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Archaeological Excavation Report

Coalshaw Green
Farmhouse,
Coalshaw Green,
Chadderton

Client: Countryside
Properties UK

Technical Report:
E. Statham

Report No:
SA/2017/33



Site Location: The site occupies a plot of vacant land on Coalshaw Green Road in Chadderton, Oldham, Greater Manchester

NGR: Centred at SD 90379 03319

Internal Ref: SA/2017/33

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Summary

Salford Archaeology were commissioned by Countryside Properties UK Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation within an area bounded by Coalshaw Green Road and Drury Lane, Chadderton, Oldham, Greater Manchester (centred on SD 90379 03319). This report presents the results of the excavation work and also incorporates the findings from a watching brief carried out in the south-east corner of the site. The archaeological remains found were revealed at a depth of 0.25 m below the current ground level.

A previous archaeological evaluation (Hinchliffe; SA/15/2017) undertaken in January 2017 had indicated that there was significant survival of the farmhouse associated with Coalshaw Green Farm.

The results of the excavation of this area revealed well preserved further remains of the farmhouse which consisted of a series of rooms and an array of different surfaces. Some of these remains could be positively identified to be associated with the farmhouse whilst some were remains of outbuildings and courtyards. The buildings were constructed of a mixture of handmade brick walls some with stone foundations, stone walls and walls built using machine made brick. Two phases of buildings were identified with the stone walls relating to an earlier c18th century building and the brick walls being associated with a later design involving extensive re-building. Fragments of 18th century pottery were found which suggested that the remains predated the mapping evidence.

In the south-east corner of the development site, the Coalshaw Green Cottages were identified by a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) (Nash, 2016). The area could not be accessed by evaluation due to the presence of Japanese knotweed. During the excavations of the farmhouse, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the area whilst the Japanese knotweed was removed. Substantial structural remains were revealed which comprised of handmade brick walls as well as tiled, flagged and cobbled floor surfaces. The remains excavated were of two different buildings. There was an L-shaped building which produced only fragmentary remains and a square cottage building which had well preserved remains.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

In March 2017, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Countryside Properties UK (Ltd) to undertake an archaeological excavation within an area bounded by Coalshaw Green Road and Drury Lane, Chadderton, Oldham, Greater Manchester, as part of a redevelopment scheme. The work was carried out in order to record the remains of the former farmhouse associated with Coalshaw Green Farm, that were identified during a previous archaeological evaluation, and to undertake a watching brief on the area of the Coalshaw Green Cottages in the south-east corner of the development area. The excavation was undertaken between March and April 2017.

The works were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) provided by Salford Archaeology and approved by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS). The archaeological work was commissioned to fulfil part of an archaeological planning condition placed on the proposed development by GMAAS in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the Greater Manchester Planning Authorities.

1.2 Location, Topography and Current Land Use

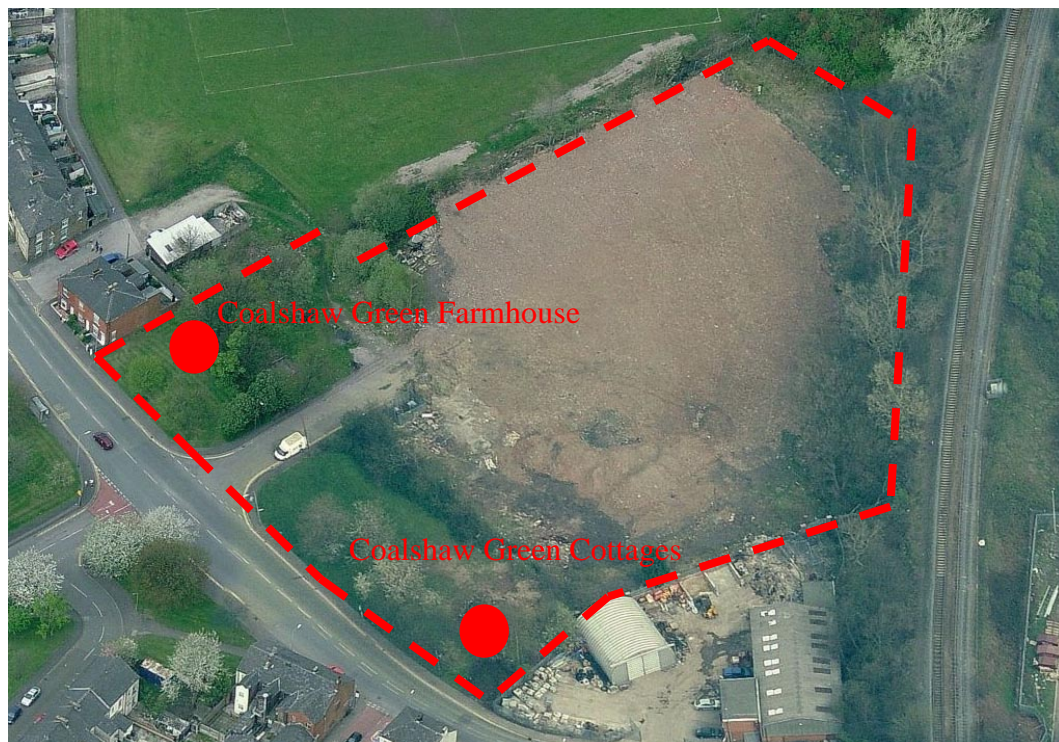


Plate 1. Recent aerial view of the Excavation Area. Looking North

The excavation area is located within Chadderton, Oldham, Greater Manchester, (centred on SD 90379 03319) and is bounded by Coalshaw Green Park to the north, Coalshaw Green Road/ Drury Lane to the west, and to the east by the Hollinwood branch of the London and Yorkshire Railway (Plate 1).

The areas covered by the excavation comprise a heavily overgrown and lightly landscaped area of land to the north of Rose Street measuring approximately 1480 square metres which is partially owned by Oldham Council. The area of the watching brief comprised a heavily overgrown area of land to the south of Rose Street measuring approximately 66m by 28m.

In 2007 Rose Mill was destroyed in a fire. The archaeological evaluation revealed that subsequent demolition of the fire damaged remains had scattered building material across parts of the site. In certain areas this meant that the pre fire 2007 ground surface, below which the farmhouse remains lay, were covered in up to 1.50m of demolition rubble. Once this had been removed the farmhouse remains, and in the south-east the cottage remains, lay only a slight depth below the 2007 ground surface.

1.3 Geology

The underlying solid geology of the site as mapped by the British Geological Survey is comprised of the Pennine Middle and Upper Coal Measure Formations (mudstone, siltstone & sandstones). The overlying drift geology is comprised of a broad band of Glacial Till (formerly termed Boulder Clay), with a band of undifferentiated alluvium deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel across the eastern edge of the site, (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

1.4 Personnel

The excavation works were conducted by professional archaeologists from Salford Archaeology. On site excavations were conducted by Simon Hinchliffe, Oliver Cook and Elizabeth Statham. The report was compiled, written and illustrated by Elizabeth Statham. The project was managed by John Roberts.

1.5 Monitoring

Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director (Archaeology) at the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, (GMAAS) monitored the archaeological works.

2. Historical Background

1 Introduction

This section of the report is a brief summary of the historical and archaeological background to the site as presented in the desk based assessment compiled by Salford Archaeology in 2016 (V. Nash).

2.2 Early to Mid-19th Century



Plate 2: Butterworths Map of Oldham dated 1817. Site marked by red arrow.

One of the earliest cartographic sources to depict Chadderton in detail is Butterworths map of Oldham dated 1817, (Plate 2). The map shows that much of Chadderton was comprised of open agricultural and moss land which was dissected by a number of roads flanked by piecemeal development, mainly cottages and farms and several collieries. Butterworth notes that these roads were all denominated as lanes and lists the main thoroughfares as being Burnley Lane, Stock Lane, Block Lane, Old Lane, Denton Lane, Thompson Lane, Dowry (Drury) Mought Lane, Turf Lane, Tonge Lane and Bawtry Lane (Butterworth, 1817: 163).

Butterworths map depicts the site as being comprised of a large plot of open agricultural land which was intersected by an unnamed roadway. Historical research has revealed that this roadway was named Coleshaw Lane and in 1672 the right of way through the Lane was recognised on payment of ½ d a year, (Farrer & Brownbill, 1911: 115 – 121). At the southern extent of the study area, here Coleshaw Lane, Turf Lane and Drury Lane intersected two unnamed structures/dwellings were depicted.

