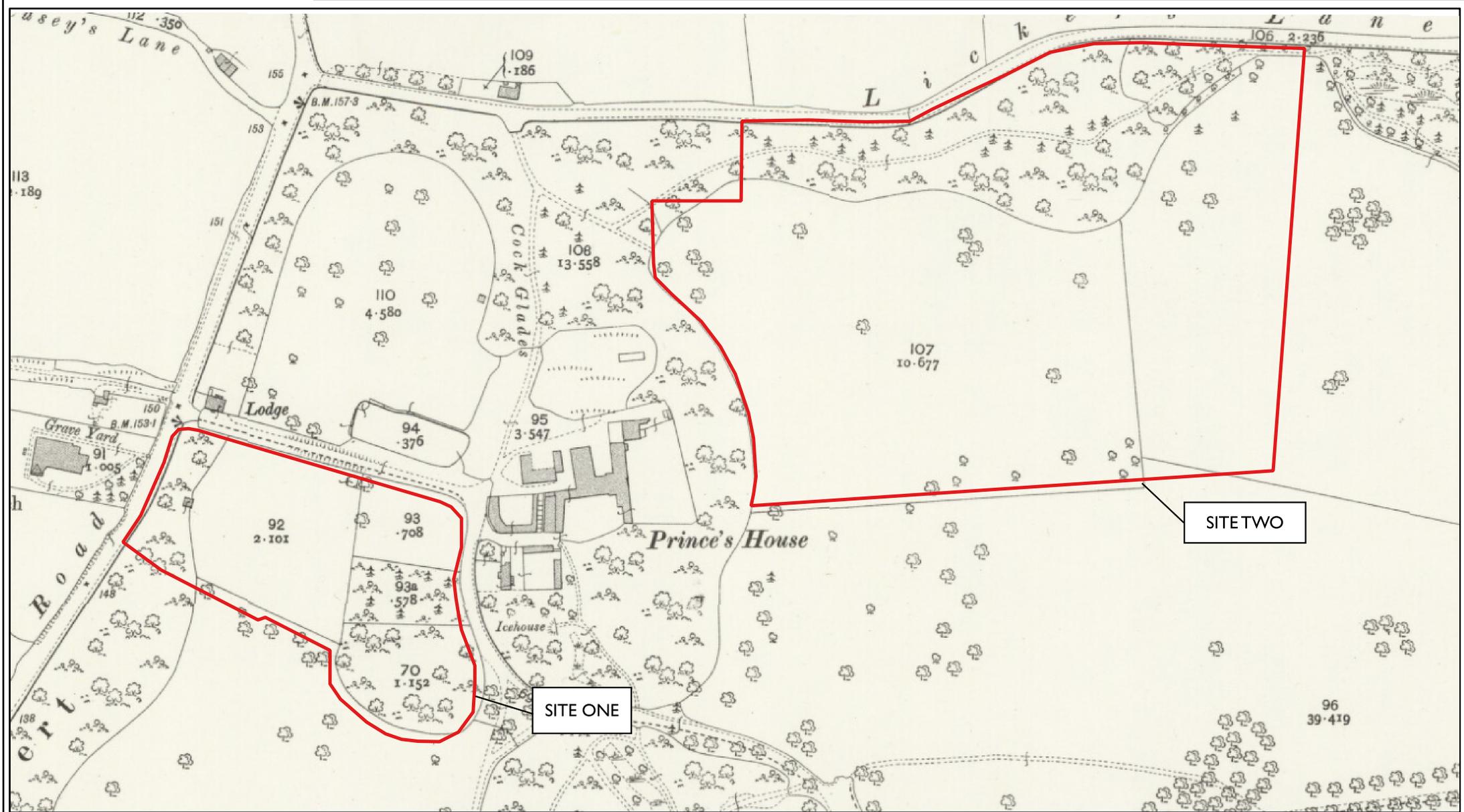
DESCRIPTION // 1894 Bug Mine Map

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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 9 // 1907 OS



