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Salford
MANCHESTER

Historic Building Investigation

Black Friar Public House,
Blackfriars Road,
Salford

Client:

Network Demolition
Services LLP

Planning Ref:

14/65407/FUL

Technical Report:

Lewis Stitt

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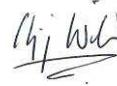


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Summary

Property (Done) Ltd has obtained planning consent (Planning Ref 14/65407/FUL) to convert the disused Black Friar Public House on Blackfriars Road, Salford (centred on NGR 383276 398905) into offices and a management suite for the proposed residential development. In order to secure heritage interests in the light of the statutory designation of the former public house being Grade II listed, Salford City Council attached a condition (N^o 6) to planning consent that allowed for an appropriate scheme of archaeological work to be implemented in advance of development. This was intended to mitigate the potential loss or covering of historic fabric in advance of the proposed redevelopment. This comprised a historic building investigation, carried out to Historic England Level II/III standard, which was undertaken by Salford Archaeology in June 2017 prior to construction work.

The pub's original construction is not known, although a date stone is located on the eastern elevation with the text 'Rebuilt AD 1886'. It provides a fine example of a mid-Victorian public house, in Vernacular Revival style. It was built using hand-made brick with terracotta and dressed sandstone fixings externally, and internally it had wallpaper and painted walls.

The pub was heavily modernised in the second half of the twentieth century, masking most of the architecturally important features, before being abandoned in the early twenty-first century. It is envisaged that the conversion of the building will not only treat the building more sympathetically, but will ensure its future survival through re-use.

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

Property (Done) Ltd has obtained planning consent (Planning Ref 14/65407/FUL) to convert the disused Black Friar Public House on Blackfriars Road in Salford (centred on NGR 383276 398905) into offices and a management suite for the proposed residential development.

The site had been developed in the nineteenth century in the industrial and residential district of Salford. The Black Friar was probably originally a Beer House that only became a Public House in 1930's. It was built in a Vernacular Revival style that had been designed by William Ball. Internal alterations over the decades include the installation of gas central heating and an extension of toilet facilities. The building had been granted Grade II listed status in April 1994.

In order to secure archaeological interests, Salford City Council attached a condition (N^o 6) to planning consent that allows for an appropriate scheme of archaeological work to be implemented in advance of development:

'No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or their successors in title have secured the implementation and of a programme of archaeological work. The programme is to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The WSI shall cover the following:

1. A phased programme and methodology of investigation and recording to include background documentary research and an archaeological building survey and building recording at English Heritage level 2/3.
2. A programme for post investigation assessment to include analysis of the site investigation records and finds; any outstanding historical research into the site; and production of a final report
3. Provision for dissemination of the analysis and report on the site investigation.
4. Provision for archive deposition of the report, finds and records of the site investigation.

Following consultation with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Salford City Council, it was recommended that the historic building investigation should be commensurate with a Historic England Level II/III-type survey, and provide a detailed record of the public house.

2. The Setting

2.1 Location and Topography

The Black Friar Public House (centred on NGR 383276 398905) lies to the south of the junction of Trinity Way and Blackfriars Road, in Salford. It is bounded by Trinity Way to the north and west, Blackfriars Road to the north-east, Blossom Street to the east and up until recently modern industrial units to the south (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Aerial view across the study area prior to the clearance of the modern industrial buildings, with arrow marking the position of the Black Friar

2.2 Geology

The solid geology of the area comprises Chester Pebble Bed formation of sedimentary material and a series of Triassic rocks, consisting mainly of Sandstone. The overlying drift incorporates till deposits of Devensian sands and gravels.

3. Historical Background

3.1 Contextual Background

Salford was essentially a medieval market town, which was granted borough status in 1230. During the rapid expansion of the town as a consequence of industrialisation in the mid- to late eighteenth century, considerable speculation ensued on the edge of the town, resulting in the laying out of roads from Chapel Street and Gravel Lane. This is illustrated on detailed maps published by Charles Laurent's in 1793, and William Green's survey of 1787-94 (Plate 2), which depict York Street, Bury Street, Garden Lane and Pear Street connected to faintly dotted 'planned roads' extending beyond the present study area.

Whilst much of the land adjacent to the main thoroughfares of Chapel Street, Greengate and Gravel Lane had been built-up, the surrounding area retained a semi-rural character. The majority of the study area at this time comprised an area of gardens or allotments. This land was purportedly owned by Mr John Bury, an affluent timber merchant, who resided nearby. Both aforementioned maps depict a grand property and formal gardens to the west of the study area, which was John Bury's house. To the south and west of this building lay additional fields, part of Bury's estate, then criss-crossed by a grid of proposed roads.



Plate 2: Extract from William Green's map, marking the approximate location of the Black Friar

The initial development of the study area occurred around the turn of the nineteenth century and is captured on a survey Swire’s map, published in 1824 (Plate 3). Although most cartography from this period lacks the detail of later maps, six blocks of housing are discernible in the eastern part of the study area. A group of buildings is depicted to the south of York Street, close to the junction with Garden Lane. In the south-east corner of the study area, a block of buildings is depicted on the northern side of Bury Street, adjacent to Garden Lane.

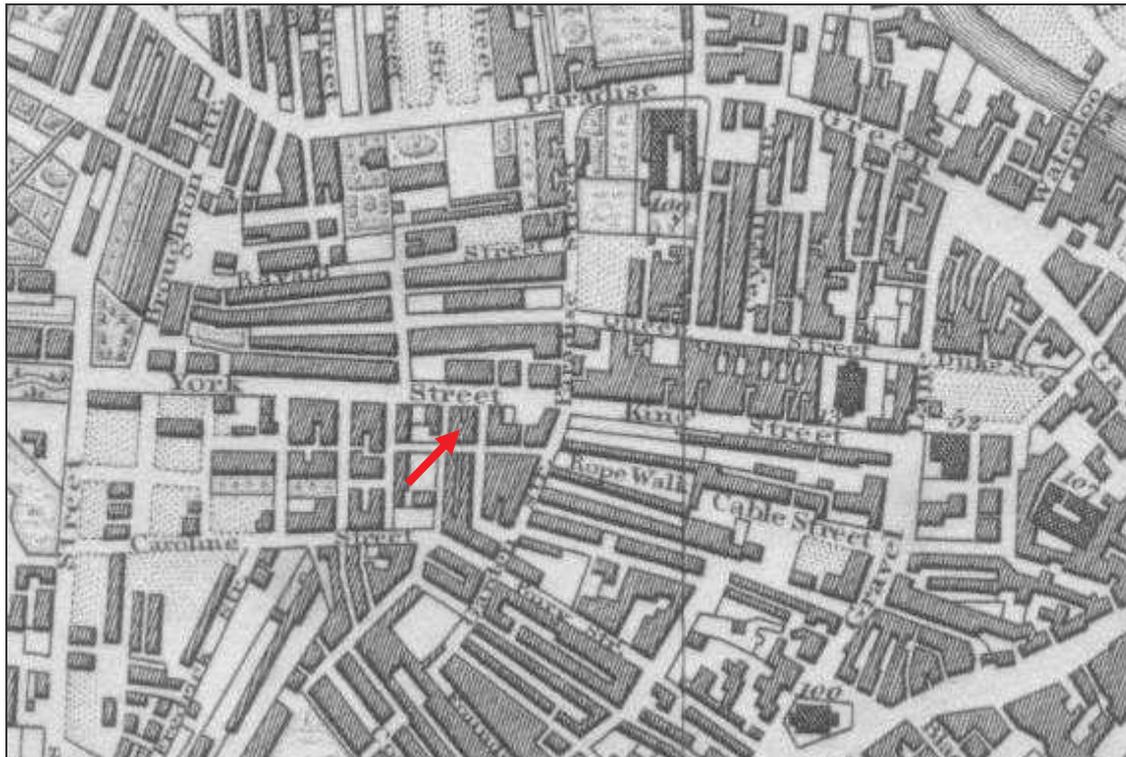


Plate 3: Extract from Swire’s map published 1824, with arrow marking the location of the Black Friar

Overall, these maps reveal the area’s diminishing rural aspect, as the town encroached ever westwards. This growth was facilitated by the expansion of the region’s textile industry and heightened connectivity, realised by the country’s burgeoning canal network. The sheer demand for factory workers spurred house construction on an unprecedented scale, eventually transforming a predominantly agricultural borough to a packed urban centre, containing a mixture of industrial, commercial and residential buildings. This pattern is evident not only in Salford’s built environment but the changing make-up of inhabitants. The list of noteworthy residents in the study area listed in Schole’s directory of 1794, for instance, includes a small number of prominent weavers and fustian cutters, merchants, traders, dealers and gentlemen. By the time of Pigot’s 1841 directory the range of occupations was considerably more diverse and included various craftsman and professionals (eg gilder, shopkeeper, dress-maker, and earthenware-dealer). The influx of workers in their masses had created demand for the provision of a range of goods and services.

The extent of development in the mid-nineteenth century is also apparent from the Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (Plate 4). This map exemplifies how building space was at a premium; almost every available plot of land was developed. This detailed representation is usefully accompanied by comprehensive labelling of streets, back-streets and courts. The professions of individual occupants can therefore be closely investigated, through cross-examination of cartographic and documentary evidence, namely census returns and trade directories. Those more spacious terraces, for example the houses lined Crown and Bury Street were occupied by professionals (*eg* land agents, businessman and those of independent means). They tended to house single families, often employing live-in housemaids and can broadly be categorised as ‘affluent’. In contrast, those housed in the back-to-back dwellings, such as those around Waterloo Square, were more cramped, occasionally occupied by multiple families and mostly comprised of labourers and unskilled craftsmen.

3.2 Black Friar Public House

The exact date that the Black Friar was built is not known. It had been suggested by Richardson that the public house was erected on the site of an earlier pub, the ‘Old School Inn’. However, this has not been corroborated, as the census records and trade directories had no mention of this. The building does seem to have been occupied throughout the nineteenth century by some occupants that could have sold beer on the premises. Under The Beer Act of 1830, a new lower tier of premises were permitted to sell alcohol, called a ‘Beer House’. At the time of this act, it was believed that beer was nutritious and healthy. Any householder who paid rates could apply with a one-off payment of two guineas, could brew and sell beer on his premises. Beer houses, however, were prohibited from selling spirits and wines.

This suggestion that the Black Friar was a beer house is supported by the name Black Friar not being used and included in the census records until 1891 after the rebuilding. It is also only becomes a public house in the 1930s, suggesting even the rebuild was done as a beer house.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1848 shows a rectangular building occupying the site of the Black Friar (Plate 4). The trade directory of 1848 does not list a public house for King Street, although it does list 19 King Street as a beer retailer occupied by James Shaw. It has been suggested that 19 King Street may have been the location of the present Black Friar public house, although due to the building numbers frequently changing over the decades, it is difficult to confirm this with confidence.

