



# A523 Poynton Relief Road, Cheshire East and Greater Manchester, Photographic and Analytical Earthwork Survey Report

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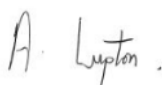
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# A523 Poynton Relief Road, Cheshire East and Greater Manchester

## *Photographic and Analytical Earthwork Survey Report*

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## Summary

In March 2020 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Graham Construction to undertake an archaeological investigation of the site of the proposed Poynton Relief Road. The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (SMBC Condition 41, planning ref: DC/063174 and CEC Condition 39 planning ref: 16/4436M) acting on the advice of GMAAS and CAPAS respectively which determined that no development should take place until the applicant or their agents or their successors in title had secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works.

The following report records the fieldwork results from stages 2A (photographic survey) and 2C (analytical earthwork survey) of these archaeological works, which included undertaking a photographic survey of several sites along the line of the proposed route and the completion of Level 3 landscape surveys at two sites where earthworks survived *in situ*. The works were completed over the course of three days between 15th and 17th of September 2020.

The Historic England level 1 photographic survey recorded a diverse range of structures spanning a period of 4500 years, including prehistoric funerary monuments, high status medieval sites, post-medieval farmsteads and several sites associated with the improvements in transport infrastructure from the late eighteenth to early nineteenth.

Of the two assets (**21** and **27**) subject to landscape survey, Asset **27** was identified as an administrative boundary dividing the Townships of Woodford, Adlington and Poynton with Worth that may perhaps have been in use since the late Saxon period. It is plausible its ditch was also associated with the management of the putative moat that appears to define the original extents of the medieval phase of Lostock Hall. The second, Asset **21**, was identified as a field boundary, probably belonging to an earlier medieval pattern of field enclosure that can still be identified from the wider area. The feature survived the reorganisation of the fields during the creation of Hope Green Farm in the seventeenth century but fell out of use in the early twentieth century, perhaps due to an intensification of arable cultivation and modern farming techniques.



## 1.1 Introduction

## 1.2 Project Background

1.2.1 In March 2020 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Graham Construction to undertake an archaeological investigation of the site of the proposed Poynton Relief Road, starting just south of Kitt's Moss, within Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC; NGR: SJ 89939 83800) and continuing south to just west of Butley Town, part of the Cheshire East Council area (CEC; NGR: 90754 78097).

1.2.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (SMBC Condition 41, planning ref: DC/063174 and CEC Condition 39 planning ref: 16/4436M) acting on the advice of Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) and Cheshire Archaeological Planning Advisory Service (CAPAS) respectively which determined that no development should take place until the applicant or their agents or their successors in title had secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. This programme of works defined a multi-stage process that included the following:

- Stage 1: Approach and Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
- Stage 2A: Photographic Survey
- Stage 2B: Protection During Construction
- Stage 2C: Earthwork Survey
- Stage 2D: Archaeological Evaluation
- Stage 2E: Defined Targeted Archaeological Excavation
- Stage 2F: Detailed WSI for Scheduled Monument
- Stage 2G: Defined Strip, Map and Record Excavation (SMR)
- Stage 3A: Potential Targeted Archaeological Excavation
- Stage 3B: Scheduled Monument Watching Brief
- Stage 4A: Cultural Heritage Asset Management Plan
- Stage 4B: Post-Excavation Assessment
- Stage 5: Post-Excavation Analysis, Reporting and Archiving
- Stage 6: Publication

1.2.3 Stage 1 of this process was completed following the approval of the WSI in May 2020, providing the framework for each of the subsequent phases and in September of 2020 OA North completed Stages 2A and 2C. The following document presents the results of that fieldwork.

## 2 PROJECT AIMS

### 2.1 General

2.1.1 The overall aims and objectives for the programme of archaeological works of relevance to present works are:

- to further establish the extent and nature of the archaeological resource within the proposed development area for mitigation works;
- to mitigate potential impacts of the project through archaeological recording;
- to place any archaeological discoveries into the local and, where appropriate, regional/national context. In addition, the implications of any such discoveries for our current understanding of the development of settlement in the area can be assessed.

### 2.2 Specific aims and objectives

2.2.1 The specific aims are:

- to generate an archive which will allow future research of the remains to be undertaken if appropriate; and
- to disseminate the results of the work in a format and manner proportionate to the significance of the findings, if necessary.

### 2.3 Location, topography and geology

2.3.1 The proposed relief road passes through the local authority areas of both CEC and SMBC (Fig 1). At the northern extent of the road the route passes secluded farmsteads and pockets of residential properties to the east and west of Poynton and Woodford. The route largely covers undulated, arable and pasture farmland, also crossing the runway of Woodford Aerodrome (Arcadis 2020). The topography is gently undulating between 80m and 120m AOD, and the ground gradually slopes southwards to the River Dean and River Bollin (*ibid*).

2.3.2 The solid geology throughout the route consists of Pebbly (gravelly) Sandstone of the Chester Formation, deposited during the Triassic Period (BGS 2021). The superficial deposits throughout the majority of the route are classified as Diamicton, Devensian Till, whilst in the central and southern part of the route the superficial deposits are classified as Sand and Gravel, Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits, both being deposited during the Devensian Period (*ibid*).

2.3.3 The soils throughout the northern part of the route are identified as slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (Cranfield 2021). Through the central part of the route they are identified as naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy soils and to the very south of the route, freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (*ibid*).

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The following section lays out the methodologies employed for both the Photographic Survey and Earthwork Surveys. The surveys conform to the relevant industry standards and best practice as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Historic England (HE) guidelines (CIfA 2019; 2020a; 2020b; HE 2015; 2016; 2017). Both surveys were undertaken between the 15th and 17th of September 2020 in fine weather with generally adequate access to each site.

### 3.2 Historic Assessment

3.2.1 **Desk-Based Research:** An examination of historic maps, online sources and available documentary sources was completed in order to place the assets within their historic context and identify any relevant statutory or non-statutory designations. An enhanced historic assessment has been provided for each of the assets subject to Earthwork Survey, in order to allow a greater level of detail at the assessment stage.

3.2.2 **Oxford Archaeology North:** OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out, both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

### 3.3 Stage 2a: Photographic Survey

3.3.1 The photographic survey was carried out to level 1 standards in accordance with HE guidelines (HE 2016).

3.3.2 A total of eleven assets were recorded (**4, 5, 6, 10, 20, 22, 33, 35, 39, 44** and **47**; Figs 2, 3, 4 and 5), the aim of the investigations being to record the structures in appropriate detail so that there is a record of their appearance and characteristics, pending an adverse impact from the development. Access was refused to Asset **9** (Upper Swineseye Farm) and, following consultation with the client, the requirement for survey subsequently removed.

3.3.3 **Photography:** an indexed photographic archive was produced utilising a high-resolution digital SLR camera (18 megapixel). It recorded:

- the external appearance and setting of the assets, including a mixture of general shots and detailed views taken from perpendicular and oblique angles;
- a photo location plan, showing the positions from which the photographs were taken.

### 3.4 Stage 2c: Earthwork Surveys

3.4.1 Earthwork surveys were undertaken at two assets (Assets **21** and **27**; Figs 13 and 14). The earthwork surveys took the form of analytical level 3 surveys, following the guidance of Historic England's *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes* (2017). This record provides an enhanced, integrated and multi-disciplinary record of the assets and their setting from an in-the-field investigation. A drone survey had already

been undertaken across the route of the proposed scheme, and the data from the survey was used to inform and enhance the earthworks survey.

3.4.2 **Photography:** an indexed photographic archive was produced utilising a high-resolution digital SLR camera (18 megapixel) with a graduated scale bar in each frame. It recorded:

- the external appearance and setting of the earthworks, including a mixture of general shots and detailed views taken from perpendicular and oblique angles;
- a photo location plan, showing the positions from which, the photographs were taken.

3.4.3 **Survey:** the earthworks were surveyed using a dGPS, accurate to +/- 0.02 – 0.03m, recording the topography of the features and any structural elements. LIDAR data was also consulted. The survey data was then used to produce accurate scale drawings of the features.

### 3.5 Written Report

3.5.1 The written report (this document) presents the results of the Photographic Surveys and Earthwork Surveys (stages 2A and 2C). The former provides a basic photographic record of each structure using a series of oblique and detailed shots to illustrate the general form, character, function and construction of each asset where visible. It is accompanied by a brief description of each building, its location and where apparent a broad date for its construction, consistent with a level I historic building survey (Historic England 2016).

3.5.2 The report on the Earthwork Survey also presents a comprehensive photographic record and locational details but also includes the results of the topographic survey as detailed figures (Figs 13 and 14). An enhanced level of description is also provided, with each asset described within its topographical setting and with reference to its relationship with the surrounding sites and landscapes. It consults a range of published and unpublished sources to provide a specific historic background and an assessment is made of the likely origins and function of each feature. The report concludes with a brief assessment of each site's significance.

3.5.3 A scaled photographic plan is incorporated into the rear of the report along with a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived and a copy of the project design in the appendices.

### 3.6 Archive

3.6.1 Upon conclusion of the project copies of this report along with any archival material will be deposited with the Cheshire and Greater Manchester HERs for reference purposes. Hard copies of the images were created on paper of appropriate archival quality and will be deposited as part of the paper archive.

## 4 GENERAL HISTORIC BACKGROUND

### 4.1 Prehistoric

- 4.1.1 Prehistoric evidence from the immediate area is limited, but from the wider area important Mesolithic sites are known at Cheadle Hulme to the north, Mellor to the north-east and Alderley Edge to the west, all of which appear to preserve evidence for temporary camps or transitory communities using the Mersey Valley as a natural routeway to the Pennine uplands in the east (Gregory 2018, 8).
- 4.1.2 Clearance activity associated with the development of agriculture probably began around 4000BC and a settlement of this date was excavated at Oversley Farm, Styal (Garner 2007), some 5 miles to the west of the present study area. More numerous evidence exists in the local area for late Neolithic and Bronze Age activity, with a concentration of burial mound sites to the south between Macclesfield and Alderley Edge (Gregory 2018, 11). A more northerly outlier lies partially within the proposed development site where the remains of a bowl barrow survive at the corner of Bonis Hall Lane and London Road (Asset **35**).
- 4.1.3 Isolated finds from this period include a fragment of a Neolithic axe retrieved from a field to the east of Adlington Hall (MCH7539) and a copper alloy axe head from Woodford Village which was dated to between 2150-1200 BC (*ibid*). Copper ore is known to have been mined at Alderley Edge between 2150 and 1500 BC (Gregory 2018, 12), and the nearest domestic site of this period within the wider area was excavated at Mellor, where a Late Bronze Age to Iron Age (1200-700 BC) defended settlement was discovered, which included evidence for numerous roundhouse structures (*ibid*).

### 4.2 Roman

- 4.2.1 Following the Roman conquest of Britain during the course of the first century AD a series of forts was established in the local area which were connected via a network of roads. One such road is known to have connected the forts at Manchester and Buxton, with another connecting Cheadle with the fort of *Melandra* near Mottram to the north-east.
- 4.2.2 Placename evidence has also been used to hypothesise a third road running between Cheadle and Buxton, which would have passed close to Lostock Hall Farm. This road was tentatively identified through excavation in several locations to the north of Chester Road (MGM12243), although no firm dating material was recovered. Notably, the OS first edition map depicts a minor lane between Woodford and Hope Green that is marked as the 'Supposed line of Roman Road'. The location of another putative minor road potentially preserved on the eastern edge of the study area, where the name Street Lane often denotes the route of a Roman road (2740/1).

### 4.3 Medieval

- 4.3.1 During the early medieval period, the area lay within the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Mercia, in the Manor of Adlington, within the ancient Hundred of Hamestan (Gregory 2018, 19). At an early date, the area seems to have been subdivided into three

townships, with Woodford to the west, Poynton to the east and Adlington to the south. All three names are Old English in derivation and suggests they are settlements of at least Anglo-Saxon origin (Ekwall 1980), probably on the drier lands that offered the best areas for cultivation. As is the case across the rest of the country, it is likely these boundaries have seen little alteration since the twelfth century or earlier (Rackham 2000, 19). Early medieval sites are rare, although fragments of a late Saxon cross shaft were found at Prestbury during renovations to the twelfth-century church (Cheshire HER 1434/2/2), and fragments of another may have been reused near Shell Cottage to the south of Adlington Hall (LBN 1138895).

- 4.3.2 Adlington gave its name to the manor and is therefore the only one of the three specifically mentioned in the Domesday Book, when it was held by Earl Edwin up until the Conquest, before falling to Earl Hugh of Chester by 1086 (Philimore 1978 1,26). It is described as having land for 10 ploughs, with 21 acres of meadowland, extensive woodlands and seven enclosures for trapping or corralling wild animals (*ibid*). The Hundred of Hamestan seems to have been badly affected by the Harrying of the North and the value of the land at Adlington fell from 8 pounds in 1066 to just 20 shillings two decades later (*ibid*).
- 4.3.3 The area seems to have fallen within the Royal Forest of Macclesfield (Edwards 2007, 83) and was therefore subject to Forest Law under the administration of the Earls of Chester. In the twelfth century illegal clearance, settlement and hunting within the Forest was subject to harsh punishments, but by the late thirteenth century annual rents or fines were being paid on assarts in the area and they were being actively encouraged by the sixteenth century to generate estate revenues (Edwards 2007, 84). This historic development may explain the pattern of enclosure to the east of Adlington and Poynton, where tree and hedge-lined boundaries define small irregular fields that suggest a process of gradual enclosure. There are also isolated examples of broad ridge and furrow in the local area that may indicate areas of arable cultivation dating to the medieval period (Jacobs 2016, 15).
- 4.3.4 Despite the economic setbacks of the late eleventh century by the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the general prosperity of the area is indicated by the number of high-status moated sites across the area. There is believed to have been a moat at Adlington Hall (De Figuerido and Treuherz 1988, 15), and the earthworks of a double moat survive at Foxtwist (SM 1011864) to its south-west, with another possible moat at Lostock Hall Farm (Jacobs 2016, 5) to the west of Poynton. Documentary references to a hamlet at the site of Lostock Farm from at least 1285 (Ormerod 1882) lend weight to the authenticity of the latter example. The area also saw the establishment of a number of deer parks during the fourteenth century onwards associated with high status houses, with Lyme Park to the east (c1359, LBN 1000642), another at Poynton (before 1490) (HER 1623/1) and a third at Adlington to the south (1462) (LBN 1000636).
- 4.3.5 The original houses associated with these sites do not survive, but the present Adlington Hall preserves elements dating to the end of the medieval period (c 1505) (LBN 1234130) and recent conservation works at Woodford Old Hall (LBN 1241579) revealed evidence for timber framing dating to the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries (Gregory 2018, 22).

