

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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WYAS

**Little Houghton Bridge
Little Houghton
South Yorkshire**

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

February 2010

Report No. 2022

CLIENT

Environment Agency

**Little Houghton Bridge
Little Houghton
South Yorkshire**

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by the Environment Agency to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of land to the immediate south-east of Little Houghton Bridge, Little Houghton, South Yorkshire (Figs 1 to 3). The assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed biodiversity project which includes the creation of three new ponds and a ditch (Fig. 4).

Site location and topography

The proposed development area covers an area of 36158m² and is situated to the south-west of Little Houghton, a small hamlet, located *c.* 7km to the east of Barnsley (NGR SE 41861 05174 site centred).

The study area comprises an irregular parcel of flat low lying land (*c.* 22m AOD) and comprises arable land to the west and scrubby marsh to the east. It is bound to the north by arable fields, to the east by the earthworks of the former Midland Railway, to the south by the earthworks of flood defences beyond which is the river Dearne, and to the west by Ings Lane (Figs 2 and 3).

Geology and soils

The underlying solid geology within the proposed development area comprises Mexborough Rock Sandstone, overlain by alluvial (clay and silt) superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2007). The soils are recorded as river alluvium of the Conway Association (8111b), comprising deep stoneless fine silty clays which are at risk of flooding (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

2 Methodology and Sources

The following sources of information have been consulted in order to meet the requirements of the desk-based assessment and are in line with guidelines laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

Archaeological archives and databases

Information on previous archaeological finds and investigations within the study area was obtained from the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record and from the Archaeology, Data Service website (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>). The South Yorkshire Archives, Sheffield, and Barnsley Archives and Local Studies Library were consulted for historic maps and plans, antiquarian histories and other relevant documentary sources. Aerial photographs of the study area have been acquired from the National Monuments Record Office, Swindon and a list of photographs examined is presented in Appendix 1.

Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments

Details of Listed Buildings were obtained from the South Yorkshire SMR and English Heritage's 'Images of England' website (www.imagesofengland.org.uk) and 'Listed Buildings Online' (<http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk>). Information on Scheduled Monuments was obtained from the South Yorkshire SMR and the National Monument Record Office.

Published and unpublished sources

A range of published and unpublished material has been researched and consulted. This includes academic articles together with general sources on the area and its wider archaeological and historical background. These are listed in the bibliography.

Geological and soil surveys

Information on the underlying geology and soils within the study area was taken from data collected by the British Geological Survey (2007) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983).

Walkover survey

A walkover survey was undertaken on the 17th January 2010 in order to assess the survival of previously recorded and documented features, to identify any further archaeological sites visible on the ground and to determine the potential for any future archaeological investigations (Plates 1-6). The site was noticeably waterlogged, following the thawing of heavy snow.

3 The Study Area

Identified archaeological sites, buildings and features

A total of 28 archaeological sites, features and buildings have been identified within the study area. These are discussed below and have been catalogued in Section 4.

Designated sites and areas

The study area contains one Scheduled Monument (**5**) and eleven Listed Buildings (**A to J**). No Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas lie within the study area (<http://www.magic.gov.uk>).

Previous archaeological investigations

There have been a number of archaeological investigations undertaken within the study area.

To the north, a desk-based assessment was undertaken by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service to advise on the proposed application of coal extraction at Houghton Main colliery. No features of archaeological interest were identified within the proposed coal extraction

area, although an area immediately adjacent to the study area contained cropmarks (PIN 3034; Atkinson 1995). Subsequently, a gradiometer survey and watching brief were undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS. The gradiometer survey revealed possible infilled ditches and ridge and furrow (Nicholls 1997). The watching brief confirmed the presence of these features, which included a possible segmented linear ditch(es), ridge and furrow and modern disturbance (Hurn 1998). The features revealed were planned, but not excavated, and hence no dating evidence was recovered.

Prior to the proposed construction of a golf course to the north-east of Little Houghton, an aerial photographic survey (Cox and Palmer 1991) and geophysical survey (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1991) were undertaken. The investigations revealed cropmarks representing enclosures and associated field systems of probable Iron Age/Roman date, with clear geophysical responses being obtained over the crop mark areas. These indicated that archaeological deposits survived *in situ* in this area.

Building recording was undertaken at Low Farm, Edderthorpe by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (Dennison and Richardson 2003), where a late 16th to 17th-century farm and ancillary structures were recorded (1). To the north-west of the development area, Adrian Siswick recorded a post-medieval iron and steel bridge, prior to its demolition to make way for the Cudworth Bypass (Park Spring Road). The bridge had formerly carried Ings Lane over the Midland Railway (Siswick 1998; (15)). A building recording survey has also been undertaken of Colliery Farm Barn (24) by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service in 1982 prior to its restoration.

To the south east of the site two geophysical surveys have been undertaken, to the east and west of Rotherham Road (Boucher 1992 (PIN 4105) and 1994 (28)). The 1994 survey identified linear ditches which may be associated with a system of land division identified in the 1992 survey, in addition to discrete anomalies. Subsequent excavation of the area to the west of Rotherham Road in 1994 (28) revealed ditches of a pre-medieval date, probably forming part of a larger field system. Coal pits and associated linear gullies were identified truncating the vestiges of medieval furrows (Wright 1994).

Within Darfield, an archaeological training excavation was undertaken by Sheffield University at Holly House (21). A formal report on the investigations is still to be produced, however, notes held at South Yorkshire Archaeological Services, indicate that the extant foundations of a building of post-medieval date were discovered to the east of the house.

Archaeological background, sites and features

Prehistoric periods (c. 10,000 – AD 43)

The earliest human activity within northern Britain probably followed the retreat of the ice sheets around 10,000 BC, as small nomadic groups gradually moved north with the improving climate. Evidence for human activity in the Palaeolithic period is sparse in South

Yorkshire and no evidence for Palaeolithic activity has been identified in the vicinity of the study area.

The post-glacial landscape largely comprised treeless tundra, but by the early Mesolithic period, about 7600 BC, this gave way to woodland as the climate improved. Such environmental change increased the potential for human activity as the spread of woodland led to the expansion in animal and plant resources. The nomadic nature of the Mesolithic groups mean that they left few remains and archaeological evidence for this period is largely limited to finds of flint implements (Manby 2003), such as the Mesolithic flint scatters to the west of the study area in Ardsley (e.g. SE 3708 0332, NMR_NATINV-52444 and SE 3939 0551 NMR_NATINV-52415).

The Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods are traditionally seen as marking the introduction of farming, as nomadic hunter-gatherer subsistence gave way to agriculture and the domestication of animals. The population probably remained semi-nomadic throughout this period however, and evidence for sites is typically represented by scatters of flints, pottery and burnt stone (Manby *et al.* 2003). The Neolithic and early Bronze Ages are also characterised by the introduction of large ceremonial and funerary monuments (Manby *et al.* 2003). Although no evidence for human activity in the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods have been recorded in the study area, evidence of local Bronze Age activity includes the recovery of a bronze looped palstave from the bank of the river Dearne, at Bolton on Dearne *c.* 4.4m to the south-east (SE 4584 0202, NMR_NATINV-620892) and a Bronze Age perforated hammer was recovered from Clayton *c.* 4km to the north-east (SE 46 07, NMR_NATINV-54051).

Iron Age and Roman period

The typical settlement pattern in Yorkshire by the Iron Age was of rural farmsteads surrounded by field systems and enclosures, linked together by a series of trackways (Haselgrove 1999). Iron Age activity may be attested by the enclosures and field systems identified by aerial photographs to the east (**26**) and north-east (**27**) of the development area. Similar landscapes have been identified to east of the study site at Goldthorpe (SE 4604, EHNMR-1234321).

By the later Iron Age period, the study area is thought to have been located within the territory controlled by the Brigantes, who were initially allied to the Romans under their Queen Cartimandua. In AD 68, Cartimandua was deposed and the Romans invaded the territory. By AD 72, the area was under the full control of the Romans. Numerous forts, linked together by a network of roads were established after AD 72 throughout the region.

Evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity of the development area include three hoards of coins; two of which are contained within the study area (**2** and **7**), with the third just to the south-west (PIN 596). The hoards were all contained within ceramic urns and comprised 981 silver coins and 541 copper coins (Hey 1979). The close proximity of these coin hoards may

indicate the location of a high status settlement in the vicinity. Alternatively, the hoards may have been deposited at a strategic point from a Roman road. It has been tentatively suggested, on place name evidence, that a Roman road may have past through the study area, linking the fort at Templeborough to north of the river Don, extending from Sheffield towards the hamlet of Street (near Wentworth) and past Darfield to Street Lane in Little Houghton (Hey 1979).

The upper stone of a beehive quern (PIN 0498) was recovered during open-cast mining operations from Cat Hill Crossroads, north of Doncaster Road, Darfield (c. 1.3km from the proposed development area). The workmen reportedly observed the lower stone, although this was not retained (<https://pastscapes.english-heritage.org.uk>). Quernstones were used for grinding corn and are a frequent find on Iron Age and Roman domestic sites.

It is also possible that the cropmark features discussed above (2 and 7) may have their origins or continued in use into the Roman period. The faint traces of earthworks (6) that Hunter (1831) described between Darfield and Middlewood are postulated as Roman, a supposition strengthened by the coin hoard retrieved from this area (7). Unfortunately no recent evidence has been identified to confirm the presence of earthworks in this area.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods (AD 410 to c. 1500)

There is little archaeological evidence for settlement in South Yorkshire during the post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. After the withdrawal of the Romans much of West and South Yorkshire lay in the kingdom of Elmet, which was conquered by the Northumbrian kingdom in the early 7th century.

Darfield's name is attributed to the Anglo-Saxons with 'Field' describing 'a large area of pasture land' and Dere, 'Deer that roamed the forest' (Marsden 1993). In the Domesday survey, where it is recorded as 'Derewelle', 'Alsi and Chetelber had four carucates of land to be taxed (60-120 acres); Alsi has now there two ploughs and five villiens (slaves) and ten Bordars (workman)' (Clarney n.d). Records also exist of an 8th-century church in Darfield (Marsden 1993) and a late 8th to early 9th-century cross (3) and an 8th-century sculptural fragment (4), which are included within the fabric of All Saints Church, may relate to this earlier structure. No church, however, is recorded for Darfield in the Domesday survey.

