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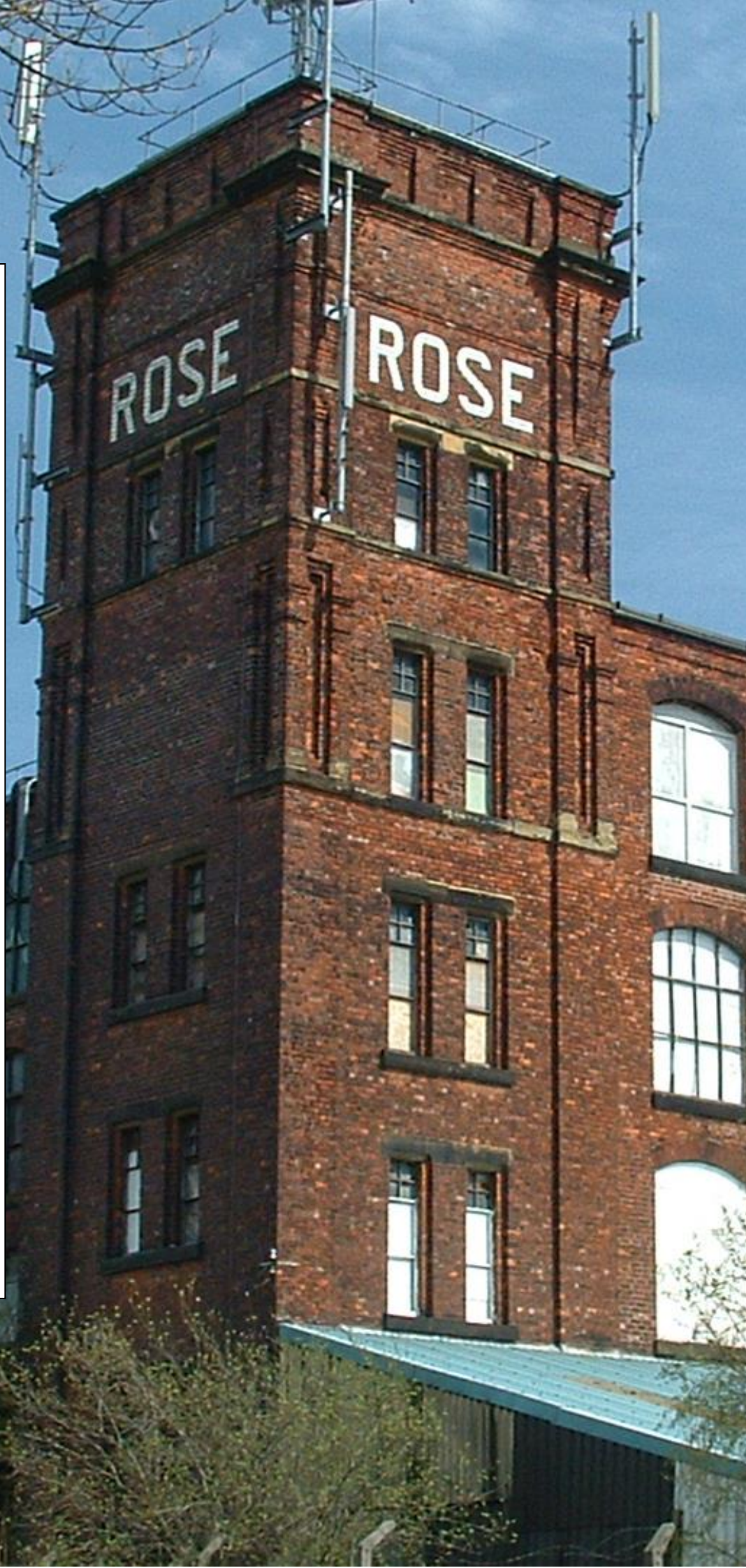
Archaeological Evaluation

Rose Mill, Coalshaw
Green, Chadderton

**Client: Countryside
Properties UK (Ltd)**

Technical Report:
Simon Hinchliffe

Report No: SA/15/2017



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

NGR: SD 90379 03319

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Author: Simon Hinchliffe, BA Hons, MA
Position: Archaeologist
Date: February 2017

Approved By: John Roberts
Position: Senior Archaeologist
Date: February 2017

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Contact: Centre for Applied Archaeology, University of Salford, Adelphi House, Adelphi Street, Salford, M3 6EN

Telephone: 0161 295 4862 Email: s.a.b.hinchliffe@salford.ac.uk

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Summary

In January 2017, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Countryside Properties UK (Ltd) to undertake a programme of evaluation trenching within an area bounded by Coalshaw Green Road and Drury Lane, Chadderton, Greater Manchester, (centred SD 90379 03319).