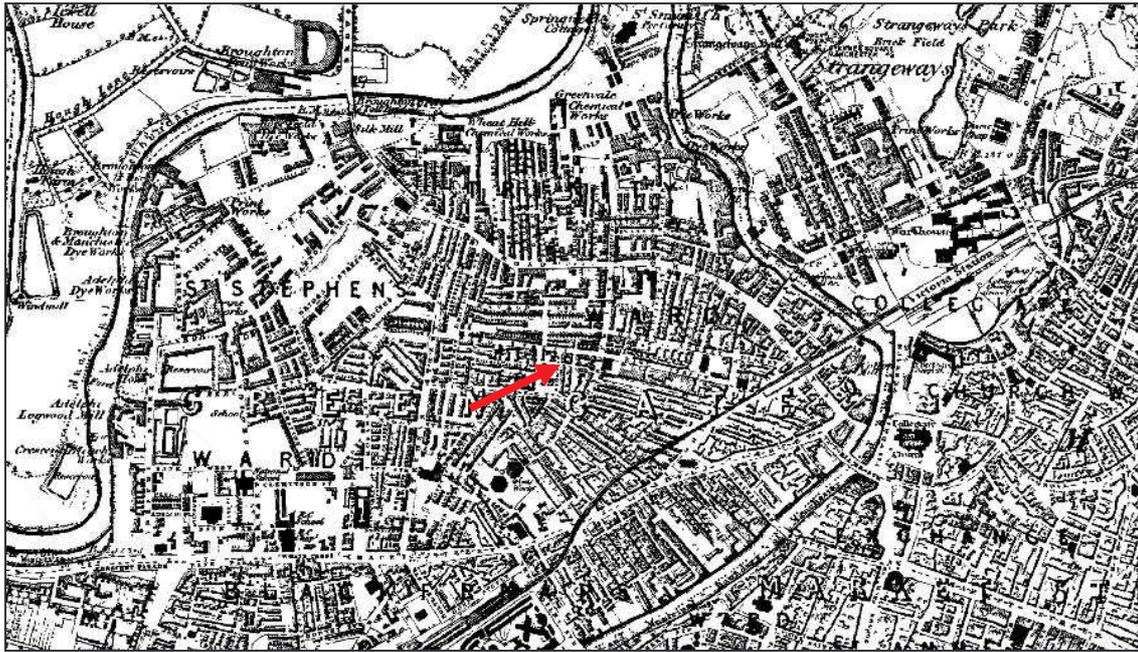


Plate 4: Ordnance Survey map of 1848, with arrow marking Black Friar location

The Ordnance Survey map of 1891 shows the pub as an L-shaped building, although it is not annotated as either a beer house or a public house (Plate 5). This shows that the western elevation was against a separate commercial property that occupied plots 15 and 17 King Street. Blackfriars Road (originally Blackfriars Street) had been extended in 1880 which led to the demolition of 1-13 King Street, leaving only the site of the Black Friar, which can be seen on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map. This extension of the road is the most likely reason why the pub had been rebuilt. The census for 1891 has 13 King Street listed as 'The Black Friar' with Henry Lofthouse listed as a 'beer house keeper'. This further supports that the Black Friar was not a public house, but a beer house. Lofthouse continued to be a beer retailer at 13 King Street until the 1897 trade directory, although by 1913 it was under Mrs Sarah Ann Ashton. By 1932 the building was still listed as a beer house, being run by Harry Ashton. The Black Friar was still not listed as a public house in 1933, although it had been by 1939.

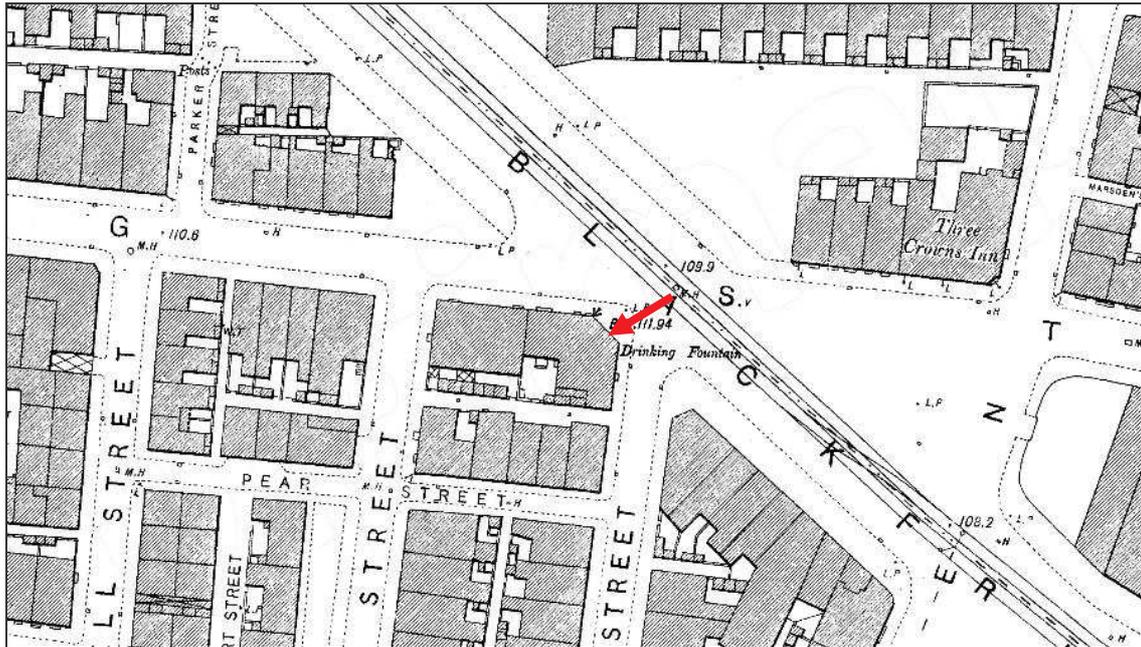


Plate 5: Ordnance Survey map of 1891, showing the building that the Black Friar occupied had changed shape after the rebuild

Between 1908 and 1954 the layout of the building did not change, which can be seen in the Ordnance Survey mapping of 1908, 1922 and 1954. However, the attached commercial property on the western elevation had been demolished in the 1980s, after the construction of Trinity Way (Plates 5-9).



Plate 6: Ordnance Survey map of 1908, showing the location of the Black Friar

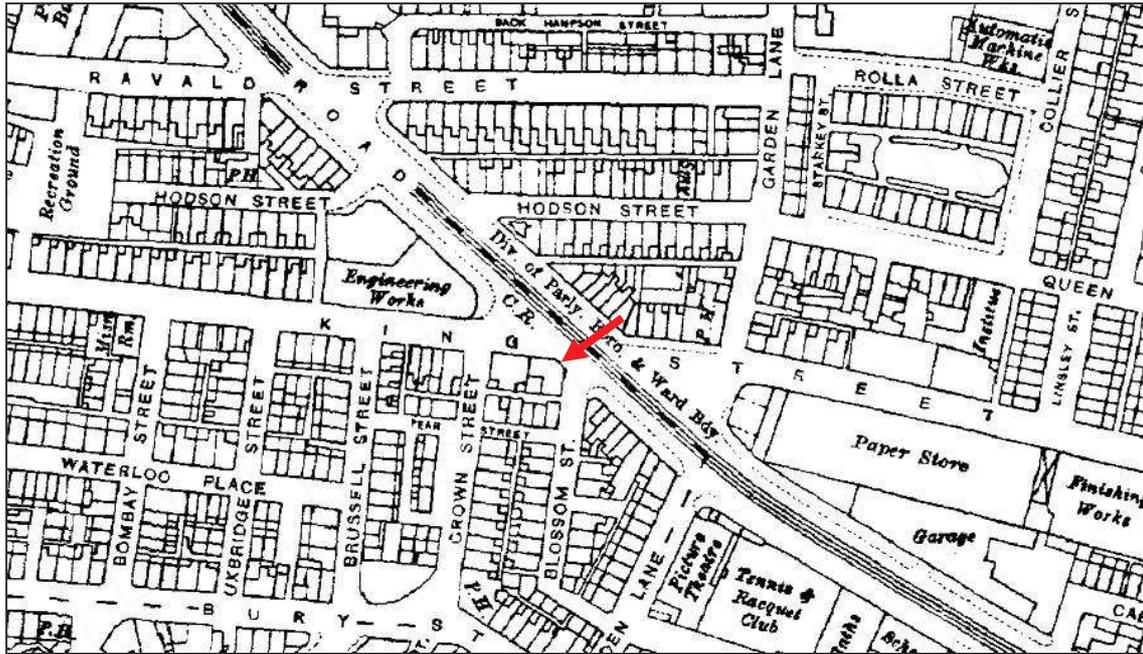


Plate 7: Ordnance Survey map of 1922

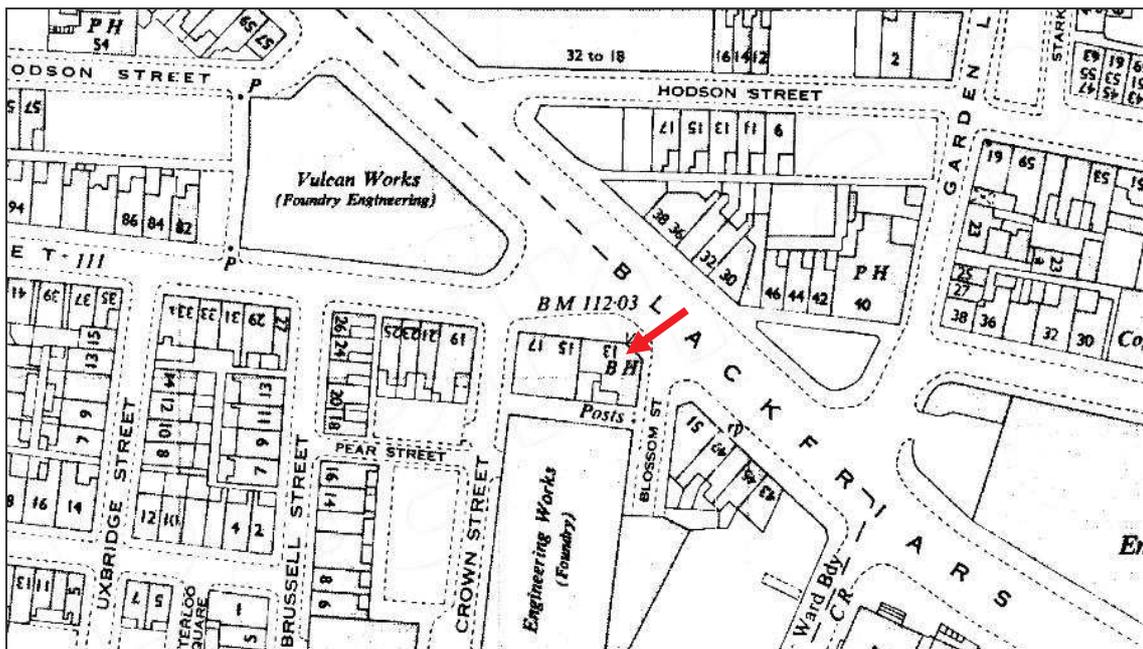


Plate 8: Ordnance Survey map of 1954, showing the Black Friar marked as a Beer House

