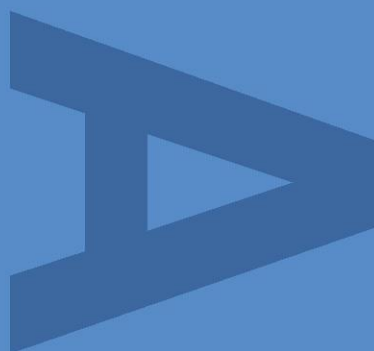


**LAND OFF RYE ROAD,
HODDESDON,
HERTFORDSHIRE: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-
BASED ASSESSMENT**

**BROXBOURNE BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

REPORT NO: R11755

JUNE 2014



Land Off Rye Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Local Planning Authority: Broxbourne Borough Council

Planning Ref: Pre-Planning

Central National Grid Reference: TL 3846 0986

Written and Researched by Peter Boyer

Project Manager: Helen Hawkins

Commissioning Client: Keepmoat Ltd.

Contractor:

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54 Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
Brockley
London
SE4 2PD**

Tel: 020 7732 3925

Fax: 020 7733 7896

E-mail: hhawkins@pre-construct.com

Web: www.pre-construct.com

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	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	P Boyer		12.06.14
Graphics Prepared by:	J Brown		12.06.14
Graphics Checked by:	J Brown		13.06.14
Project Manager Sign-off:	H Hawkins		13.06.14

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Unit 54
Brockley Cross Business Centre
96 Endwell Road
London
SE4 2PD

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1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 A planning application is to be submitted to Broxbourne Borough Council for redevelopment of land off Rye Road at the eastern edge of Hoddesdon. The proposed work will involve the redevelopment of a derelict former aggregates processing yard to provide a number of residential units and associated parking and services.
- 1.2 The site is not located within a conservation area or archaeological priority area, though it does lie within the immediate vicinity of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, within which is a Grade 1 Listed Building. The proposed redevelopment of the site is subject to policies contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Broxbourne Local Plan.
- 1.3 Research and a study of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record shows that there is limited evidence for prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the study site but a potential for material to be preserved below peat within the site. There was significant Roman occupation to the west, though the site lay beyond the main areas of settlement, however, there is some evidence of activity nearby. Although a post-Roman road may have passed close to the site, no evidence of early medieval activity has been recorded in the vicinity, the site probably lying within a marshy area, which it continued to do into the medieval period. There was however some activity at this time in the historic core of Hoddesdon to the west and in Rye Manor, east of the River Lea. The site remained some distance from significant development in the early post-medieval period but was exploited for agricultural purposes by the early 19th century. The topography of the site was affected by railway cutting in the 19th century and was subsequently exploited for industrial purposes up until its recent closure
- 1.4 Railway construction and subsequent development on the site involved terracing of the valley slope and will have had variable impacts upon underlying deposits, though earlier remains deeply buried beneath peat and alluvium are likely to have been less affected. Proposed development of the site is likely to have a further impact on any surviving buried remains as well as on the setting of nearby heritage assets, including the Scheduled Ancient Monument though in the longer term the development may have a positive impact on its surroundings.
- 1.5 This Desk Based Assessment concludes that for the site there is a moderate potential for prehistoric remains, a low to moderate potential for Roman remains, a low potential for early medieval remains, a low to moderate potential for medieval remains and a moderate to high potential for remains of post-medieval date. It is likely that Broxbourne Borough Council and their archaeological advisors will require mitigation measures such as archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site, possibly followed by further fieldwork as required.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Origin and Scope of the Project

2.1.1 This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for land off Rye Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire (Figures 1 & 2) has been prepared in order to provide supporting documentation for a planning application for residential redevelopment of a former industrial estate.

2.1.2 This assessment has been commissioned by Colin Rickard of Keepmoat Ltd. prior to submission of the planning application and proposed redevelopment of the site (Figure 3).

2.1.3 An archaeological desk based assessment (DBA) is required as part of the planning process and accords with the National Planning Policy Framework. Paragraph 128 states:

Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

2.1.4 This report has been prepared in accordance with the standards specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

2.1.5 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment is undertaken in order that the local authority may formulate an appropriate response to any identified archaeological resource. The report aims to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to examine the likely impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource. This assessment may be followed by a requirement for further archaeological monitoring or investigation.

2.1.6 This desk based assessment was written and researched by Peter Boyer of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Research has included a visit to Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) at County Hall, Hertford, an examination of historical maps, relevant reports and publications, and a search of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER). Internet archives and other online resources have also been utilised.

2.1.7 A visit to the proposed development site was undertaken on 3rd June 2014 by the author. A number of photographs of the site were taken during this visit and are included in Appendix 2 of this report.

2.2 Report Objectives

2.2.1 As defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008), an archaeological desk based assessment aims to:

Determine as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area. Desk-based assessment will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology, and other relevant by-laws of the IfA. In a development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so), and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact. (IfA, 2008, revised 2012)

2.2.2 A desk based assessment should consist of:

A collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

2.2.3 The desk based assessment is required in order to assess the merit of the archaeological resource and lead towards one or more of the following:

- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation, or management of the resource.
- The formulation of a strategy for further investigation, whether or not intrusive, where the character and value of the resource is not sufficiently defined to permit a mitigation strategy or other response to be devised.
- The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research.

2.2.4 The degree to which archaeological deposits survive on site will depend upon previous land-use and so consideration is given to the destructive effect of past and present activity from a study of the information available. In order that the appropriate archaeological response may be identified the impact of the proposed development is also considered.

3 THE SITE AND PROPOSED SCHEME

3.1 The Site

- 3.1.1 The site is located at the eastern edge of Hoddesdon, immediately to the west of the River Lea Navigation (Plate 1), east of the Hertford East branch railway line (Plate 2) and a short distance to the north of Rye House Station on the branch railway line. It is also situated a short distance downslope and to the east of the New River (Plate 3), which runs from springs between Hertford and Ware to London (Figures 1 & 2).
- 3.1.2 The site currently comprises a generally open tract of land that was formerly occupied by buildings and yard areas associated with aggregates processing to the north of Rye Road (Plate 4). Only a single building now survives at the southern edge of the site (Plate 5) though the bases of former structures can still be seen within the site (Plate 6). The site is generally quite flat and is mostly surfaced with asphalt and concrete, though there is a slope downwards in an east-central location to a lower track that runs along the eastern side of the site at approximately the same elevation as the adjacent Lea Navigation towpath. The main area of the southern half of the site therefore has the appearance of a raised platform (Plate 7), though this is approximately level with the elevation of the railway line to the west.
- 3.1.3 The site has clearly undergone significant modification in the past to provide the flattish surface, with some terracing of the natural slope evident. Although generally derelict the site is still used for the storage of various commodities including stone slabs and general rubble (Plate 8), whilst there are a number of skips stored at the northern end, along with obsolete machinery that belies the nature of former activity on the site (Plate 9). Containers/cabins are stored just inside the site entrance to the south.
- 3.1.4 The site is surrounded by variable types of fencing to the west, south and east, whilst the northern boundary comprises a raised earthen feature that is covered by trees and shrubs. The site is bounded to the north by the earthen bank, beyond which is an area of vegetation, to the east by the footpath along the west bank of the Lea Navigation, to the south by Rye Road, and to the west by the Hertford East branch railway line. The New River lies upslope and to the west of the railway line, beyond which are industrial premises including the Parkside Business Centre (Plate 10). Rye House railway station lies south of Rye Road, approximately 100m to the south of the site, whilst the Rye House public house and Rye House stadium complex lie a short distance to the south-east. The Rye House Scheduled Ancient Monument lies to the east of the site, immediately adjacent to the east bank of the Lea Navigation (Plates 11 & 12).
- 3.1.5 Vehicular access to and from the site is currently via a concrete ramp that drops down from the north side of Rye Road, immediately to the east of the road bridge over the railway line.

3.2 The Proposed Scheme

- 3.2.1 The proposal is for a residential development comprising up to fifty variable, two-storey residential units with associated services, garages and car parking areas, together with an access road that will run from Rye Road along the eastern side of the development area (Figure 3).
- 3.2.2 The proposed development site forms a long, narrow, NNW to SSE tract of land, measuring up to 325m in length by up to 50m in width and covering a total surface area of approximately 1.1 hectares. The proposed total ground floor area of the residential units is 4354m².
- 3.2.3 Ground modification including terracing along with previous activities on the site are likely to have had some impact on below-ground deposits as will the proposed new development. The proposed construction methodology has not been finalised but it is likely that it will comprise some further ground modification as well as deep piling for the foundations of the residential units.

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The proposed development of the site is subject to planning guidance and policies contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and those of the Broxbourne Borough Council, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which it is the custodian.

- 4.2 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which replaced existing national policy relating to heritage and archaeology (Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5)). In summary, current national policy provides a framework which protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets and their settings, in appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions regarding the historic environment and provides for the investigation by intrusive or non-intrusive means of sites not significant enough to merit *in-situ* preservation. Relevant paragraphs within the NPPF include the following:

128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

132. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. As heritage assets are irreplaceable, any harm or loss should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, battlefields, grade I and II listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.*

- 4.3 The Glossary contained within the NPPF includes the following definitions:

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

Archaeological interest: There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places, and of the people and cultures that made them.

Historic environment: All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.

Historic environment record: Information services that seek to provide access to comprehensive and dynamic resources relating to the historic environment of a defined geographic area for public benefit and use.

- 4.4 The local planning authority responsible for the study site is Broxbourne Borough Council, whose Local Plan Second Review, adopted in December 2005 currently governs planning policy within the Borough. As a result of changes to national guidance, the Secretary of State has directed the Council to 'save' particular policies in the Local Plan until such time as they are replaced. There are eight policies in the Local Plan which have now been deleted because they repeat national guidance or because they are no longer applicable. Policies relating to the historic environment are amongst those saved and the following contained within Chapter 8 of the plan are of most relevance concerning the historic environment in relation to the current proposed development:

8.4 HERITAGE

8.4.1 It is important that the Local Plan provides a robust policy framework for the protection and enhancement of the Borough's heritage. Included within this section of the Plan, therefore, are policies pertaining to archaeology, historic monuments, statutory listed buildings, Historic parks and gardens and conservation areas. The policies pay full regard to relevant central government guidance as contained in PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment and PPG16 Archaeology and Planning, and to advice issued by English Heritage, government's statutory advisers on protection of the historic heritage.

8.4.2 Archaeology

There are eight Scheduled Monuments in the Borough which are afforded statutory protection by virtue of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, and thirty four areas defined as being of Archaeological Significance. In addition to these designated sites there will be other areas within the Borough where archaeological evidence may be present and which both the County and Borough Councils will wish to see carefully examined before any development which is potentially destructive of such evidence is sanctioned. Potential developers are urged to consult the County Sites and Monument Record (maintained by the County Council) at the earliest opportunity in order to establish whether their proposals are likely to affect archaeological remains and for advice on the most appropriate measures to be taken to mitigate any impact. At one time it was considered acceptable for an archaeological investigation to be undertaken once the principle of the grant of planning permission had been agreed and before any actual development commenced. However, and as stated in PPG16, government now advises that, in instances where important archaeological remains are thought to exist, it is reasonable for the local planning authority to request the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before any decision on a planning application is taken. This evaluation is distinct from a full archaeological excavation which may need to follow.

8.4.3 Hertfordshire County Council is also undertaking a programme of research with support from English Heritage, into the archaeological potential of historic urban areas of the County. This research will provide both planners and developers with a clearer indication as to the likely archaeological implications of proposed development.

8.4.4 The Borough Council therefore proposes three policies to cover circumstances involving archaeological issues.

HD1 EFFECT OF DEVELOPMENT ON NATIONALLY IMPORTANT SITES AND MONUMENTS

PLANNING PERMISSION WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY EFFECT THE SITE OR SETTING OF NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS, WHETHER SCHEDULED OR UNSCHEDULED.

HD2 REQUIREMENTS FOR EVALUATION OF HERITAGE ASSET

APPLICANTS FOR DEVELOPMENT ON, OR ADJACENT TO, SITES OF KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST OR SITES BELIEVED TO POSSESS POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE, WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THE RESULTS OF

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION PRIOR TO DETERMINATION OF ANY APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT.

8.4.5 In the event that it is nevertheless considered appropriate to grant planning permission for development on sites which contain archaeological evidence believed not to be of national importance, the Council will seek to ensure that all remains are adequately catalogued and recorded, or removed to an appropriate place for safe keeping, and that suitable measures are taken on site to preserve as much as possible of the remains.

HD3 PRESERVATION OF HERITAGE ASSET

(I) WHERE THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OR MONUMENTS OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE AND THEIR SETTINGS ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENT, PHYSICAL PRESERVATION IN SITU WILL BE THE PREFERRED OPTION. THE DECISION WHETHER TO PRESERVE IN SITU WILL BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF THE INTRINSIC IMPORTANCE OF THE REMAINS AND. THE POSSIBILITY OF PRESERVATION IN SITU THROUGH THE CAREFUL DESIGN, LAYOUT AND SITING OF NEW DEVELOPMENT. WHERE PRESERVATION IN SITU IS NOT MERITED, PLANNING PERMISSION MAY BE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS AND/OR A LEGAL AGREEMENT REQUIRING THAT PROVISION BE MADE FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING OF THE REMAINS AND PUBLICATION OF A REPORT OF FINDINGS PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT.