PROJECT // 2743C - Lickers Lane, Halstead, Whiston, Merseyside

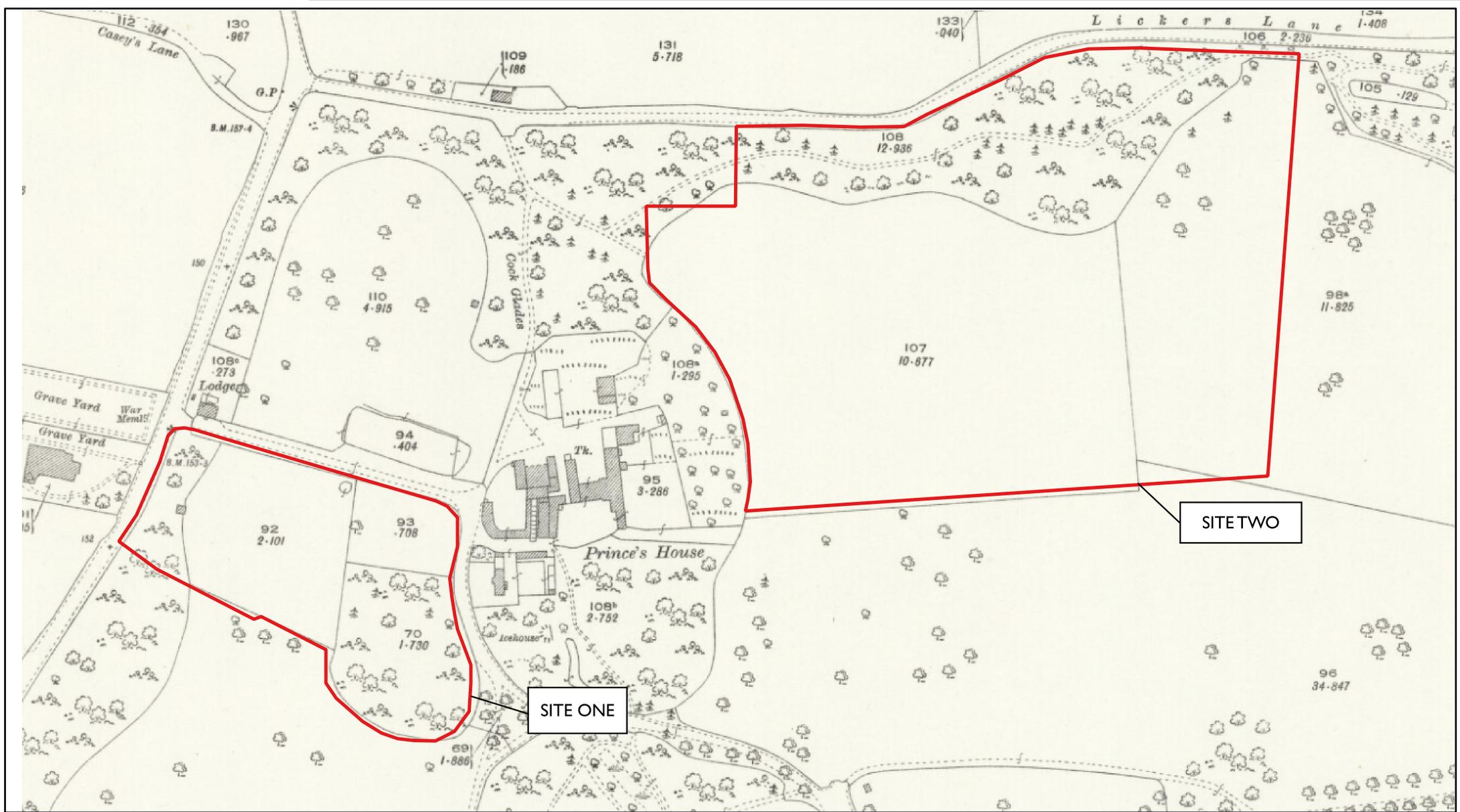
DESCRIPTION // 1907 Ordnance Survey Map

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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 11 // 1927 OS