## 4.4 Post-medieval

4.4.1 The earliest map of the area dates to the late eighteenth century and depicts a landscape of small, dispersed settlements and farmsteads connected by a network of sinuous roads (Plate 1). The tithe maps of the mid-nineteenth century are the first to show the field boundaries and by this date the basic pattern of fields had already been established, the irregular medieval field boundaries to the east contrasting with those to the west, which are larger, defined by with more linear boundaries and likely to be of post-medieval date (Plate 2). As with much of Cheshire, local agricultural practice was likely to have been a mix of arable and pasture, producing cattle for meat, milk and cheese to supply the local population.



Plate 1: Burdett 1777 *The County Palatine of Chester*, scale 1" to 1 mile, surveyed 1774-5



Plate 2: Tithe map c 1850, showing pattern of enclosure (Cheshire Archives and Local Studies, 2021)

- 4.4.2 The early post-medieval period witnessed the construction or reconstruction of numerous local houses, including the present house at Lostock Hall Farm (Asset **10**, LBN 1277166) which dates from the late sixteenth century, much of Woodford Old Hall and Woodford New Hall, which was built in 1630 (LBN 1260441). In addition, Adlington Hall saw further developments from the late sixteenth century onwards. Other farmhouses of more modest standing dating to this period include Hope Green Farmhouse (LBN 1329973), which was originally built in the seventeenth century, and the farmstead at Upper Swineseye Farm, believed to have been built in 1646 (MGM15568, demolished).
- 4.4.3 It is during this period that brick superseded stone and timber as the principal construction material in the local area, preserved in place name evidence at Brick Kiln Meadow (HER 2741) to the south-west of Lostock Hall. Later in the period, new farmsteads such as Walnut Tree Farm (Assets **4**, **5** and **6**) on Chester Road, and Shirdfold Farm to the south, were built in brick, although notably the exterior of the former was subsequently disguised with a Mock-Tudor imitation timber-framed skin.
- 4.4.4 These later farmsteads were built during a period of agricultural prosperity that was fuelled by the rapid expansion of the urban centres such as Manchester and Macclesfield during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The drive to supply these urban populations placed an emphasis upon increasing yields through improved farming techniques. One such method involved the excavation of pits across the landscape from which marl could be extracted and deposited on the fields to improve fertility. Where they have not been infilled, these pits are still visible across the landscape as ponds or hollows, often at the junction of two or more boundaries. In addition, where arable farming predominated, earlier field boundaries may have been



removed and the remaining ones reorganised to produce larger fields better suited to ploughing.

- 4.4.5 A number of local industries also developed during the post-medieval period, most notably coal mining, where pits to the east of Poynton began to be commercially exploited from the late sixteenth century onwards (Shercliff 1983). Later in the period a local textile industry developed with fustian, cotton and later silk factories established in the town (*ibid*) and the relative success of these industries was dependent upon the local transport infrastructure.
- 4.4.6 Improvements in this regard began with the opening of the Sandon & Bullock Smithy Turnpike in 1762 which connected Macclesfield to Stockport along the route of London Road (A523). The turnpikes were provided with regular waymarkers, that provided relative distances between settlements and were managed by a series of toll houses, located at locations along the route at which the required tolls were extracted. Some of these waymarkers survive (Asset **20**) and several Toll Houses have been converted to private residences, including that at Street Lane Farmhouse on Street Lane (Asset **22**). To cater for those using the road a network of inns grew up along its length, with establishments such as The Legh Arm's (Asset **33**) at the junction of Brookledge Lane, providing accommodation and refreshment for the weary traveller.
- 4.4.7 The opening of the Macclesfield Canal, to the east of Poynton, in 1831 further benefitted local industries, although by this date railways were becoming a viable alternative and with the opening of the line between Macclesfield and Manchester in 1845 trade on the canal began a slow decline. The railway, which broadly followed the same route as the earlier turnpike through the study area, before sweeping off to the north-west at Poynton Station, was originally conceived as coal transport railway, before providing passenger services.

## 4.5 Modern

- 4.5.1 The twentieth century saw the growth of established villages such as Poynton into sub-urban centres, and smaller settlements such as Adlington developed into larger villages with good transport links to the major centres of Manchester and Stockport to the north and Macclesfield to the south. The original turnpike road was upgraded to meet the modern requirements of the motor car, and classified as the A523, with new street furniture including elevated signposts (Asset **44**) and safety measures introduced at junctions with the introduction of iron railings (Asset **47**).
- 4.5.2 Despite competition from the railway the Macclesfield Canal operated commercially until 1954, although it remained in use as a leisure resource for the local population. Mining in Poynton ceased in 1935 (Edwards 2007, 165) and the textile industry suffered the same fate during the mid-twentieth century, unable to compete with foreign competition. However, from 1924 Avro established an airfield at Woodford, where a number of iconic planes were developed and manufactured, including the Avro Lancaster Bomber (Gregory 2018, 40).
- 4.5.3 The creation of the airfield required a substantial reorganisation of the field pattern in this area, including the truncation of a minor road to make way for the runway and the demolition of several farms. During the 1940s a series of military pill boxes were

erected in the area to protect the airfield and control transit along the main roads in the event of invasion. Although these were never needed, several survive in the surrounding area, with examples at Hope Green on London Road (HER 4058/0/5), another to the north of Mill Lane (HER 4058/0/2), and a third to the north of Brookledge Lane (HER 4058/0/3). The airfield closed in 2011 and has since been redeveloped as the Woodford Garden Village, providing a mixture of residential properties and open spaces.

## 5 PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

<b>Name</b>	Walnut Tree Farm Cottage (Asset 4)
<b>NGR</b>	SJ89934 83483
<b>Designations</b>	None
<b>Period</b>	19th Century
<b>Description</b>	Single storey house sitting at the centre of the farmyard with a slate gable roof, with rendered external walls and applied Mock-Tudor beam decoration (Figs 2 and 6). The principal elevation lies to the east with an off-centre doorway flanked by a pair of three-light windows and a lean-to, beneath a cat-slide roof, has been appended to the western side, with a rear porch added to its centre. The interior of the building was not accessible.



*Plate 3: Walnut Tree Farm Cottage, facing north-west*



*Plate 4: Eastern elevation, facing west*



*Plate 5: Southern gable, facing north-east*



*Plate 6: Western elevation and northern gable facing south-east, 1m scale*

<b>Name</b>	Walnut Tree Farm Shippon (Asset 5)
<b>NGR</b>	SJ 89932 83467
<b>Designations</b>	None
<b>Period</b>	19th Century
<b>Description</b>	Rectangular structure constructed of handmade red brick rendered in concrete and covered with a gabled slate roof (Figs 2 and 6). Principal elevation lies to the north with an entry to the east, another towards the west, three oculus windows at first floor level and a blocked diamond vent. The building has been extended to the south with a full length single-storey lean-to and to the east with a single-storey gabled structure, a third lean-to at the western end is no longer roofed. Only the rear lean-to was internally accessible, whilst the southern side of the building was obscured by tree cover.



*Plate 7: Shippon, facing south-east, with 1m scale*



*Plate 8: Shippon, facing south-west, with 1m scale*



*Plate 9: Main Shippon facing south with 1m scale*



*Plate 10: Eastern extension, facing north-west, with 1m scale*



*Plate 11: Unroofed western Lean-to extension, facing south with 1m scale*





*Plate 12: Open-fronted Sheds to west of Shippon, facing south-east*



*Plate 13: Interior of Lean-to, facing west*



*Plate 14: Interior of Lean-to, facing east*

<b>Name</b>	Walnut Tree Farmhouse (Asset 6)
<b>NGR</b>	SJ 89965 83473
<b>Designations</b>	None
<b>Period</b>	19th Century
<b>Description</b>	<p>Large, rectangular house rendered with applied Mock-Tudor timber decoration, but constructed of handmade red brick where visible (Fig 2 and 6-8). Substantially extended to the east in latter half of twentieth century and to the west with a single-storey lean-to and porch. The principal elevation lay to the north with a central porch covering the main entrance and a partially integrated garage at the western end. The southern side of the property was partially obscured by tree cover and vegetation.</p> <p>Internally, the building was two rooms deep with a small kitchen at the western end, a large living room to the east and other living areas concentrated to the south. The first floor incorporated an axial access corridor from which the larger bedrooms opened off the southern side, with smaller bedrooms and sanitation facilities provided to the north and within the north-western corner of the building.</p>



*Plate 15: Walnut Tree Farmhouse, facing south-east*



*Plate 16: Northern elevation, facing south*



*Plate 17: Eastern end of the northern elevation, facing south-west*



*Plate 18: Western gable elevation, showing lean-to and later porch in foreground*



*Plate 19: South-western corner, facing north-east*



*Plate 20: Eastern elevation, facing north-west*



*Plate 21: Handmade brick exposed behind applied Mock Tudor timber frame, on western gable*



*Plate 22: Kitchen, facing south*



*Plate 23: Utility Room, facing north*



*Plate 24: Living Room, facing north-west*



*Plate 25: Staircase to first floor*





*Plate 26: Entrance Hall, facing north-west*



*Plate 27: Ground Floor bathroom, facing north*



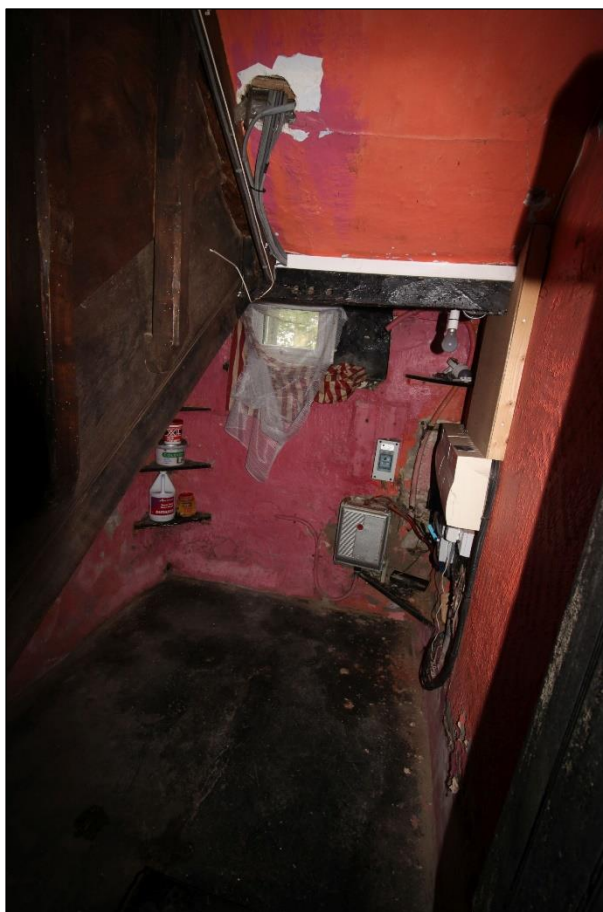
*Plate 28: Living room, facing south-east*



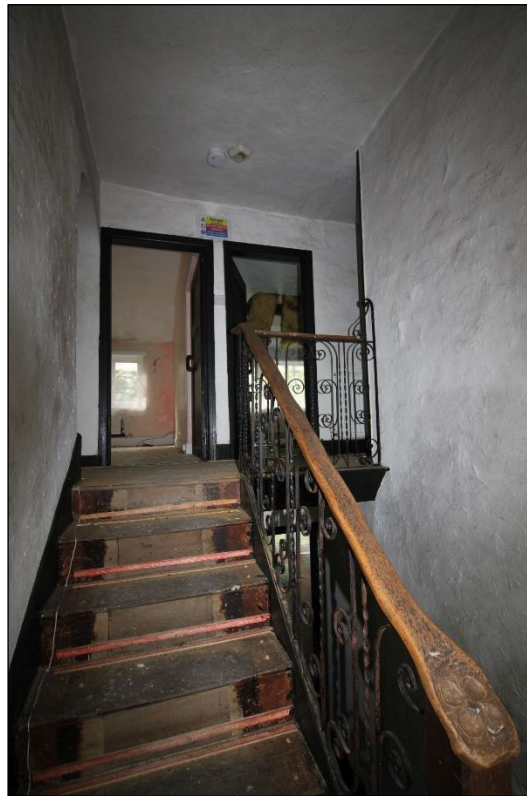
*Plate 29: Main living room, facing south-west*



*Plate 30: Living Room, facing north-east*



*Plate 31: Cellar beneath stairs, facing north*



*Plate 32: Staircase from mid-height landing, facing south*



*Plate 33: Staircase, facing north*



*Plate 34: First-floor corridor, facing east*



*Plate 35: Eastern Bathroom, facing north*



*Plate 36: Bedroom 1, facing north-east*



*Plate 37: Bedroom 2, facing south-east*



*Plate 38: Bedroom 2, facing north-east*



*Plate 39: Bedroom 3, facing north-east*



*Plate 40: Step up, with modern extension beyond, and 1m scale*



*Plate 41: Eastern Bathroom, facing north-east*





*Plate 42: Bedroom 4, facing south-east*



*Plate 43: Bedroom 4, facing north-west*



*Plate 44: First-floor kitchen, facing south*



*Plate 45: Bedroom 5, facing south-west*



*Plate 46: Bedroom 6, facing north-east*



*Plate 47: Loft space above Western Bathroom at eastern end of house, facing east*



*Plate 48: Loft space above Bedroom 4, facing west*

<b>Name</b>	Lostock Hall Farmhouse (Asset <b>10</b> )
<b>NGR</b>	SJ 90617 82922
<b>Designations</b>	Grade II Listed Building (1277166)
<b>Period</b>	16th Century; 19th Century
<b>Description</b>	<p>Large square plan farmhouse, formerly of two and a half storeys but disuse, advancing vegetation and the loss of its roof has left the building in a ruinous condition and made it unsafe to approach (Fig 2 and 9). The remaining shell suggests that an original gabled structure to the north was extended with the addition of a pair of shorter gabled wings projecting at right angles to the south, effectively doubling the building's footprint. The external walls were of red brick rendered in cement, and a single brick chimney stack survives to the east. A brick porch has been appended to the western side, with a steep single-pitch roof and, although presently hidden by vegetation, previous photographs show a single-storey gabled extension to the north.</p> <p>The floors appear to have partially collapsed and none of the building's doors or windows remain intact. The list description indicates the building was originally timber-framed and probably erected in the late sixteenth century, but was subsequently clad in brick during the early nineteenth century.</p>



*Plate 49: Lower Lostock farmhouse, facing east*



*Plate 50: Farmhouse facing north-east*



*Plate 51: Farmhouse, facing north-east from edge of the surrounding ditch*



*Plate 52: Farmhouse, facing south-east*

<b>Name</b>	Milestone (Asset <b>20</b> )
<b>NGR</b>	SJ 91312 81954
<b>Designations</b>	Grade II Listed Structure (1234107)
<b>Period</b>	18th Century; 19th Century
<b>Description</b>	Milestone, located upon a grass verge on the eastern side of London Road (Fig 3). The sandstone slab has cast-iron plates mounted upon its western face, painted white and bearing the distances 'From London', 'From Macclesfield' and 'To Stockport' in black lettering beneath and a shaped top.