The tithe map of 1841 shows the site in more detail and depicts it as being comprised of a series of twelve enclosed fields which were mixed arable, pasture and meadow. The unnamed structures which flanked Coleshaw Lane appeared to be comprised of a long range of buildings and a smaller single structure which sat within a rectangular enclosure which also contained a pond. The tithe apportionment record along with the 1841 census list the site as Coltshaw (Coalshaw) Green Farm which was owned by a Miss Alsop and occupied by a farmer named Benjamin Walker. The tithe map and OS survey of 1848 also depict a roughly square enclosure to the south-east of the farm, which comprised a culvert, a large 'L' shaped structure and a smaller rectangular structure. The 1841 census lists the site as cottages which were occupied by several families whose occupations were listed as Hand Loom Weavers (Silk.).

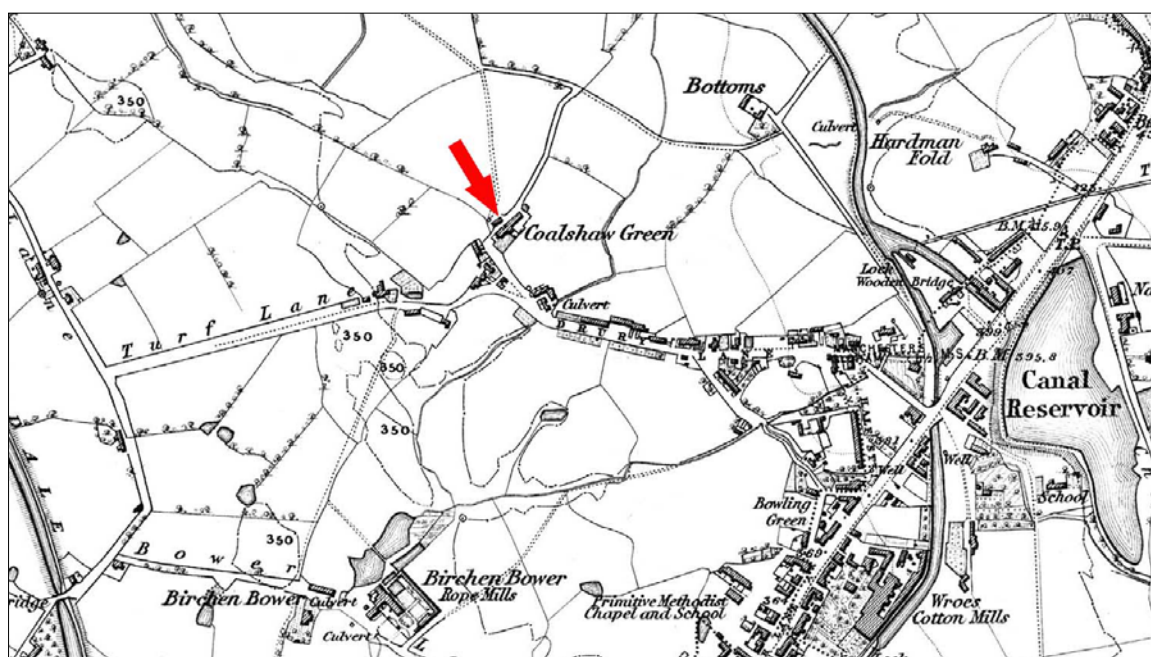


Plate 3: Coalshaw Farm shown on the OS 6 inch First Edition Map of Lancashire surveyed 1841 - 1853

2.3 Late 19th Century

During the mid to late 19th century, Chadderton became increasingly industrialised. The OS survey of 1893-4 shows that several industrial works had emerged within the sites immediate surroundings which included Glebe and Victoria Cotton Mills and Hardman Works to the east, Gordon Cotton Mill to the west, Richmond Cotton Mill and Bottoms Iron Works to the north (Plate 4).

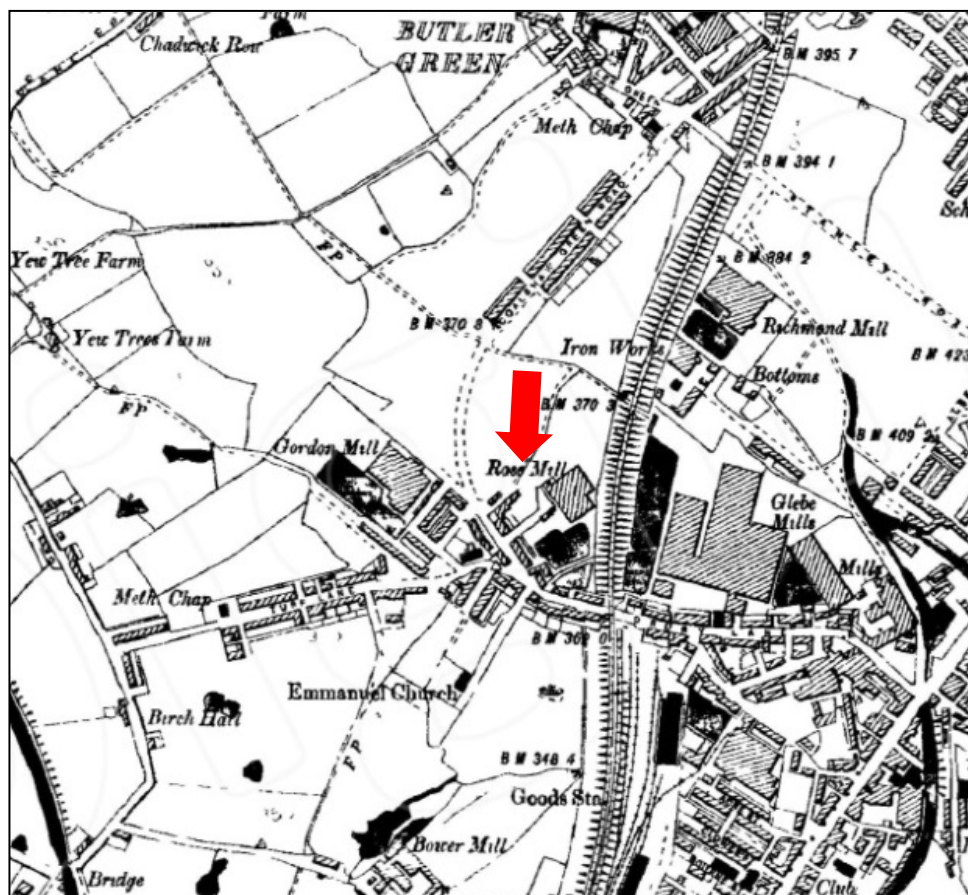


Plate 4: OS map of 1893-4. Site marked by red arrow

During the same period the Hollinwood branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway has been constructed along the eastern boundary of the site. The increasing industrialisation of the area resulted in the laying out of several new roads and the construction of more housing to accommodate the rise in the working population. This population increase also brought the erection of new public buildings such as the Emmanuel Church off Drury Lane and a school at the junction of Turf Lane and Coalshaw Green.

During this period the northern half of the site remained unaltered and still appeared to be comprised of enclosed agricultural plots and Coalshaw Green Farm. Along the western edge of the site Coalshaw Green Road had been laid out and the older roadway, which ran through the site appeared to have been partially truncated and downgraded to a footpath. In contrast the southern half of the site had been subject to substantial redevelopment which included the erection of two blocks of terrace housing fronting Coalshaw Green and a small roadway named Rose Street. Within the agricultural land to the rear of these houses, Rose Cotton Mill had been erected, which comprised a large mill, a lodge and offices, a weighing machine, chimney, reservoir and filter beds.

Documentary sources have established that Rose Mill was constructed in 1885 for the Rose Spinning Company formerly of Hollinwood, (Gurr & Hunt, 1989: 89). The mill was designed by Philip Sydney Stott, the third son of A H Stott (Snr) who is regarded as

Oldham's greatest architect, (Oldham Archives: D-SRJS). Mid to late 19th century census returns list the houses fronting Coalshaw Green as being occupied by several families all employed within the cotton spinning or iron working trades.