(II) THE COUNCIL WILL:-

(a) SEEK TO SECURE THE APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT AND PRESENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND THEIR SETTINGS AS PART OF THE GRANT OF PLANNING PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT;

(b) ENSURE DESIGNS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE VICINITY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE SETTING OF THE REMAINS; AND REQUIRE THE DEVELOPER TO ALLOW OBSERVATION OF GROUNDWORKS (WHERE THE COUNCIL CONSIDERS THAT PHYSICAL PRESERVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IN SITU IS NOT MERITED, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REMAINS AND OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS, PLANNING PERMISSION MAY BE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS AND/OR AGREEMENTS REQUIRING THE DEVELOPER TO SECURE APPROPRIATE PROVISIONS FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE RESULTS. WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO SECURE THE ENHANCED MANAGEMENT AND PRESENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND THEIR SETTINGS.)

(III) ADDITIONALLY THE COUNCIL WILL:

(a) SEEK TO SECURE THE ENHANCEMENT, MANAGEMENT AND PRESENTATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND THEIR SETTINGS AS PART OF THE GRANT OF A PLANNING PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT;

(b) ENSURE DESIGNS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE VICINITY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE SETTING OF REMAINS; AND

(c) REQUIRE THE DEVELOPER TO ALLOW OBSERVATION OF GROUND WORKS.

4.5 In terms of designated heritage assets, as defined above, no Historic Wreck sites or Historic Battlefield designations lie within the vicinity of the study site, neither does the site lie within a conservation area or archaeological priority area. However, the site is located a very short distance to the west of the Rye House Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), which also contains a Grade 1 Listed Building. These features lie within the parish of Stanstead Abbots in the district of East Hertfordshire and therefore are not included within the inventory of heritage assets for Broxbourne Borough. Consequently a number of the heritage-related policies in the Local Plan are not directly relevant, however, the setting of the SAM and the Listed Building and the likely impact upon them should be taken into account when considering any proposed development within their vicinity. Policies HD6 and HD7 of the Local Plan are therefore relevant in terms of the current proposed development, along with policies HD1, HD2 and HD3.

4.6 It is now the intention to submit a proposal to redevelop the former industrial estate site with up to 50 residential units along with associated services, garages and car parking. A planning application for the proposed development is to be submitted to Broxbourne Borough Council in the near future and this report has been prepared in order to support the application in light of the policies contained within the Broxbourne Local Plan and advice provided by the archaeological advisors to Broxbourne Borough Council.

5 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 Geology

- 5.1.1 According to the 1:50,000 British Geological Survey Sheet 239, Hertford and online geological mapping (BGS n.d. (a)) the site is underlain by deposits of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) sedimentary chalk Bedrock formed approximately 94 to 84 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period in a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas. The bedrock is overlain by superficial, sand and gravel deposits of the Pleistocene Taplow Gravel Formation, which formed in a local environment previously dominated by rivers. The gravel is capped by more recent deposits of river alluvium, though elsewhere in the valley, peat deposits have been recorded below alluvial material and sometimes between different alluvial units.
- 5.1.2 No geotechnical data specific to the current proposed development was available at the time this report was produced but data is available for a number of locations within the vicinity (BGS n.d. (b)). Most significant amongst these is a borehole sunk to a depth of 16.5m below ground level (bgl) towards the north-west corner of the site in 1978 (BGS ID: 538142; NGR: TL 3835 1006). The surface of natural chalk was recorded at 4.1m bgl and was overlain by 0.7m material described as “silty clay with peat traces” and interpreted as alluvium. Above this there was a 2m thick deposit of peat, which was sealed by a further 0.75m of alluvium. The upper 0.65m of the sequence comprised brick rubble, broken concrete, soil and clay fill, which appears to have been made ground of recent origin. Significantly no gravel terrace deposits were recorded in the sequence but the thickness of peat and depth of alluvium are of interest; peat deposits elsewhere in the Lea Valley have sealed and also been the source of important archaeological remains (see below).
- 5.1.3 Other nearby sequences, albeit to the east of the river, have also demonstrated that there was significant peat formation in this area. An artesian well sunk to a depth of c. 30.48m in the vicinity of the Rye House Scheduled Ancient Monument (BGS ID: 536754; NGR: TL 3853 0992), recorded the surface of natural chalk at approximately 6.25m bgl, overlain by c. 0.3m of “loam and ballast”, presumably a shallow, surviving deposit of terrace gravel. This was sealed by almost 2.9m of peat, which in turn was overlain by a little more than 2m of “peat and brick rubbish”. The sequence was completed by almost 1m of recent made ground. Further to the north, a shallow borehole (BGS ID: 537972; NGR: TL 3846 1014) recorded the surface of natural chalk at 5.64m bgl with overlying ballast (terrace gravel) extending up to 2.74m bgl. This was overlain by 1.52m of peat, which was sealed by 1.07m of “brown clay”, presumably alluvium. The stratigraphic sequence at this location was capped by a 0.15m thick topsoil layer.

5.2 Topography

- 5.2.1 The natural topography in the vicinity of the study site slopes down from west to east as the western side of the Lea Valley descends to the river floodplain. The surface of the site however, does not follow the natural slope as there has been extensive and significant ground modification to provide a broadly flat surface across the site, which mostly lies at an elevation of approximately 30m OD, apart from the lower track area at the eastern edge. It is likely that the level surface was created by terracing of the natural slope such that the extent of truncation of underlying deposits probably increases broadly to the west, though this is not certain. Given the likelihood of terracing, the eastern side of the site, closest to the river may lie at a level closely approximating to the surface of the natural topography, whereas it is possible that in excess of 1m of deposits may have been truncated to the west. The situation is complicated somewhat by various artificial landforms, particularly banks that surround the site, especially to the north.
- 5.2.2 The nearest natural water course to the site is the River Lea, the western edge of which lies less than 5m from the site's eastern boundary. The New River lies less

than 100m to the west of the site, though at an elevation that is approximately 3m higher.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: BASELINE STUDY

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 In order to assess the potential of the archaeology within the area of development an examination of all archaeological entries in the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) has been made within a 1000m radius of the study site (Figure 4; Appendix 1).
- 6.1.2 The intention of the HHER search is to locate known archaeological sites and thus predict and extrapolate the likely archaeological conditions that could be found on the study site. This latter analysis is important, as many entries onto the HHER result from chance discoveries and are at best a small and unrepresentative sample of the total buried heritage.
- 6.1.3 This information is supplemented by other archaeological, documentary, and cartographic sources, including archaeological records beyond the 1000m study radius.

6.2 Prehistoric

- 6.2.1 Although sections of the Lea Valley, particularly south of Cheshunt, have produced a wealth of artefactual evidence for a variety of prehistoric periods, north of that area the evidence is a little more limited. The Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods are not represented in the immediate vicinity of the study site although it is known that the Lea Valley was exploited by early hunter gatherer bands following migrating herds, with a number of sites and find spots being recorded from the floodplain within a few kilometres of the site. A leaf point of Upper Palaeolithic date was recovered from gravels overlying the 'arctic plant bed' at Broxbourne (Sumbler 1996, 136). The arctic plant bed is a peaty layer recorded at a number of locations along the valley and dated to the Dimlington Stadial (c. 25,000 – 13,000 BP). Another site at Broxbourne, Rikoff's Pit, has also produced one of the most important Mesolithic assemblages in southern England, from surfaces sealed by layers of peat formation (Warren *et al.* 1934); indeed this site has been described as being of national importance (Austin 1997, 9). A Mesolithic site was also identified at Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots, further up the valley, during excavation for a swimming pool in 1971 (Davies *et al.* 1982). The Mesolithic archaeology of the Lea Valley has been described as "...one of the most critical assets of Hertfordshire", (HEIS 1997, 7).
- 6.2.2 The Neolithic and Bronze Age are a little better represented generally in the wider Hoddesdon area and more specifically in the vicinity of the study site. A watching brief in the Rye Meads area to the north-west of the site identified an area of worked flints in the face of a quarry on top of a gravel ridge, which was interpreted as a working platform or occupation site (Figure 4, No. 1). A subsequent trial trench dug nearby revealed that modern and post-medieval deposits sealed a layer of peat overlying black silty clay. A small spread of flints forming a surface was seen at the eastern end of the trench set into the top of the silty clay. Worked flints and burnt flint fragments were recovered from the peat layer and silty clay and the material has been dated to the Early Neolithic. Archaeological investigations at John Warner School, also to the north-west of the site but on slightly higher ground on the side of the valley (Figure 4, No. 2), revealed a number of pits along with a large assemblage of coarse-gritted pottery and a quantity of struck flint. The site has been interpreted as a small settlement of Late Bronze Age date (Humphrey and Murray 1997; McDonald and Murray 1997). A subsequent evaluation elsewhere in the school grounds however, only revealed modern overburden and recent deposits overlying natural materials (Seddon 2000).
- 6.2.3 In the Late Iron Age, areas of Hertfordshire to the north and west of Hoddesdon became quite densely populated and a number of important local centres were established. One of these was at Braughing and there is known to have been trade between here and the London area prior to the Roman Conquest and probably along

the River Lea. The study site would therefore have lain adjacent to this trade route though the status of the Hoddesdon area at this time is unclear (Thompson 2002, 4). To the west of Hoddesdon, Late Iron Age activity has been detected on the higher ground above the valley: Archaeological investigations at a former agricultural research centre adjacent to Hailey Hall School have revealed evidence of a settlement of this date, with activity continuing into the Roman period (Boyer 2004; forthcoming a). An Iron Age coin of Cunobelinus had also previously been found in the same area (Thompson 2002, 6).

6.3 Roman

6.3.1 Ermine Street, one of the Roman roads from London to East Anglia and the Midlands, passed along the high ground to the west of Hoddesdon. The route accepted by most authorities (e.g. Margary 1967), is one which passes c. 2.3km to the west of the centre of the modern town. This is clearly visible on Bryant's 1822 map of Hertfordshire. It crosses undulating terrain rather than the more obvious communication route up the Lea Valley, possibly because parts of the latter were impassable marshland during the Roman period. To the south of Hoddesdon, small settlements are known at Enfield, and to the north, the road heads to the former Iron Age centre, now Roman town at Braughing. The study site is located to the north-east of a probable Roman settlement at Hoddesdon (see below) and despite the potentially marshy nature of the area, some evidence of Roman activity in the immediate vicinity of the site has come to light.

6.3.2 In 1899 a bronze coin of Antoninus Pius (AD 138-161) was found during excavations near Rye House station, a short distance to the south of the site (Figure 4, No. 3). The minting of the coin could be quite specifically dated to the period AD 140-141 (Gerish 1900b). To the north-west of the site, the archaeological investigations at John Warner School (Figure 4, No. 5) exposed a series of Roman ditches and pits that were probably associated with a low status farmstead of 2nd- to 3rd-century date. Finds from three parallel ditches included Hadham greyware pottery, a struck flint blade, fragments of tile, an iron nail and a hone stone. North of the ditches were two ring gullies, which contained some pottery and three very small fragments of eroded human bone. The bones belonged to a young child, probably not more than two years of age (Humphrey and Murray 1997; McDonald and Murray 1997).

6.3.3 Further to the north, two large gravel pits are shown in the Stanstead Road area on the 1880 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 4, No. 6). These pits appear to be where "extensive remains of urns, amphorae, etc...were found during excavations for gravel" (Gerish 1900a), suggesting Roman occupation in this area. Activity appears to have extended further to the north (Figure 4, No. 4), and it has been suggested that there were Roman pottery kilns in the vicinity (*ibid.*), though no kiln structures were identified and the exact nature of the site has been brought into question (Thompson 2002, 6).

6.3.4 Further afield, more extensive evidence of Roman activity has been found in the wider Hoddesdon area beyond the 1000m search radius. Settlement appears to have been concentrated at the edge of the valley where clay soils give way to valley gravels, very much of this in the area of the modern town centre, where excavation and construction work in the 19th and early 20th centuries has exposed evidence of Roman activity (Thompson 2002, 4-6). More recently the investigations adjacent to Hailey Hall School have revealed evidence of Roman activity on the valley side including a cremation cemetery of predominantly 1st- to 2nd-century date (Fawcett 2004; Boyer forthcoming).

6.4 Early Medieval

6.4.1 It is not known whether Ermine Street continued in use following the Roman occupation but it has been suggested that north-south traffic through the area may have reverted to more local routes, closer to the valley floor (Thompson 2002, 6-7). There is very little evidence for post-Roman activity in the area, though Saxon settlement has been recorded further upstream at Ware and Hertford for example (e.g. Partridge 1989, 18-20; Kiln and Partridge 1994, 63-89; Boyer forthcoming b).

- 6.4.2 There is no evidence for early medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the study site, although it has been suggested that the manor of Rye on the east side of the River Lea predates Domesday Book and would have been part of Stanstead Abbots parish. The manor is recorded in the Domesday survey as a “half hide in *Stanstede* in the hundred of Braughing, held of Geoffrey de Bech” (Hayllar 1948, 93). Hoddesdon is mentioned six times in Domesday Book and referred to variably as *Dodesdone*, *Hodesdone* or *Odesdone* (Open Domesday n. d.). It comprised a series of scattered settlements which housed a small population and included arable land, pasture and woodland, along with fish weirs, presumably along the River Lea (Thompson 2002, 6). The study site is likely to have lain within a marginal floodplain environment at this time, close to the river.