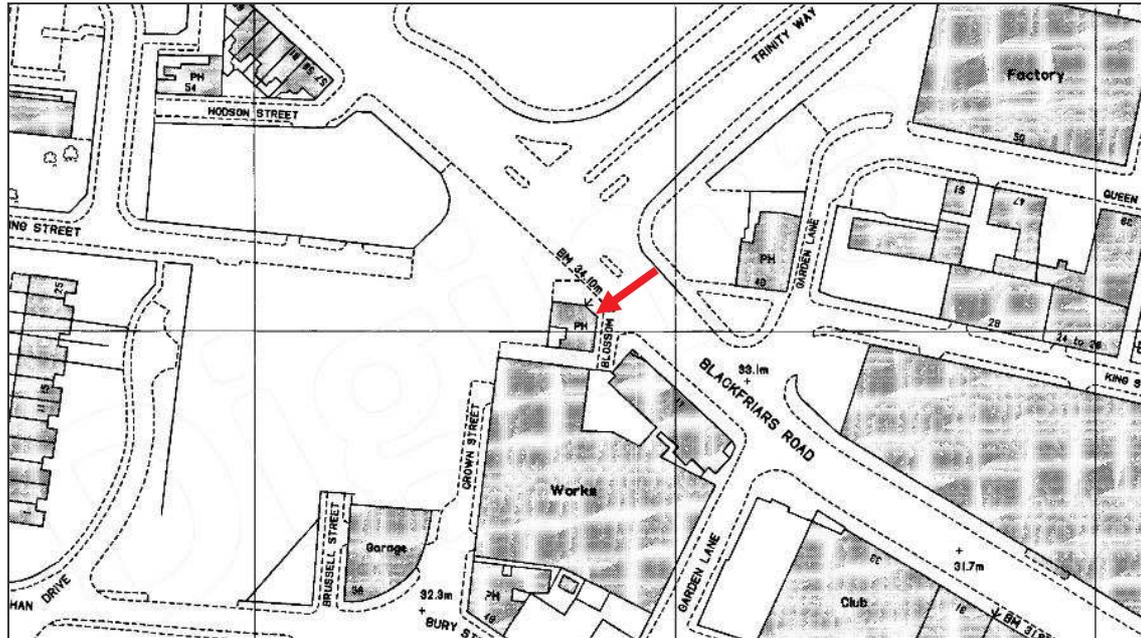


Plate 9: Ordnance Survey map of 1888, noting the newly constructed Trinity Way, and the demolition of the 15-17 King Street

The rebuild of the pub was brick built with red sandstone dressings with a slate roof. It was L-shaped in a Vernacular Revival style by William Ball of Manchester. A date stone on the eastern elevation has the text 'Rebuilt AD 1886'. William Ball had also been the architect who designed and built the Corn Exchange in Manchester in 1890.

Comparison of the Ordnance Survey mapping before and after suggests that this rebuilding had been substantial. A rear yard had been inserted and the north-eastern corner had been removed.

The interior of the pub was altered in the late 1980s with the installation of toilet facilities to the south along with modern seating on the ground floor. The first and second floor had been heavily altered along with the disuse of the fireplaces and the installation of gas central heating, including radiators in each room. The pub ceased trading in the late 2000s where it has since fell victim to theft and vandalism. Most recently it has been the victim of a fire where it had left extensive damage to the ground and first floor, along with serious smoke damage to the upper floor.

4. Historic Building Investigation

4.1 Introduction

A programme of historic building investigation was undertaken to Historic England Level II/III standard prior to the conversion of the former Black Friar Public House into mixed office use, and following a soft strip of modern features inserted into the interior in the late twentieth century.

The building is L-shaped on an approximate east/west alignment, placed on the northern corner between Blackfriars Road and Trinity Way, which affords its principal access.

4.2 External Description

All external elevations are of red hand-made brick construction, laid in Flemish bond with terracotta dressings. Plinths, string-courses and aperture surrounds are a mixture of brick and dressed sandstone. All elements of the roof are finished with Welsh slate, with plain chamfered crested terracotta ridge tiles, and square profile cast-iron gutters (Plate 10).



Plate 10: Detail of the slate roof along with the plain chamfered crested terracotta ridge tiles

North elevation: the north elevation comprises two bays that form the principal façade, placed at the corner of Blackfriars Road and Trinity Way, with the main principle access through a doorway in the centre of the façade (Plate 11; Fig 5). This doorway has sandstone stepped reveals with a dressed sandstone mullion fanlight which is below a dressed sandstone hood mould. The timber-framed door is a later twentieth-century addition. Two narrow windows with decorative dressed sandstone lintels and chamfered sandstone sills are located to the east of the doorway (Plate 12; Fig 5). To the west of the doorway is a tripartite window, with tapered sandstone mullions, chamfered sandstone sill and sandstone lintel. At the time of the building survey, the lintel was obscured with a modern canvas sign, although it will almost certainly be of the same design as that of the window to the east of the doorway (Plate 13; Fig 5).



Plate 11: General view of the northern and north-eastern façades



Plate 12: Detail view of the north doorway and the two windows to the east



Plate 13: Detail view of the western window on the ground floor of the northern façade

At first-floor level, the first bay has a canted oriel window of stepped sandstone reveals with sandstone mullions and transom and a band on the corbel with the words 'YOU MAY GO FURTHER AND FARE WORSE' (Plate 14-15; Fig 5).



Plate 14: Canted oriel window of the first floor



Plate 15: Detail of the carved corbel of the first-floor window

The window on the second bay, as with the ground floor, has sandstone tripartite window, which has tapered sandstone mullions, chamfered sandstone sill and lintel. Above the lintel, a brick ogee arch along with a sandstone hood mould with an carved stone tympanum depicting a shield with corn sheaves and bees with the text that reads 'Blackfriars' 'Old School.' This has been separated by a protruding chamfered terracotta string band (Plate 16-17; Fig 5).

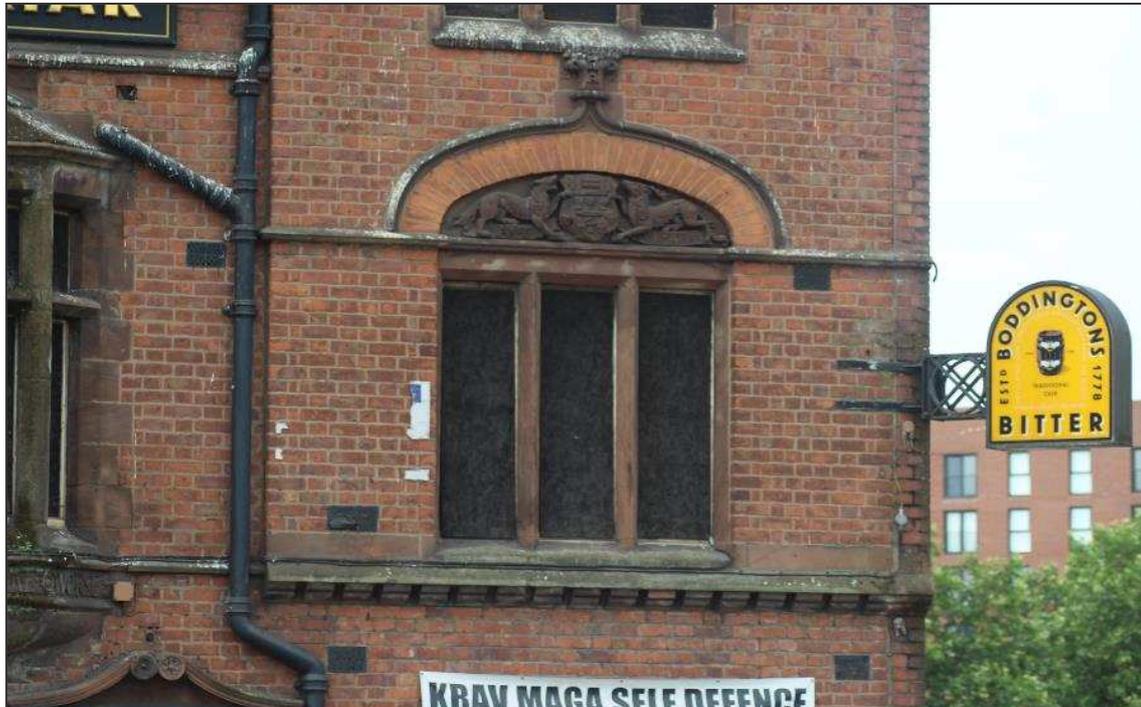


Plate 16: General view of the second bay window on the first floor



Plate 17: Detail view of the carved stone tympanum on the first-floor window

The aperture on the second floor of the first bay is of a pitched slate roofed four-light dormer which has been boarded-up recently (Plate 18). The second-bay window is a three-light aperture with tapered sandstone mullions, sandstone sill and lintel. This is set into a gabled end, which has been clad in half-round terracotta tiles with a plain terracotta tile string course (Plate 19; Fig 5).



Plate 18: View of the dormer window



Plate 19: General view of the gabled end and second-floor window

North-east elevation: this elevation is only a single bay wide, but is still three-storeys high of hand-made brick laid in a Flemish bond (Plate 20). At ground floor, a chamfered terracotta string course continues around to the northern elevation to form a plinth. A second principle entrance into the pub is located at the north-western end. This doorway has stepped sandstone reveals that support a smooth-dressed swan-neck carved lintel. The door has been removed, most likely after a fire that damaged the interior of the building, and replaced with a fixed timber board (Plate 21; Fig 5).



Plate 20: General view of the north-eastern elevation



Plate 21: Entrance doorway and small window on the north-eastern façade

A tall, narrow window is located to the south-east of the doorway. This has bevelled brick reveals, a tapered sandstone sill and a decorative swan neck carved sandstone lintel. The lintel part forms a flush string course along with a protruding sandstone string course which continues onto the northern elevation (Plate 21; Fig 5).

The window at first-floor level, which is similar to that on the second bay of the northern elevation, comprises a three-light aperture that has tapered sandstone mullions, along with a sandstone sill and carved lintel. The window has a decorative hood mould which has an extrados of rubbed red brick and a carved stone tympanum that depicts a friar above a banner with the text ‘THE BLACK FRIAR’ (Plate 22; Fig 5).

The second-floor window is set into a gable end, and comprises a tripartite window that has tapered sandstone mullions, chamfered sandstone sill and plain dressed lintel. The window retains the timber-frame window, which is a six-light frame with the central bottom pane sash opening. Externally, the four outer lights have been boarded up, although the glazing is partly remaining internally. The gable end is clad in plain terracotta tiles, with a band of semi-round tiles as decoration (Plate 23; Fig 5).



Plate 22: Detail view of the first-floor window aperture on the north-eastern elevation



Plate 23: Detail view of the gabled end and second-floor window

Eastern elevation: this elevation fronted Blossom Street, and comprises hand-made brick laid in Flemish bond (Plate 24). As with the northern and north-eastern façades, a chamfered terracotta string course forming a plinth is situated 0.6m above ground level. A ground floor window is situated between this plinth and a protruding roll carved string course. It is a tripartite window with tapered sandstone mullions, chamfered sandstone sill with a smooth dressed flat sandstone lintel (Plate 25; Fig 5). At first-floor level is a narrower window with square return end reveals, chamfered sandstone sill and a swan neck carved sandstone lintel (Plate 26; Fig 5).



