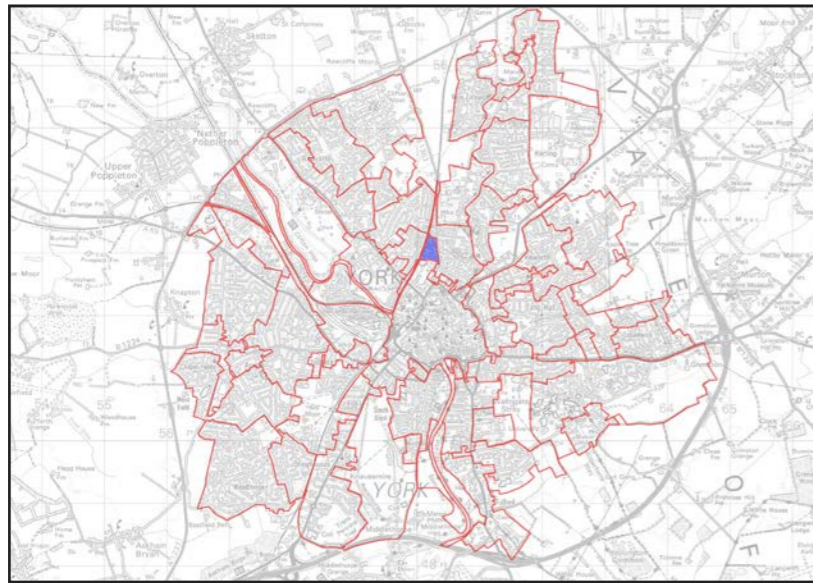
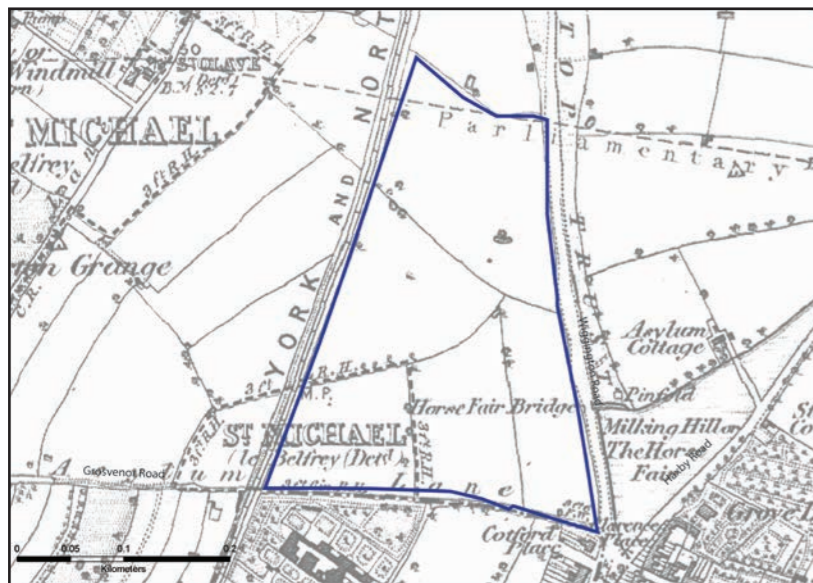


## Character area 41: York Hospital



Location of character area



Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey Plan 1852

### Key Characteristics

**General Character:** Brick built hospital and accommodation buildings, two-four storeys in height, dating to the late 20th century surrounded by car parking

Bounded by Feversham Terrace to the north, the York to Scarborough railway to the west and Wigginton Road to the east with the 18th century hospital site to the south

Area of Archaeological Importance (part)

Relatively low-lying, flat topography

Approximate walking/cycling distance to the city centre from Hospital 1.6km via Clarence Street and Gillygate

**Dominant Building Type:** Late 20th century hospital buildings

**Other Key Housing Types:** None

**Designated Heritage Assets:** Partly within the Central Area of Archaeological Importance

**Non-designated Heritage Assets:** Iron railings bordering southern side of hospital

**Key Views:** Views of the 18th century asylum building from various locations

**Surviving historic roads and tracks:** Wigginton Road and Bridge Lane

## Archaeology and history

The earliest evidence of human activity dates to the period of Roman occupation in York. Roman burials and settlement evidence has been found immediately to the south-east of the hospital area in Clarence Gardens (EYO 154) off Clarence Street.

