



Adwalton Moor Battlefield Heritage Impact Assessment

February 2015





The setting to the north of the roundabout in the northwest corner of the battlefield

Introduction

Adwalton Moor is one of 43 important battlefields identified on English Heritage’s Register of Historic Battlefields, which is intended to offer protection and promote better understanding of their significance. Adwalton Moor battlefield has been on the register since its inception in 1995. Whilst development affecting registered battlefields is not subject to a separate consent regime (such as that for listed buildings) they are considered to be a designated heritage asset under the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Section 132 of the NPPF sets out that great weight should therefore be given to their conservation and any harm should require clear and convincing justification.

The purpose of this document is to gain a greater understanding of the significance of Adwalton Moor registered battlefield and an assessment of the impact of potential developments associated with City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council’s emerging Local Plan documents, including their evidence bases (principally the Core Strategy and Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)) and the Holme Wood and Tong Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Location and Description of the Battlefield

The registered battlefield is located approximately 6km to the southeast of Bradford city center. The extent of the registered battlefield is defined by Cross Lane/Station Lane to the west, Bradford and Wakefield Road and Tong Lane to the north and Whitehall Road to the south. The settlement of Adwalton is located to the south of the Registered Battlefield and Adwalton Moor, though recognised as being the location of the subsequent fighting, is outside of the boundary of the registered battlefield. This area is preserved as common ground.

The registered battlefield falls within the boundaries of three local authorities; City of Bradford MDC, Leeds City Council and Kirklees Council. The area falling within the boundary of City of Bradford MDC occupies the north-western corner covering approximately 30% of the registered battlefield. Whilst the scope of this document covers only the area included within the boundary of Bradford's authority, the assessment of the significance of the battlefield must cover the entirety of the site and its setting, where appropriate.



Hedgerows around Inmoor Dike

The late 20th century A650 trunk road dissects the site as does the now dismantled 19th century railway line. Much of the battlefield has been retained as open pasture and field lines are marked by hedgerows (some very sparse) and trees. To the north-western end of the site there has been some encroachment in the form of the Adwalton Moor Business Park (within the boundary of City of Bradford MDC) and to the southern and eastern edge of the battlefield there has been some recent residential development on the site of a former industrial building (within the boundary of Leeds City Council).

The topography of the battlefield is undulating with rising and falling land forming ridges and dips. The rising land at the north-western end of the site is known as Westgate Hill and from this point the pasture slopes downwards towards the southern limits of the registered battlefield. A ridge of land runs from the northwest of the battlefield towards the southern end, roughly along the line of the A650 Trunk road. Beyond the southern boundary of the site (Whitehall Road) the land rises at first gently and then more steeply up to the top of Adwalton Moor and from this raised area there are views northwards encompassing the distant setting of the battlefield.



(Top) The plantation area and location of former coal pits

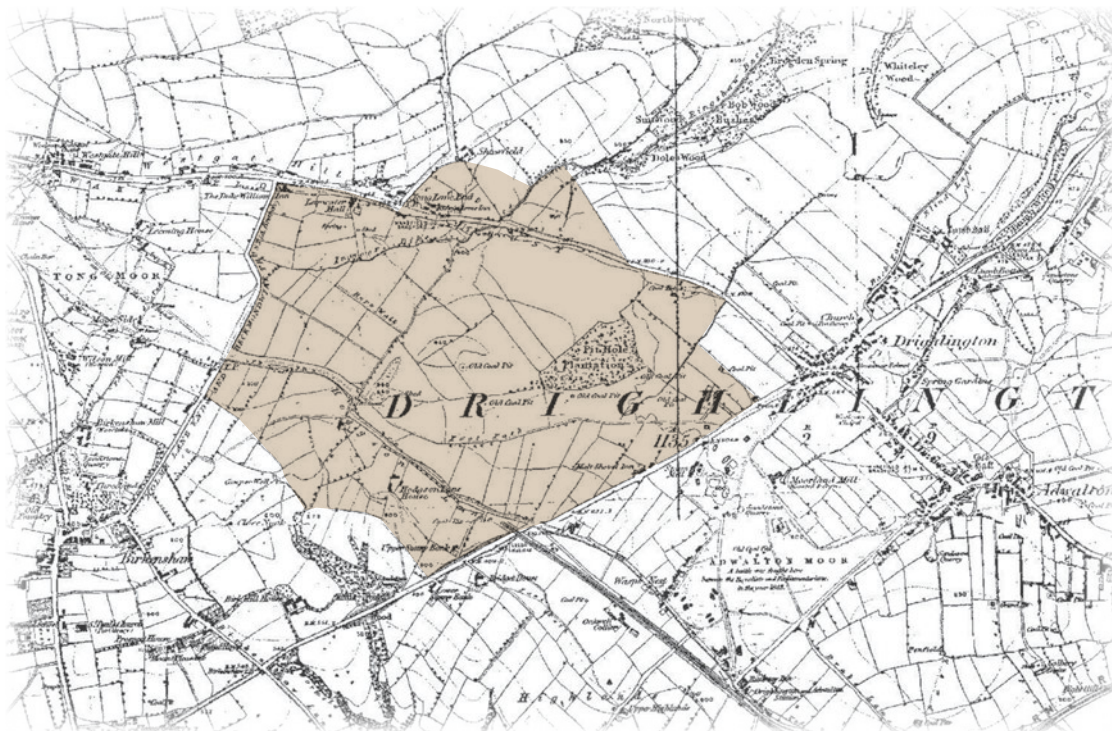
(Right) View into battlefield from northwest corner