A previously undertaken desk based assessment (Nash 2016), demonstrated that within the site there was the potential for the survival of below ground remains relating to an early 19th century farmhouse and its associated structures.

The desk based assessment also mapped the development and demise of Rose Mill, a late 19th century cotton mill, which occupied a large area of the proposed development site until its demolition in 2007. It was suggested that remains of the lower cellar levels and power management system could possibly be intact below the current working surface and they were deemed worthy of further investigation.

An area of former farm cottages at the south-east corner of the development site was identified through the assessment and further investigation proposed (WSI) Due to the presence of knotweed this area could not be accessed during the evaluation period. Further archaeological works will be required prior to development in this area.

This report presents the findings of five evaluation trenches excavated within the proposed development area between the 11th and the 17th January.

Two evaluation trenches were located over the footprint of buildings seen through mapping to form part of Coalshaw Green Farm. These evaluation trenches placed at the south-west end of the development site, revealed the relatively well preserved remains of handmade brick and stone walls and associated brick, cobbled and flagged surfaces. Through comparison of the on-site structural finds with the tithe and early Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping, it was concluded that some of the walls belonged to the earliest mapped structures on this site and potentially pre-date the available mapping.

The established depth, nature and survival condition of the features seen, suggest that there is strong potential for further in situ remains relating to the development and phases of use for Coalshaw Green Farm within this area of the development site.

Three trenches were placed along the south-east limit of the former Rose Mill footprint. The aim of these was to establish the extent of survival of the mill cellars. Very little structural remains were seen across the trenches. It was found that the majority of the mill was grubbed out and the site levelled with demolition crush. Truncated flagged flooring was seen within trench 3 towards the south-west limit of the evaluation area. This floor surface was seen just above natural ground at depths of between 1.7- 2.4m.

There is potential for areas of further archaeological interest relating to Rose Mill being encountered within this area, however the state of preservation is likely to be very poor.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Countryside Properties UK (Ltd) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land on Coalshaw Green Road, Chadderton, Oldham, Greater Manchester (centred on SD 90379 03319) as part of a redevelopment scheme (Fig 1). These works were carried out in order to determine the presence, extent, depth, state of preservation and significance of the archaeological resource, enabling informed recommendations to be made for the future treatment of any surviving remains. The evaluation was undertaken between 11th and 17th January.

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 Unit (GMAAS).

1.2 Location, Topography and Current Land Use



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

The evaluation 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 evaluation comprise a cleared plot of vacant land, formerly the site of Rose Mill, to the north-east end of Rose Street measuring approximately 8024m² surrounded by high metal mesh fencing. A heavily overgrown and lightly landscaped area of land to the north of Rose Street measuring approximately 1480m² which is partial owned by Oldham Council.

The former mill site is a relatively flat plain which measure 107.0m AOD, a gradual slope extends south-west from this area towards the main road at 110.9m AOD.

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>).

1.3 Personnel

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

1.4 Monitoring

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

2. Historical & Archaeological Background

2.1 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 researched 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, where 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).

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 Hardmans Works to the east, Gordon Cotton Mill to the west, Richmond Cotton Mill and Bottoms Iron Works to the north, (Plate.3).