Relatively little is known about Darfield from the Domesday survey, although a reference does exist to a charter, regarding the Monks of Pontefract and dated to 1090, that there was a church at Darfield (Mann 1966). The tower of All Saints Church (E) is of 11th to 12th-century date, with the remainder of the fabric of 14th and 15th-century date. Within the churchyard, a cross of probable medieval date survives which has been inserted onto a shaft of a later sundial. This cross is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (5; SAM 23397).

It is probable that Darfield existed throughout the medieval period as a small agricultural town (Marsden 1993), surrounded by open fields, meadow and riverside pasture (Jones 2000). Small-scale industry is attested by a cornmill situated on the river Dearne near Darfield Bridge. This mill may have 13th-century origins, demonstrated by a reference of

1200 where the foundation of Monk Bretton Priory included....'the mill at Millhouses' (Umpleby 2000). Darfield would have served traffic using the salt trail from Cheshire to Doncaster which used an established crossing over the river Dearne at Darfield Bridge (Hey 1979; Clarney n.d). This route is referred to by Hey as 'an ancient thoroughfare' and would have been used to transport salt to the medieval market towns. Salt was an important commodity used in the preservation and preparation of food (Hey 1979).

Middlewood Hall (**J**), situated to the north of Darfield and immediately to the south of the development area may have been occupied from the 14th century, although Hunter (1831) indicates that it was an inconsiderable house until the 18th century.

Little Houghton is recorded during the Saxon period as a manor, with Osul being the last Saxon Lord (Hunter 1831; Atkinson 1995), By the Domesday survey, it is recorded as having been returned to waste with the value fallen from twenty shillings to four, with two acres of meadow and a wood. Roger De Busli is recorded as the new Norman Lord (Hunter 1831; Atkinson 1995). As with Darfield, little is known from the time of the Domesday survey and it is likely that it existed as a small agricultural hamlet. A cross (**20**) situated on Middlecliffe Lane may have medieval origins and it is accompanied by a modern plaque stating it was a 'meeting place where farmers and merchants used to barter their wares over 200 years ago'. A Manor House has been identified from cartographic records, which once stood at the corner of Middlecliffe Lane and Chapel Lane and possibly dated to the medieval period (Atkinson 1995).

Post-medieval and modern period (c. 1500 to present)

It is likely that a similar layout of Little Houghton and Darfield continued into the early post-medieval period, although the majority of historic buildings identified within the study are attributed to this period. Most of these buildings are associated with the agricultural use of the landscape and include Low Farm (**1**, 16th century), and Beech House farmhouse (**22**, 17th century) and Little Houghton Mill (**8**) a corn mill, situated on the river Dearne upstream of the development area which may date to the late 16th century.

In Darfield, a coach house (Holly House) was constructed in the 17th century, at the junction of the main thoroughfare of the town. Earlier medieval pottery found during excavations in the vicinity of the house may indicate a medieval antecedent. Holly House was extended in the early 18th century when the salt trail from Cheshire to Doncaster was upgraded to a Turnpike Road (now the A635; Clarney n.d).

Middlewood Hall (**J**), situated to the immediate south of the development area and north of Darfield, is considered to be of 18th-century date, although earlier medieval stonework is visible in the lower course of the wall. The house was enlarged and/or rebuilt when it came into the ownership of George Walker in the late 18th century.

Comparison of the earliest mapping for the study area with modern maps shows that the arable land between Darfield and Little Houghton has altered little over 200 years. Jeffrey's

map of 1775 shows Houghton Parva (Little Houghton), Darfield and Middlewood Wood Hall with reference to its owner, T. Walker (Fig. 5). A 1776 map showing the township of Little Houghton (Fig. 6), illustrates the small linear settlement of Little Houghton extending along Middlecliffe Lane, with Little Houghton Mill evident by the surrounding field names (e.g. Mill Field). Tithe maps, dating to 1839, have been obtained for both Little Houghton and Darfield (Figs 7 and 8). Very little change is evident in the Little Houghton landscape, from 1776, with the settlement being almost identical and only minor changes to field boundaries observed. Little Houghton Bridge is marked but not labelled. The Tithe map of Darfield (1839) shows the small nucleated settlement, extending to the west of the church around the junction of School Street and Church Street. To the east, a further arrangement of buildings are clustered around Darfield Mill and along the main turnpike road into Darfield. Middlewood Hall is shown to the north. The proposed route of the Midland Railway is shown on both maps.

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 (Fig. 9) demonstrates that little had changed in Little Houghton township since 1776, with the road system and fields being almost identical. The major addition is the Midland Railway extending from the east of Darfield and passing to the west of Little Houghton, close to Little Houghton Mill. Much of the environs of the river Dearne are labelled as subject to flooding.

By 1906 (Fig. 10, not fully illustrated), the impact of industrialisation on the area is evident, with both Houghton Main (1861) and Dearne Valley (1875) collieries firmly established around the south and west of Little Houghton, although the hamlet remains relatively unchanged. It is noteworthy that Little Houghton Mill is now referred to as Mill House.

The growth of both Darfield, and to the lesser extent Little Houghton is evident on the 1938 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 12), with houses and streets being established to the north (towards Middlewood Park) and west of Darfield (around Snape Hill). The new housing was terraced and was constructed to house the workers of the nearby mines (Marsden 1993). By 1938, housing had been created to the east of the study area, creating the hamlet of Middlecliffe. The area between the industrialised settlements of Darfield and Little Houghton (including the development area) remain relatively unchanged from the first edition mapping.

4 Catalogue of Archaeological Sites and Buildings

Archaeological features

Catalogue entries have been ordered geographically from west to east, and given a numerical identifier, with their locations shown on Fig. 2. The catalogue entry includes a National Grid Reference (NGR) number. Where an archaeological feature has an associated 'PIN' number the information has been obtained from the South Yorkshire SMR. All further information is referenced in the bibliography.

1. Low Farm Farmhouse PIN 01548 SE 4116 0580

The buildings at Low Farm were subject to building recording by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services in 2003. This study identified and recorded the remains of a farmhouse and ancillary structures.

The farmhouse was demolished to ground level in 1980, although a comprehensive photographic records was made of the house prior to its demolition, showing a two-cell linear plan house. Features recorded within the fabric of the house, principally a fireplace and plaster overmantle, were of late 16th-century form and may indicate the structure was of this date. An *ex-situ* date stone 1633, however, may indicate a slightly later date of construction. This building has been compared to middle yeomanry houses seen in West Yorkshire (Dennison and Richardson 2003).

Development of the site in the later 18th century is evidenced by a threshing barn and stables of this date; the earliest extant structures. Further buildings were added in the early and mid-19th century including a pigsty with associated poultry loft and a possible carthouse creating a typical quadrangular farm layout (Dennison and Richardson 2003).

2. Coin Hoard PIN 0596 SE 4135 0482

A hoard of 481 Roman coins was recovered during the excavation of a manhole on North Street, Darfield. It is unclear if the coins were recovered from Number 63 or 67 North Street. The coins were retrieved at a depth of *c.* 0.3m and were contained within a calcite gritted pot. All the coins were Roman denarii dating to the late 1st century BC to the first half of the 3rd century AD apart from a double denarius or antoninianus of Caracalla (AD 198-217). The coins are in fine condition and indicate deposition in around AD 250
http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/search/fr.cfm?rcn=NMR_NATINV-54125.

3. Sculptural Fragment PIN 03453 SE 419 043

A late 8th to early 9th-century cross shaft fragment is built into the internal face of the south wall at All Saints, Church, Darfield.

4. Sculptural Fragment PIN 03452 SE 419 043

An 8th-century sculptural fragment is built into the internal south wall of the tower of All Saints Church, Darfield. The fragment may be part of a grave slab.

5. Sculptural Fragment: PIN 00372
Cross

SE 41880 04308

Listed Building Ref.6/15 LBS/IoE 333643

The remains of a cross of probable medieval date are situated *c.* 10m to the south of the porch of All Saints Church, Darfield. A later shaft from a sundial has been inserted into the cross. The cross is Grade II Listed and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 333643.

6. Earthworks

PIN 00598

SE 4191 0478

Reference is made by Hunter (1831) to faint earthworks in the low ground between Darfield and Middlewood and it is stated 'the regularity of their formation, may be supposed to be Roman'. The earthworks were not visible during a visit to the site in 1985 or on aerial photographs of the area. A coin hoard (7) was reportedly recovered from this area. Part of the area has been developed as a housing estate.

http://pastscape.englishheritage.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=54142.

7. Coin hoard

PIN 00598

SE 4191 0478 (centred)

The discovery of a hoard of coins on 30th July 1696 was recorded in the diary of Abraham da la Pryme (Wilkinson n.d.). The coins were contained within an urn and may be associated with earthworks apparently observed in this area (6).

8. Little Houghton Mill

SE 4192 0566

Little Houghton Mill may have origins in the late 16th century when a licence granted to Sir Henry Knyvet included a water mill in the manor of Great Houghton. There are late 17th and 18th-century references to the corn mill. The mill is shown clearly on the 1839 map of Little Houghton. By 1890 subsidence caused by mining activities at Houghton Main Colliery damaged the mill to such an extent as to render it unusable. By 1904 two buildings are recorded on mapping of the area as Mill Farm. Photographs from 1950 show the mill partially demolished.