Historical Context



The Battle of Adwalton Moor took place on the morning of 20th June 1643. The Earl of Newcastle led his troops against Bradford, a Parliamentarian stronghold. Lord Fairfax (*left*), convinced that Bradford would not be able to withstand a siege led his troops out to oppose the Royalists. The Parliamentarians and Royalists armies were uneven in number, with the Royalists outnumbering the Parliamentarians significantly. Despite this the battle was not a foregone conclusion with the Parliamentarians initially forcing the Royalists troops back before being robustly defeated and forced to retreat.

The battle bought to an end a seven month campaign for the military control of Yorkshire and is considered to be significant as a turning point in the Civil War. The Royalist victory led to the fall of Bradford and also gave the Royalists, led by the Earl of Newcastle, the opportunity to march upon London, thus potentially securing an outright victory for the King. However the defeat of the Parliamentarians at Adwalton Moor has been credited as the catalyst that led to the Parliamentarian/Scottish alliance which ultimately determined the outcome of the Civil War (Johnson, 2006).



1852 OS map of the area - the shaded area indicates the extent of the registered battlefield

Derived from historical mapping supplied by Landmark Information Group Limited/Ordnance Survey

Significance of Adwalton Battlefield

The landscape on which the battle was fought is a source of primary evidence of a major historical event. The landscape, its terrain, topography and features determined the deployment of the soldiers and their weapons and the subsequent combat. It may also contain physical evidence of the battle in the form of archaeological deposits including human remains. Based on contemporary accounts of the battle it is possible to identify certain features of the battlefield that still remain to this day and therefore it is reasonable to apportion significance to these features and the wider landscape in which they are set.

In 1643 it is reasonable to assume that much of what is now the battlefield was set to enclosed pasture. The English Heritage Battlefield Report states that documentary and field evidence indicates that the area of the battlefield was most likely pasture enclosed within hedged fields in the 17th century. Given the relatively high ground on which it is located this was likely to be set down to permanent pasture (English Heritage, 1995). Commons such as these were frequently ringed with basic dwellings and though these may have formed a small scattered hamlet there is no mention of a major settlement in 1643 (English Heritage, 1995). Contemporary accounts support this assumption (notably those of Sir Thomas Fairfax, Duchess of Newcastle and Sir Henry Slingsby) as they describe hedgerows, ditches and coal pits within enclosed common land. These features were all strategically significant in the



Hedgerows and coal pits still survive in some parts of the battlefield

manner in which the battle was fought, how the combatants were deployed and the ultimate outcome of the battle.

It is possible that some of the hedgerow lines follow the same lines as they did in 1643. Contemporary accounts describe a great ditch which formed a significant hindrance to the mounted Royalist soldiers (taken from an account by the Earl of Newcastle and that of his wife, the Duchess). Though it is impossible to identify this with certainty, it is possible that this could refer to the watercourse known as Inmoor Dike that crosses the site in its north-western corner from the north side of Bradford and Wakefield Road southeast towards Tong Moor. Inmoor Dike is identified on the first Ordnance Survey map dated 1851-2 as well as on present day maps. It is also clearly evident on the ground on the northern side of the old Bradford and Wakefield Road. The line of the watercourse forms part of the boundary between Bradford and Leeds local authorities before cutting through the northwestern corner of the battlefield.