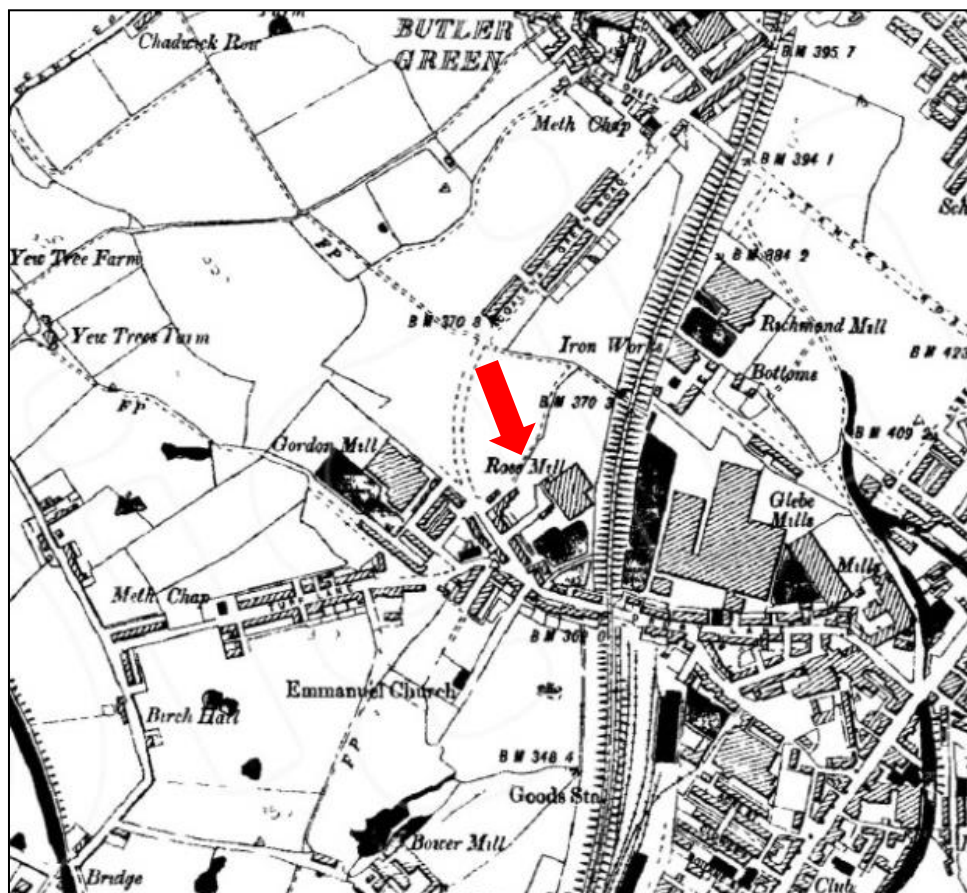


Plate.3: OS map of 1893-4. Site marked by red arrow

During the same period the Hollinwood Branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway had 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

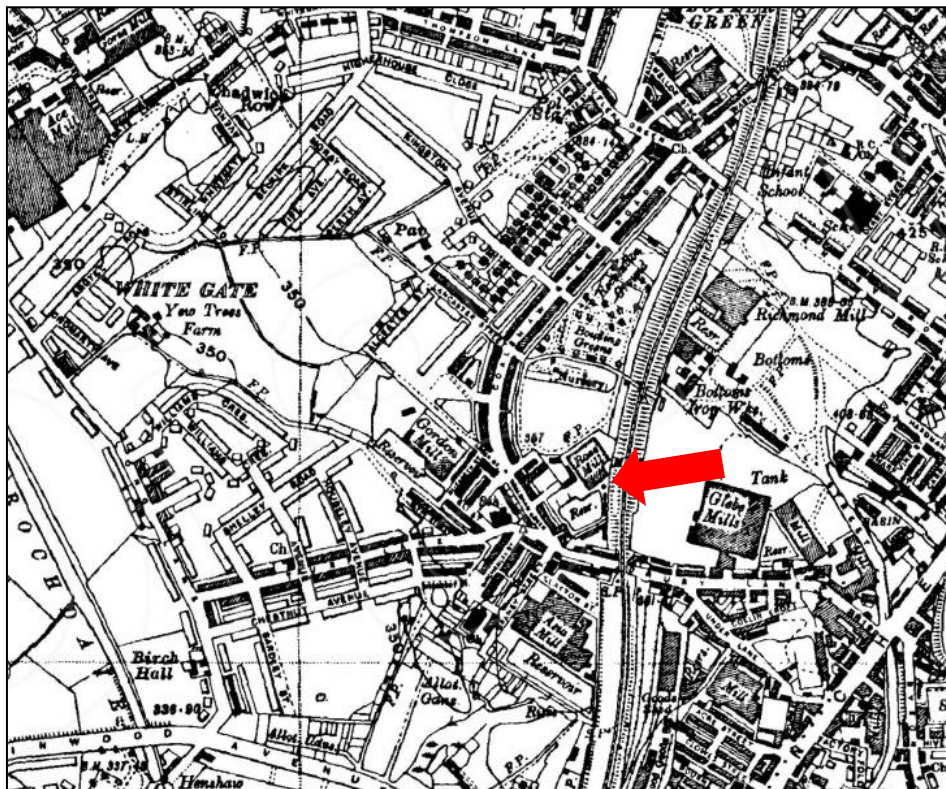


Plate 4: OS map of 1922. Site marked by red arrow.