*Plate 53: Milestone located upon the eastern side of London Road, with 1m scale*



<b>Name</b>	Street Lane Farmhouse (Asset <b>22</b> )
<b>NGR</b>	SJ 91286 81825
<b>Designations</b>	Grade II Listed Building (1276184)
<b>Period</b>	Early 19th Century
<b>Description</b>	Two storey former Tollhouse associate with the Macclesfield- Hazel Grove Turnpike, lying to the east of London Road and south of Street Lane (Fig 3 and 10). The building was constructed to a square plan beneath a hipped slate roof that incorporated a brick chimney rising from its centre and featured a shallow gabled projection to the centre of its northern elevation. The exterior was rendered, a lean-to extension had been appended to its eastern side and a modern conservatory had been erected against the southern elevation. There was no access to the interior of the building at the time of survey.



*Plate 54: Street Lane Farmhouse, facing south-west*



*Plate 55: Street Lane Farmhouse, facing south-east*



*Plate 56: Rear view of Street Lane Farmhouse, facing north-east*

<b>Name</b>	Legh Arms Public House (Asset <b>33</b> )
<b>NGR</b>	SJ 91040 80509
<b>Designations</b>	Grade II listed (1138892)
<b>Period</b>	18th Century; 20th Century
<b>Description</b>	Public House, located upon the corner of London Road and Brookledge Lane built on a rectangular plan to two and a half storeys beneath a gabled slate roof (Figs 4 and 11). Principal elevation to the west of three symmetrical bays with a shallow projecting bay to centre, sash windows and opposing transverse gable stacks. The building has been extended to the east and, perhaps more, recently to the north. A date stone on the eastern extension gives the year 1835, although the main building is believed to be late eighteenth century. There was no access to the interior at the time of the survey.



*Plate 57: Legh Arms, facing north-east*



*Plate 58: Legh Arms, facing south-east*



*Plate 59: Legh Arms, facing north-west*



*Plate 60: Date stone on western extension of the Legh Arms*

<b>Name</b>	Bowl Barrow (Asset <b>35</b> )
<b>NGR</b>	SJ 90625 78408
<b>Designations</b>	Scheduled Monument (1007379)
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age
<b>Description</b>	An ovoid mound, probably an example of a Bowl Barrow, approximately 25m by 26m in diameter and up to 2m in height lying, within a field immediately to the west of London Road and north of Bonis Hall Lane (Fig 5 and 12). The site has been designated as a scheduled monument, with such sites typically dating to between the late Neolithic to the late Bronze Age periods, when they were built as funerary monuments.

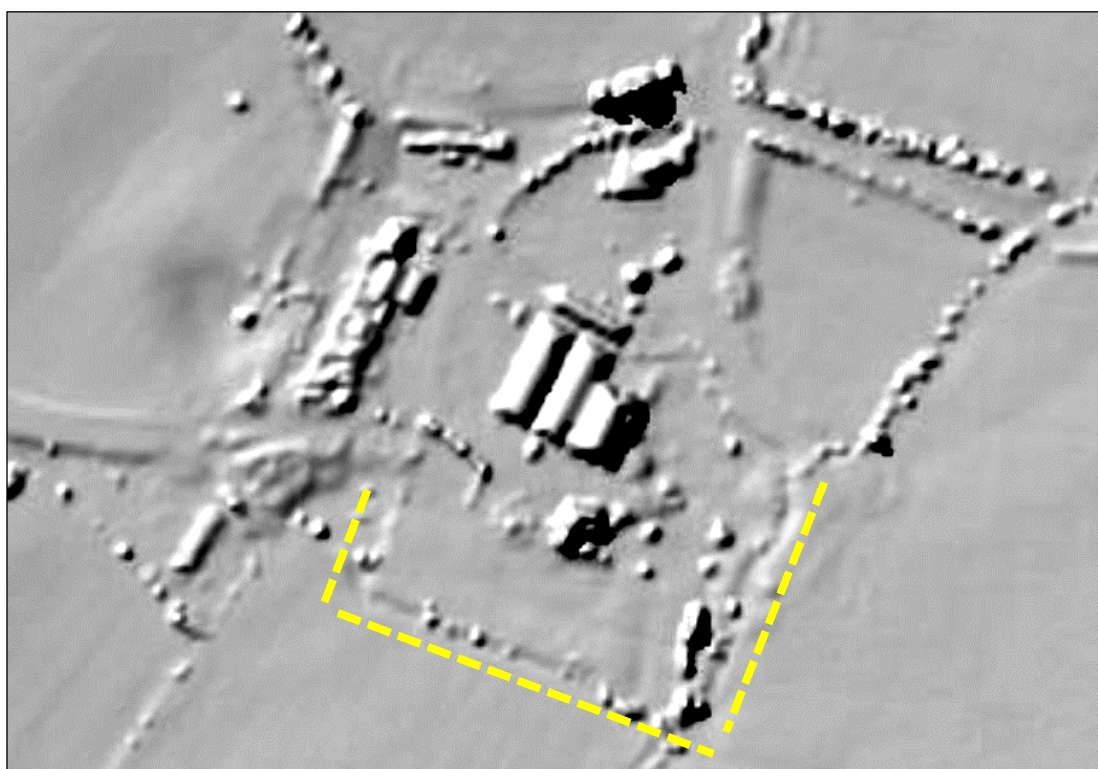


*Plate 61: Bowl Barrow, looking north with 2m scale in centre*



*Plate 62: Bowl Barrow, looking east, 2m scale in centre*

<b>Name</b>	Moat at Lostock Hall Farm (Asset <b>39</b> )
<b>NGR</b>	SJ 90616 82932
<b>Designations</b>	None
<b>Period</b>	Thirteenth - fourteenth Century
<b>Description</b>	Ditch, 3m wide and up to 1m deep, defining the south-western and south-eastern edges of an enclosure 100m long and at least 70m wide with the seventeenth century farmhouse at its centre. A partial return remained along the north-western side, but any northern boundary had been destroyed or obscured by the construction of the later farm buildings and dense vegetation (Figs 2 and 9). The enclosure feature can be identified on nineteenth century mapping and, although well vegetated it, can be seen more clearly on LiDAR imagery (Plate 63). To the north a low tree-covered earth bank extended in a north-westerly direction from the north-eastern corner of the moat for a distance of c 50m.



*Plate 63: LiDAR plot showing Lostock Hall Farmhouse at the centre of possible moat feature demarcated in yellow (Lidar Finder 2021)*





*Plate 64: South-western corner of Moat, facing south-east, with 1m scale*



*Plate 65: Moat feature, facing south-west, with 1m scale*



*Plate 66: Moat feature facing north-east, with 1m scale*



*Plate 67: Tree-lined bank to east of moat feature, facing north-east with 1m scale*

<b>Name</b>	Signpost (Asset <b>44</b> )
<b>NGR</b>	SJ 91269 81849
<b>Designations</b>	None
<b>Period</b>	Early twentieth century
<b>Description</b>	Octagonal section cast-iron fingerpost with ball finial top located upon the western side of London Road (Figs 3 and 11). An example of pre-standardisation road signage, probably dating to between 1921 and 1930. Since the completion of the walkover survey in 2015 the sign has lost its Pott Shrigley indicator (Jacobs 2016).



*Plate 68: Signpost on western side of London Road, facing west with 1m scale*



*Plate 69: Signpost, facing east with 1m scale*

<b>Name</b>	Iron Railings (Asset <b>47</b> )
<b>NGR</b>	SJ 907157 8264
<b>Designations</b>	None
<b>Period</b>	Early twentieth century
<b>Description</b>	Wrought iron estate railings flanking Bonis Hall Lane on the approach to the junction with London Road (Figs 5 and 12). The railings extend to a height of 1.2m and consist of a series of vertical flat bar posts arranged at intervals of approximately 1m and connected to one another by five horizontal rails. The upper stage is curved away from the roadside. Such railings were a characteristic of road junctions in Cheshire and were introduced in 1929 as a safety measure.



*Plate 70: Iron railings, facing north-east along Bonis Hall Lane*



*Plate 71: Iron railings, facing south-west towards railway bridge, with 1m scale*

## 6 EARTHWORK SURVEY

### 6.1 Earthwork (Asset 21)

- 6.1.1 **Location and Geology:** Asset **21** is located in an area of agricultural pastureland approximately 200m to the west of the A523 (London Road) and 2km to the south-west of Poynton (SJ 91061 81901) (Figs 3 and 13). To the south it terminates at the boundary defined by Adlington Golf Course's access road, while to the north it appears to discontinue at the confluence of three extant field boundaries, with the golf course to the north and west, and a commercial distribution centre to the north-east. The underlying geology consists of Triassic Sandstone, of the Chester Formation, overlain by a deposit of Devensian Till lain down during ice age conditions (BGS 2021). The soils are classified slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils of moderate fertility (Cranfield 2021). The land is best suited to grass production for dairying or beef, with some cereal production often for feed (*ibid*).
- 6.1.2 **Previous Fieldwork:** The site was identified during a walkover survey of the area in 2015 (Jacobs 2016), and is clearly visible from modern aerial photographs (HER 2743).
- 6.1.3 **Historic Background:** Several heritage assets are recorded from the surrounding area, including the supposed line of a Roman Road 500m to the north (CgMs 2013), although a recent evaluation adjacent to this road did not identify any evidence of roman activity in this area (OA North 2016). Both Street Lane, 200m to the east and London Road have also been hypothesised as being of Roman origin (HER 2740/1). To the north-east lies Hope Green Farm (LBN 1329973), which was originally built in the seventeenth century, and beyond this Street Lane Farmhouse (LBN 1276184) at the junction of Street Lane and London Road, which was built in the early nineteenth century as a tollhouse. To the north-west lies the site of the late eighteenth century/early nineteenth century Shirdfold Farm (OA North 2016). The remaining assets are twentieth century in date and include two pill boxes of Second World War origin (HER 4058/0/4 and 4058/0/5), and an early twentieth century finger post opposite the former tollhouse (Jacobs 2016).
- 6.1.4 **Cartographic Evidence:** The boundary can clearly be identified on the c 1850 tithe map (Plate 72), where the earthwork forms the eastern boundary of an arable field known on the apportionment as Clay Flatt, with the adjacent field to the east set to pasture and recorded as Marshland Field. An elongated pond, probably a marl pit, is depicted near the western edge of Marshland Field, and there are two more ponds at the northern end of the sinuous boundary in an area known as Rough and Pit and recorded as waste ground. These fields lie within what appears to be a larger rectangular parcel of land between London Road to the east and the unnamed land between Woodford and Hope Green. All of these fields, with the exception of one, belong to Charlotte Vaux of Bridge Farm (Hope Green Farm), which lies at the north-eastern corner of this larger parcel. This map also shows a sinuous boundary of similar character extending to the north-west of this area in the direction of Shirdfold Farm, which may be a continuation of the earthwork.



Plate 72: Extract from c 1850 Tithe map (Cheshire Archive and Local Studies 2021)

6.1.5 The 1882 Ordnance Survey map provides a largely unchanged picture but depicts the southern half of the boundary as being tree-lined (Plate 73). A look at the wider landscape depicts the removal of several field boundaries since the tithe map was drawn, including the amalgamation of a smaller field to the south into a larger field.

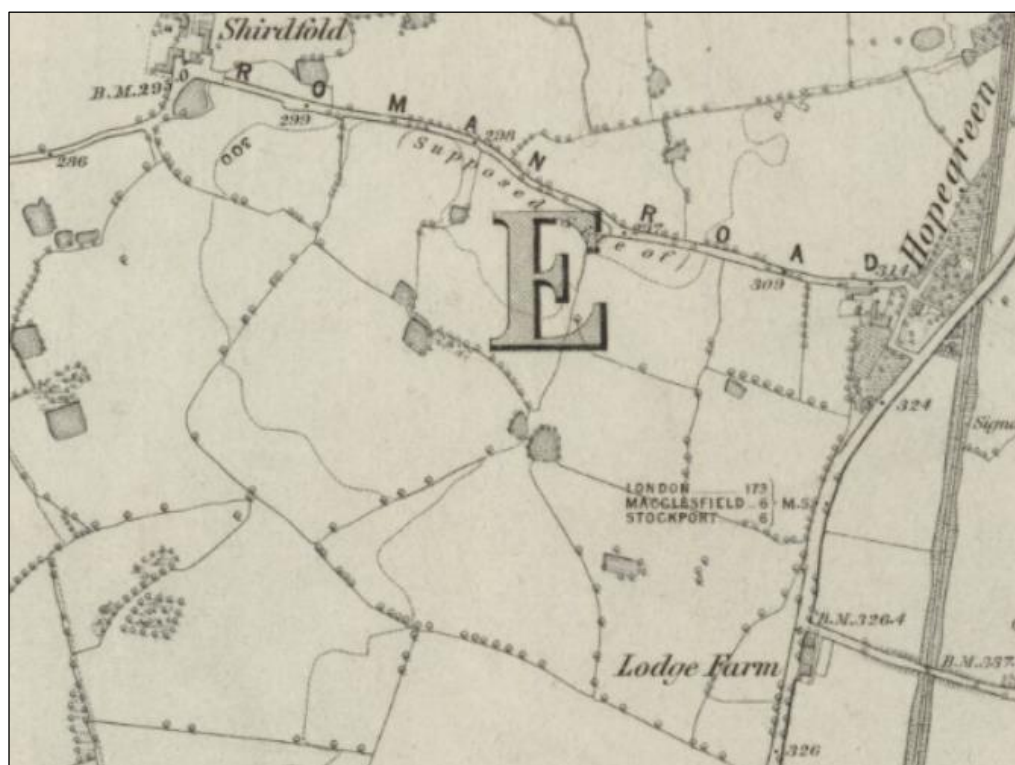


Plate 73: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map of Cheshire XXVIII (includes: Hazel Grove and Bramhall; Mottram St Andrew; Prestbury; Wilmslow.) Surveyed: 1871 to 1872, Published: 1882



6.1.6 The 1897 OS map does not depict these trees, although this maybe the result of stylistic treatment rather than a change on the ground, and the pond in Marshland Field appears to have been infilled in the intervening period (Plate 74). The continuing trend to amalgamate fields into ever larger units has seen the removal of the north-western end of the hypothesised continuation of the earthwork in the area to the south of Shirdfold Farm. Although it does appear in subsequent maps, this boundary may perhaps have become increasingly redundant.

