



**Wimblebury Road,
Cannock**

DRAFT

**Archaeological and
Heritage Assessment**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
Taylor Wimpey

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Contents

Executive Summary	4
Section 1 Introduction	6
Section 2 Legislation and Planning Guidance	8
Section 3 Methodology	15
Section 4 Existing Information	20
Section 5 Conclusion	34
Section 6 References	36

APPENDICES

Appendix EDP 1 Images

PLANS

Plan EDP 1: Overview of Designated Heritage Assets
(edp7109_d003 05 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 2: Overview of HER Monuments
(edp7109_d004 05 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 3: Overview of HER Events and Historic Environment Character Zones
(edp7109_d008 11 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 4: Extract of 1841 Tithe Map of the Parish of Cannock
(edp7109_d005 05 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 5: Extract of 1884 OS Map
(edp7109_d009 12 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 6: Extract of 1902 OS Map
(edp7109_d010 12 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 7: Extract of 1960-62 OS Map
(edp7109_d011 12 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 8: Extract of 1999 OS Map
(edp7109_d012 12 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 9: Extracts of LiDAR Data
(edp7109_d007 05 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Executive Summary

- S1 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment for Wimblebury Road, Cannock was produced by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Taylor Wimpey to inform the Site's suitability in archaeology and heritage terms for future residential development.
- S2 The assessment has identified that the Site does not contain any designated heritage assets, as defined in Annex 2 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) and therefore the implementation of development within the Site would not give rise to any 'direct' impacts in that respect.
- S3 An assessment of heritage assets in the wider surroundings of the Site has demonstrated that the Site does not form part of the setting of any of the heritage assets which are present and, equally, it does not contribute in any way to their heritage significance. It is therefore concluded that the implementation of development within the Site would give rise to 'indirect' impacts on heritage assets beyond its boundaries.
- S4 In terms of non-designated built heritage assets, the Site does not include any nor does it form any part of the setting of any such assets within the wider landscape. On this basis, it is concluded that no non-designated built heritage assets will be adversely affected by development within the Site.
- S5 In terms of non-designated archaeology, the Site is identified as having a very low potential to contain significant archaeological remains from the Prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. Any remains that may be present from these broad periods would most likely comprise evidence of localised land management and would be of no greater than low or local value. Moreover, should any remains have been present historically, they would be truncated by later industrial and agricultural practices.
- S6 The Site contains low or local value features associated with the former Cannock Chase Colliery, now demolished and which dated to the late 19th to 20th century. Otherwise, there is a very low potential for the Site to contain archaeological remains from the post-medieval to modern periods, beyond features related to agricultural practices, which would be of negligible value.
- S7 It is concluded, based on the resources consulted to inform this report, that there is no reason to believe that the Site contains archaeological remains that would be of such significance as to constrain its development for housing. Any archaeological remains, should they be present, could be appropriately addressed through a phased programme of archaeological investigation, the scope and timing of which would be agreed with the archaeological advisor to the LPA.
- S8 With regard to Historic Environment Character Zones, the site is located within two areas; CHEZ9 defined as part of Cannock Forest dating from the medieval period, and CHEZ12 which also formed part of Cannock Forest before being dominated by later industry. Area CHEZ12 within the site comprises the area of the former colliery and agricultural land. Whilst the area of the former colliery is currently wooded, this is a recent land use presumably as it cannot now be used for agriculture. As such the woodland is not a historic element that

makes any significant contribution to this character zone. Character zone CHEZ9 where it coincides with the site now comprises modern fields and boundaries and as such makes no contribution to this character zone. Whilst these character zones, as defined, are considered representative of the historic form of Cannock Forest, closer analysis has determined that their most recent form and use has removed any historic character relating to the chase and as such are not considered to constrain the site's potential capacity for development.

- S9 Therefore, in terms of designated and non-designated heritage assets, there is no reason to believe future development of the Site could not be brought forwards in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*, the NPPF and relevant policies within the Cannock Chase Local Plan.

Section 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), for Taylor Wimpey. This report presents the results of an Archaeological and Heritage Assessment of Wimblebury Road, Cannock, Staffordshire (which from hereon will be referred to as ‘the Site’).
- 1.2 This document has been commissioned and produced to inform the Site’s capacity for future residential development. A previous Archaeology and Heritage Technical Note was undertaken by EDP in 2021 to form an initial assessment of the Site, to which this report provides further detail (EDP, 2021).
- 1.3 The first aim of this assessment is to identify and consider the available historical and archaeological resources for the Site and to determine the nature and magnitude of impacts upon any archaeological remains it contains (actual or potential), in line with the approach set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF; DLUHC, 2023) and local planning policy.
- 1.4 In accordance with best practice guidance, desktop sources have been augmented through the completion of a Site walkover survey, which was undertaken by an experienced surveyor in suitable weather conditions, in February 2024.
- 1.5 The second aim of this assessment is to identify and assess potential changes to heritage assets, either directly or through changes within their settings, as a result of the proposed development, and to determine whether, and to what extent, those changes would affect their heritage significance.

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

- 1.6 The Site is located respectively to the east and south of the former villages of Heath Hayes and Wimblebury, which have now become absorbed into the suburban expansion of Cannock and is centred on National Grid Reference 401951, 310498. Its location and extent are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 1.7 The Site measures c.54.35 hectares (ha) in size and comprises three agricultural fields in the northwest, all of which are largely rectangular in shape, and two fields of roughly square shape in the southwest, as well as a large expanse of woodland known as Wimblebury Mound at its centre and eastern and northwest edge. The agricultural fields were under pastoral cultivation at the time of the site visit in February 2024.
- 1.8 The Site is bounded to the west by Wimblebury Road, a recreation ground and allotment gardens, with the urban extent of Heath Hayes beyond this; to the north by woodland, heathland and fields with occasional agricultural fields and built form at the periphery of Heath Hayes beyond this; to the east by a large expanse of heathland; and to the south by the A5190 with a recently constructed crematorium beyond. Further to the east and south

lies a mixture of agricultural land, woodland with the built form of Burntwood and Norton Canes beyond this respectively.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.9 The Site is located on a south-facing slope with its northern boundary forming a high point at around 200m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and descending to a low point at its southern boundary at approximately 175m aOD.
- 1.10 The British Geological Society (BGS) records the underlying bedrock of the Site to consist of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation (mudstone, siltstone and sandstone), a sedimentary bedrock formed between 318 and 309.5 million years ago during the Carboniferous period.
- 1.11 The BGS also records a superficial deposit covering all of the Site, with the exception of the southeast corner. This deposit comprises Devensian Glaciofluvial Deposits of sand and gravel, formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (www.bgs.com).

Section 2 Legislation and Planning Guidance

- 2.1 This section summarises the key legislative and planning policy context relating to the proposed development of the Site, at both national and local levels.

LEGISLATION

- 2.2 Section 66(1) of the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* sets out the statutory duty of the decision-maker, where proposed development would affect a listed building or its setting. It sets out the statutory duty as follows:

“In considering whether to grant planning permission [or permission in principle] for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.”

- 2.3 This ‘special regard’ duty has been tested in the Court of Appeal and confirmed to require that *“considerable importance and weight”* should be afforded by the decision-maker to the desirability of preserving a listed building and its setting. The relevant Court judgement is referenced as *Barnwell Manor Wind Energy Ltd v East Northants DC, English Heritage and National Trust [2014] EWCA Civ 137*.
- 2.4 However, it must be recognised that section 66(1) of the 1990 Act does not identify that the local authority or the Secretary of State must preserve a listed building or its setting. Neither is it the case that a proposed development that does not ‘preserve’ is unacceptable and should be refused. It is for the decision-maker to evaluate and determine, and also to consider if the proposal which is before them would result in ‘acceptable change’.
- 2.5 Furthermore, insofar as conservation areas are concerned, in Section 72(1) of the 1990 Act the statutory duty only covers development that is within a conservation area - the ‘setting’ of a conservation area is addressed by planning policy.
- 2.6 Paragraph 206 of the NPPF (DLUHC, 2023) transposes section 66(1) and section 72(1) of the 1990 Act into NPPF.
- 2.7 The balancing exercise to be performed - between any harm arising from a proposal and the benefits which would accrue from its implementation - is then subsequently presented in paragraphs 207 and 208 of the NPPF.

National Planning Policy

- 2.8 The NPPF was revised in December 2023. Section 16 sets out the government's approach to the conservation and management of the historic environment, including both listed buildings and conservation areas, through the planning process. The opening paragraph, 195, recognises that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and should be

conserved in a manner proportionate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.

2.9 Paragraph 200 concerns planning applications, stating that:

“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.”

2.10 Paragraph 205 considers the weighting given within the planning decision, with regard to impacts on designated heritage assets, stating that:

“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 (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.”

2.11 Paragraph 206 considers the level of harmful effects on designated heritage assets and states that:

“Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a. Grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional; and*
- b. Assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, Grade I and II* listed buildings, Grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.”*

2.12 With regard to the decision-making process, Paragraph 207 states that:

“Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a. the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site;*

- b. *no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation;*
- c. *conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- d. *the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.”*

2.13 Paragraph 208 states that:

“Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.”

2.14 With regard to non-designated heritage assets, paragraph 209 states that:

“The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.”

2.15 Paragraph 212 of the NPPF sets out that:

“Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites, and within the setting of heritage assets, to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to the asset (or which better reveal its significance) should be treated favourably.”

Local Planning Policy

Cannock Chase Local Plan

2.16 The Cannock Chase Local Plan was adopted by Cannock Chase District Council in 2014 and covers the period for up to 2028.

2.17 The Local Plan includes the following policies which are of relevance to this report:

Policy CP15 - Historic Environment

“Particularly supports objectives 1 Promote pride in attractive, safe, local communities, 6 Create attractive town centres, 7 Provide well managed and appreciated environments and 8 Support a Greener Future.

The District’s Historic Environment will be protected and enhanced via:

- *the safeguarding of all historic sites, buildings, areas, archaeological remains, their settings and their historic landscape and townscape context according to their national or local status from developments harmful to their significance in order to sustain character, local distinctiveness and sense of place;*

- *supporting and promoting development proposals that are sensitive to and inspired by their context and add value to the existing historic environment, landscape and townscape character by virtue of their use, layout, scale, appearance, landscaping and materials to ensure that the historic environment acts as a stimulus to high quality design based upon guidance set out in the Design SPD; planning standards may be applied in a flexible manner to maintain continuity within historic townscapes. Opportunities for new development within conservation areas and within the setting of heritage assets to enhance or better reveal their significance will be considered;*
- *supporting schemes which help to promote wider understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment by all members of the local and wider community, and wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits including continued use and enhancement of heritage assets most at risk;*
- *maintaining an appropriate balance between conservation, re-use, sympathetic adaptation and new development via recourse to national policy in order to promote the sustainable management of the historic environment, mixed sustainable land use patterns and promote the historic environment as a catalyst for the regeneration of the District;*
- *focussing development and regeneration around existing historic urban areas to maximise potential for investment within them and the benefits of heritage-led regeneration as opportunities arise.*

Rugeley town centre, as a particular focus of built heritage interest, is currently the subject of a programme of heritage-led regeneration, maximising partnership opportunities with English Heritage and others where possible, through an area funding scheme for repairs and reinstatements of historic fabric. Key developments will be expected to provide contributions in support of this process, as described in the Rugeley Town Centre Action Area Plan and Rugeley Town Centre Conservation Area Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document.

The built heritage interest of Cannock town centre will provide the basis for future enhancement and development as a focus for investment (in accordance with policy CP9). A Cannock Town Centre Conservation Area Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document will consider the regeneration opportunities this presents.

Key development guidelines to support and enhance the character and appearance of Hednesford town centre and other parts of the District, based upon their historic local distinctiveness, will be set out in the Design SPD.

The heritage contribution of the District's canal network will be strengthened and promoted. Opportunities relating to the Trent and Mersey Canal will be considered within the Rugeley Town Centre Area Action Plan and the Trent and Mersey Canal Conservation Area Management Plan Supplementary Planning Document. A further conservation area will be considered for the Cannock Extension Canal, having regard to its wider setting and the potential for enhancements (in accordance with Policy CP12).

In rural areas the high historic landscape sensitivity will be protected via Green Belt policy. The AONB Management Plan will also provide a framework for the positive management promotion of the District's heritage assets.