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 was 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 land, (<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

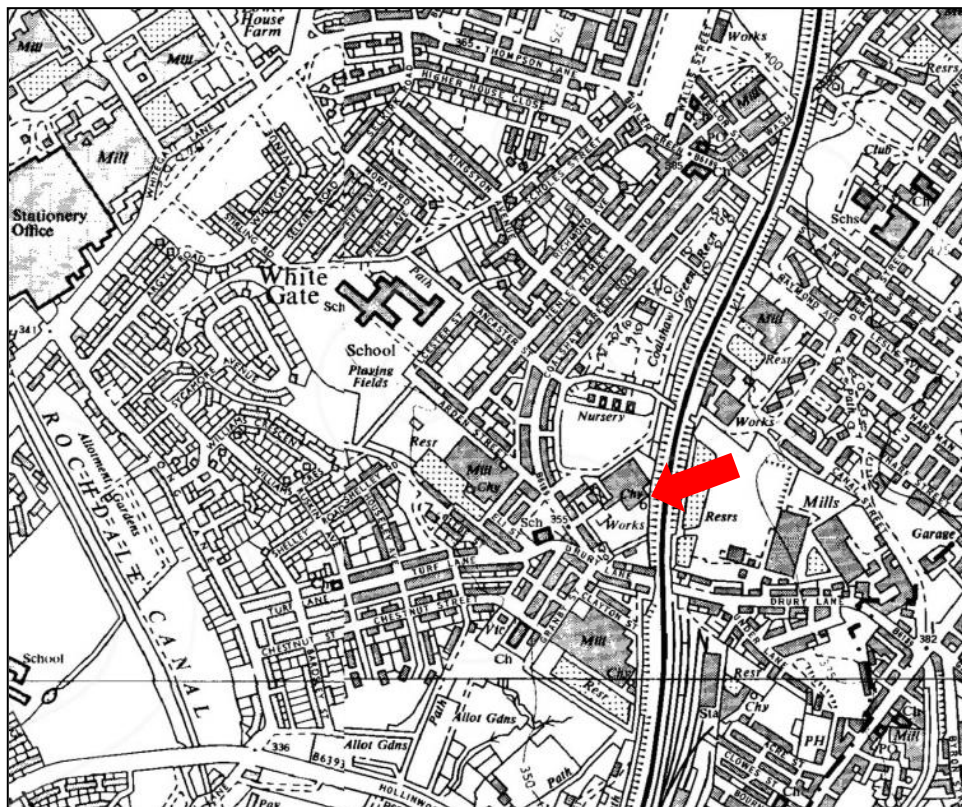


Plate 5: OS map of 1959. Site area marked by red arrow.

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 had 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 had 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 that 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 glass houses 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 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)

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.



Plate.6: Aerial photograph of the site, dated 1986. Image reproduced with permission from Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS).

3. Methodology

3.1 Evaluation Methodology

Before work began, the client provided Salford Archaeology with service plans for the area and all trench locations and surrounding areas were scanned with appropriate equipment 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 1.80m and 0.60m 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 locations of the trenches are shown on the trench location plan (Fig.3).

The evaluation trenches were positioned across the site in order to determine the presence, extent, depth and state of preservation of the potential remains identified by the archaeological DBA. Some leeway was allowed for movement of the trenches from the original WSI marked positions due to terrain features. 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 areas at a safe distance from the trench edge.

Following the completion of the evaluation, all trenches were reinstated with the excavated materials.

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. Evaluation Results

4.1 Introduction

In total, five trenches were placed across the proposed development site. These targeted the footprint of Coalshaw Farm and Rose Mill.

The required evaluation of the area indicated by the DBA to contain Coalshaw Green cottages was not undertaken at this time due to the presence of Japanese Knotweed.

The placing of the trenches was determined by GMAAS based on the findings of the desk based assessment.

4.2 Trench 1- Coalshaw Farm (Fig 4)

This trench was located towards the western end of the proposed development site, on a council maintained area of landscaped turf and foliage fronting Coalshaw Road. It was aligned north-east/ south-west and measured 10m in length and 2m in width and was positioned across the believed footprint of a row of farm buildings. The aim of the trench was to establish the nature and extent of any surviving archaeological features.

Progressing along Trench 1 from its north-eastern limit, shallow surviving features were seen at 0.50m along the trench (Plate 7). The remains of a handmade brick wall (102) passed through the trench on a north-west /south-east alignment at a depth of 0.26m. This single course of brick work, with average brick dimensions of 0.23x0.11x0.06m was laid as headers with a grey lime mortar bonding material.

Extending south-west from this, the remains of a further brick wall (103) were seen running for 1.75m before being truncated during demolition (Plate 7). Two courses of this wall were seen at the same depth as the north-west /south-east wall (102). To the north of this the remains of broken stone flags (104) were seen abutting the corner between the two walls.

At 3.90 m from the limit of the trench, a broken surface of stone (105) was seen in the centre of the trench with a north-west/south-east alignment. This feature extended south-east beyond the trench limit with a visible length of 0.95m and a width of 0.34m.