SITE TWO

SITE ONE

0 100 m



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DESCRIPTION // 1927 Ordnance Survey Map

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FIGURE 12 // 1928 Trencherbone



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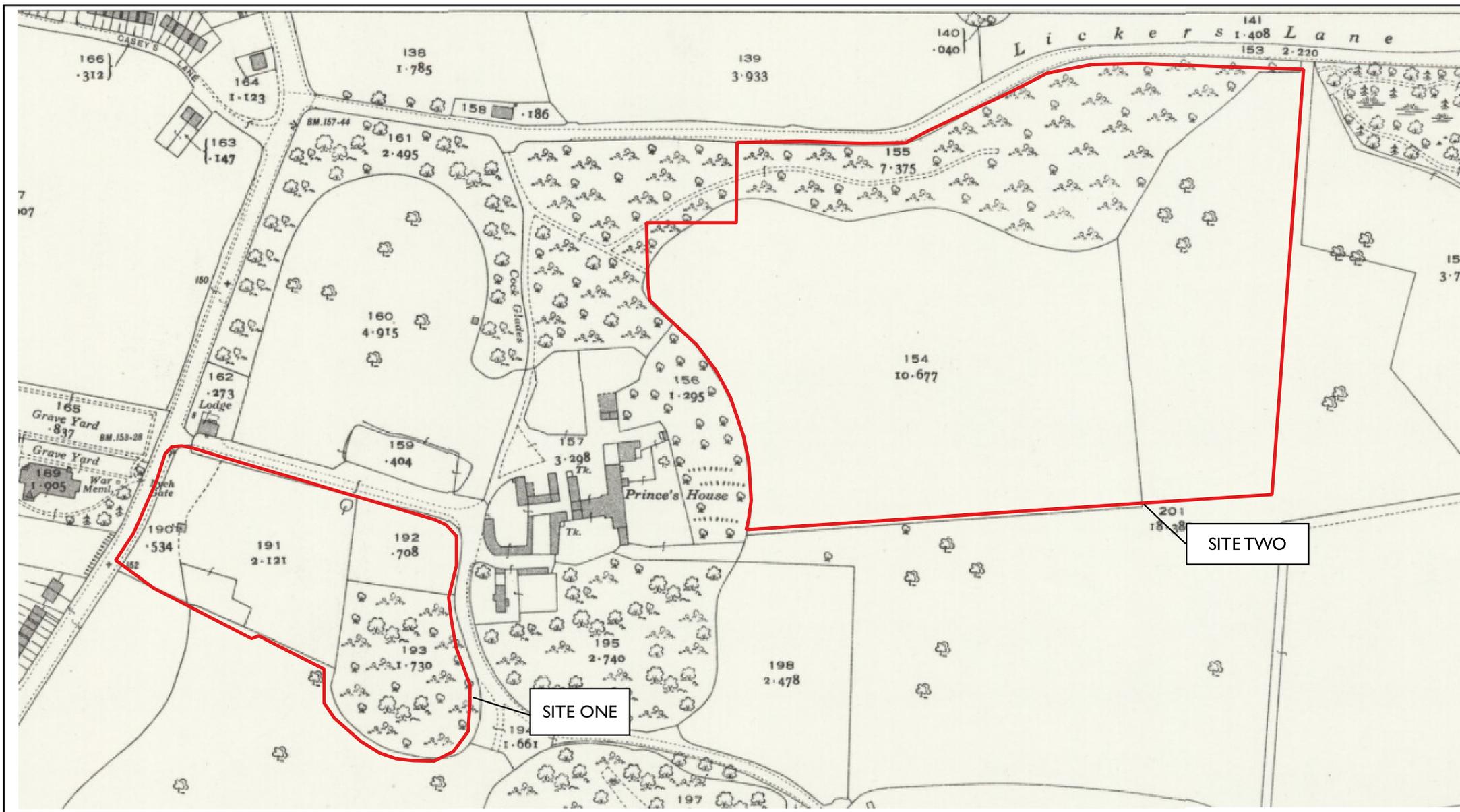
DESCRIPTION // 1928 Trencherbone Map

