



MAIN ISSUES REPORT
MARCH 2017



ALLOTMENTS AND COMMUNITY GROWING
BACKGROUND REPORT

Allotments and community growing spaces provide a number of benefits. At a personal level, growing your own food can provide access to fresh produce as well as the benefit of financial savings. Involvement in the activity of growing produce can also boost physical and mental health whilst participating in activities with friends and neighbours, whether to grow something on an allotment or simply enjoy a social chat in a community seating area, can improve community cohesion. The physical enhancement of formerly untidy or abandoned sites can also improve the appearance of an area, encouraging other improvements and in some cases helping to attract investment to specific sites or wider areas.

Within Inverclyde there are currently three allotments located at Caddlehill Street, Wellington Street and Murdieston Street East, all in Greenock. In addition, there is a community garden at Belville Street, also in Greenock.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a requirement upon local authorities to take reasonable steps to meet requests for allotment spaces from residents of the local authority area. Scottish Planning Policy states that Local Development Plans should safeguard existing and potential allotments and encourage opportunities for a range of community growing spaces.

It is understood that there is interest from across the Council area for additional 'growing spaces' either in the form of allotments or less formal community spaces. Given the many positive aspects of allotments and community growing spaces, it would be beneficial to identify potential areas for the

creation of more spaces which people can use within their local neighbourhoods. In anticipation of increased requests for allotments and community growing spaces, an exercise has been undertaken for the Main Issues Report to identify potential sites where these requests could be met.

Allotments and community growing areas need to be accessible and convenient for their users, and therefore tend to be located in built-up areas and close to residential areas where users can either get to on foot or by a short car/bus ride. They also have to be located where there is demand. otherwise they won't be used.

As well as permanent sites, allotments and community growing can take place on vacant and derelict land on a temporary basis, with an agreement that the site will revert back to development use at some time in the future. It is also possible for parts of public owned land such as school and hospital grounds to be turned into allotments and community growing spaces.

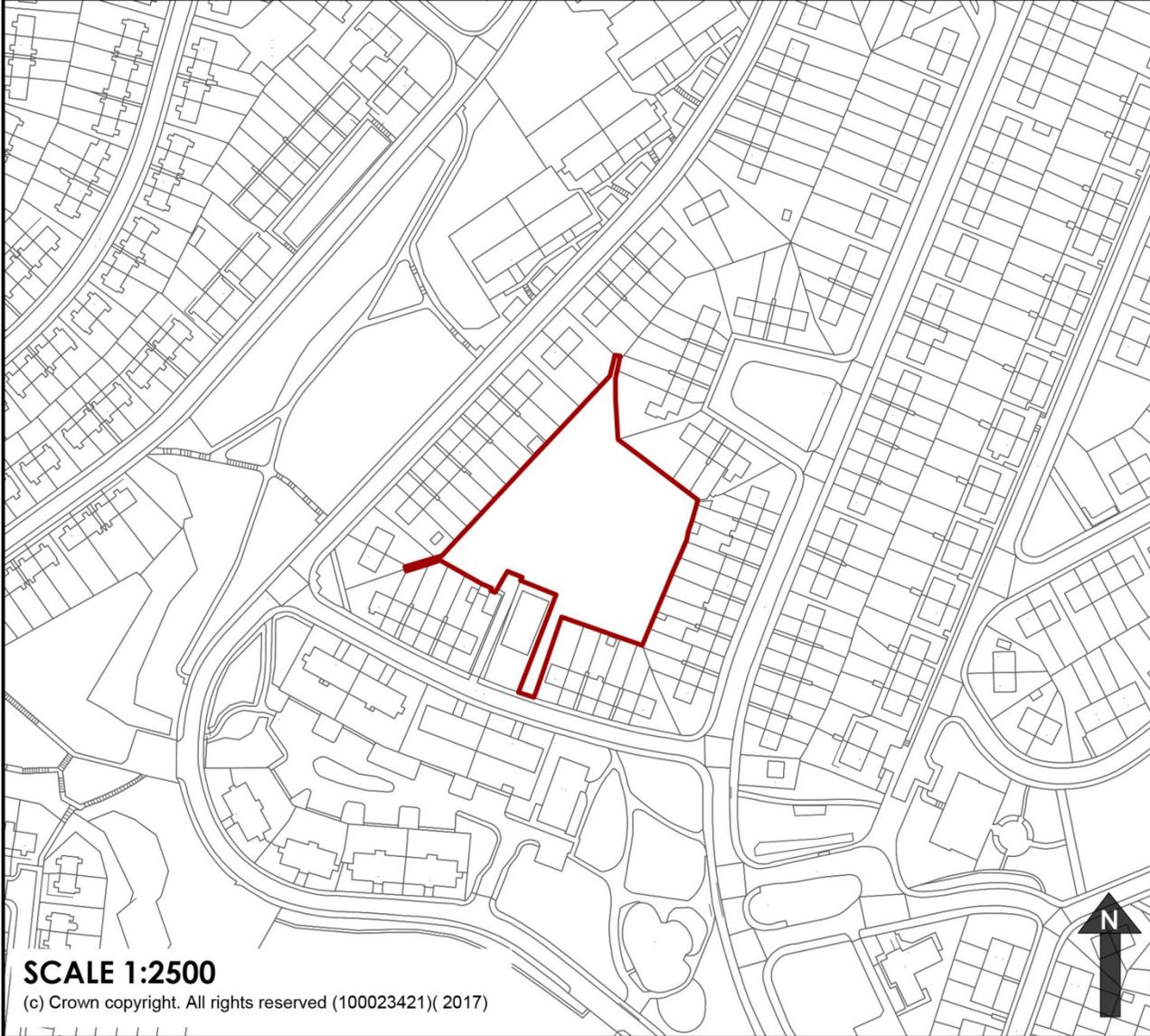
Nine possible new sites for consideration for allotments or community growing spaces have been identified either from suggestions submitted to the Council or through the Council's Property Assets Manager. The plan below shows the general location of these sites along with those that already exist. There is then a detailed location plan for each of the suggested sites.