A 2.9m long wall (106) aligned north east/ south-west was seen at a depth of 0.14m at 4.10m along the trench. The handmade brick wall, bonded with a sandy, grey lime mortar, was 0.24m in width and had a visible height of one brick course

Extending south-east from this wall, the top course of two walls were exposed at a similar depth. Wall (107) had a length of 1.20m with broken brick fragments at its truncated limit suggesting a further continuation beyond the south-east limit of the trench. Wall (108) was seen 1.47m to the south-west of this and extended from wall (106) for 1.36m to the trench limit. Between the two walls an area of badly preserved

brickwork (109) was seen. The brickwork feature had a length of 1.47m and a surviving width of approximately 0.44m. It was laid in rows with 2 width courses of stretcher bricks abutting each wall and between these a mix of stretchers and on edge headers bonded with a pale lime mortar (Plate.8).



Plate.7: Structural brick walls (102) & (103). Looking south-east.

At 7.10m along the trench, no further brick features were seen. An area of truncated medium sized, sub angular stone (110) was seen abutting the south-west end of wall (105). These broken stones extended from the north-west trench limit 0.78m with an approximate width of 0.66m.

At 8.70m along the trench a large sub angular stone which appeared to have bricks sat upon in (111), was seen in the south-eastern trench section at a depth to the 0.41m. The feature had a width of 0.34m (Plate.9).

Beyond this stone feature no further remains were seen. The remainder of the trench was excavated down to natural sandy clay, this was seen at a depth of 0.42m. The natural geology in this part of the site appeared as a firm, brown, very sandy clay. This natural was seen at varying depths across this area of the site. Within Trench 1 it was seen at a depth of 0.42m below the turf/ ground level.



Plate.8: Area of truncated brickwork (109), between walls (107) (NE) & 108 (SE). Looking North-west



Plate.9: Possible stone and brick wall (111), seen only in section. Looking East

4.3 Trench 2 – Coalshaw Farm (Fig 4)

This trench was located to the north east of trench 1 within a heavily overgrown area of waste land. With the agreement of GMAAS the size and placement of trenches 2 and 3 were adjusted from those proposed in the WSI due to topographical constraints. The result was that trenches 2 and 3 were combined to form a single, extended area of evaluation designated Trench 2, based around the originally intended location for trench 2.

The topography of this area was a large bank with a steep slope from northeast to south-west and north-west. This was covered in brambles and shrubbery with large quantities of modern dumped materials. Approximately 1m of this material was dug out of the slope to reach a working level similar to that of trench 1.

Trench 2 measured 11m in length by 7m in width and was aligned north-west/ south-east. Excavations undertaken were to a maximum depth of 1.50m with natural sandy clay seen at 1.3m

A handmade brick wall (202) was revealed running north-east/ south-west along most of the north-west edge of the trench immediately in front of a fencing line extending from the standing houses. It had a length of 5.89m and survived up to a maximum height of 4 courses. The wall was 0.25m in width, constructed of two brick courses and bonded with a grey lime mortar.



Plate.10: North-west/ South-east aligned brick wall (203), behind brick floor (207). Looking East

A 0.25m wide, 2 course wall (203), constructed of handmade brick abutted wall (202) and was seen to run south-east for 2.90m (Plate10). This wall survived up to 3 courses in height approximately 0.27m and was bonded with a lime mortar. To the north east of this wall a thin concrete screed abutted the wall and extended beyond the limit of excavation. A slot was dug through the concrete which had a depth of 0.05m below this natural ground was seen.

The remains of a flagged passage (204) were seen 3.44m from the north-west limit of the evaluation area. Broken flags were seen aligned north-east /south -west between the remains of two flanking walls. The passage was 0.93m in width and had surviving remains for a length of 2.49m (Plate 11). The north-west end of the passageway seemed to be indicated by a single large stone flag marking a threshold and placed within wall (203).

The flanking wall to the north- west (205) was 2.75m in length and had a width of 0.25m. Only one course of brick in height was seen. A stone slab with a 0.55m length was set into the wall perhaps indicating an opening into an area associated with a floor surface (207: below)

The flanking wall to the south-east (206) only partially survived as a 1.85m section at the south-west side of the trench. The truncation in this wall is likely the result of demolition and the removal of internal flags. This would also explain the lack of surfaces seen at the south-east end of the evaluation area.



Plate 11: Stone flagged threshold and internal corridor (204). Looking West.

Bounded by walls (202), (203) and (205), was a rectangular floor surface (207). This measured 2.27m in width and had a length of 2.60m. The floor was seen to be constructed of broken brick and stone (Plate.12). The surface had been truncated at its north-east side towards wall (203). This truncation was likely caused during the demolition of the structure. To the west of this floor a thin concrete screed (208) was seen as the floor level. Below this, sandy deposits with pebbles were seen sat just above natural sandy clays (Plate 13).

