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**Salford**  
MANCHESTER

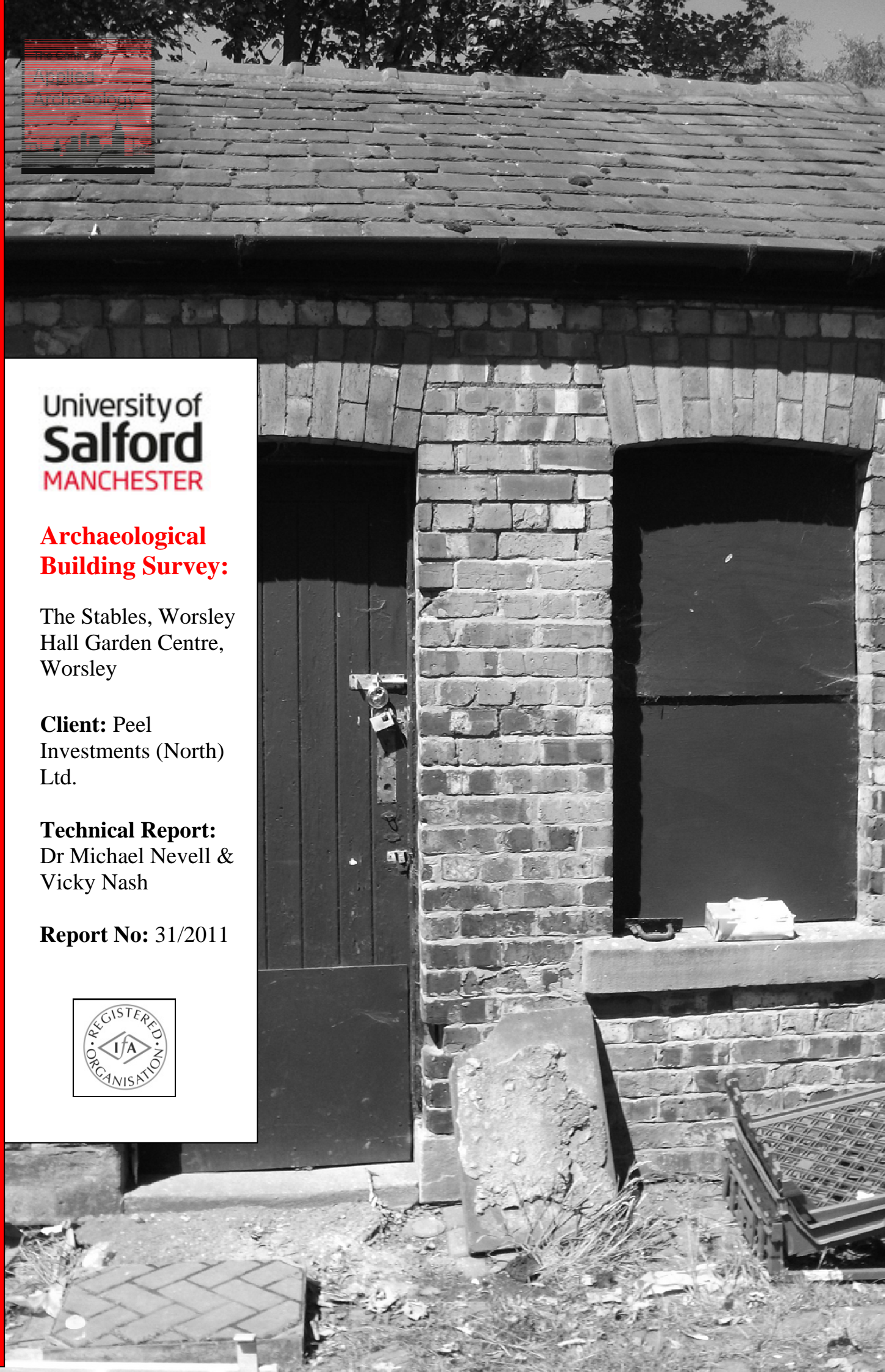
**Archaeological  
Building Survey:**

The Stables, Worsley  
Hall Garden Centre,  
Worsley

**Client:** Peel  
Investments (North)  
Ltd.

**Technical Report:**  
Dr Michael Nevell &  
Vicky Nash

**Report No:** 31/2011





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## Summary

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The Centre for Applied Archaeology was commissioned by Peel Investments (North) Ltd to undertake a Level 2 Building Survey of the Stables, Worsley Hall Garden Centre, Leigh Road, Worsley, M28 2LJ. The survey work was carried out in July 2011 by Vicky Nash and Dr Michael Nevell and conformed to *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (English Heritage March 2010), paragraphs HE6.1 and HE8.1. The OS survey of 1896 depicts two rectangular structures, aligned north-south, with a central courtyard to the north of the Garden Cottage (**Site 1**) (**Fig 2, 10 & 20**). By the OS survey of 1908 the most westerly of the structures (**Site 10a**) had been extended along its western elevation, whilst the eastern structure (**Site 10b**) remained unchanged (**Fig 3 & 4**). Both structures appear unaltered on the OS survey of 1929, however a third, rectangular structure, aligned east-west (**Site 10c**) appeared to have been tagged onto the north-east corner of (**Site 10b**), (**Fig 5**). All three structures remain unaltered on all subsequent mapping until the OS survey of 1975, by which time (**Site 10a**) had been reduced in size through the demolition of its western extension and (**Site 10c**) had been completely demolished, (**Fig 8**). Both (**Sites 10a & 10b**) still stand on site today and are now used by the New Hall Garden Centre for storage and office space. A new single story structure (**Site 10d**) now occupies the site of (**Site 10c**) and this structure was used at the time of the current survey by the Garden Centre's Café. Estate plans held within the Bridgewater Estate Archives held by Peel Group Ltd show that the structures were used for stabling and produce storage and this has been confirmed by the recent archaeological survey work.



