

# **Kirklees Local Plan Examination**

## **Matter 29 Urban Green Space and Other Open Spaces**

### **Item 32 - Council Response to M29.7 Hallam Land Management – Additional Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspaces Identified in the Green Belt**

**March 2018**

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**KIRKLEES LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION  
MATTER 29 URBAN GREEN SPACE AND OTHER OPEN SPACES**

**COUNCIL RESPONSE TO M29.7 HALLAM LAND MANAGEMENT – ADDITIONAL  
NATURAL/SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACES IDENTIFIED IN THE GREEN BELT**

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 In response to Matter 29 of the Kirklees Local Plan Examination, FPCR Environment and Design Ltd (FPCR) on behalf of Hallam Land Management has provided a review of natural/semi-natural greenspaces within the green belt in the Batley West and Heckmondwike wards (Response M29.7). This review has identified additional areas which FPCR consider could be classed as natural/semi-natural greenspace.
- 1.2 The Council are providing the following analysis of this information having undertaken sites visits. The site boundaries have been digitised as shown in attached Plans 1-7 to match as far as possible with FPCR's additional natural and semi-natural greenspaces shown in their review M29.7 (Figures 3 and 4) in order to evaluate each site.
- 1.3 The council's view is that the majority of these areas do not constitute natural/semi-natural greenspace or have low value as open space for the reasons set out below in Tables 1 and Tables 2.

**2 Methodology**

- 2.1 It is not clear in the report by FPCR what method has been used to assess the sites or how some of these sites meet the NPPF Glossary definition of open space in regards to having public value as a sport or recreation facility or in terms of their visual amenity benefits. In addition, some of these sites are already included and accounted for in the council's Open Space Study (LE119) and these are identified below. As part of FPCR's review, these sites have not been subject to the council's open space qualitative assessment to determine their value as open spaces or their public accessibility clarified.
- 2.2 The council would also emphasise, that the oversupply of the provision of natural/semi-natural greenspace (above the 2 hectares per 1,000 population standard) within an area would not be the determining factor in de-designating existing urban green space, particularly where the oversupply is due to land within the green belt. Rather the designation of natural/semi-natural greenspace as urban green space is based fundamentally on the site quality and function as a valuable open space.
- 2.3 It is also important to note that FPCR's own evidence in Table 6 (page 9) of their review included in MIQ Response M29.7 shows that even with the inclusion of FPCR's additional sites, the standard of natural/semi-natural greenspaces within the Heckmondwike ward would be 1.63 hectares per 1,000 population which would still be below the 2 hectares per 1,000 population benchmark standard.

**Table 1: Other Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspaces identified in Batley West Ward**

Site No.	Address	FPCR Analysis	Kirklees Comments
FPCR A3	Land adjacent Laurel Grove, Batley	The is judged to perform as Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace because it comprises a large area of undisturbed scrub with the surrounding area consisting of mown grassland in a heavily urbanised area. This area provides good potential habitat for a range of wildlife in the local area including birds, badgers and reptiles.	<p>This site is mostly located to the rear of properties on Laurel Drive and Laurel Grove but does include existing gardens to the rear of 16-24 The Burrows (see Appendix 1 Plans 1.1 and 1.2). It has limited visual amenity benefits which are largely restricted to residents of these properties. There is no open frontage onto either Laurel Drive or Laurel Grove and the site is well screened from public view along these roads by existing housing with only intermittent and fleeting glimpses available through gaps in between blocks of terraced properties.</p> <p>Whilst this site does provide some visual relief within the immediate vicinity, it does not provide long distance views or visual relief as a green lung within the wider densely urban areas of the ward generally. Therefore the value it provides in terms of its open space structural and landscape benefits and visual amenity are limited.</p> <p>There are no public rights of way through the site, although there are informal footpaths used for recreation purposes.</p> <p>Whilst this site is within the Kirklees Wildlife Habitat Network and has some ecological value, the council's view is that overall site has low value as open space when assessed against the open space assessment criteria.</p>
FPCR B2	Wilton Park, Bradford Road, Batley	The is judged to perform as Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace because it is an area of relatively undisturbed grassland which provides a connected corridor between the adjacent woodland areas, which FPCR classify as natural and semi-natural greenspace	<p>The council's view is that this site does not constitute natural/semi-natural greenspace but is maintained greenspace within Wilton Park (see Appendix 2 Plans 2.1 and 2.2).</p> <p>As such this site is already included in the council's Open Space Study classified as part of Wilton Park (site OLS 83, class 1563 in LE145, Appendix 1.1, page 5) and is therefore accounted for within the total provision and open space standards for parks and recreation grounds.</p>

FPCR B3	Wilton Park, Bradford Road, Batley	The is judged to perform as Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace because it comprises woodland on the edge of a the urban area providing good quality habitat for wildlife with further opportunities for environmental awareness due to links with the local museum. There are also children's activity boards within the woodland further enhancing the opportunities for environmental awareness	<p>This area of woodland forms the main part of Wilton Park in Batley (see Appendix 3 Plans 3.1 and 3.2) and is already accounted for as part of Wilton Park in the council's Open Space Study (site OLS 83, class 1563 in LE145, Appendix 1.1, page 5) and is included within the total provision and open space standards for parks and recreation grounds.</p> <p>Although open spaces can be multi-functional, for the purposes of Kirklees Open Space Study 2015 (Revised 2016) (LE119) open spaces have been classified based on their primary purpose (LE119, paragraph 4.3.4, page 12).</p>
FPCR B4	Bagshaw Museum, Wilton Park, Batley	The is judged to perform as Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace because it is located along the edge of the woodland and comprises a museum and gardens which provide opportunities for environmental and educational awareness	<p>This site includes the museum building, car parking and formal gardens of Bagshaw Museum within Wilton Park (see Appendix 4 Plans 4.1 and 4.2) and as such does not constitute natural/semi-natural greenspace.</p> <p>Formal gardens are included within the parks and recreation grounds classification in the Kirklees Open Space Study 2015 (Revised 2016) (LE119, Table 4.1, page 10) and as such these formal gardens are already accounted for as part of Wilton Park in the study (site OLS 83, class 1563 in LE145, Appendix 1.1, page 5).</p>