The concrete extended west to meet the remains of a north-west/south-east aligned wall (209) which formed a right-angle corner with wall (202). The wall had a surviving length of 0.90 m with 4 brick courses in height seen. The brick wall sat on top of a wall (210) made up of brought to course stone and rubble which extended for 7.34m south-east from the truncated limit of the brick wall. The stone wall was 0.60m in width constructed of two courses (Plate 14).



Plate 12: Internal brick floor with stone insets (207). Looking North East



Plate 13: Concrete Screed floor (208) at the north-west corner of trench 2.



Plate 14: Brought to course farmhouse stone wall (211). Looking north-west
To the south-east of the internal passage, and on the same alignment, wall (203)
abutted a stone wall (211). The stone wall was 4.7m to the north east of stone wall

(210). It had the same width of 0.60m as (203) and had a surviving height of 0.42m. The wall extended south-east for 6.0m where it reached the excavation limit (Plate 15).



Plate 15: Exterior structural stone wall (211) with cobbled surface to the east

At 1.72m along this wall a stone flag threshold was seen set into the wall (Plate 16). It had a length of 1.0m and width of 0.42m which extended north east beyond the wall. Either side of the flag, stonework with markings from door furniture were seen. To the east of the wall (211) a cobbled surface was seen (212). The exposed cobbled area was up to 1m in width where it met the excavation northeast limit and extended 4.20m to the south-eastern limit of trench 2.



Plate 16. Stone threshold positioned between two stone frame blocks. Looking west

perhaps offering a route from one side of the building to the other. It is not clear from the evaluation whether or not the change from brick, wall (203), to stone, wall (211),



Plate 17: Cobbled yard surface (212). Looking north.

4.4 Trench 3- Rose Mill (Fig 5)

To aims of the three trenches opened on the site of the former Rose Mill were to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains pertaining to the steam-power plant of the mill and, if present, establish their condition, extent and significance.

The WSI proposed two evaluation trenches however the lack of remains in trenches 3 and 4 allowed for sufficient time for a third trench, 5, to be opened.

Trench 3 was located to the south-east end of the area. It was aligned north-west/south-east and measured 20m by 2m.

The trench was overlain by a 0.10m layer of topsoil/moss and scattered ballast material (301). Below this levelling material of demolition crush (302) filled the trench to a depth of 1.91m.

At 0.6m along the trench from its south-east limit the remains of a poorly preserved brick wall (303) was seen. The wall had a width of 0.48m and passed northeast/south-west across the trench. The single surviving course was seen at a depth of 0.68m

Beyond this natural sterile sandy clay was seen at a depth of 0.90m. A further wall (304) extended across the trench 1.7m north-west (303). The wall, seen at a depth of 0.43m had a surviving visible height of 0.5m with 5 courses of brickwork seen and a width of 0.35m, 3 courses. The complete brick dimensions were seen as 22 x 11 x 7.5cm. The construct of the wall was stretcher bricks bonded with a sandy mortar (Plate 18).



Plate.18: Remains of wall 304 aligned northeast/ south-west across trench 3. Looking north-west.

Abutting the south-east face of this wall an area of poorly preserved brickwork (305 & 308) was seen at a depth of 0.36m (Plate 19). The feature appeared to be rectangular or possibly the joint of the remains of two walls. This feature was seen at 4.70m along the trench, with a length of 1.90m and extended northeast into the trench by 0.85m.

Two courses of mixed brick (305), hand-made and frogged, one stamped Wilkinson Elland, extended north-west for 1.8m where it abutted and formed a 90 degree corner with further two courses of brickwork (308) which extended south-west for 0.85m to the trench edge.



Plate.19: Brickwork feature 305 abutting wall 304. Looking North East



Plate.20: Large rectangular stone bedding block 306 in the south-west section of trench 3. Looking South

At 7.20m along the trench, a large rectangular stone bed (306) was seen protruding from the demolition material in the trench section and extending 0.15m into the trench at its north-west end (Plate. 20). The top of the stone bed was seen at a depth of 0.45 with further demolition crush material underneath.



Plate.21: Stone flags (307) seen in trench 3.

At a depth of 1.4m large stone flags (307) of mixed size and shape formed a floor surface which spanned the width of the trench. The floor was seen to extend from 8.20m along the trench on a north /south alignment. The surviving length of the floor was seen to be 2.10m. At this point the surface was truncated, with no further archaeological features being encountered.

Beyond this truncation of the flagged surface at 11.25m along the trench excavations continued down to natural ground which was seen at a depth of 1.9m below the site working level.