The line of Inmoor Dike and the field boundaries are considered to be of significance as potentially historic features of the battlefield and as such they afford greater understanding of the topography and appearance of the site. Historic OS maps dating from 1852 show field boundaries and these are identifiable in approximately the same locations on present day maps indicating that it is entirely possible that these follow the lines of the old enclosures noted in contemporary accounts of the battle. The *English Heritage Battlefield Report (Appendix 1)* suggests that the hedgerow running southwest from the Tong Lane junction may be an original survival and points to it being 'species rich' (English Heritage, 1995).



Inmoor Dike as it runs beside the old Bradford and Wakefield Road

The former surface coal pits are also described in various contemporary accounts as hindering cavalry manoeuvres. The old coal pits are clearly marked on the 1852 OS map (*Appendix 2*) and are visible in the present day landscape in the area identified as ‘the Plantation’. This area is located within the boundary of Leeds City Council however the *English Heritage Battlefield Report (1995)* suggests that other pits survive as water filled ponds. These are not marked on any maps and therefore a field survey would be required to verify their locations, if they are still in existence.

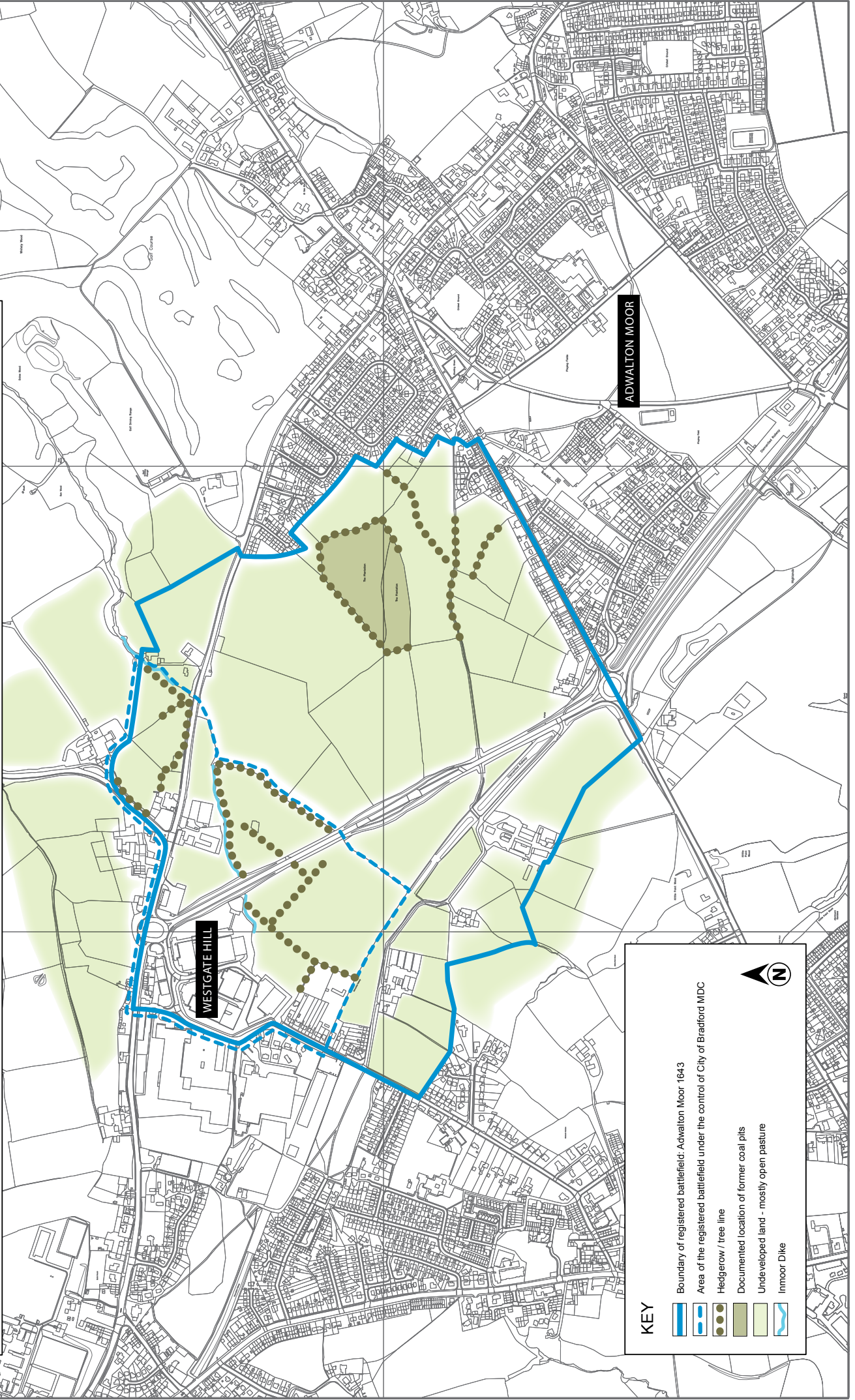
The open nature of much of the registered battlefield contributes greatly to its significance and allows the site to be ‘read’ and appreciated in conjunction with historical accounts of the battle. Where the battlefield is undeveloped it is mostly laid to pasture divided by field lines and hedgerows (some very sparse) and it is possible to appreciate that the battlefield of 1643 may have appeared, in the simplest sense, similar to what it does today. The description of the 17th century landscape is comparatively well documented in the contemporary accounts of the battle by the Duchess of Newcastle, Sir Henry Slingsby, Sir Thomas Fairfax and Thomas Stockdale. The undeveloped nature of the site contributes much to its significance and the natural and historic landscape features within the site are afforded substantial significance.