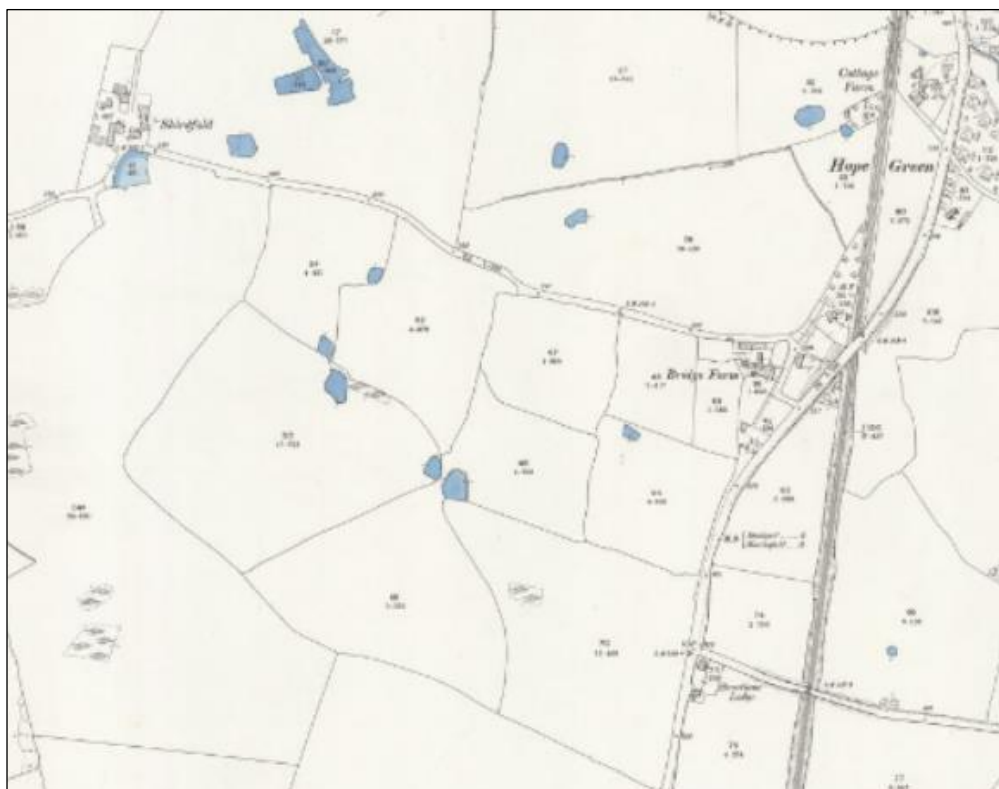


Plate 74: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of Cheshire XXVIII.4 (Adlington; Hazel Grove and Bramhall; Poynton with Worth) Revised: 1896, Published: 1897

6.1.7 By 1907, the southern and western boundaries of the field in the south-western corner of the larger rectangular parcel of land have been removed and the land amalgamated with that to the west (Plate 75). The earthwork is still shown on OS mapping into the mid twentieth century, but it had been removed by 1941, when an aerial image appears to show it as a relict boundary crossing a much larger field (Plate 76). This field was again subdivided into three rectangular parcels between 1971 and 2000, with the relict boundary crossing the width of the western two fields.



*Plate 75: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of Cheshire XXVIII.4 (Adlington; Hazel Grove and Bramhall; Poynton with Worth) Revised: 1907, Published: 1909*

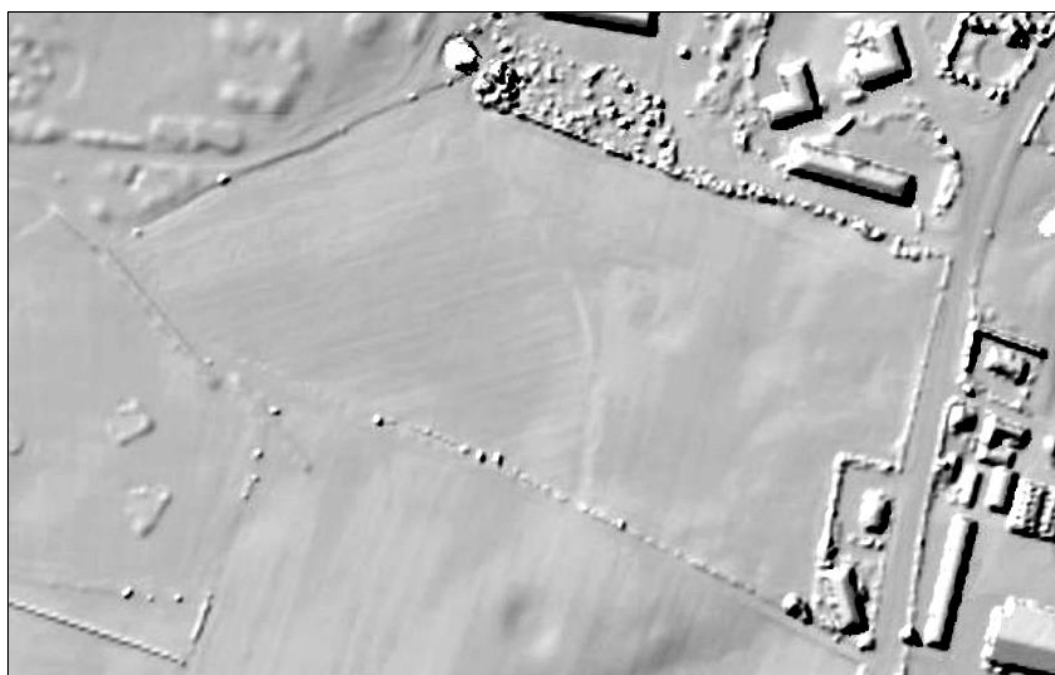


*Plate 76: Aerial Image from 1945 demonstrating that the boundary has now been removed (Google Earth 2021)*

6.1.8 An aerial photograph from 2016 demonstrates the differing use of land to the east and west of the relict boundary, showing linear plough marks on a north-east/south-west alignment in the field to the west of the relict boundary and a series of parch marks in the eastern field (Plate 77). The site of the infilled pond can clearly be identified in this image and the LiDAR plot (Plate 78), as can a series of linear trends that may be the result of drainage.



*Plate 77: Google Earth (2021) image of 2016, showing the difference in land use to the east and west of the boundary*



*Plate 78: LiDAR plot of the area (Lidar Finder 2021) Environment Agency DSM 1m*

- 6.1.9 **Description:** Asset **21** appears as a sinuous and fairly subtle earthwork, that extends from north-west to south-east over a distance of 250m. The feature survives best towards its centre where a bank between 3.5m to 5m wide and 0.4m high lies to the north-east of a wide but shallow ditch. From ground level the bank is almost imperceptible to the north and south but a tree survives at its southern end, indicating its former trajectory. The width of the ditch cannot be accurately determined, but at its northern end the depth of grass suggests it maybe as much as 8m across.
- 6.1.10 **Conclusion:** The specific date of the ditch cannot be determined, although the evidence indicates it is likely to be a pre-nineteenth century feature and possibly a fragment of the earlier medieval pattern of enclosure that remains to the north of Adlington. It is plausible it formed part of a once much larger boundary, enclosing an area of land to the west and visible on the tithe map of the area as extending from at least Shirdfold Farm to perhaps form the eastern boundary of Sandholes Moss at the southern end.
- 6.1.11 The sequence of development suggests that as part of the establishment of the farm at Hope Green during the early post medieval period the land was reorganised to create a rectangular perimeter boundary enclosing several new fields of a semi-regular form. The boundary (**21**) survived this reorganisation and continued to serve as a field division until modern farming techniques and an intensification in arable cropping, rendered it increasingly inefficient and it was removed in the early twentieth century.
- 6.1.12 **Significance:** The significance of Asset **21** lies in its potential to illustrate the pattern of enclosure and management of the landscape prior to the post-medieval period. It also serves to highlight the changes that have taken place to the field systems in the local area since the beginning of the post-medieval period.



*Plate 79: Earthwork, facing south-west, with 1m scale*



*Plate 80: High view of Earthwork, facing south-east*



*Plate 81: High view of Earthwork, facing north-west*

## 6.2 Field Boundary (Asset 27)

6.2.1 **Location and Geology:** Asset 27 is an extant tree-lined field boundary extending in a south-westerly direction from the south-western corner of Lostock Farm (SJ 90473

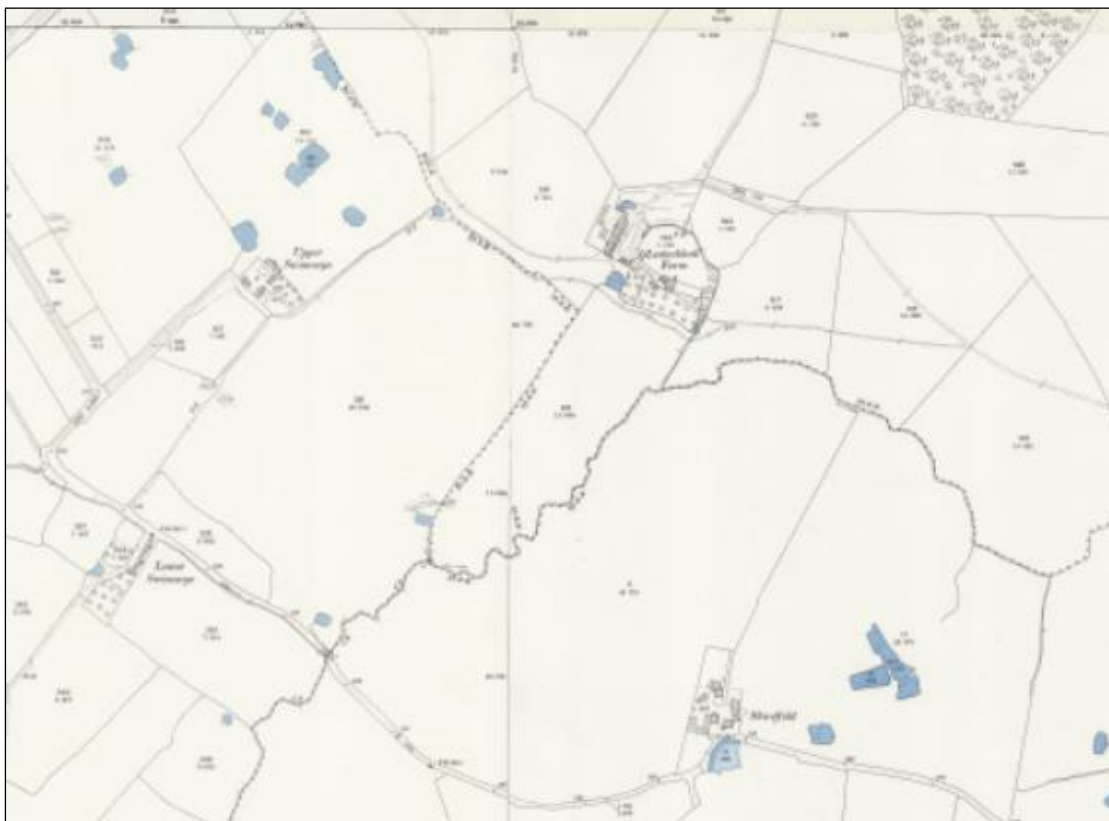
82855), for a length of 330m before joining a meandering drain that feeds into Red Brook, shortly before it, in turn, joins the River Dean near Woodford New Hall (Figs 2 and 14). The boundary lies some 250m to the north of the Woodford Aerodrome runway and 300m to the south of Swinseye Farm. The underlying geology of the area is of Chester Formation - Sandstone, a pebbly (gravelly), sedimentary Bedrock of Triassic date (BGS 2021). Notably, the boundary coincides with a change in the drift geology, with glaciofluvial sheet deposits of sands and gravel to the south and Till to the north, both laid down in ice age conditions during the late Devensian period (*ibid*). The soils are characterised by naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy soils and are of very low fertility (Cranfield 2021).