4.5 Trench 4- Rose Mill (Fig 5)

The trench was located 14.5m to the north east of trench 3. Aligned north-west/ south-east, it had a length of 30m and a width of 2m. Excavation was undertaken to a maximum depth of 2.4m with natural sandy clay reached at 2.2m.

The trench was overlain by a 0.10m layer of made ground topsoil and mosses (401). Beneath this a demolition rubble crush (402) was excavated to a depth of 2m. An area of possible stone flagging (403) measuring 1m in length and extending the width of the trench was seen 1.15m along the trench at a depth of 1.8m. Access to the trench due to the depth and unstable nature of the edges was not possible. The feature was cleaned by machine (Plate 22)



Plate 22: Possible stone flag surface in trench 4. Looking north

Beyond this area of flag material, no further remains were seen within the trench. Natural sandy clays were seen the length of the trench at depths of 2.2-2.7m.



Plate 23: Natural sandy clay (100) seen the length of Trench 4. Looking North West

4.6 Trench 5- Rose Mill

This trench was sited to the north east of trench 4. Measuring 20m in length and 2m in width, the trench was excavated to natural sandy clay at a depth of 2.0m (Plate.24).

No features of archaeological interest were seen within the trench. The trench was overlain by 0.30m of topsoil and made ground. This top deposit (501) is a dark grey ash and sand mix containing gravels and broken brick fragments. Self-seeding young trees cover most of the outer perimeter of the site.

Below the topsoil further made ground of demolition brick and concrete crush (502) have been used as levelling material. These fragments are mixed with site waste materials in a dark brown sandy loose ash.

Sat below the brick crush, a compacted deposit of burnt materials (503) formed a dark grey/black ash and silt mix.

Natural sandy clay (100) was seen at a depth of 2.0 - 2.30m within the trench (Plate 23).



Plate 24: Trench 5 stratigraphy. Looking South

6. Discussions

6.1 Rose Mill.

The results of the evaluation suggest that very little remains of the 19th century mill survive below the current site level, with only heavily truncated patches of structural remains being encountered in trench 3 (Fig: 5).

Evaluation trenching confirmed the stratigraphic makeup of the site. The findings align with the results of trial pit and borehole sampling undertaken by e3p in their Geo-Environmental Site Assessment Investigation. The results of the evaluation suggest that after the 2007 fire at the mill subsequent demolition and site clearance removed to natural levels the mill structure. The footprint was filled with burnt site waste and demolition materials and sealed with brick rubble crush forming a loosely compacted levelling material (Plate 25).



Plate 25: Trench 4 stratigraphy. Looking North East.

Within trenches 3 and 4 the stone flagged floors seen at 1.4m and 1.8m below the current ground level are likely to be a cellared floor.

The sandstone block bedding materials seen within Trench 3 (306) are characteristic of mill engine houses during this period and may suggest the evaluation trench had been placed over the engine house. However, the engine beds were seen within the fill material (302) and not in-situ circumstantial evidence for the destruction caused to the mill by the fire and subsequent demolition works.

There is the potential for further structural features to be encountered during the ground prep works, however the level of survival seen across the mill trenches suggests little further information would be gained from further investigation.

6.2 Coalshaw Farm.

The evaluation trenching established the nature, depth, extent and level of survival of the below ground remains of the farm house and its associated buildings.

In both trenches towards the south-west corner of the development area extensive finds of reasonable survival condition were uncovered at a relatively shallow depth. The survey data, and cross-referenced mapping (Figs: 3 & 4) aligns some of the features excavated with the earliest known mapping for Coalshaw Farm.

Although the evaluation did not establish the uses of the buildings and what the boundaries of the farmhouse were, it did find recordable features of farm buildings that can be confidently related to the earliest Ordnance Survey map of the area.