The medieval Horse Fair located on the 1852 Ordnance Survey map at the junction of Haxby and Wigginton Road may have extended towards Gillygate and included land within this character area.

Medieval broad ridge and furrow has been identified from early aerial photographs of the area indicating that the area had supported arable cultivation at some point.

In 1777 one of the first purpose built lunatic asylums in the country, Bootham Park Hospital, designed by John Carr, was constructed within this rural setting immediately to the south of the modern hospital.

The asylum acquired a lodge in 1857 at the Asylum Lane entrance, which borders the southern edge of the modern hospital site. The lodge had iron gates and railings manufactured at the Walker Iron Foundry, these survive in places.

By the early 20th century this area was in use as a cricket ground and sports fields.

In the early 1970s the York District Hospital in the northern half of the character area was constructed along with two-three storey accommodation blocks for Bootham Park Hospital, to the south of Asylum Lane now renamed Bridge Lane. These buildings are currently in the process of demolition.

## Character

Compared with Bootham Park Hospital, with its landscaped grounds, the modern hospital contains little in the way of soft landscaping.

It is surrounded by car parking areas and is a very busy, functional space. Bridge Lane running W-E from the railway bridge to Wigginton Road is a well used thoroughfare by pedestrians and cyclists. Part of the neglected 1850s railings and locked gateway can be seen from this footpath.

The late 20th century hospital buildings are complemented by a more recent, early 21st century multi-story car park adjacent to Wigginton Road but overall, the complex is bland and very utilitarian.

## Significance

**Archaeology:** Any significant archaeological evidence would almost certainly have been uncovered during the 1970s construction works and it is unlikely that more ephemeral evidence related to the horse fair will have survived.

**Architecture:** Generic hospital buildings of no particular interest based on a purely functional design.

**Historic:** The northern boundary of the site, to the rear of Feversham Crescent, is the only remaining boundary shown on the 1852 Ordnance Survey plan.

No historic field boundaries remain readable within the hospital area. The site is bounded by historic roadways, likely medieval in origin and the 19th century York to Scarborough Railway.

**Streetscape components:** The surviving iron railings and gates provide a tangible link to the former Walker Iron Foundry which played a significant role in York's industrial heritage.

The footpaths are a mixture of concrete flags and asphalt. Carriageways are also asphalt. Late 20th century street lighting is in use. Concrete bollards and black cast iron fencing is in use within the car parking areas.

**Aesthetics:** Not much aesthetic significance can be placed on this area due to a lack of green space and aesthetically pleasing architecture although there are interesting views of Bootham Park Hospital from some locations.

## Opportunities and recommendations

There are clearly many opportunities to enhance the public's experience of using the hospital site and in enhancing the look and feel of the site overall and any future re-developments of all or part of the site should take this into account.

It is recommended that any development or re-development in the area should be sympathetic in terms of style, material, proportions and density and should complement and enhance existing character. Street furniture, including street signage and streetlights, should integrate with the character of the area.

Opportunities for improving the quality and consistency of contemporary street furniture and the public realm should be identified, in particular the enhancement of existing pedestrian surfaces, cycling facilities and upgrades of existing street furniture. This should be undertaken following guidance contained in the City of York Streets and Spaces Strategy and Guidance (City of York Council, 2013).

The Grade II listed railings could also be enhanced and measures taken to conserve them as a key historic feature.

Key views of the Minster, other major heritage assets and local landmarks should be maintained and enhanced to help orientation and enhance local distinctiveness.

Hedgerows and trees should be carefully managed and opportunities for planting new trees along grass verges and in existing hedgerows should be identified. A programme of regular monitoring of original hedgerow boundaries and grass verges should be secured.

Development management policy should take account of the contribution made by locally identified heritage assets to the distinctive character of the area. Sub-surface archaeological sites and landscapes are particularly important. Appropriate mitigation strategies should be agreed to protect potential archaeological deposits for any future development in area.