# *1. Introduction*

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## *1.1 Background*

The Centre for Applied Archaeology was commissioned by Peel Investments (North) Ltd to undertake a Level 2 Building Survey of the Stables, Worsley Hall Garden Centre, Leigh Road, Worsley, M28 2LJ. The survey work was carried out in July 2011 by Vicky Nash and Dr Michael Nevell and conformed to the guidance set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (English Heritage March 2010), paragraphs HE6.1 and HE8.1.

## *1.2 Location, Topography and Current Land Use*

Worsley New Hall Stables stands on a southern-facing slope at roughly 29m AOD. This area is covered in glacial boulder clay and the natural drainage of the area falls away to the south into the basin mossland complex formed by Chat and Worsley Mosses. The current buildings were in use during the survey work by the New Hall Garden Centre for storage and office space and as the Garden Centre's Café.

## *1.3 Methodology*

This survey has followed the conventions laid down in *Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IFA, Revised Edition 2001).

In brief this work comprised:

- Historic research including a historic map regression exercise (scaled to a large, uniform size), examination of Census records, Trade Directories and local history sources from Salford Local History Library.
- A photographic survey showing general view of the building's exterior and setting; the overall appearance of the buildings principle rooms and circulation areas; detailed coverage of the buildings external and internal appearance; and architectural and structural features relevant to the building's design. The photographs have been taken as high resolution digital photographs, with the viewpoint directions shown on plans.
- A written report including a description of the structure; a discussion of the site's development and importance; and a photographic catalogue.



## *2. Historical Background*

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### *2.1 Origins*

The stables formed part of the Worsley New Hall estate, a designed landscape of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (Farrer & Brownbill 1911). They were built sometime during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, most likely during the 1870s, (Curtis 1895) and first appear on the Ordnance Survey map of 1896. This shows two rectangular structures, aligned north-south, with a central courtyard to the north of the Garden Cottage (**Site 1**) (**Fig 2, 10 & 20**). By the OS survey of 1908 the most westerly of the structures (**Site 10a**) had been extended along its western elevation, whilst the eastern structure (**Site 10b**) remained unchanged (**Fig 3 & 4**). Both structures appear unaltered on the OS survey of 1929, however a third, rectangular structure, aligned east-west (**Site 10c**) appeared to have been tagged onto the north-east corner of (**Site 10b**), (**Fig 5**).

### *2.2 Late 20<sup>th</sup> century Activity*

All three structures remain unaltered on all subsequent mapping until the OS survey of 1975, by which time, (**Site 10a**) had been reduced in size through the demolition of its western extension and (**Site 10c**) had been completely demolished, (**Fig 8**). Both (**Sites 10a & 10b**) still stood on site at the time of the present survey and were used by the New Hall Garden Centre for storage and office space. A new single story structure (**Site 10d**) occupied the site of (**Site 10c**) at the time of the current survey and this structure was in use as the Garden Centre's Café. Estate plans held within the Bridgewater Estate Archives that the structures were used for stabling and produce storage and this has been confirmed by recent archaeological survey work.



## ***3. Building Description***

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### ***3.1 The Overall Plan Form of the Stable Range***

The stable range had two wings, was built in machine brick and was one and two storeys in height. The west stable range had four rooms (WS1 to WS4) whilst the east stable range had six rooms (ES1 to ES6).

#### ***3.1 West Stable Exterior Description***

The west stable block was rectangular in plan, and along with the east stable, formed the stable complex. The buildings first appeared on the 1896 map (Fig. 2) and most likely dated from the 1870s. The stable was constructed of machine made, red bricks, laid in English garden bond. The building had a single storey, a cart shed at the western end and a pitched roof. The roof was covered by grey slate with stone ridge tiles and guttering along the eaves.

##### *Southern and Northern Elevations*

The gables were single storey and measured approximately 5.70m in width. No architectural features were contained within the gable ends.

##### *Eastern Elevation*

The eastern elevation contained an opening at its southern end, with a brick pillar dividing it into two smaller openings (Fig. 7). They measured 3.19m and 2.49m wide. The northern end of the eastern elevation contained three windows and two doors (Fig 10). The southern window was rectangular with a stone lintel and sill. It measured 0.84m in width. The central window and the northern window were rectangular and both had segmented brick arches above, with stone sills. They measured 0.84m and 0.78m wide respectively. The southern door was a timber construction, with a single stone step at its base which was heavily worn. This doorway had a segmented brick arch above. It measured 0.93m in width. The northern door was split into two parts, an upper and lower, to open independently. This doorway had a single stone step at its base and a segmented brick arch. It measured 1.1m in width.

##### *Western Elevation*

The western elevation contained one window at the northern end. This was square and had a stone lintel and sill. It measured 0.70m in width.

#### ***3.2 West Stable Interior Description***

For ease of description each room of the interior has been designated with its own letter and number.

### *Room WS1*

Room WS1 occupied the southern end of the building and formed a double cart shed. The room was 6.57m wide. The flooring was constructed of roughly hewn stone, but level. The northern end of this room had a later inserted wall and this separated it from Room WS2 (Fig. 9). This wall contained an opening in the upper central area into Room WS2 but had no doorway. The northern wall in this room had a doorway at the eastern end. This door was wooden and had a wooden lintel. It measured 1.07m in width. The western wall had a stepped section coming out from the main wall, a brick wide in the lower southern part of the wall. The central part of this wall had two pilasters. The roof was timber framed with rafters, ridge piece and laths laid at an interval diminishing towards the ridge. The roof support beams were of a through purlin king post truss. This room was filled with pallets of large bags of peat at the time of the survey and thus restricted the view.

### *Rooms WS2, WS3, WS4*

These three rooms were inaccessible and so no information was available at the time of the current survey.