6.5 Medieval

- 6.5.1 In the post-Conquest era the area would have comprised a series of manors lying between wooded higher ground to the west and marshland and the river to the east. Hoddesdon began to emerge as a distinct settlement in the late 12th century when a bridge carrying the road from London to Cambridge was constructed across the Lea at Ware, to the north, which increased the amount of traffic along the route. It was not until 1253 however, that a weekly market and annual fair were granted at Hoddesdon to Richard de Boxe (Thompson 2002, 8).
- 6.5.2 The study site remained in a marginal location east of the settlement core and close to the river during the medieval period though it is possible that it was dry enough for pasture at certain times of the year. The dynamic nature of the river however, means that it is not possible to define its exact position at this time.
- 6.5.3 Probably the most significant development in the vicinity of the study site during the medieval period, albeit on the opposite bank of the River Lea, was the construction of Rye House (Figure 4, No. 7). As outlined above the manor of Rye is mentioned in Domesday Book, it is also further documented in 1261 as *Insula de la Rye* (Hayllar 1948, 93), though there are no further records until the 15th century. In 1423 Andrew Ogard had acquired the manors of Hailey and Thele (jointly known as Goldings) to the north and west of the site and in 1443 he acquired the manor of Rye, east of the Lea (Garside 2002, 15-17) and was granted a licence to build a castle by Henry VI. The charter apparently described the inclosure of the “site of the manor of Rye, alias the Island of Rye and 50 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 80 acres of pasture and 16 acres of wood within the island, to make a park and have free warren, and to crenellate the house” (Page 1912, 370). The area is an unusual location for a medieval deer park permitted in the charter, being on the floodplain at the confluence of the Rivers Lea and Stort (Figure 4, No. 9), but it was evidently intended to enhance the setting of the house (Cantor 1983). The park had a lodge, but there is no evidence that deer were ever present and early maps of the area do not show it. Some park field names survived, one of which suggests that 48 acres of the former park were subsequently used as a rabbit warren (Rowe 2009, 212-3).
- 6.5.4 Much of the Rye House building complex has now been demolished but a 17th-century plan of the site shows a complex of buildings surrounded by a wall within a moated enclosure, with a further courtyard to the east and a causeway constructed by Ogard south of the site. This allowed a dry crossing of the marshy land where the River Lea meets the Stort, and became part of a highway between London and East Anglia. Ogard charged a toll for the use of his part of the route and a feature shown on 19th-century maps is believed to indicate the location of his toll gate, which was subsequently used in later centuries (Figure 4, No. 27)
- 6.5.5 Although many of the structures have gone the moated enclosure is still intact, some structural remains are still present and the site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The most complete surviving structure is the gatehouse (Figure 4, No. 8; Plates 11 & 12), which is a two-storeyed building with crenellated parapet, of red brick in English bond with some diaper ornament in black headers and carved stonework to string courses and the main entrance. The building is significant for its very early use of moulded brick for decorative features (Smith 1975). Other surviving architectural fragments comprise a pair of moulded chimneys, now used as gateposts at the south-

west entrance to the monument (Figure 4, No. 10; Plate 11), which were relocated here by Henry Teale in 1868 when the site became public pleasure gardens; a fragment of wall and window sill located towards the south-western edge of the enclosure (Figure 4, No. 11); and a fragment of wall and part of a head of a window south of the gatehouse (Figure 4, No. 12; Plate 12).

- 6.5.6 The feature known as the Isle of Rye on which the castle was erected, is believed to have been a natural gravel landform that rose up above the level of the surrounding Lea floodplain (Tregelles 1908, 3). Andrew Ogard also built a bridge across the river, which effectively permitted travel between Hertfordshire and Essex via his causeway. The manor remained in the Ogard family until 1560.
- 6.5.7 Apart from the Rye House and associated developments, there are no entries on the HHER for medieval activity within 1000m of the study site, though it is possible that undated ditches and a possible water course identified during an archaeological evaluation at Rye House Power Station to the south (Figure 4, No. 32) could be of medieval date. The lack of entries is most likely a reflection of the site's marginal location, though activity continued within the historic core of Hoddesdon and the settlement expanded into the post-medieval period. The study site at this time lay in the parish of Broxbourne with Hoddesdon within the Hertford hundred, whereas Rye House to the east of the river was located in Stanstead Abbots parish within Braughing hundred.

6.6 Post-Medieval

- 6.6.1 In the early post-medieval period, expansion of Hoddesdon still focussed on what was essentially a single street at the settlement core, though it is shown on early maps of Hertfordshire. Christopher Saxton's *Hertfordiae Comitatus* of 1607 for example (Figure 5), appears to show *Hodefton* as a relatively important settlement with *Ree* (Rye) as a distinct entity east of the Lea. The town acquired much of its present character in the 17th century when the Cambridge Road (later the Old North Road) which passed through the settlement, increased in importance (Thompson 2002, 12).
- 6.6.2 The study site remained some distance from the core of Hoddesdon during the early post-medieval period, though a silver coin of Elizabeth I dated 1557 and found in the Essex Road area south-west of the site (Figure 4, No. 13), shows there was some activity away from the settlement core. A significant development in the vicinity of the study site came in the 17th century with the development of the New River. As early as 1600, Edmund Colthurst had mooted the idea of satisfying an increasing demand for fresh water in London by tapping in to a new source north of the city, however it was Sir Hugh Myddleton who became synonymous with the New River. Springs at Amwell and Chadwell near Ware provided fresh water carried along artificial channels down the Lea Valley to the metropolis. Work on the scheme began in 1609 and was completed in 1613 (Garside 2002, 32-3) and where the channel was cut to the east of Hoddesdon it significantly changed the character of the area around the study site. The New River course runs within 100m to the west of the site though the channel is at a higher level than the current site and the River Lea to the east. The site, rather than lying east of one river, now lay between two. Andrew Dury and John Andrews' map of 1766 (Figure 6) clearly shows the two channels, which in the vicinity of the site appear to run almost parallel with one another. The map also shows that the site lies in what appears to be undeveloped marshland some distance to the east of the settlement at Hoddesdon, with the 'Old Rye' estate east of the Lea.
- 6.6.3 Rye House was the setting of an infamous chapter in British history in the 17th century, though one which has little relevance to the study site. In 1683 a plot was hatched to assassinate King Charles II and his brother James, Duke of York (later James II) in order to secure the succession of the Duke of Monmouth, an illegitimate son of Charles II and Lucy Walter. The main conspirators were the Duke of Monmouth, Lord William Russell, Lord Essex and Sir Algernon Sydney, whilst another plotter, Richard Rumbold, had the lease of Rye House. Near to the property ran a narrow lane that was regularly used by the King when he went to Newmarket and along it was a thick hedge on one side and on the other an outhouse that afforded good cover from which potential assassins could strike. However, there was no

- attempt made on the King's life as he returned from Newmarket a day earlier than anticipated, though the plot was discovered and Lord William Russell and Algernon Sydney were beheaded, whilst a number of their co-conspirators were also executed, including Rumbold, who was hanged, drawn and quartered (Marshall 2003, 291).
- 6.6.4 A further modification to the river system in the vicinity of the site was the creation of the River Stort Navigation, which runs from Field's Lock, on the River Lea Navigation near the site (Figure 4, No. 23), to a terminus basin at Bishop's Stortford. It was created under the terms of the Stort Navigation Act of 1766, which stated the river should be made navigable. It is 13 miles long and has eight locks, though the gates of these do not pre-date 1920. The lock and weir at Field's Lock are also of some historic interest (Figure 4, No. 22).
- 6.6.5 Andrew Bryant's 1822 map of Hertfordshire (Figure 7) again appears to show the study site in undeveloped marshland, some distance from the core of Hoddesdon, which does not appear to have significantly expanded since the production of the 1766 image. Buildings shown to the north-east of the site are probably those associated with Rye Farm (Figure 4, No. 24), which originated with the late medieval estate but was redeveloped as a model farm in the 19th century.
- 6.6.6 The earliest map to show the layout of the study site in any detail, the Hoddesdon Tithe Map of 1842 (Figure 8) clearly shows that there was some activity in the immediate vicinity of the site. This map shows that the site lay at the north-eastern edge of Hoddesdon parish but rather than lying in marshland the site occupies part of a plot of land named on the accompanying apportionment as 'Timberwell Meadow', a large area, probably of pasture, adjacent to the River Lea owned by F and H Chamberlain and occupied by James Brown. Unusually for this period the surrounding fields to the west and south are unenclosed and still being farmed using the strip cultivation method. The arable field to the west of the site is known as Rye Field, with the numerous strips owned by a number of individuals including George Jacob Bosanquet Esq., Henry Belcher, Stanes Brockett Brockett, The Reverend Edward Cathrow, Hugh Hughes, the Marquess of Salisbury, William Tuck and Edmund Fearnley-Whittingstall. Occupiers include John Oakden, John Rookes, Peter Cheffins, John Harding and J. Byott. The arable field to the south, and east of the New River is called Marsh Furlong, many of the owners and occupiers of strips in Rye Field also holding land here.
- 6.6.7 A further important feature of the tithe map is the location of the River Lea in relation to the study site. The eastern side of the site, particularly to the north is clearly much closer to the river than it is today; an illustration of the dynamic nature of the watercourse. There is also a small water channel, probably an artificial cut, extending north-westwards across the site from the river, though it does not extend as far as the New River. Given the downward slope of the topography here from west to east, it is possible that the channel is some type of drainage feature discharging into the river.
- 6.6.8 A second major development that greatly affected the topography in the vicinity of the study site came in the 1840s with the construction of the rail network. In September 1840 the Northern and Eastern Railway opened as far as Broxbourne but in 1843 a branch line was extended to Hertford (Hayllar 1948, 148), which passed immediately west of the site. Construction of the line involved significant cutting into the valley side between the River Lea Navigation and the New River and may have included levelling of the site at this time. In addition to the railway line, Rye House Station was constructed a short distance south of the site (Figure 4, No. 14). The original platforms still survive but all original structures have been replaced with modern buildings. Another historic structure associated with the railway is the road bridge over the line, immediately south of the site (Figure 4, No. 19). Rye Road, which is carried by the bridge extends to the west, where it is carried by a bridge over the New River (Figure 4, No. 20) and to the east, where there is a bridge over the River Lea (Figure 4, No. 21), the modern examples just being the latest of a historical series of crossings over both water courses. Further to the south-east there are historic railway bridges carrying the railway line, which was extended to Bishop's Stortford in 1845, over the River Lea and a small stream (Figure 4, Nos. 15 & 16).

- 6.6.9 The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1880 (Figure 9) clearly shows the railway extending along the western side of the site as well as illustrating how the New River had been straightened, which had been carried out following the passing of a Parliamentary Act of 1852 (Thompson 2002, 14). Much of the study site remains undeveloped, though there had probably been significant topographical modification when the railway cut was made, but the northern part of the site is now occupied by watercress beds (Figure 4, No. 29). These are in the area where the small channel was shown on the tithe map and may suggest this channel may have had a horticultural as well as drainage function. Also visible on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map are a number of gravel pits to the west of the site, indicating that there had been quarrying, probably for materials associated with construction development in Hoddesdon prior to 1880. Quarries in the near vicinity of the site include those adjacent to Rye Road (Figure 4, No. 18) and the more recently developed Plumpton Road (Figure 4, No. 17). West of these quarries a number of roads have been laid out but there is no residential development in the vicinity of the study site. Further afield there is another gravel pit to the south-west in the Essex Road area (Figure 4, No. 28). All of the pits were subsequently expanded indicating that quarrying and therefore development continued into the later 19th century. East of the River Lea there has been significant development in the area around Rye House. Much of this development is associated with the creation of Henry Teale's pleasure gardens around the remains of Rye House and includes the Rye House public house (Figure 4, No. 25; Plate 13), which still stands and operates as such today.
- 6.6.10 The 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1898 (Figure 10) shows little if any change to the layout of the study site but there has been further quarrying activity to the west. The pit north of Rye Road has been significantly extended and there are new pits west of Plumpton Road. There has also been significant residential development along the roads laid out to the west of the quarry pits, though the only construction in the vicinity of the site appears to have been the erection of additional buildings at Rye House Station. East of the river, all of the elements of the pleasure gardens appear to have remained intact and there is an extra building to the north.
- 6.6.11 Nineteenth-century structures of some historic interest within the search radius around the study site include 38 Lea Road to the west (Figure 4, No. 26), a whitewashed brick, two-storey building with attic, which also has a single storey extension to rear and an 1882 on date stone at front. Cranbourne House on Cranbourne Drive, further to the north (Figure 4, No. 30) and built against the side of the railway tracks is also of some historic interest. This had a conservatory at each end along with landscaped gardens. Three other buildings, at least one a separate cottage, had also been built against the north and west boundaries, and the complex was reached along an access track (now Cranbourne Drive) from Stanstead Road to the west. This crossed the New River on a narrow bridge. The main house is now divided; the other buildings are all separate properties, South Lodge, Cranbourne Bungalow, and Linden Lea.
- 6.7 Modern**
- 6.7.1 Hoddesdon continued to expand in the early years of the 20th century and the 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1920 (Figure 11) shows further residential development along the roads to the west of the study site, including a number of buildings over part of the now disused quarry to the north of Rye Road. All of the other gravel pits in the area also now appear to be disused. Two small structures are shown on the study site and there appears to have been some modification of the surface topography in the south-east corner of the site. It appears that the site was certainly being utilised at this time but apart from the watercress beds to the north, it is unclear what function it performed. East of the river, the complex of buildings around Rye House remains much as before, though the Rye House Hotel is now named.
- 6.7.2 The Revised Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1939 (Figure 12) shows significant changes to the layout of the study site and the surrounding area. The major change to the site is the construction of a branch railway line, which extends across the site from

the main line just south of the watercress beds towards the south-east of the site. The status of the site is still unclear but the construction of the line suggests it was performing an industrial function. To the west of the site there has been some further residential development, whilst the former gravel pit north of Rye Road has become a recreation ground with tennis courts, a bowling green and public lavatories. There has also been extensive development, probably of an industrial nature, in the area south of Rye House Station, though the layout around the Rye House complex remains mostly unchanged.