**Table 2: Other Natural/Semi-Natural Greenspaces identified in Heckmondwike Ward**

ite No.	Address	FPCR Analysis	Kirklees Comments
FPCR C2	Land Adjacent to Smithies Lane, Heckmondwike	The is judged to perform as Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace because it comprises undisturbed grassland and woodland areas between an industrial and urbanised area, therefore providing a buffer of suitable habitat for local species. The river Spen also runs within this compartment forming a wildlife corridor.	<p>The council considers that the majority of this site does not constitute natural/semi-natural greenspace with the exception of an area of grassland (see Appendix 5 Plan 5.1). From visiting the site the council has identified the following land parcels (shown in Appendix 5 Plans 5.2 and 5.3):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Land Parcel 1</b> comprises land in the curtilage of the former Spenborough Wastewater Treatment Works and some trees with incidental landscape screening between Smithies Lane and the former sewage works.</li> <li>• <b>Land Parcel 2</b> is predominantly residential curtilages &amp; highway verge.</li> <li>• <b>Land Parcel 3</b> comprises grassland which forms part of the former sewage works curtilage but is not publicly accessible or visible from Smithies Lane. Public views into the site are available from the adjoining Spen Valley Greenway on the north eastern boundary but there is no public access into the site from this point.</li> <li>• <b>Land Parcel 4</b> includes land in the curtilage of the former sewage works including some riverside vegetation adjoining the River Spen.</li> </ul> <p>Overall, this site is not visible from residential areas, is not publicly accessible and public views of the site are generally limited to Smithies Lane which provides the access road into the Ponderosa Centre and Spen Valley Greenway.</p>
FPCR C3	Land Adjacent to Smithies Lane, Heckmondwike	The is judged to perform as Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace because it comprises areas of woodland, grassland and ponds offering a wide range of habitats for local species. A small rare breeds centre within the offers the potential to raise environmental awareness as it attracts local schools and playgroups.	<p>As established by visiting the site, the council considers that the majority of this site (shown in Appendix 6 Plan 6.1) does not form natural/semi-natural greenspace as set out below. From visiting the site the council has identified the following land parcels (shown in Appendix 6 Plans 6.2 and 6.3):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Land Parcel 1</b> includes a significant area of existing buildings, including modern farm complex and residential properties and curtilages, as well as car parking for the Ponderosa Centre.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Land Parcel 2</b> comprises a maintained grassed area which appears to be used by the Ponderosa Centre as grazing land for livestock. Visual benefit is limited to Ponderosa visitors.</li> <li>• <b>Land Parcel 3</b> includes the Ponderosa Centre buildings, associated café, play area and car parking, together with a small area used for grazing livestock. There is some landscape planting but this is limited to amenity landscaping around the buildings.</li> <li>• <b>Land Parcel 4</b> is an area of underused grassland/scrubland which is not particularly visible from the private access road into the Ponderosa Centre.</li> </ul>
FPCR C6	Land Adjacent to Smithies Lane, Heckmondwike	The is judged to perform as Natural and Semi Natural Greenspace because it comprises woodland set between an industrial park and privately owned farmland, therefore providing a buffer of suitable habitat for local species and wildlife corridors to the adjacent C2 and C3 compartments.	<p>Whilst this area does constitute natural/semi-natural greenspace as set out below, it is not highly visible or easily accessible from residential areas. From visiting the site the council has identified the following land parcels (shown in Appendix 7 Plans 7.2 and 7.3):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Land Parcel 1</b> forms a wooded embankment along Smithies Lane which provides a landscaped buffer between an extensive industrial area to the north and farmland to the south and forms part of the entrance to the Ponderosa Centre. There is no public right of way through this area and its visual benefits are limited to those visiting the Ponderosa Centre.</li> <li>• <b>Land Parcel 2</b> comprises an area of former sewage works which has now become re-vegetated. Views of this area from Smithies Lane are restricted by vegetation in parcel one and there does not appear to be public access to this area.</li> </ul>