### ***3.3 East Stable Exterior Description***

The east stable was rectangular in plan and along with the adjacent west stable formed the stable complex. The buildings appear on the 1896 map (Fig. 2) and most likely date from the 1870s. The stable was constructed of machine made, red bricks, laid in English garden bond. The building was two storeys and had a gabled roof. The roof was covered by grey slate with slate ridge tiles and guttering along the eaves. On the east side of the east stable roof was a chimney. It had a stone surround on top and was constructed of bricks with a plaster surround on the outside.

#### *Southern Gable*

The southern gable was two storeys. This gable end was approximately 6m wide. It contained two windows, one in each storey. The lower window has a stone lintel and sill with a Soldier 'arch' of bricks laid on their side. The upper window has a stone sill and a segmented brick arch above. In the lower western corner of the southern elevation were the remnants of a gate post. This was a later addition to the building. This was constructed of brick with two stone blocks. This gate post was topped with a small stone coping.

#### *Northern Gable*

The northern gable was two storeys and was approximately 6m in width. It had a later addition lean to building attached and so no windows were present on this elevation. The lean to was of a brick construction with a slate roof. It had one window with two lights; the southern light contained an extractor fan. To the right of the window was a doorway. This had a single stone step and stone lintel above.

### *Eastern Elevation*

The eastern elevation was mostly covered with ivy. At the northern end of the wall was a window covered by ivy, visible inside the building. It measured 0.73m wide and had a stone lintel and sill.

### *Western Elevations*

The western elevation contained four windows and 3 doorways; one was a double doorway. The double doorway was at the south end of the building. It had a ramped concrete step and a wooden lintel. Above this was a segmented brick arch. It measured 2.39m in width. The central doorway has a single stone step, wooden lintel and a segmented brick arch above. It measured 1.19m. The doorway at the northern end of the building was the same as the central one and measured 0.98m.

The four windows all contained the same features. Two were lower storey windows and two upper storey windows. The four windows had stone sills and segmented brick arches above. They all measured c.0.90m.

## ***3.4 East Stable Interior Descriptions***

### *Rooms ES1*

This room was L shaped. The room had two internal doors. This room was adapted to form a beauty salon and so had modern ceiling tiles and a carpeted floor. The south-western end of the room had an alcove measuring c.1.10m by c.0.50m.

### *Room ES2 and ES3*

These two rooms were inaccessible at the time of the current survey.

### *Rooms ES4 and ES5*

These rooms were measured and added into the ground floor plan. Due to debris and people working in the building, it was not possible to photograph these two spaces nor to record them fully.

### *First Floor*

The first floor was occupied by a single large room space. It had softwood machine-sawn wooden floorboards and whitewashed brick walls. It was open to the roof which was supported by four wooden strutted trusses.





## ***4. Discussion***

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### ***4.1 Phasing and Function***

#### *Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century*

The stables were constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The West Stable was built with two bays at the southern end, divided by a brick pillar. This end of the stable may have served as cart bays. The northern end of this West Stable was inaccessible at the time of survey. This end of the building may have had stalls internally, for horses. This design of a double purpose stable, with storage for carts and horses at each end is a common building design of the time. The East Stable was two storeys. The ground floor has been redesigned since originally built. The first floor retains the wooden flooring. The first floor may have been used as hay or sheave storage, to feed the animals kept in the stables. The lack of windows on one elevation and the two storeys design may mean that the east building was also used as a barn. Hand threshing barns, used for storage, share many characteristics of this east building and therefore it may have served as such.

#### *20<sup>th</sup> Century*

The stables were adapted during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century for business purposes. They currently contain a beauty salon in the East Stable and the West Stable is used for general storage. An extension was added to the northern elevation. This is the only alteration in the buildings history and it has appeared the same throughout the cartographic evidence.

### ***4.2 The Archaeological Context of the Worsley New Hall Stables***

The barn complex at Worsley New Hall forms part of a 19<sup>th</sup> century country estate established by the Earl of Ellesmere. The estate was established in the 1840s and fell into decline around 1914. Large parts of the estate landscape, such as the ice-house, kitchen garden and the stables survive intact. Although the New Hall was demolished in the 1940s the platform survives. Likewise, although the formal gardens were removed in the 1940s, the terracing and outline of the gardens also survive.

There are over 2500 farmsteads sites in Greater Manchester, many surviving with some farm buildings on them dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, despite the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century urban growth which has destroyed many farm sites. There are two regional overviews of farm building developments; a study by English Heritage in the mid-2000s (Lake & Edwards with Wade Martins 2006) and two sections in the regional research framework publication for the North West (Brennand with Chitty & Nevell 2006, 145-50 & 166-70). The stables at Worsley New Hall are farm building types familiar from elsewhere in the region (Lake & Edwards with Martins 2006, 67-8) with a hay loft at first floor level and ground floor stables (east range). Single storey stables such as the west range are common in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, although in this case the west stable was combined with a cart shed. None of the characteristic fixtures and fittings within the stables (manager and hayrack, cobbled floors and ladders) survive in these buildings (Brunskill 2000).

The stables, along with the other 19<sup>th</sup> century estate monuments in this area, form a regionally important grouping of structures reflecting the wealth of status of a small group of landowners in the region whose income was derived from the wealth of industrialisation, in this case coal mining (Walker & Tindall 1985).



## 5. Sources

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### ***Bibliography***

Brennand M with Chitty G & Nevell M, eds, 2006, *The Archaeology of North West England. An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England: Volume 1. Resource Assessment*. Archaeology North West Volume 8.

Brownbill J & Farrer W, 1911, *A History of the County of Lancaster: Volume 4*. Victoria County Histories.

Brunskill R W, 2000, *Vernacular Architecture: An Illustrated Handbook*. Faber and Faber.

Curtis C H, 1895, Worsley Hall: The Seat of the Earl of Ellesmere (Pages 531 – 538) in *The Gardeners Magazine*, published 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1895.