The sustainable access and enjoyment of heritage assets District-wide will also be promoted through the strengthening of the District's green infrastructure and creation of footway/cycle routes. Opportunities will be taken to develop an integrated management strategy for Castle Ring, as one of the District's key ancient monuments, with the adjacent Beaudesert designed landscape which falls partly within Lichfield District.

The conservation and enhancement of heritage assets will be supported through Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, the preparation of a Local List of locally significant heritage assets and through the development management process. Specifically Rugeley Town Centre and Talbot Street/Lichfield Street Conservation Areas will be targeted for funding assistance under the English Heritage Partnership funding scheme.

The local decision-making process will be based on an assessment of significance of heritage assets including their setting in relation to development proposals, primarily informed by the Historic Environment Record including the Historic Landscape Characterisation, Historic Environment Character Assessment, Extensive Urban Survey, Historic Farmsteads Survey, Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans and the Local List (forthcoming), updated as necessary. For heritage assets of archaeological interest or sites with potential interest an appropriate level of assessment and/or evaluation will be required to inform decision making.

New development making a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment will generally be supported, having regard to the Design Supplementary Planning Document, including the District Profile (Policy CP3). The best use for a historic building may be the use for which it was originally designed so continuation/reinstatement of that use is likely to be the preferred option. Alternative uses may be appropriate when they would secure the future of the building with minimal impact on significance. Work on heritage assets can have a serious deleterious impact on certain protected species (eg bats) so provision should be made for retention of protected species prior to commencement of works where they would otherwise be displaced."

2.18 It should be noted that the Core Strategy will be replaced by the emerging Cannock Chase Local Plan. The Draft Cannock Chase Local Plan (2020-2038) has recently been published for Regulation 19 consultation.

2.19 The draft policy set outs :

Policy SO1.1: Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing the Distinctive Local Historic Environment

Development proposals which protect and enhance the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets and conserve them in ways that will contribute to the economic vitality, local character and distinctiveness of local communities will be supported.

Designated heritage assets (including Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, and Scheduled Monuments) and their settings will be conserved and enhanced and given the highest level of protection. Non-designated heritage assets (including locally listed buildings and features, and locally important parks and gardens) and their settings will also be conserved and enhanced.

Development proposals which recognise that the historic environment can be a catalyst for positive regeneration, and which preserve and enhance heritage assets and their setting to enhance or better reveal their significance will be supported.

Development proposals affecting, or likely to affect, any heritage asset or its setting will be accompanied by a Heritage Statement which will:

- Identify all heritage assets that could be affected and explain their historic, archaeological, artistic or architectural significance.*
- Reference the Staffordshire Historic Environment Record and other relevant sources such as landscape character and Conservation Area appraisals and management plans.*
- Provide, where required, archaeological survey or historic building and landscape investigations.*

In the case of major development proposals, the Heritage Statement will form part of the Design and Access Statement.

Development proposals that will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset and its landscape and town scape setting will be refused, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or that other exceptional circumstances apply.

Where development proposals will lead to less than substantial harm to existing, or potential, designated and non-designated heritage assets and their landscape and townscape settings, they must be justified by evidence of:

- The public benefits of the development; and*
- The action that will be taken to mitigate and minimise the harm.*

Non-designated archaeology will require an appropriate desk based or field evaluation setting out how development proposals affecting archaeology interests will be considered.”

2.20 Within the draft Local Plan, the northwest portion of the Site is allocated as Policy SH2: Land East of Wimblebury Road, Heath Hayes:

“The development of approximately 400 dwellings, public open space and access from Wimblebury Road to Cannock Road. The development will deliver the Wimblebury Road Relief Road (WRRR) and contribute to off-site highway and sustainable travel improvements and associated off-site infrastructure including a primary school. The development will

deliver a mix of housing sizes, types and tenure to ensure that there is a range of housing including affordable housing.”

- 2.21 The woodland at the centre and east of the Site is not included within this allocation, although the agricultural land to the southeast is proposed as ‘safeguarded land’ ‘Site S1: East of Wimblebury Road, Heath Hayes (southern site). This Site is proposed as having the potential to deliver sustainable development and provide enhanced connectivity for active travel and biodiversity should allocation SH2 come forwards.
- 2.22 The plans and policies identified above have been considered in the preparation of this assessment.

Section 3 Methodology

INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 This assessment report has been produced in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020). These guidelines provide a national standard for the completion of desk-based assessments.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.2 The assessment principally involved consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources. The major data sources comprised:
- The National Heritage List for England (NHLE) curated by Historic England;
 - Staffordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) regarding known archaeological sites, monuments, events and findspots within and in the vicinity of the Site;
 - Maps and documents held by online sources;
 - Aerial Photographs held by Historic England archives; and
 - LiDAR data.
- 3.3 This report provides a synthesis of relevant information for the Site derived from a search area extending up to 1km from its boundary (hereafter known as the ‘study area’), in order to allow for additional contextual information regarding its archaeological interest and/or potential to be gathered.
- 3.4 The information gathered from the repositories and sources identified above was checked and further augmented through the completion of a Site visit and walkover, carried out by an experienced surveyor in a period of suitable weather conditions in February 2024. This Site visit and walkover considered the nature and significance of known and/or potential archaeological assets within the Site, identified visible historic features and assessed possible factors that may affect the survival or condition of known or potential assets.
- 3.5 The report thereafter concludes with an assessment of the Site’s likely archaeological potential, made with regard to current best practice guidelines.

SETTING ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 3.6 In addition, this report also considers the nature and significance of any indirect effects on the significance of heritage assets located within the wider surroundings of the Site. In this regard, the Site walkover included visits to heritage assets beyond the Site boundaries and considered, where appropriate, their significance, any contribution derived from their wider setting and any contribution to this made by the land that comprises the Site.
- 3.7 The setting assessment employed current Historic England guidance, which is set out in *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets* (GPA3; HE, 2017). This provides best practice guidance for the identification and assessment of potential setting issues in the historic environment.
- 3.8 When assessing the ‘indirect’ impact of proposals on heritage assets, it is not a question of whether there would be a physical impact on that asset, but instead whether change within its ‘setting’ would lead to a loss of ‘significance’.
- 3.9 Setting is defined as “*the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced*” (DLUHC, 2023). It must be recognised from the outset that ‘setting’ is not a heritage asset and cannot itself be harmed. Its importance relates to the contribution it makes to the significance of the heritage asset.
- 3.10 Historic England (HE) guidance identifies that: “*change to heritage assets is inevitable, but it is only harmful when significance is damaged*” (HE, 2015).
- 3.11 In that regard, ‘significance’ is defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: “*the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic.*”
- 3.12 As such, when assessing the indirect impact of proposals on heritage assets such as listed buildings and conservation areas, it is not a question of whether their setting would be impacted, but rather a question of whether changes within an asset’s ‘setting’ would lead to a loss of ‘significance’ based on the above ‘heritage interest’ as defined in the NPPF.
- 3.13 Set within this context, it is necessary to first define the significance of the asset in question, and the contribution made to that significance by its ‘setting’, in order to establish whether there would be a loss and therefore harm. The guidance identifies that change within a heritage asset’s setting need not necessarily cause harm to that asset and that it can be positive, negative or neutral.
- 3.14 The guidance states that the importance of setting “*lies in what it contributes to the significance of the heritage asset or to the ability to appreciate that significance.*”
- 3.15 It goes on to note that:
- “*...all heritage assets have significance, some of which have particular significance and are designated. The contribution made by their setting to their significance also varies. Although many settings may be enhanced by development, not all settings have the same capacity to accommodate change without harm to the significance of the heritage asset or the ability to appreciate it.*”

3.16 Whilst identifying that elements of an asset's setting can make an important contribution to its significance, the guidance states that *"setting is not itself a heritage asset, nor a heritage designation, although land comprising a setting may itself be designated"*. It continues by adding that *"conserving or enhancing heritage assets by taking their settings into account need not prevent change; indeed change may be positive..."*.

3.17 On a practical level, the HE guidance (2017) identifies an approach to assessing setting, which is based on a five-step procedure; i.e:

- **Step 1:** Identify which heritage assets and their settings are affected;
- **Step 2:** Assess the degree to which these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage asset(s), or allow significance to be appreciated;
- **Step 3:** Assess the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful, on that significance or the ability to appreciate it;
- **Step 4:** Explore ways of maximising enhancement and avoid or minimise harm; and
- **Step 5:** Make and document the decision and monitor outcomes.

3.18 As far as Step 2 is concerned, the guidance makes the following observations:

"The second stage of any analysis is to assess whether the setting of a heritage asset makes a contribution to its significance and the extent and/or nature of that contribution...this assessment should first address the key attributes of the heritage asset itself and then consider:

- *The physical surroundings of the asset, including its relationship with other heritage assets;*
- *The asset's intangible associations with its surroundings, and patterns of use*
- *The contribution made by noises, smells, etc. to significance, and*
- *The way views allow the significance of the asset to be appreciated."*

3.19 Thereafter, the guidance notes that: *"This assessment of the contribution to significance made by setting will provide the baseline for establishing the effects of a proposed development on significance, as set out in 'Step 3' below."*

3.20 Having established the baseline, the following guidance is provided in respect of an assessment of the effect upon 'setting', i.e:

"In general, the assessment should address the attributes of the proposed development in terms of its:

- *Location and siting;*
- *Form and appearance;*

- *Wider effects; and*
- *Permanence.”*

- 3.21 As far as identifying the heritage assets potentially affected by the proposed scheme is concerned, due consideration has been given to the following factors which are considered to influence the potential for the setting of heritage assets to be materially affected: (1) the proximity to the existing built environment of Heath Hayes to the immediate west, as well as Burntwood and Norton Canes further to the south-east and east; (2) the influence of the local topography, built form and tree cover, including the woodland of Wimblebury Mound within the Site itself; and (3) consideration of the character and distribution of surrounding heritage assets. On this basis, it was determined that the development of the Site is unlikely to affect any heritage assets beyond 1km distance from its boundaries and so hence this determined the spatial limits of the exercise.
- 3.22 In light of the above, this report has been prepared in a robust manner, employing current best practice professional guidance.

LIDAR DATA

- 3.23 Airborne LiDAR data (light detection and ranging) was utilised as a source of primary data for the current assessment. LiDAR scanning records height data and has applications in the recording of archaeological earthworks.
- 3.24 A Digital Terrain Model (DTM) for the Site was acquired from the Environment Agency Data available online. Resolution of the data is at one data point for each 1m², a low resolution which, for archaeological prospection, has a fairly limited application, aside from in the identification of larger earthworks.
- 3.25 The DTM was processed using the Relief Visualisation Toolbox (ver. 1.3 ZRC SAZU, 2016). This software allows for a range of visualisation techniques to be applied to the data. Different techniques have varying degrees of successful application, depending on the nature of the environment where the data was collected. As such, the whole suite of visualisations was produced and then, the individual images appraised as to their usefulness in the current context. This appraisal identified that of the visualisation techniques, multiple direction hill-shades produced the best quality and most useful imagery for the Archaeology Assessment.

Multiple Direction Hill-shades

- 3.26 Relief shading or hill-shading is the most commonly used LiDAR visualisation technique. It illuminates the DTM from a specific angle, imitating the sun, and as such produces the most ‘natural’ and intuitively readable imagery. However, it is limited, in that areas facing directly towards or away from the illumination source are saturated (homogeneously bright or dark respectively) and little detail can be perceived; plus, features that lie parallel to the light source can be imperceptible.

3.27 This effect can be overcome by combining hill-shades from different directions in three different colour bands into a single image. This technique was used to produce useful images for the assessment, providing an additional source of data on the Site's archaeological interest and/or potential (see **Plan EDP 5**), which was used for guiding the focus and limits of the Site visit and walkover.

Section 4 Existing Information

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The Site does not include, nor does it form any part of, any designated heritage assets as defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF.
- 4.2 Furthermore, a review of designated heritage assets within a 1km study area around the Site has not identified any World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens or registered battlefields (see **Plan EDP 1**).
- 4.3 The Site and study area do not contain any locally listed heritage assets, as the Cannock Chase District Council does not currently hold a local list, but there are two extant buildings of local historic interest, as recorded by the Staffordshire HER, within the study area.
- 4.4 The HER contains two records for previously identified archaeological remains within the Site, both of which relate to industrial practices during the 19th century.
- 4.5 There are 28 records in the wider study area relating to archaeology, all of which date from the medieval period onwards. The locations of these records are identified on **Plan EDP 2**.
- 4.6 The HER also holds three records relating to previous archaeological studies or interventions, these 'events' are shown on **Plan EDP 3**. There are no previously recorded archaeological investigations within the Site, although the Site forms part of a wider regional study of aerial assessment and field survey across the Cannock Chase region (**EST2638/EST1223**). No intrusive archaeological investigations are recorded within the study area, although an additional desk-based assessment is recorded for an area proposed for flood alleviation works to the northeast. Where relevant to the archaeological potential of the Site, those events are discussed within the period-specific sections below.
- 4.7 Extracts of historic cartographic sources and Lidar Data, where relevant to the aims and objectives of this report, are included as **Plans EDP 4-9**.

DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

- 4.8 The following section identifies the designated heritage assets, and their settings (if any) that could be affected by the proposed development (i.e. Step 1 and 2 of HE, 2017).
- 4.9 There are no designated assets such as World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens or registered battlefields, as defined by Annex 2 of the NPPF, located within the Site. As such, there is no potential for development within the Site to result in direct impacts in this regard.
- 4.10 There are also no such designated assets located within the 1km study area of the Site, with the closest being 1.3km away.

- 4.11 A number of designated assets are located within the wider landscape; the closest scheduled monument is the Moated site and bloomery in Courtbanks Covert, located c.2.6km to the northeast,.

The closest listed building is the Grade II listed Cross Keys Farmhouse, located c.1.3km to the west within the settlement of Heath Hayes, The closest Conservation Area is the Cannock Town Conservation Area, located c.3.4km west of the Site. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens of World Heritage Site's within a 5km radius of the Site. However, as discussed above, due to the intervening built and vegetated form, as well as varied topography which divides these assets from the Site, development within the Site is unlikely to have any effect on designated heritage assets beyond a 1km distance from its boundaries, as a result of changes to their settings. As such, these assets are not considered to be sensitive to the effects of development within the Site boundary and are not discussed further.

NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

Buildings of Local Interest

- 4.12 No local list of built heritage assets is held by the Cannock Chase District Council at this time. The Staffordshire HER does not record any extant buildings of local historic interest within the Site, however, two are identified within the study area. Their locations are shown on **Plan EDP 2**.

Heath Hayes Primary School

- 4.13 The HER records the extant building of Heath Hayes Primary School (**MST13330**) located immediately west of the Site Boundary.
- 4.14 The HER describes the building '*a traditional brick built school with a pitched roof*', constructed in 1870. The school has undergone a number of more recent alterations however, with two additional blocks of brick and pitched and flat roofs were constructed in the later 20th century.
- 4.15 The desk-based information and site visit established that the asset derives a low level of significance from the architectural and historic interest of its built form and fabric, providing a good example of Victorian school, albeit with numerous modern alterations. The building also derives a small level of artistic interest from its modest aesthetic features, such as its trefoil windows with arched ashlar tracery. The building is therefore assessed as having no more than very low or local interest, as is commensurate with the fact that it is neither nationally nor locally designated.
- 4.16 With regard to the school's setting, insomuch as it contributes to significance, this is predominantly defined by the spatial and functional relationships between the buildings and open spaces which form the school complex. 19th century OS mapping shows the school as a complex of adjoining buildings forming a 'U-shape' with a detached building immediately to the north, and three smaller plots of open space, likely for recreational activity, to the west. Whilst the southern element of the U-shaped structure has been removed, and additional buildings added to the west and north, this school complex is still in use and

largely reflects its layout today. These surrounding buildings and play spaces thus reflect the original setting and provide context for the continued function of the school making a positive contribution to the significance of the asset.

- 4.17 The wider setting of the school is clearly defined by the built form of Heath Hayes to the north, south and west, in which it is situated. This surrounding built form allows a clear appreciation of the historic function of the school, serving the local community, albeit the northern extent of the settlement is a modern addition. This urban setting contributes positively to the assets' significance.
- 4.18 To the east lies the open agricultural land that comprises the Site, as well as the woodland of Wimblebury Mound, with additional agricultural fields and woodland beyond this. This land has no known historic associations with the school, having been used as agricultural land and for industry within the woodland during the 19th and 20th centuries. Moreover, the site visit established that due to the mature hedgerow which bounds the western edge of the Site, there is only a limited visual experience between the Site and the school, resulting in filtered glimpses during the winter season when vegetation is most sparse (**Image EDP A1.1**). Any such filtered glimpses are not considered to make any contribution to the significance of the school.
- 4.19 This assessment thus identifies no experiential, historic or contextual relationships between this non-designated building and the Site that would make any contribution to its significance. As such, Heath Hayes Primary School is not considered to be sensitive to the effects of development within the Site and is not discussed any further within this report.

Methodist Chapel, Littleworth Lane

- 4.20 The HER records a Methodist Chapel on Littleworth Lane (**MST17209**), located c.875m northwest of the Site described as '*A Primitive Chapel was built in 1852 on a site given by the Marquess of Anglesey*'. The Chapel was in use in 1940 but by the late 1950s it had been closed and sold, although it still survives today.
- 4.21 Due to the Chapel's location within the urban form of Heath Hayes, in which its original function can be understood and appreciated within the local street scene, there are no visual or historic connections between this asset and the Site which would contribute to its significance. The Chapel is therefore not considered sensitive to the effects of future development within the Site and is not considered or discussed any further within this report.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Palaeolithic to Iron Age (c.500,000 BC-AD 43)

- 4.22 No records dating to the prehistoric period are recorded by the Staffordshire HER within the Site, or within the study area.

- 4.23 The closest designated site of prehistoric date is the Iron Age hillfort at Castle Ring (**1014687**), c.2.8km north-east of the Site. Whilst the presence of this hillfort does indicate later prehistoric settlement within the local landscape, this is located a large distance from the Site and unlikely to influence the archaeological potential of the site.
- 4.24 Whilst the absence of archaeological finds and features of this period within the study area may simply be due to a lack of archaeological investigations in the area, based on the very limited available information it is assessed currently that there is **very low** potential for the Site to contain archaeological features, deposits and/or remains from the prehistoric period.
- 4.25 Should any features or deposits from this period be encountered, they are most likely to comprise random findspots, representing casual loss in antiquity, or features representing localised land management, given the absence of evidence for nearby settlement. Such features would most likely be focused to the lower areas to the south of the Site, which would have provided a sheltered area towards the base of the sloping ground. Any such features and are unlikely to be of greater than low or local interest.
- 4.26 Whilst the potential for features or deposits of this date is considered to be very low, it is noted that the presence of Devensian Glaciofluvial Deposits across the majority of the Site may allow for the preservation of deeper buried remains, likely dating to the earlier prehistoric periods. However, it is noted that the Site has been subject to substantial Industrial activity from the 19th Century onwards in the northeast and northwest of the Site, as well as modern ploughing across the northwest and southeast portions (discussed in full below). It is thus likely that any shallower features or deposits of this date, should they exist, would likely have been truncated or even destroyed by later industrial and farming practices.

Romano-British (AD43-410)

- 4.27 No records dating to the Romano-British period are recorded by the Staffordshire HER within the Site or the study area.
- 4.28 Whilst the absence of records dated to the Roman period may simply be reflective of the lack of intrusive archaeological investigation within the local area, given the lack of evidence to the contrary, there is no reason to believe that the Site has more than a **very low** potential to contain archaeological features, deposits and/or remains from this period.
- 4.29 Given the absence of any indication of settlement within the local landscape, any features or deposits, should they be present are most likely to comprise infilled ditches and pits representing native small scale land management for agricultural practices, which are unlikely to be of greater than low or local interest. It is also noted that any such features would likely have been heavily truncated by later industrial and farming practices across the Site.

Early Medieval to Medieval (AD 410-1485)

- 4.30 There are no records for previously identified early medieval or medieval archaeology within the Site, and only one recorded by the Staffordshire HER within the 1km study area.

- 4.31 This record relates to a cluster of possible bell pits located c.550m north of the Site (**MST23043**). The HER notes that these pits have been identified as earthworks from a review of aerial photographs and are considered likely to be medieval or post-medieval in date.
- 4.32 The surrounding settlements of Norton (Canes) to the south, Cannock to the west and Rugeley to the north are each recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, indicating that these settlements were well established by the 11th century.
- 4.33 Given the relative distance of the Site from these settlements, the closest being Norton Canes c.2km to the south, and from the possible bell or extraction pits to the north, the likelihood is that the land that now comprises the Site was in use as agricultural land, common land or waste land during the early medieval and medieval periods, at the periphery of settlement.
- 4.34 As such, the Site is considered to have **very low** potential to contain significant archaeological features, deposits and/or remains from the medieval period, beyond those related to agricultural management such as buried plough soils or infilled boundary ditches, which would be of no greater than very low archaeological interest.

Post-medieval to Modern (AD 1485-Present)

- 4.35 There are two entries held by the Staffordshire HER within the Site for this period, and a further 27 held within the study area.
- 4.36 The records within the Site are both related to industrial features associated with the former Cannock Chase Colliery Company.
- 4.37 Record **MST5794** refers to Cannock Chase Colliery Pit No. 8, located in the north-east of the Site, and extending further to the north, east and south. The HER records that the pit was opened in 1863 and closed in 1962. The pit and its associated buildings and features are shown on historic mapping dating from the late 19th to the mid-20th century, and the layout and structures present are discussed in full in the **Cartographic Sources** section below. An aerial assessment of the wider Cannock Chase area (**EST2638**) identified the buildings, tips and tramways of Cannock Chase Colliery Pit Number 8 on aerial photographs taken in 1954.
- 4.38 The buildings of the colliery have since been demolished and do not survive beyond fragmentary walls and demolition rubble, as seen during the site visit, although below ground elements such as foundations and subterranean features may still be present. The earthwork remains of the north-western coal tip can be seen in woodland on LiDAR images (discussed in full in the **LiDAR Imagery** section below) and were evident during the site visit. Spoil tips themselves, as simple earthwork mounds, are of no heritage significance in themselves, however given their relative size they act to illustrate the wider industrial landscape.
- 4.39 The second record (**MST5781**) relates to the mineral railway used for the transportation of materials to and from the Cannock Chase Collieries. This part of the system, located within the Site, runs from Cannock Colliery Number 8, heading southeast through No Man's Bank and Cannock Colliery Number 3, where it connects to another railway which is illustrated on

the 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping and is of probable 19th century date. The line remains partially visible of LiDAR imagery as an earthwork, although no evidence was seen for this feature during the site visit (discussed in full below).

- 4.40 The limited and poorly preserved remains of the colliery, including potential buried remains, are considered to be of limited heritage significance individually, considering their modern date. However, they do derive a level of group value in combination, illustrating the industrial nature of the area; as such they are considered to be of no greater than low, local value.
- 4.41 A number of additional entries on the Staffordshire HER relate to the development of the coalfields and other industries in the wider area. Apart from the Cannock Chase Colliery Pit No. 8, referred to above, which lies within the Site, other collieries in the wider area comprise: Coppice Colliery, which opened in 1893 and closed in 1954 approximately 400m to the south of the Site (**MST5721**); the Cannock and Wimblebury Colliery, which also was in operation in the late 19th century approximately 600m to the north-west (**MST5792**) and Cannock Chase Colliery Pit Numbers 9 and 10 approximately 1km to the west (**MST5789**).
- 4.42 These collieries were served by mineral railways/tramways, the route of the former Chasetown to Hednesford mineral tramway (**MST17193**) is located c.700m to the north of the site boundary. To the south-west of the site, the HER records a further mineral tramway (**MST19547**), which served Coppice Colliery and (**MST19341**) and the line of the former London Midland Scotland Railway (Fiveways Branch), which connected many of the tramways in the area, including that within the Site.
- 4.43 The site of a former brickworks, that existed by the 1880s but demolished by 1917 is recorded approximately 350 to the north-west of the Site (**MST22637**), and another is recorded approximately 775m to the north-west (**MST23039**). Sand extraction pits, possibly to supply the brickworks, are located approximately 800m, 900m and 950m to the north-west (**MST23040**, **MST23041** and **MST17819**). A probable 19th century lime kiln is also recorded approximately 1km to the east (**MST5759**).
- 4.44 With the exception of Pit No. 8 and its associated railway discussed above, none of these features extend into the Site itself, but reflect the wider industrialisation of the area during this time.
- 4.45 The remaining records are predominantly related to the agricultural management of the landscape. A number of farmsteads representative of the pre-industrialisation of the area have been identified within the 1km study area. These consist of the former Wimblebury Farm approximately 650m to the north (**MST21184**); a now demolished farmstead approximately 750m to the west (**MST21175**); the former Norton Lodge Farm approximately 850m to the south (**MST21183**) and a now demolished farmstead approximately 950m to the south (**MST3152**). In addition, a now demolished building known as Coopers Lodge, which was in existence by the late 18th century, is recorded approximately 975m to the north-east (**MST13786**), and a small early 19th century settlement is recorded approximately 1km to the east (**MST17182**).
- 4.46 An area of former field boundaries is recorded c.1km to the north-west of the Site (**MST17820**). Linear earthworks of 19th century steam ploughing are also recorded approximately 450m to the south (**MST17181**), and an area of former coppice, felled during

19th century field enclosure is recorded approximately 650m to the east (**MST13789**). The extent of each of these records is well defined and does not extend into the Site. However, an assessment of historic mapping (discussed in full below) indicates that the Site was most likely under agricultural use at this time.