Views within and out of the Battlefield and its setting

The roads and public footpaths that surround the battlefield and cross through it facilitate key views. Important views and key landscape features have been identified in Figure 1 and Figure 2 (*overleaf*).

The topography of the battlefield is a key element of its significance. The ridges, hollows and ditches were significant in the outcome of the battle in 1643 and are well documented in contemporary accounts. This rising and falling topography is still recognisable today. Within much of the battlefield there are quite limited views due to the topography of the site, which hinders long distance views within, into and out of the battlefield. The higher land around Westgate Hill does afford some longer distance views southwards across the open pasture towards Adwalton Moor and northwards across the open pasture that forms the setting to the battlefield. These are considered to be significant as they allow large tracts of the battlefield to be appreciated and thus the terrain and landscape features are placed in context of the events that occurred within it.

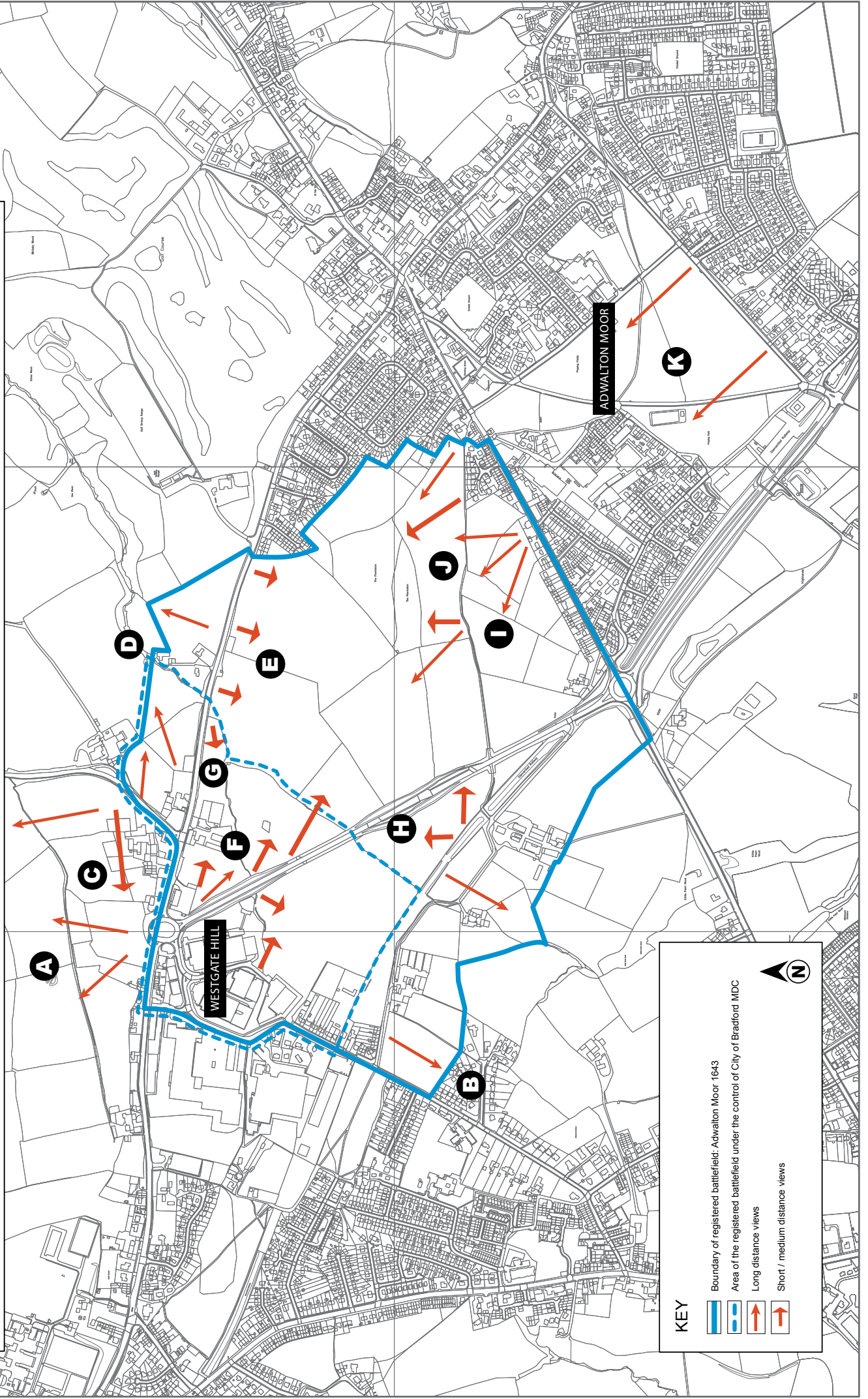
Figure 1: Adwalton Moor Registered Battlefield - Key Areas of Significance