- 6.7.3 The area south of Rye House had become increasingly industrialised during the 20th century and in 1922 a factory had been established here to manufacture Nissen Huts, the importance of which became clear in World War 2. The factory remained open until 1960. Another wartime feature of some importance was a searchlight that was positioned in the grounds of John Warner School to the north-west of the study site (Figure 4, No. 31).
- 6.7.4 The Ordnance Survey Map of 1960 (Figure 13) shows the railway line still extending across the site, indicating its likely continued industrial nature, though the watercress beds are still present to the north and there are still no significant structures on the site. There still appears to be industrial activity south of Rye House Station but a number of buildings associated with the pleasure gardens east of the river have been removed.
- 6.7.5 The Ordnance Survey Map of 1980 (Figure 14) shows significant changes both within the site and the areas beyond. The railway line has been removed but there are a number of buildings in south and central parts of the site, and in the area immediately north of the site. The watercress beds have also been removed and this area appears to now be part of industrial yardage within the site. West of the New River, the area of former gravel pits along Plumpton Road has been developed with a number of large industrial buildings, whilst there has also been some development south of Rye Road. The Industrial units south of Rye House Station have now become a large factory complex and most of the buildings associated with the former pleasure gardens east of the river have now been demolished with just the hotel and the historic gatehouse still remaining.
- 6.7.6 The study site continued to be used for industrial purposes, predominantly aggregates processing into the 21st century as illustrated by a number of aerial photographs of the site (Figure 15). An image dated 2000 (Figure 15a) shows buildings on the site and structures/processing machinery to the north in the area of the former watercress beds. A number of vehicles and/or other machinery and small features are shown in central areas of the site. An image from 2003 appears to show a similar layout (Figure 15b) with apparent piles of aggregates at the north of the site. A similar pattern is also evident in 2005 (Figure 15c) but by 2009 (Figure 15d) the site has been mostly cleared of structures and machinery, with only a single structure and a small number of vehicles remaining at the south of the site. This is much the pattern observable today, though more items and materials are probably currently being stored.

7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 The archaeological and historical background to the study site indicates a small amount of prehistoric activity in the area and significant occupation to the west during the Roman period, with some activity closer to the site. It is possible that a route along the Lea Valley passed close to the site in the post-Roman period but there is no evidence of early medieval activity in the vicinity, the site probably remaining in a marginal marshland location at this time. Hoddesdon developed to the west of the site during the medieval period, whilst there was also significant development at Rye manor to the east of the Lea, though the site may still have lain within marshland. The site remained within a marginal environment during the early post-medieval period but historic maps show that this area was exploited for agricultural purposes by the 1840s if not before. The site continued to be exploited agriculturally and horticulturally through the 19th century and into the 20th century though activity of a more industrial nature was carried out from at least the inter-war period. Most recently the site has been used for aggregates processing and storage.

7.2 Prehistoric

- 7.2.1 There is some evidence of Upper Palaeolithic activity in the Lea Valley and important Mesolithic sites sealed by peat have been recorded within a few kilometres of the study site. Neolithic and Bronze Age activity is also recorded in the vicinity of the site, close to the valley floor, though Iron Age occupation appears to have been further upslope to the west. Given that there are peat deposits on site that may preserve evidence of earlier prehistoric activity and that there was Neolithic and Bronze Age activity nearby, it is therefore considered that the archaeological potential is **Moderate** for prehistoric remains on the site.

7.3 Roman

- 7.3.1 There was certainly Roman activity in the area between the River Lea and Ermine Street, though this was mostly in more elevated locations to the west of the study site, the site probably being in a marginal, floodplain position at this time. However, there is also some evidence of Roman activity closer to the site and it is therefore considered that it has a **Low to Moderate** potential for Roman remains.

7.4 Early Medieval

- 7.4.1 A post-Roman transportation route along the Lea Valley may have passed close to the study site and Anglo-Saxon occupation is recorded a relatively short distance upstream at Ware and Hertford. However, there is no evidence for early medieval activity in the vicinity of the site and the potential for remains of this period on the site is therefore considered to be **Low**.

7.5 Medieval

- 7.5.1 Hoddesdon developed during the medieval period, along the road which linked London and Cambridge and although there was some expansion east and west of this historic core, the study site remained some distance to the east in a probable marginal location close to the River Lea. Immediately east of the Lea there was significant development in Rye manor, particularly from the later medieval period. However, the river formed an important administrative boundary and activity associated with Rye House may not have extended across the river to the site, though the bridge across the river established by Andrew Ogard may have led to some activity in the area. It is therefore considered that the archaeological potential for this period is **Low to Moderate**.

7.6 Post-Medieval

- 7.7 Hoddesdon gradually expanded during the post-medieval period, whilst the study site appeared to have remained within a marginal, floodplain environment. However, historic maps show that the area adjacent to the River Lea had been exploited for agricultural purposes by the early 19th century and whilst the site was probably mostly used for pasture, watercress beds had been established to the north later in the century. The surface topography of the site is likely to have been modified when the railway was constructed in the 1840s and in the 20th century the site was used for industrial purposes, a rail siding at one point being constructed here. Most recently the site was used for aggregates processing and storage but it does not appear that industrial exploitation of the site resulted in significant impacts upon underlying deposits (apart from maybe later 20th-century draining of the watercress beds). It is therefore thought that the potential for any archaeological remains on the site dating to the post-medieval period, particularly those of 20th-century industry, is **Moderate to High**.

8 IMPACT ON BURIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS AND HERITAGE ASSETS

8.1 Previous Land Use and Existing Impacts

- 8.1.1 The study site lies in an area at the edge of the floodplain of the River Lea, where the natural topography slopes down from west to east, though historic developments in the area have led to significant modifications to this topography. The establishment of the New River, upslope and to the west of the site had a significant impact on the broad morphology of the area but probably not a major influence on the topography of the site. The construction of the railway however, directly west of the site is likely to have had a major impact. Certainly the cutting for the line significantly altered the slope of the valley side and it may have been at this time that the site was levelled. Terracing of the slope has certainly been carried out to provide the site with its broadly flat surface, the level of truncation of underlying deposits likely to increase from east to west. More recently the abandonment of the watercress beds at the north of the site and the use of this area of the site for aggregates processing also appears to have included some truncation of underlying deposits; mounds of earth piled along the west, north and east edges of the site here, appear to have been removed from the watercress beds area prior to a hard standing surface being laid. Whilst relatively recent developments may have variably truncated shallow buried deposits, the likely depth of alluvial and peat deposits on the site suggests that potential remains of earlier prehistoric date are unlikely to have been significantly impacted upon.

8.2 Impact of Proposed Development on the Archaeological Resource

- 8.2.1 The proposed redevelopment of the site is for up to fifty residential units along with associated services and car parking facilities. The exact construction methodologies for the proposed development had not been finalised at the time this report was compiled but it is likely there will be some further ground modification. Given the location of the proposed development within the floodplain of the River Lea and the likelihood of unstable underlying deposits, deep piling appears inevitable and this will certainly have a significant impact on potential underlying deposits of archaeological significance, as will the excavation of any deep foundations or other intrusive works. Any surviving remains of post-medieval date are certainly likely to be impacted upon by all aspects of the development.

8.3 Impact of Proposed Development on Heritage Assets

- 8.3.1 The number of heritage assets west of the River Lea in the vicinity of the study site is limited, as apart from Rye House Station and bridges over the Lea and the New River developments in the area are quite recent and of very little heritage value. The low rise nature of the proposed development also means that there will be a limited impact on the few heritage assets here, particularly given the nature of previous development and usage of the site.
- 8.3.2 However, the Rye House Scheduled Ancient Monument, including the Grade 1 Listed Building is a significant heritage asset that lies across the River Lea, directly opposite the site and the proposed development has the potential to have a significant impact on this, both during the actual development phase and post-development. As well as the obvious visual and audible impacts there is also likely to be increased traffic and on-site vehicle movement, which may lead to raised pollution levels, though much of the impact may be suppressed by the curtain of trees along the west of the monument, which at least restrict the views between monument and site. However, if the proposed redevelopment is sympathetic to the surrounding area, it is hoped that following completion of construction work, the visual impact on nearby heritage assets will be significantly less than at present, given the current state of the study site.

8.4 Ground Soil Contamination

- 8.4.1 The proposed development site has not been subject to specific assessment for below ground contamination though given the previous use of the site for light industrial purposes, some contamination is perhaps inevitable. This may be in the form of hydrocarbons deposited from motor vehicles and machinery used on the site or from aggregates and other materials stored on the site.

8.5 **Services**

- 8.6 No detailed service plans of the study site were available at the time this report was produced, but it is likely that the proposed development area will contain a number of buried service runs, mostly defunct services associated with previous industrial activity on the site, though live services, particularly drainage runs and electric cables supplying the one remaining building may still be present.

9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 This report aimed to identify the potential for the occurrence of archaeological remains on the site, the probable period from which they date and the type of remains that can be expected. In addition, the likelihood for the survival of these remains has been assessed, as has the impact of the proposed development on Heritage Assets within the vicinity of the site.
- 9.2 Occasional Palaeolithic remains have been found in the Lea Valley and peat deposits on the valley floor have preserved and sealed Mesolithic remains at a number of locations, including those within a few kilometres of the study site. Evidence of Bronze Age and Neolithic occupation has also been detected in the vicinity of the site. It is therefore considered that the archaeological potential is moderate for prehistoric remains within the site.
- 9.3 Roman occupation preceded by Late Iron Age activity was focussed on areas upslope and to the west of the study site, though some activity has been detected in lower-lying areas closer to the site, including a possible settlement along with pottery manufacture. Therefore the potential for Roman remains is considered to be low to moderate for the site.
- 9.4 It is possible that a post-Roman transport route along the Lea Valley passed close to the study site and Saxon occupation is recorded upstream at Ware and Hertford. However, no evidence for early medieval activity has been detected in the vicinity of the site, possibly because of the marginal, marshy location, and therefore the potential for early medieval remains is considered to be low.
- 9.5 A settlement became established at Hoddesdon during the medieval period, but in common with the earlier Roman occupation, this was focussed upslope and to the west of the study site, which probably remained within a marginal environment. To the east of the River Lea there was activity in Rye manor, particularly during the late medieval period when Rye House was constructed, though the impact of this on the site is unclear. For the site therefore, the potential for remains of this period is considered to be low to moderate.
- 9.6 Hoddesdon gradually expanded during the post-medieval period, though for much of the period, development did not extend as far east as the study site, which was still in an area liable flooding on the Lea floodplain. However, historic maps show that the site and surrounding fields were exploited for agricultural purposes from at least the early 19th century if not before. Construction of the railway immediately west of the site in the 1840s undoubtedly had an impact and it may have been at this time that the site was terraced and levelled. Subsequently activity on the site assumed a more industrial nature though watercress beds remained to the north until the second half of the 20th century. The most recent activity on the site has been associated with aggregates processing and storage and some materials and equipment are still stored here. Evidence of post-medieval industrial activity may still survive on the site and thus it is considered that the archaeological potential for the post-medieval period is moderate to high.
- 9.7 Previous developments on the west side of the Lea valley have undoubtedly had an impact on the study site, though this was probably not extensive during the construction of the New River in the 17th century. However the construction of the railway in the 1840s had a significant and extensive impact through cutting into the valley side immediately adjacent to the site, parts at least probably being levelled at this time. Subsequent developments have resulted in further levelling of the site through terracing into the valley side, resulting in increased levels of truncation of underlying deposits from east to west, though any deeply buried prehistoric remains are unlikely to have been significantly affected.
- 9.8 Precise details of the proposed development were not known at the time this report was produced but it is intended that up to fifty houses will be constructed across the site, along with associated services, garages, car parking and access. Some further

ground modification may be required but given the location of the site within the Lea floodplain, it is almost certain that deep piling will be required. This and other deep excavations for foundations, services etc. will have a significant impact on any surviving below-ground archaeological remains.

- 9.9 The area of proposed development does not lie within a conservation area, archaeological priority area or any other formally designated such area but it does lie in the immediate vicinity of Rye House Scheduled Ancient Monument, which includes a medieval moated site and a Grade 1 Listed Building. Impacts upon these heritage assets during development work may potentially be of a visual, audible and polluting nature, though there is some vegetation screening at the western edge of the monument which will reduce the potential impacts. Furthermore, if the development is sympathetic to the surrounding area then the long-term visual impact should be an improvement on the current derelict state of the proposed development area.