2.4 Early 20th Century

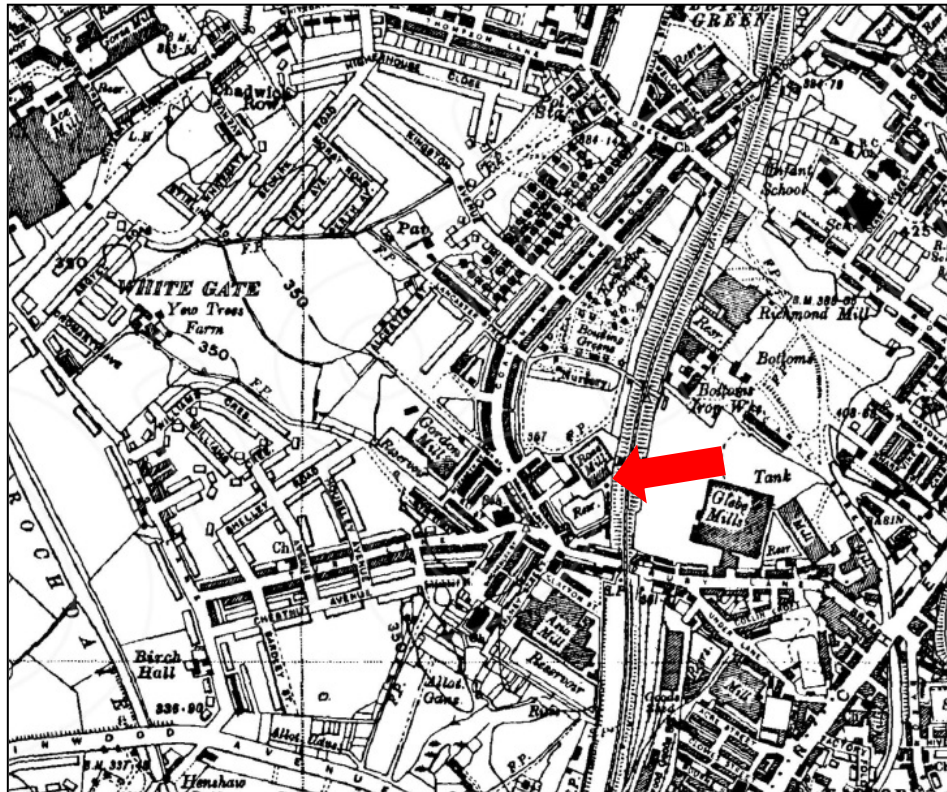


Plate 5: OS map of 1922. Site marked by red arrow.

During the early 20th century Chadderton continued to be increasingly industrialised with most of the land to the east of the site being filled with development whilst the land to the west retained large portions of agricultural land (Plate 4). In contrast to its surroundings the OS survey of 1910 shows the site to be relatively unaltered. The only notable change was the erection of a further three houses along Coalshaw Green and construction of several enclosed yards to the immediate south and east of the farm.

By the OS survey of 1922 the former agricultural plots within the northern half of the site had been replaced by a large playing field which formed part of Coalshaw Green Park. Documentary sources have revealed that the agricultural land which once formed part of the farm were gifted to the Chadderton Urban District Council by Marjorie Lees of Werneth Park who wished the site to be used as a recreational ground in honour of her late father C. E. Lees who owned the lane (<http://www.chadderton-historical-society.org.uk/>).

Within the southern half of the site the yards associated with Coalshaw Green Farm had been cleared and replaced by a single enclosed yard containing several glasshouses. The 1911 census return shows that the then occupant of the farm William Lees had retired, presumably a result of the farmland being gifted to the council for use as a park. The survey also showed that Rose Mill had been extended north-westwards and documentary sources confirm that this extension was to increase the size of the mills carding room (Gurr & Hunt, 1989: 89).

2.5 Mid-20th Century

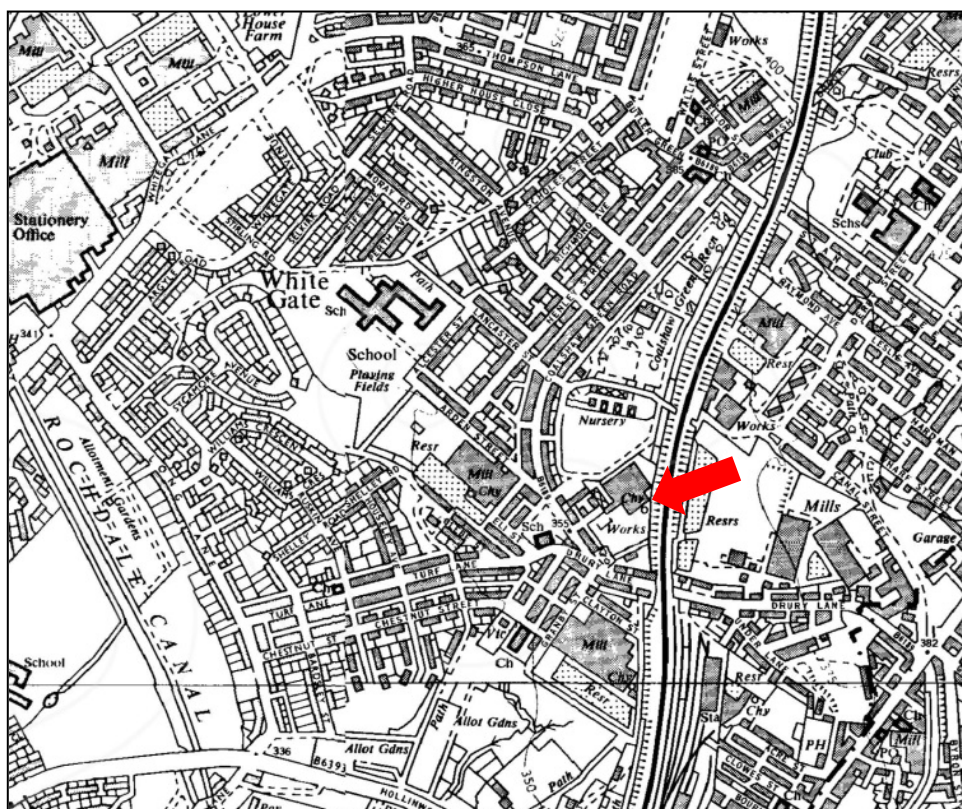


Plate 6: OS map of 1959. Site area marked by red arrow.

During the mid-20th century, Chadderton became increasingly urbanised resulting in large areas of rural land to the west of the site being redeveloped for residential and commercial purposes (Plate 5). Within the site there has been some small scale alterations.

The OS map of 1954 shows that at the northern extent of the site a large enclosure containing a complex of glasshouses has been constructed next to the playing field. The complex was labelled 'Nursery' and although documentary research could not glean much information about the site, it is likely it was used to cultivate plants and flowers for Coalshaw Green Park.

Within the southern half of the site the enclosed yard containing glasshouses had been extended southwards and several new, larger glasshouses had been erected. The site was labelled 'Nursery' and presumably like this was utilised for the growing of plants and flowers for Coalshaw Green Park. To the south of the nursery, the early 19th century silk weaver's cottages had been cleared and landscaped over. During the same period, Rose Mill had changed function from a Cotton Mill to an Engineering Mill and the reservoir

to the south of the mill had been infilled. Documentary sources confirm that the mill ceased producing cotton in 1946 from which time onwards it was used for cotton waste sorting (Gurr & Hunt, 1989: 89).

By the OS survey of 1960-70, Rose Mill had been relabelled 'Works' and appeared to have been extended westwards. During the same period both nurseries had been extended through the addition of several new glasshouses and small rectangular structures.

2.6 Late 20th Century to the Present Day

The site remained unaltered on all subsequent OS mapping until 1982 when the larger, northern nursery appeared to have been cleared and replaced by a smaller enclosed yard. Within the southern half of the site the early 19th century farm buildings and the late 19th century terraced housing fronting Coalshaw Green had been cleared along with the glasshouses within the southern nursery (Plate 6).



Plate 7: Aerial photograph of the site, dated 1986. Image reproduced with permission from Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS).

Since the clearance of the site in the late 20th century the site remained largely unaltered until 2007 when Rose Mill was demolished due to damage caused by repeated arson attacks. The site has remained unaltered since this date.

3. Methodology

3.1 Excavation Methodology

Before excavation commenced the client provided Salford Archaeology with service plans for the area and all trench location and surrounding areas were scanned with a cable avoidance tool to ensure that no live services would be disturbed during the programme of works. The trenches were excavated using a tracked mechanical excavator with a wide toothless ditching bucket down to the top surviving levels of archaeological material or natural geology. The machine excavation was supervised by a professional archaeologist at all times. The location of the excavation area is shown on the excavation area location plan (Figure 1). The extent of the trench was dictated by the presence of houses to the north-west and services running adjacent to Coalshaw Green Road to the south west.