## Character Area 41: Images



*Modern hospital buildings*



*View of modern hospital buildings and car park*



*Surviving 1850s iron gates on Bridge Lane*



*Demolition of Nurses Accommodation block 2013*



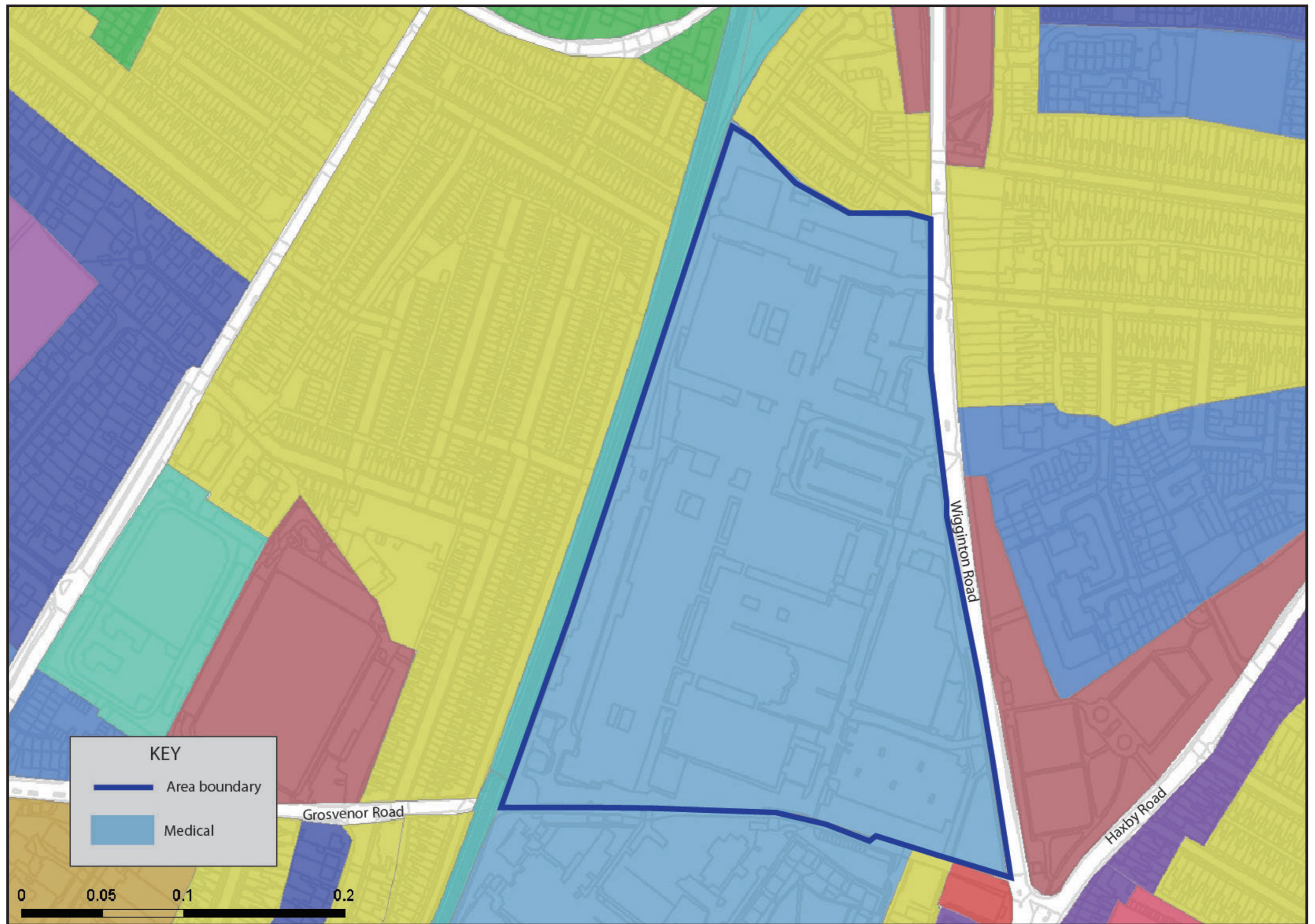
*One of the hospital entrances next to the stone walled entrance to Bootham Park Hospital including name plaque to the left of image*



*Rear of Nurses Accommodation Block during demolition*

## Character Area 41: Maps

*Broad Type characterisation plan. The white roadways indicate roads or lanes visible on the 1852 Ordnance Survey Plan.*