Institute for Archaeologists. 1994, revised 2010. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*.

Lake J & Edwards B with Wade Martins S, 2006, *Historic Farmsteads. Preliminary Character Statement: North West Region*. University of Gloucester in association with English Heritage and the Countryside Agency.

PPS5, *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*, March 2010.

Walker J S F & Tindall M, 1985, *Country Houses of Greater Manchester*. Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit.

### ***Special Collections***

Bridgewater Estate Archives, 1840 to 1958. University of Salford Archives.

### ***Maps***

John Foulkes Plan of the Worsley Estate, 1799.

OS 1" to 6 Mile, Edition 1849, Lancashire Sheet 103.

OS 1" to 6 Mile, Coloured Edition 1896, Lancashire Sheet 103.

OS 1:2500 Edition 1908, Lancashire Sheet 103.2.

OS 1" to 6 Mile, Quarter Sheet1 1909, Lancashire Sheet 103 NW.

OS 1:2500, Country Series Edition 1928, Lancashire Sheet 103.2.

OS 1" to 6 Mile, Quarter Sheet1 1929, Lancashire Sheet 103 NW.

OS 1" to 6 Mile, Country Series Provisional Edition 1949, Lancashire Sheet 103 NW.

OS 1:10,560, National Grid Series 1956, Sheet SD 70 SW.

OS 1:10,000, National Grid Series 1975, Sheet SD 70 SW.

OS 1:10,000, National Grid Series 1991, Sheet SD 70 SW.

OS 1:10,000, National Grid Series 1999, Sheet SD 70 SW.



*Trade Directories*

Kelly, 1920, Manchester, Salford & Suburban Directory  
Kelly, 1930, Manchester, Salford & Suburban Directory  
Kelly, 1939, Manchester, Salford & Suburban Directory  
Kelly, 1948, Manchester, Salford & Suburban Directory  
Kelly, 1959, Manchester, Salford & Suburban Directory  
Kelly, 1965, Manchester, Salford & Suburban Directory