## Appendices

### Appendix 1

FPCR A3 Land adjacent Laurel Grove, Batley

Plan 1.1 Location Plan

Plan 1.2 Aerial Photo

### Appendix 2

FPCR B2 Wilton Park, Bradford Road, Batley

Plan 2.1 Location Plan

Plan 2.2 Aerial Photo

### Appendix 3

FPCR B3 Wilton Park, Bradford Road, Batley

Plan 3.1 Location Plan

Plan 3.2 Aerial Photo

### Appendix 4

FPCR B4 Bagshaw Museum, Wilton Park, Batley

Plan 4.1 Location Plan

Plan 4.2 Aerial Photo

### Appendix 5

FPCR C2 Land Adjacent to Smithies Lane, Heckmondwike

Plan 5.1 Location Plan

Plan 5.2 Land Parcels

Plan 5.3 Aerial Photo

### Appendix 6

FPCR C3 Land Adjacent to Smithies Lane, Heckmondwike

Plan 6.1 Location Plan

Plan 6.2 Land Parcels

Plan 6.3 Aerial Photo

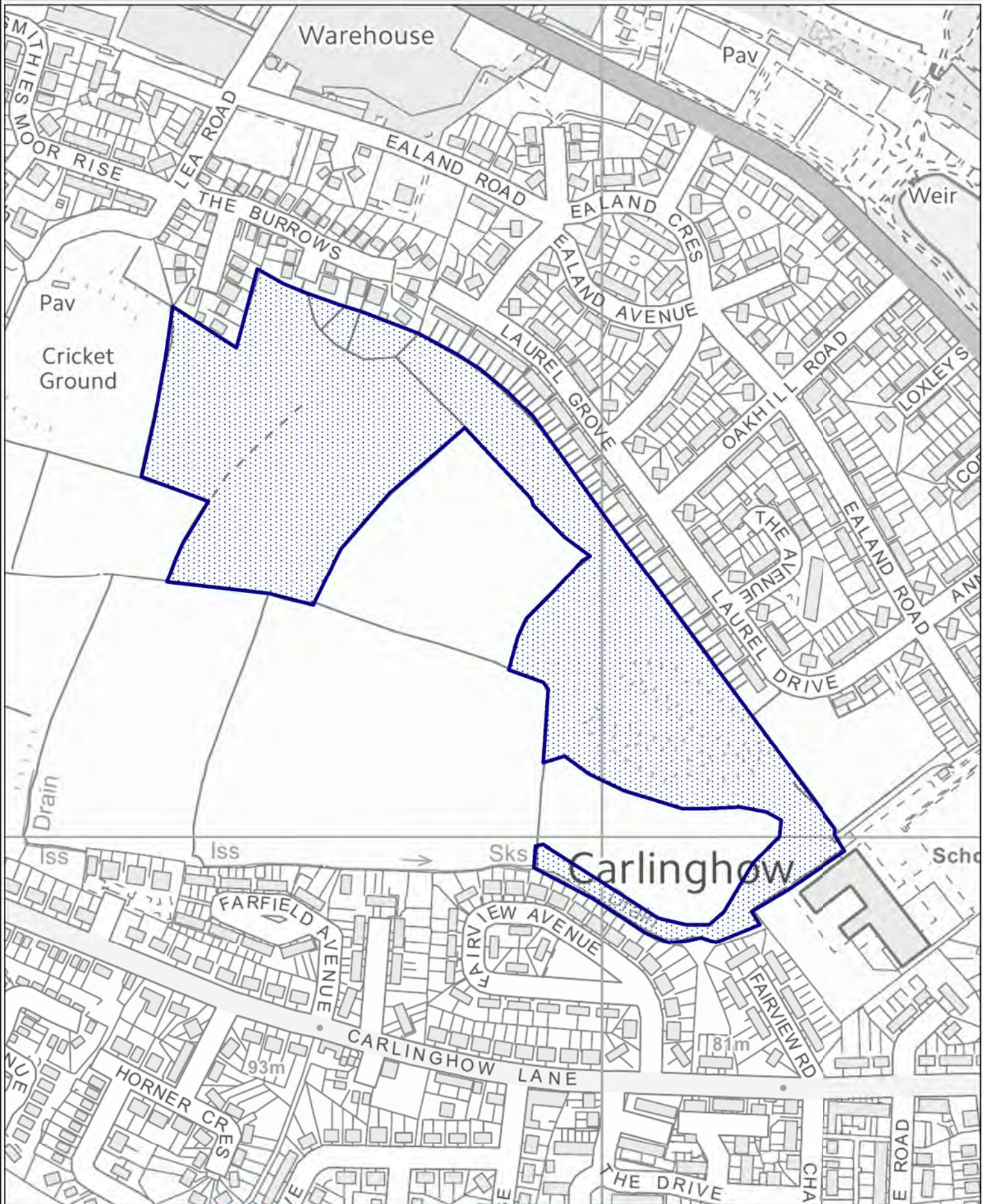
### Appendix 7

FPCR C6 Land Adjacent to Smithies Lane, Heckmondwike

Plan 7.1 Location Plan

Plan 7.2 Land Parcels

Plan 7.3 Aerial Photo





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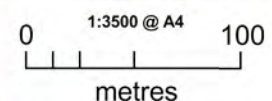