Excavation by the owner of Mill House Farm in 1970 revealed the partial remains of a weir, head race, sluice, wheel-pit, wheel, mill building and tail race. Extant remains include low walls of the mill building and a wheel-house, a lined wheel pit and parts of a wheel (Umbley 2000). The mill is recorded as HSY7413 (Lines *et al.* 2008)

9. Colliery

PIN 04345

SE 4195 0605

The Houghton Main Colliery was built to work the Barnsley Bed Seam and the first shaft was sunk around 1870. The first two shafts were completed by 1873, with a third shaft sunk in 1924 and completed in 1940. It was owned and operated by the Houghton Main Colliery Company until nationalisation in 1947 (https://pastscape.english-heritage.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id762229). The extant colliery buildings were recorded in the RCHME Architectural Survey: Coal Industry Project in September 1993 and included weighhouses, headgear, winding houses, pit baths, offices and ancillary buildings dating from the late 19th to late 20th century.

All the buildings have been demolished and the site has been levelled and landscaped.

10. Houghton Colliery Railway

SE 4195 0605

The Houghton Colliery Railway operated from Stairfoot to Houghton and was opened in 1892, closing in 1960 (http://pastscape.english-heritage.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=1374635).

11. Dearne Valley Railway

SE 4195 0605

This independent railway opened in 1902 and operated between Brierley Junction and Houghton Colliery Junction. Extensions to the line were completed, Hickleton South Junction in 1905 and Cadeby Colliery Junction in 1906. Other minor junctions opened in 1908 and 1909. Passenger services ceased in 1951, although good services were maintained, with the line being closed in sections in 1964, 1966 and 1972 (http://pastscape.english-heritage.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=1374907).

12. House

PIN 02156

SE S4197 0458

The site of a medieval timber-framed house. It was demolished c. 1968 and is now the Bridge Inn.

13. Darfield Bridge Chapel PIN 00498

SE420 045

A 16th-century reference is made to the final desecration of a medieval chapel at Darfield Bridge.

14. Place name**SE 42036 05471**

Ings Lane runs from the north of Little Houghton Bridge towards Little Houghton. The place name 'Ings' can refer to a meadow or pasture; the land in this area would have been good for meadow, which would have been valuable in the medieval period (HEC Record HSY7278, Lines *et al.* 2008).

15. Bridge**SE 4208 0567**

An iron and steel footbridge was built in the mid-19th century carrying Ings Lane over the former Midland Railway. The bridge was recorded by Adrian Siswick in 1998 prior to being demolished.

**16. Medieval Window PIN 02239
Tracery****SE 4214 0494**

Fragments of 14th to 15th-century window tracery were discovered at the south side of a lane near Middlewood Hall. It has been suggested that these fragments are from the north wall of the north chancel aisle at All Saints Church, Darfield.

17. Colliery**SE 4223 0557**

Dearne Valley Colliery was a surface drift mine sunk in 1901 and closed in 1991. The area has now been landscaped and only the pit entrance remains (<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/historyofdarfield/newpage2.htm>). This site is recorded as HY7411 (Lines *et al.* 2008).

18. Station**SE 423 044**

The site of a railway station on the North Midlands Railway was opened in 1901, when it replaced an earlier station. It closed in 1963 (http://pastscape.english-heritage.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=501258).

19. North Midland Railway**SE 4230 0524 (centred)**

Situated to the east of the development area are earthworks associated with the dismantled North Midlands Railway. The railway was opened in 1840 and linked Derby with Leeds via Masborough (Rotherham). It opened up many limestone quarries and coalfields for exploitation. The sections between Mexborough and Walton, and between Croft and

Warmfield cum Heath have been dismantled (http://pastscape.english-heritage.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=1366071).

20. Medieval Cross PIN 00353 SE 42335 05717

The remains of wayside cross (base only), socket stone and part of a shaft which measures 1m in height survive. It is known locally as 'Buttercross' and is thought to mark the position of the medieval market. It was damaged in 1976 but subsequently repaired.

**21. Holly House Coach PIN 04361 SE 4240 0452
House**

Holly House (Darfield) is a coach house (dating to at least 1681), positioned at the junction of the river Dearne and Doncaster Road, prior to the re-diverting of the river. The house is known to have been extended between 1720 and 1740, when the main Saltersbrook to Doncaster Road became a turnpike. It has extensive outbuildings which were used as a livery stable and sleeping accommodation. Archaeological training excavations were undertaken on extant foundations to the east of the house in 1995 and 1996 by Sheffield University. The investigations exposed building remains of post-medieval date (16th century at the earliest), although the recovery of some earlier medieval pottery raises the possibility of earlier activity at the site.

22. Beech House PIN 01173 SE 4246 0560

Beech House is situated within Little Houghton and comprises a two-storey rectangular farmhouse block with a later brick wing. Mullioned windows within the fabric of the structure indicate the extant structure dates to the later 17th century, although the majority of features appear to be 18th or 19th century in date. There is tentative evidence (re-used beams) to suggest a timber-framed antecedent, perhaps of 13th or 14th-century date. A tie-beam within the roof at the eastern end of the house is carved (with a coat of arms, inscription and the date 1602) and is believed to be a re-used 'marriage beam'.

23. Darfield Corn Mill PIN 04670 SE 42485 04618

Darfield Mill was situated near Darfield Bridge. Records indicate that a mill may have been established at the site from the 13th century. Buildings (probably relating to the early 19th-century use of the site) were extant in the late 1980s although by 1984 these had been demolished. Excavation by the owner of the site for a landscaped garden revealed a wheel-pit, with the remains of a wheel, part of a wall and the end of a culvert.

24. Colliery Farm PIN 01174 SE 4250 0558

Colliery Farm (Little Houghton) is a rectangular block farmhouse of *c.* 18th-century date with recent additions. The roof is of raised cruck construction which is exposed in the attics.

The building was surveyed by SYAS in 1982 prior to its restoration after being derelict for twelve years.

25. Colliery Farm Barn PIN 01172 SE 425 056

Colliery Farm Barn is a timber framed barn which belonged to Beech House Farm (22) and is situated to the west of Colliery Farm.

26. Cropmarks PIN 03033 SE 4278 0519

A small D-shaped enclosure and associated field boundaries are situated in fields to the north-west of Windsor Crescent, Middlecliffe. The cropmarks were identified by D. Riley in 1977 (air photo 1093/32).

27. Cropmarks/Field systems PIN 02331/2500 SE 42816 05531

Aerial photographs have revealed a cropmark complex representing a small curvilinear enclosure (PIN 2500), a D-shaped enclosure and a sub-rectangular enclosure, all contained within an associated field systems (Cox and Palmer 1991). The cropmarks were identified to the north-east of Middlecliffe Lane and the area was subject to a geophysical survey prior to the construction of a proposed gold course (Geophysical Surveys of Bradford 1991).

28. Cultivation marks and bellpits PIN 04531 SE 4285 0468

Geophysical survey undertaken in 1994 by Archaeological Services WYAS identified linear ditches and discrete features. Subsequent excavation of the area in 1994 identified ditches of a pre-medieval date, in addition to coal pits and associated linear gullies. Medieval ridge and furrow was also identified (Boucher 1994, Wright 1994).

Listed Buildings

The Listed Buildings catalogue entries have been ordered geographically from west to east, and given an alphabetical identifier, with their locations shown on Figure 2. The catalogue entry includes a National Grid Reference (NGR) and the Listed Building Reference (e.g. Ref 6/11) and Images of England Reference (e.g. IoE No. 333639).

A. Church Street, Darfield Ref. 6/11 LBS/IOE No. 333639 SE 41661 04316

A late 18th-century house now occupied by Darfield Council is Grade II Listed.

**B. Milepost, Doncaster
Road, Darfield, Ref. 6/26 LBS/IOE 333654 SE 41679 04787**

A late 18th-century sandstone milepost is situated at the junction with Little Houghton Lane. It is Grade II Listed.

**C. Thornhill House,
Church Street, Darfield Ref. 6/12 LBS/IOE 333640 SE 41708 04323**

A late 18th-century house with 19th-century addition is Grade II Listed.

D. 2 Vicar Road, Darfield Ref.6/28 LBS/IOE 333656 SE 41872 04799

This house and former shop has a plaque on the right gable dated 1812. There are later additions to the rear. The building is Grade II Listed.

**E. All Saints Church,
Church Street, Darfield Ref.6/13 LBS/IOE 333641 SE 41880 04308**

PIN 00369

The west tower of the church is of 11th to 12th-century date, with 15th-century upper stages. The majority of the church is of 14th and 15th-century date with 19th-century restoration. Part of a Saxon cross (3) is built into the south wall of the tower. The building is Grade I Listed.

**F. Gravestone Church
Street, Darfield Ref.6/14 LBS/IOE 333656 SE 41858 04306**

The gravestone to Robert Millthorp is situated *c.* 3m to the west of the tower of All Saints Church, Darfield. It is dated to *c.* 1826 and is Grade II Listed.

**G. Middlewood Lodge,
Doncaster Road,
Darfield Ref.6/18 LBS/IOE 333646 SE 41872 04799**

This is an early 19th-century lodge in castle style. It is grade II Listed.

H. Gravestone, Church **Ref.6/16** **LBS/IOE 333644** **SE 41901 04275**
Street, Darfield

The grave of Ebenezer Elliot is situated *c.* 40 m to south-east of the south porch of All Saints Church, Darfield. It is dated to *c.*1849 and is Grade II listed.

I. Monument, Church **Ref.6/17** **LBS/IOE 333645** **SE 41927 04285**
Street, Darfield

PIN 04429

A monument to the 189 victims of the Lundhill Colliery explosion in 1857 consists of a tall obelisk on a ashlar plinth and is situated *c.* 55m to south-east of All Saints Church, Darfield. It is Grade II listed.

J. Middlewood Hall, **Ref.6/19** **LBS/IOE 333647** **SE 41872 04799**
Darfield

PIN 04429

This large rectangular house is now split into six dwellings. The rear wall is of 17th-century date and shows evidence of earlier (medieval) work in the lower courses. This may represent the stone side wall of an aisled hall. The house was extensively rebuilt in the early 19th century, including the addition of a new wing.

Earlier occupation of the site is tentatively suggested by Hunter (1831) stating that ‘a John Besville of Middlewood appears at the end of the 14th century.’ Hunter also makes reference to Middlewood never being a considerable place until it became the property of George Walker (monument in All Saints Church, Darfield). It is Grade II Listed.