- 6.2.2 **Previous Fieldwork:** The site was identified as a heritage asset during a walkover survey in 2015 (Jacobs 2016), when it was recognised from tithe maps of the area as a sinuous boundary defining the three-way township boundary between Woodford, Adlington and Poynton with Worth.
- 6.2.3 **Historic Background:** The closest heritage asset to the boundary is the projected line of the hypothesised roman road between Cheadle and Buxton, which has previously been tentatively identified to the north (CgMs 2013). Subsequent excavations however could not confirm this trajectory (OA North 2016) and the dating of this feature has recently been called into question (MGM12243). The ruins of the grade II listed Lostock Farmhouse (Asset **10**, LBN 1277166) are just 100m away from the boundary at its north-eastern end, and include the remains of a possible moat feature that may have once surrounded the house (Asset **39**).
- 6.2.4 The present house dates to the late sixteenth century and was a subordinate Manor of the Warrens of Poynton Hall, but the site is mentioned in a document of 1285 as a hamlet, implying that there was a settlement there at that time (Ormerod 1882).
- 6.2.5 There were several farmsteads in the area likely to be of medieval or post-medieval origin, including Lower Swinseye Farm 700m to the south-west, Yewtree Farm 1km to the west and Shirdfold Farm some 500m to the south. All three were demolished during the construction of Woodford Aerodrome during the mid-twentieth century, although a fourth, Upper Swinseye Farm survives 350m to the north-west.
- 6.2.6 **Cartographic Evidence:** The available portion of the tithe map only shows the northern side of the boundary, however, it demonstrates its existence at this date (Plate 2). The fields on the northern side of the boundary belong to the Township of Woodford and form part of the lands of Upper Swinseye Farm, which according to the tithe apportionment appears to have operated as a mixed farm in the mid-nineteenth century. They are generally of an irregular pattern consistent with piecemeal enclosure during the medieval period. The fields to the south, within the Township of Adlington are typically larger and demonstrate a more semi-regular appearance associated with post-medieval enclosure.
- 6.2.7 The earliest available OS map for the area was surveyed between 1871 and 1872 and depicts the boundary as being partially tree-lined (Plate 82). A rectangular pond is depicted to the north of its south-western end and a dotted line, accompanied by the notation 3ft RH denotes it as a parish or township boundary.



*Plate 82: Cheshire XXVIII (includes: Hazel Grove and Bramhall; Mottram St Andrew; Prestbury; Wilmslow.) Surveyed: 1871 to 1872, Published: 1882*

6.2.8 The boundary is unchanged on the 1896 OS map but the land to its south is noted as an 11-acre field in the landholding of Lostock Hall Farm, although there are no substantial alterations to the surrounding area (Plate 83). Despite the urban development of the wider area, no further significant alterations are recorded to the boundary or within its immediate vicinity until an aerial image of 1945 depicts what appears to be a subdivision of the field to the south with a new boundary established at its western end (Plate 84). This image is also the first to show the airfield at Woodford, which has now been established immediately to the south. The new field boundary is not depicted on maps until the 1:2500 OS of 1974, by which time further subdivision has occurred at this end of the field. At present the boundary also defines the border between Cheshire East and Metropolitan Borough of Stockport (Plate 85).



*Plate 83: Cheshire XXVIII.4 (Adlington; Hazel Grove and Bramhall; Poynton with Worth) Revised: 1896, Published: 1897*



*Plate 84: Aerial photograph, circa 1945 (Google Earth 2021)*





*Plate 85: Aerial photograph, 2016 (Google Earth 2021)*

- 6.2.9 **Description:** A linear boundary ditch, extending south-west from Lostock Hall Farm and forming part of a township boundary between Poynton with Worth, Woodford and Adlington. The ditch is approximately 1-1.5m in depth, 4m wide and has a slight bank on the northern side, 0.3m high by 1m wide. It extends for a length of 340m before turning to the south. The ditch is lined to the south by mature oak trees, some of which show characteristic signs of having originally been laid as a hedge and has a vegetated base.
- 6.2.10 **Conclusion:** The specific age of the boundary is difficult to determine, although it predates the reorganisation of the parish system during the 1860s, and therefore, plausibly dates to before the twelfth century, by which time the extents of most of the countries parishes had been established (Rackham 2000, 19). Given its proximity to, and association with, Lostock Hall Farm we can hypothesise it has formed part of Lostock Hall's estate for a considerable time, and may have played a role in the management of the earlier hall's surrounding moat. Notably, it defines the boundary between the historically poor-quality sandy loams to the south and the loamy clays to the north that naturally supported pasture. The administrative importance of the boundary evidently ensured its maintenance as demonstrated by the remnants of hedge laying.
- 6.2.11 **Significance:** The significance of Asset **27** lies in its potential contribution to our understanding of land division, political organisation and agriculture in the Saxon and Medieval periods. Its proximity and relationship to the hypothesised moated enclosure may lend further significance to the asset as a water management feature.



*Plate 86: Field Boundary, facing south-west, with 1m scale*



*Plate 87: Mature Oaks lining the southern edge of the ditch, facing north-west with 1m scale*



*Plate 88: Ditch, facing north with 1m scale*

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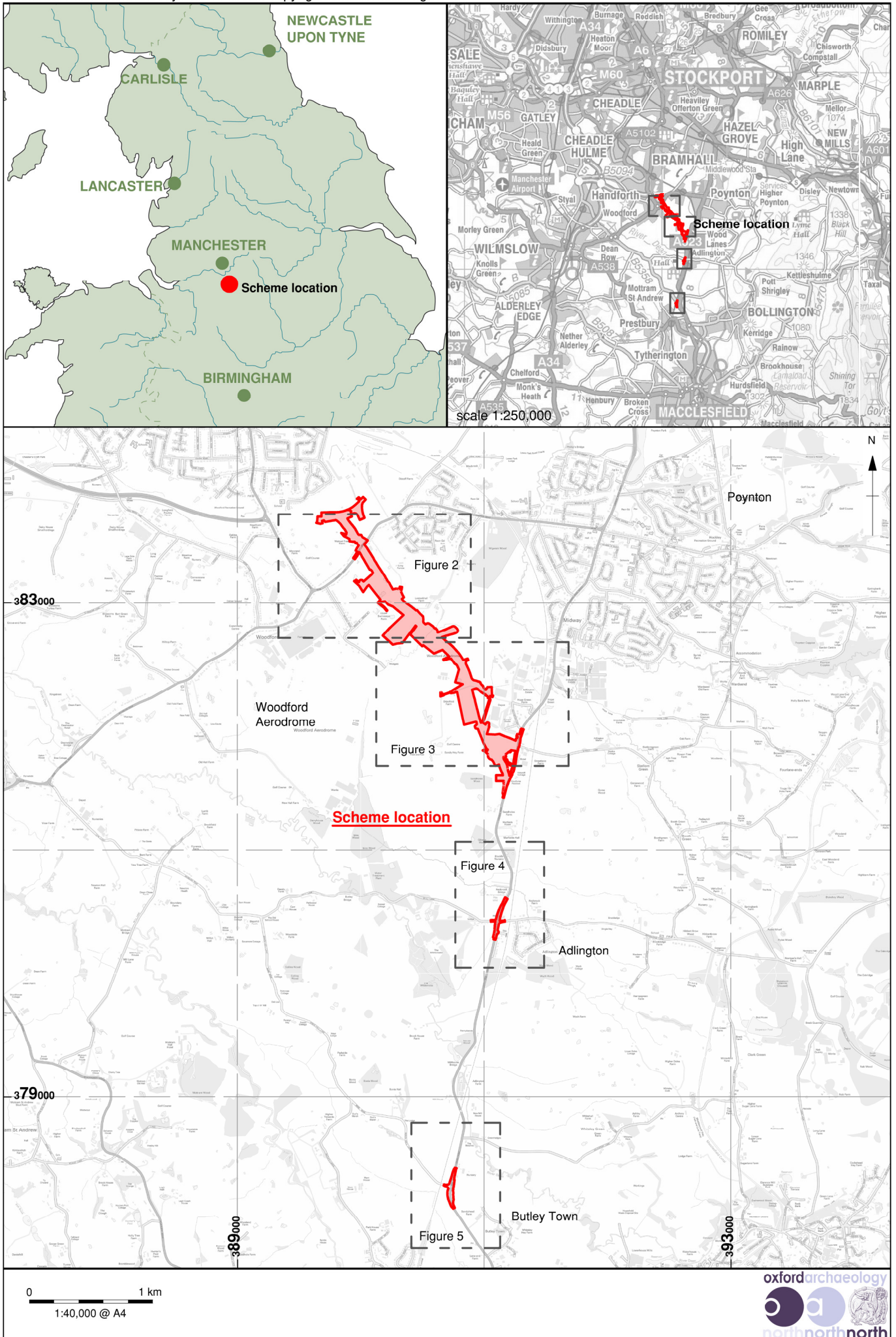
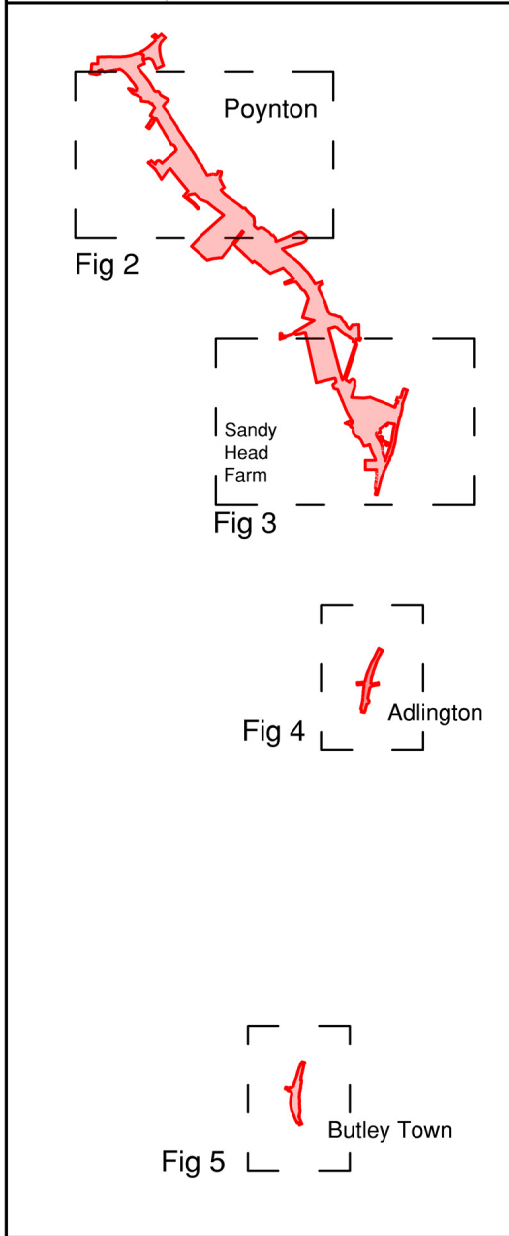
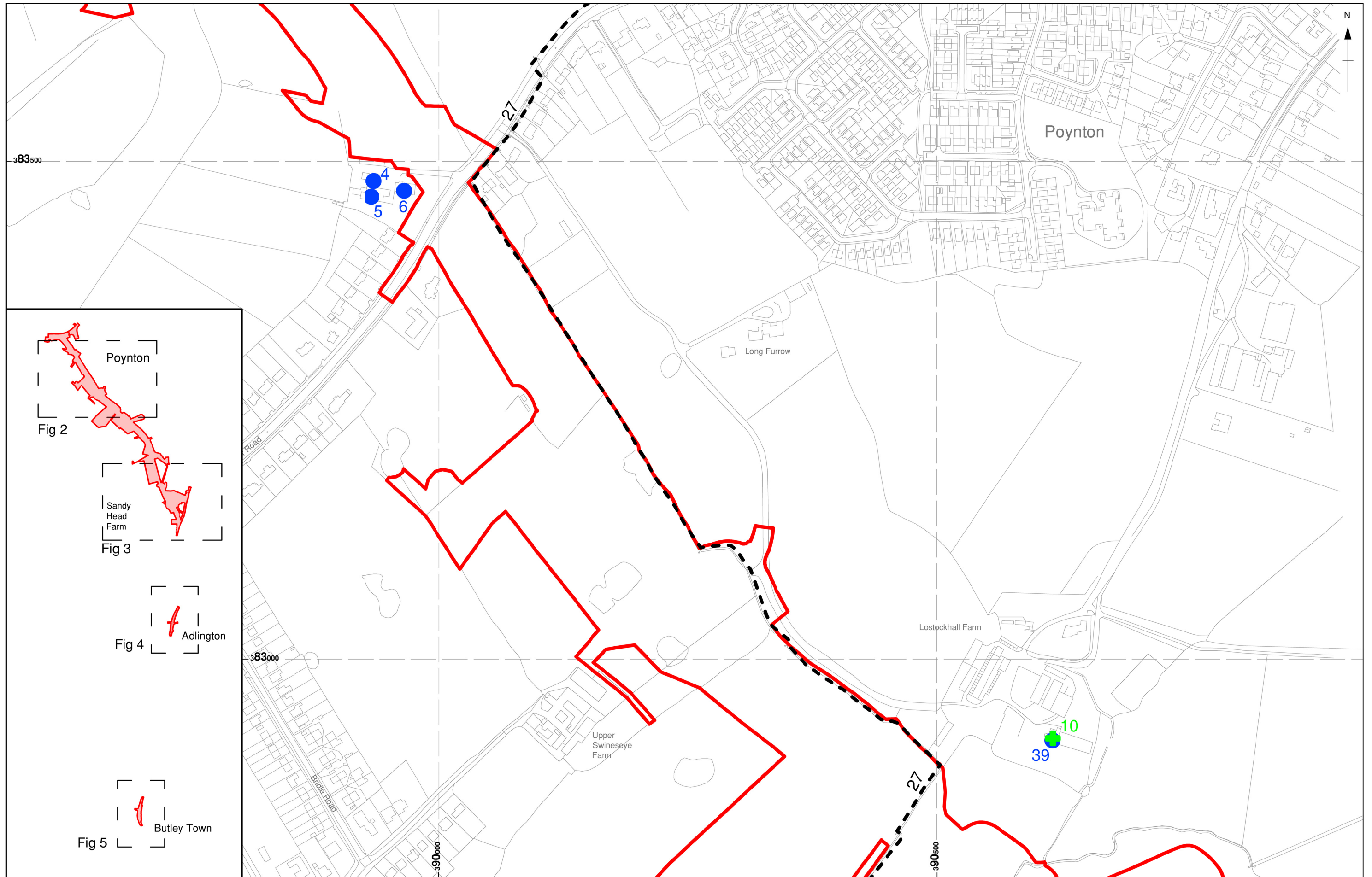
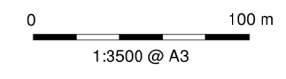