## *6. Archive*

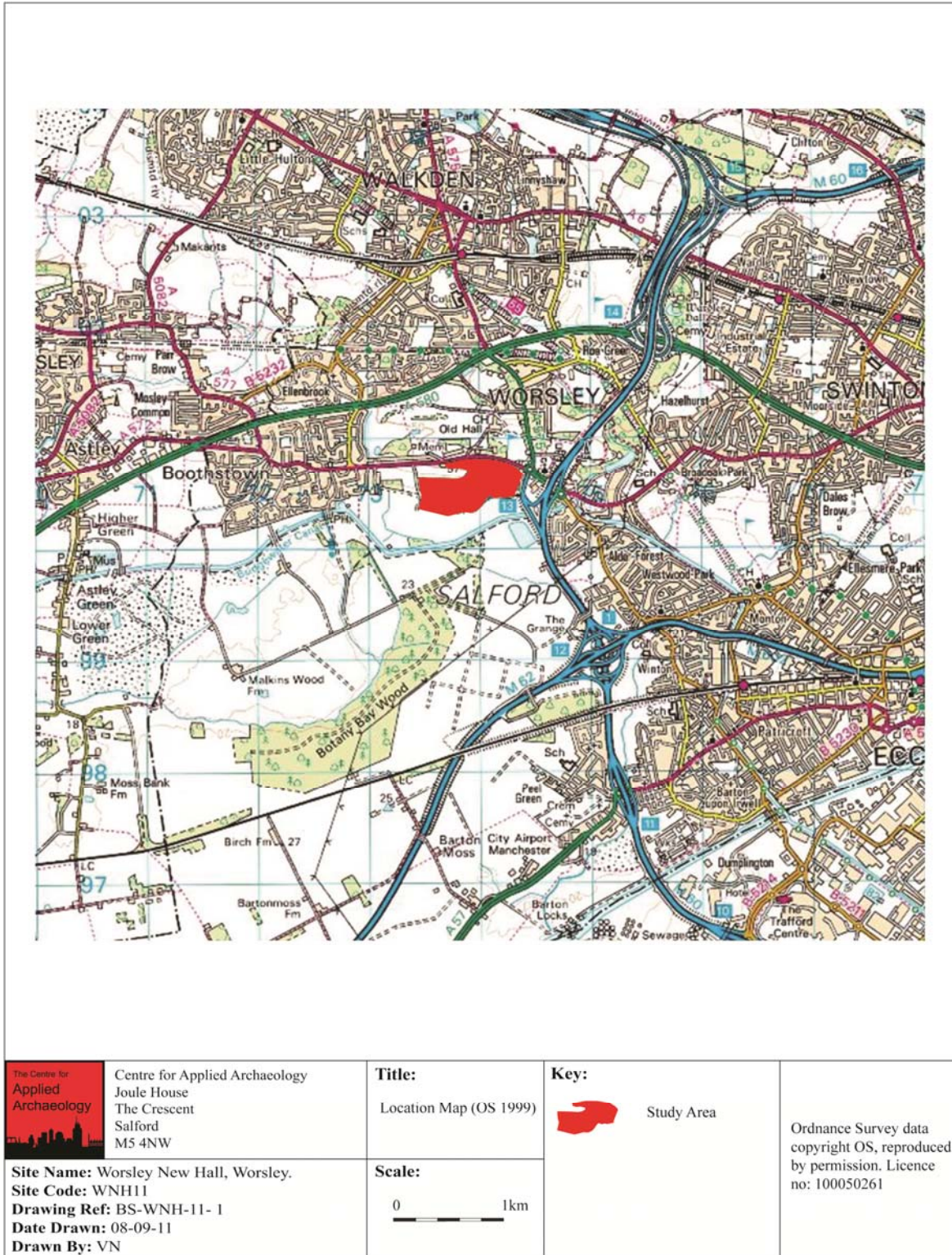
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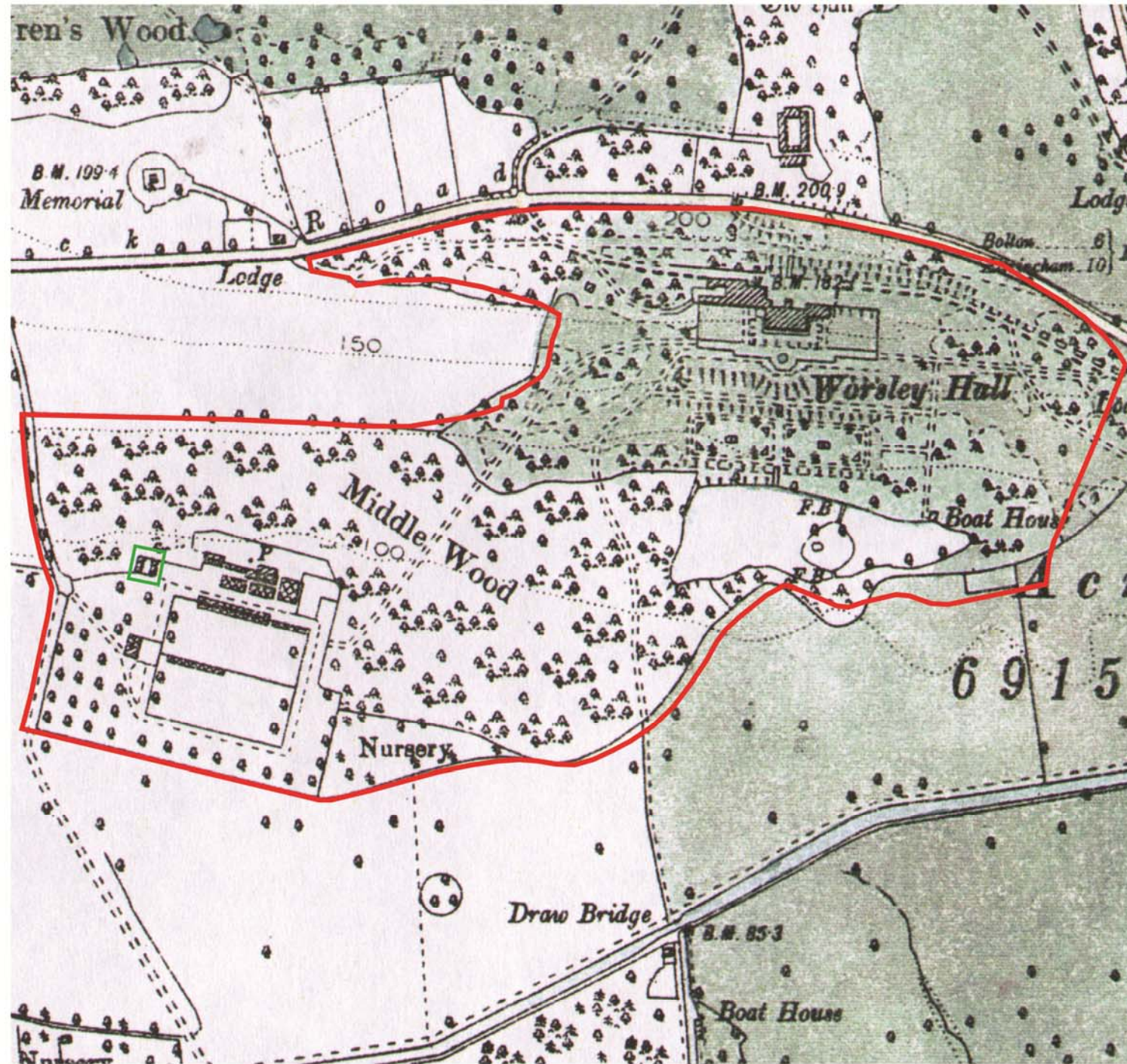
The archive is currently held by the Centre for Applied Archaeology and a copy of this report will be forwarded to the client and deposited with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit.

The archive consists of annotated field drawings, digital photographs, historic and modern mapping, census and trade directory entries along with photocopies of supporting historical documentary material.