FIGURE 16

EXISTING/POTENTIAL ALLOTMENTS, COMMUNITY GROWING SPACES & STALLED SPACES



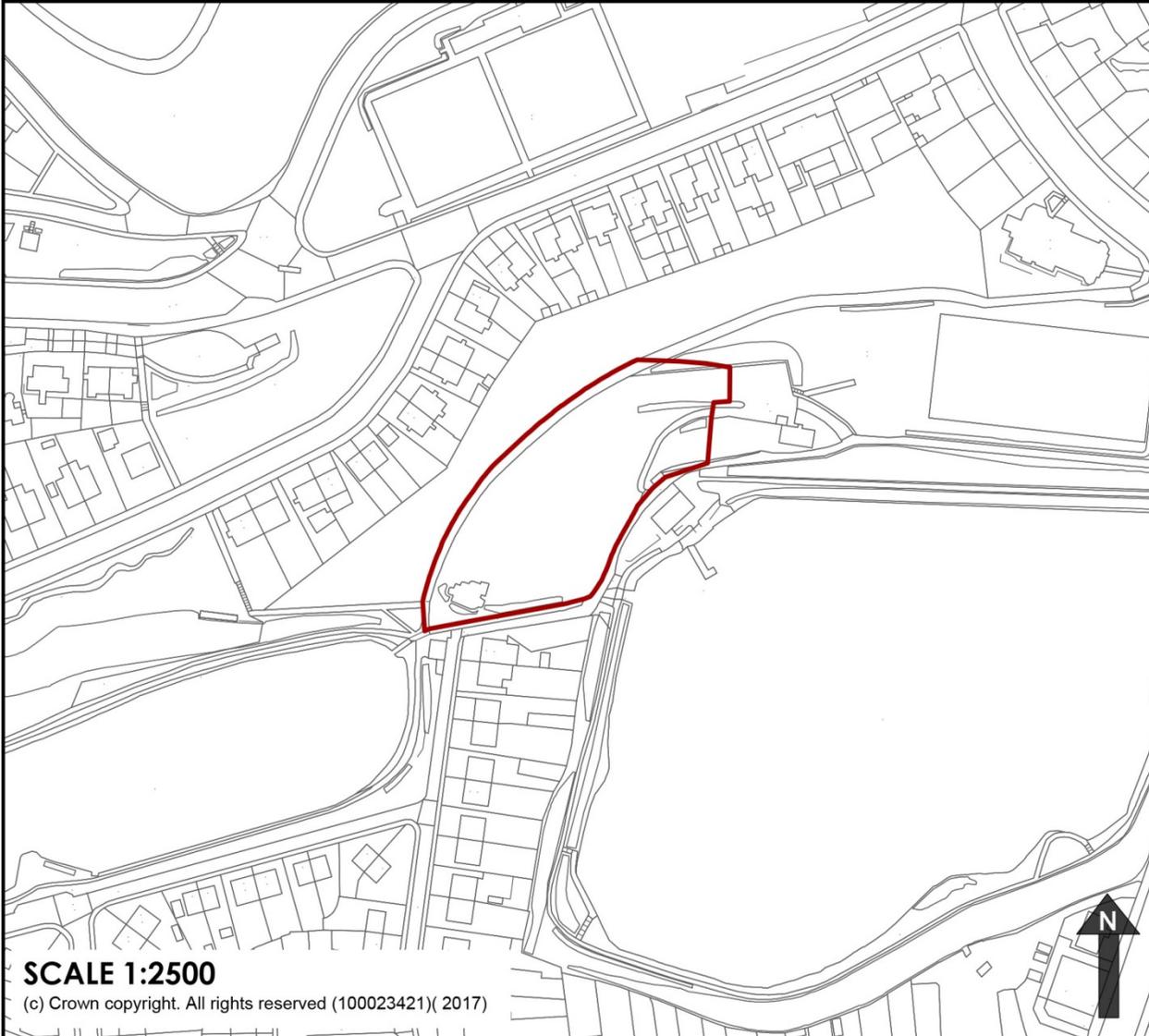