5 Cartographic and Aerial Photographic Assessment of the Development Area

A study of the available cartographic sources for the development area indicates that it has been pasture/meadow land from at least the late 18th century through to the recent period.

The earliest detailed plan for the area is dated 1776 (Fig. 6) and shows a very similar pattern of field boundaries to those recorded in the 19th century. The fields are named Ing.B, C and E and Carter Nooking B and Horfe Ing.C. The 1839 Tithe map of Little Houghton (Fig. 7) illustrates that the field layout has varied slightly, becoming more formalised. A smaller field has been created to the west (No. 78), Carte Nooking has been removed and two rectilinear fields have been created to the east of the area (No. 80 and 81). In the Tithe apportionment the fields are all recorded as arable and are named as follows: No. 77, Near Surfield; No.78,

New Close; No.79, Near Surfield; No. 80 Surfield Close; No. 81 Far Surfield. The proposed route of the Midland Railway is observed in field No. 81 and it reflects the actual route established in later years.

Although the development area remains unchanged on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 (Fig. 9), at the eastern side the small rectangular field shown on the Tithe map (No. 80) has been bisected by the earthworks associated with the Midland Railway. It is interesting to note that the development area is labelled as 'subject to flooding'. Both the 1890 and 1906 maps (Figs 10 and 11) show no change from the first edition mapping and little variation is seen through to the 1961 Ordnance Survey map of the area (not illustrated).

It is only in recent years, that the development area has witnessed significant changes associated with flood alleviation schemes. There is a marked difference in the alignment of the river Dearne from 1961, with the removal of a bend which once encroached into the southern edge of the development area. Large flood defensive earthworks have been created along the new alignment of the river, although these do not encroach upon the development area but rather define its southern boundary. The field boundaries have all been removed, creating one large parcel of land up to Park Springs Road (Fig. 3). The earthworks of the dismantled railway are extant and bound the eastern side of the development area.

Only one of the aerial photograph (MAL/79029.184), acquired from the National Monuments Record, clearly shows cropmarks within the development area. This photograph shows dark linear features which correspond with the former field boundaries shown on the earlier mapping of the area (e.g. Fig. 9). The realignment of the river, associated with the flood alleviation measures, is clearly visible from the aerial photographs. The photographs up to 1970 show the meandering river, with topsoil removal evident to the south-east of the site in 1973 (MAL/73029.213). The new alignment of the river and associated works are shown by 1974 (MAL/74049.217). This image also shows the excavation of a channel (drainage) that borders the north-eastern boundary of the development area.

6 Conclusions

Although the study area has been heavily exploited, in particular for coal extraction during the late 19th and 20th centuries, the development area lies within an area of arable land which has probably seen little change since the medieval period or even earlier. There is no evidence of prehistoric settlement in the study area, with the first evidence of human occupation attested by field systems and enclosures observed to the north-east. These cropmarks are thought to represent Iron Age and/or Roman rural settlement, but there is no evidence to suggest that this activity extended into the development area.

Roman activity is clearly represented by the Roman coin hoards discovered in Darfield to the south-west of the development area. However, no evidence of a Roman settlement has been

identified in the vicinity, although it has been proposed that a Roman road may have passed through Darfield and Little Houghton (Hey 1979). The current assessment has not uncovered any further evidence to support this theory.

The proposed development area appears to have been used through the medieval and post-medieval periods as arable/meadow land. Its position close to the river would have made it valuable as seasonal grazing land, although its low lying topography would have made it susceptible to flooding. Any permanent settlement of the site is therefore deemed unlikely, due to the constant risk of flooding.

There is a low potential for the presence of remains associated with the exploitation of the river as a resource, such as a medieval fishing site or prehistoric flint scatters/seasonal camps. However, the desk-based assessment has not identified any such features within the study area.

Overall, the potential for encountering archaeological remains during the proposed development is considered to be low, with any archaeological investigations undertaken in this area likely to encounter deep deposits of alluvium and a high water table. Vestiges of the former post-medieval field boundaries, identified as cropmarks, may survive as buried wall foundations and/or construction trenches, and be uncovered within the development area.

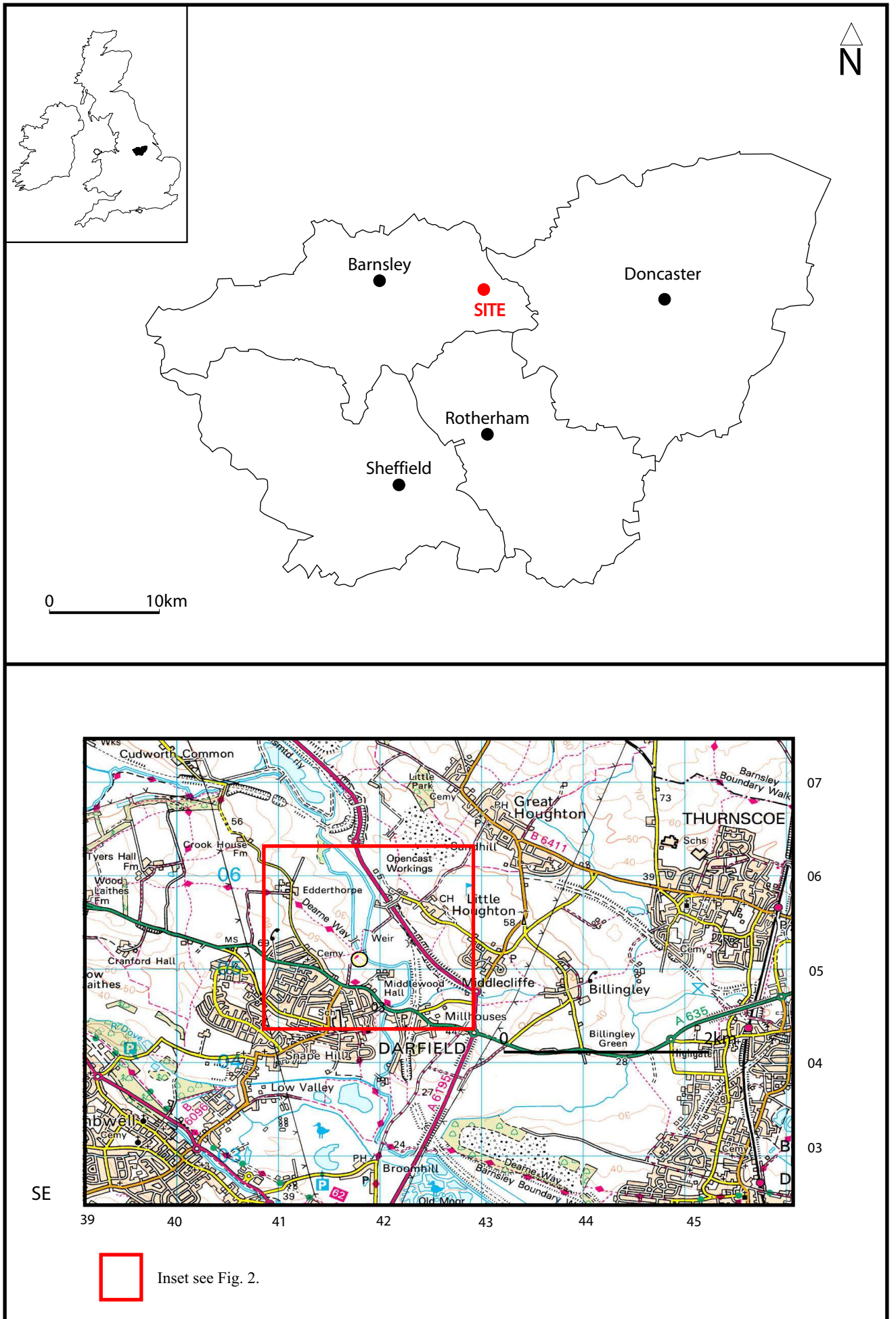
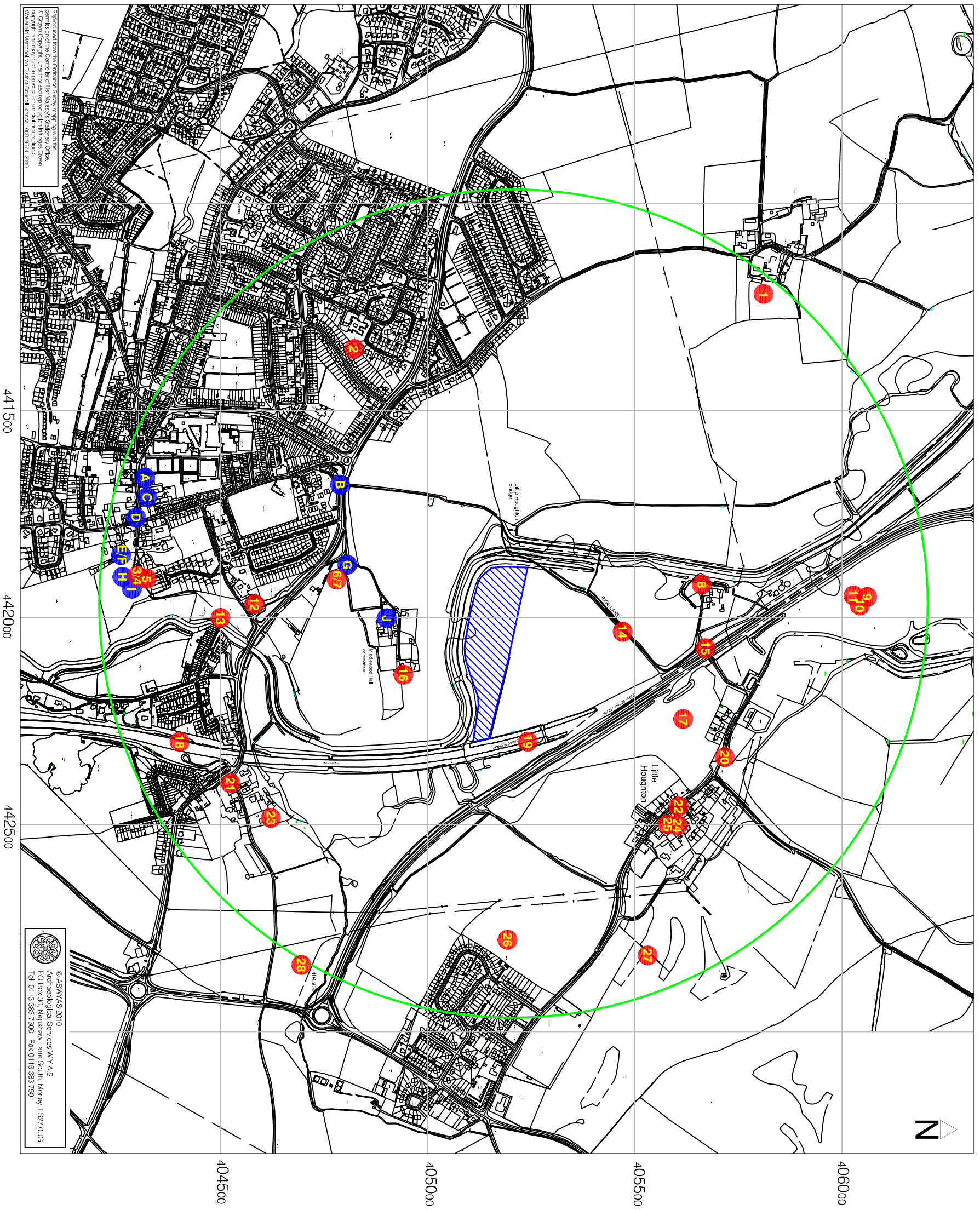