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- 11.2 The author would like to thank the staff of Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies for their immense help in locating and providing archive resources, Helen Hawkins for her project management and editing and Josephine Brown for compiling the illustrations.

APPENDIX 1: HHER SEARCH

HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD: 1000m radial search centred on TL38460986, received on the 2nd June 2014

Map Ref.	Grid Ref.	HER No.	Name	Monument Types	Date Range	Description
Prehistoric						
1	TL 382 107	6660	Rye Meads	Findspot, Lithic Working Site	4500BC – 3501BC	Layer containing worked flints
2	TL 3790 1020	9619	John Warner School	Flint Scatter, Pit, Pit Alignment, Structure	1200BC – 801BC	Late Bronze Age activity here consists of a number of pits
Roman						
3	TL 385 097	1219	Near Rye House Station	Findspot	50AD – 409AD	Bronze coin of Antoninus Pius, mid 2nd century
4	TL 3788 1056	4018	Close to Rye Common	Denehole, Findspot, Pit	50AD – 409AD	A pit and a 'denehole', assumed to relate to adjacent finds of Roman pottery
5	TL 379 102	9620	John Warner School	Ditch, Pit	50AD – 409AD	Ditches and pits, probably representing a rural farmstead
6	TL 3791 1051	30402	Stanstead Road	Gravel Pit, Findspot	50AD – 409AD	Gravel pits which may have yielded finds of Roman pottery
Medieval						
7	TL 3855 0991	61	Rye House Moated Site	Manor, Manor House, Moat	1066AD – 1500AD	Medieval manorial site with moat, granted to Andrew Ogard in 1443
8	TL 38575 09951	285	Rye House Gatehouse	Gatehouse, Workhouse	1066AD – 1900AD	Mid 15th century gatehouse, notable for its early use of decorative brick
9	TL 3855 0993	9973	Medieval Deer Park, Rye	Deer Park, Rabbit Warren	1066AD – 1900AD	Sir Andrew Ogard's 15th century deer park at Rye House
10	TL 3854 0987	12255	Gate Posts, Rye House	Gate Pier	1066AD – 1900AD	A pair of moulded chimneys, possibly dating to c.1443, and now used as gateposts
11	TL 3853 0989	12256	Remains of Window & Wall, Rye House	Wall	1066AD – 1500AD	A fragment of wall and sill of a window, possibly dating to c.1443

Map Ref.	Grid Ref.	HER No.	Name	Monument Types	Date Range	Description
12	TL 3858 0994	12257	Remains of Window & Wall, Rye House	Wall	1066AD – 1500AD	A fragment of wall and part of head of a window, possibly dating to c.1443
Post-Medieval						
13	TL 38 09	155	Essex Road	Findspot	1501AD – 1900AD	Silver coin of Elizabeth 1 dated 1557 was turned out of a roadside bank near a tree-root
14	TL 3848 0976	5545	Rye House Railway Station	Railway Station	1501AD – 1900AD	19th century station on 1843 railway line
15	TL 3893 0942	5642	Railway Bridge, Rye House	Bridge	1501AD – 1900AD	Substantial bridge carrying the GER line across the river Lea
16	TL 3888 0936	5643	Railway Bridge, Rye House	Bridge	1501AD – 1900AD	Railway bridge over the stream
17	TL 3828 0995	5881	Plumpton Road	Gravel Pit	1501AD – 1900AD	Two gravel pits identified from the 1895 second edition OS map
18	TL 3831 0971	5882	Rye Road	Gravel Pit	1501AD – 1900AD	Substantial gravel pit, out of use by 1880
19	TL 38472 09779	5883	Rye Road	Bridge	1501AD – 1900AD	Road bridge over the railway. Yellow brick piers and parapet with reinforced concrete girder
20	TL 38441 09751	5884	Rye Road	Bridge	1501AD – 1900AD	Road bridge over the New River, concrete piers and reinforced concrete girder with metal parapet
21	TL 38524 09824	5911	Rye Bridge	Bridge	1501AD – 1900AD	Bridge of long ancestry carrying the road over the River Lea
22	TL 39014 09139	7260	Field's Weir Lock	Canal Lock, Lock Keeper's Cottage	1501AD – 1900AD	Lock and weir just below the junction of the Lea and Stort Navigations
23	TL 3934 0954	7268	River Stort Navigation	Canal	1501AD – 1900AD	River Stort Navigation, which runs the River Lea Navigation to Bishop's Stortford
24	TL 3884 1014	11152	Site of Rye Farm	Farmhouse, Farmstead, Model Farm	1501AD – 1900AD	Post-medieval farmstead with planned layout; the farmhouse survives
25	TL 3857 0984	12664	The Rye House, Public House	Maze, Pleasure Garden, Public House	1501AD – 1900AD	19th century public house ornamented by Henry Teale c.1870 for his commercial pleasure gardens
26	TL 3818 1000	12665	38 Lea Road	House	1501AD – 1900AD	Late 19th century house

Map Ref.	Grid Ref.	HER No.	Name	Monument Types	Date Range	Description
27	TL 38842 10169	15617	Site of Toll Gate, Rye Road	Toll Gate	1501AD – 1900AD	Rye House toll gate where the old Newmarket road crossed the floodplain of the River Lea
28	TL 37717 09204	17418	Essex Road	Gravel Pit	1501AD – 2000AD	19th century extraction pits
29	TL 38355 10094	17935	Watercress Beds, Rye Meads	Watercress Bed	1501AD – 2000AD	Watercress beds are shown here on the 1880 OS map between the railway and the Lea Navigation
30	TL 38186 10555	30401	Cranbourne House, Cranbourne Drive	Detached House	1501AD – 1900AD	Mid 19th century house and grounds between the railway and the Lea Navigation
Modern						
31	TL 380 103	30384	John Warner School	Searchlight Emplacement	1939AD – 1945AD	Approximate site of World War 2 searchlight emplacement
Unknown						
32	TL 388 090	6957	Rye House Power Station	Ditch	Unknown	Ditches and possible water course identified during archaeological evaluation

APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1: The Study Site Looking North-West, Adjacent to the River Lea Navigation



Plate 2: The Study Site Looking North-East, Beyond the Railway Line



Plate 3: View Looking North Showing Slope Down from the New River (left) to the Study Site (right)



Plate 4: The Study Site, Looking North



Plate 5: Site Entrance with Remaining Building, Looking North-West



Plate 6: Former Building Bases, Looking South



Plate 7: Artificial Platform and Southern Track, Looking South-West



Plate 8: Slabs Stored at South of Site



Plate 9: Skips Stored at North-West of Site



Plate 10: Industrial Premises West of Site



Plate 11: Rye House Gatehouse and South-West Entrance, Looking North-East



Plate 12: Rye House Gatehouse and Ruins, Looking North-West



Plate 13: The Rye House Public House, Looking South

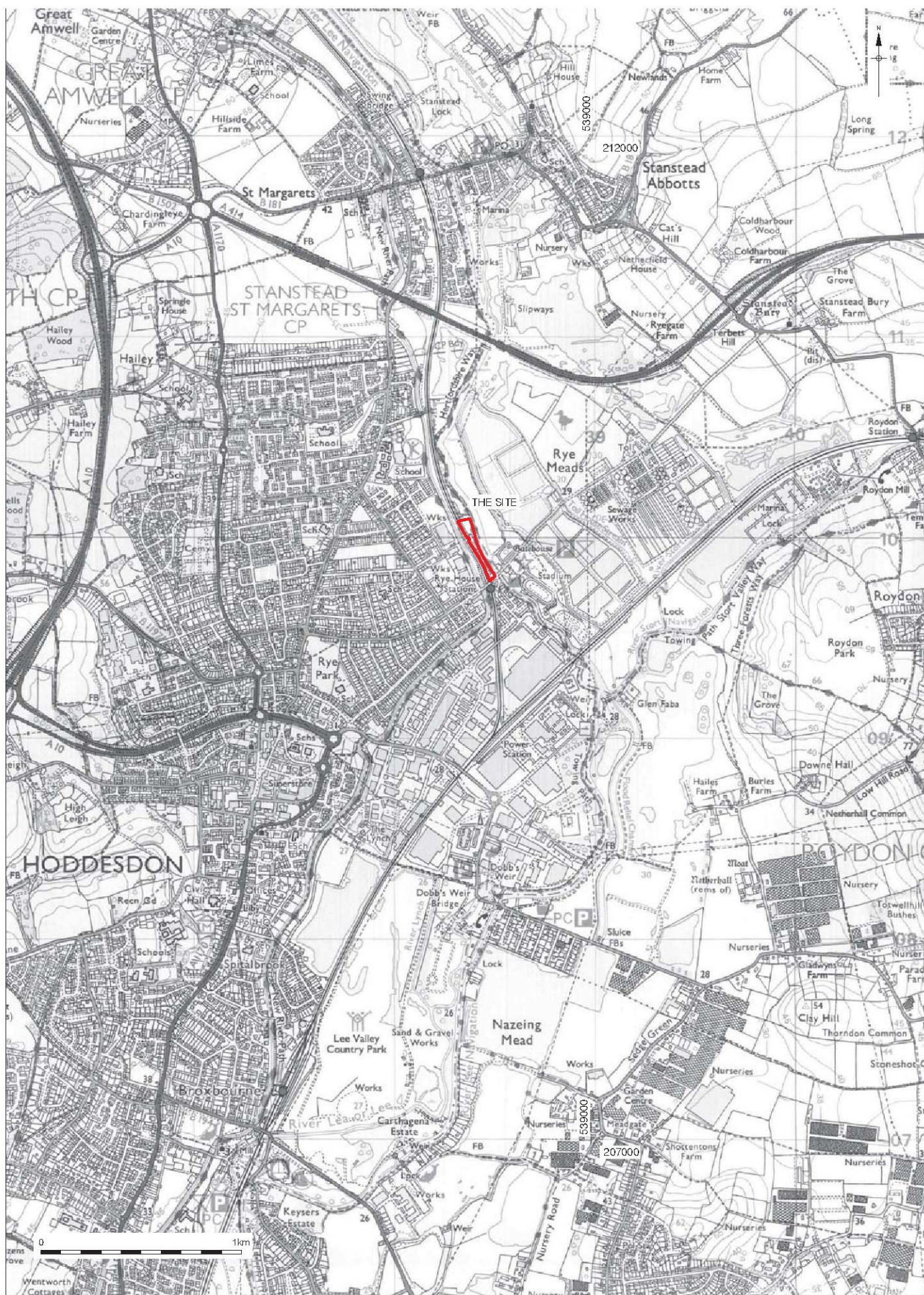
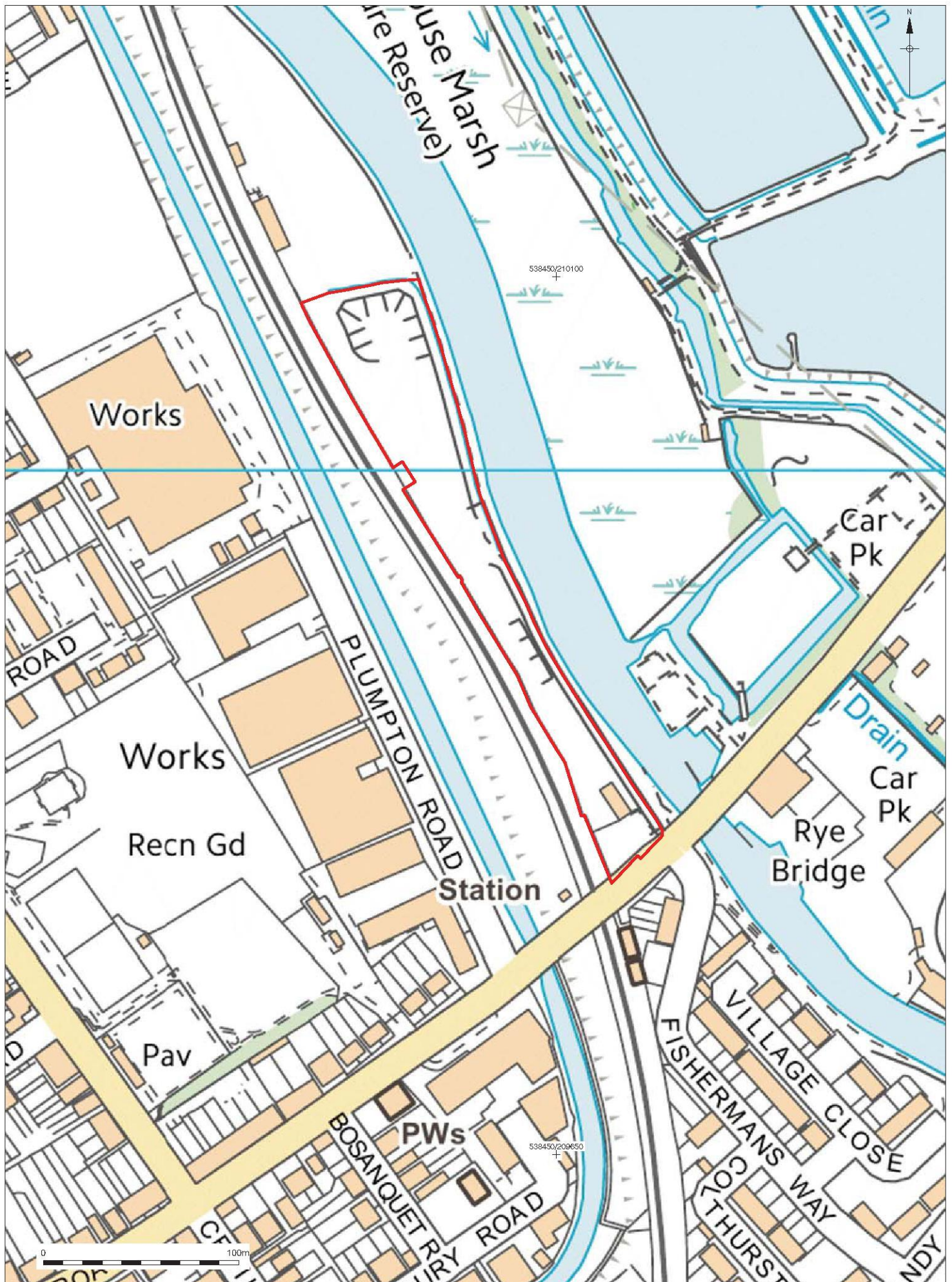
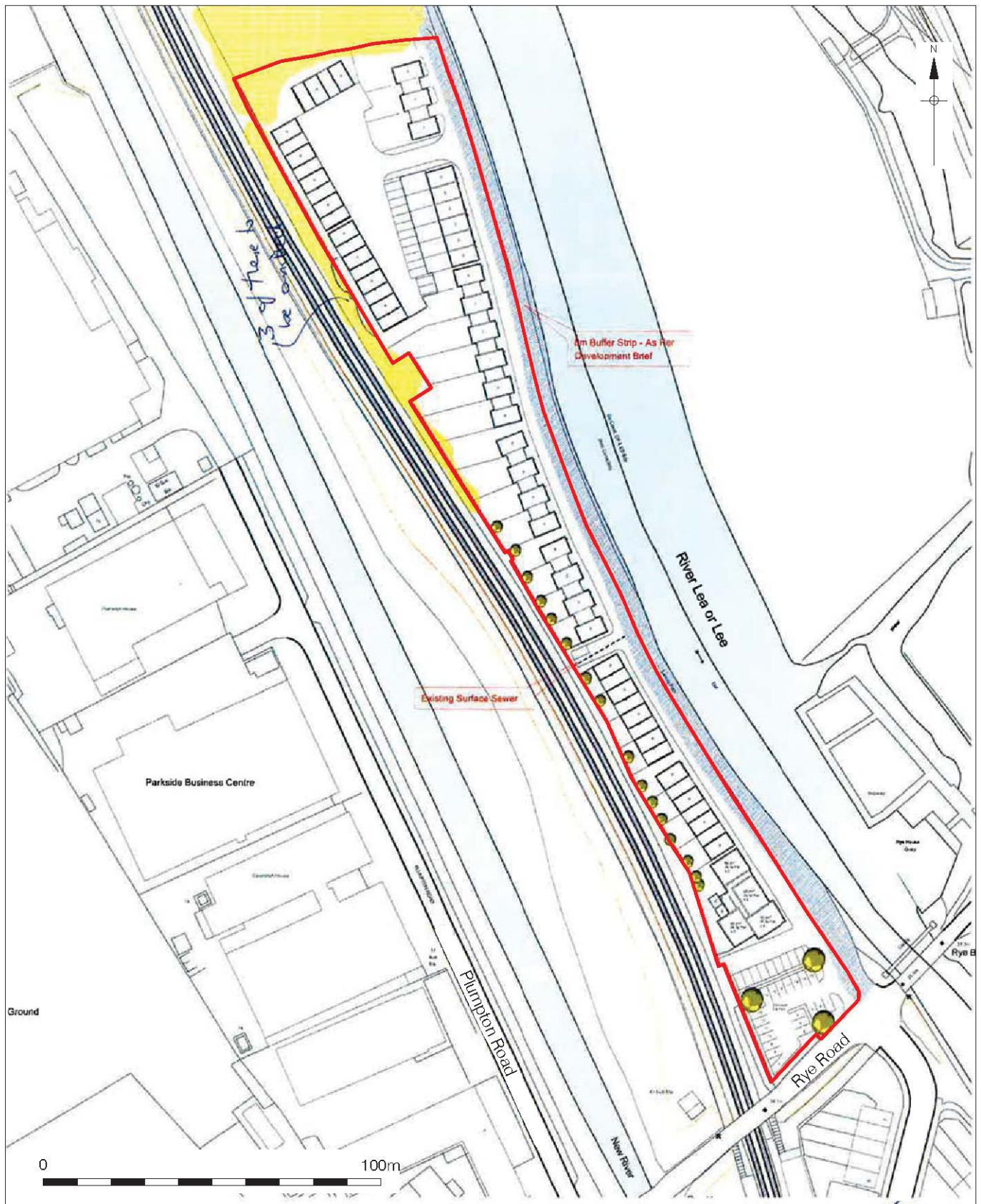


Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:25,000 at A4





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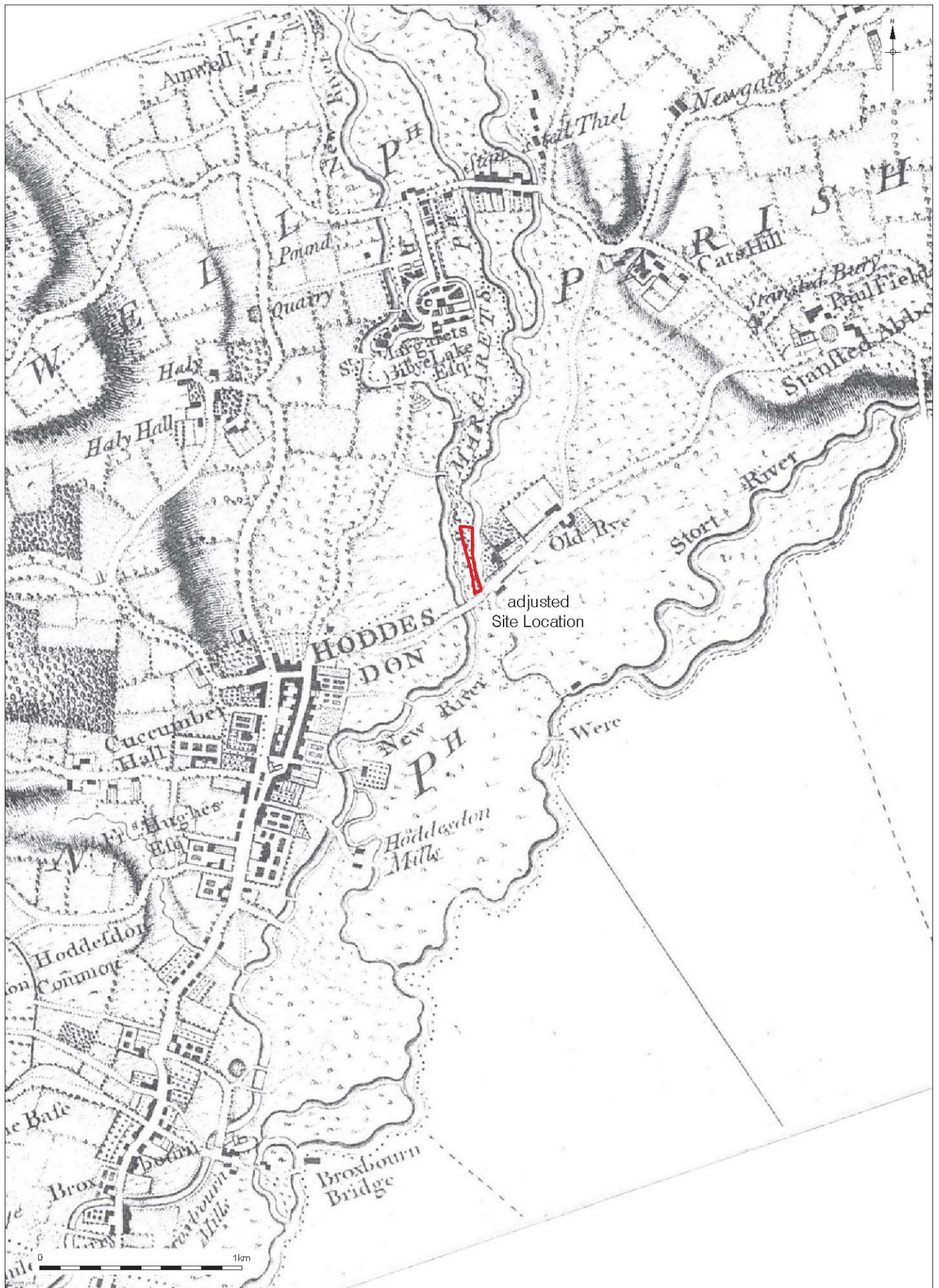
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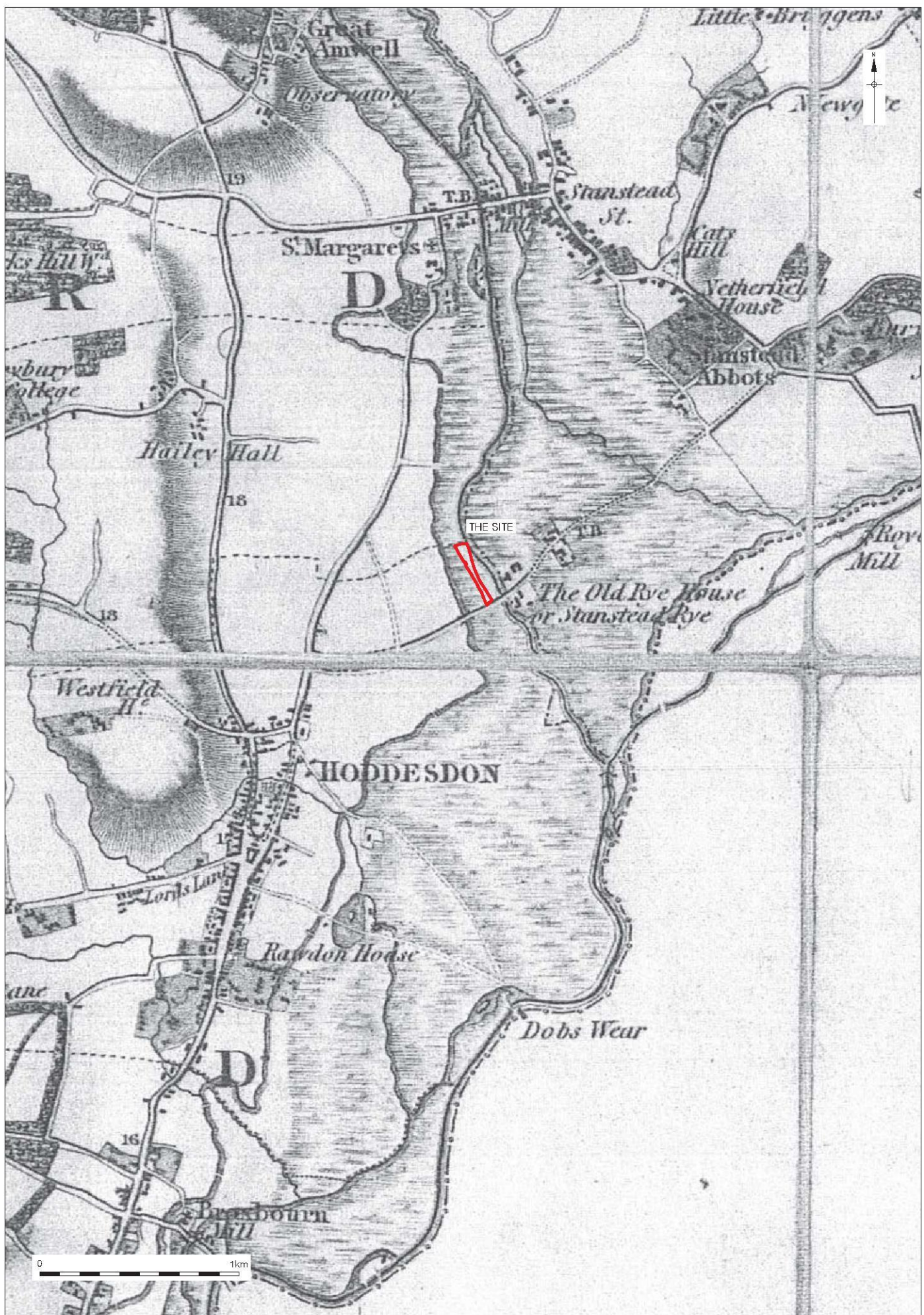
Figure 3
Proposed Development Plan
1:1,600 at A4