1 - Lothian Road, Greenock



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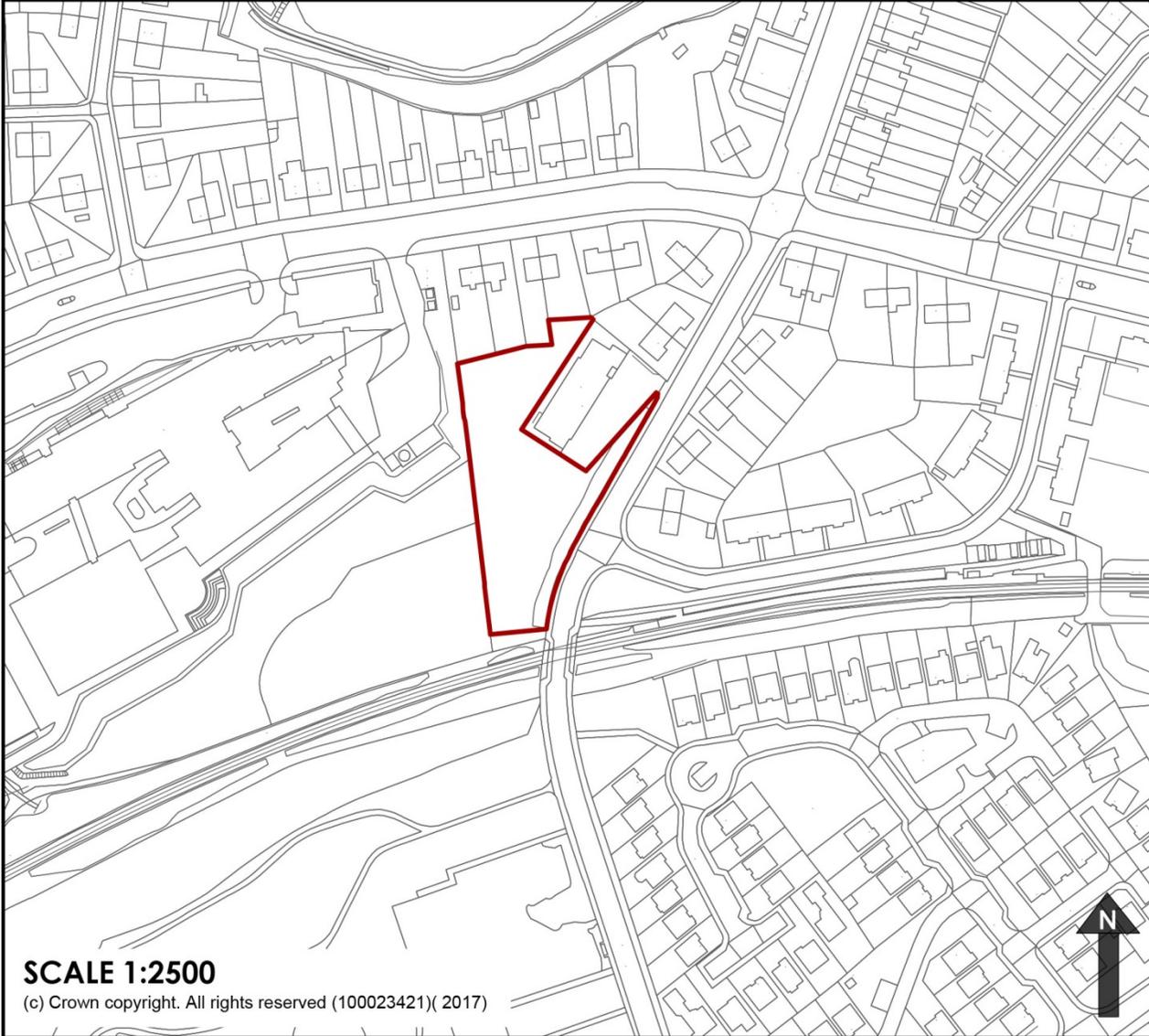
2 - Murdieston Dam, Greenock