- 4.47 Nineteenth century buildings associated with the growth of the village of Heath Hayes are also recorded on the Staffordshire HER to the west of the Site. These consist of Heath Hayes Primary School (**MST13330**) and Methodist chapel (**MST17209**) discussed above. In addition, a fingerpost was located on a roundabout directly adjacent to the south-western corner of the Site (**MST20113**). Boundary stones, of probable post-medieval date, which demarcated the boundary between the parishes of Burntwood and Norton Canes, are located approximately 750m and 925m to the south-east of the Site (**MST20075** and **MST20074**). Again, none of these features extend into the Site and simply reflect the continued growth of local settlement at this time.
- 4.48 The structural remains of two World War II air raid shelters are located adjacent to the western boundary of the Site (**MST23046**) and a possible hutted camp used for miners during World War II is located approximately 500m to the north of the Site (**MST23044**). A war memorial is located at the entrance to Heath Hayes Park (**MST19341**), c.100m to the west of the site boundary.
- 4.49 The HER records and cartographic evidence (see below) indicates that the Site was probably agricultural or heathland throughout the post-medieval period, prior to the exploitation of the Staffordshire coalfields when the Site, at least in part, took on an industrial nature.
- 4.50 Based on the above, there is considered to be a low potential for the Site to contain remains of post-medieval to modern date other than potentially 'negligible' value features and deposits related to agriculture (e.g. plough furrows) and structures and deposits related to the former Cannock Chase Colliery Pit No. 8 which are unlikely to be of greater than low or local value (discussed further in the **Site Visit** section below).

CANNOCK HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT CHARACTER ZONES

- 4.51 The Site lies within two Cannock Historic Environment Character Zones (CHECZ), which aim to establish the potential for the historic environment of each to absorb new development and housing in particular. These Character Zones are depicted on **Plan EDP 3**.
- 4.52 The north-western portion of the Site falls within CHECZ9 and is presently under three fields demarcated by linear boundaries. CHECZ9 was, from at least the medieval period, part of Cannock Forest, which probably comprised a mosaic landscape of woodland and heathland. The fields to the south of Cannock Wood Road, which include the Site, were laid out following an 1868 Act to enclose the heathland. The planned nature of the field system, with its straight field boundaries, remains legible within the landscape although a certain number of internal boundaries were moved during the second half of the 20th century. A Statement of Significance for this landscape type includes the following extracts:

"The heritage assets identified within the zone are of at least local/regional significance and include the surviving historic landscape character typified by the overall planned nature

of the field systems to the south of Cannock Wood Road. Within this area there are also the remains of early coal mining in the form of bell pits of probable post medieval date.....there is also the potential for currently unknown prehistoric sites to survive as below ground archaeological deposits.

The moderate score suggests that development would have an impact upon the historic environment. Consequently, should development be planned within the zone there would be a need to address/consider the following issues at an early stage in the process:

- The impact upon and mitigation strategies for the historic landscape character of the zone. Any development in this area would need to consider design strategies for retaining or reflecting the local distinctiveness of the zone.*
- A strategy for assessing the potential impacts upon archaeological features, both known and unknown, and any consequent mitigation identified. Such archaeological considerations include, but are not limited to, the site of the former farmsteads and evidence for activities associated with the early coal mining industry.”*

4.53 However, as this part of the area identified by CHECZ9 historically forms a peripheral part of the mining operation associated with Pit No. 8, it is anticipated that this would have removed any archaeological deposits that may have been present. Instead, as discussed above it is most likely that any features surviving within this portion of the Site likely relate to post-medieval and later agricultural and industrial practices, of no greater than low value. It should also be noted that the existing field boundaries are of modern 20th century origin. As such, it is assessed that these modern fields and boundaries which form the north-west corner of the Site make no contribution to this character zone.

4.54 The remainder of the Site falls within zone CHECZ12 (DST7336) and is presently under woodland and fields. This zone is dominated by former industrial landscapes and includes Cannock Chase Colliery Pit No. 8, which is presently covered by plantation although features associated with the colliery may survive. This zone had also formed part of Cannock Forest since at least the medieval period, and falls within the area covered by the 1868 Enclosure Act, which generally resulted in a landscape of planned enclosure. However, historic mapping suggests that very few field boundaries survive. A Statement of Significance for this zone states that:

“The low score suggests that development would not have a significant impact upon the historic environment of the zone. However, the following issues would need to be addressed at an early stage in any proposed development:

- The potential for mining features to survive within the plantation to the west of the zone and the potential for interpretation of the local heritage;*
- The impact upon the known surviving earthworks; the mineral railway in particular; and*
- A strategy for assessing the potential impacts upon archaeological features, both known and unknown, and any consequent mitigation identified. Such archaeological considerations include, but are not limited to, activities associated with the early coal*

mining industry as exemplified by the bell pit and activities associated with settlement at The Hollies”.

- 4.55 This supports the conclusions above that it is most likely for this portion of the Site to contain archaeological deposits related to post-medieval and later agricultural and industrial practices, of no greater than low value. Whilst the northeast portion of the Site which forms area of the former colliery is currently wooded, this is a recent land use, having been planted largely in the late 20th century presumably as it cannot now be used for agriculture. As such the woodland is not a historic element that makes any significant contribution to this character zone.
- 4.56 Similarly, the fields to the southwest of the site, which fall within CHEZ12, contain a single late 20th century field boundary, as well as a modern haul road. These modern additions are assessed as making no contribution to this character zone.

Cartographic Sources & Documentary Evidence

- 4.57 The earliest map accessed was the 1841 Tithe Map of the Parish of Cannock (**Plan EDP 4**). This map shows the Site in the mid-19th century, lying within the historic parish of Cannock. The Site was located on the western edge of Cannock Chase, which was at the time unenclosed and regarded as unproductive land used in some places for rough grazing. An area of woodland is noted further to the northwest, recorded as ‘Cooper’s Coppice’. Tracks across the Chase met at what is now called Five Ways, directly adjacent to the Site, and farmsteads are recorded within the vicinity. This includes a farm known as Wimblebury Farm to the north and another known as Heathy Hayes to the west, which were associated with enclosed fields (Bucknall & Francis undated, 4).
- 4.58 No record of industrial activity is noted within the apportionments of the 1841 Tithe map. Documentary evidence (Bucknall & Francis, undated) indicates that small shallow coal mines supplying coal for local needs had existed in the area for many years, but before 1854, there was no attempt to mine coal on a large scale or to exploit the potential of the deep Cannock Chase coal seams. However, in 1854 John Mclean of the Cannock Chase Colliery Company started to develop several coal mines to reach these more productive coal seams and coal was exported all over the Midlands. These coal mines included Pit No. 8, which was sunk within the Site in 1867. With the growth of these coal mines, Wimblebury and Five Ways (later Heath Hayes) mining villages were created as homes for the miners who worked at the Cannock Chase Colliery Company mines (Bucknall & Francis undated, 5).
- 4.59 Pit No. 8 was sunk in 1867 at a cost of £3,000, with a brick-lined shaft with a diameter of 12 feet. The colliery originally had its own screening plant and rail link to No. 3 Colliery (Chasetown) with access to the canal at Anglesey Wharf and to the Walsall-Lichfield railway near Brownhill’s (Bucknall & Francis undated, 38).
- 4.60 The Ordnance Survey map of 1883 (1:10,500) and the subsequent 1884 1:2,500 edition (**Plan EDP 5**) depict the north-eastern portion of the Site as part of the Cannock Chase Colliery No. 8; the associated buildings, and the mineral railway recorded by the HER, leading south from the colliery, are all marked. Two large spoil heaps adjacent to a tramway

at the western edge of the colliery are also depicted. The land surrounding the colliery to the west and south, now woodland, is shown as rough grassland at this time.

- 4.61 The north-west and southeast portions of the Site are shown as two large fields, having been enclosed since 1841. To the north of the Site boundary was an area of rough grassland, which appears by this date to have been utilised as a spoil tip adjacent to the terminus of the mineral railway. The most north-eastern portion of the Site comprises grassland adjacent to the spoil tip. Beyond the Site boundary, the local landscape is shown to now be largely agricultural to the east, with a number of new fields enclosed since the mid-19th century, albeit with areas of rough grassland still depicted to the south-east of the Site. The expansion of Heath Hayes is also visible to the west, along with the new addition of what is now the A5190 to the south.
- 4.62 By the Ordnance Survey map of 1902 (1:2,500) (**Plan EDP 6**), the buildings within the colliery had been enlarged and added to, with two shafts labelled to the immediate north and south of the buildings, and a larger network of rail and tramlines shown terminating at the colliery. Whilst the spoil heaps to the west remain depicted, although altered slightly in shape, a large reservoir is also present in this location.
- 4.63 To the north-west, the colliery is separated from the field forming the north-west parcel of Site by a linear belt of trees, while the south of the colliery remains as an area of heathland with occasional trees and linear fields, the westernmost of which was also under heathland and scattered trees. The field forming the southeast portion of the Site has now been divided into three smaller, narrow fields. To the west of the Site, the settlement of Five Ways is marked, presumably named after the convergence of several routes at a still existing junction to the south-west of the Site. Also to the south-west of the Site is a mineral railway which served Coppice Colliery.
- 4.64 The colliery itself remains largely unchanged by the time of the Ordnance Survey map of 1918 (1:2,500) (not reproduced), although the spoil tip to the west has expanded further. The former rough grassland to the immediate south of the colliery has been divided by a number of footpaths, although remains as heathland. The field forming the northwest portion of the Site has now been divided into three smaller plots, and the area of rough grassland and trees at the southwest corner of the Site has been cleared. No notable changes are evident in the 1921 1:10,500 edition OS map (not reproduced).
- 4.65 By 1927, further development had taken place linking Pits Nos. 3 and 8 by an overland narrow-gauge rope hauled tramway carrying output to a washing and screening plant at the larger No. 3 colliery (Bucknall & Francis undated, 38 & 40). This is visible on the 1938 edition OS map (1:2:500) (not reproduced). Nationalisation of the coalmines in 1947 brought further rationalisation, and underground haulage roads were cut between Pits Nos. 8 and 9 for forwarding coal on to Pit No. 3. The coal seam lay at a depth of approximately 110m and was known as the Five Feet Seam. At a further depth of approximately 9m, the Four Feet Seam was mined, and the Old Park Seam was found at a further depth of 30m. At greater depths were the Yard, Bass, Cinder, Shallow and Deep Seams, the pit bottom being almost 300m below the ground surface (Bucknall & Francis undated, 38 & 40).

- 4.66 Pit No. 8 was the last pit of the Cannock Chase Colliery Company to survive and closed in January 1962 after 95 years of operation (Bucknall & Francis undated, 38). The colliery continues to be depicted as in use on the 1960-62 edition OS map (1:2,500) much as before (**Plan EDP 7**), although the spoil heaps surrounding the colliery are shown to cover expansive areas to the west, south and east of the buildings. No other changes are noted in the remainder of the Site, although the expansion of Heath Hayes to the west is evident.
- 4.67 Since the closure and demolition of the colliery in 1962, woodland has been planted over the colliery and the north-eastern portion of the Site, illustrated from the 1969 edition OS map (1:2,500) (not reproduced), along with a wide belt along the western site boundary, illustrated on the 1999 edition OS map (1:10,000) onwards (**Plan EDP 8**), and a small portion of woodland at the far north-west, illustrated from the 2023 edition OS map. This map also shows an embanked coal haulage road at the southwest corner of the Site, leading to an area marked as 'open cast workings' to the east, as well as an associated 'settling pond'. This indicates that the area to the east of the Site was subject to recent open cast mining in the later 20th century. No other notable changes are recorded elsewhere within the Site on this late 20th century mapping. This layout remains the same today, as seen during the site visit.
- 4.68 This review of the available cartographic sources underlines the industrial use of the north-east portion of the Site during the 19th century, subsequent to its decommission the site was covered by woodland planting, with the wider Site formed by rough grassland to enclosed farmland, which remains the same to present day. The historic mapping supports the conclusions of the period-specific sections above, in that any archaeological remains from at least the post-medieval period onwards, and possibly from the medieval period, are likely to be derived from agricultural activity, as well as the industrial development of the Cannock Chase Colliery. Features related to these activities are unlikely to be of greater than low or local value.