KEY

- Boundary of registered battlefield: Adwalton Moor 1643
- Area of the registered battlefield under the control of City of Bradford MDC
- Hedgerow / tree line
- Documented location of former coal pits
- Undeveloped land - mostly open pasture
- Inmoor Dike

Figure 2: Key views into, out of and within Adwalton Moor Registered Battlefield





The setting to the north of the roundabout in the northwest corner of the battlefield



The dismantled railway line as viewed from the fields north of Whitehall Road

From Adwalton Moor and from Whitehall Road (both outside of the boundary of City of Bradford MDC) there are key views northwards across the battlefield towards Westgate Hill (within the boundary of City of Bradford MDC). The light coloured industrial units at Adwalton Moor Business Park are clearly visible within these views and appear somewhat out of place, detracting from the appreciation of the openness of the battlefield and a stark visual detractor. There are short distance vistas afforded from the northern and southern boundaries of the battlefield, both within and outside of the boundaries of the City of Bradford MDC. These views encompass the hedgerows and open pasture within the ridges and hollows of the terrain. These are afforded significance as they allow an understanding of how the historic landscape features may have influenced the manner in which the battle progressed and the eventual outcome. They also allow the wider battlefield environment to be understood. Key views are shown in Figure 2 and are correlated to photographs set out in Appendix 3.

To summarise, key features of significance within the battlefield are indicated in Figures 1 and 2 but are described as:

- **Open pasture**
- **Hedgerows and tree lines**
- **Former coal pits (locations of some are unmapped/unknown)**
- **Topography including ridge lines and ditches**
- **Inmoor Dike (watercourse)**
- **Views out of, into and across the battlefield, specifically from Westgate Hill and from Adwalton Moor/Whitehall Road**

The significance of the battlefield has been harmed over the years by development within the boundaries. In the mid-19th century a railway line cut through the south-western portion of the site. This now forms the boundary between Kirklees Council and the areas under the control of Leeds and Bradford local authorities. The railway line is now dismantled but the raised embankment on which it was constructed still remains. This is a significant visual barrier and effectively segregates the south-western portion of the battlefield. It also cuts through Hodgson Lane, which is mentioned as a strategically significant route along which Sir Thomas Fairfax and his troops may have retreated towards Halifax (*Johnson, 2006 and Sir Thomas Fairfax in a contemporary account of the battle*).

The more recent A650 trunk road also cuts through what is roughly the middle of the battlefield from Westgate Hill southeast to Drighlington and the A58 turnpike road. The ridge of rising land to the northeast of the road does hide it from view from within much of the site but it has damaged the significance of the site by eroding the land forms and topography that are important in allowing the battlefield to be understood and enable it to be related to historical accounts and descriptions. The construction of the road may have also led to loss of physical features or below ground archaeology thus undermining the potential for greater understanding of the battlefield.