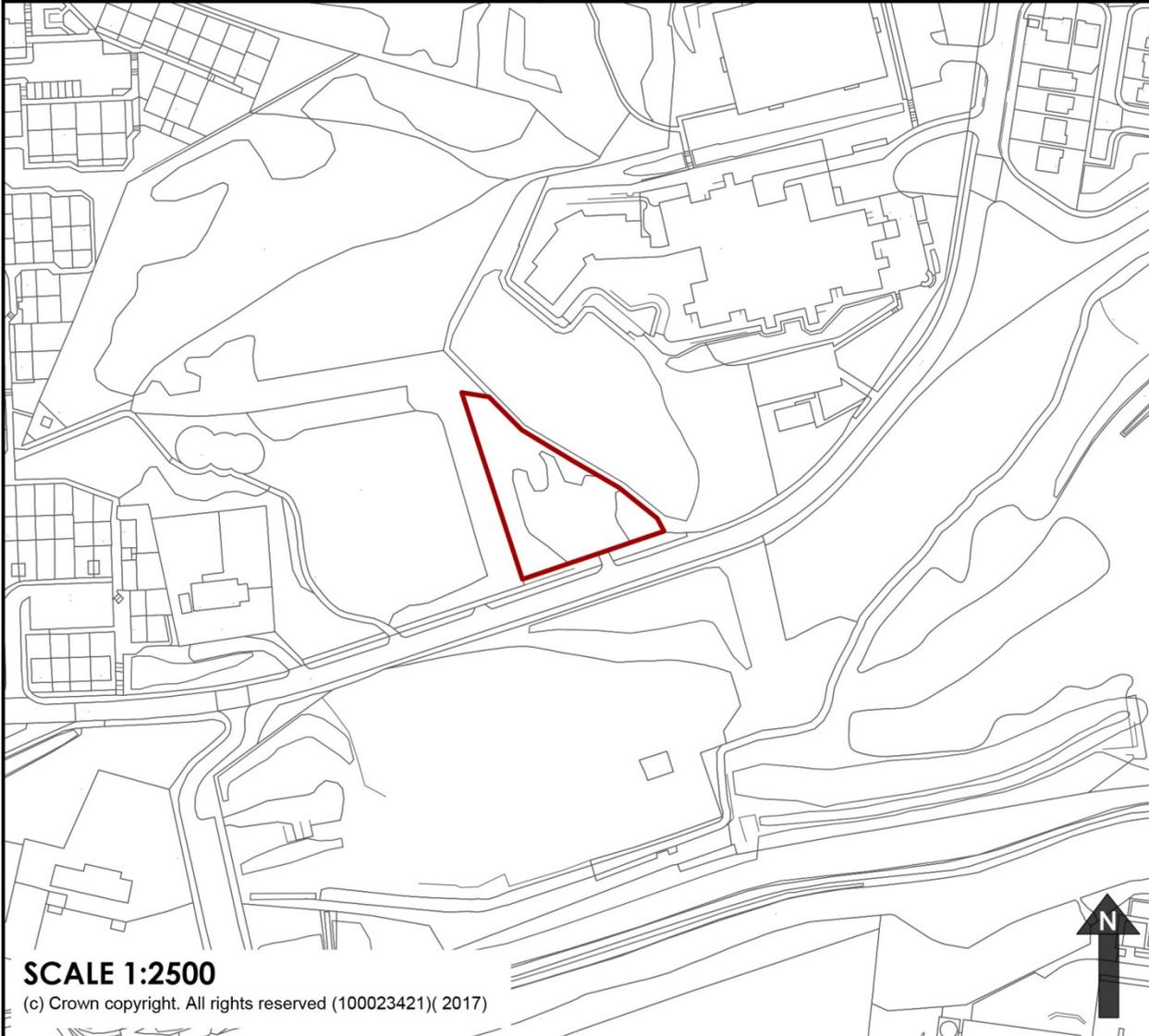
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3 - Murdieston Dam West, Greenock