Aerial Photographs

- 4.69 A total of 136 vertical aerial photographs covering the Site and its immediate environs were identified within the collection maintained by the Historic England Archive in Swindon, dating from May 1946 to July 1990.
- 4.70 These photos largely confirm the composition of the Site, as detailed by the historic map progression discussed above.
- 4.71 Photographs from 1946 show the Site largely as depicted on the 1938 OS map (not reproduced), with a main colliery building at the north-east of the Site, surrounded by several ancillary buildings located to the immediate north, east and south of this. Large spoil heaps are visible to the west of the buildings, as well as a roughly square shaped reservoir. The tramways depicted on historic mapping leading north and south from the colliery are also evident. The area immediately south of the colliery is, by this time, almost entirely wooded.
- 4.72 The north-west and south-east portions of the Site are divided into agricultural fields, as shown on the 1938 OS map, although it is noted that two subdivisions not depicted on the previous historic map are seen in the northwest, and an additional subdivision to form four narrow fields is seen to the southeast. Limited evidence of linear agricultural cultivation

systems is seen in these two areas on images from the mid-20th century. However, given the straight, regular nature of these features, their narrow spacing and low relief, these are considered to reflect modern ploughing rather than medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow.

- 4.73 Images from 1948 also show that a large portion of these agricultural fields to the northwest were also affected by the industrial activity of the colliery; these images show two of the fields to have undergone ground disturbance either for additional spoil tipping or for extraction itself. These fields appear to be back in agricultural use by 1952.
- 4.74 The images from 1952 also show an expansion of the colliery with the principal building being extended to the south, and additional ancillary buildings located around it.
- 4.75 By 1963, the aerial photographs show that the colliery is no longer in use. Instead, the buildings have been entirely cleared, and the spoil heaps appear to have been partially flattened, although they are seen to now cover a larger area, and the reservoir has been in-filled. The south-east fields remain under agricultural cultivation, with some evidence of modern ploughing. The field boundary forming an east to west orientated field in this corner has been removed.
- 4.76 Images from 1971, 1981 and 1990 show the site as largely unchanged, with the northwest and southeast portions remaining under agricultural cultivation. The north-east corner which housed the former colliery is now entirely wooded; the spoil heaps are overgrown and less clear, although it seems they may have been partially flattened during the demolition of the colliery.
- 4.77 No hitherto unknown or unrecorded features of potential interest or significance were identified through this review of aerial photographs beyond those features relating to the industrial use of the Site, which have already been discussed.
- 4.78 The review of aerial photographs further evidences the industrial and agricultural use of the Site from the 20th century to present day, and likely prior to this, and underlines the conclusions of the period-specific sections, discussed above.

LIDAR

- 4.79 The LiDAR data, which dates from 2022, was obtained from the Defra website¹ and is reproduced as **Plan EDP 9**. LiDAR Composite Digital Terrain Model (DTM) data was downloaded at the resolution of 1m. The data was converted to a vrt file and imported into QGIS 3.10 with GRASS 7.8.4 and then processed to show hill shade at an altitude of 45° with an azimuth of 315° in a multidirectional format.
- 4.80 The LiDAR illustrates the north-west portion of the Site as agricultural fields, as shown on historic mapping; whilst slight undulations are noted within these fields, they are considered to be either naturally occurring, or the result of modern farming practices, such as to create

¹ <https://environment.data.gov.uk/DefraDataDownload/?Mode=survey>.

small areas of drainage as seen by a small pond in the northern field on 21st century aerial imagery.

- 4.81 Similarly, no features of archaeological interest are noted on the LiDAR in the agricultural fields within the south-east corner of Site, instead only the modern field boundary which divides the area, and the modern embanked coal haulage road shown on late 20th century maps are noted. As modern additions these are of no heritage significance.
- 4.82 Remains of the colliery are evident in the northeast corner of the Site, this includes evidence of large spoil heaps across the entire area, as depicted on late 20th century mapping. A depression is also indicated in the area of the former reservoir at the western edge of the colliery site, although this appears to be partially infilled.
- 4.83 The LiDAR data also shows that the eastern area has been levelled for construction of the former colliery buildings, with some potential structural remains. However, the Site visit established that any built remains are limited to parts of demolished walls and buildings rubble (discussed below).
- 4.84 The LiDAR also only indicates limited potential for remains related to the former tramways, as occasional low relief earthworks associated with the tram route.
- 4.85 The far north-western corner of the Site is shown to be wooded, whilst a large spoil tip relating to the colliery, as seen on historic maps, is visible immediately outside of the site boundary, no such similar features are located within the north-western corner.
- 4.86 The south-west edge of the Site is shown to incorporate woodland planting, planted in the late 20th century, as well as the settling pond associated with the recent open cast works, discussed above.
- 4.87 As such, no features of heritage value beyond those related to the colliery are present and these are assessed above of no greater than low or local value.

SITE WALKOVER

- 4.88 The Site was visited in February 2024 as to confirm the potential survival of any known archaeological remains, and to identify any hitherto unknown remains of significance.
- 4.89 The visit confirmed the Site's current use as pastoral agricultural land in the north-west and southeast, with woodland across the remaining areas. As such, no features of archaeological interest were identified by the Site visit beyond those related to the colliery, as discussed above.
- 4.90 What remains of the colliery survives in very poor condition, having been demolished and replanted with woodland. Any previous structures only surviving today as a handful of fragmentary stub walls, pipes and associated rubble material, although further buried structural elements may exist such as foundations or subterranean features (**Image EDP A1.2-4**). Earthwork remains relating to the former spoil heaps were evident throughout the wooded area of the former colliery (**Image EDP A1.5-6**). Surface coal debris was frequent across this area, illustrating the former industrial use. There was no clear

evidence of the former tramway routes, however it is noted that this area of the Site was so dense with woodland that any low relief earthworks relating to these transport routes may not have been easily identifiable.

- 4.91 As discussed above, these features are considered to be of no greater than low or local heritage significance.

NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS SUMMARY

- 4.92 In terms of non-designated heritage assets, the Site is identified as having a very low potential to contain archaeological remains from the Prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods.
- 4.93 Should features related to these periods exist within the Site, they would most likely comprise random findspots representing casual loss in antiquity, or relate to localised land management of the Site, such as infilled ditches and pits, and would be of no greater than low/local interest. Moreover, it is likely that they would be heavily truncated or even destroyed by later industrial and, to a lesser extent, agricultural practices across the Site.
- 4.94 With regard to post-medieval and modern archaeological remains, it is established that the Site contains the remains of Cannock Chase Colliery Pit No. 8 which are unlikely to be of greater than low or local value, as well as potential for features related to the agricultural management of those areas not associated with the colliery, which would be of negligible heritage value.
- 4.95 As such, there is no reason to believe that the Site contains archaeological remains that would be of such significance as to warrant physical preservation *in situ* and instead, if present and required, their conservation (comprising preservation by record) could be appropriately addressed through a phased programme of archaeological investigations, the scope of which would be agreed with the archaeological advisor to the LPA.

Section 5 Conclusion

- 5.1 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment demonstrates that the Site does not contain any designated heritage assets, as defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF and therefore the implementation of development within the Site would not give rise to any 'direct' impacts in that respect.
- 5.2 There are no designated heritage assets within 1.3km of the site boundary and an assessment of heritage assets in the wider surroundings of the Site has demonstrated that the land at the Site does not form any part of the setting of any of the heritage assets beyond this and does not contribute in any way to their heritage significance. Therefore the implementation of development within the Site would not give rise to 'indirect' impacts on heritage assets beyond the Site boundaries, as a result of changes within their setting.
- 5.3 In terms of non-designated heritage assets, the Site does not contain any non-designated built heritage assets of local interest, nor does the Site form any part of the setting which may contribute to the significance of any such assets within the wider landscape. These assets comprise the two extant buildings of local historic interest identified by the HER; Heath Hayes Primary School (**MST13330**) and Methodist Chapel, Littleworth Lane (**MST17209**), to which the Site does not make any contribution to significance. Therefore, once again it is assessed that no non-designated built heritage assets of local interest are likely to be adversely affected by the implementation of development within the Site.
- 5.4 In terms of non-designated archaeology, the Site is identified as having a very low potential to contain significant archaeological remains from the Prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. Any remains that may be present from these broad periods would most likely comprise evidence of localised land management and would be of no greater than low or local value. Moreover, it is likely that should any such remains be present, they would be truncated by later industrial and agricultural practices.
- 5.5 It is established that the Site contains low or local value features associated with the Cannock Chase Colliery. Otherwise, there is a very low potential for the Site to contain significant archaeological remains from the post-medieval to modern periods, beyond features related to agricultural practices during this period which would be of negligible value.
- 5.6 This has also been established through a review of aerial photograph and LiDAR data evidence, as well as a site visit. The aerial photographs reflect the layout of the Site as seen on historic mapping, comprising agricultural fields to the northwest and southeast, with the Cannock Chase Colliery No. 8 located in the northeast corner. At this time, the colliery comprised a main works building and ancillary buildings, surrounded by spoil tips, a reservoir and tram way. By 1962 the colliery has been closed and the buildings cleared from the Site, instead only earthworks of the former spoil heaps remain. This is reflected by the LiDAR data which shows evidence of earthworks of the spoil heaps, although no structural remains are identifiable. The site visit similarly showed that earthworks remain from the former spoil tipping, albeit overgrown with vegetation, and the structural remains of the

former colliery buildings survive only as sporadic, poorly preserved walls and building rubble. No previously unknown archaeological remains were identified by the aerial photographs, LiDAR data or site visit.

- 5.7 It is concluded that there is no reason to believe that the Site contains archaeological remains that would be of such significance as to warrant physical preservation *in situ*. Instead, their conservation (comprising preservation by record) could be appropriately addressed through a phased programme of archaeological investigations, the scope of which would be agreed with the archaeological advisor to the LPA.
- 5.8 With regard to Historic Environment Character Zones, the site is located within two areas; CHEZ9 defined as part of Cannock Forest dating from the medieval period, and CHEZ12 which also formed part of Cannock Forest before being dominated by later industry. Area CHEZ12 within the site comprises the area of the former colliery and agricultural land. Whilst the area of the former colliery is currently wooded, this is a recent land use presumably as it cannot now be used for agriculture. As such the woodland is not a historic element that makes any significant contribution to this character zone. Character zone CHEZ9 where it coincides with the site now comprises modern fields and boundaries and as such makes no contribution to this character zone. Whilst these character zones, as defined, are considered representative of the historic form of Cannock Forest, closer analysis has determined that their most recent form and use has removed any historic character relating to the chase and as such are not considered to constrain the site's potential capacity for development.
- 5.9 Therefore, in terms of designated and non-designated heritage assets, there is no reason to believe future development of the Site could not be brought forwards in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*, the NPPF, and relevant policies within the Cannock Chase Local Plan.

Section 6 References

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LIST OF CONSULTED MAPS

1841 Tithe Map of the Parish of Cannock

First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1883

Ordnance Survey map 1884 Edition

Ordnance Survey map 1902 Edition

Ordnance Survey map 1918 Edition

Ordnance Survey map 1921 Edition

Ordnance Survey map 1938 Edition

Ordnance Survey map 1960-62 Edition

Ordnance Survey map 1999 Edition

Ordnance Survey map 2023 Edition

Appendix EDP 1 Images



Image EDP A1.1: View west to HER record Heath Hayes Primary School (**MST13330**), illustrating the limited visual relationship between the school and the Site due to filtering from trees on the Site's vegetated boundary.



Image EDP A1.2: View illustrating the limited remains of the Cannock Chase Colliery in the north-east of the Site. View looks east toward a pipe and masonry on the western edge of the former colliery.



Image EDP A1.3: View illustrating the demolition rubble of the Cannock Chase Colliery in the north-east of the Site. View looks east across rubble in the eastern part of the former colliery.