The excavation area expanded on the evaluation trench and encompassed the footprint of the Coalshaw Green Farmhouse as shown on OS mapping. Where necessary and where depth allowed, detailed cleaning and excavation proceeded by hand. In any areas with a depth greater than 1.2m cleaning was carried out by machine. All excavated spoil material was placed in specified area at a safe distance from the trench edge. Certain archaeologically features deemed crucial to the phasing and interpretation of the remains they were stratigraphically excavated by means of strategically placed test pits (TP's).

A professional archaeologist undertook an archaeological watching brief during the removal of the Japanese knotweed over the area of the Coalshaw Green Cottages in the south-east corner of the development area. Any areas cleared of the Japanese knotweed were then cleaned and recorded in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidelines.

3.2 Recording Methodology

Separate contexts were recorded individually on pro-forma trench sheets. All trenches were recorded either digitally using a Total Station or by hand, whichever was deemed most appropriate.

Photography of all relevant phasing and features was undertaken in digital format. General working shots were taken during the archaeological works to provide illustrative material covering the wider aspects of the archaeological works undertaken. Where appropriate, finds were recorded by context, with significant 'small finds' located within three dimensions to the nearest 10mm.

All recording was carried out in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA): Standards and guidance for archaeological excavation. Published September 1995, Revised September 2001 and October 2008.

4. Coalshaw Green Farmhouse Descriptions (Figure 2)

4.1 Introduction

The placing of the trench was determined based on the findings of the archaeological evaluation and at a safe distance from the residential buildings to the west of the excavation area.

Across the area of the farmhouse the ground surface was reduced prior to excavation to the level of the archaeological remains. The initial layer consisted of overburden fill **(002)**. The natural ground **(001)** comprised of firm, brown, sandy clay.

4.2 Coalshaw Green Farmhouse

The trench was located in the north-western part of the development site within an area of vacant land. The topography of the area was a large bank with a steep slope from northeast to south-west and north-west. This area was excavated and levelled during the evaluation works. The trench measured 42m in length by 13.85m and was aligned north-east/ south-west.

The initial archaeology at the south western end of the trench was stone wall **(004)** which was aligned north-west/ south east. Its exposed length was 5.98m with a depth of 0.56m and a width of 0.60m. The stones were roughly hewn, squared sandstone blocks that were laid in regular courses with no visible mortar. A test pit **(TP2)** was excavated at the north-western end of the wall, which was the limit of the excavation, to see if the wall extended further to the northwest. **TP2** revealed a layer of bricks **(069)** on top of stone continuing along the same alignment as the stone wall. The cut **[025]** for **(004)** was linear in plan and had a concave profile leading to a flat bottom. Test pits were excavated on both sides of the wall **(TP1)** and **(TP9)**. The test pits revealed further stone blocks that were a flat sub-rectangular shape with no mortar visible.



Plate 8: Stone wall (004) and stone wall (003) in the background, looking south-east

Tied into (004) at its south eastern end was stone wall (003) which was aligned south-west/ north-east and made up the south-east wall of the farmhouse. It had a length of 8.55m with a depth of 0.55m and a width of 0.60m. The stones were laid in regular courses with roughly hewn sandstone blocks. Smaller rubble pieces were used in the centre of the wall. It was bonded by a light brown, hard, sandy mortar that had inclusions of large limestone lumps. **TP5** was excavated to the depth of (003). It revealed further flat sub-rectangular stone blocks and a small stone and brick culvert (023), see below, in the base running parallel with (003).

Tied into (003) and running on a north-west/ south-east alignment was stone wall (005) which divided rooms 1 and 2 of the farmhouse. The wall was 3.96m long laid in regular courses with no visible bonding material. It was 0.55m wide and had a depth of 0.13m. To the north-east of (005) there was a sub-circular pit which appeared to be truncated by the stone wall. The visible section of the pit was excavated (**TP4**) and the fill of the pit (070) produced a sherd of early 18th century pottery. Forming an additional course to (005) was an extra course of large sandstone blocks (007). The blocks were located on the north-eastern side of (005). The extent of (007) was a length of 1.11m and a width of 0.70m. To the south of (005) was a heavily truncated cobbled surface (006). The cobbles were approximately 0.11 x 0.17m and underlain by natural (001). This probable floor surface was truncated on its southern, northern and eastern sides. The surface survived as two patches of cobbles with a section of them being overlaid by brick wall (008). (008) was a handmade brick wall surviving as only one course with a length of 1.73m. It

was an L-shaped wall with the north-west section aligned south-west/ north-east along the top of stone wall (009). Some of the bricks were laid on bed and some on edge with no visible mortar present.



Plate 9: Cobbled surface (006), sandstone blocks (007) and brick wall (008), looking north-west



Plate 10: Room 1 (right) and room 2 (left), showing diving wall (005), looking south-east

Running along the north-west edge of the trench between (004) and (012) was large stone wall (009). It was constructed of square, roughly hewn, grey sandstone blocks that were laid in regular courses. It had a length of 8.42m with a width of 0.54m with no visible bonding material. It was tied into (004), (010) and (012). (010) was an internal stone wall that divided room 2 and room 3. The wall was aligned north-west/ south-east with a length of 4.30m, width of 0.58m and a depth of 0.34m. It was constructed of roughly hewn, small to medium sandstone blocks. There was six visible regularly laid courses with a light grey/white, sandy, hard lime mortar.



Plate 11: Stone wall (010) dividing room 2 and room 3, looking south

Room 3 appeared to be split into an upper and lower half. In the upper north-western half, approximately 0.20m below ground level, there was a truncated stone flagged floor surface (011). The largest slab measured 1.14m x 0.60m and appeared to be adjacent to a possible door threshold in (009) linking rooms 2 and 3. The overall dimensions of (011) were 2.50m by 1.14m and they were laid on top of natural ground (001).

Separating the upper and lower halves of room 3 was a handmade brick wall (013). It was a single course brick wall with a length of 1.95m and a width of 0.11m. It had some small one brick abutments running off it towards the south-east. (013) also ran alongside the south-west edge of stone wall (012) which forms the north-east wall room 3. In the southern corner of the room was a handmade curving brick wall (014), the middle of the curve being 0.66m from the corner of the room where stone walls (003) and (010) meet. (015) was the stone flagged floor of the lower half of room 3 which had been severely truncated in some areas. In the east corner of the room there was a drain (016) which measured 0.69m x 0.23m. The metal drain cover measured 0.28m x 0.17m. Running between (014) and (016) along the north-west edge of (003) was a single course handmade brick wall (017) which had a length of 1.94m. Stone wall (012) was the linear wall marking the end of the farmhouse building and was aligned north-west/ south-east. It was constructed of grey sandstone blocks of various shapes and sizes that were roughly hewn and laid in regular courses. It was 4.60m in length, 0.70m wide, 0.58m in depth with a soft, sandy mortar.



Plate 12: Room 3, looking south



Plate 13: Room 3, looking west

Moving further along to the north-east, in room 4 there was a large brick surface **(019)** that had a length of 5.50m and a width of 4.85m. It was constructed out of full bricks, half bricks and occasional frogged bricks. The bricks in the north-eastern half of **(019)** were aligned north-west/ south-east and on the south-western half north-east/ south-west. The south-western half had a small amount of stone flag replacements as well as a dipped area aligned north-west/ south-east which may have been part of a drainage system. At the south-east end of **(019)** was a handmade brick wall **(018)**. The brick wall survived to one course high and had a length of 5.10m and a width of 0.25m. The bricks had a light brown sandy mortar and **TP6** showed that they were laid on top of stone rubble foundations. At the north-west end of **(019)** there was a small cobbled surface **(020)**. The cobbles were small and irregular with a length of 1.80m and a width of 0.60m. They seem to have extended further to the north-west beyond the limit of the

excavation. On the north-east side of **(019)** was stone wall **(021)**. The wall was aligned north-west/ south-east with a total length of 8.50m, width of 0.72m and a depth of 0.11m.



*Plate 14: Room 4 showing brick surface **(019)**, brick wall **(018)**, cobbles **(020)** and stone wall **(021)**, looking west*



*Plate 15: TP6 showing stone rubble foundations of **(018)**, looking north-west*

To the south-east of stone wall **(003)** was a brick lined culvert **(022)** that appeared to run under **(024)**. The small culvert was topped by stone flags and had stone at the base. A reused roof tile measuring 0.41m x 0.24m that had a circular perforation within was used to cap the culvert. It was orientated east-west with a slope to the west and measured 1.60m in length and 0.25m in width. **(023)** was a small brick culvert that was discovered in **TP5** which was excavated along the south-east side of **(003)**. It was located 0.60m below the top of **(003)**. It was topped with stone flags and lay on top of natural clay. **(024)** was a handmade L-shaped brick feature to the south-east of **(003)**. It likely related to drainage and had two culverts **(022)** and **(023)** running through it.