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**Site no. FPCR A3**

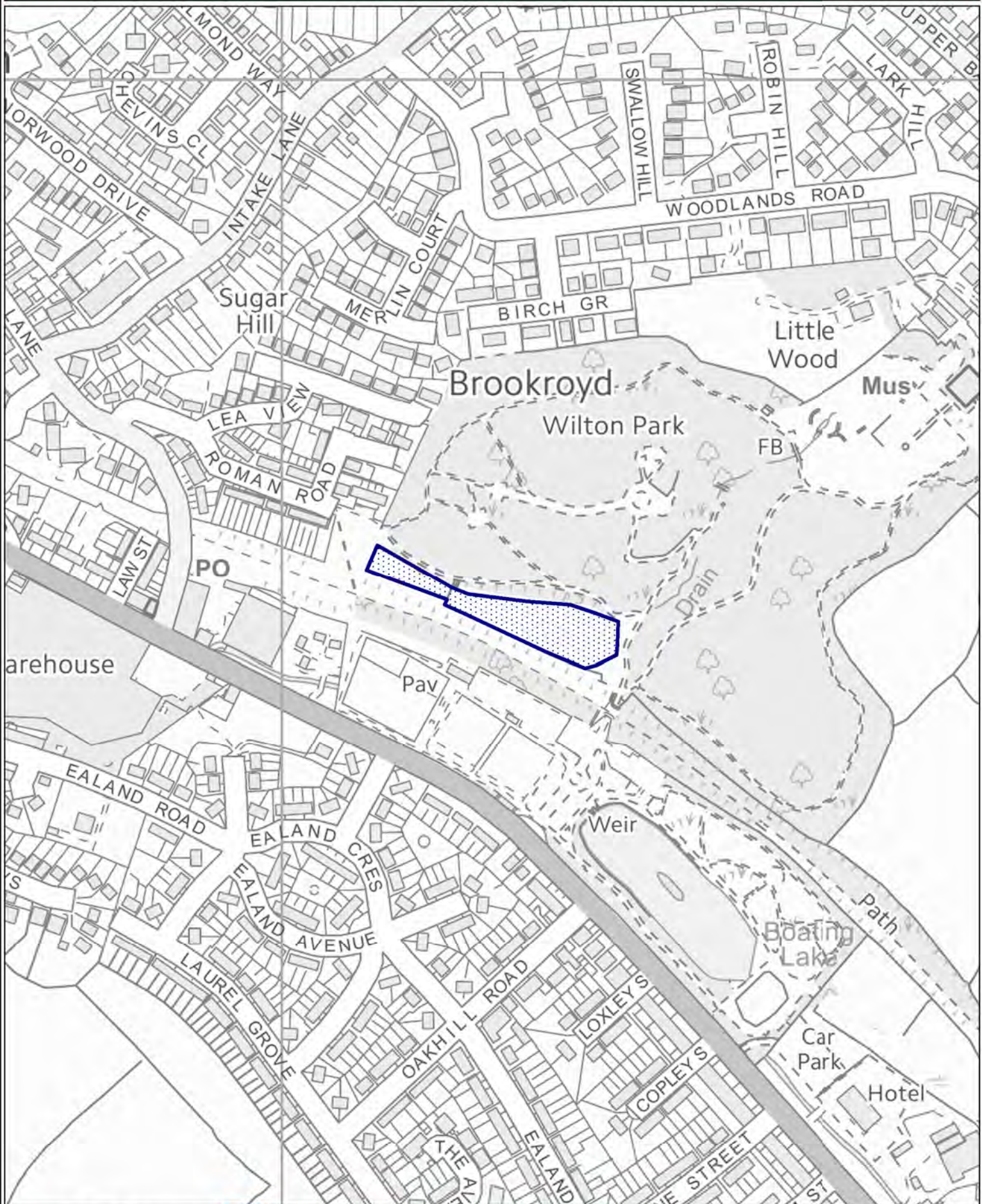
Land adjacent Laurel Grove, Batley

Aerial Photo: dated March 2012



Map centre coordinates:  
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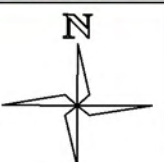
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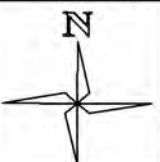
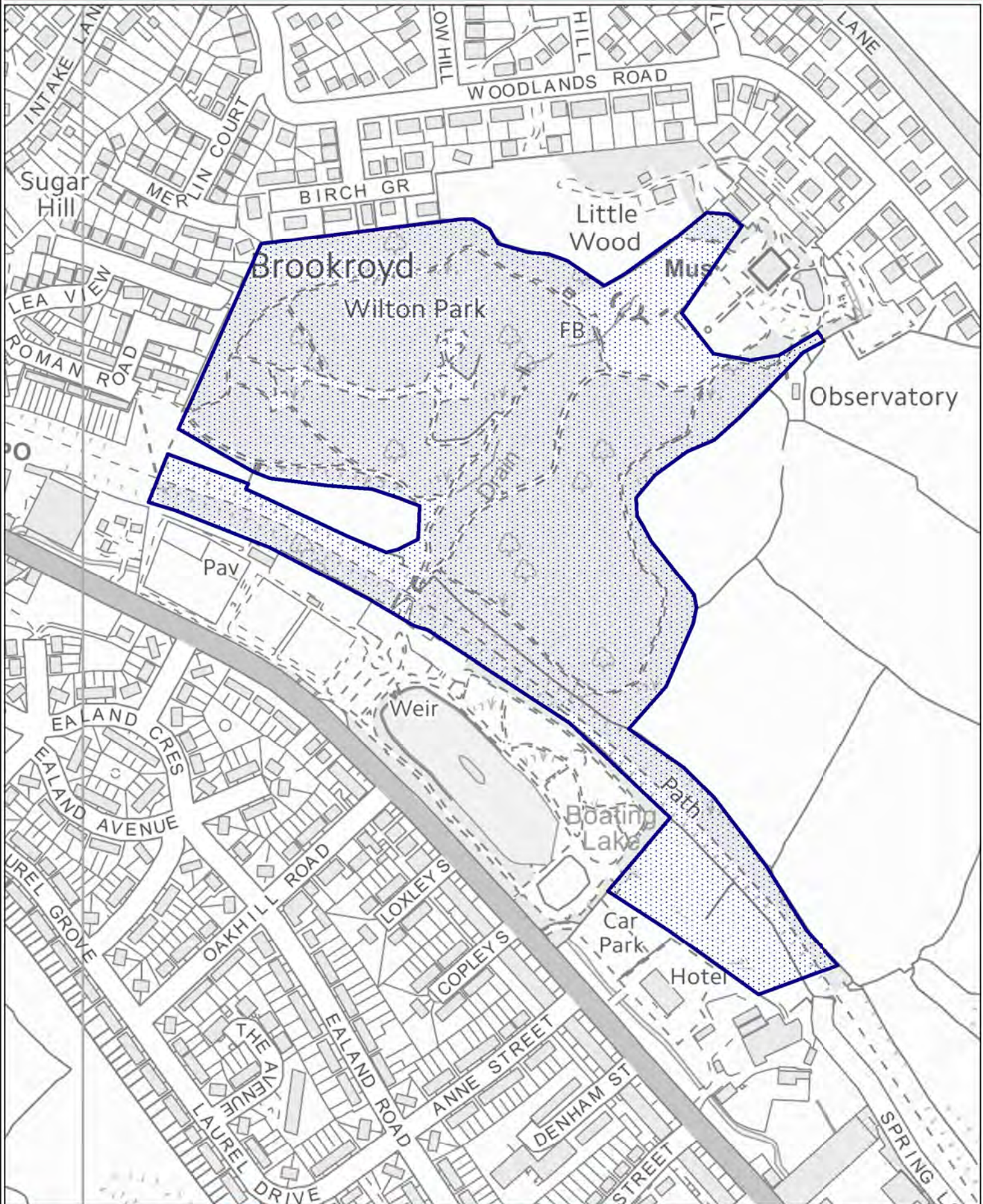
Wilton Park, Bradford Road, Batley

Aerial Photo: dated March 2012

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**Site no. FPCR B3**

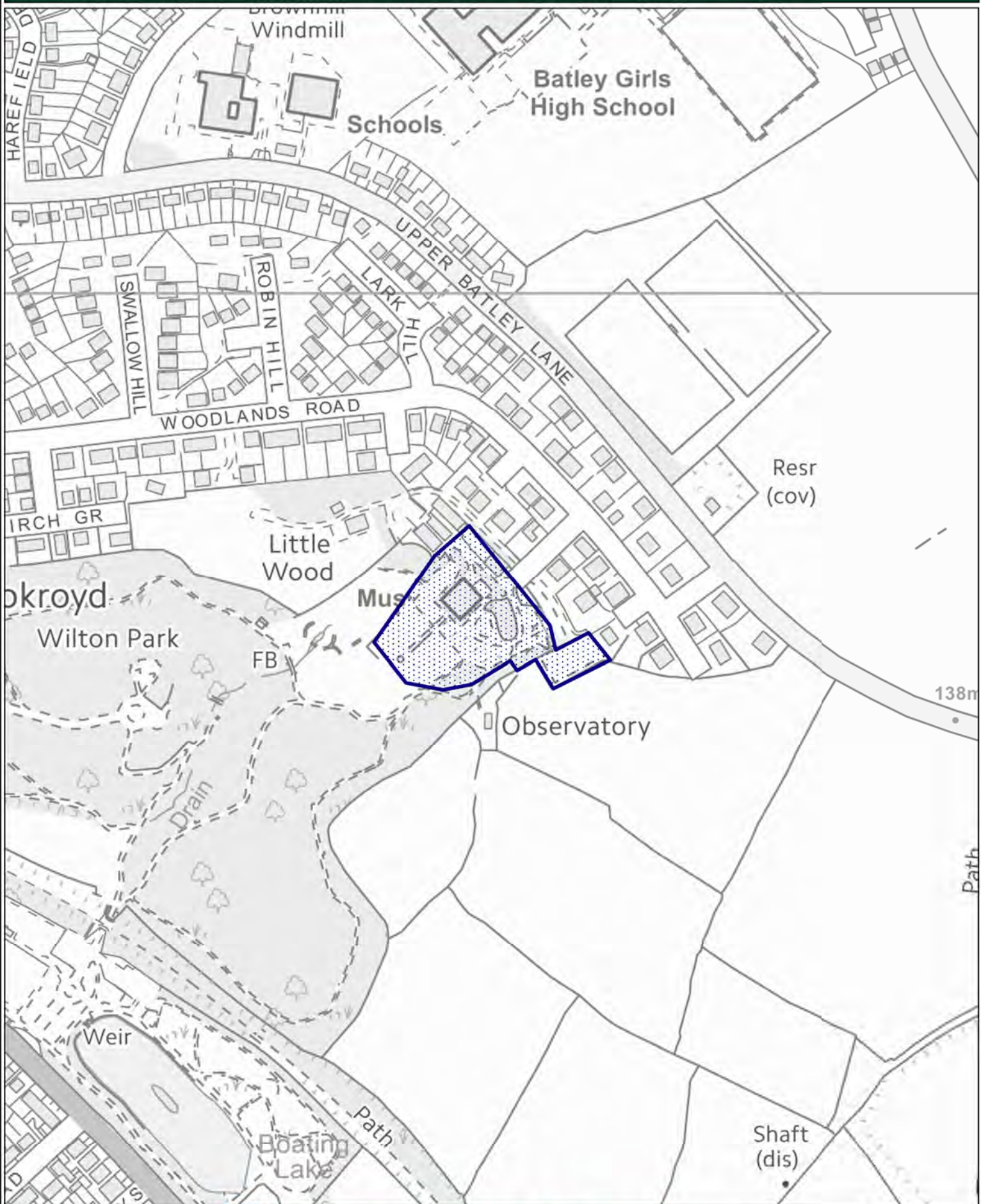
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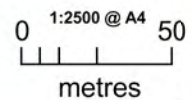