Figure 1: Site location

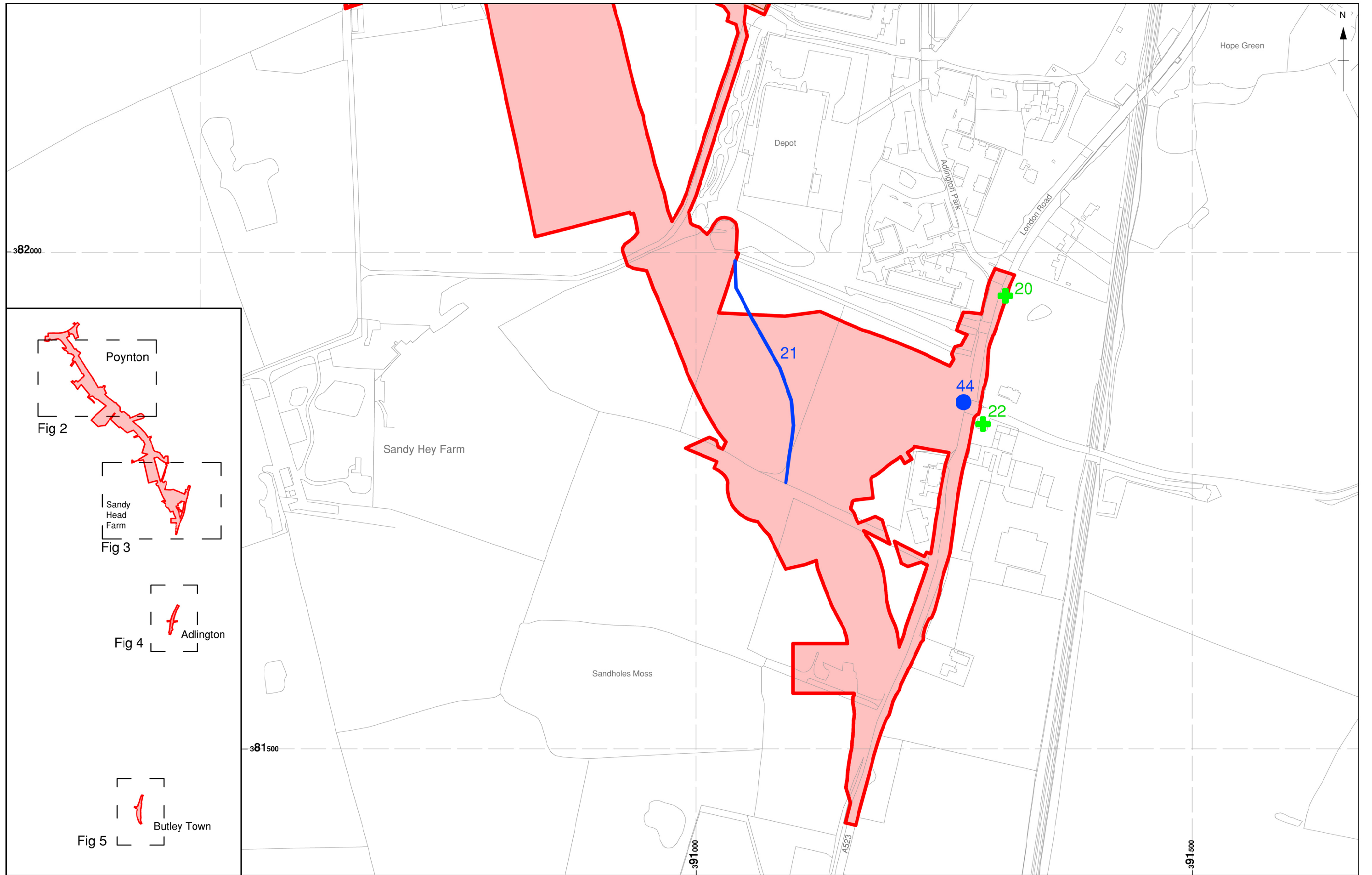


- Scheme Boundary
- Assets
- + Listed Assets
- Parish Boundary



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Figure 2: Location of assets (Poynton)



- Scheme Boundary
- Assets
- + Listed Assets

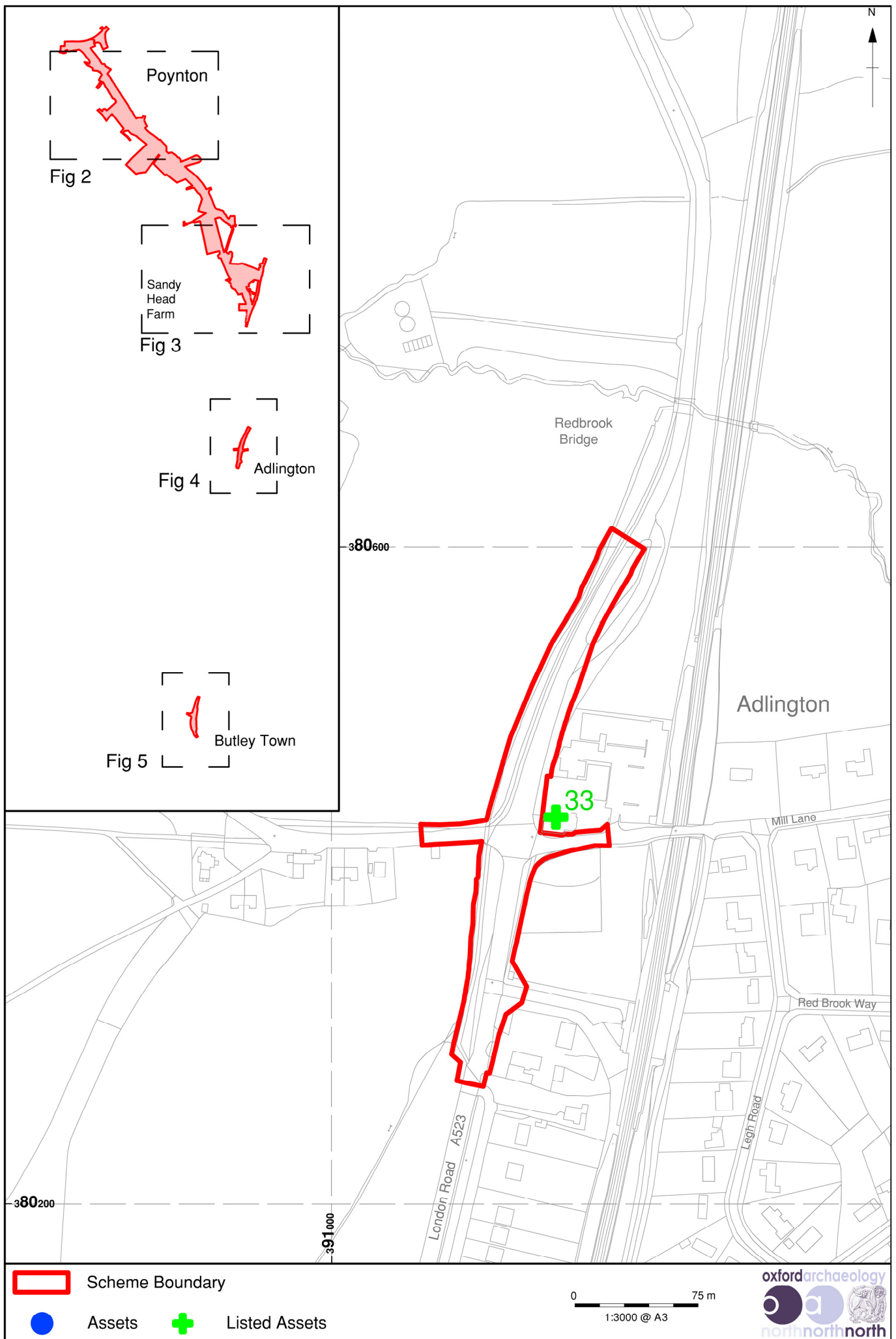
0 100 m  
1:3500 @ A3



Figure 3: Location of assets (Sandy Hey Farm)

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Figure 4: Location of assets (Adlington)

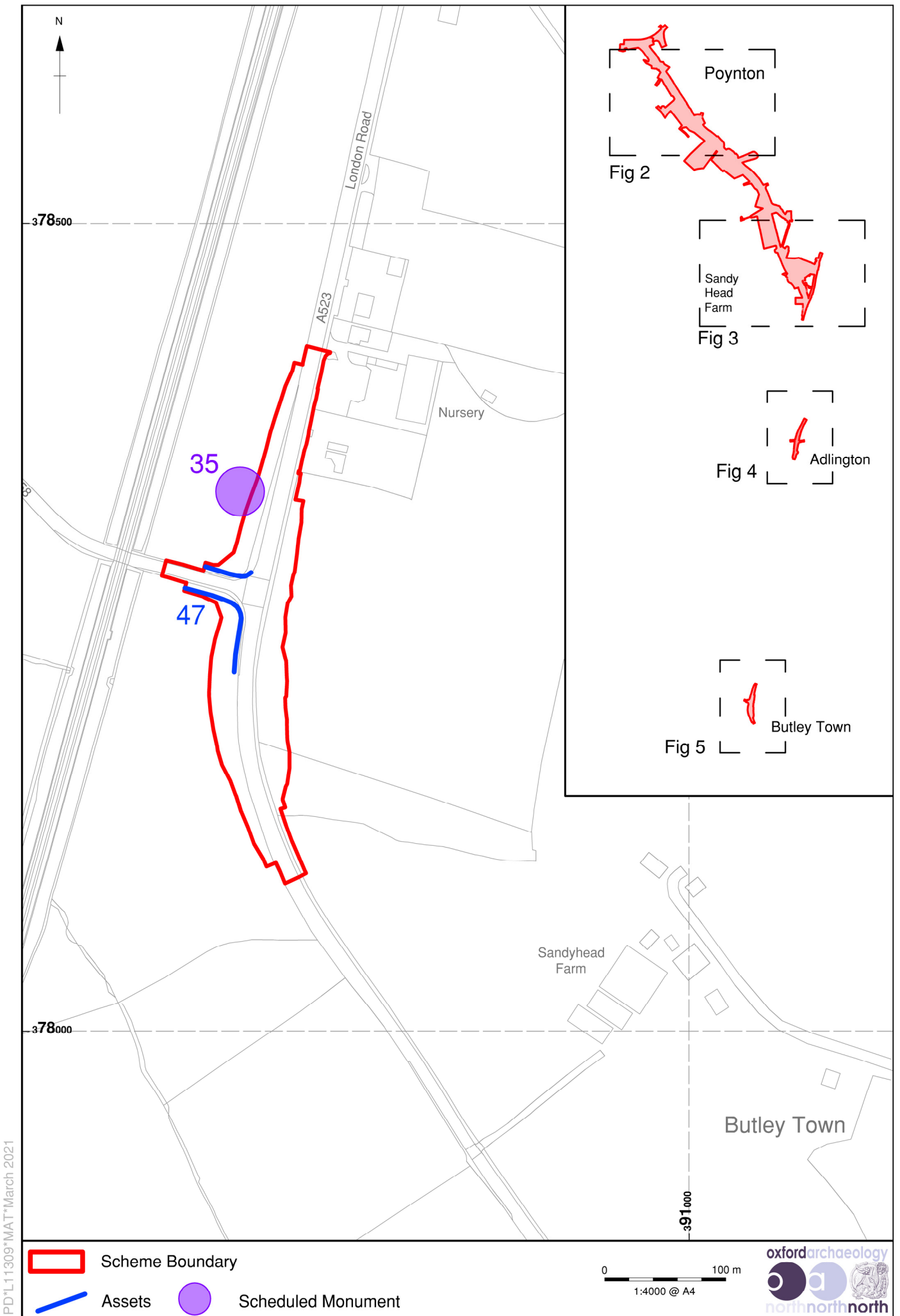
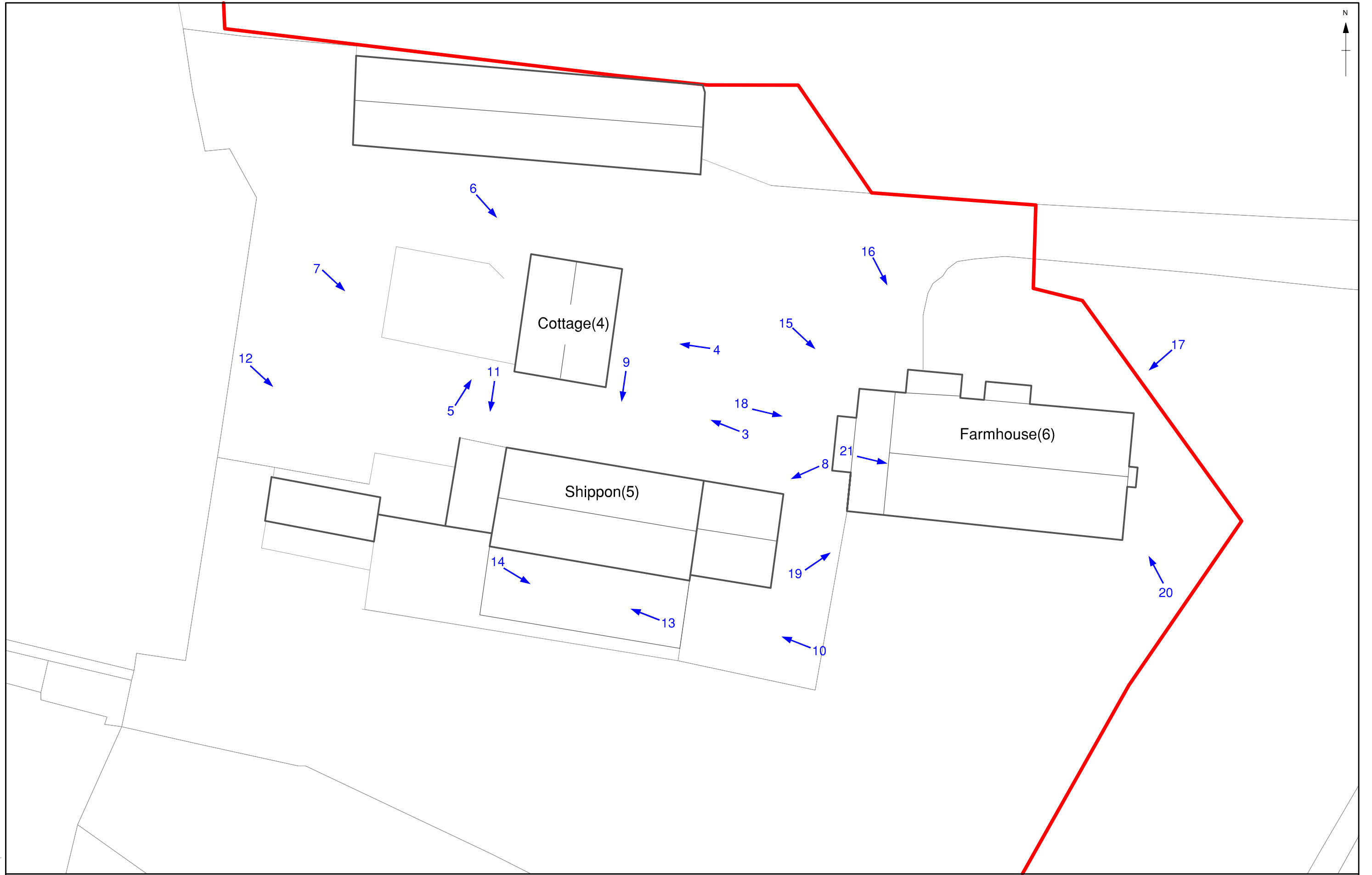