Fig. 1. Site location



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 PO Box 30, Nepestow Lane South, Molfey, LS27 0UG
 Tel: 0113 383 7500 Fax: 0113 383 7501

	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
	LISTED BUILDING
	STUDY AREA
	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA
	200m

Fig. 2. The proposed development and study area showing catalogued sites and buildings (Scale 1:10 000)

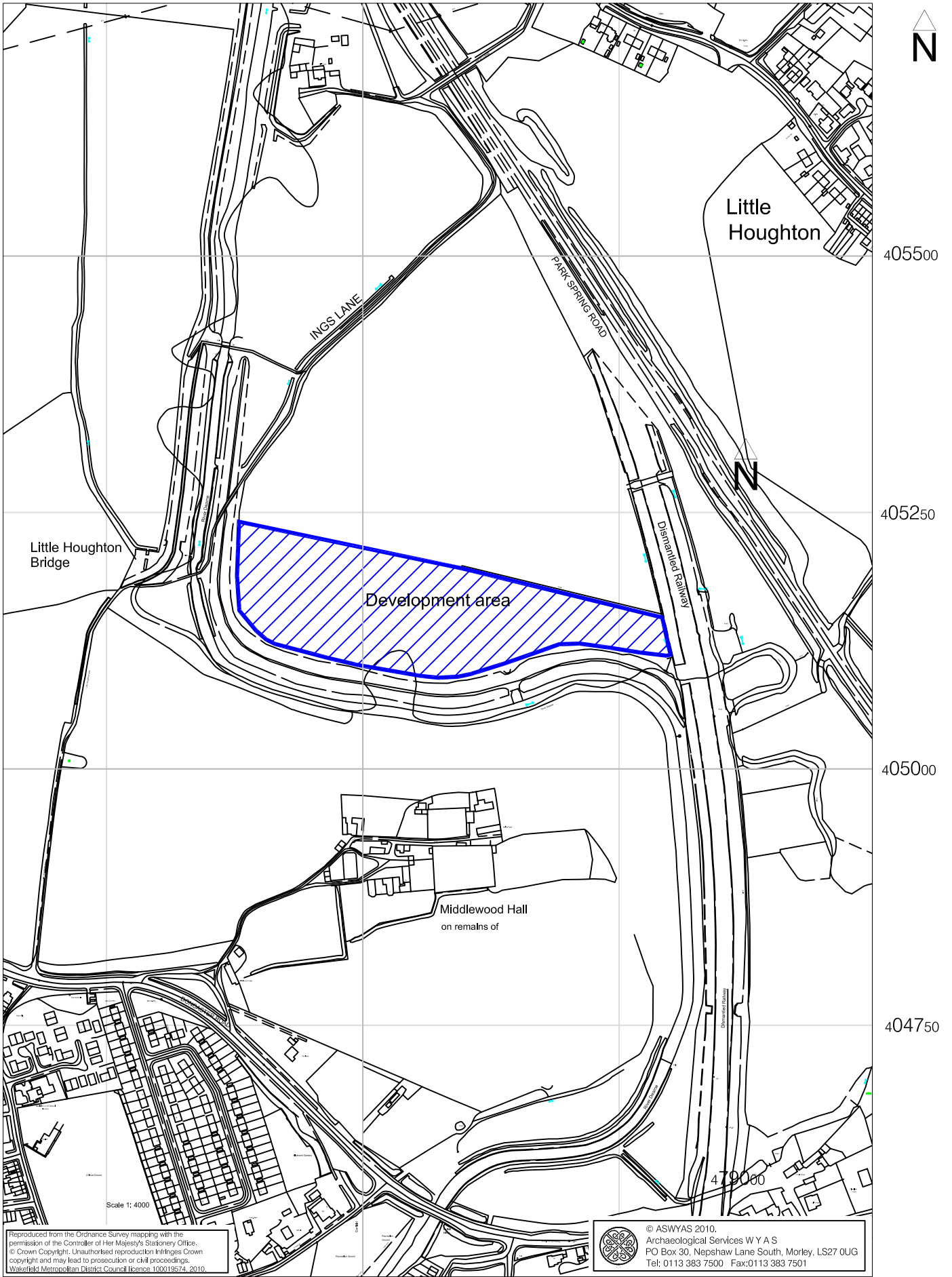
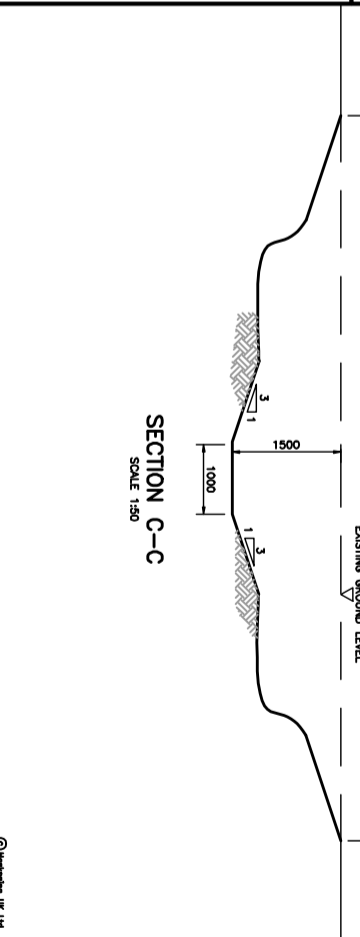
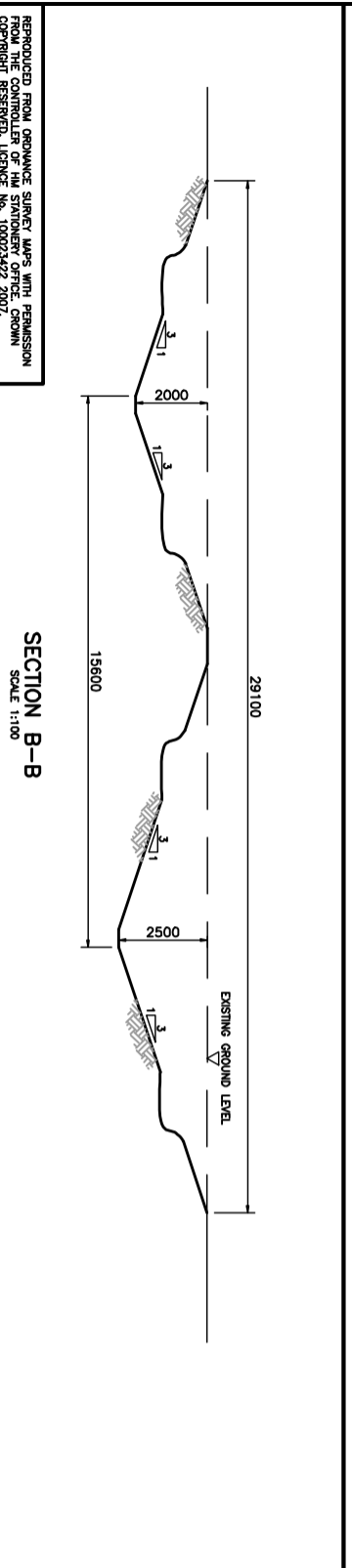
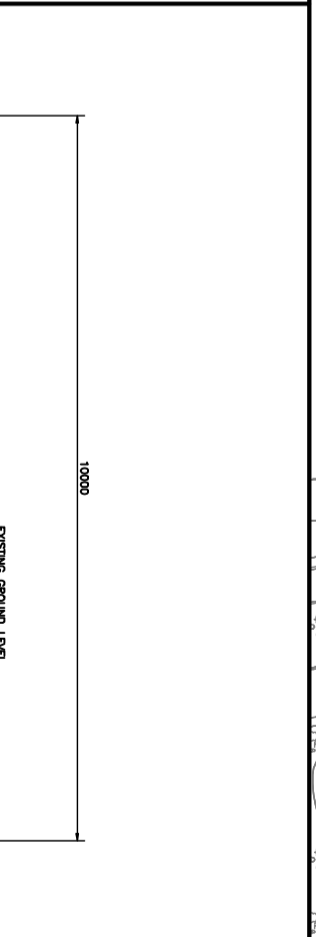
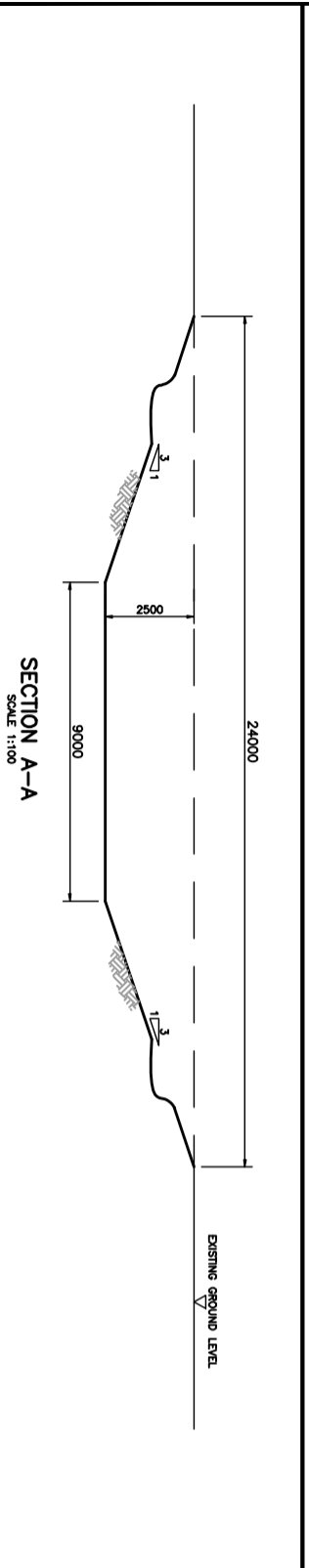
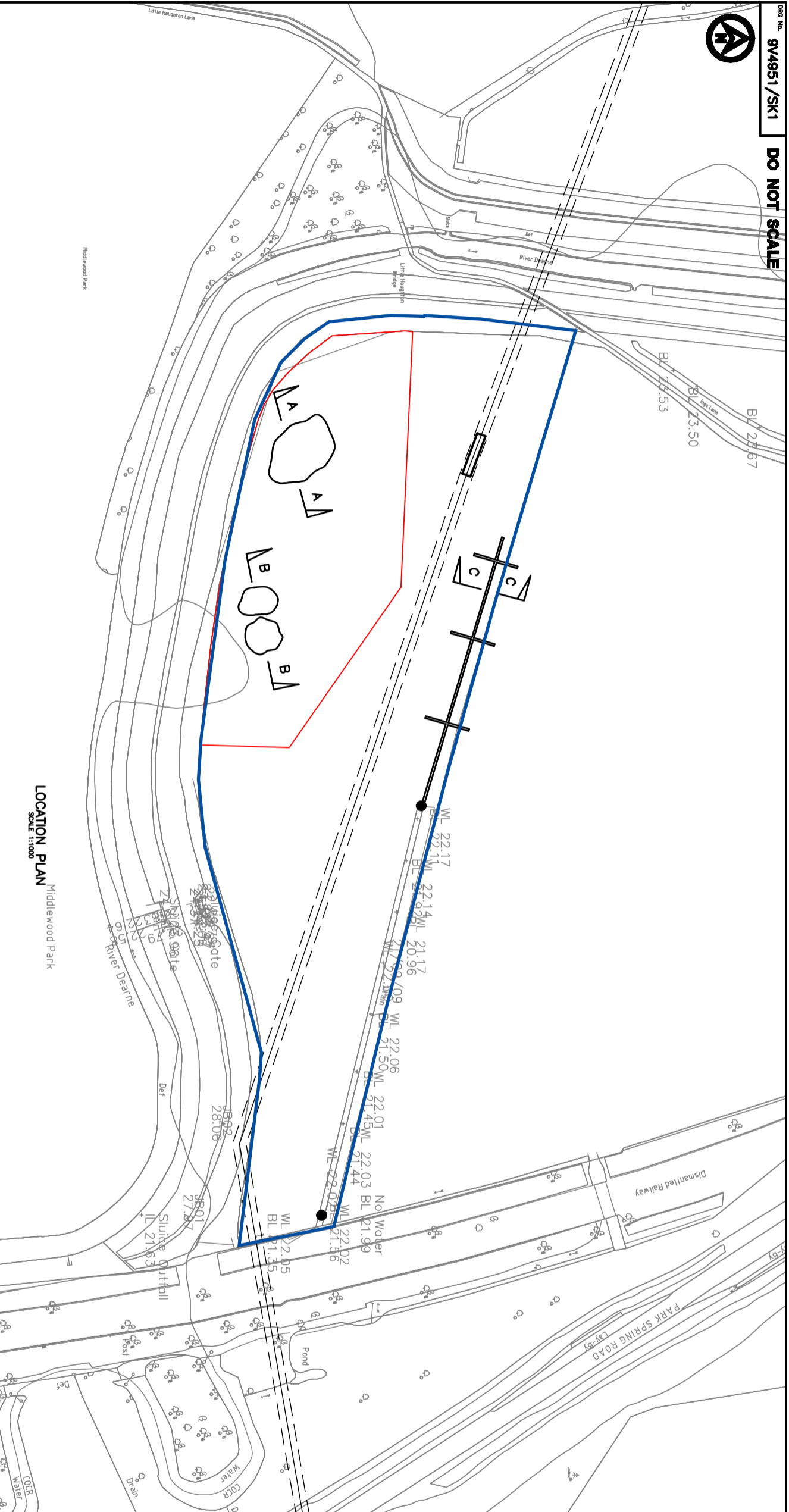