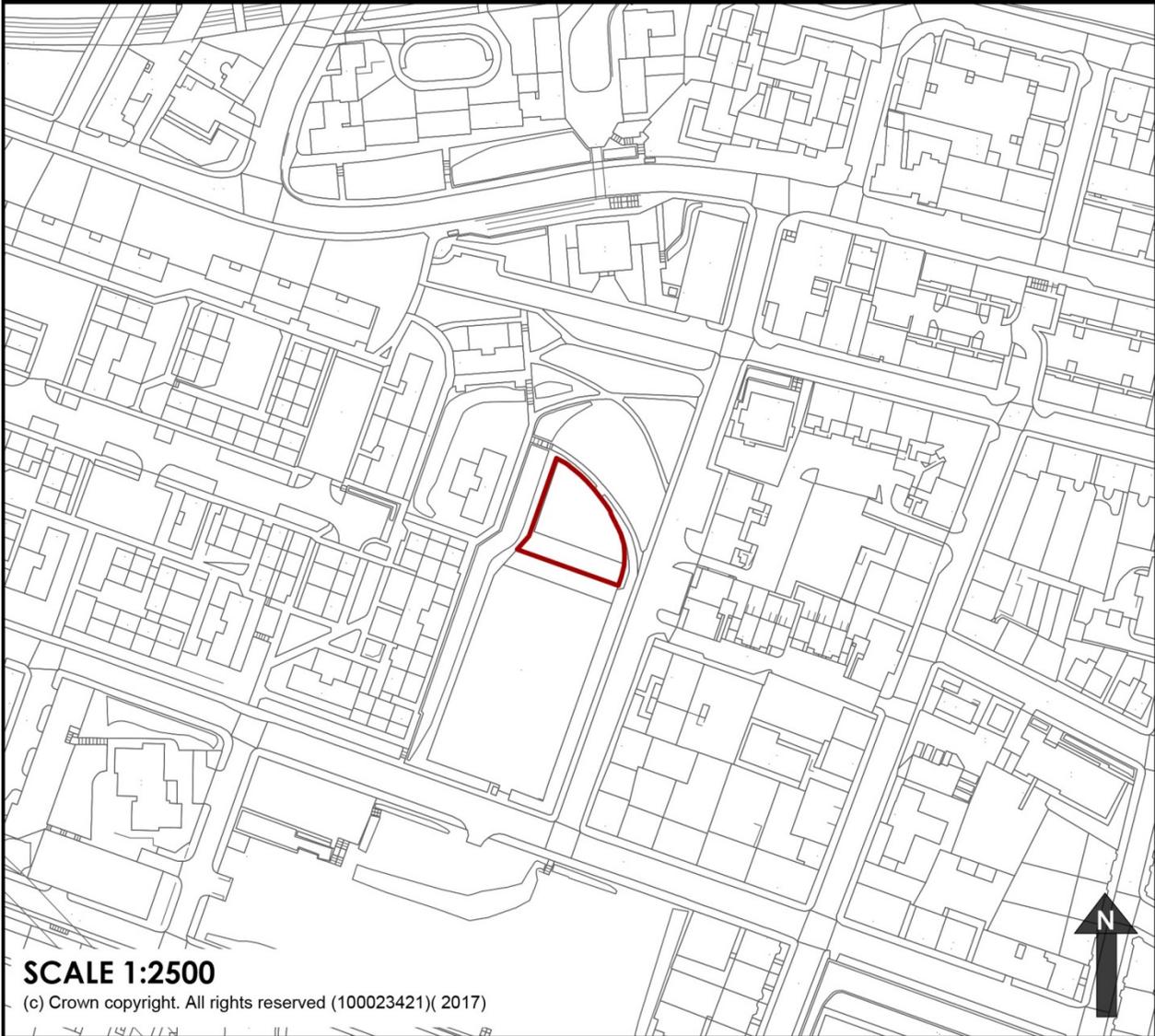
4 - Drumfrochar Road/Papermill Road, Greenock