Plate 16: L-shaped brick feature (024) and brick lined culvert (022), looking north-east



Plates 17 & 18: (023) in TP5, with stone flags (left) and after removal of stone flags (right)

Abutting the north-east side of (021) was a small area of stone flagged floor (026) that was aligned north-east/ south-west. The length of this floor surface was 2.65m and it had a width of 0.75m and a depth of 0.05m. TP7 was excavated along the south-east edge of the flags and revealed a thin piece of timber running along the edge in the same alignment. To the north-east of (026) was a brick floor surface (027) which was seen during the evaluation. The floor surface had a length of 3.00m and a width of 1.04m.

(028) was a handmade brick wall located to the north-east of (027) that was aligned north-west/ south-east and had a length of 5.10m and a width of 0.24m. It survived to a height of three courses and had a lime mortar. At its south-east end there was a stone wall (029) that appeared to be a continuation of (028). It had a length of 2.40m and a width of 0.50m.



Plate 19: Stone flagged floor (026), brick surface (027) and brick wall (028), looking south-west



Plate 20: Stone wall (029), looking south-west

Approximately 9.08m to the north-east of (028) there was a patch of large cobble setts (030). The setts were mainly square and had an average dimension of 0.17m x 0.17m x 0.09m. The overall length of the cobble setts was 1.70m and a width of 1.30m. Two large sandstone blocks (031) were to the north-east of (030). They were aligned north-west/ south-east and had a drain running parallel to them. The length of (031) was 0.82m and the width was 0.37m. To the north-east of (031) was brick surface (032) that was

4.14m long and 2.05m wide. The bricks were aligned north-east/ south-west and all laid stretcher. The surface was constructed of half bricks and broken bricks and appeared to be slightly truncated at its south-west end.



Plate 21: Cobble setts (030), sandstone flags (031) and brick floor (032)

Directly to the north-east of (032) was handmade brick wall (036) that was aligned north-west/ south-east. The wall had an overall length of 5.00m with a width of 0.35m and a depth of 0.45m. The wall was six courses high before the foundation bricks stepped out and it was bonded by a light brown sandy mortar. The wall butted up to a brick and stone wall (033). (033) was aligned north-east/ south-west and had a length of 4.98m with a depth of 0.50m. The bricks survived to a depth of one course at the south-west end of the wall and were resting on top of a sandstone rubble foundation. The bricks were bonded with a white lime mortar. The brick wall had a width of 0.24m and the stone wall had a width of 0.38m. The sandstone blocks were bonded with a light brown sandy mortar. At its north-east end, (033) is tied into (034). (034) was a brick wall with stone foundations that had a length of 4.60m, an exposed width of 0.22m and a depth of 0.67m. There were eight courses of bricks on top of stone rubble foundations. The bricks had a white lime mortar and the stone blocks had a light brown sandy mortar. The north-western half of room 5 contained a truncated concrete floor (035). The floor was 4.35m long, 2.00m wide and 0.06m deep. Located 2.30m to the south-west of (034) was a shallow drain aligned north-west/ south-east.



Plate 22: Room 5 showing walls (033), (034) and (036) and concrete floor (035), looking north



Plate 23: Detail shot of stone and brick wall (034), looking north-east

2.94m to the south of stone wall (003) there was a stone flagged surface (055). It appeared to be heavily truncated with only a small section surviving. The remaining stone flagged floor measured 3.37m long by 3m wide. An upright flag marked the north-east boundary of (055) and beyond was an area of cobbles and stone flags. At the south-west end of (055) there was an L-shaped brick wall (056). The north-west/ south-east aligned section of the wall was 1.85m long and the north-east/ south-west aligned section had an exposed length of 1.45m and the wall had a width of 0.36m. To the north-west of (055) and (056) was brick wall (057). (057) had a length of 5.14m and a width of 0.36m. Drain (022) butted up to its north-western edge. Next to (057) there was a soil horizon (071) which included sherds of early 18th century pottery.



Plate 24: Stone flagged floor (055) and brick wall (056), looking north-west



Plate 25: Brick wall (057), looking north-east

5. Coalshaw Green Farmhouse Discussion

5.1 Introduction

Substantial remains of the Coalshaw Green Farmhouse were recovered during the excavation works which can be confidently related to the historic mapping of the area. The remains represent both those of the farmhouse itself (Rooms 1, 2 and 3) and those of outbuildings and associated yards (Rooms 4 & 5, **(030)**, **(031)** and **(032)**). Two phases of construction were identified with the possibility that these had all but completely removed evidence of an earlier 18th century farmhouse.

The earliest archaeology in the farmhouse area appeared at the south-western extent of the excavation area. The fill **(070)** of a sub-oval pit **(TP4)** that was situated on the north-east side of stone wall **(005)** produced early 18th century pottery along with fragments of CBM. The fill of TP4 appeared to be cut by **(005)** perhaps indicating that there was two phases of activity in this area. It is difficult to categorise this pit feature but it is possible that it is related to the construction cut of **(005)**. This would show that the earliest archaeological features in the area predate the mapping evidence. Soil horizon **(071)** also produced early 18th century pottery providing more evidence for earlier archaeological remains.



*Plate 26: Pit to north-east of **(005)**, looking south-west*

The use of stone as a construction material is seen in a large number of farmhouses located in the Greater Manchester area from the 17th century onwards (Nevell, 1997, 77). In most cases, the stone walls appear to represent the earliest phase of the farmhouse

which is commonly followed by a later phase of replacing stone walls or using them as foundations for handmade brick walls, such as at Lower Moss Side Farm in Rochdale or Chorlton Fold Farm (Clark & Healy, 2006, 18; Gregory, 2011, 21).

The majority of the Coalshaw Green Farmhouse walls were constructed out of stone blocks with some evidence being present for later additions. One area of the farmhouse where there is evidence of later additions can be seen over dividing wall **(005)**. An additional layer of stone blocks **(007)** were placed on top of the wall and these were covered by a layer of small irregular cobbles **(006)** that were set into a layer of clay. The cobbles may have represented a new, later floor surface in the farmhouse with the bricks **(008)** that were on top of them being a later wall addition, perhaps representing a phase of activity which saw the original rooms being sub-divided. Another area which showed evidence of a possible later addition was at the south-east end of room 3. A test pit **(TP6)** was excavated next to handmade brick wall **(018)** which revealed that it was a single skin of bricks laid on top of a stone rubble foundation, similar to remains of the farmhouse at Booths End Farm which was a mid-19th century farmhouse (McCoy, 2015, 7). This was also seen with brick walls **(033)** and **(034)**. The stone rubble foundations of both walls had a light brown sandy mortar whereas the overlying brick courses were bonded with a white lime mortar, suggesting that the bricks were a later addition to the building. Similar additions to the ones at Coalshaw Green Farm were seen at Ashes Farm, Bolton and are believed to be 19th century modifications (Gregory, 2016, 59).



Plate 27: Stone foundations below brick wall (018)



Plate 28: Stone foundations below brick wall (033)

The archaeological remains at the northern end of the development area also suggest that there has been later additions to the farmhouse. There was several different types of floor surfaces including cobble setts (030) and a brick floor surface (032). At Ashes Farm in Bolton, similar types of external floor surfaces were excavated and thought to have been from the 19th century (Gregory, 2016, 60). The external floor surfaces at Coalshaw Green Farm were found directly next to room 5 which consisted of three brick walls, (033), (034) and (036), and concrete floor (035) which were all probably constructed in the mid-late 19th century. Other evidence for 19th century activity was the use of frogged bricks as repairs to floor surfaces and walls. In brick floor surface (019) one brick had 'HUNCOATS PLASTIC CO LTD ACCRINGTON' stamped onto it. Frogged bricks were regularly used in the 20th century.



Plate 29: Frogged brick in floor surface (019)



Plate 30: External floor surfaces cobbles (030) and bricks (032) and concrete (035) in room 5

The archaeological remains found of Coalshaw Green Farm suggest that there was an original earlier stone built farmhouse that pre-dates the available documentary evidence. The farmhouse evidently had some modifications during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The farmhouse was demolished by the 1983 Ordnance Survey map and landscaped over.