Plate 24: General view of the eastern elevation



Plate 25: Detail view of the ground-floor window in the eastern façade



Plate 26: First-floor window detailing the swan neck carved lintel

A protruding chamfered carved sandstone string course below this window extends along the façade directly below sill level. This then turns 90 degrees northwards and continues along the external face of the chimney. The chimney is 7m high and 1.2m wide, and protrudes from the building at first-floor level. It is built in Flemish bond using hand-made brick. At the foot of the chimney, two drunk friars have been carved using sandstone (Plate 27; Fig 5). Above the chamfered string course is a date stone that reads 'Rebuilt AD 1886'. This has been carved in sandstone with a sandstone carved swan neck lintel and a chamfered sandstone lintel (Plate 28; Fig 5).



Plate 27: Detail shot of the chimney on the eastern elevation



Plate 28: Detail photo of the date stone at the base of chimney on the eastern elevation

Western elevation: the main western façade is constructed in English bond using machine-made bricks. This wall is fairly plain in decoration compared to the north and western walls; at lintel height of the first floor a flush darker red coloured string course was observed. Below this at the northern end a modern timber-framed board has been attached to the wall which reads ‘BLACK FRIAR BODDINGTONS.’ At truss height of the gable end, it has been clad in plain terracotta tiles, similar to that of north-eastern gable end (Plate 29). This façade abuts the corner of the northern elevation and the southern wall of the L shape, which suggests that this is part of the rebuild (Plate 30).

The western façade of the L shape was built from hand-made brick which had been laid in stretcher bond (Plate 31). The ground floor had been obscured by a later extension which had been used as the ladies toilet. This had been built from machine-made brick, laid in English bond. This had a flat roof which had been modernised using felt.

A doorway is situated to the northern end of the wall at first-floor level. It has square return reveals, which support a steel and brick lintel. The door had been later modernised to be a timber-framed fire door. This was inserted into an earlier, partially blocked-up window. The window has a sandstone lintel that has been dressed smooth. Its reveals could not be ascertained (Plate 31). A window located at the northern end of the wall at second-floor level has square return reveals with a sandstone lintel and a chamfered sandstone sill. The window is a two-light timber-framed sash window that has been boarded up due to damaged glass panes (Plate 31).



Plate 29: General view of the western elevation



Plate 30: Detail photo of the western elevation abutting the southern elevation, denoting the rebuilding

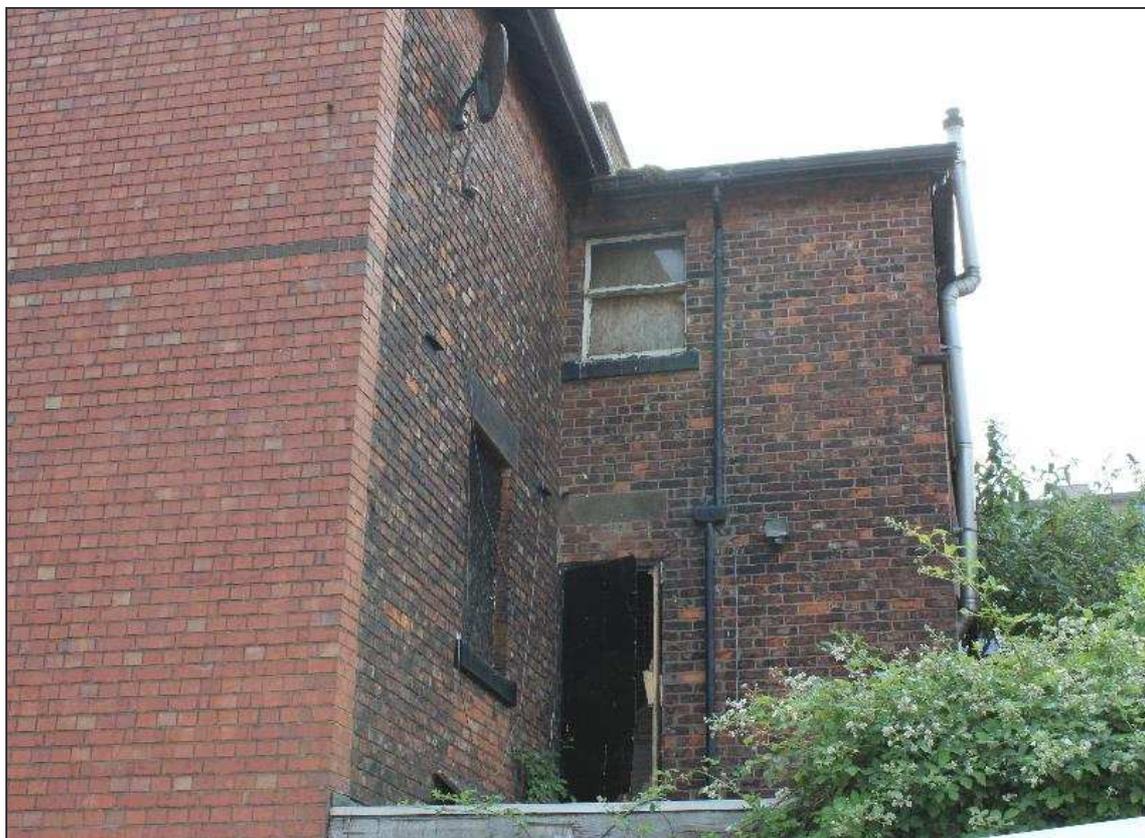


Plate 31: General view of the western wall of the L shape

Southern elevation: this elevation was mostly obscured by trees at the time of the survey, although some of the external fabric could be seen. As with the northern elevation, it is a three-storey high façade built from hand-made brick that is laid in stretcher bond (Plate 32).



Plate 32: General view of the southern façade

The ground floor is obscured from view as a single storey, stretcher bond built extension has been built at the eastern end. It has a hipped terracotta tiled roof that has an arris hipped tiles with a decorative terracotta finial at its ridge. A small window is located at the centre of the wall, which has a flush sandstone lintel supported by brick square end return reveals. This has been boarded up, but would have originally given light into the ladies toilet (Plate 32).

The first floor is largely obscured from view, although a protruding chamfered string course was observed between the first floor and the second floor. This extends around to the eastern elevation.

A window is located in the centre of the elevation on the second floor. This has a chamfered sandstone central mullion, supported by a chamfered sandstone lintel and sandstone sill. It has brick square return end reveals that house a four-light timber sash window frame. As with the other windows, it had been boarded up as the glass panes have been damaged.

The southern wall of the L-shape was built using hand-made brick laid in stretcher bond. The only feature to this wall is a boarded up window in the first floor. This has a flush sandstone lintel and chamfered sandstone sill with brick square return end reveals. The glass pain has been removed and replaced by a single sheet of plywood.

4.3 Internal Description

Internally, the building had been heavily modernised, and had been fire damaged. However, some of the original features were uncovered during a ‘soft strip’ of modern fixtures and fittings.

Ground Floor: the ground floor had been separated into six separate compartments (Fig 1). Main access into the pub was gained through the doorway within the northern elevation, which leads into an entrance hallway. The main door is a nine-panelled timber door that has a modern Yale lock located on the eastern side of the door in between the lock rail and the upper cross rail (Plate 33). The sandstone mullion fanlight above the door, that was boarded up from the outside, has retained its glasswork (Plate 34).

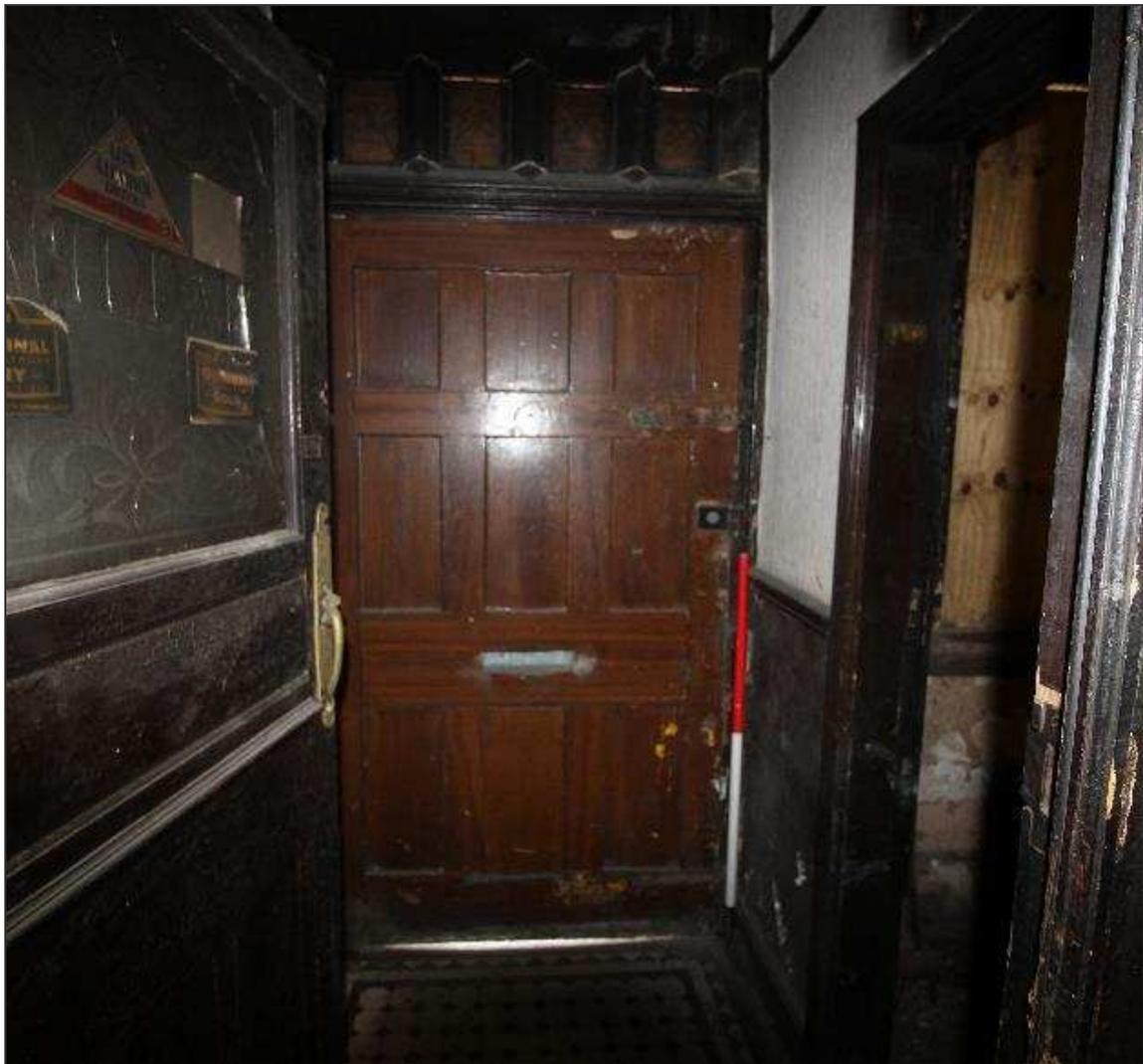


Plate 33: Main timber door in the northern entrance



Plate 32: Detail of the sandstone mullion fanlight above the main door

The hallway had been badly fire damaged, although the majority of the decor can be seen. The western wall has been split into half by a dado rail, with the upper part covered in patterned wallpaper and the lower half painted a dark mahogany red. The eastern wall has the same decor as the western wall, with the addition of a doorway that leads into the eastern end of the bar. The door comprises a two-panelled lower half and glass upper half timber door, although the glass had been removed. The door frame has been built from timber, and has a moulded side and header casings. Both the door and the frame have been stained a dark mahogany brown.