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FIGURE 13 // 1939 OS



0 100 m



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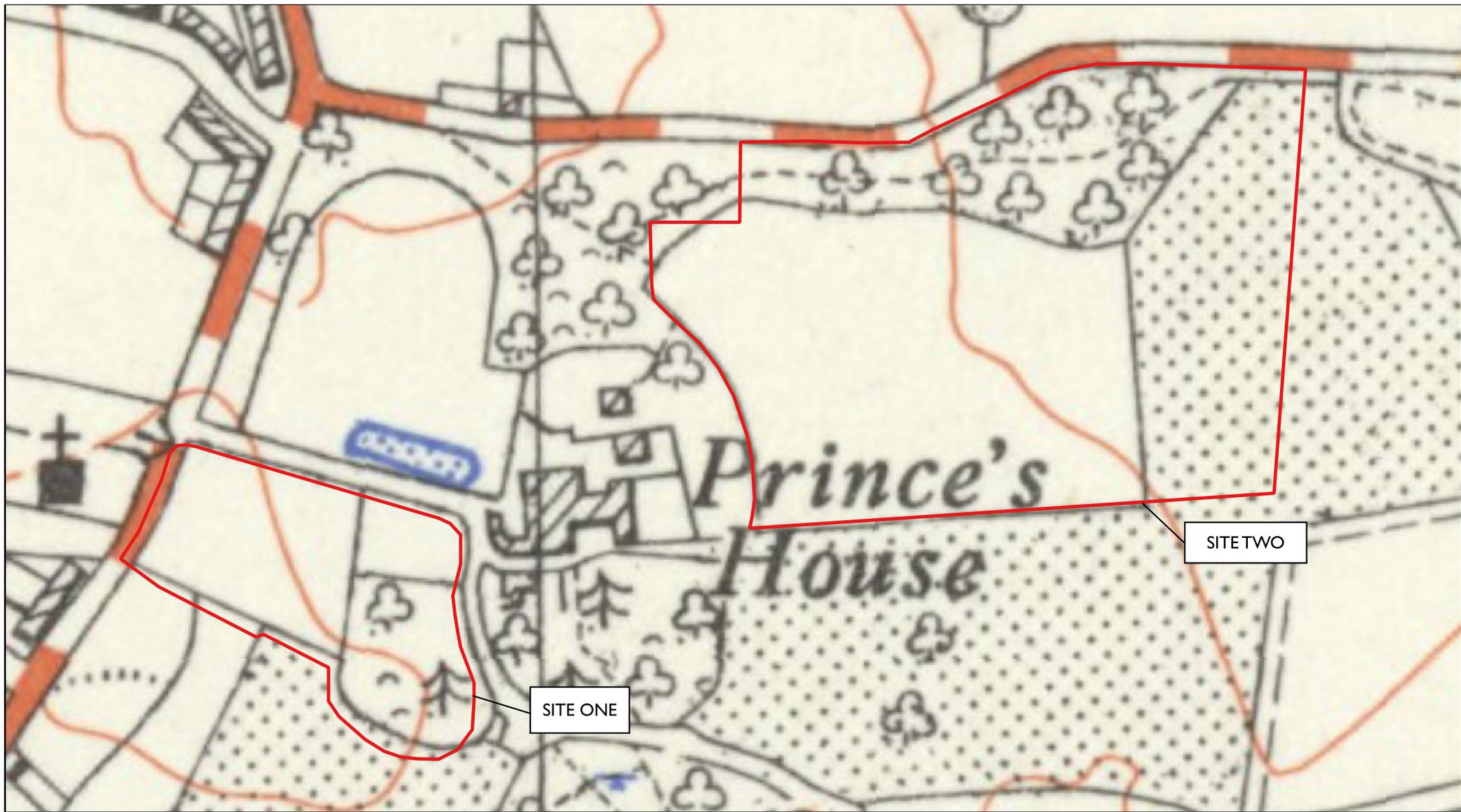
DESCRIPTION // 1939 Ordnance Survey Map