6. Coalshaw Green Cottages Descriptions (Figure 3)

5.1 Introduction

The cottages were investigated as a watching brief during the removal of the Japanese knotweed. The methodology for the removal of the knotweed allowed for an archaeological strip and plan to be undertaken on the below ground features. The strip and plan was undertaken on the 3rd – 6th April 2017 in the southern corner of the development area. No archaeological remains were found of the terraces fronting Coalshaw Green Road. Only the building in the southern corner of the development area survived to any extent. Machine stripping to the south-east of this building revealed only isolated fragments of the ‘L’ shaped buildings show on maps (Contexts **(058)** – **(067)**).

5.2 ‘L’ shaped buildings

In the southernmost corner of the area a brick wall **(058)** was aligned north-east/ south-west that was laid stretcher bond and had a light cream mortar. The wall was 3.20m long and 0.22m wide. Butting up to **(058)** on its south-east side was a brick floor surface **(059)**. The floor surface continued beyond both the south-east and south-west edges of excavation. The floor surface was laid with half, full and frogged bricks with no visible mortar and the bricks being orientated north-west/ south-east. The exposed length of the brick surface was 3.18m and the exposed width was 0.60m.

Located 0.94m to the north-east was a handmade brick wall **(060)** aligned north/ south. The wall had an exposed length of 3.20m and a width of 0.25m. The wall was laid stretcher with the lower courses being laid headed with a light cream mortar. On the north-east side of **(060)** there was a row of stone blocks **(061)**, orientated north-east/ south-west. The row consisted of 9 stone blocks which were 0.22m wide each. The overall length of **(061)** was 2.05m with a width of 0.55m. To the east of **(061)** was a single course brick wall **(062)** aligned north-west/ south-east that continued beyond the south-east limit of excavation. The length of the wall was 1.06m and the width was 0.12m.



Plate 31: Brick wall (058) and brick floor surface (059), looking north-east



Plate 32: Brick wall (060) and stone blocks (061), looking north-east

To the north-east of **(062)** was an area of stone flagged surface **(063)** that appeared to be separated into three separate bays by brick walls **(064)**, **(065)** and **(066)**. The flags had an overall length of 3m and an overall width of 1.40m and were not of a uniform size. To the north-west of **(063)** there was a possible metal drain cover. **(064)** was the brick wall most to the south-west. It was aligned north-west/ south-east and had a length of 1m and a width of 0.10m. It was constructed of a single course of bricks laid stretcher bond with a dark black mortar. 0.93m to the north-east was **(065)** which was aligned north-west/ south-east with a length of 1.16m and a width of 0.14m. The wall was two courses wide laid stretcher bond with a dark black mortar. 0.82m to the north-east was **(066)** which was aligned north-west/ south-east and had a length of 0.82m and a width of 0.10m. It was a single course wall laid stretcher bond with a dark black mortar. To the north-east of **(066)** was an L-shaped wall **(067)** which was two courses wide and bonded together with a light cream mortar. The north-west/ south-east aligned section of the wall was 1.65m long and the north-east/ south-west section was 1.02m long.



*Plate 33: Stone flagged floor **(063)** and brick walls **(064)**, **(065)** and **(066)**, looking south-east*



Plate 34: L-shaped wall (067), looking south-east

Further excavation revealed a modern 20th century drain underneath the metal cover that was constructed from machine-made and frogged bricks. There was two salt-glazed ceramic pipes leading into the drain. The drain was sunk into natural ground.

5.3 Farm Cottages

6m from the north-western edge of (058) was handmade brick wall (038). The wall was aligned north-east/ south-west and ran along the eastern edge of rooms 1 and 4 of the cottage. (038) was seven courses in height with the brick foundations starting at the sixth course. It had a length of 7m and a width of 0.24m with the bricks being bonded by a light brown sandy mortar. There was a gap in the wall of 1.5m which may have been a possible entranceway into room 1. The southern section of the wall had two small brick abutments aligned north-west/ south-east that were spaced 1.18m apart and were each 0.24m wide. To the north-west of the northern half of (038) there was a stone flagged area (039) which was the floor surface of room 4. The flags were irregular with no clear pattern and there were cobble repairs in some areas. (039) had a length of 2.78m and a width of 1.57m with the smallest flag being 0.32m by 0.33m and the largest flag being 1m by 0.74m. At the north-western end of (039) there was a square drain cover (040) with a possible drainage gully running off it to the north leading to a larger drainage gully aligned north-west/ south-east. The drain cover measured 0.31m by 0.31m with bricks surrounding it on three sides. To the east of (038) was a small patch of cobbles (041) that could have possibly continued further to the south-east. The cobbles were regularly laid and had a length of 0.84m and a width of 0.50m.



Plate 35: Room 4 showing brick wall (038), stone flagged floor (039) and drain (040), looking south-east



Plate 36: Cobbles (041), looking south-east

Separating rooms 1 and 4 was handmade brick wall (042) which was aligned north-west/south-east and had a light brown sandy mortar. The wall was five courses high with the lowest two courses being foundations which stepped out by 0.10m. It had a length of 3.20m, a width of 0.24m and a depth of 0.42m. It was tied into (053) at its north-west corner and stopped abruptly near the possible entranceway into room 1, perhaps indicating the doorway between the two rooms. In the north-western half of room 1 there was a brick and stone flag feature (043) which was 2.15m long and 1.13m wide.

The surface appeared to be resting on stone and brick rubble which may be related to [044]. The bricks were laid fairly regular and included one frogged brick with a light brown sandy mortar. Running across room 1 in east/ west alignment was a linear feature [044]. The feature appeared near the possible entranceway and continued underneath (043). It would appear that [044] was a later drain which possibly utilised the entrances into room 1 and between rooms 1 and 2 to avoid disturbing foundations. Ceramics from the 20th century were recovered from its fill (072).



Plate 37: Room 1 showing brick walls (038) and (042), brick and stone flag feature (043) and linear feature [044], looking south-east

(053) was a handmade brick wall that was aligned north-east/ south-west and separated rooms 1 and 2. It was bonded by a light brown sandy mortar and had a length of 3.50m, width of 0.36m and a depth of 0.42m. Included in the wall were two stone blocks that were 0.68m apart and line up with (043). Both blocks had a socket within them indicating that they were part of a door jam and they had an average width of 0.30m. Directly to the north-west of (053) was a tiled area (045) which was a possible entranceway into room 2. The tiled area had a length of 1.30m and a width of 1.06m. The area comprised a central flag that was surrounded by small yellow, blue, green, maroon and patterned tiles. The small square tiles had dimensions of 0.06m by 0.06m. There was an area of larger coloured tiles surrounding the northern corner of the smaller tiles. These tiles were of a maroon colour and had dimensions of 0.15m by 0.15m.



Plate 38: Tiled entranceway (045) into room 2, looking north-east

(046) was the tiled floor surface of room 2. (046) was 4.36m long and 3.75m wide. The tiles were laid in a diamond pattern and were all in good condition with the exception of where the floor had been truncated by tree roots. The tiles were 0.18m by 0.18m. Making up the south-west wall of room 2 was (047). The handmade brick wall was aligned north-west/ south-east and had a length of 3.22m and a width of 0.24m. The wall was bonded by a light brown sandy mortar and was tied into wall (048) at its north-west end. There was evidence for a tile being used as a repair. (048) was a handmade brick wall which was the north-west wall of rooms 2 and 3. The wall was aligned north-east/ south-west and had a light brown sandy mortar. Its length was 6.30m, width 0.24m and depth 0.23m. It was tied into wall (047) at its western end and wall (051) at its northern end. On the south-east side of (048) was a possible fireplace (068). There was two brick abutments which stepped out by 0.40m and were 0.94 apart. Tiled floor (046) in this area. Directly to the south-east of this was a large stone flag.



Plate 39: Room 2 showing tiled entranceway (045), tiled floor (046) brick walls (047) and (048) and fireplace (068), looking north-east



Plate 40: Fireplace (068) in room 2, looking south-east

(049) was the internal dividing wall between rooms 1 and 2. It was a single course handmade wall that was aligned north-west/ south-east and had a light brown sandy mortar. It had a length of 4.36m and a width of 0.14m. Located 1.51m away from (048) was an area of tiles which may have been the possible doorway between rooms 2 and 3. It was 0.87m wide and consisted of small square red tiles with a yellow floral design and small yellow rectangular tiles. The square tiles were 0.11m by 0.11m and the rectangular tiles were 0.08m by 0.03m.