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5 - Trafalgar Street, Greenock



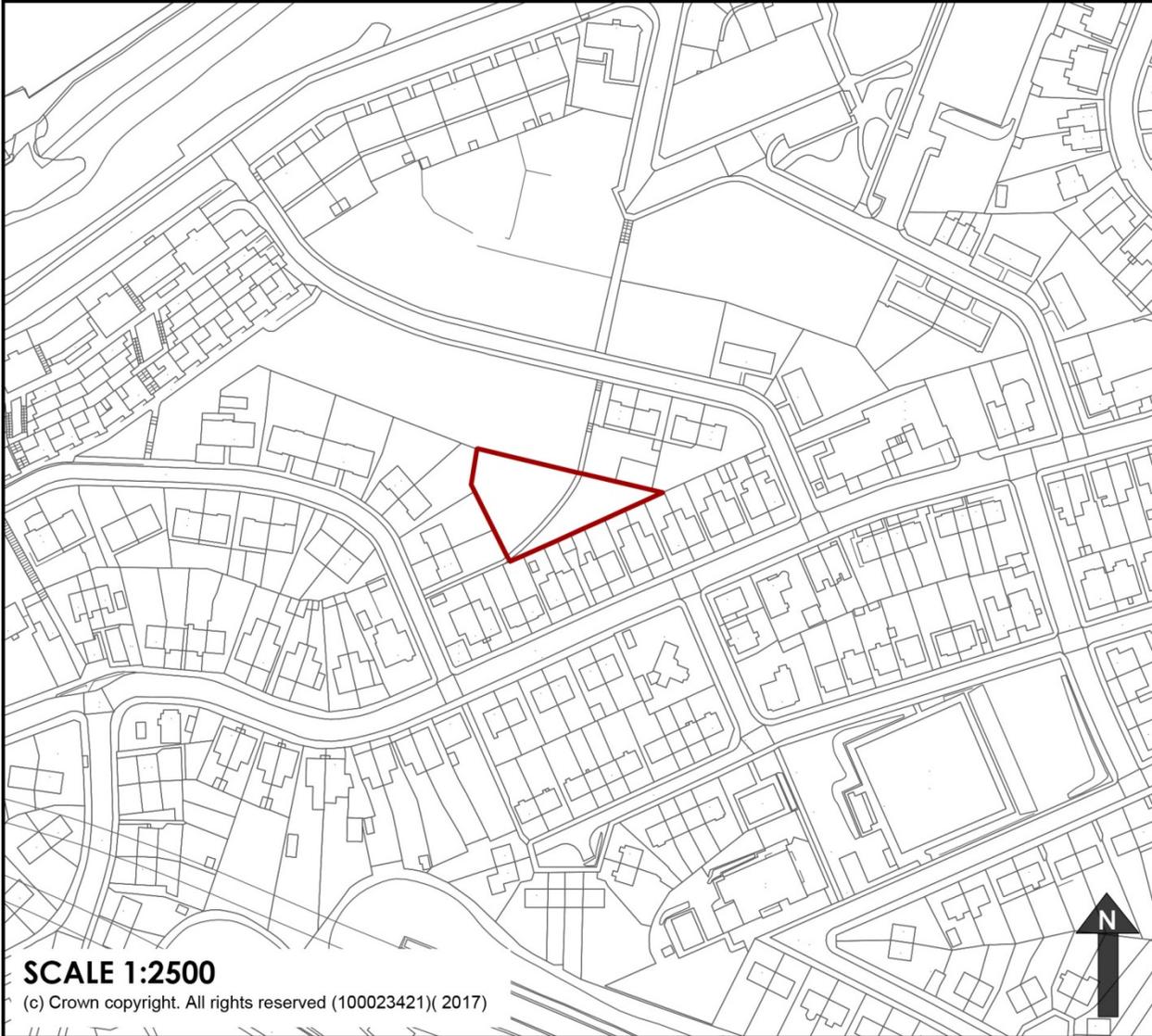