Image EDP A1.4: View illustrating the extent of the demolition of Cannock Chase Colliery in the north-east of the Site. View looks north-west across apparent remains of floor and walls in the north of the former colliery area.



Image EDP A1.5: View looking north illustrating the earthwork remains of the spoil tips associated with the Cannock Chase Colliery in the northeast of the Site. Remains are within southern portion of former colliery area.



Image EDP A1.6: View looking south illustrating the earthwork remains of the spoil tips associated with the Cannock Chase Colliery in the northeast of the Site. The fields beyond the trees comprise the south-eastern corner of the Site.

Plans

Plan EDP 1: Overview of Designated Heritage Assets
(edp7109_d003 05 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 2: Overview of HER Monuments
(edp7109_d004 05 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 3: Overview of HER Events and Historic Environment Character Zones
(edp7109_d008 11 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 4: Extract of 1841 Tithe Map of the Parish of Cannock
(edp7109_d005 05 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

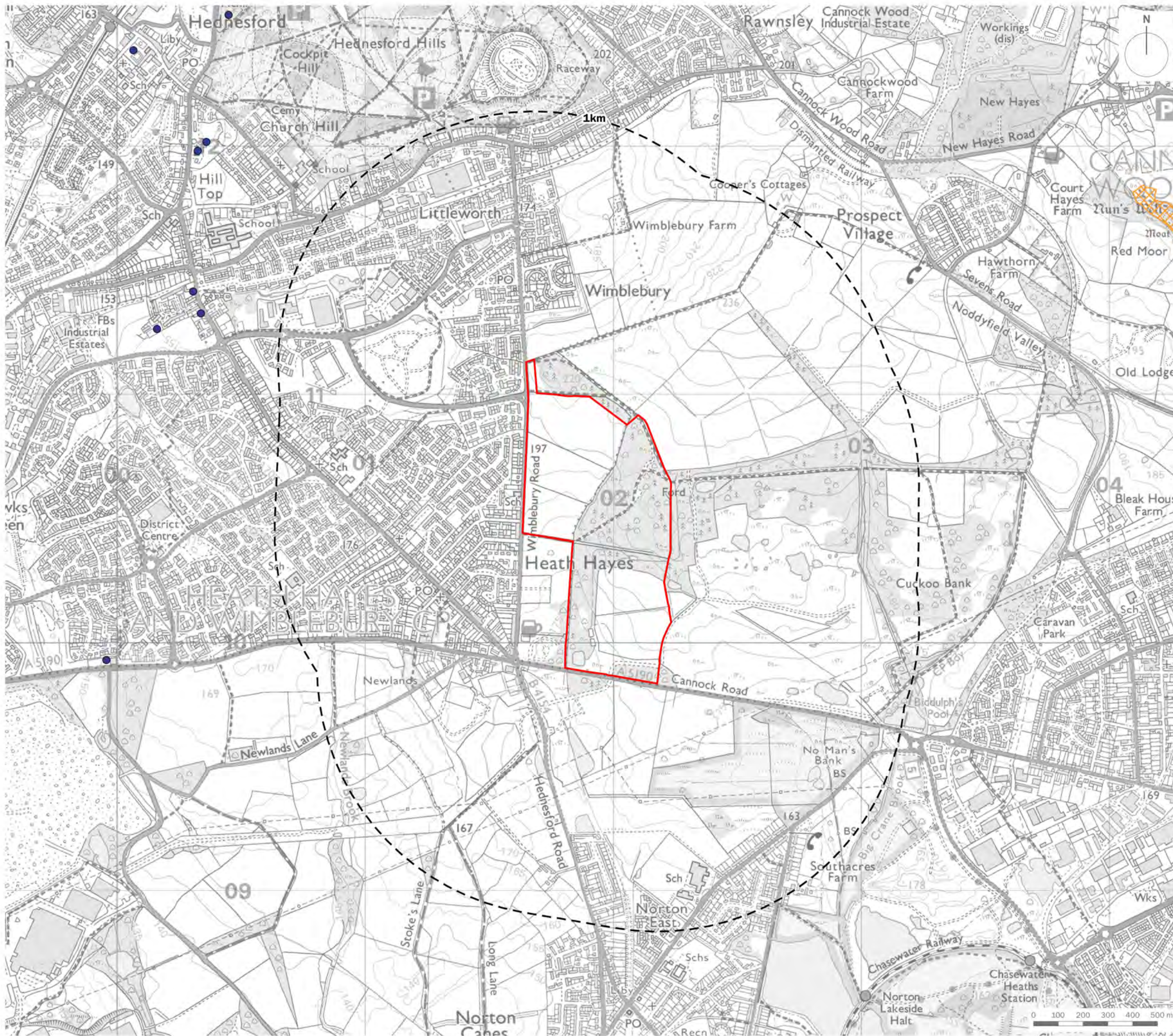
Plan EDP 5: Extract of 1884 OS Map
(edp7109_d009 12 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 6: Extract of 1902 OS Map
(edp7109_d010 12 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 7: Extract of 1960-62 OS Map
(edp7109_d011 12 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 8: Extract of 1999 OS Map
(edp7109_d012 12 March 2024 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 9: Extracts of LiDAR Data
(edp7109_d007 05 March 2024 VMS/EBR)



DRAFT

-  Site Boundary
-  1km Detailed Study Area
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Grade II* Listed Building
-  Grade II Listed Building

client
Taylor Wimpey

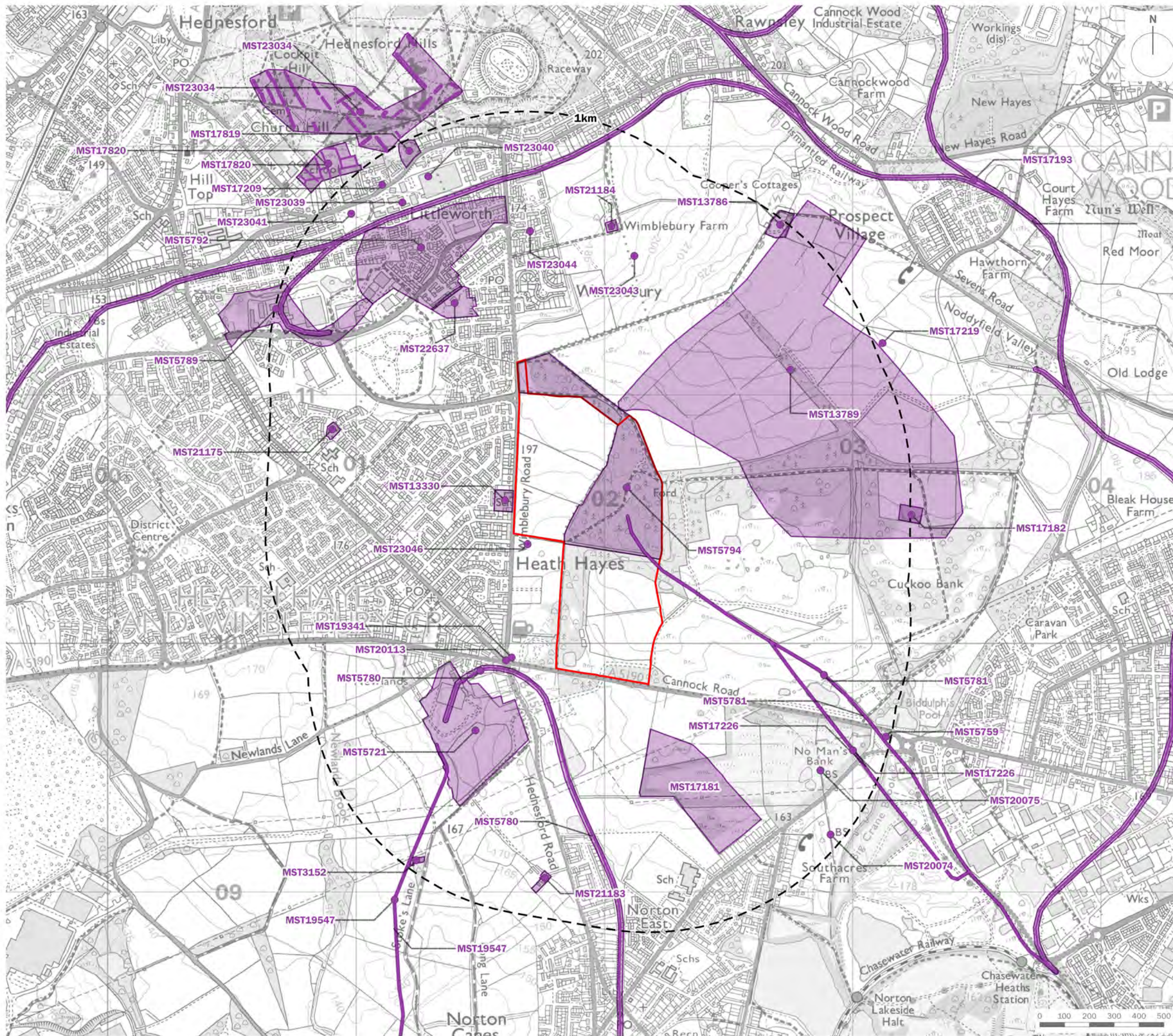
project title
Wimblebury Road, Cannock

drawing title
Overview of Designated Heritage Assets

date **05 MARCH 2024** drawn by **VMS**
drawing number **edp7109_d003** checked **EBR**
scale **1:15,000 @ A3** QA



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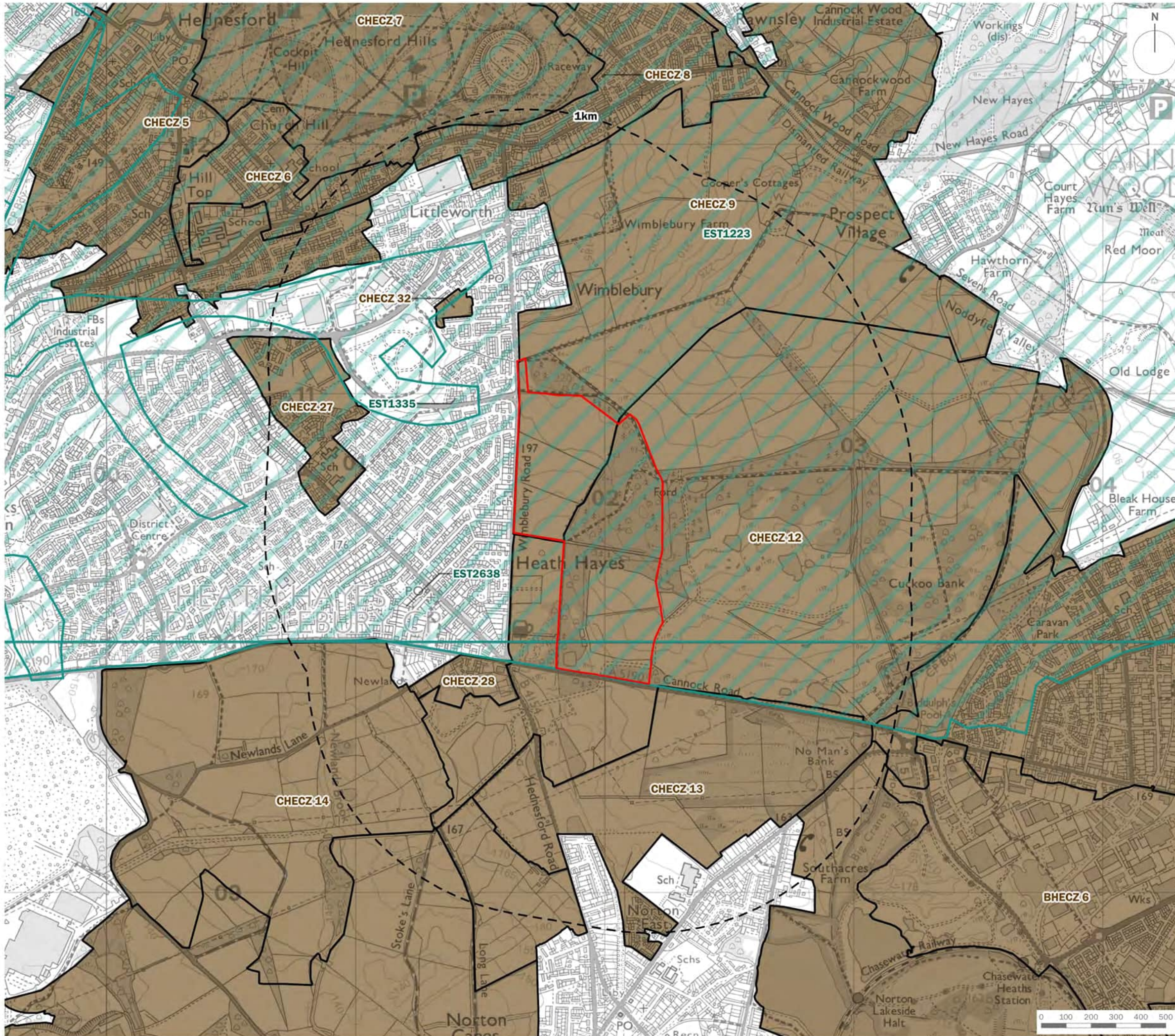
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- Site Boundary
- 1km Detailed Study Area
- HER Monument