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FIGURE 14 // 1953 OS



SITE ONE

SITE TWO

0 100 m



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DESCRIPTION // 1953 Ordnance Survey Map

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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 15 // 2000 Aerial Photograph



SITE ONE

SITETWO

0 100 m



PROJECT // 2743C - Lickers Lane, Halsnead, Whiston, Merseyside

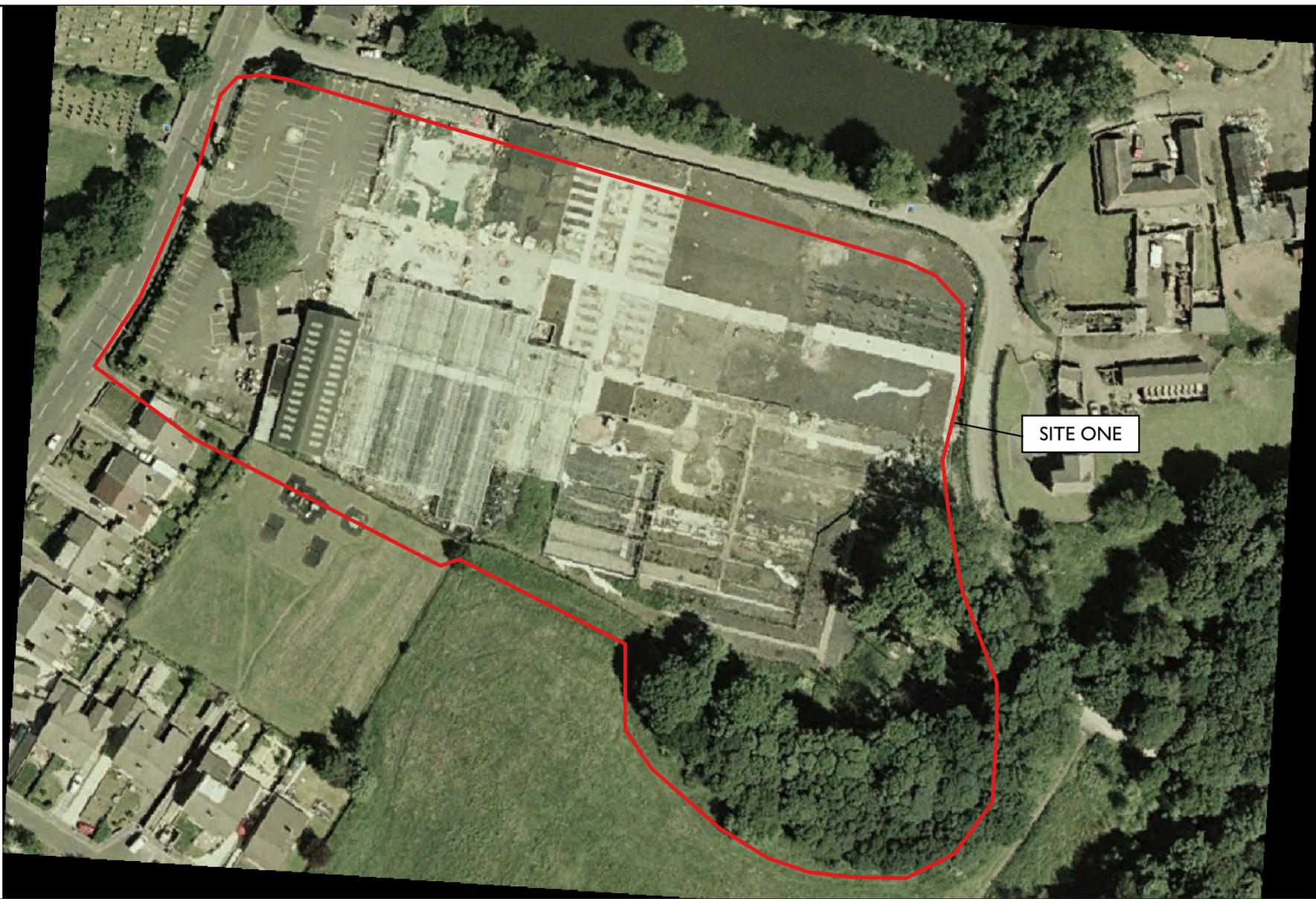
DESCRIPTION // 2000 Aerial Photograph

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DOC REF: LP2743C-DBA-v1

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FIGURE 16 // 2005 Aerial Photograph



0 100 m



PROJECT // 2743C - Lickers Lane, Halsnead, Whiston, Merseyside

DESCRIPTION // 2005 Aerial Photograph Site One

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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

FIGURE 17 // 2005 Aerial Photograph



SITE TWO

0 100 m



PROJECT // 2743C - Lickers Lane, Halsnead, Whiston, Merseyside

DESCRIPTION // 2005 Aerial Photograph Site Two

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L-P:ARCHAEOLOGY

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

APPENDIX I

HER RECORDS

APPENDIX II

Sheet1

Monument		
PRN1291 -MLA1291	St Marys Chapel and St Annes Church, Singleton.	14-19 th century chapel
PRN3225 -MLA322	Manor Farm and area, Singleton	Post Medieval Cropmark
PRN18377 – MLA18339	Church of St Anne, Church Road, Singleton	19 th century Church
PRN18379 – MLA18341	Church Road and Miller Road, Singleton	19 th century fire engine house