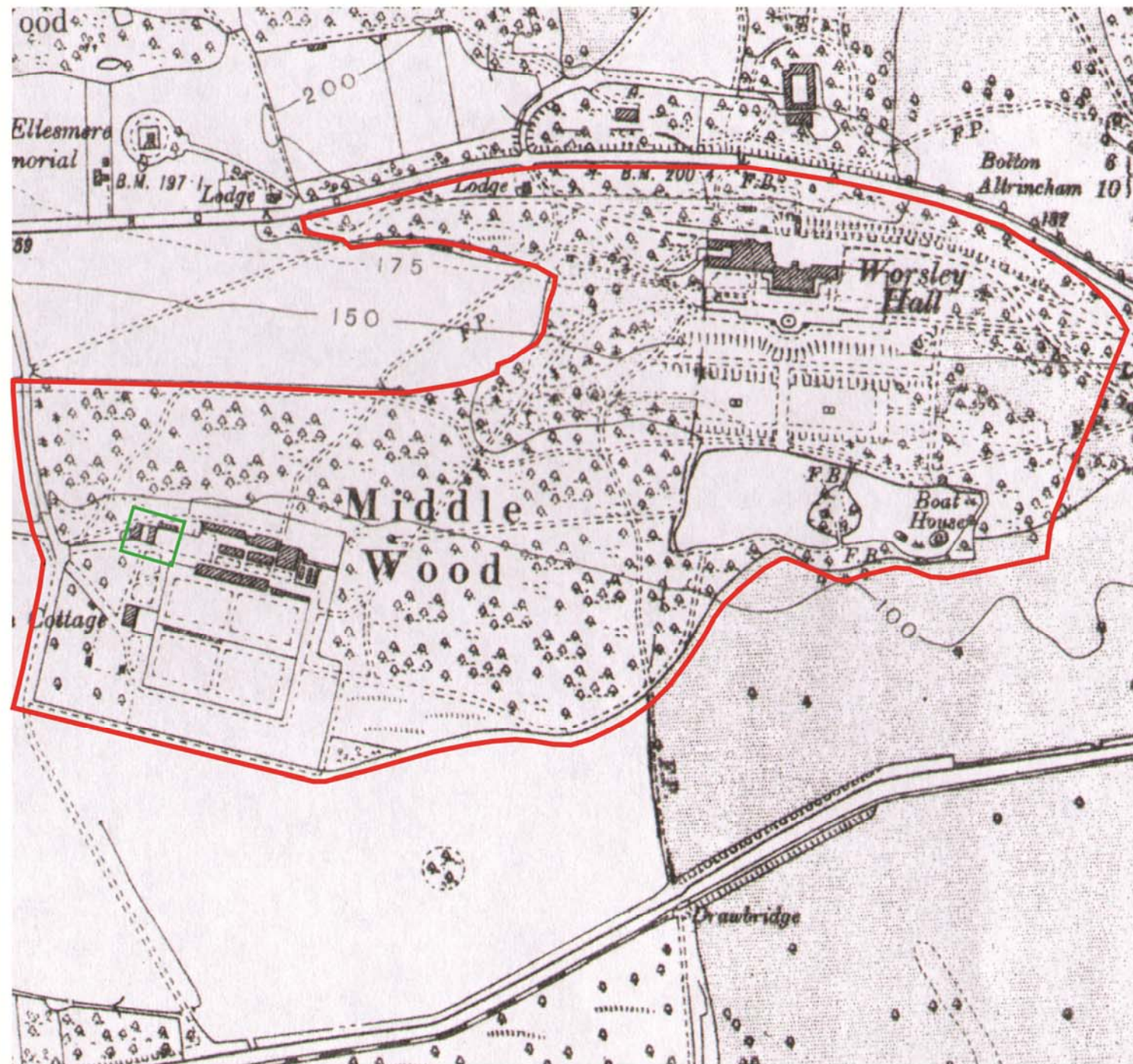


## Appendix 1: Figures



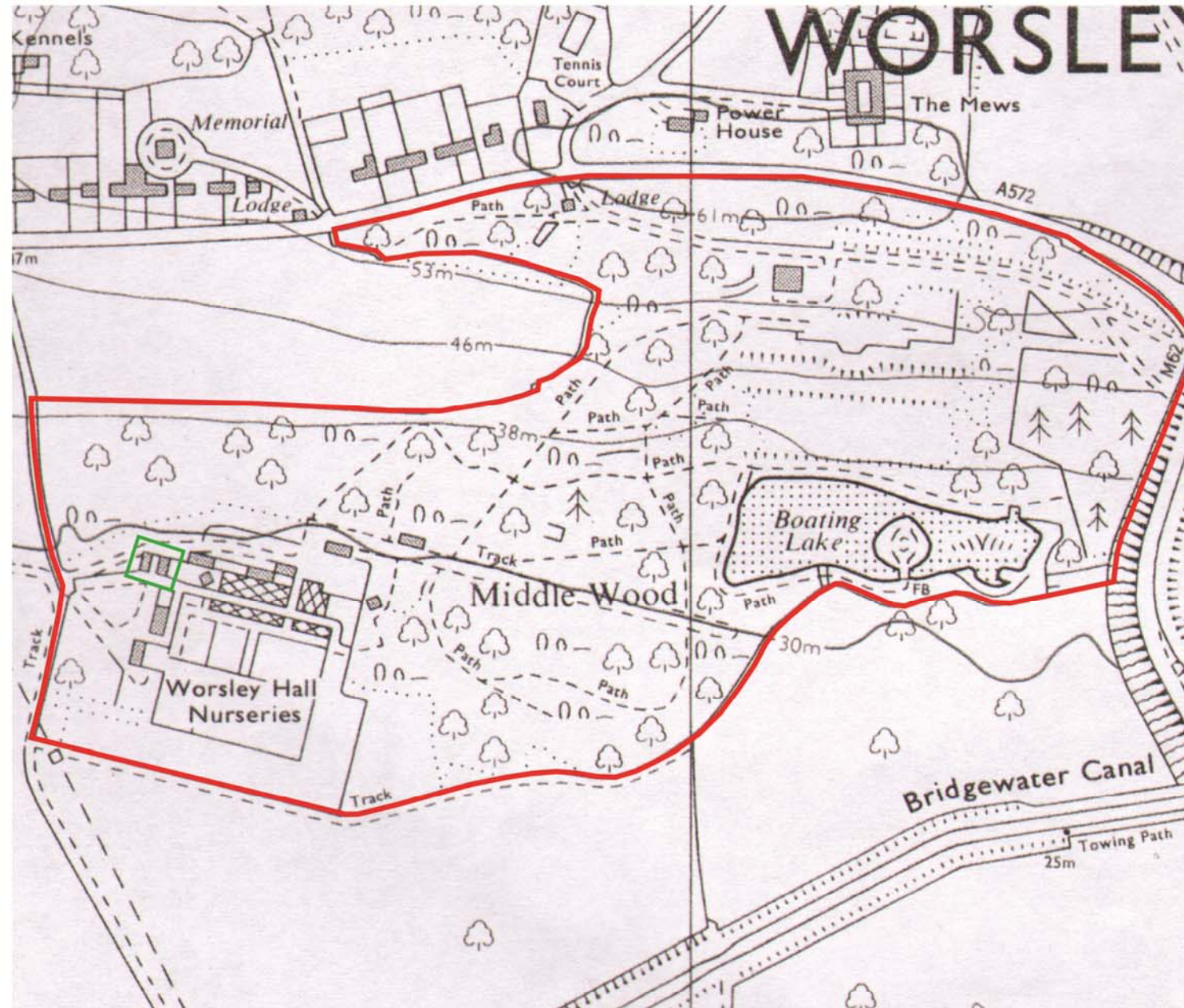


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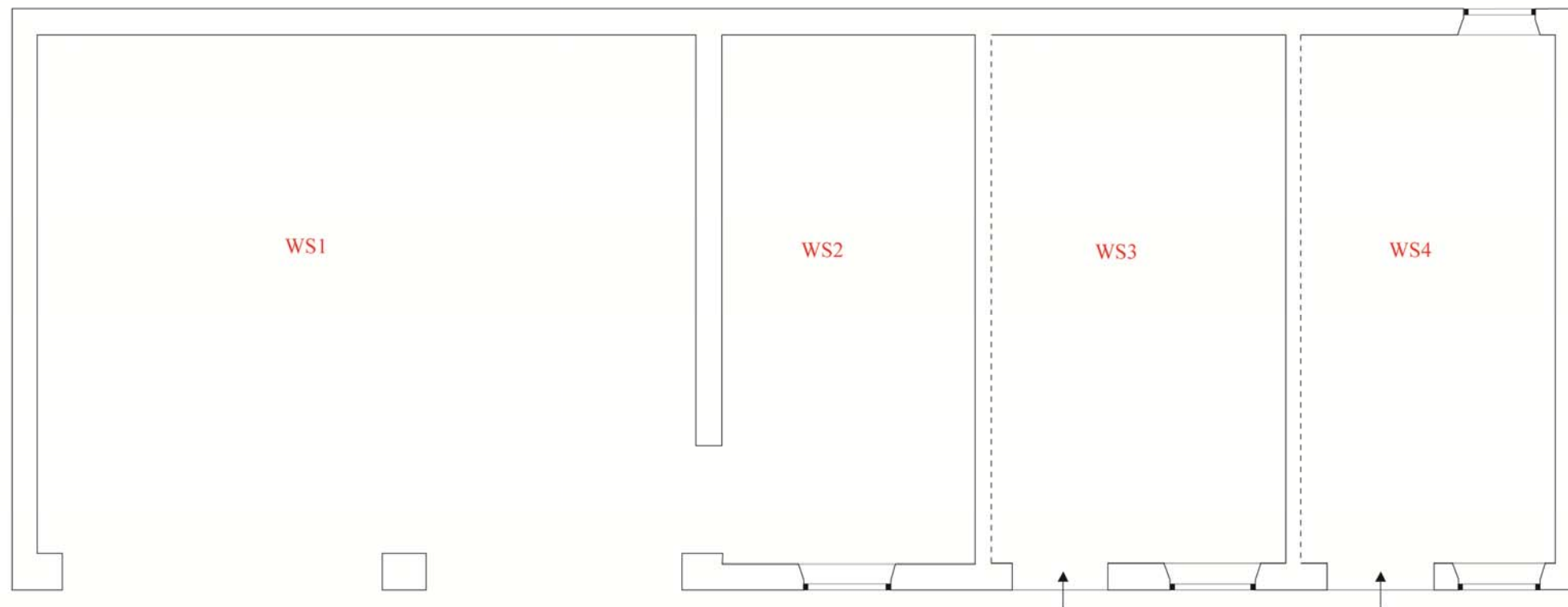


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<p><b>Site Name:</b> Worsley New Hall, Worsley. <b>Site Code:</b> WNH11 <b>Drawing Ref:</b> BS-WNH-11-3 <b>Date Drawn:</b> 15/12/11 <b>Drawn By:</b> MB</p>	<p><b>Scale:</b> Based on OS 1" : 6 mile Rescaled to 1 : 2500</p>	<p> Survey area</p>		