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project title	Wimblebury Road, Cannock	
drawing title	Overview of HER Monuments	
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drawing number	edp7109_d004	checked EBR
scale	1:15,000 @ A3	QA

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- Site Boundary
- 1km Detailed Study Area
- Historic Environment Character Zone
- HER Event

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client
Taylor Wimpey

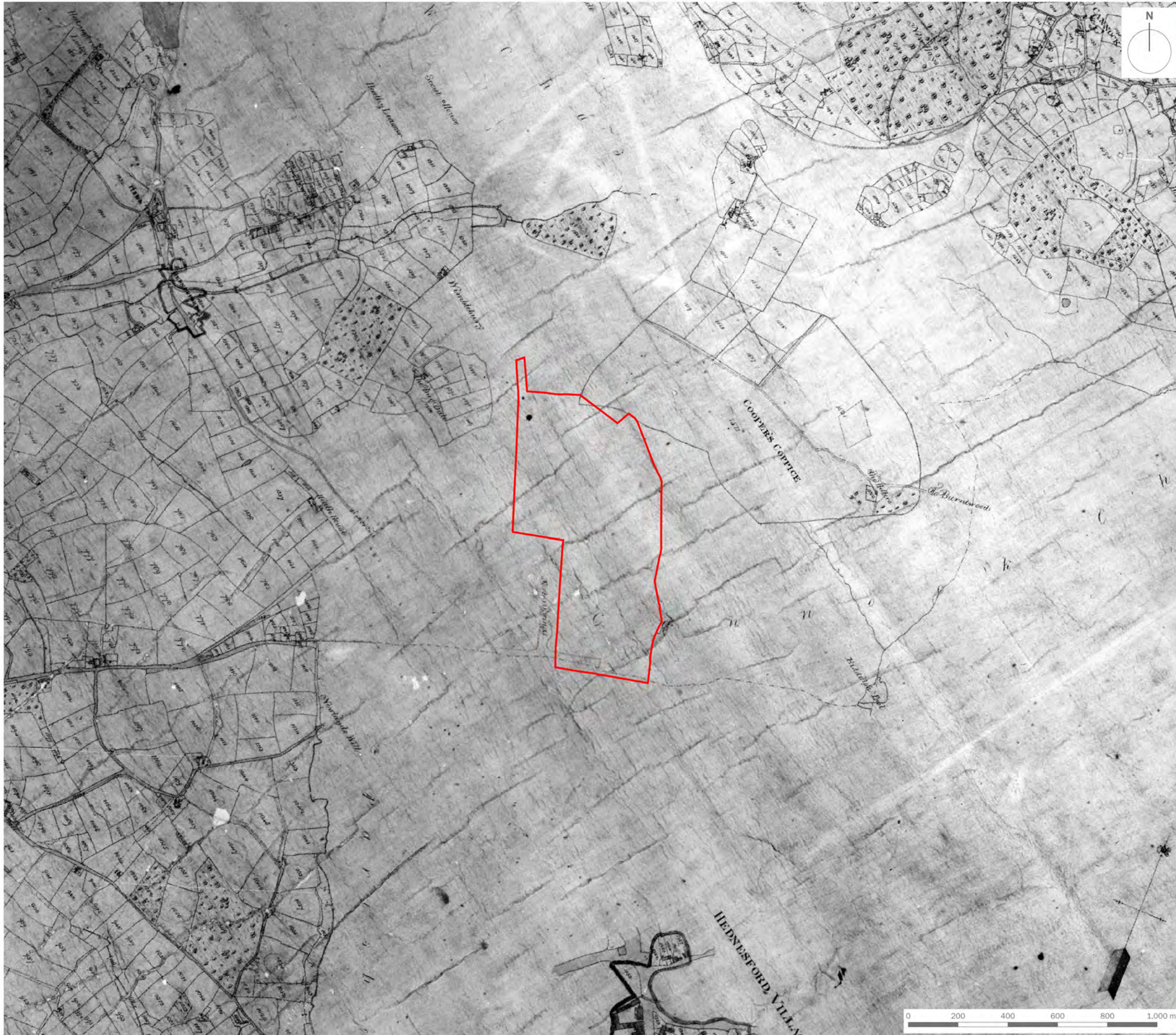
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drawing title
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Approximate Site Boundary

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client

Taylor Wimpey

project title

Wimblebury Road, Cannock

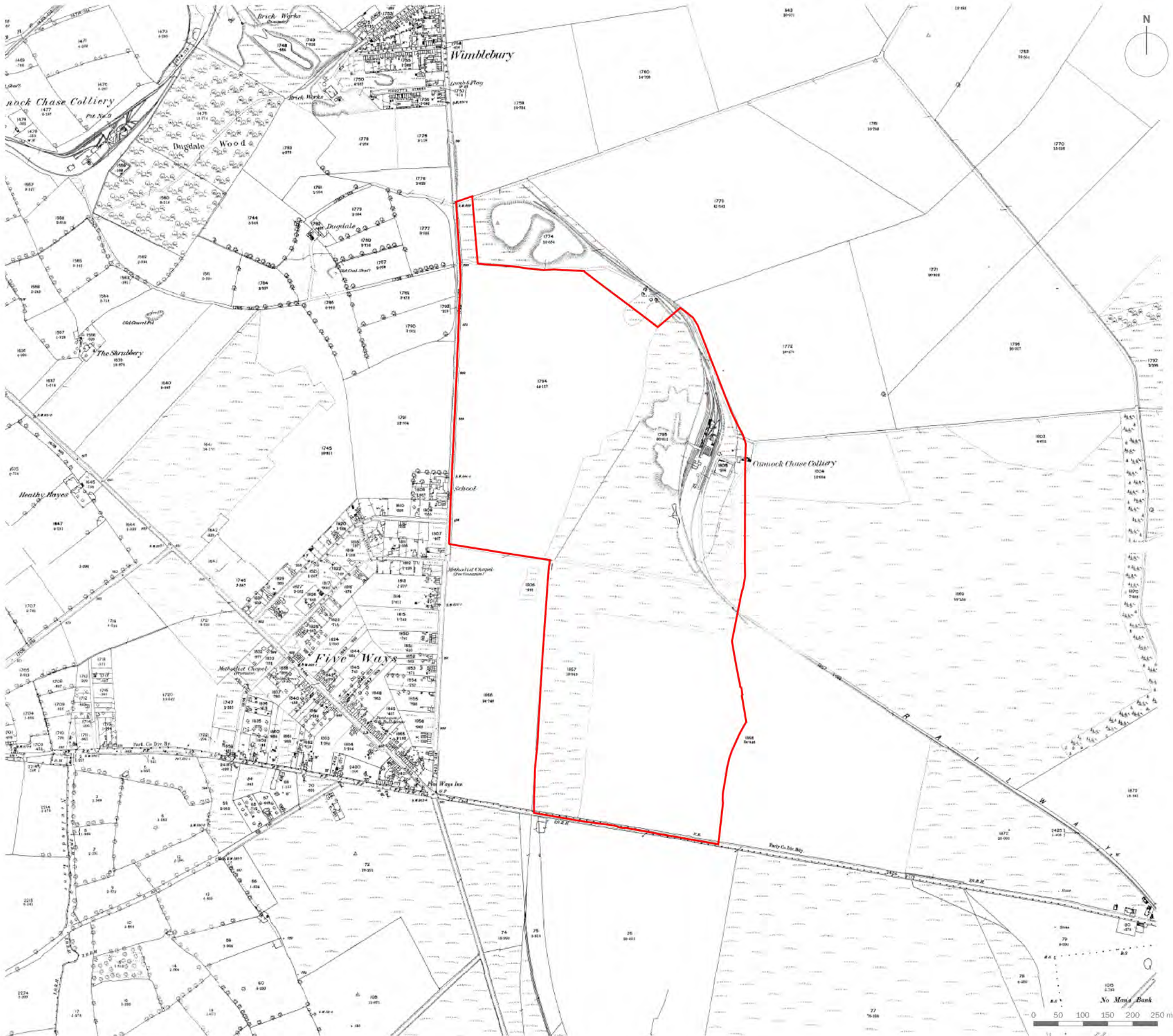
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 Approximate Site Boundary

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client

Taylor Wimpey

project title

Wimblebury Road, Cannock

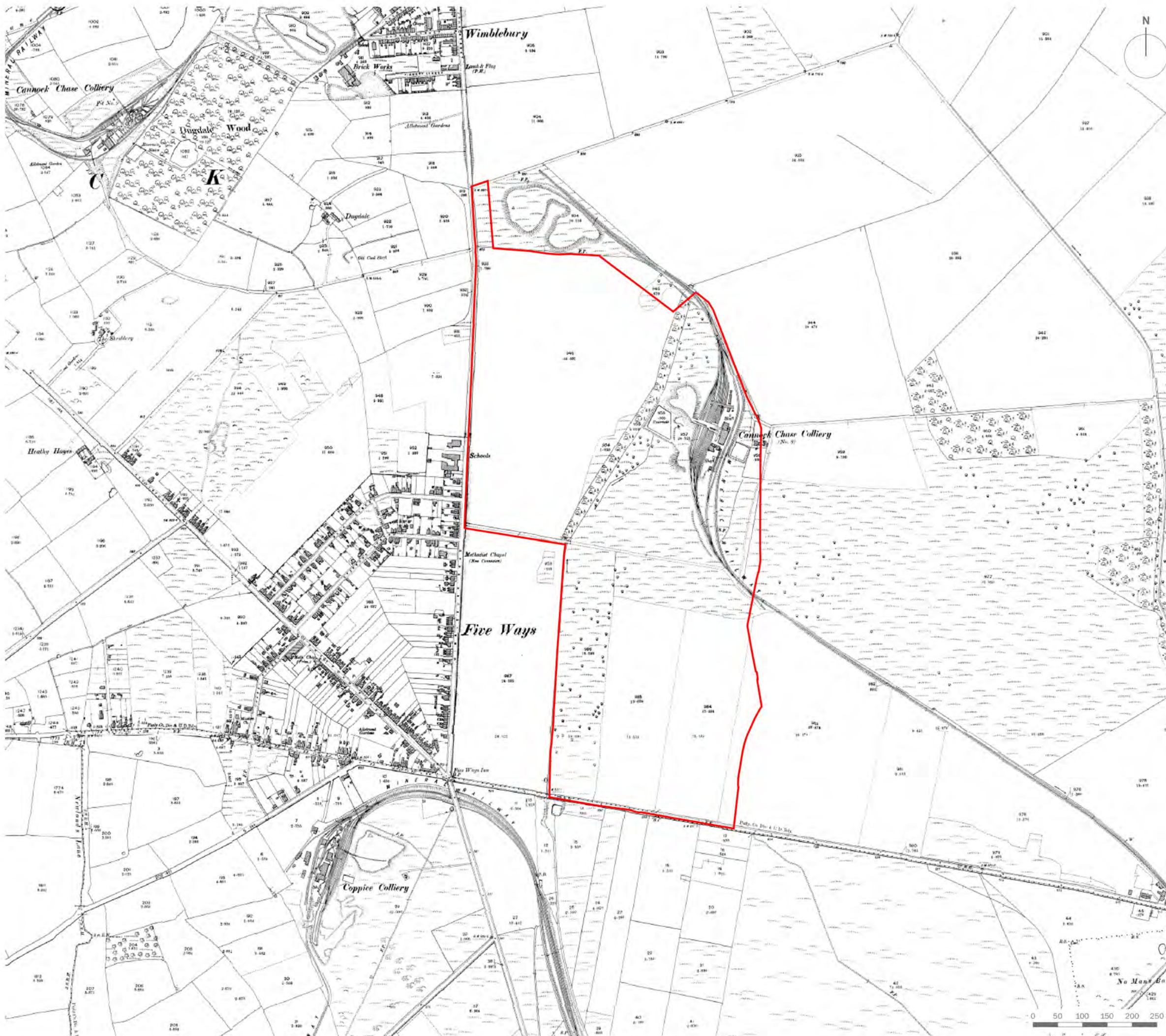
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Approximate Site Boundary