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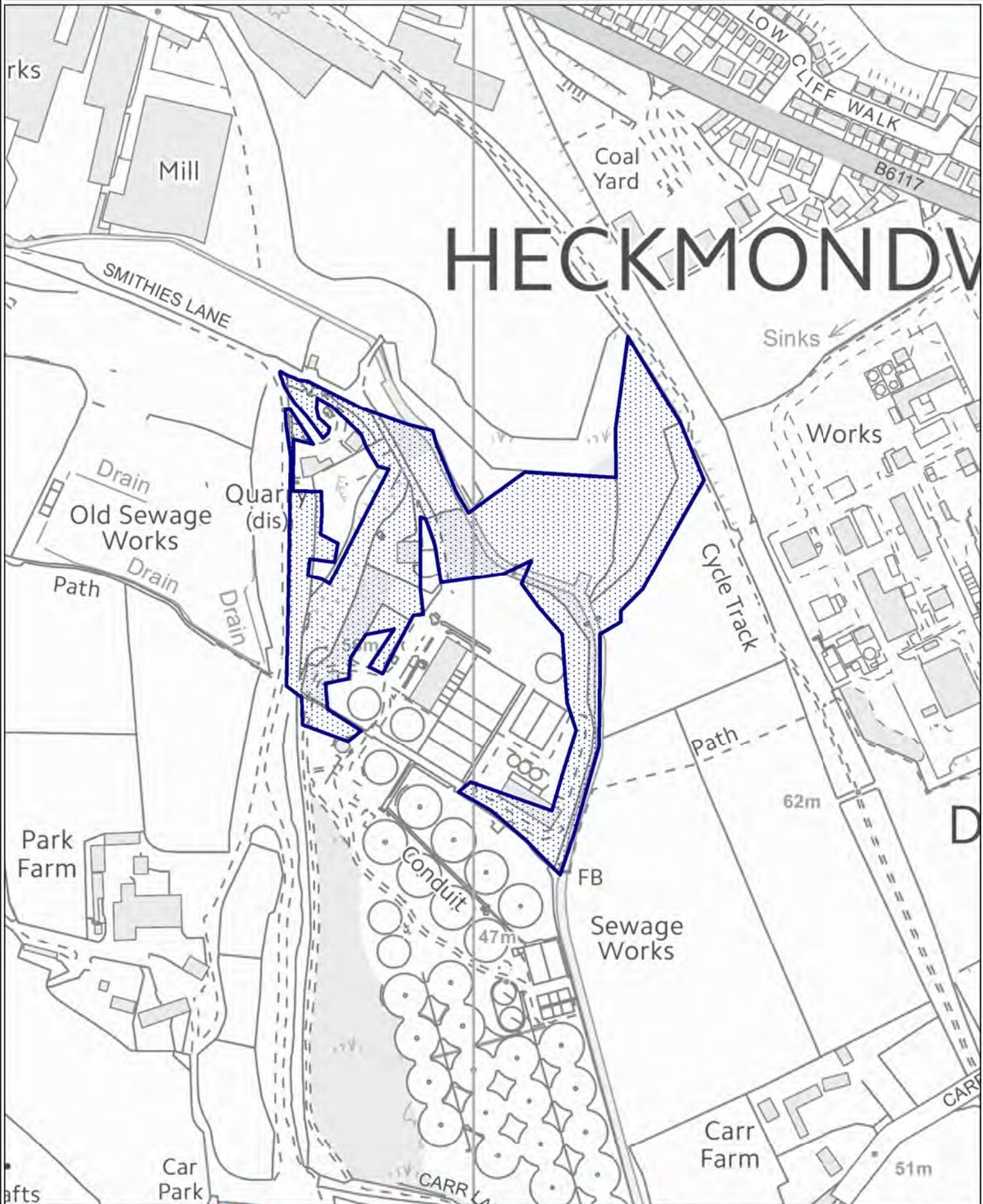
Wilton Park, Bradford Road, Batley