PRN20015 – MLA19	Worsicks Farm, Weeton Road, Singleton	four 19 th century farm buildings
PRN27098 – MLA25409	Playing Fields site, Singleton C.E. Primary School	Archaeological Watching Brief
PRN26326 – MLA26	South of Singleton Village	Medieval-Post Medieval Ridge and Furrow
PRN26327 – MLA26274	Miller Arms, Singleton	Pre 1839 small enclosure
PRN28516 – MLA27553	East of Manor Farm, singleton	Rectangular earthwork, a possible Moat 1066-1539 AD
PRN37732 – MLA34414	Singleton Park	Enclosed Garden built in 1873, associated with Singleton Hall.
PRN37876 – MLA34555	Singleton C of E Primary School,	19 th Century school building
PRN39849 – MLA37	Worsicks Farm, Weeton Road, Singleton	18 th century -1800 Farmhouse
PRN39956 – MLA37356	Church Road, Singleton	Several buildings, houses or farmsteads pre 1847
PRN39957 – MLA37357	School House, Church Road, Singleton	House or early school pre 1847

Findspot		
PRN33758 – MLA30	Singleton	Roman coin, Constantius II 355-361 AD
PRN36000 – MLA32594	Singleton	Silver Penny of Edward I 1306-1307 AD
PRN36593 – MLA33187	Singleton	Silver Penny John I 1213-1215 AD

Event		
ELA351	Worsick Farm, The Village, Lancashire: Building Survey	Archaeological building recording

Sheet1

ELA1122	Singleton First Time Sewage, Flyde, Lancashire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Walk Over Survey	DBA and Fieldwalking Survey
ELA936	Playing Fields Site, Singleton. C.E. Primary School. Singleton : Watching Brief	Watching Brief
ELA1379	ALSF Aggregate Extraction of the Kirkham Moraine, Lancashire: Desk Based Assessment & Aerial/LIDAR Survey	Interpretation
ELA1380	ALSF Aggregate Extraction of the Kirkham Moraine, Lancashire: Field Survey	Field Survey