The southern wall mainly contains a second door that leads into the central area of the pub. This door is similar to that in the eastern doorway, comprising a two-panelled lower half and a frosted glass pane above the lock rail. It has a swirl motif below the text 'BLACKFRIARS', both of which have been etched into the frosting of the glass. The floor of the hallway is tiled with white and brown square tiles, encompassed by a border of rectangular-shaped brown tiles (Plate 33). The ceiling is covered using a white painted flowery design wallpaper. The edges had timber gothic design timber cornices that had been previously been painted blue. A glass ceiling rose has been used as a cover for a light, which would had given light into the entrance hallway (Plate 34).



Plate 33: Tiled floor of the main entrance



Plate 34: The ceiling of the main entrance, detailing the ceiling rose

The main bar area has been split into four separate areas. The main area is accessed through the eastern and southern internal doors of the entrance hallway. The northern wall is dominated with two windows. These are both rectangular in shape with timber frames inside sandstone reveals. The frames have been badly fire damaged, but the remains of a moulded timber-header casing survive. A 2” timber baton had been inserted into the wall below the windows and has been used as their internal sills. Above and below the windows the wall has been rendered in plaster, which has been directly applied to the inner face of the external wall (Plate 35).



Plate 35: The northern wall of the main bar area

A second main entrance door is located at the north-western side of the north-eastern wall. The door and doorframe have been removed completely, presumably due to the fire (Plate 36). A window is situated 500mm south-east of the door. This window is rectangular in shape with brick reveals that support a sandstone lintel. The timber frame, as with the windows on the northern wall, had been badly fire damaged. The frame has moulded timber side and header casings. The window is supported by a 2” timber baton inserted into the wall and has been bedded using cement mortar. The wall below and above the window has been rendered in plaster, although due to water ingress the majority of the plaster has been removed, exposing the inner face of the external wall (Plate 37).



Plate 36: The north-eastern wall of the main room, detailing the second entrance doorway



Plate 37: The internal view of the window on the north-eastern façade

The internal face of the eastern wall was completely destroyed by the fire, although the remains of the dado rail can still be seen. The wall would have been decorated in the same fashion as the rest of the room, with plain white wallpaper above the rail and painted a mahogany red below the rail.

At the western end of this room is the timber panelled bar. It is 2.37 x 2.76m and is 1.15m high. The panels are decorated with flower detail in between trefoil moulding (Plate 38-39).



Plate 38: General view of the bar



Plate 39: Detail of the timber panelling of the bar

This room is separated from a second room by a non-load bearing decorative archway that incorporates a three-pointed arch at its southern end. It has been built using a timber frame that has been rendered using plaster. It has moulded skirting boards which have been nailed to the frame using headless nails. A dado rail that has been painted mahogany red separates the pier walls. The top half of the wall has plain white wallpaper, whilst the lower half has patterned wallpaper that has been painted a mahogany red. A half-round moulded picture rail is located directly above the crown of the arch. Above this is flowery patterned wallpaper that leads up to a plaster coving, both of which have been heavily fire damaged (Plate 40).



Plate 40: Arch between the main room and a second room

The second room that is linked by the arch is 1.15 x 0.81m. The southern face of the arch, which forms the northern wall of the room, has been decorated in the same manner as on the northern side. The wallpaper above the picture rail retains its detail, showing that it had the same pattern as that used on the lower half of the arch, below the dado rail (Plate 40).

The eastern wall has a window 0.3m in from the northern end. This comprises a six-light sash window that has roll-moulded side and head casings along with an internal timber sill. It has steel security bars on the inside on the lower three lights, but has been boarded up from the outside (Plate 41).



Plate 41: Window on the eastern wall of the second room

The floor in this area has been tiled using linoleum square tiles. However, due to the fire, the majority of these have been destroyed and only remnants remained.

The south-western corner of the ground floor has been heavily modernised with the construction of a set of ladies and gents toilets. The ladies facilities are accessed through a timber-framed hollow-section door. This has been decorated with a timber arch-shaped bead on the outer face and is plain white on the internal face. The room has been partitioned off to create three separate toilet cubicles. The main area and the cubicles are decorated in flowery tiles on the walls and a mustard yellow coloured tiles on the floor and the ceiling.

The gent's toilets are accessed through a similar styled door in the southern end of the western partitioned wall. These toilets have been split into two sections, a urinal area at the eastern end and a single toilet cubical at the western end. All the internal fixtures and fittings are modern, with blue tiles covering the floor and the walls. A boarded up window is located in the southern wall. This window has half-round moulded timber head and side casings, which have been painted white. The lintel and original sill are not exposed, although they have been tiled over using the same tile as the rest of the wall.

A separate room, used as a separate lounge, is located off the western side of the main bar. Access is gained through a timber-clad arched doorway, which has a flowery designed double stain glass fan light (Plate 42). Internally, this room has been decorated using a flowery wallpaper design on all four walls. A dado rail and a picture rail separate each wall into three parts. A six-light window is located on the northern wall. This window is rectangular in shape with brick reveals that support a sandstone lintel. The timber frame has moulded side and header casings along with a chamfered timber lintel.

The window is supported by a 2" timber baton that has been inserted into the wall and bedded using cement mortar. Beneath the window, are a set of 2 ½" heating pipes. These would have been used to heat the room and would have been encased below a bench seating that has been removed recently (Plate 43).



Plate 42: Doorway leading into the lounge



Plate 43: The window and heating pipes in the northern wall

The western wall is dominated by a protruding chimney in its centre of the wall, together with its demolished fireplace. The fireplace has a stone hearth and firebrick back which was exposed after the removal of the surround that would have originally been of cast iron. The mantel had also been removed, but the remains of the 1 ½”thick timber mantle were observed 1.5m up from the floor (Plate 44).



Plate 44: Protruding chimney and the robbed out fireplace in the western wall

The doorway in the eastern wall has two projecting timber wings either side of the door that extend 800mm into the room. These comprise four-panelled timber frames that have stain glass freezes on the upper two panels. The freezes depict two friars facing each other reading the bible. At the top of each post that had been concreted into the floor, is a carving of a friar, the northern carving has his hood up, while the southern carving has it dropped to his shoulders (Plate 45-47).



Plate 45: General view of the timber panelled doorway between the bar and the lounge



Plate 46: Detail of the friar's head on the northern timber panel in the lounge



Plate 47: Detail of the friar's head on the southern timber panel in the lounge

The ceiling, as with that in the entrance, has been papered with a flowery designed wallpaper encompassed with gothic-design timber cornices that have been painted blue.

The floor had been originally tiled using blue and red coloured tiles that had been badly damaged in the fire and some had subsequently been removed.

A staircase is located in the centre of the ground floor, affording access to the upper floors (Plate 48). The stairs are constructed using a framed newel that has slender-turned balusters with elaborate carved panels that are below a half-round carved hand rail (Plate 49). The newel post has a carved acorn on the top along with elaborate carvings on the three exposed sides with a friar's face carved into the middle (Plate 50). The stairs are constructed using 150mm high timber risers that support timber treads that measure 280mm. These are set into the eastern wall of the stairwell.



Plate 48: Central stairwell on the ground floor



Plate 49: Detail of the decorative panel between the handrail and the balusters of the main stair case

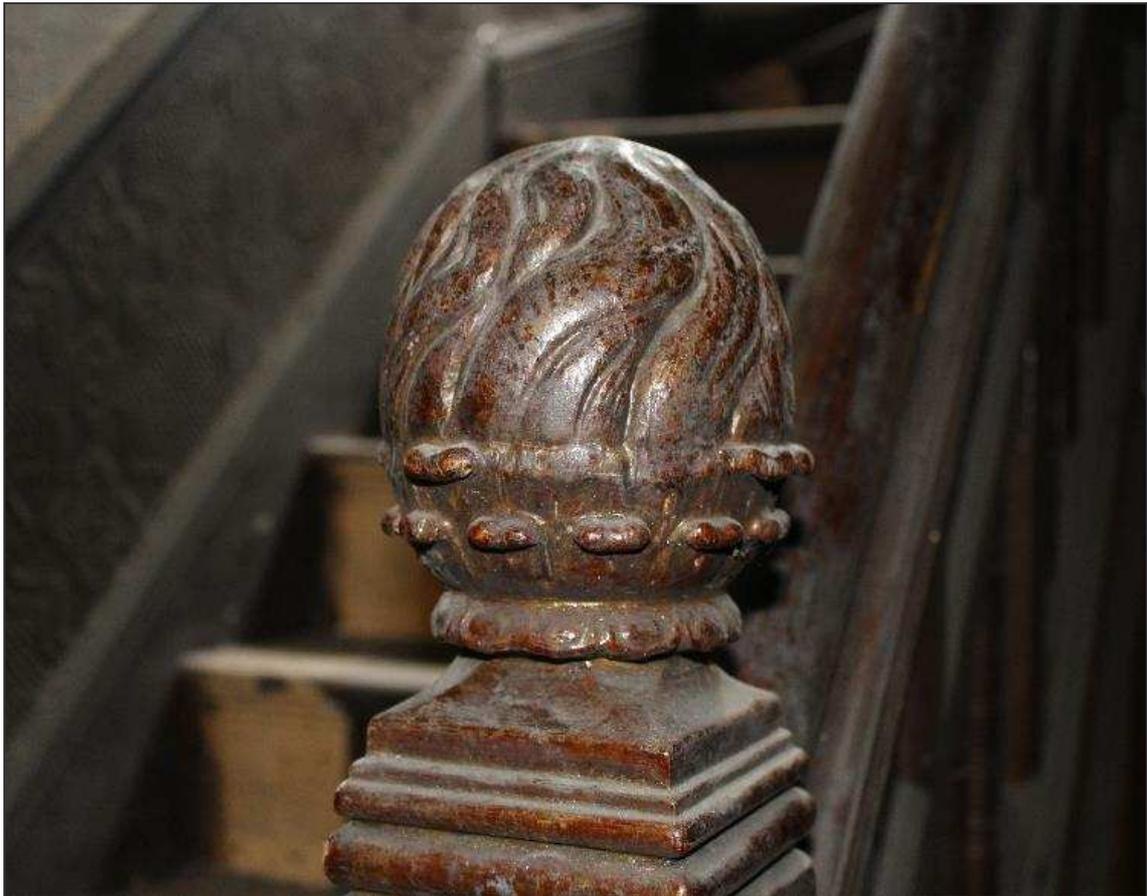


Plate 50: Detail of the acorn on top of the newel post

First Floor: the first floor is accessed from the central stairwell. The slender-turned balustrades, decorative carved panels and half-round hand rail continue up from the ground floor (Plate 51). The newel posts have elaborate turned tops, which differ from the ground floor (Plate 51). The floor has been split into three separate compartments that are accessed from a small hallway which doubles as the first-floor landing (Fig 2). The hallway has a timber floor that has been partially removed in places. These measure 100mm wide, 12mm thick and are various sizes in length. The ceiling had originally been papered, presumably with wallpaper that was similar to that on the ground floor, although this had been severely damaged in the fire and only the charred remains could be seen. A modern fire exit has been inserted into the western wall. This doorway, as previously described on the western external façade, has been inserted into an earlier window. The door casing has been set into the external wall facing and is constructed from pine. The door has been removed completely, although the remains of the emergency push-pad door lock are still attached to the door frame.