Aerial Photo: dated March 2012

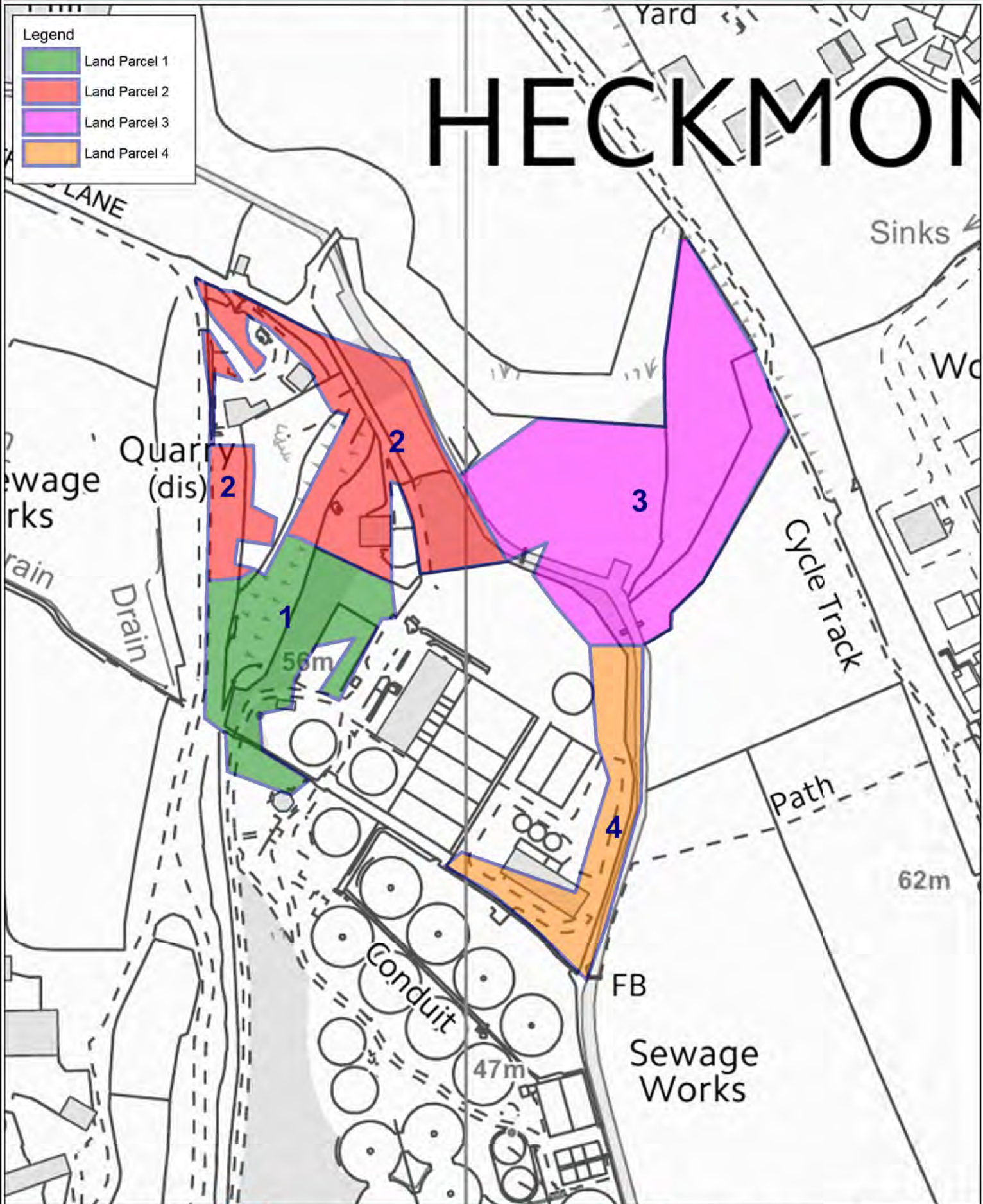


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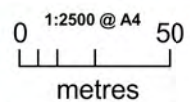


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**Site no. FPCR C2**

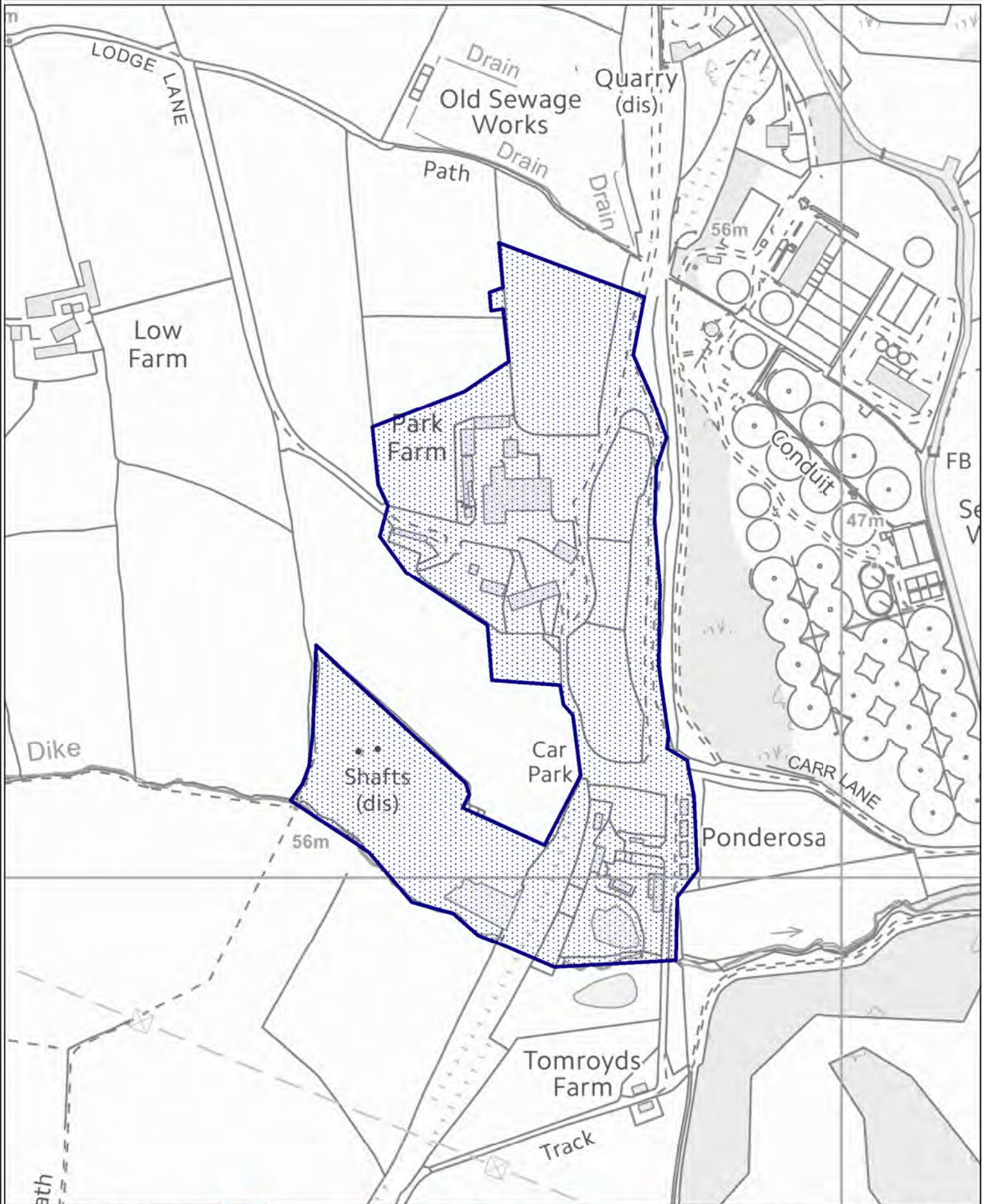
Land Adjacent to Smithies Lane, Heckmondwike