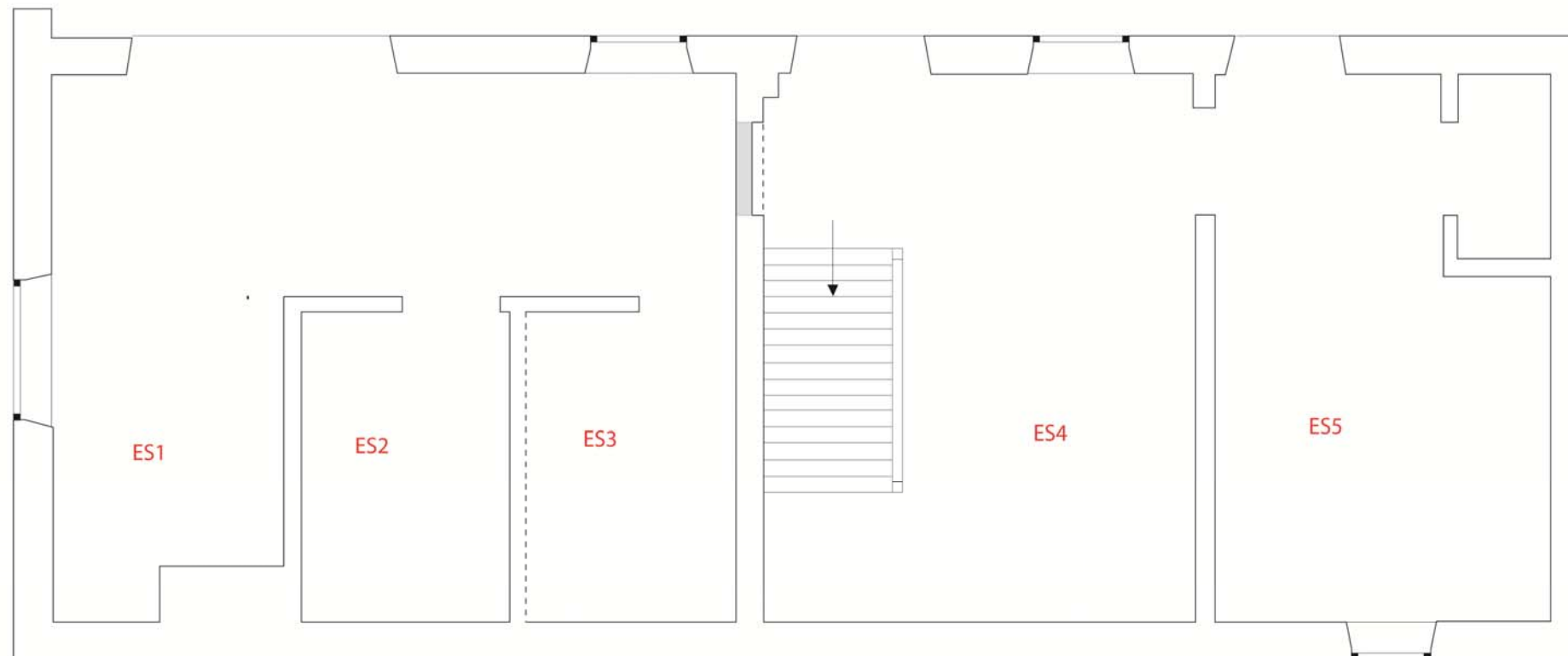


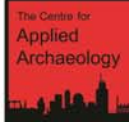
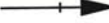


	Centre for Applied Archaeology School of the Built Environment The Crescent Salford M5 4NW	<b>Title:</b> OS Revision of 1975	<b>Key:</b> Site boundary Survey area	Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission. Licence no: 100050261
<b>Site Name:</b> Worsley New Hall, Worsley. <b>Site Code:</b> WNH11 <b>Drawing Ref:</b> BS-WNH-11-4 <b>Date Drawn:</b> 15/12/11 <b>Drawn By:</b> MB	<b>Scale:</b> Based on OS 1": 6 mile Rescaled to 1: 2500			



	Centre for Applied Archaeology School of the Built Environment The Crescent Salford M5 4NW	<b>Title:</b> West Stable building ground floor plan	<b>Key:</b> WS0 Room numbers	 N
<b>Site Name:</b> Worsley New Hall, Salford. <b>Site Code:</b> WNH11 <b>Drawing Ref:</b> BS-WNH-11-5 <b>Date Drawn:</b> 15/12/11 <b>Drawn By:</b> MB		<b>Scale:</b> 		



 Centre for Applied Archaeology School of the Built Environment The Crescent Salford M5 4NW	<b>Title:</b> East Stable building ground floor plan	<b>Key:</b>  WS0 Room numbers	 N
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*Fig. 7 - View of the stables eastern elevation. Looking SW*



*Fig. 8 - View of the Stables western elevation. Looking SE*



Fig. 9 - View of Stable entrance. Looking NW



Fig. 10- View of the partition wall dividing the southern and northern bays of the Stables.  
Looking N



*Fig. 11 – View of western wall in Western Stable. Looking W*



*Fig 12 - View of the north end of the Stables eastern elevation. Looking W*



**Fig. 13** - View of barns northern gable end and western elevation. Looking SE



**Fig. 14** - View of barns eastern elevation and southern gable end. Looking NW



*Fig. 15* - View of barns southern gable end and western elevation. Looking NE



*Fig. 16* - View of roof timbers exposed within the first floor of the barn. Looking N





Fig 17 – Shot of Room ES1. Looking N



Fig 18 – Shot of Room ES1. Looking E



## Appendix 2: Photograph Catalogue

<b>Photo No.</b>	<b>Fig No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Orientation (looking)</b>
1		View of the southern gable end of the Stables.	NW
2		View of the southern bay of the Stables.	NW
3		View of the interior of the Stables southern bay.	NW
4	10	View of the partition wall dividing the southern and northern bays of the Stables.	N
5		View of a doorway and window at the northern end of the eastern elevation.	NW
6	12	View of the north end of the Stables eastern elevation.	NW
7	7	View of the stables eastern elevation.	SW
8		Detail of a later inserted window at the north end of the Stables eastern elevation.	W
9		View of the Stables eastern elevation	NW
10		Detail of the stables roof, showing exposed timber purlins and joists.	W
11		View of the Stables north gable end.	S
12		Detail of window at north end of the Stables western elevation.	NE
13		View of the Stables western elevation.	SE
14	8	View of the Stables western elevation.	SE
15		Detail of brickwork at centre of the Stables western elevation.	SE
16		Detail of brickwork at centre of the Stables western elevation.	SE
17		View of the Stables slate roof.	E
18		View of the eaves and exposed purlins on the north gable end of the Stables.	S
19		Detail of the cast iron drain pipe on the north gable end of the Stables.	SE
20		Detail of the eaves at north gable end of the Stables.	SE
21	17	Interior view of the barns southern bay (ground floor).	N
22	18	Interior view of the barns southern bay (ground floor).	E
23		Interior view of the barns southern bay (first floor)	NW
24		View of first floor window in the barns eastern wall.	E
25		View of first floor window in the barns eastern wall.	E

26	16	View of roof timbers exposed within the first floor of the barn.	N
27		General view of first floor office at southern end of the barn.	S
28		View of roof truss exposed within first floor of the barn.	SW
29		Detailed view of roof truss exposed within the first floor of the barn.	SW
30	14	View of barns eastern elevation and southern gable end.	NW
31		View of the barns southern gable end.	N
32		View of the gatepost recessed into the southern gable end of the barn.	N
33	15	View of barns southern gable end and western elevation.	NE
34		View of barns western elevation.	NE
35		Detailed view of ground floor window in Western elevation of the barn.	E
36		View of barns northern gable end and western elevation.	SE
37	13	View of barns northern gable end and western elevation.	SE
38		View of modern extension abutting northern gable end of the barn.	E