The first room lies at the eastern end of the hallway. The door frame has moulded timber sides and header casing and has a half upturned timber threshold. The door has been removed, and the frame has suffered extensive fire damage (Plate 52).



Plate 51: General view of the first-floor landing



Plate 52: Doorway leading into the eastern room on the first floor

Inside the room, a 980mm wide window is located on the eastern wall. It is a two-light, timber-sash window that has timber moulded sides and header casing. The internal sill is a chamfered 1 ½” thick timber sill that is bedded directly onto the internal face of the eastern elevation. The single-glazed glass pain in the bottom light survives intact, although the pain in the upper light has been partially broken, probably from vandalism as it had been boarded up from the outside. A timber dado rail is situated directly below sill level, and extends from the northern wall to the southern wall. A modern wall-mounted cupboard is located to the north of the window (Plate 53).



Plate 53: The window in the eastern wall of the first room

A blocked-up chimney breast is located on the northern wall of the room. This breast extends into the room by 500mm and is 3.12m long. At the eastern end of the breast, a false two-panelled door is located. This has a timber half-round turned door knob, 1.2m up from the floor. The door has been fixed closed and has a dado rail running across from the lock rail, which has an external mitre cut to join onto the dado rail on the eastern wall (Plate 54). To the west of the chimney, a small hatch that opens out into the second room at the northern end of the building. Below this hatch is a modern double-panelled radiator that had been plumbed in using 12mm diameter copper pipe (Plate 55).



Plate 54: Chimney breast within the first room



Plate 55: Detail of the hatch between the first and second room

The southern wall of the room is plainly decorated, although a 1.3m wide cupboard is built from floor to ceiling at the western end. Within this cupboard is a late 1980s heating boiler and associated pipework.

The floor had originally been boarded out using the same timber boards as the hallway, although these had been removed and replaced with 12mm-thick plywood sheets. The ceiling has been painted white and contains two strip lights that would have illuminated the room

The second room, located at the north-eastern corner of the first floor, has also been heavily modernised. The southern wall contains the only access into the room by a doorway at the western end that leads in from the hallway. The door frame is of timber construction, similar to that of the first room. The door comprises a modern timber-framed hollow door that has been painted white. Internally, a gas fire is located at the eastern end of the southern wall. This has a mahogany surround which has shelves on either side of the fire and a short, 250mm wide mantel (Plate 56).



Plate 56: Southern wall of the second room showing the doorway, the gas fire and the hatch between the first and second rooms

The eastern wall has been papered using a flowery designed wallpaper that covered any remains of any of the historic fabric. The north-eastern wall is dominated by a six-light timber-framed sash window. This has timber jambs that support a timber lintel, all of which have been covered using timber-moulded side and header casing. Above the header case a boxed valance covers the curtain track. The single-glazed panes have been retained by half-round timber beads and all except the central pane are *in-situ*. The internal sill is a level 1" thick timber board that stretches the entire length of the wall, suggesting that it was also used as a shelf. The wall below the sill extends out 200mm into the room, which forms a boxed frame that a modern double-panel radiator has been hung upon (Plate 57).



Plate 57: Window within the north-eastern wall

The northern wall has the internal face of the canted oriel window of stepped sandstone reveals with sandstone mullions and transom in the northern elevation that has been described above. Internally, this window has an eight-light timber frame window, with the centre four lights side hung opening. The glazing has been removed, and boarded up using 10mm thick plywood. The side and header casing comprise Victorian-style moulded timber. Above the header case is a boxed valance that covers a curtain track. The sill is a half-round moulded edge timber board that is 1”thick and mitered into the oriel window reveals. Below the window is a modern double-panelled radiator that has been hung at skirting board level (Plate 58).

The western wall of this second room is plainly decorated the flowery wallpaper that the rest of the room was decorated in. The only feature is that the wall extends 900mm into the room at its southern side, allowing the entrance into the third room to be more accessible.

The floor has been boarded out using the same timber boards as the hallway, each measuring 100mm wide, 12mm thick and of various lengths. The ceiling has been firstly papered using a flowery designed paper then more recently had been painted white. A Victorian moulded-style skirting board continues around the room and into the hallway.



Plate 58: Window within the northern elevation

The third room is located at the north-western end of this level, with access gained through a doorway at the eastern end of the northern wall of the hallway. As with the other rooms on this level, the doorway comprises a timber frame that has Victorian-style moulded side and header casing. The threshold has been removed, but it would most probably have been a half-round upturned timber threshold. The door has also been removed, although a door had been left in the room against the eastern wall. This comprised a modern, hollow timber-frame door. The floor is a continuation of the timber boards that were used within the hallway.

Internally, this room has a six-light window on the northern wall, which is in the same style as the windows in the second room. However, the boxed valance has been removed, exposing the timber curtain rail. Below the window are two L-shaped brackets, which would have supported a modern radiator (Plate 59).



Plate 59: Timber-framed window within the northern wall of the third room

The western wall contains the chimney breast and the remains of the fireplace. The fireplace has been removed, although the stone hearth and its segmental brick-arch head remain. A vent has been later inserted into the southern end of the chimney, which has been covered with a cast-iron grate (Plate 60).



Plate 60: Chimney and robbed-out fireplace on the western elevation

The southern wall contains the doorway at the eastern end and a window in the centre of the wall. This window is 1.25m long, and has brick reveals that support a stone lintel, as described on the southern external elevation. The two-light, timber window frame is similar that that on the northern wall. Below the window are the remains of the L-shaped brackets that support a radiator that is screwed to the wall (Plate 61).



Plate 61: Window within the southern wall of the third room

Second Floor: the second floor is accessed from the central stairwell. The slender turned balustrades, decorative carved panels and half-round hand rail continue up from the first floor, which ends as a guardrail on the top-floor landing. The tops of the newel posts have similar design to those on the first floor (Plate 62).

This floor has been separated into three bedrooms, a bathroom, and a large landing that doubles as a hallway (Fig 3). The floor of the hallway was originally timber boards, similar to those on the first floor. On the western wall a window, measuring 1.48m wide, 1.5m high is located 700mm up from floor level. It has been boarded up using 10mm thick plywood, although the Victorian mould designed side and header casing are still visible. The internal timber sill is ½” thick and has a half-round external safety edge (Plate 63). Upon removal of the timber sill, a rubbed sandstone sill was exposed, which had formed part of the original aperture (Plate 64).



Plate 62: The top guardrail on the second-floor landing



Plate 63: View of the window on the western wall of the hallway on the second floor



Plate 64: Detail of the original dressed sandstone sill within the western wall

The first bedroom is located at the south-eastern end of the second floor, with access through a doorway at the northern end of its partition wall. The doorway is built in the similar manner as those on the first floor; the doorframe comprises timber and has a Victorian designed side and header casing. The door is four panelled with a modern aluminum handle and an internal three-leaver lock that is offset from the lock rail of the door.

Internally, the room has a timber-boarded floor similar to that of the hallway. The ceiling has been painted white and contains a single drop-down light for illuminating the room.

The eastern and western walls had been painted white originally, but had suffered from smoke damage from the fire. The western wall only had the doorway at its northern end, while the eastern wall had no distinguishing features.

The north-eastern wall contains a small cast-iron fireplace at its north-western side. This has decorative flowery detail on the columns and header, along with a fluted cast-iron panel that would have been below the mantel along with a curving grate at the front (Plate 65).



Plate 65: Detail of the fireplace within the north-eastern wall

The northern wall is dominated by the chimney breast, which extends 470mm into the room and measures 2.33m wide. A small recess, presumably used as a cupboard, lies at the western end of the chimney. This measures 2m high, 1.27m wide and has a depth of 470mm.

The southern wall contains a two-light side hung window that has been boarded up using 10mm-thick plywood. The frame window casing has been made from Victorian-style design moulded timber that has been painted white. The sill comprises ½” thick timber that has been sat directly upon the internal face of the southern elevation (Plate 66).

Access to the second bedroom is gained via a doorway that is 840mm north of the first room’s door. This door also has side and header casing that has been moulded in a Victorian profile. The floor is also built from timber boards that extend in from the hallway. The ceiling would have been originally been plastered and papered, although this had been removed completely, exposing the ceiling and roof timbers. The ceiling joists have the remains of the lath and plaster. The hipped roof trusses and king post trusses can also be seen. The central king post truss has the tie beam supported by a timber beam measuring 100mm wide and 50mm thick. This has been bolted through the tie beam using square 30mm square-head bolts and has been socketed into the wall-plate (Plate 67-68).



Plate 66: View of boarded-up window in the southern elevation



Plate 67: King post truss as seen through the ceiling joists



Plate 68: Detail of the of the tie beam support

The southern wall incorporates the northern face of the chimney in the first bedroom, and contains a brick-built fireplace at its centre. The cast-iron surround has been removed completely, exposing the firebrick sloping back and segmental brick-arch head. The cast-iron fire grate and stone hearth survive *in-situ* (Plate 69).



Plate 69: Detail of the fireplace in the southern wall of the second bedroom

The eastern and northern walls had been painted white originally, but both had suffered smoke and fire damage. A timber-framed window is located on the north-eastern wall. It is a six-light sash window that has Victorian-style moulded side and header casing. The single-glazed window panes have been mainly destroyed or removed and boarded-up using plywood, except the bottom north-western pane that has been partially damaged by vandalism. The sill is 1” thick timber that has a half-round moulded edge and has been laid upon the inner course of the north-eastern elevation. Below the window is a modern double-panelled radiator that has been hung above the skirting board (Plate 70).



Plate 70: General view of the window in the north-eastern wall

The third bedroom is located at the north-western end of the floor, with access gained from a door in the western wall of the hallway. As with the other doorways within the first and second floors, this bedroom’s doorway had been built using a timber frame encased with a Victorian-style moulded side and header casing. The floor of the room is similarly a continuation of the timber boards from the hallway. The ceiling has been removed completely, exposing the remains of the original lath and plaster.

The northern wall has a six-light timber-framed window within it. As with the window in the second bedroom, it has a Victorian moulded style side and header case. The glass panes have been removed, and the lights boarded-up with plywood. Below the window is a double-panelled modern radiator that has been hung at skirting-board level. The wall has been papered with a light pink flowery design wallpaper that has sustained smoke and fire damage (Plate 71).



Plate 71: General view of the window in the northern wall of the third bedroom

The western wall contains a chimney and its associated brick built fireplace. The chimney measures 2m wide and extends 460mm into the room. The fireplace surround has been removed completely, exposing the firebrick back and its segmental brick-arch head. The breast and the wall have been papered using a pink coloured flowery design wallpaper, that has suffered some smoke damage (Plate 72).



Plate 70: Detail view of the fireplace on the western wall of the third bedroom



Plate 72: General view of the eastern access into the cellar



Plate 73: Timber ladder leading from street level into the basement



Plate 74: Cast-iron hatch doors leading to street level

The northern wall contains a central chimney, along with an associated fireplace. The fireplace surround has been removed, and has been partially blocked up, although the firebrick back was partially visible. A 25mm deep drainage channel has been formed in the concrete floor. This has a small fall to it, running from the extension to the western side of the chimney where it enters the northern wall of the room (Plate 75).