Fig. 3. The proposed development area (Scale 1:5000)





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NOTES

- KEY
- PLANNING APPLICATION BOUNDARY
 - INDICATIVE ROUTE OF PIPELINE
 - 5m BUFFER EITHER SIDE OF PIPELINE
 - PIPELINE CROSSING POINT
 - OPTIONS FOR LOCATION OF HEADWALL FOR WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE

SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARDS/RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT RESIDUAL RISKS:

CONSTRUCTION

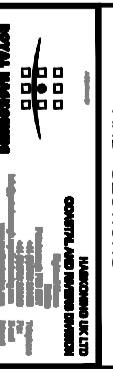
- SITE AT RISK OF FLOODING
- SITE AT RISK OF COLLAPSE OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL OFF SITE (VEHICLE COLLISIONS AND INJURY TO PEDESTRIANS)
- WORKING NEAR UNDERGROUND SERVICES ON SLOPES OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL
- WORKING ADVISANT TO A WATERCOURSE
- EXPLOSION AND INJURY TO PEDESTRIANS
- COLLISIONS AND INJURY TO PEDESTRIANS
- MAINTENANCE/CLEANING/OVERVIEW
- SITE AT RISK OF FLOODING
- INTERACTION WITH THE PUBLIC ALONG THE FOOTPATH
- ALONG NHS ROAD, CAUSING INJURY TO PEDESTRIANS, WORKERS AND PERSONNEL WORKING ON SLOPES OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL
- WORKING ADVISANT TO A WATERCOURSE
- DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION
- SITE AT RISK OF FLOODING
- INTERACTION WITH THE PUBLIC ALONG THE FOOTPATH
- ALONG NHS ROAD, CAUSING INJURY TO PEDESTRIANS, WORKERS AND PERSONNEL WORKING ON SLOPES OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL
- WORKING ADVISANT TO A WATERCOURSE

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHK	APP

TITLE

LITTLE HOUGHTON SCHEME

PONDS AND DITCHES GENERAL ARRANGEMENT AND SECTIONS



DRAWN	DLM	CHECKED	PREPARED
DATE	OCT'09	CLIENT'S REF.	
SCALE AT A1	AS SHOWN	AUTOCAD REF.	9V4951/SK1
DRAWING No.	9V4951/SK1	REVISION	1

Fig. 4. Proposed development plan (not to scale)

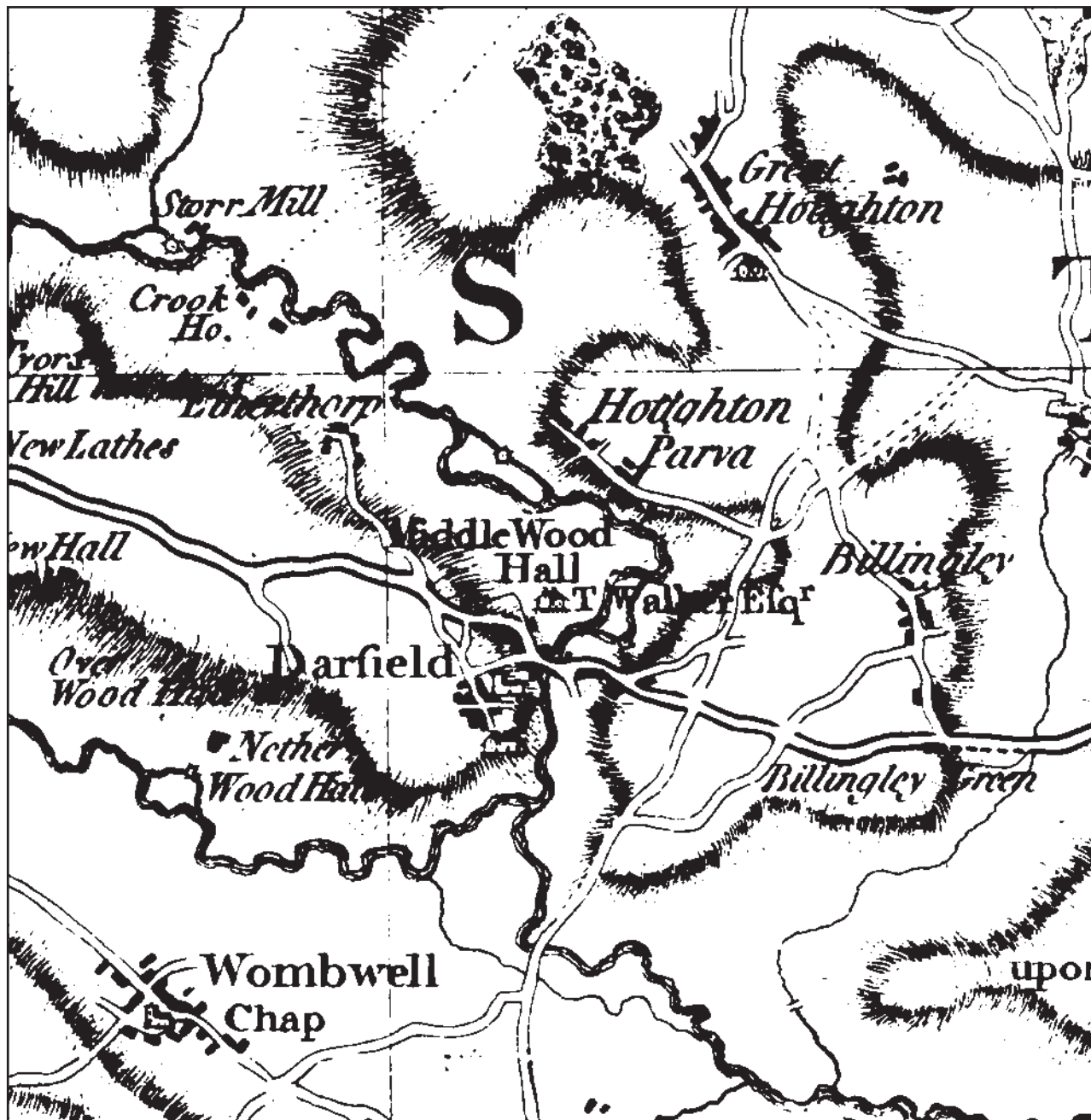


Fig. 5. Extract from 'A Survey of the County of Yorkshire' by Thomas Jeffrey 1775
(Plate 18)