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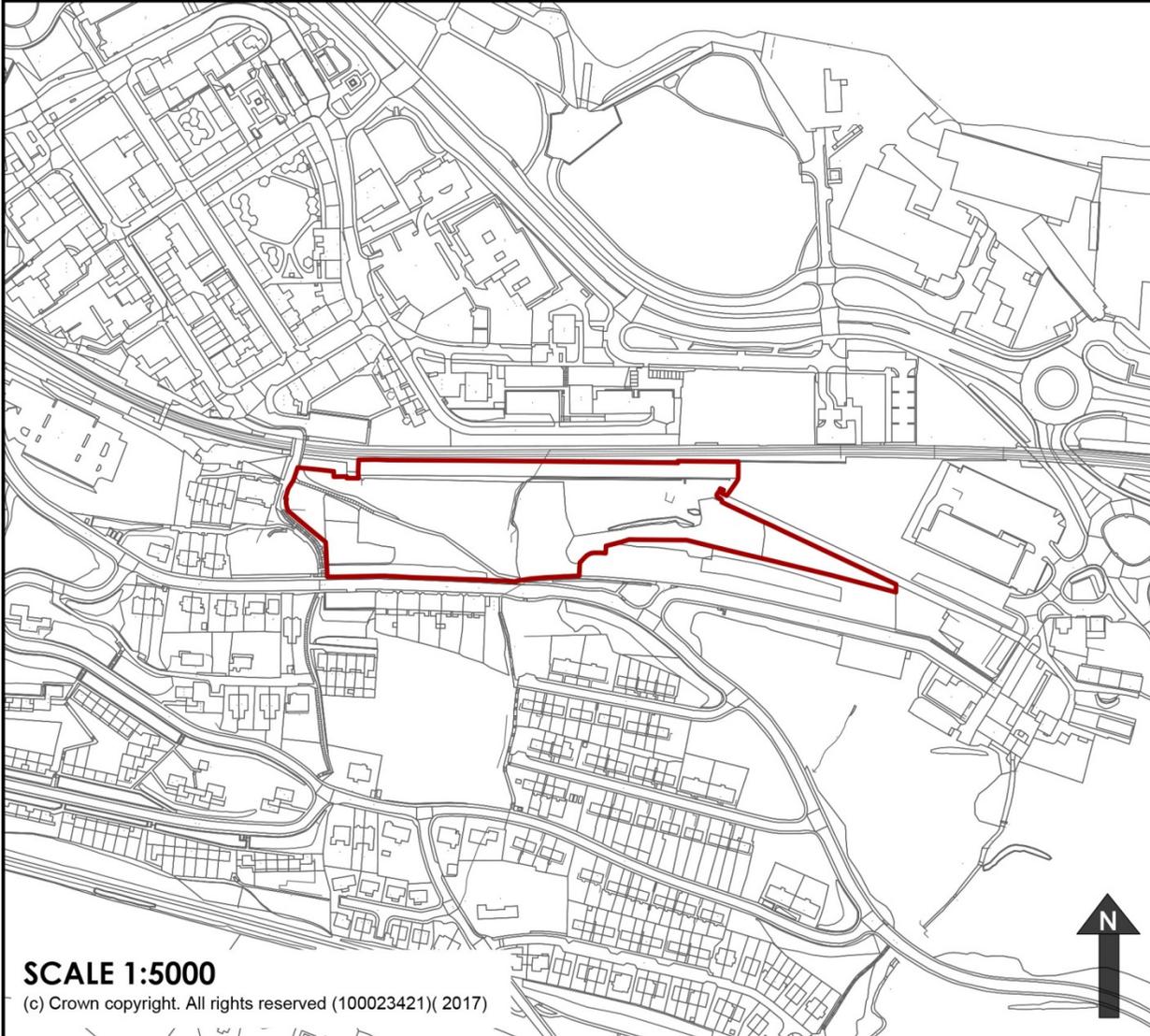
6 - Disused Railway Line - Princes Pier, Greenock/Port Glasgow