Plate 75: Concrete floor of the first room, detailing drainage channel formed within it

The second room of the cellar is located at the northern end, and is accessed from a double doorway in the northern wall of the hallway. The doorway has a pine timber doorframe. The doors are of a modern composite of a timber frame which supported fire proof panels. As with the first room, the walls, floor and ceiling in this room have been rendered in concrete. The southern wall contains several different types of modern beer-pumping equipment. At the western end of the wall is a small alcove, measuring 1.53m wide and extending south by 1.66m. The function for this is unknown, although it would probably have been used for storage of alcohol (Plate 76).



Plate 76: General view of the storage area within the second room of the cellar

The western wall contains the base of the chimney that continues up through the building on each floor. At the centre of the chimney, an associated fireplace is located. This has the surround removed and its flue blocked up at the throat. The removal has exposed the segmental arched head that is 1.6m up from the floor (Plate 77).



Plate 77: Detail view of the fireplace on the western wall of the basement

The northern wall has a three-light timber-framed window at the western end that is situated 1.2m above floor level, and served as a cellar light in the northern elevation. The reveals and sill have been rendered in concrete, although parts of this have been removed, revealed that the original brick fabric of the sill. The lintel has also been rendered internally, although externally the chamfered sandstone is visible. The glass panes have been removed and boarded up on the central and eastern light, although the western light retained its glass (Plate 78).

A second cellar light was observed at the eastern end of the wall. This window had most of the render removed around the sill and around the eastern reveal. This exposed that both had been built from brick, with bull-nose brick edges. The panes had been removed from the timber frame, and the aperture boarded-up subsequently using plywood (Plate 79).

A doorway into a small cupboard is situated 300mm to the east of the window. The doorway comprises bull-nose brick reveals that support a 200mm thick timber lintel. It has a timber doorframe with a fanlight at the top that has its glass panes removed and replaced with timber panels. The internal walls, ceiling and floor of the cupboard are built from hand-made brick that have been bonded using lime mortar. The door has been removed, although the pintels have been retained on the western jamb (Plate 79).



Plate 78: Window at the western end of the northern wall



Plate 79: Blocked-up window and cupboard at the eastern end of the northern wall

The north-eastern wall and the eastern walls have been completely rendered in concrete in two sections. Both the upper section and lower section concealed any original features.

The floor, as with that in the first room, has a 25mm deep drainage channel formed in the concrete. This has a slight fall that starts at the fireplace at the western wall, and finishes at the small drain that is located to the east of the main door in the southern wall of the room (Plate 80).



Plate 80: General view of the second room of the basement, detailing the drainage channel formed within the concrete floor

5. Conclusion

5.1 Conclusion

The Black Friar Public House, after the rebuild of 1886, represents a fine example of mid-Victoria public house design. It was built in a prominent position within the growing suburb of Salford, in a Vernacular Revival style. The use of sandstone around the external apertures on the northern, north-eastern and eastern sides, are typical of this period.

The exact date of origin of the Black Friar has not been established fully, as it did not become a public house officially until 1939, having functioned previously as a beer house. It has been suggested that the site was called the 'Old School Inn' originally, although this cannot be corroborated from desk-based research of trade directories and census returns. It had been noted in 1856 John Hampson occupied and operated an 'academy' at 1 Blossom Street. This could have been the origin of the 'Old School' stone carving above the first floor window on the northern elevation. It is also probable that 1 Blossom Street could have been adjacent to the Black Friar Public House.

The documentary evidence indicates that a rectangular-shaped structure had occupied the site in the 1820s, representing the footprint of the original building. With the extension of Blackfriars Street in 1880, creating Blackfriars Road, the building was rebuilt. The architectural features on the external façades also suggest that some of the carved stone work had possibly been salvaged from an earlier building. It is debatable if they had been from the building that occupied the site previously, or possibly came from a Blackfriars Hotel on Blackfriars Street that is listed in the trade directory of 1841.

The interior of the public house had been subject to some modernisation, with the installation of gas central heating, toilet facilities and re-decoration. Some of the historic features remained within the ground floor, including the ornate carved friar heads in the lounge and on the newel post on the main staircase. Most of the fireplace surrounds had fallen victim to theft except one, located in small bedroom on the second floor. However, with the surrounds removed, it did present an opportunity to observe the construction of the fireplaces themselves, all having segmental arch heads and firebrick backs.

The proposed conversion of the public house will remove the intrusive twentieth-century interventions to the Black Friar. The remainder of the structure is to be retained within the proposed development, ensuring the future use and preservation of an important local landmark that had fallen into disuse and is currently 'at risk' from its dilapidated and deteriorating condition.

Sources

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The historic building investigation was carried out by Lewis Stitt. The report was written by Lewis Stitt and Chris Wild, and the illustrations were and compiled by Lewis Stitt. This report was edited by Ian Miller, who was also responsible for project management.

Appendix 1: Illustrations

- Figure 1: Ground-floor plan
- Figure 2: First-floor plan
- Figure 3: Second-floor plan
- Figure 4: Basement-floor plan
- Figure 5: North and east external elevations