Figure 5: Location of assets (Butley Town)



 Scheme Boundary

 Photographic Location and Number

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1:1000 @ A3

Figure 6: External photographic locations for Walnut Farm complex (Assets 4, 5 and 6)

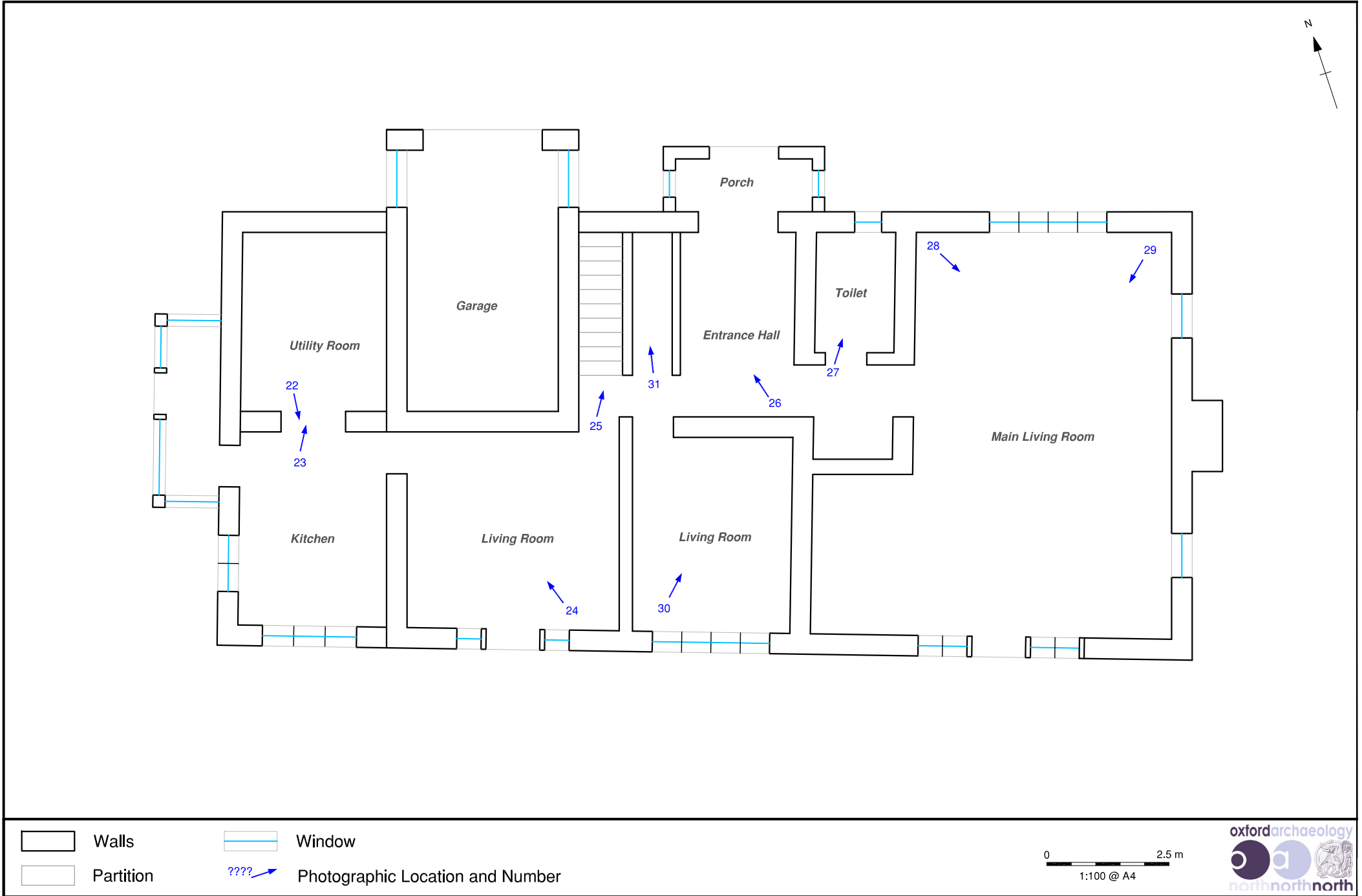
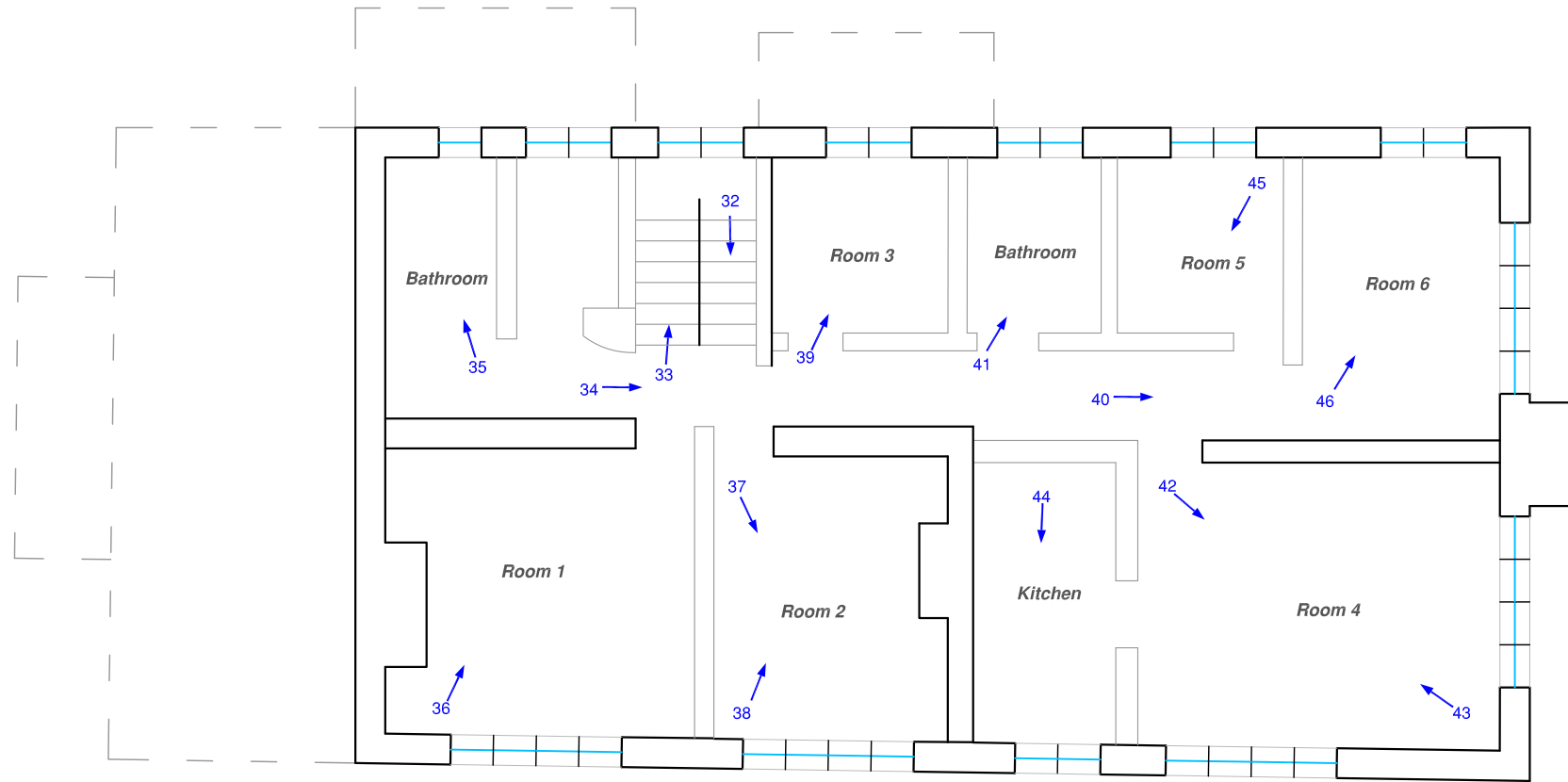






Figure 7: Ground-floor plan of Walnut Tree Farm



-  Walls
-  Partitions
-  Window
-  Photographic Location and Number

0 2.5 m  
1:100 @ A4



Figure 8: First-floor plan of Walnut Tree Farm



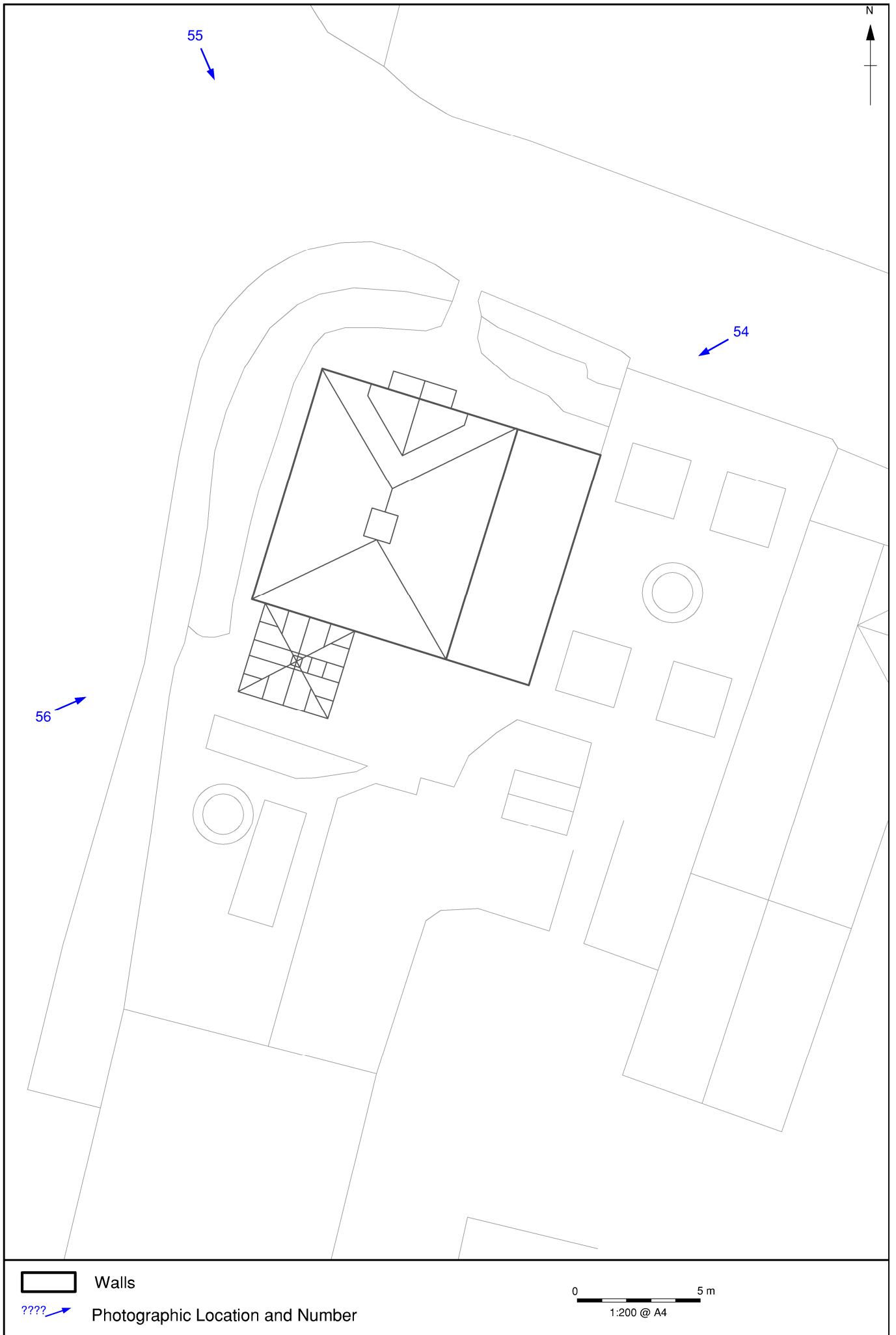


Figure 10: Photographic locations of Street Lane Farmhouse (Asset 22)