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project title

Wimblebury Road, Cannock

drawing title

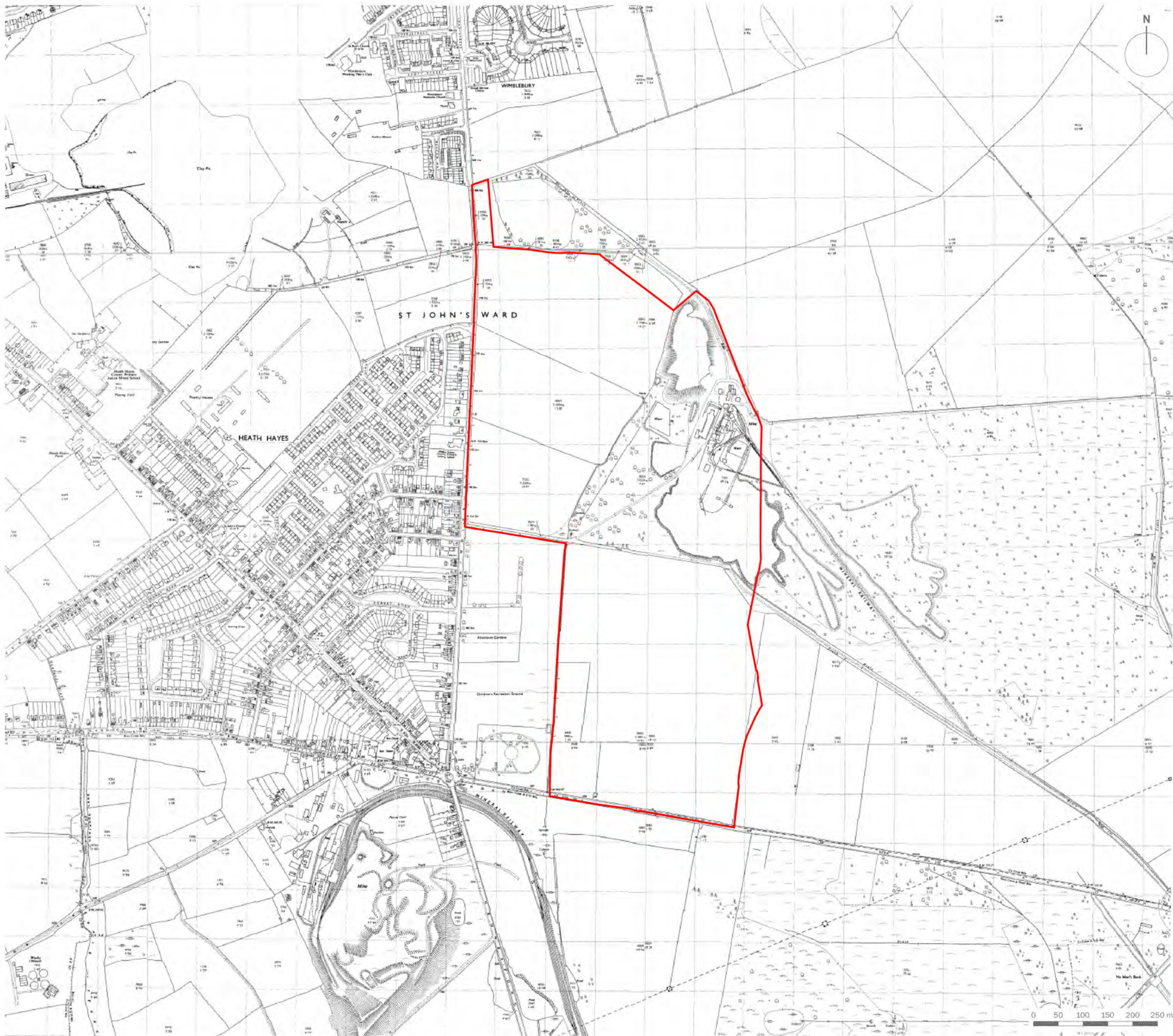
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Approximate Site Boundary

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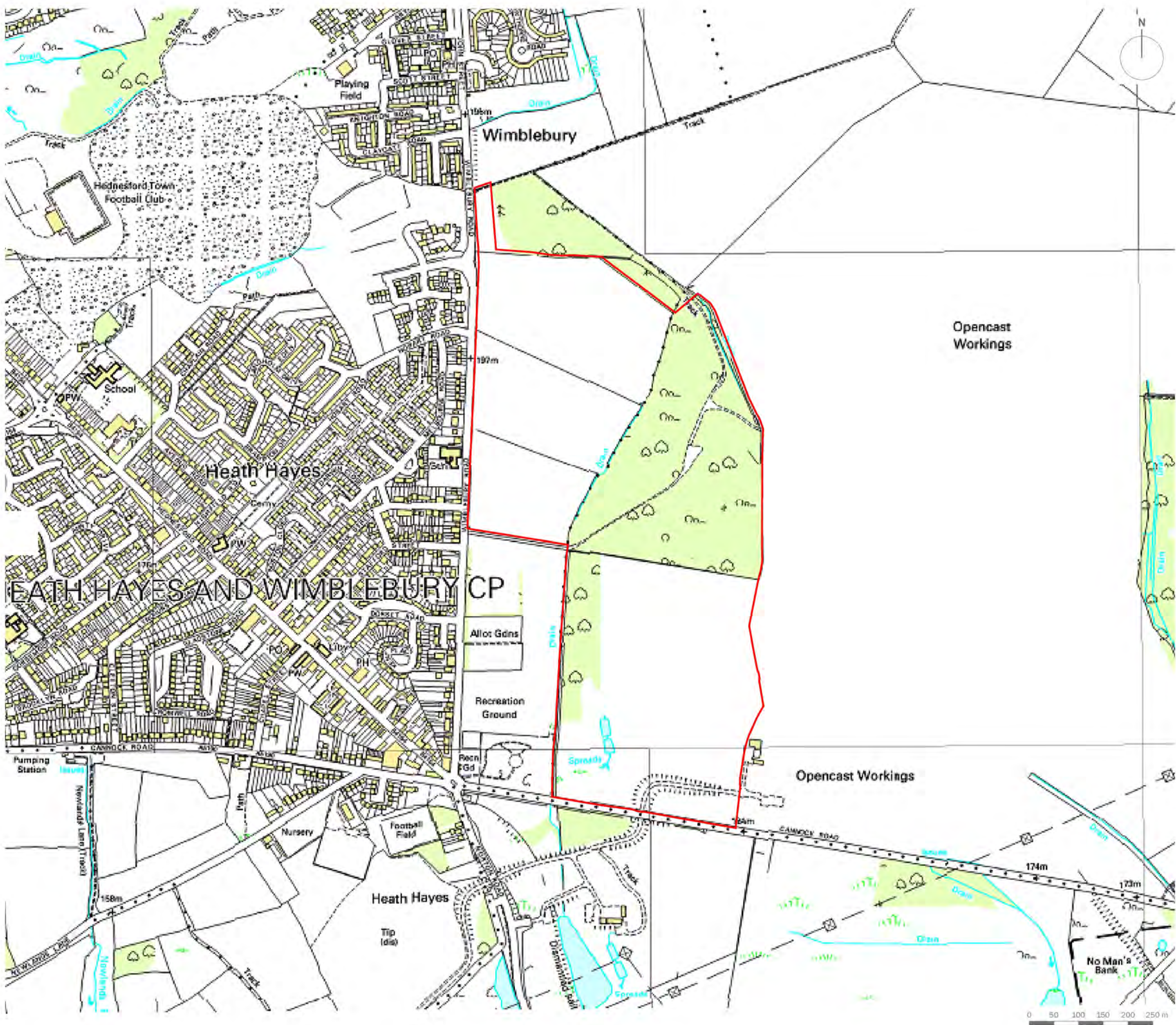
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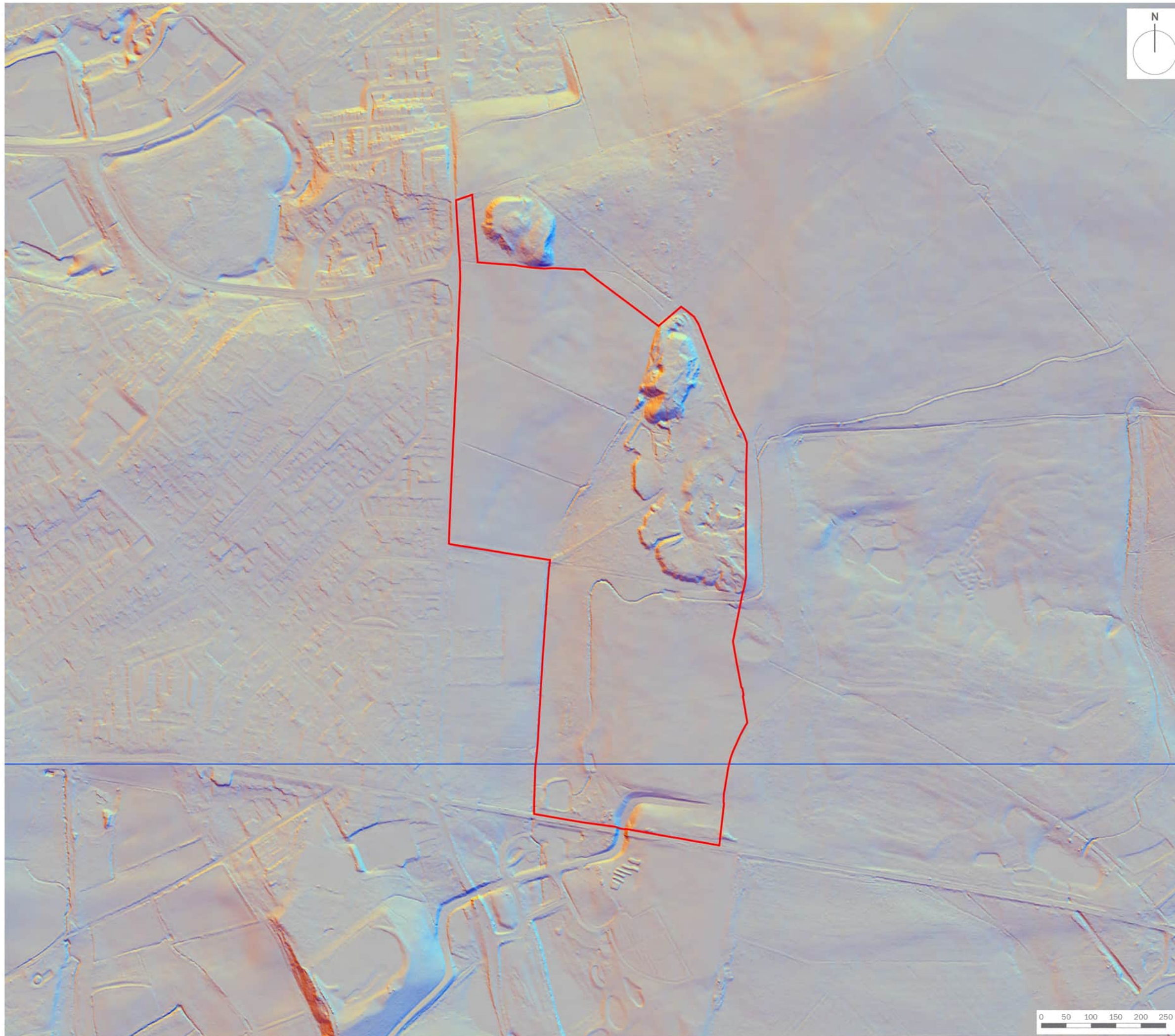
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Site Boundary
 DRAFT

LiDAR Data Using 1m Digital Terrain Model (DTM) using Multi-directional Azimuth Shading

client
Taylor Wimpey

project title
Wimblebury Road, Cannock

drawing title
Extracts of LiDAR Data

date	05 MARCH 2024	drawn by	VMS
drawing number	edp7109_d007	checked	EBR
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