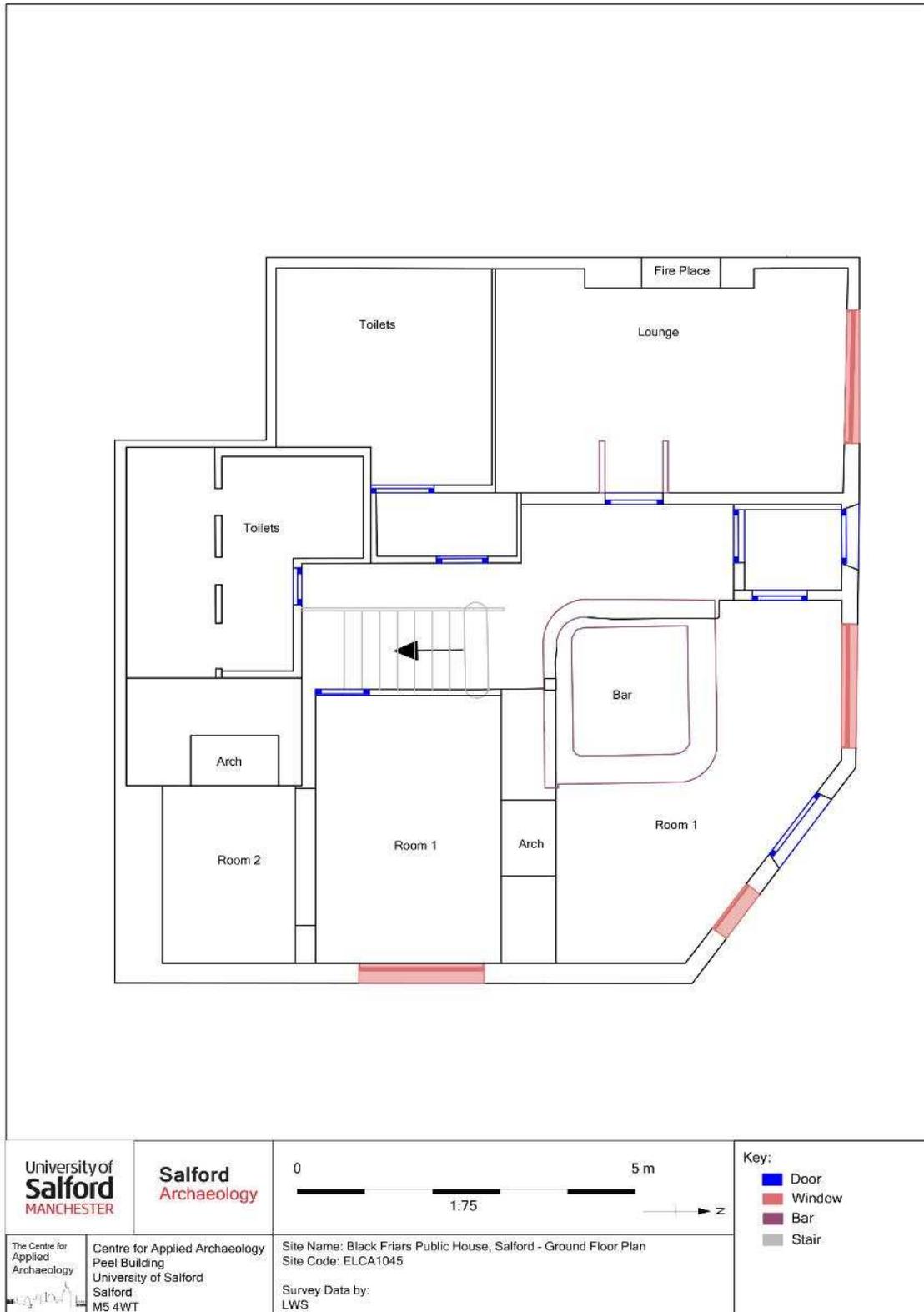


Figure 1: Ground-floor plan

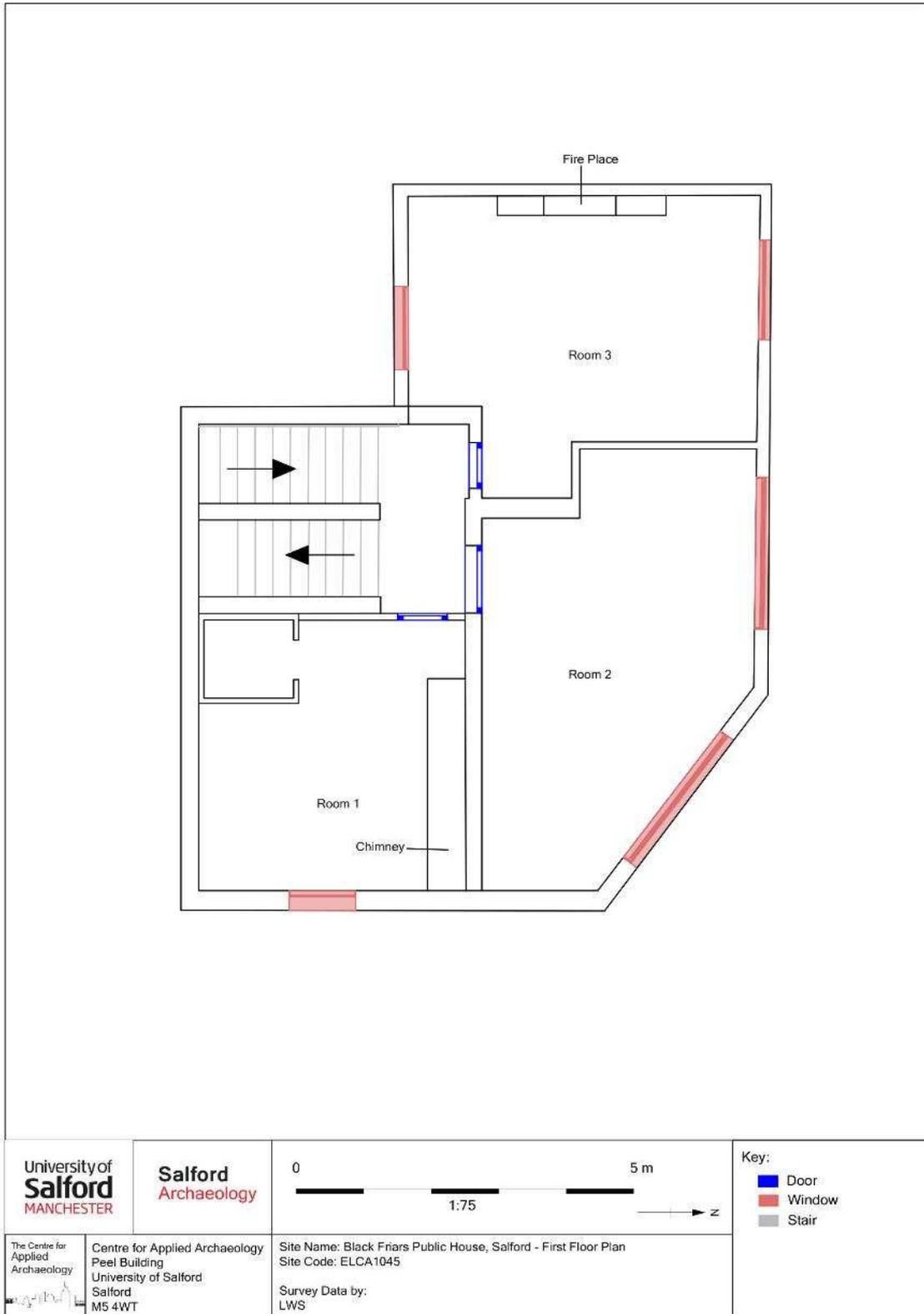


Figure 2: First-floor plan

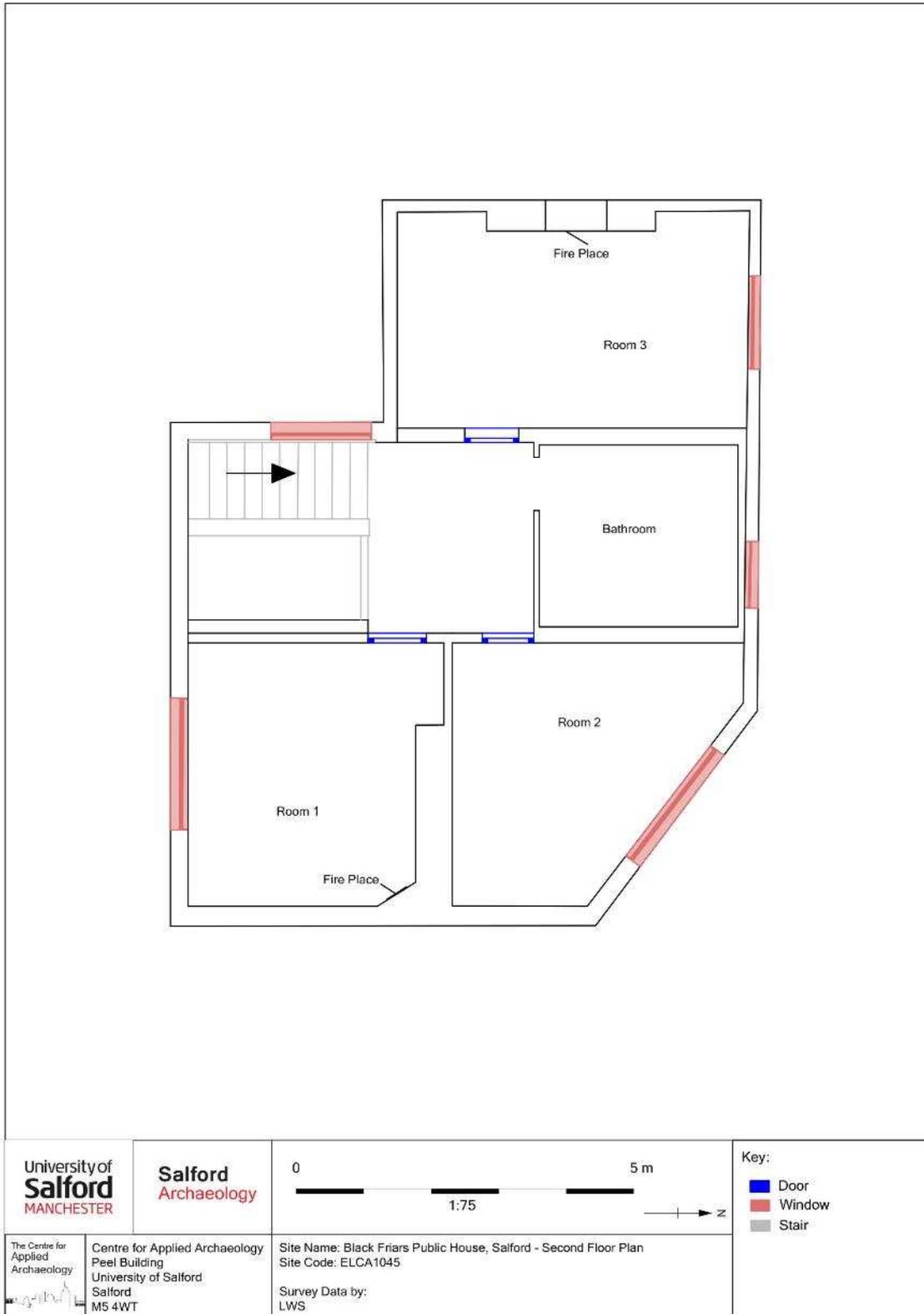


Figure 3: Second-floor plan

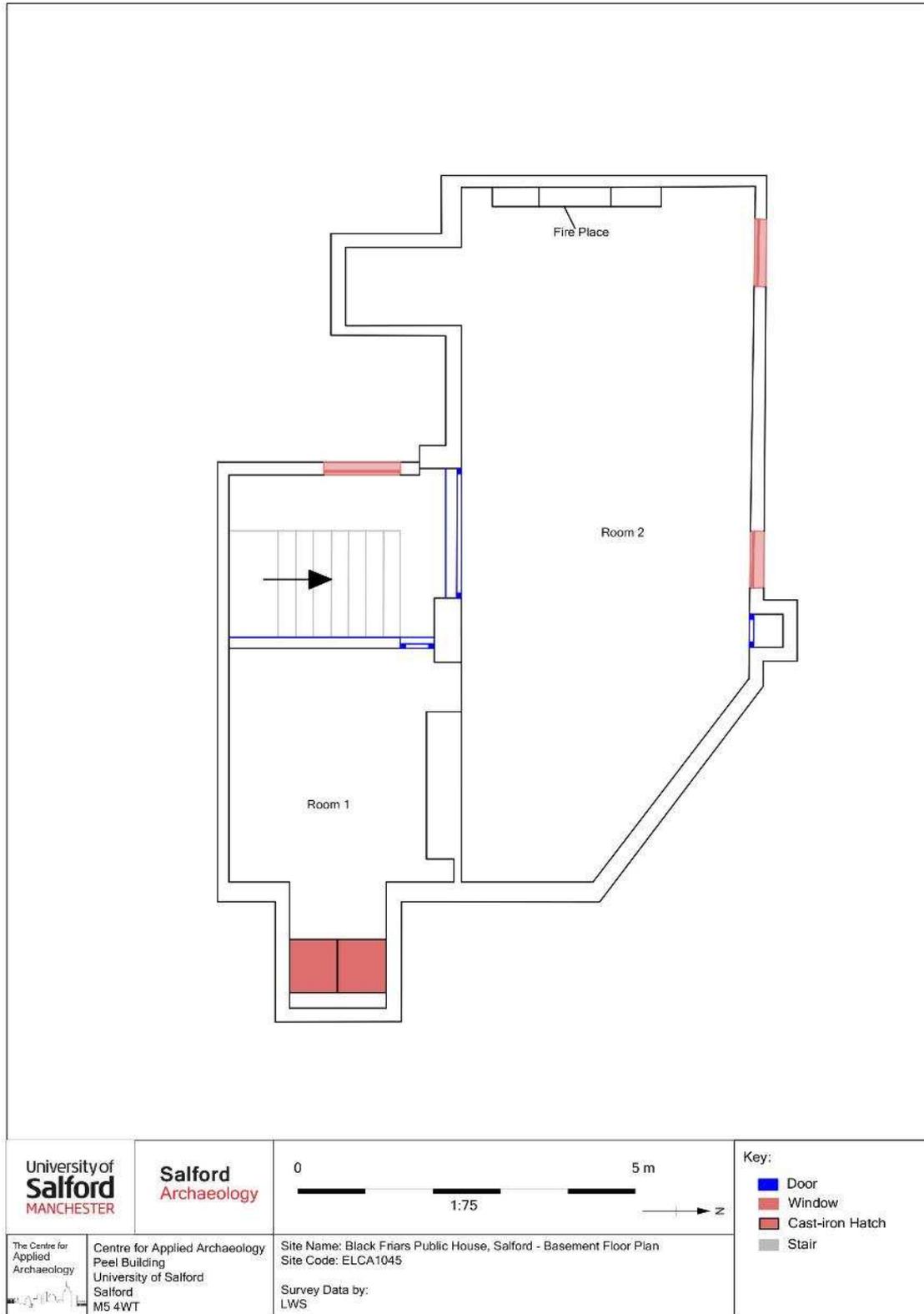
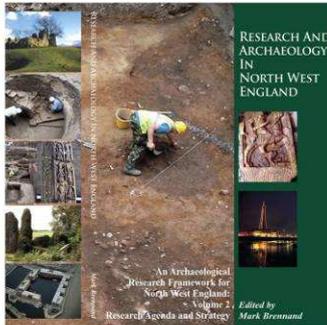


Figure 4: Basement-floor plan

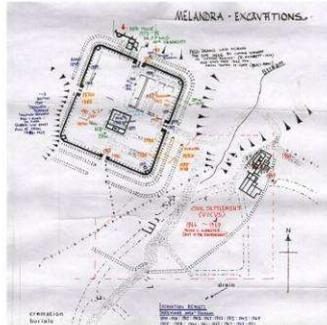


Figure 5: North- and east-facing external elevations

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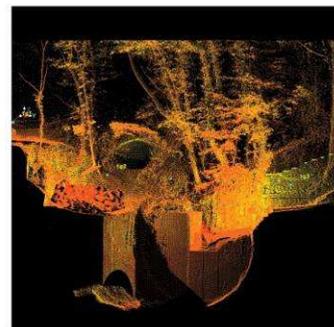
EXCAVATION



BUILDING SURVEY



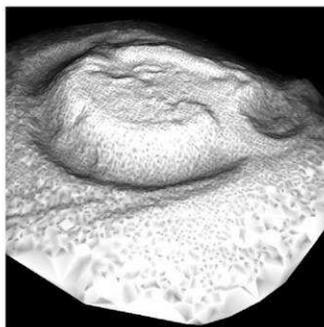
3D LASER SCANNING



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



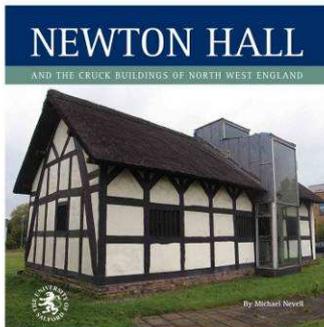
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