Plate 41: Tiled doorway in (049)

(050) was the tiled floor of room 3. A large percentage of the tiles in this room were cracked and broken and the surface was completely absent in the south-east end of the room. The tiles were laid in regular rows and measured 0.18m by 0.18m. The overall length of the tiled floor surface was 2.94m and the width was 2.04m. Making the north-east edge of room 3 was handmade brick wall (051). The wall was aligned north-west/south-east and was tied into (048) at its north-western end. The wall had an overall length of 5.85m and a width of 0.36. The wall was two courses wide with the exception of the middle section for 1.96m where it was three courses wide and the bricks were bonded with a light brown sandy mortar. At the south-east end of room 2 was handmade brick wall (052) that butted up to (042) and stopped at (040). The wall had a length of 1.35m and a width of 0.32m with the bricks being bonded by a light brown sandy mortar.



Plate 42: Room 3 showing brick walls (048), (049) and (051) and tiled floor (050), looking south-east

7. Coalshaw Green Cottages Discussion

The earliest map on which the cottage is seen is the 1848 Ordnance Survey. One of the reasons the archaeological mitigation was required was because the entries in the 1841 census records describe the occupants as ‘Hand Loom Weavers’.

Weaver’s cottages were first built in the eighteenth century before the industrial revolution when textiles were the main industry (Nevell, 2011, 3). The cottages were purpose built with loomships in attics and sometimes cellars. A distinguishing feature of a weaver’s cottage was a row of extra large windows (Winchester, 2006, 118). The archaeological remains that were excavated suggested that they were part of a domestic building due to the internal layout and the décor, such as the tiled floors and entranceways. There was no evidence for a cellar indicating that there was no cellar loomship and as only the ground floor remained, there was no evidence for the type of windows that the building had. The archaeological watching brief failed to reveal and structural evidence that the building served as a weaver’s cottage. However, as only the ground plan survived it is possible that the upper floor would have been used for this purpose. It is also possible that the remains seen in the watching brief represent a substantial or even complete rebuild of an earlier weaver’s cottage.

The transition in textile manufacturing from a cottage process to a centralised industrialised one is an important time in the history of the industrial revolution. Documentary evidence for this transition is seen in the census records. The occupations of the people living in the cottages are stated as Hand Loom Weavers in the 1841, 1851 and the 1861 census records. The 1871, 1881 and 1901 census records list the occupants as cotton workers or cotton spinners. One individual, Robert Whitehead, is listed on the 1861 census as being a ‘Silk Hand Loom Weaver’ and on the 1871 census records he is listed as a ‘Cotton Weaver’ (www.findmypast.co.uk). It would be tempting to think that in the census returns and the archaeology we are seeing evidence of people transitioning from the home working to the factory based system. However, it must be considered that the remains seen in the watching brief may never have served as weaver’s cottages and these were instead represented by the now destroyed ‘L’ shaped building.



Plate 43: General shot of building



Plate 44: General shot of building

8. Conclusion

The results from the programme of archaeological investigation at the Rose Mill site provide an interesting insight into a period of enormous change in British society and in particular the textile industry and economy of Greater Manchester. The Desk Based Assessment and subsequent excavations provide a classic example of the establishment and development of an essentially agrarian economy supporting dispersed 'cottage' based industries being overtaken and consumed by the juggernaut of 19th century steam powered, factory based, industrialisation.

The excavations and subsequent monitoring of groundwork's did not reveal any evidence of archaeological remains dating to periods earlier than those described in this report. Salford Archaeology therefore suggest that no further archaeological mitigation is required.

9. Archive Location

The archive comprises annotated field drawings, digital photographs and written records. This archive is currently held by Salford Archaeology. A copy of this report will be deposited with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record, held by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service.

10. Acknowledgements

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The on-site works were undertaken by Simon Hinchliffe, Oliver Cook and Elizabeth Statham. This report was written and compiled by Elizabeth Statham. The illustrations were produced by Richard Ker. The project was managed by John Roberts.