Adwalton Moor Business Park viewed from the A650 trunk road



The business park as seen from within the battlefield from the fields to the north of Whitehall Road

At the northwest corner of the site (within the City of Bradford MDC boundary) lies the Adwalton Moor Business Park, constructed in 2000 and subsequently extended. This encroaches onto an area identified by English Heritage as being a point from which the Parliamentarian army may have mobilised forward into battle. The industrial park is visually prominent from within various points in the site, notably from Adwalton Moor itself, Whitehall Road and from the footpaths that cut through the pasture around the southern end of the battlefield. The business park is noted by English Heritage as being a development pressure upon the heritage asset and a key reason as to why the Adwalton Moor battlefield is on the At Risk Register. This threat is also acknowledged by the Battlefields Trust, a well established charity which aims to protect and promote battlefield heritage.

The setting of the registered battlefield has been much altered over the years with a significant area of residential and industrial development covering much of the area immediately to the south and northwest of the site. The setting to the southwest remains open and there are long distance views from Hodgson Lane towards Halifax. The disused railway line is a major visual barrier and effectively cuts off any views from the northern side of the embankment to the south-eastern setting and thus these views are of limited significance due to their constrained nature.

The setting to the north of the battlefield mostly remains open and set to agricultural pasture. From parts of Bradford and Wakefield Road, Tong Lane and the roundabout at the top of the A650(T) there are long distance views across this open pasture to the wider locality. This allows the battlefield to be read in context of the surrounding area and its strategically significant location in relation to the city of Bradford. These views are possible from localised points along the boundary of the battlefield but are severely limited from within most areas of the site due to topography and intervening built form. Key viewpoints are shown in Figure 2. The green field setting is considered to contribute to the significance of the battlefield as it allows the battlefield to be appreciated within the context of the surrounding area and facilitates views out of and into the heritage asset.

Summary of main potential threats to the battlefield and its significance:

- **Development pressure from Adwalton Moor Business Park for further expansion into the battlefield in the north-western corner of the site. This threat is recognised by both English Heritage and the Battlefields Trust.**
- **Development within the boundary of the battlefield or within key elements of the setting of the battlefield - the 'visual envelope'.**
- **Loss of hedgerows, field boundaries and remaining areas of coal pits which are historically significant but have low protection.**
- **Regrading of the topography of the battlefield for agricultural or development purposes.**
- **Major works to highways running through or around the boundary of the site (widening or other significant engineering operations).**

City of Bradford MDC Local Plan Evidence Base: Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

The City of Bradford MDC emerging Local Plan is supported by documents that form the evidence base, principally the Core Strategy and relevant to this document, the SHLAA. Three potential housing sites have been put forward in the SHLAA that are within the boundary or immediate setting of the registered battlefield (see *Bradford South East Settlement Area Map for the SHLAA. Updated May 2013 in Appendix 4*). The SHLAA is a key piece of the evidence base that will inform strategic and site specific elements of the Local Plan however it is not a policy document and does not recommend which sites will go forward and be allocated for development.

With reference to the sites included within the SHLAA, the following offers a brief assessment of their potential impact on the significance of the battlefield, should they go forward:

Site SE/056 Westgate Hill Street (see *Bradford South East Settlement Area Map for the SHLAA. Updated May 2013 in Appendix 4*). This site is relatively small in size and is located on currently open and undeveloped grazing land. The site is located in the north-western corner of the registered battlefield and is identified as part of the active battlefield on which combat may have taken place (English Heritage, 1995). This area is considered to be extremely sensitive to change. Development could substantially harm the significance of the heritage asset by altering physically and visually this part of the battlefield. This could potentially result in the loss of physical features and below ground archaeology, loss of openness and significantly compromise the ability to read and understand the battlefield as a historic site. Any development here would be highly likely to harm key views within, into and out of the battlefield. It is unlikely that mitigation measure would appropriately or effectively address the concerns or the likely impact on the heritage asset. Within the boundary of the registered battlefield it is recommended that there is a presumption against further development and that the principle of residential development is considered inappropriate in this location.

Sites SE/057 Westgate Hill Street, Tong and SE/099 Westgate Hill Street, Tong/Holmewood (see *Bradford South East Settlement Area Map for the SHLAA. Updated May 2013 in Appendix 4*). These sites are located outside of the boundary of the registered battlefield and are in the area locally identified as Westgate Hill. Both sites are considered to have the potential for impact on the setting of the battlefield due to their proximity to the northern boundary of the heritage asset. Both of the potential housing sites are currently undeveloped land and are mostly laid to open pasture. The impact of their development for residential purposes would require careful assessment and a clear understanding of the significance of the battlefield and its setting, with particular reference to views into and out of the battlefield.