Fig. 6. Extract from Pape's map of Little Houghton Township of 1776 with the proposed development area highlighted



Fig. 7. Extract from the Little Houghton Tithe Map of 1839 with the proposed development area highlighted

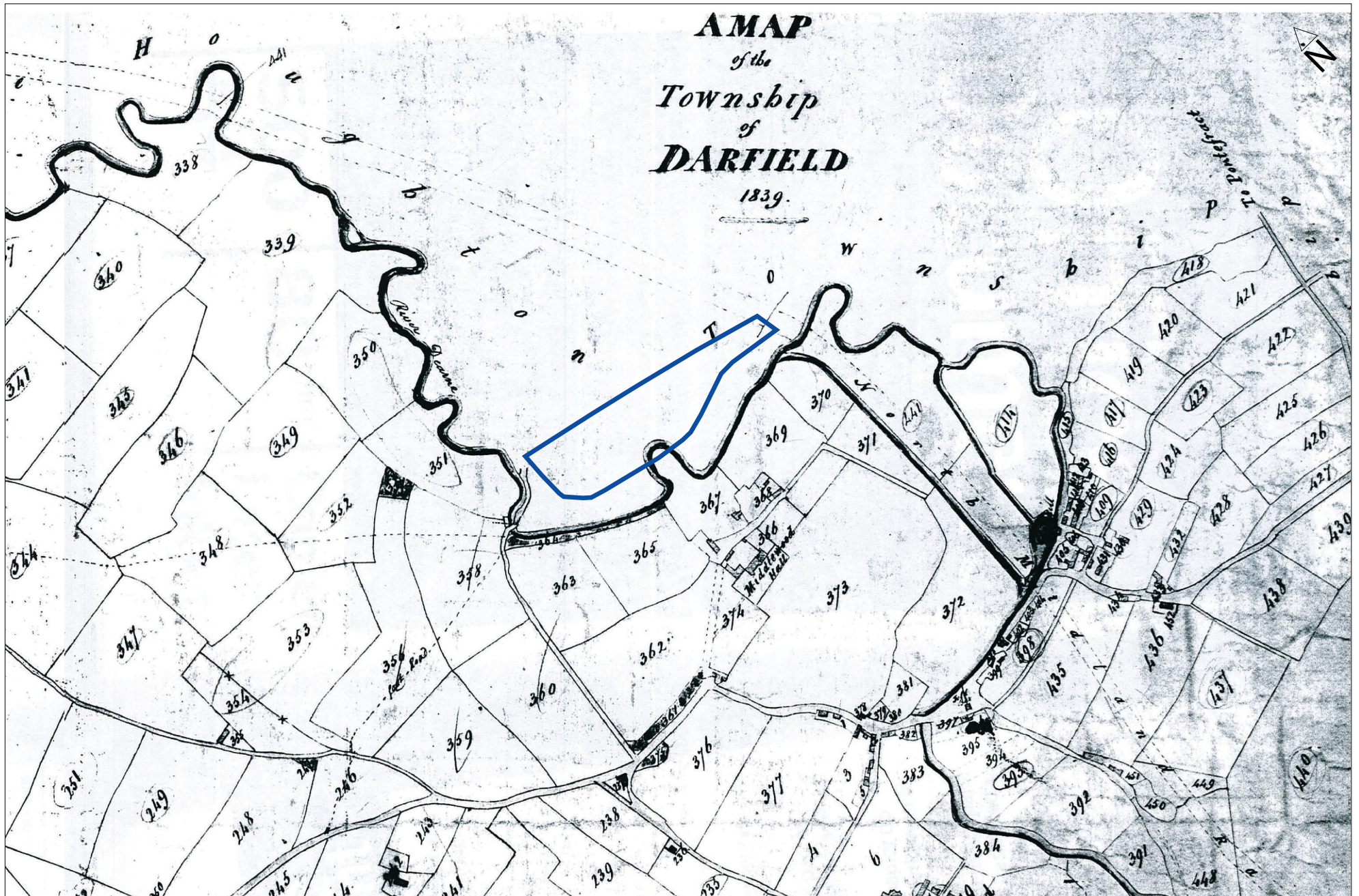


Fig. 8. Extract from the Darfield Tithe Map of 1839 with the proposed development area highlighted



Fig. 9. Extract from the First Edition 6 inch scale Ordnance Survey map of 1854 with the proposed development area and study area highlighted (sheet 275 SE and SW)

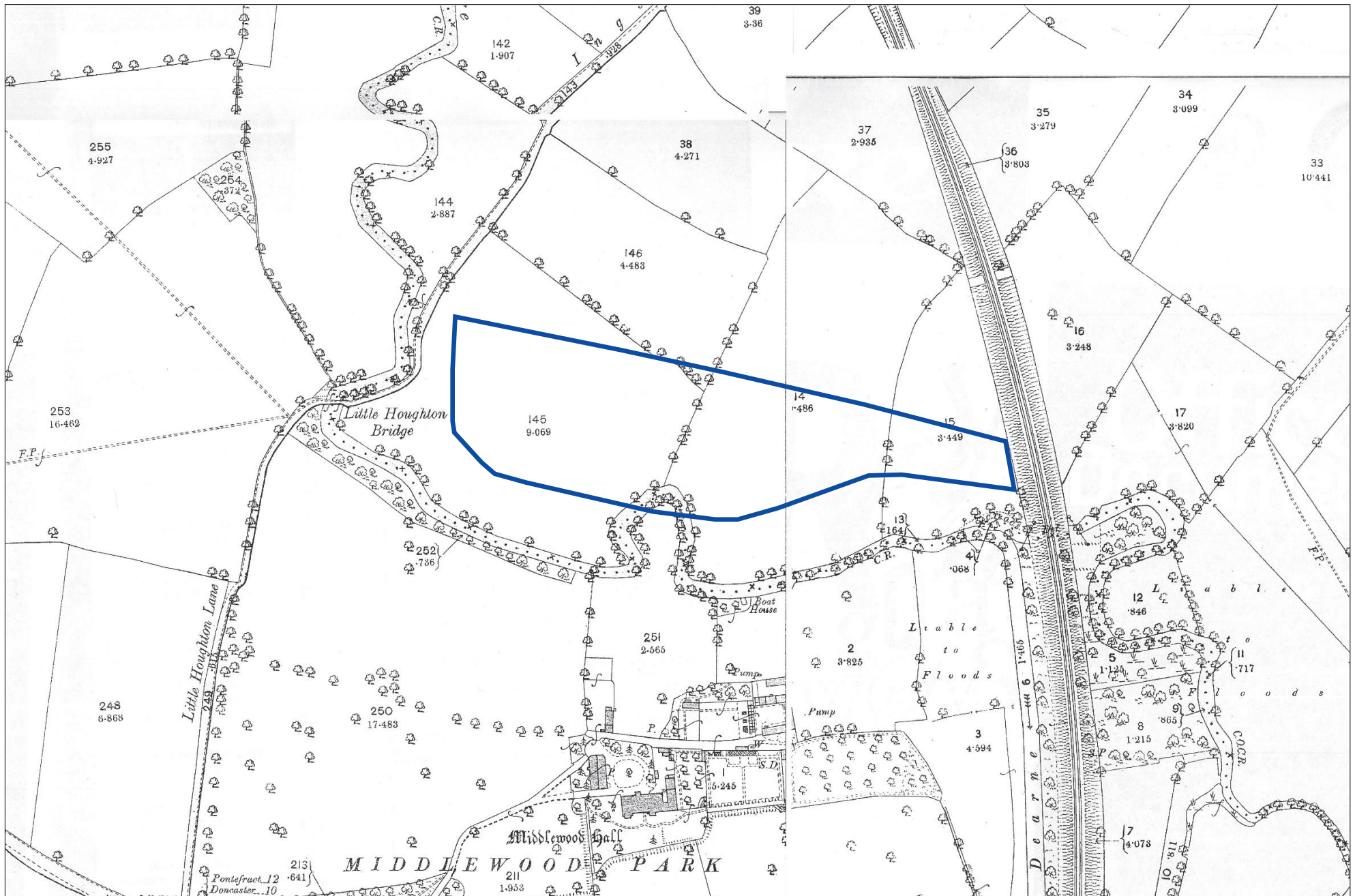


Fig. 10. Extract from the 25 inch scale Ordnance Survey map of 1890 with the proposed development area highlighted (sheet 275, 10 and 11)