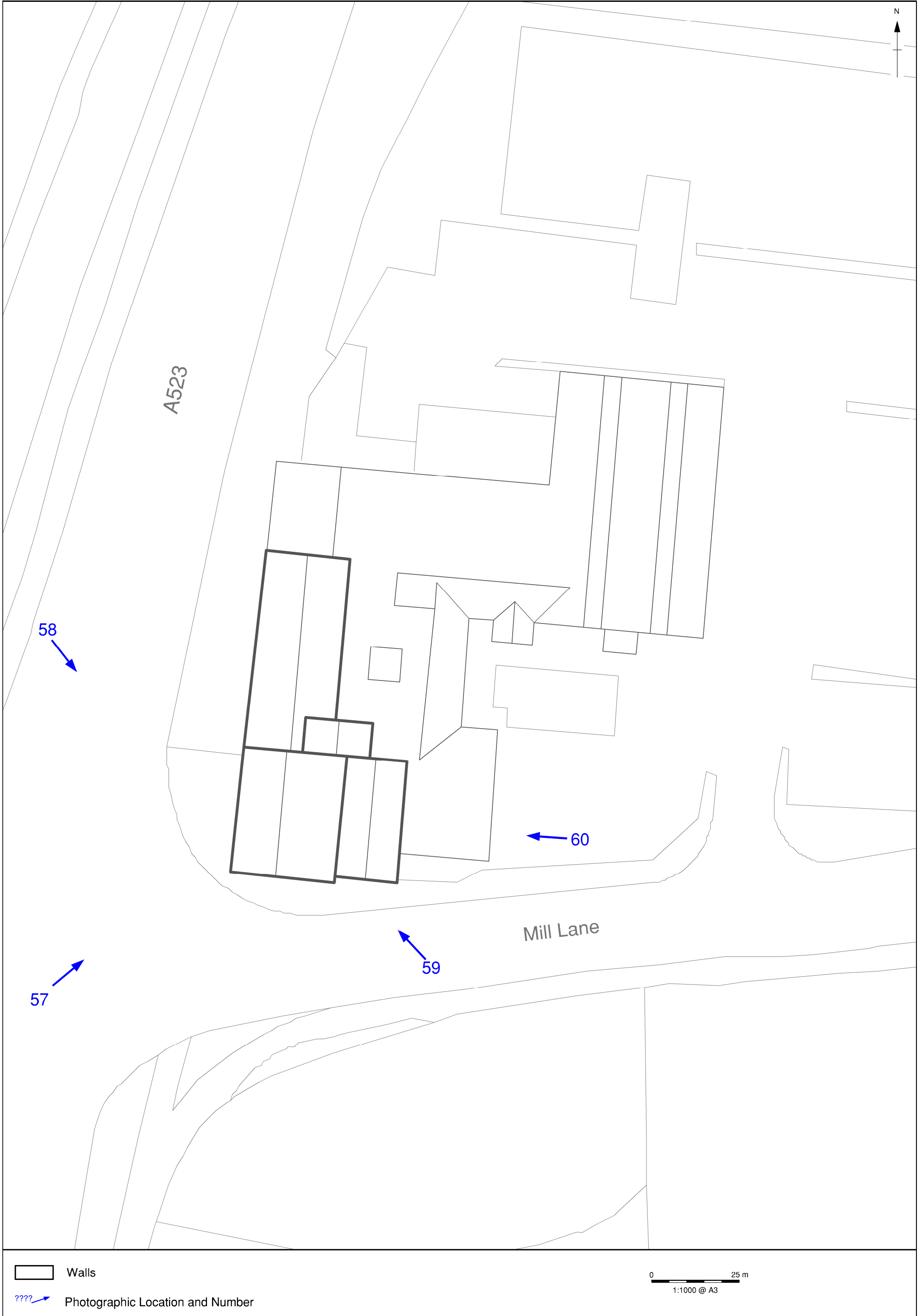


Figure 11: Photographic locations of Legh Arms Public House (Asset 33)



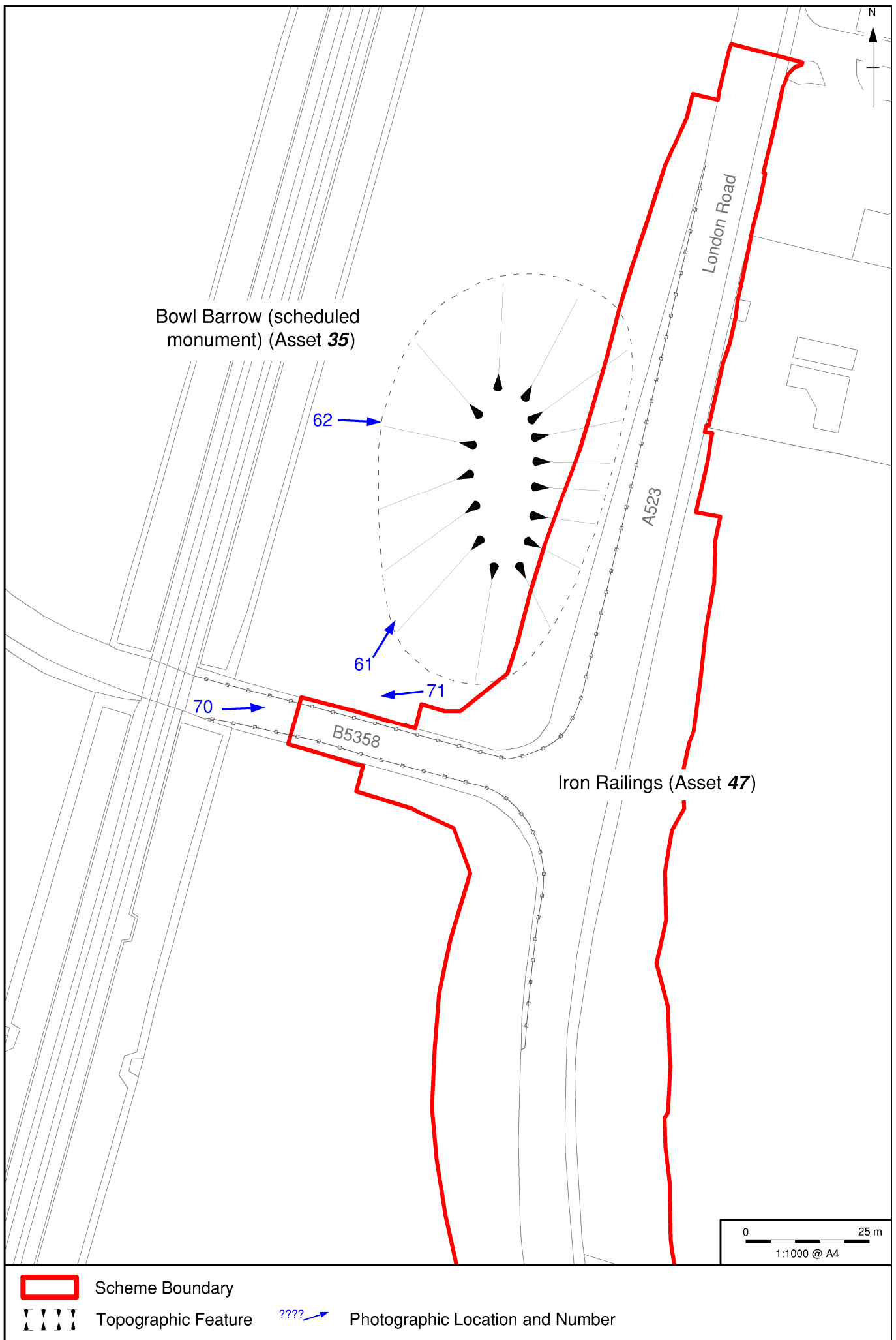
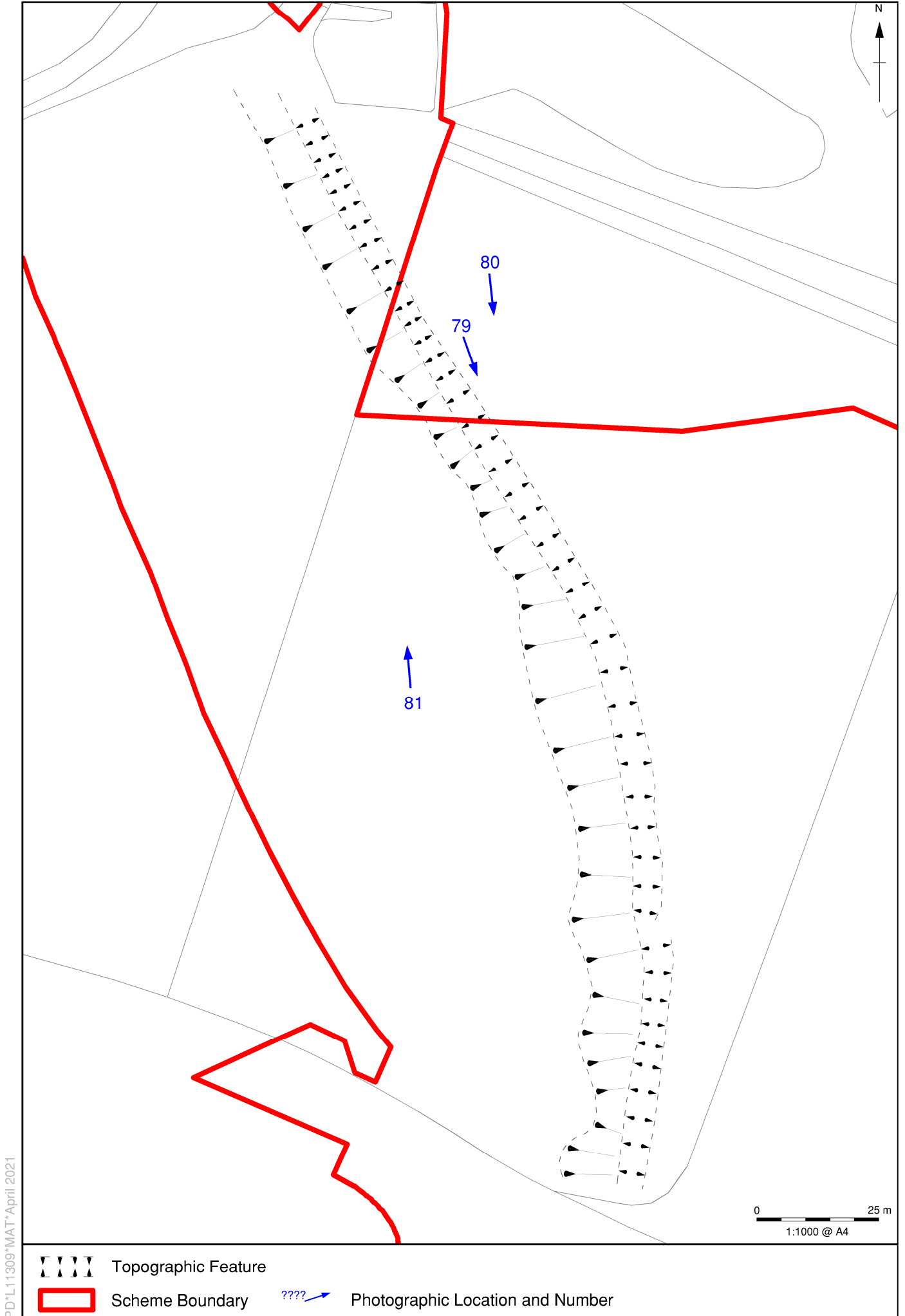


Figure 12: Topographic detail and photographic locations, Bowl Barrow (scheduled monument) (Asset 35), and Iron Railings (Asset 47)



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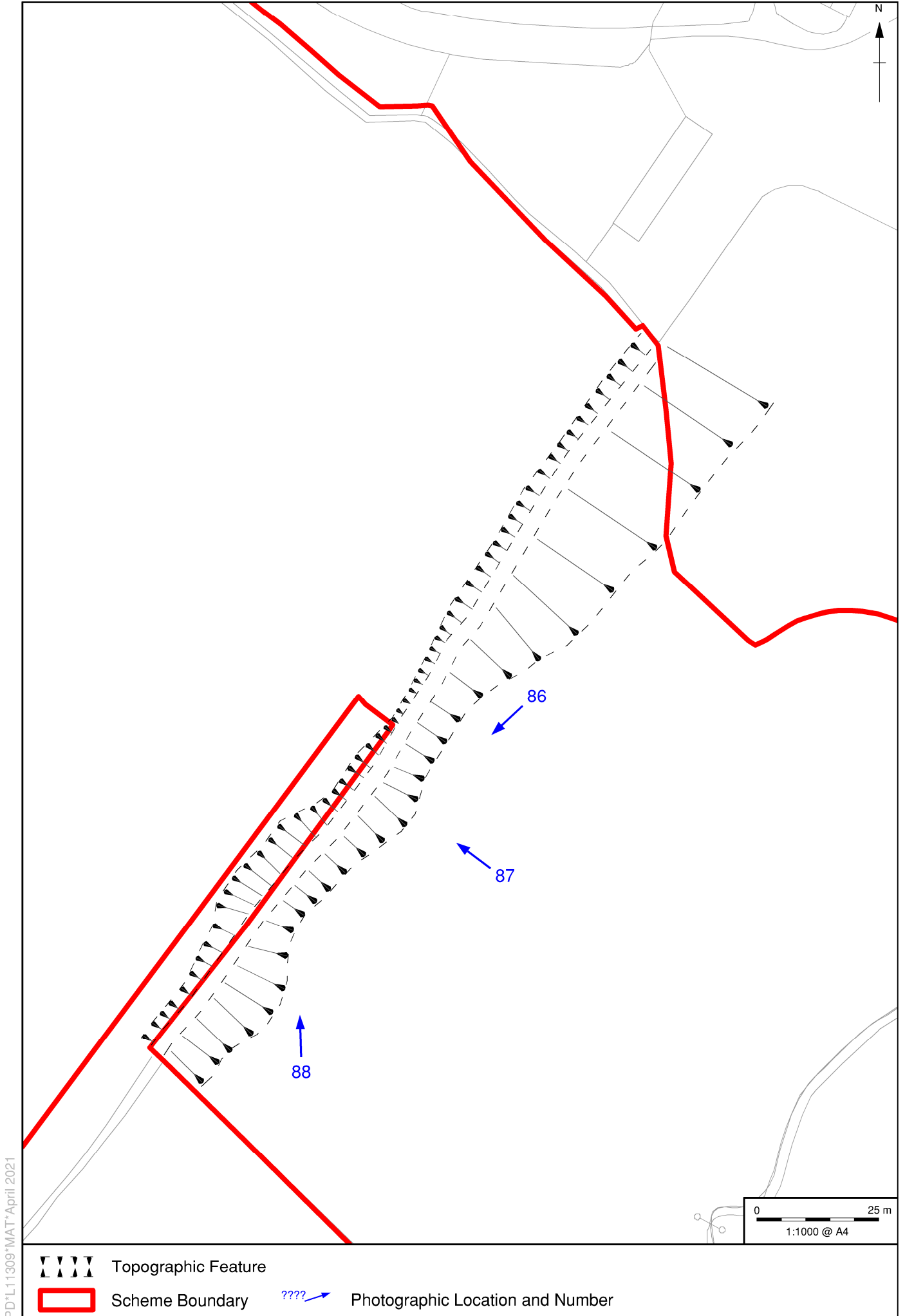
-  Topographic Feature
-  Scheme Boundary
-  Photographic Location and Number

Figure 13: Topographic detail and photographic locations, Field Boundary Earthwork (Asset 21)



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Figure 14: Topographic detail and photographic locations, Field Boundary (Asset 27)



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