It is entirely possible that the areas that form the setting of the heritage asset including the housing sites contain below ground archaeological evidence as the boundary of the battlefield was drawn to cover the area considered to be the outer reasonable limit of the battle but does not include areas over which fights took place subsequent to the main battle (English Heritage, 1995). Any development is likely to require an archaeological watching brief to ensure proper and full assessment of any below ground archaeological evidence that may be revealed during ground works associated with any development. Early involvement of both West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Services and English Heritage would be strongly encouraged.

There is potential for development immediately adjoining the northern boundary of the battlefield to impact unacceptably upon key views from the heritage asset northwards towards Bradford and the surrounding areas. These views allow the battlefield to understand in the context of the wider surrounding area and in particular the significance of its location to Bradford. Development upon these sites will therefore need to demonstrate that there is no harm to the significance of the battlefield or if there is harm to the heritage asset it must be clearly and convincingly demonstrated that this is outweighed by the wider public benefits of the development. Mitigation measures may be considered acceptable and where appropriate it is recommended that any development adjoining the boundary of the registered battlefield incorporates a significant green buffer to preserve the setting of the battlefield and minimise visual impacts.

Should these sites come forward for development it is recommended that a Development Brief be prepared to address the constraints of the site/s and to guide developers as what would be considered appropriate and the mitigation measures that would be required to adequately and appropriately protect the setting of the battlefield.

Holme Wood and Tong Neighbourhood Development Plan (2012)

This document forms part of the evidence base of the emerging Local Plan and sets out the vision and delivery framework for the Holme Wood and Tong residential areas with reference to adapting the existing housing stock and increasing the amount of housing within these locations.

Opportunities for housing growth are identified in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This includes proposals for urban expansions to the west of the existing residential estate. These would border the northern boundary of the battlefield at Westgate Hill and Tong Lane and therefore could potentially impact on the setting of the heritage asset. These sites, specifically Site 2 and Site 3 are comparable to Sites SE/057 and SE/099 as set out in the SHLAA and therefore the recommendations above are relevant here too (*see Appendix 4*).

As currently open and undeveloped land these sites provide a green setting to the battlefield and facilitate views to the north. From the north-western corner of the battlefield, on the junction of the old Bradford and Wakefield Road and the more recent trunk road there are medium and long distance views out of the battlefield over open pasture towards the suburban area of Pudsey. These allow the battlefield to be understood in the context of the wider surrounding area and are afforded some significance.

Similar views are achievable from Tong Lane across the open pastures at the rear of Lane End Farm. It is imperative that any development within these sites addresses impacts upon these key views from within the battlefield and mitigates these accordingly and where appropriate.

A green buffer between the boundary of the battlefield and the development is likely to be required to minimise the visual impacts and preserve an open setting immediately around the battlefield, the extent of this buffer is likely to be variable according to topography, views and visual relationship between the battlefield and the potential development site.

It should also be considered that these sites may contain archaeological evidence of the battle, particularly in the area immediately around Westgate Hill and the junction of Tong Lane and the old Bradford and Wakefield Road. The early involvement of West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service and English Heritage is strongly recommended prior to consideration of development of these sites.



View north from Tong Lane out of the battlefield

Recommendations:

- Consider undertaking a full Conservation Management Plan for the registered battlefield including its setting. As the battlefield is located within the boundaries of the Bradford, Leeds and Kirklees local authorities this should be a joint undertaking between all three stakeholders
- Undeveloped land within the boundary of the registered battlefield to be recognised as very sensitive to change and that any development of greenfield land is likely to have a substantially harmful impact on the significance of the heritage asset
- Consider the use of Development Briefs for potential housing sites within the immediate setting of the battlefield, should they be considered acceptable in principle, to guide developers as to the key considerations, appropriate levels of development and where appropriate, mitigation measures
- Any development within the visual envelope of the battlefield will require a detailed assessment of the significance of the heritage asset and clear understanding of how the development will affect this. These expectations should be set out clearly at an early stage and timely involvement from other stakeholders such as WYAAS and English Heritage should be actively encouraged
- Where the setting of the battlefield is identified as being important to the understanding and significance of the heritage asset, development within this setting will be required to maintain important views and where appropriate, a green buffer between the battlefield and any development
- Seek ways to increase public access and facilitate greater interpretation within or around the boundaries of the site.