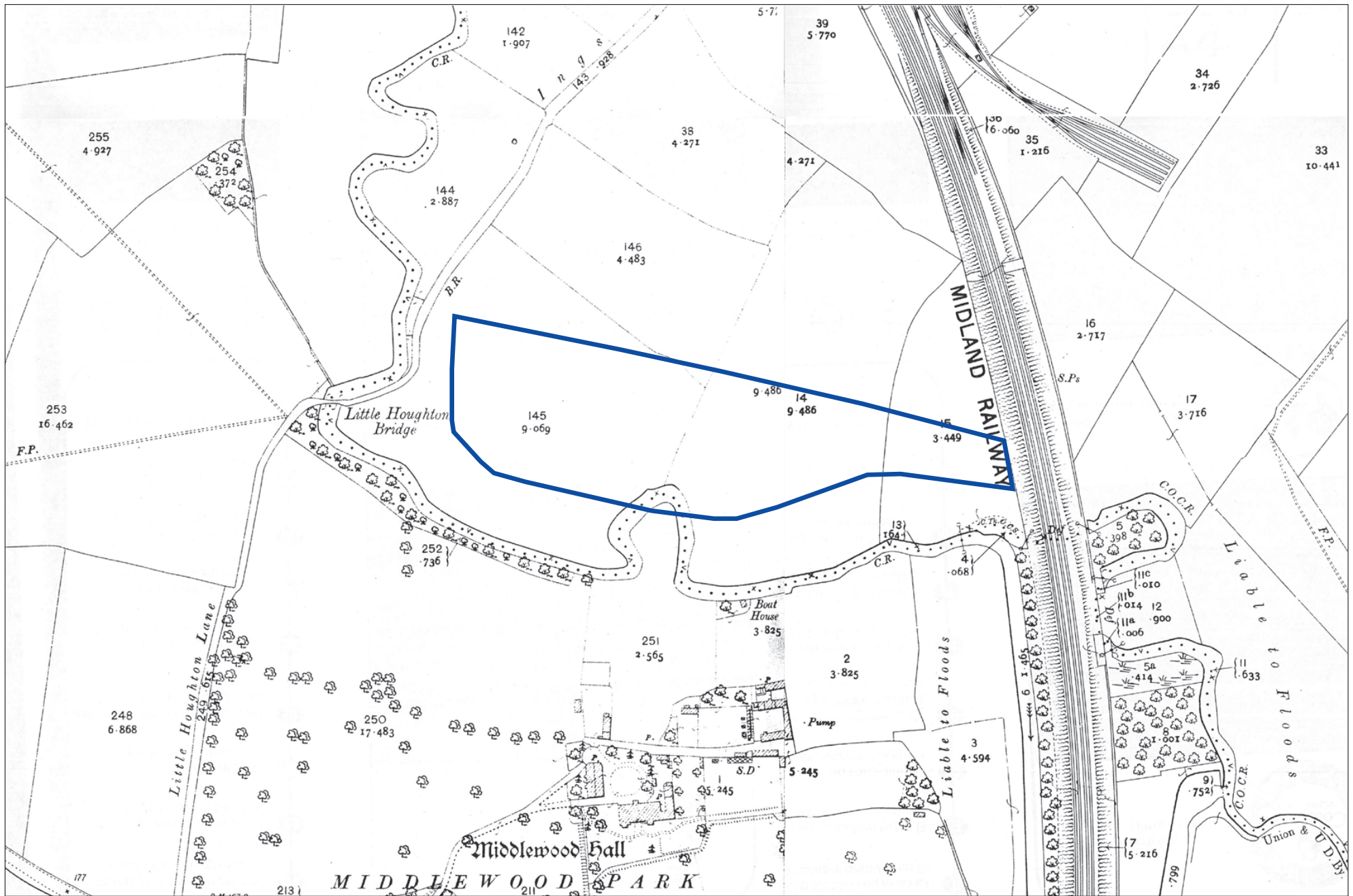


Fig. 11. Extract from the 25 inch scale Ordnance Survey map of 1906 with the proposed development area highlighted (sheet 275, 10 and 11)

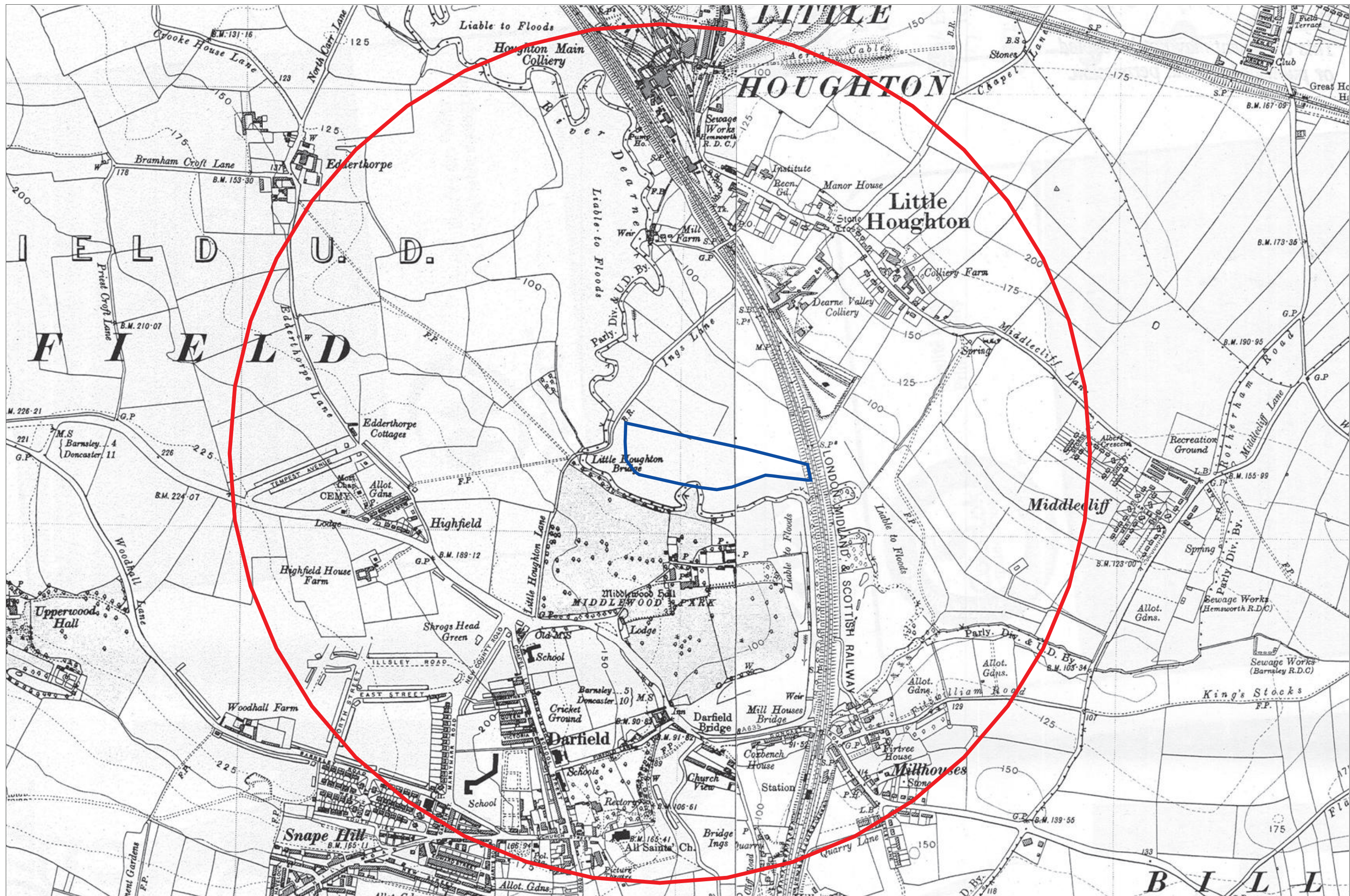


Fig. 12. Extract from the First Edition 6 inch scale Ordnance Survey map of 1938 with the proposed development area and study area highlighted (sheet 275 SE and SW)



Plate 1. The western end of the development area looking north



Plate 2. The central section of the development area looking west



Plate 3. The central section of the development area looking north



Plate 4. Approximate location of the proposed ponds looking north



Plate 5. The eastern end of the development area looking north-west



Plate 6. The eastern end of the development area looking north

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<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/historyofdarfield>

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Ordnance survey, 1854, Country Series 6inch map sheet South Yorkshire 275 SE and SW

Ordnance survey, 1890, Country Series 25 inch map sheet South Yorkshire 275.10

Ordnance survey, 1890, Country Series 25 inch map sheet South Yorkshire 275.11

Ordnance survey, 1906, Country Series 25 inch map sheet South Yorkshire 275.10

Ordnance survey, 1890, Country Series 25 inch map sheet South Yorkshire 275.11

Ordnance survey, 1938, Country Series 6 inch map sheet South Yorkshire 275.10

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Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983, 'Soils of northern England. (Sheet 1)

Scale 1:250 000 (map and legend)'

Appendix 1: Table of aerial photographs acquired from the NMR, English Heritage

Vertical photographs

Sortie number	Lib No.	Grid. Ref (centre point)	Date	Frame
MAL/68069	5212V	SE 421 057	29/10/1968	33
MAL/68069	5212V	SE 423 053	29/10/1968	34
MAL/68069	5212V	SE 418 049	29/10/1968	37
MAL/70009	5622V	SE 417 052	10/02/1970	18
OS/93180	14386	SE 417 050	23/05/1993	59
OS/69387	11548	SE 416 052	31/07/1969	96
OS/78153	12341	SE 419 051	21/09/1978	60
MAL/73022	7973V	SE 421 050	15/06/1973	6
MAL/83022	7820V	SE 420 048	14/08/1983	54
MAL/83022	7820V	SE 421 050	14/08/1983	53
MAL/83022	7777V	SE 422 057	14/08/1973	11
MAL/79029	7584V	SE 420 053	27/07/1979	184
MAL/79029	7584V	SE 417 059	27/07/1979	156
MAL/73029	7017V	SE 420 049	15/06/1973	213
MAL/74049	7161V	SE 422 050	21/08/1974	217