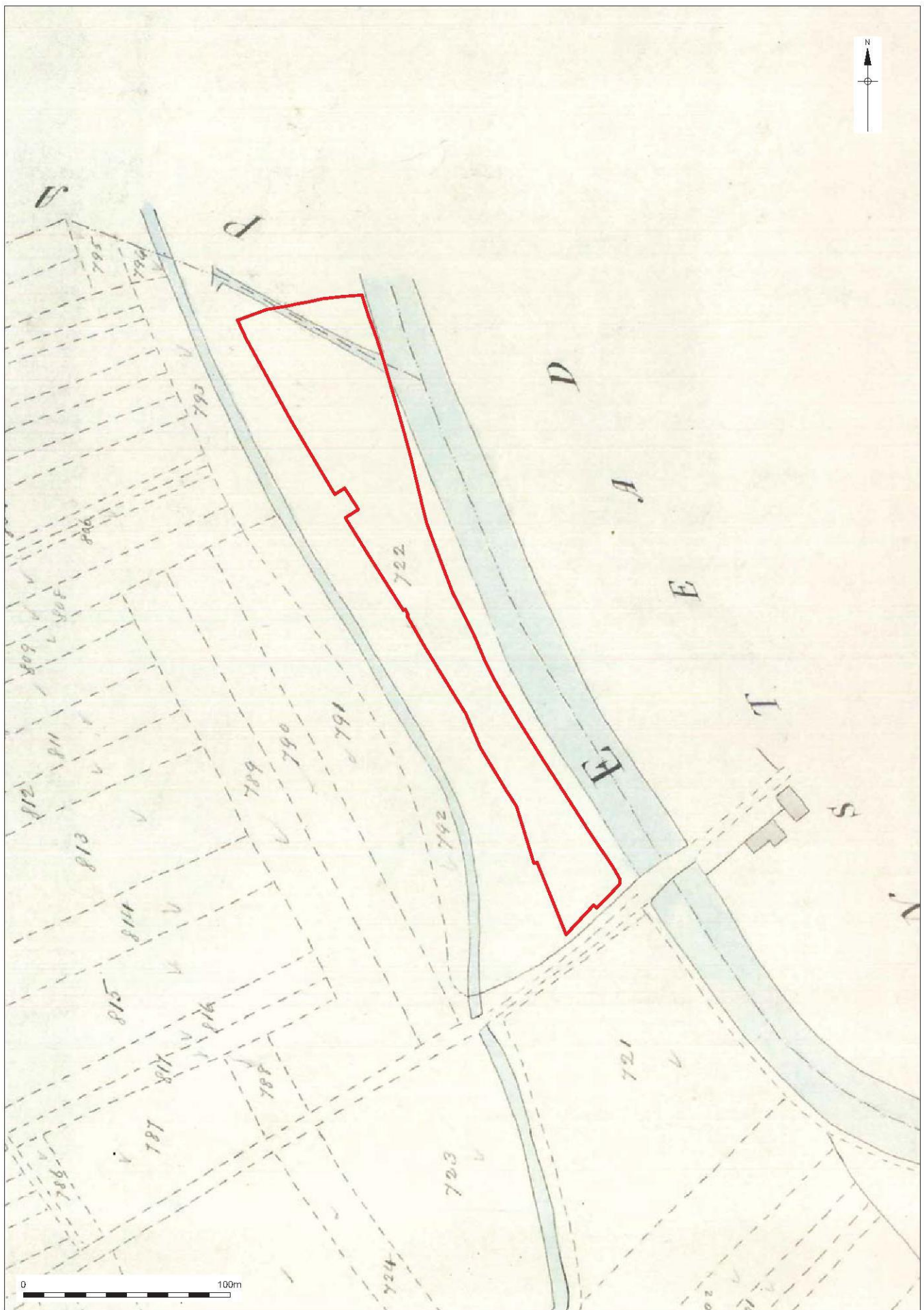
Figure 4
HHER Locations
1:12,500 at A4

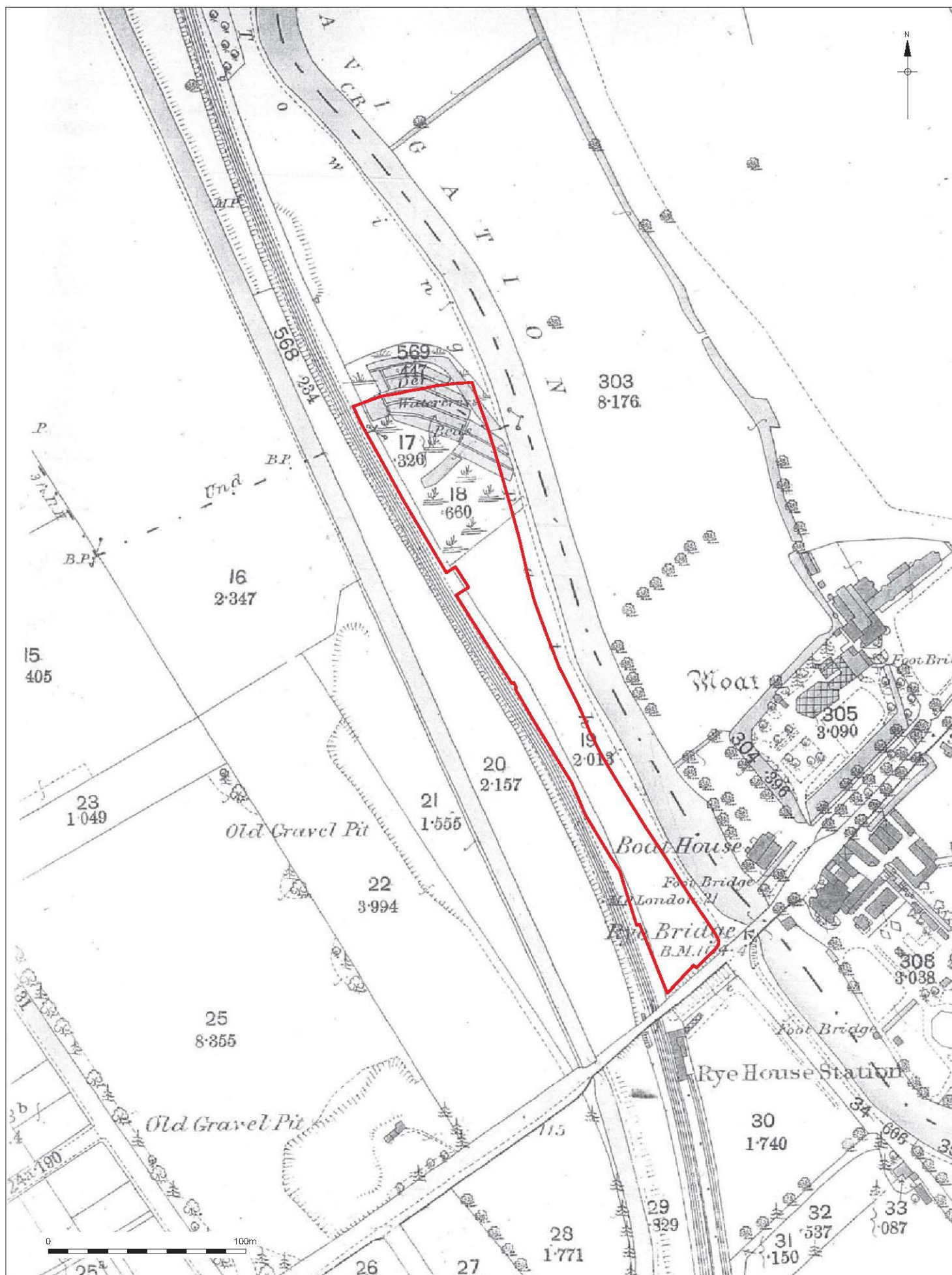


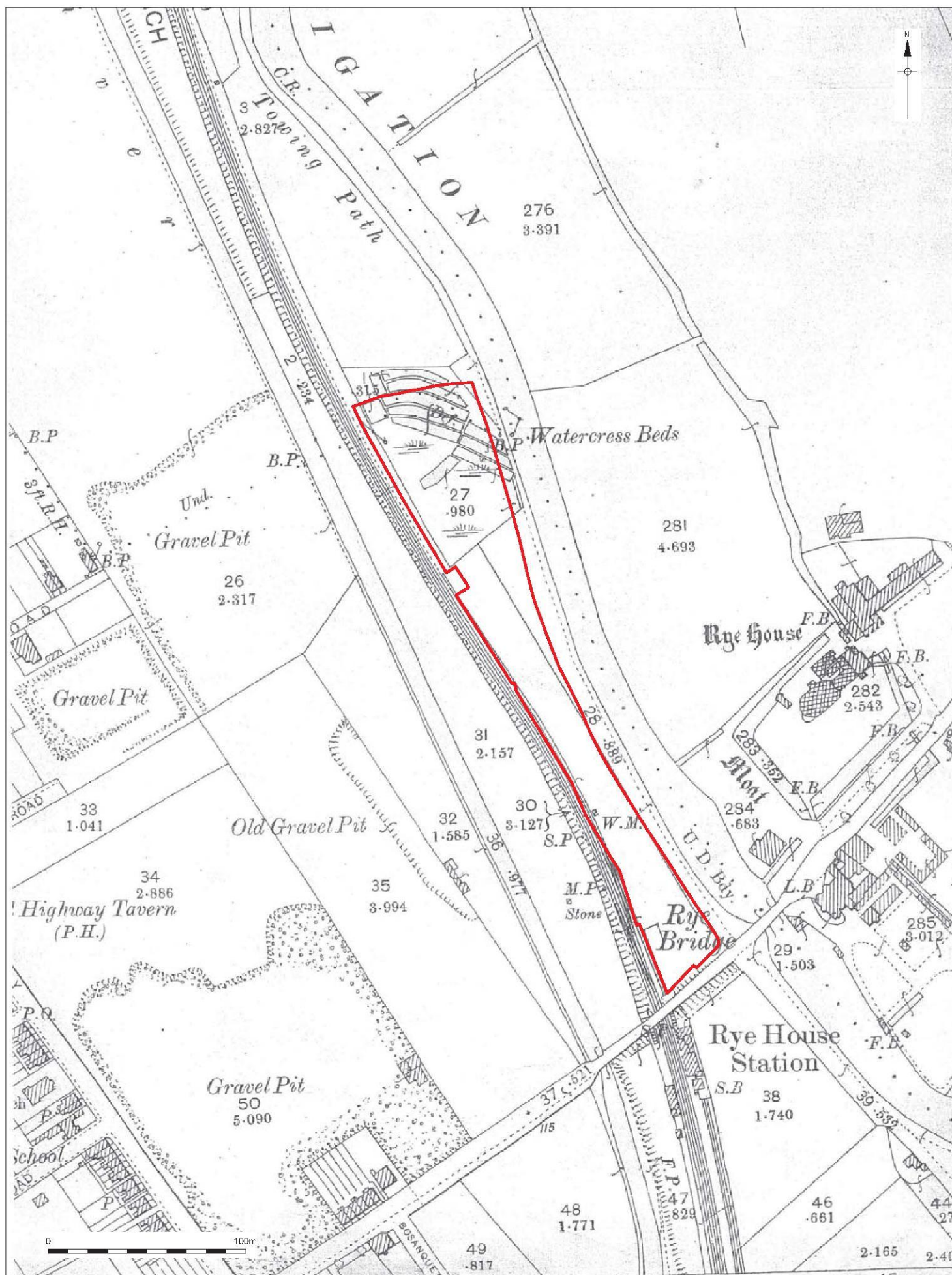
Figure 5
Hertfordiae Comitatus, 1607
not to scale