References:

Cooke, David (2006) *Battlefield Yorkshire*

Ed. C H Firth (2nd Ed 1907) *The Life of William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle by Margaret Duchess of Newcastle*

Johnson, David (2006) *Adwalton Moor 1643: The battle that changed a war*

Parsons, Rev Daniel (1836) *The Diary of Sir Henry Slingsby*

English Heritage Battlefield Report: Adwalton Moor 1643 (1995)

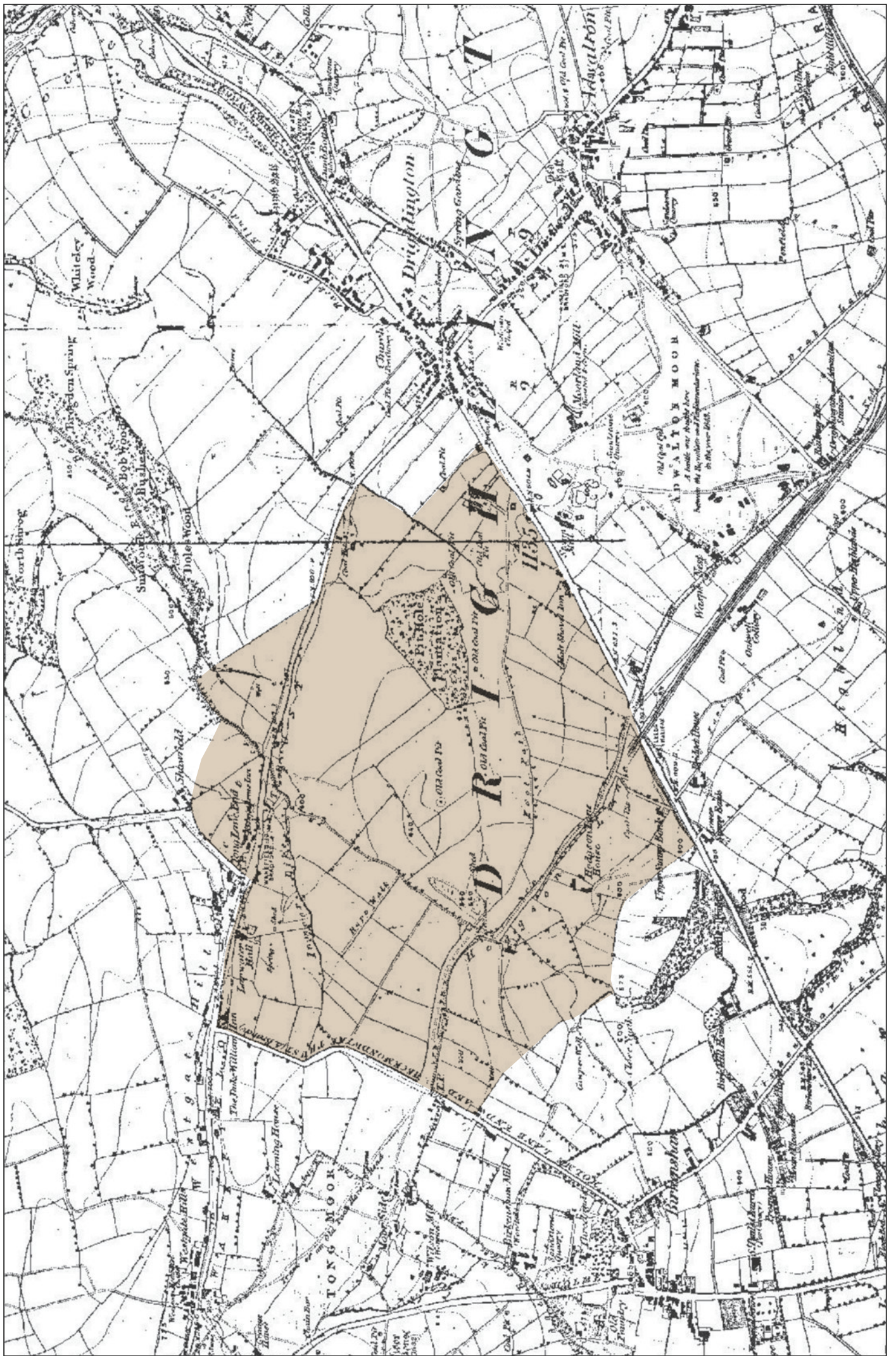
Holme Wood and Tong Neighbourhood Development Plan (January 2012)

Appendix 1

English Heritage Battlefield Report: Adwalton Moor

Appendix 2

1852 OS map of Adwalton Moor Battlefield area



Appendix 3

Photographs of key views into, out of and within
Adwalton Moor registered battlefield
(see *Figure 2 page 9*)













Appendix 4

**Map showing registered battlefield: Adwalton Moor 1643
in relation to the City of Bradford MDC Strategic Housing
Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)**