7 - Bawhirley Road, Greenock



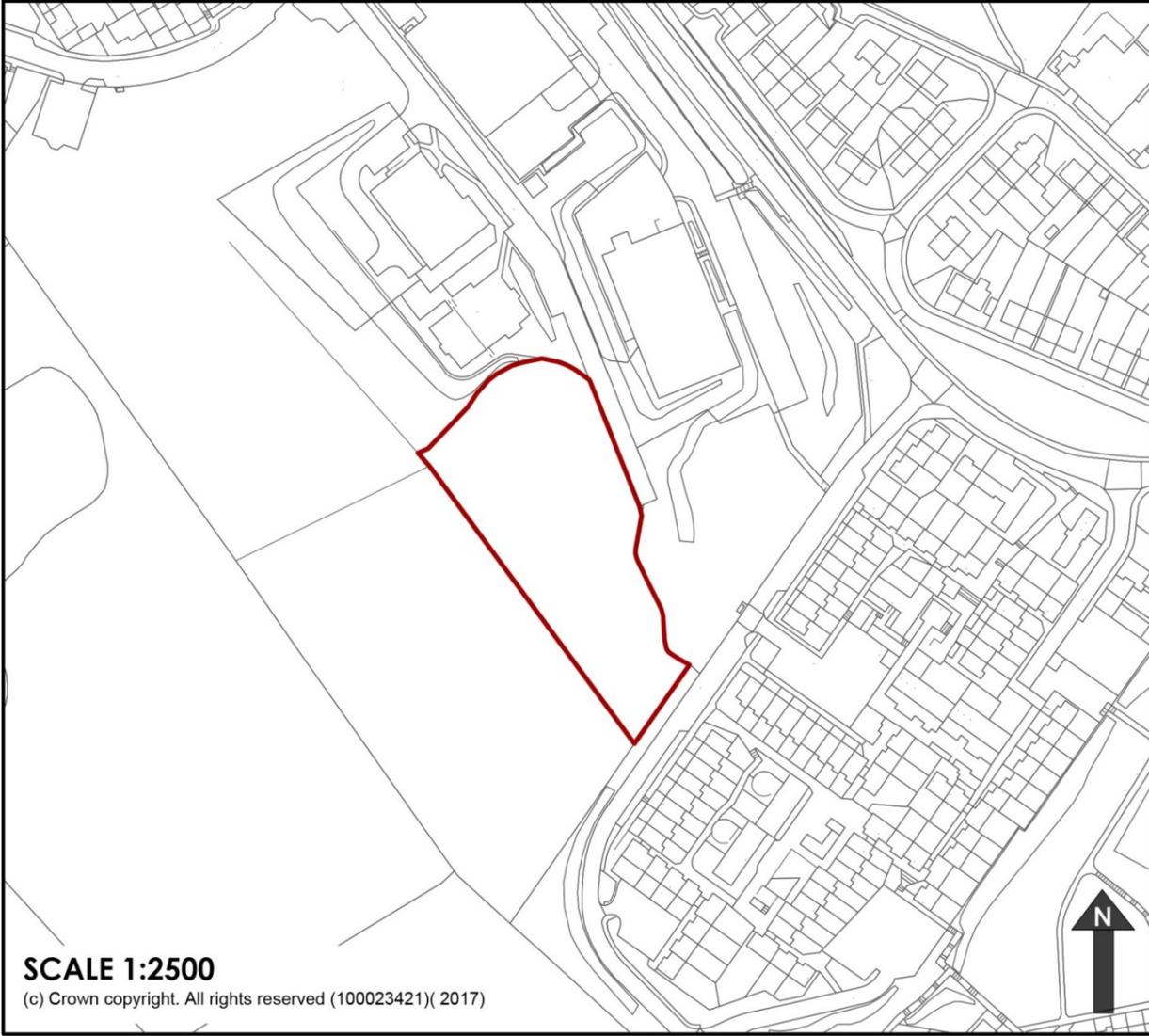
8 - Springhill Road, Port Glasgow



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9 - Devol Depot, Port Glasgow



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