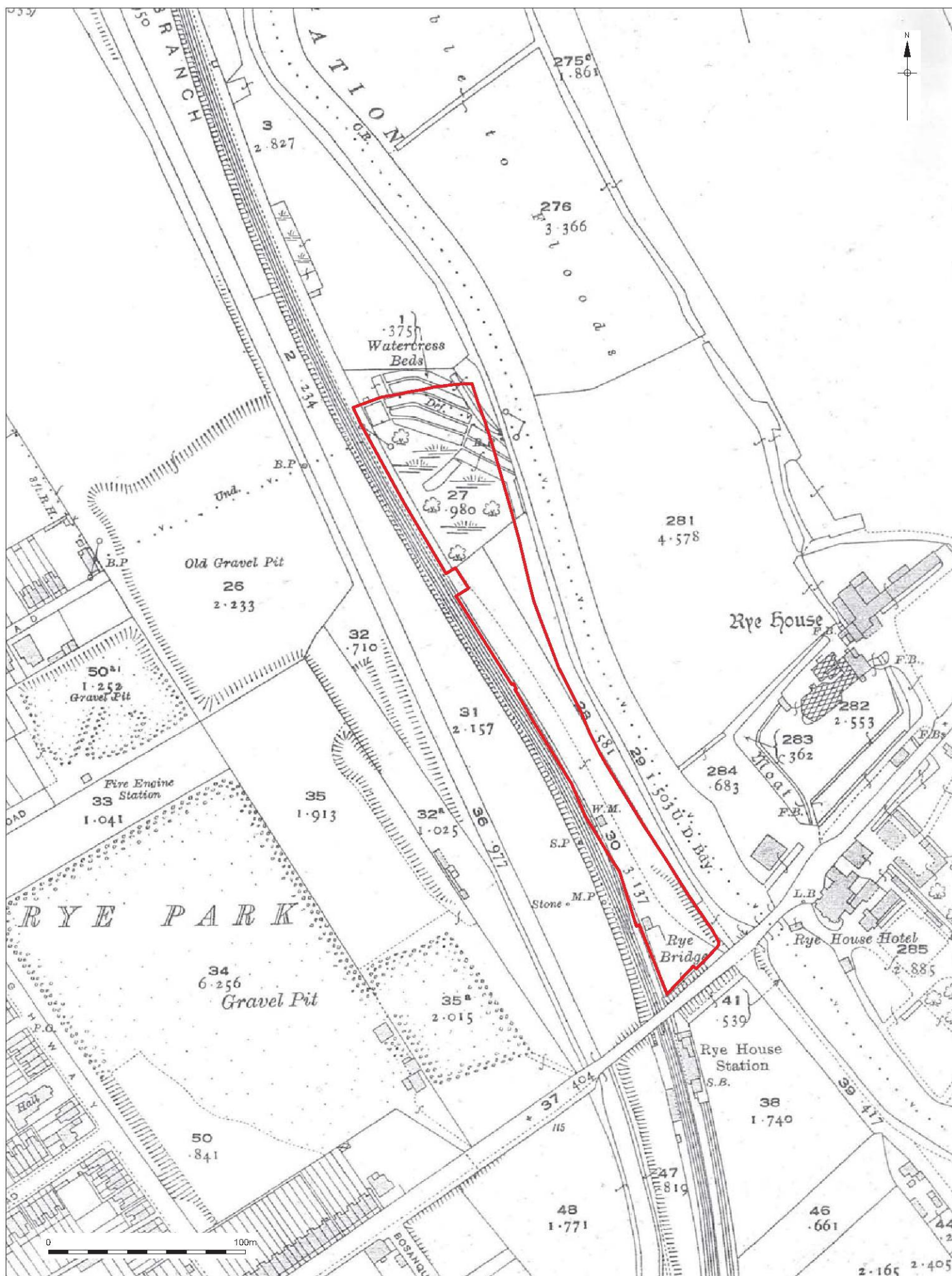


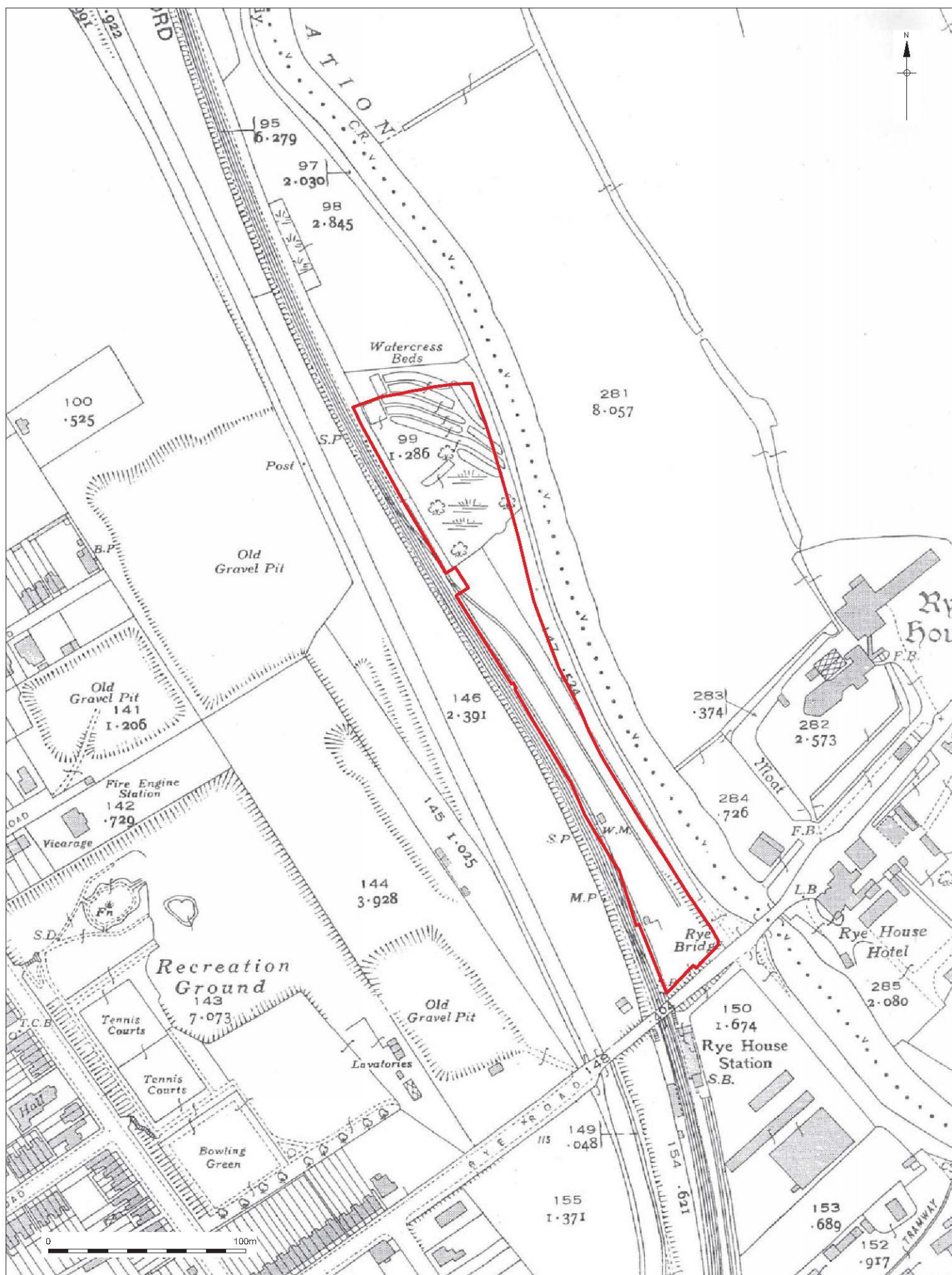


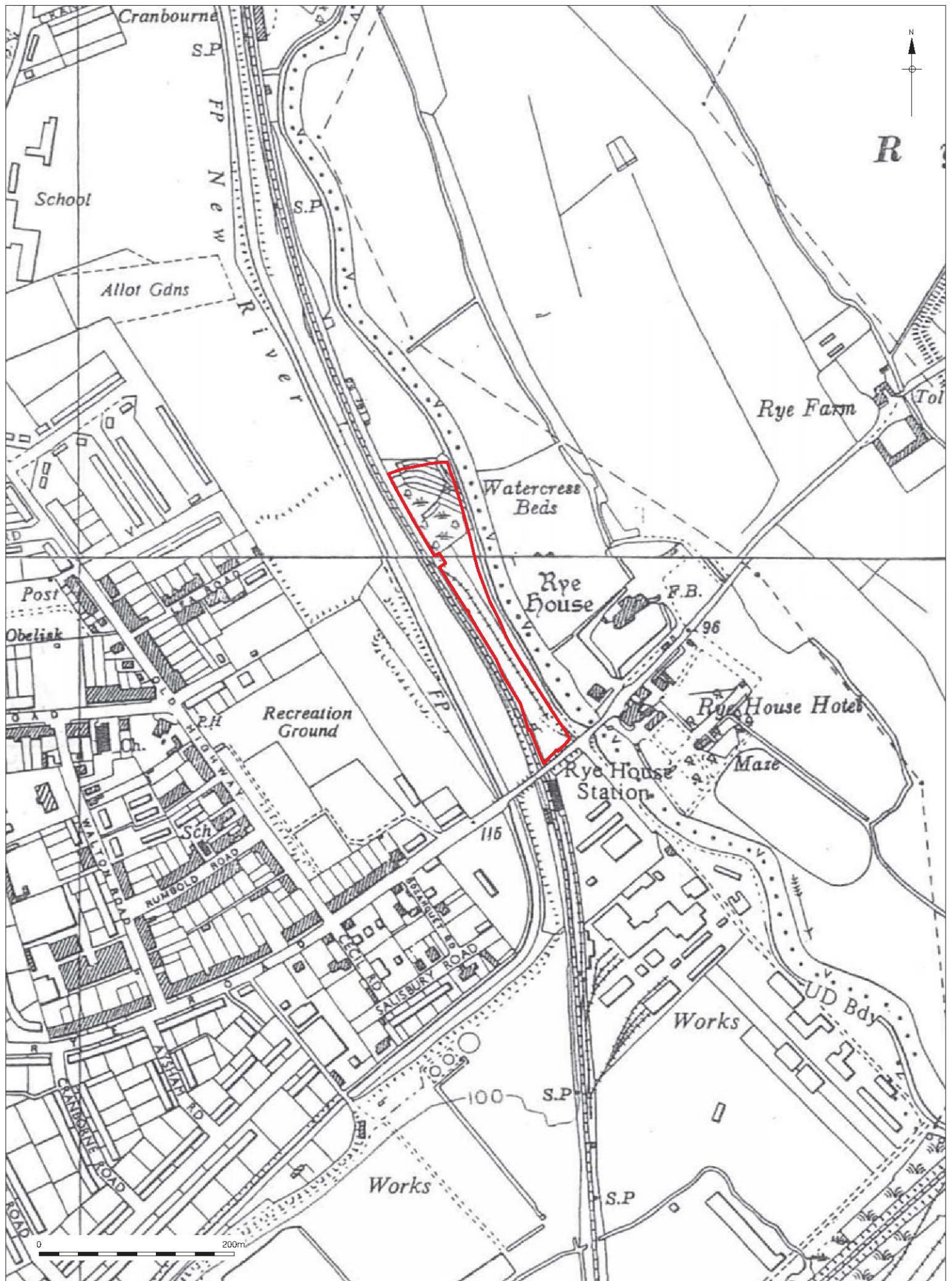












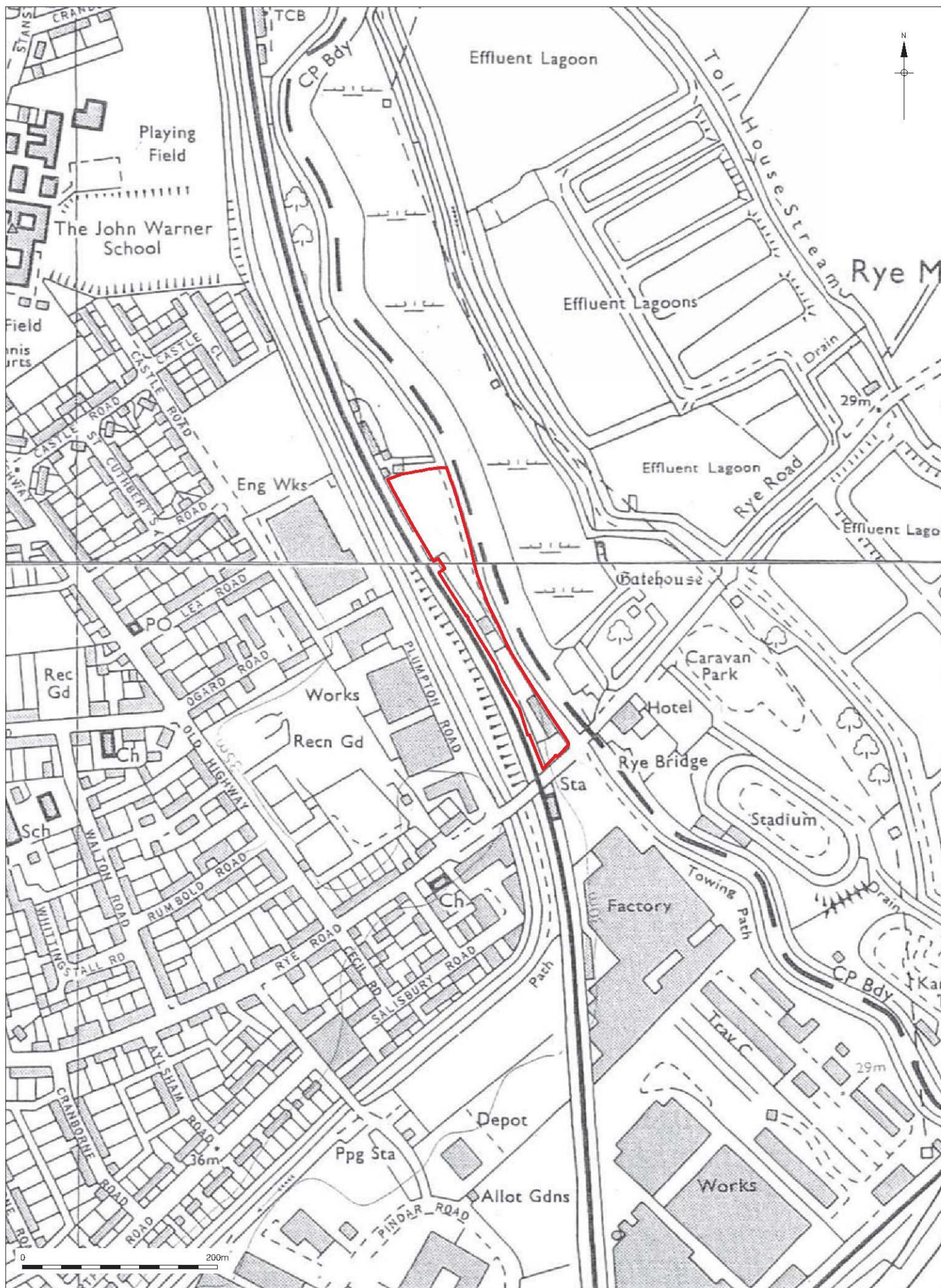


Figure 15: Historic Air Photographs



a. 2000



c. 2005



b. 2003



d. 2009

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

7 GRANTA TERRACE
STAPLEFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