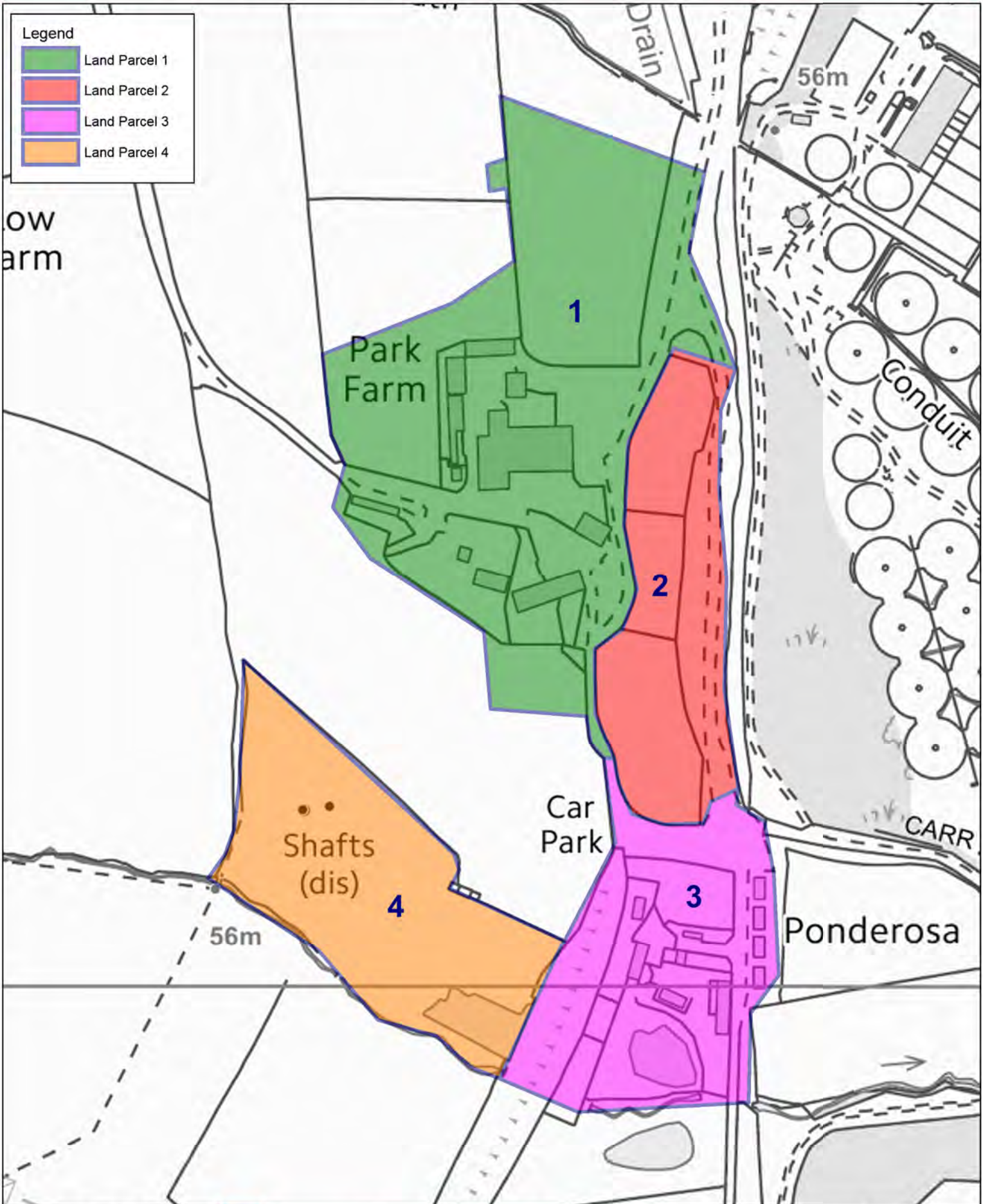
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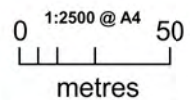