11. Sources

Cartographic Sources

1817 Butterworth's Map of the Parish of Oldham

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11. Figures

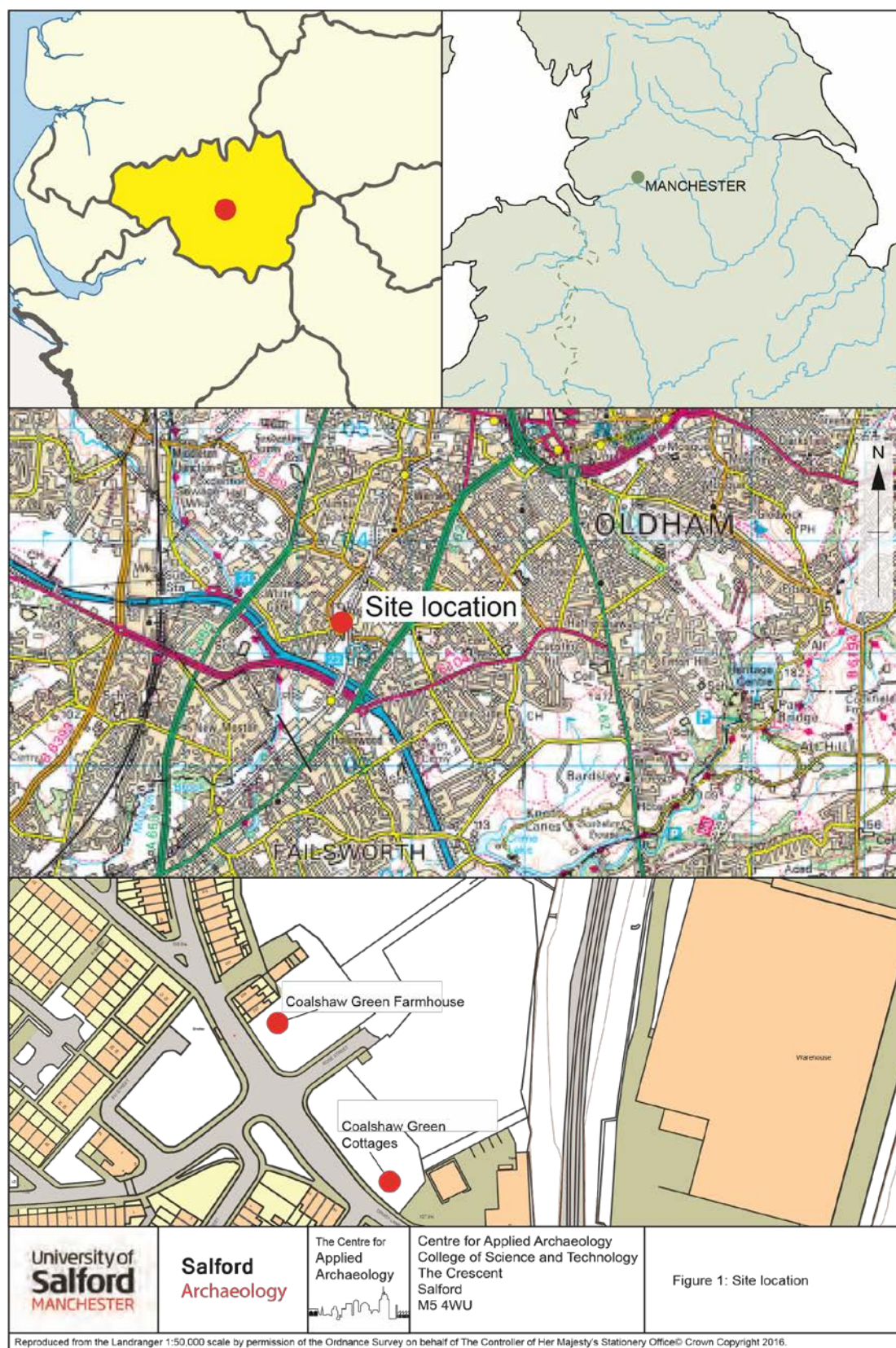


Figure 1: Location maps

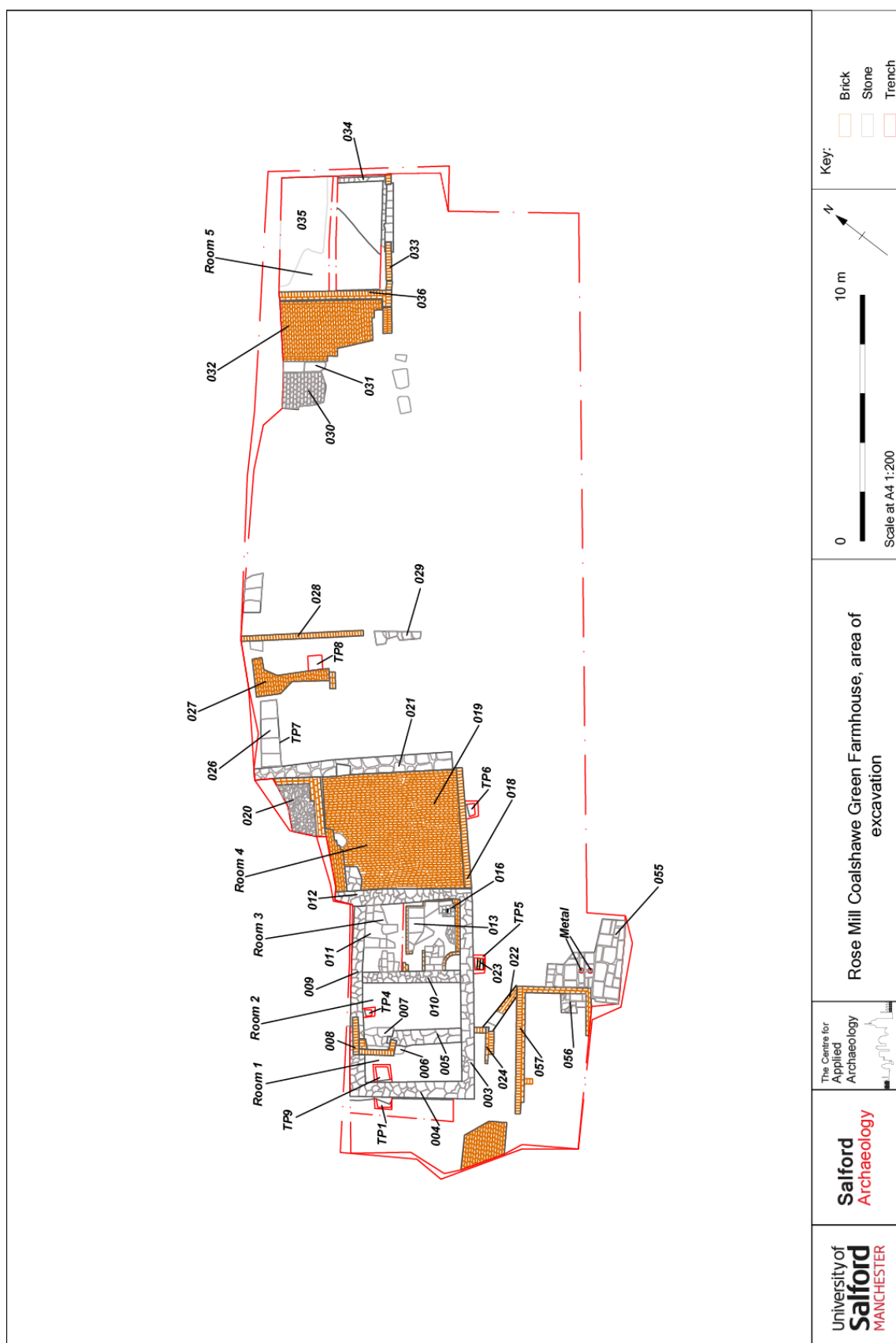


Figure 2: Coalshaw Green Farmhouse.

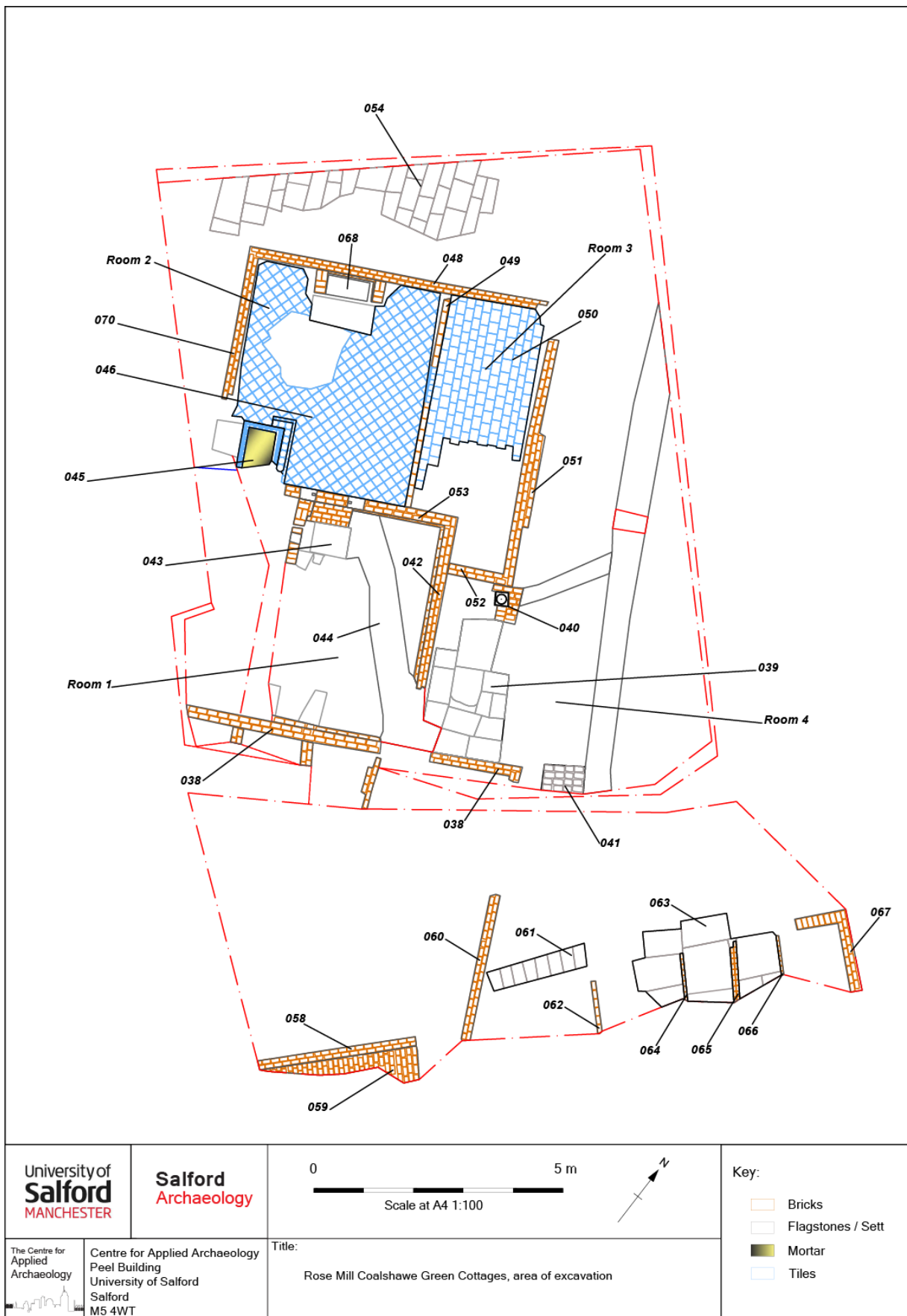


Figure 3: Coalshaw Green Cottages.



CONSULTANCY



DESK BASED ASSESMENTS



WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION



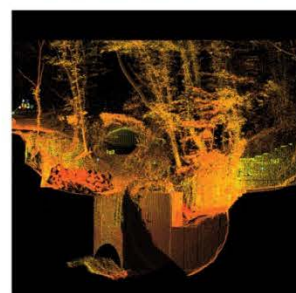
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BUILDING SURVEY



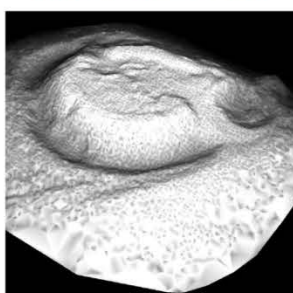
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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



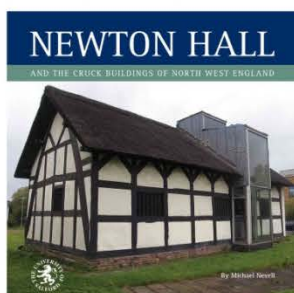
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS



WORKSHOPS & VOCATIONAL TRAINING



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