Topography



Archaeology and designated heritage assets



Extant surviving boundaries, roads and tracks as depicted on the 1852 First Edition Ordnance Survey Plan

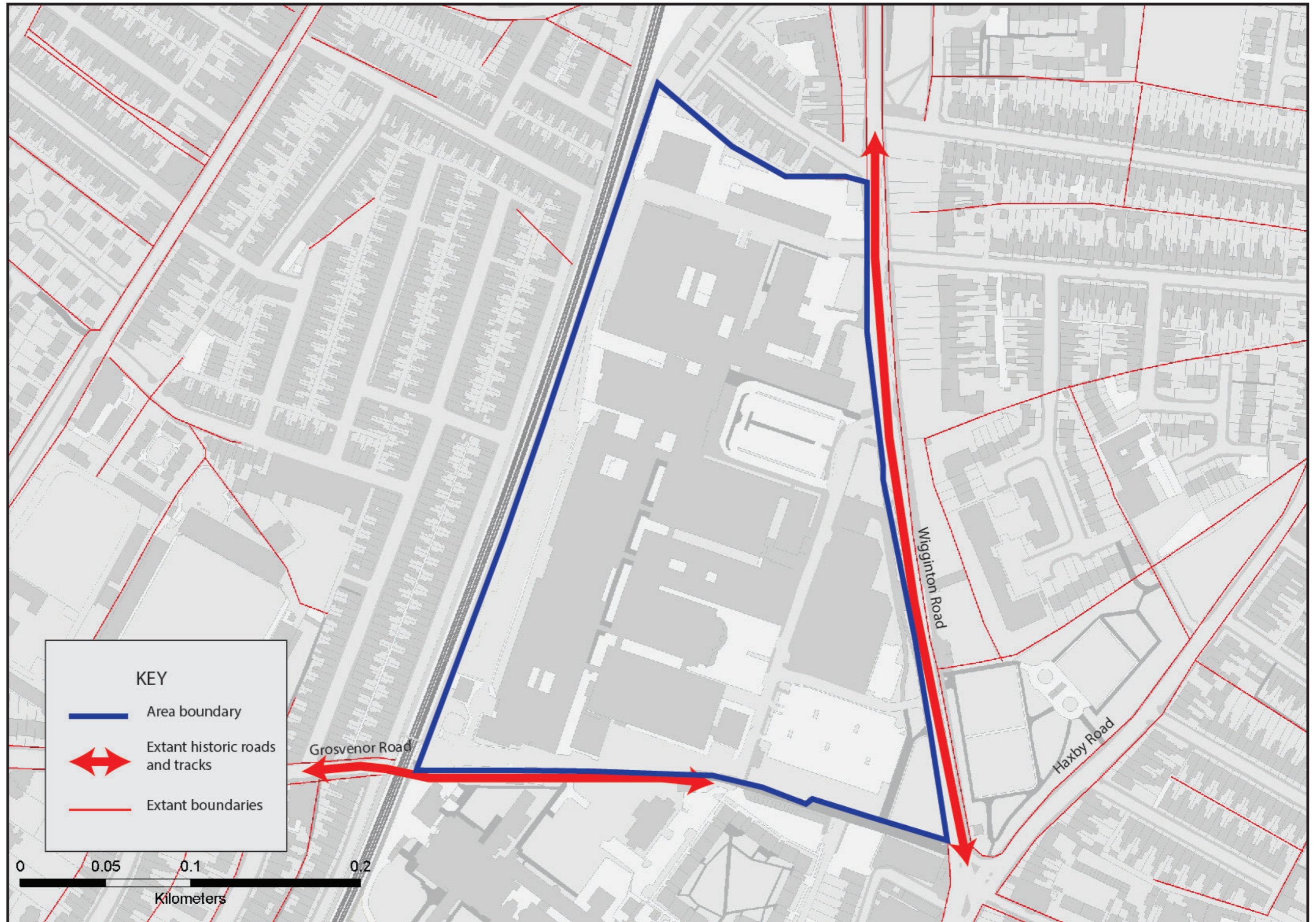


Figure ground map showing the relationship between open space (black) and the built environment





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