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**Site no. FPCR C3**

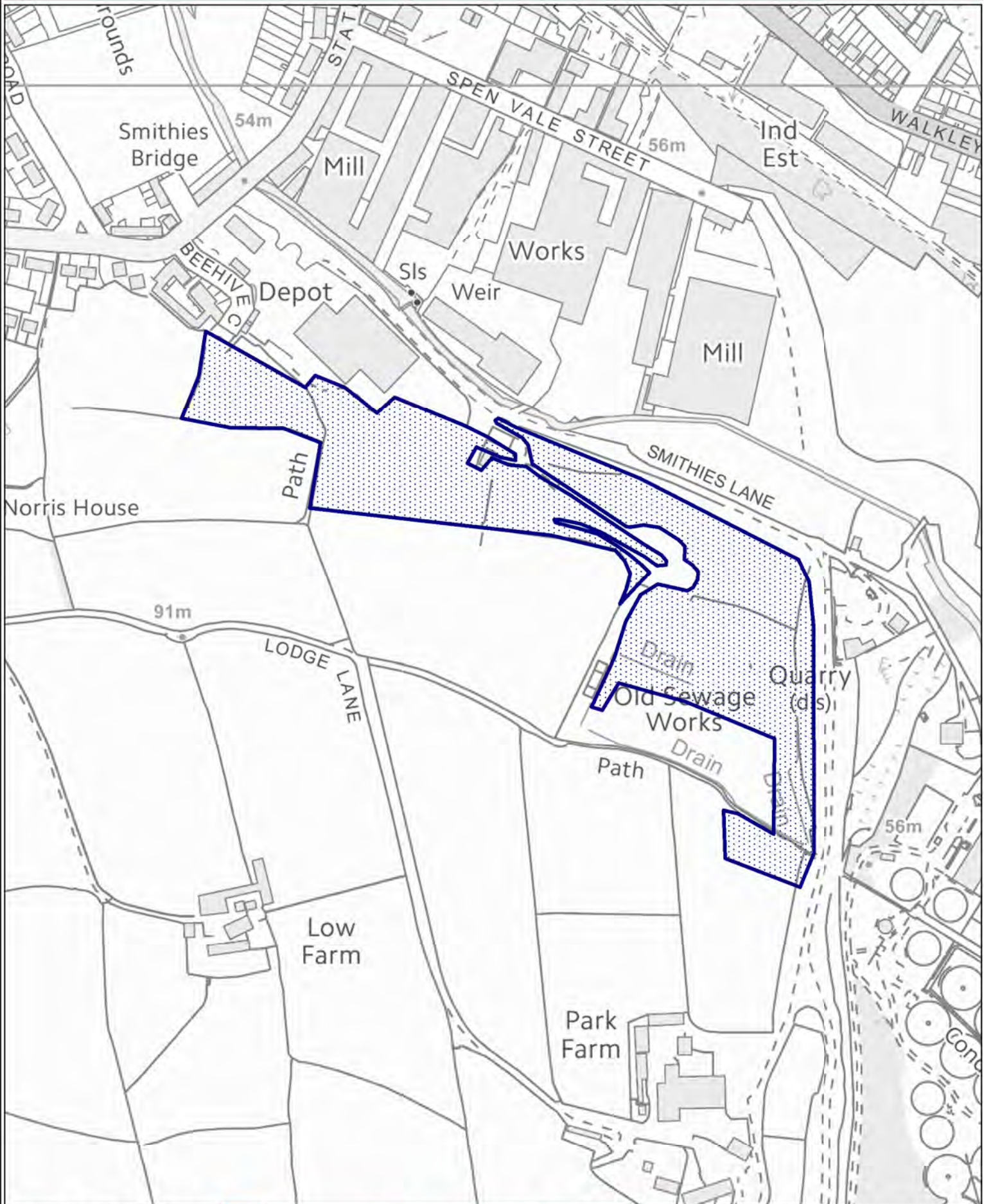
Land Adjacent to Smithies Lane, Heckmondwike

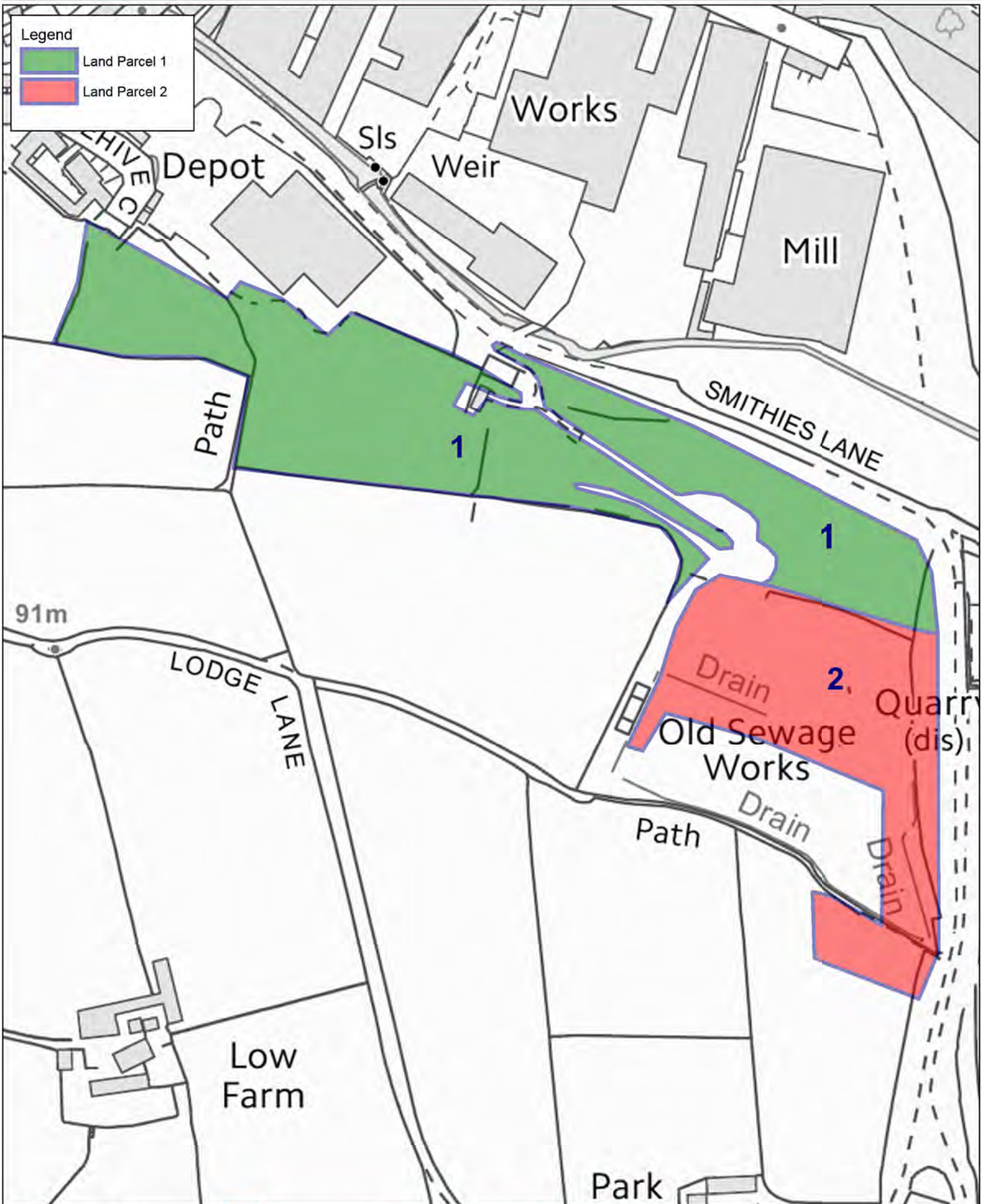
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Map centre coordinates:  
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**Legend**

- Land Parcel 1
- Land Parcel 2



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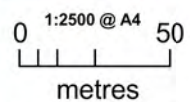


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**Site no. FPCR C6**

Land adjacent to Smithies Lane, Heckmondwike

Aerial Photo: dated March 2012



Map centre coordinates:  
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