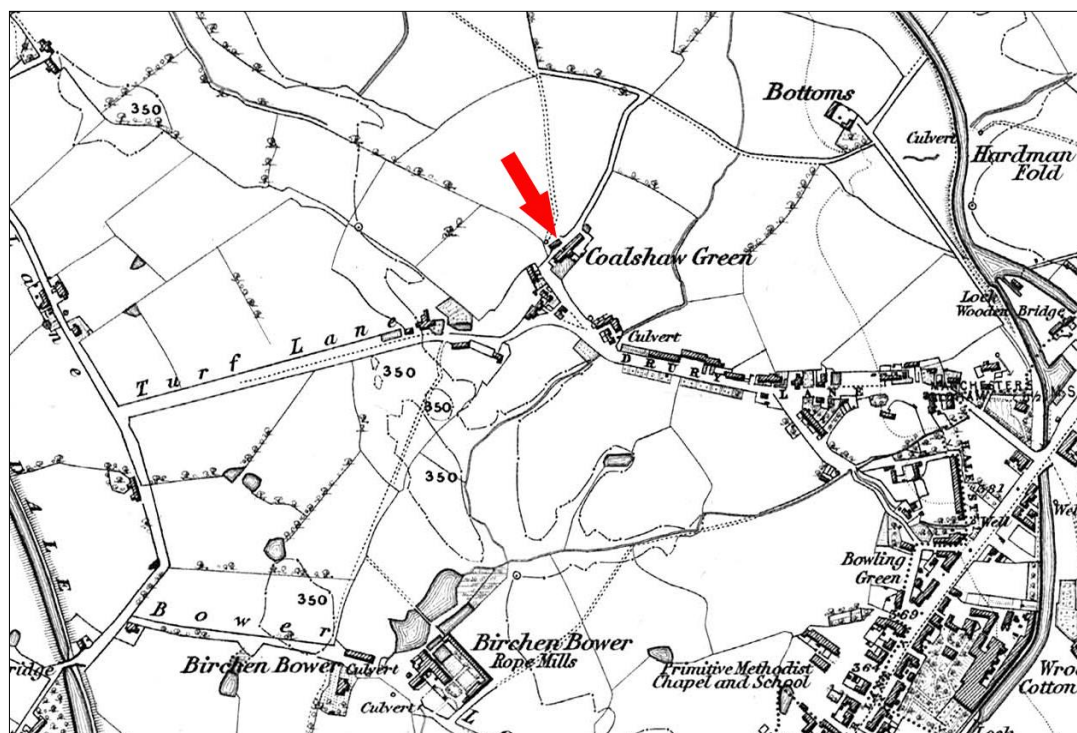


Plate 26: Coalshaw Farm shown on the OS 6 inch First Edition Map of Lancashire surveyed 1841-1853.

When comparing the finds with the maps it has been established that the farm buildings sat within a cobbled yard, seen as (212), which extended south-east to the farms boundary with what would become Rose Street. The farm buildings were seen to have been constructed of both stone and brick. Evidence of phasing was also seen in trench 2, with brick walls being constructed upon earlier stone walls, and concrete screeds being laid over brick floor.

The evaluation has established that this area of the proposed redevelopment site has been in continuous usage from the early 19th century through to the later 20th century. There is a strong chance that further remains which chronicle the history and development of this site and the wider Chadderton area will survive within close proximity of the evaluation trenches.

7. Recommendations for Mitigation

7.1 Rose Mill

The demolition and removal of archaeological features associated with Rose Mill appears to have been more extensive than at other mills in the area. This may be due to requirements resulting from the fire. Generally walls and structures relating to mill engine houses are amongst the most robust in terms of archaeological survival the low level of survival of any features relating to these structures at Rose Mill would suggest that little if anything survives in the archaeological record of other Rose Mill buildings.

It is the opinion of Salford Archaeology that further archaeological work on the site of the Rose Mill would not reveal any archaeological remains of extent or significance and therefore no archaeological mitigation is required on this part of the proposed development site.

7.2 Coalshaw Farm

There was a good level of survival of remains relating to the farmhouse. There had been some truncation of archaeological features however this seemed to relate mainly to internal floor surfaces of the farmhouse. The external walls survived to an extent that they could be related to Ordnance Survey mapping and the mixed use of materials suggests a possible phased development of the site.

It is the opinion of Salford Archaeology that the opportunity to gain information about the development and survival of pre-industrial agricultural buildings within a landscape that became heavily industrialised should be taken further. An archaeological programme of strip and plan over the mapped extent of Coalshaw Farm should be undertaken. Coupled with the excavation of selected features this could provide evidence to date the earliest phase of occupation of the farmhouse and chart its development into the industrial era.

Given the extent of vegetation and dumped material over this part of the site it would seem sensible to carry out any further archaeological work alongside site remediation works.. It should be noted that once the dumped/made ground has been removed the archaeological remains are very close to the surface therefore the removal of the overburden materials should be undertaken with archaeological supervision with the aim of proceeding immediately down to archaeological levels. Care should be taken in the running of vehicles over the area..

7.3 Coalshaw Green Cottages

The archaeological evaluation of the area of the cottages was not carried out due to the presence of Japanese Knotweed. The evaluation of this area remains an outstanding archaeological condition.

It is the opinion of Salford Archaeology that as the process of removing this invasive species involves excavating out the root system an Archaeological Watching Brief is held during this process. This will record any archaeological remains that have to be disturbed or removed during the remediation process and will indicate if any remains of the cottages remain in place after the process which might require further archaeological mitigation.

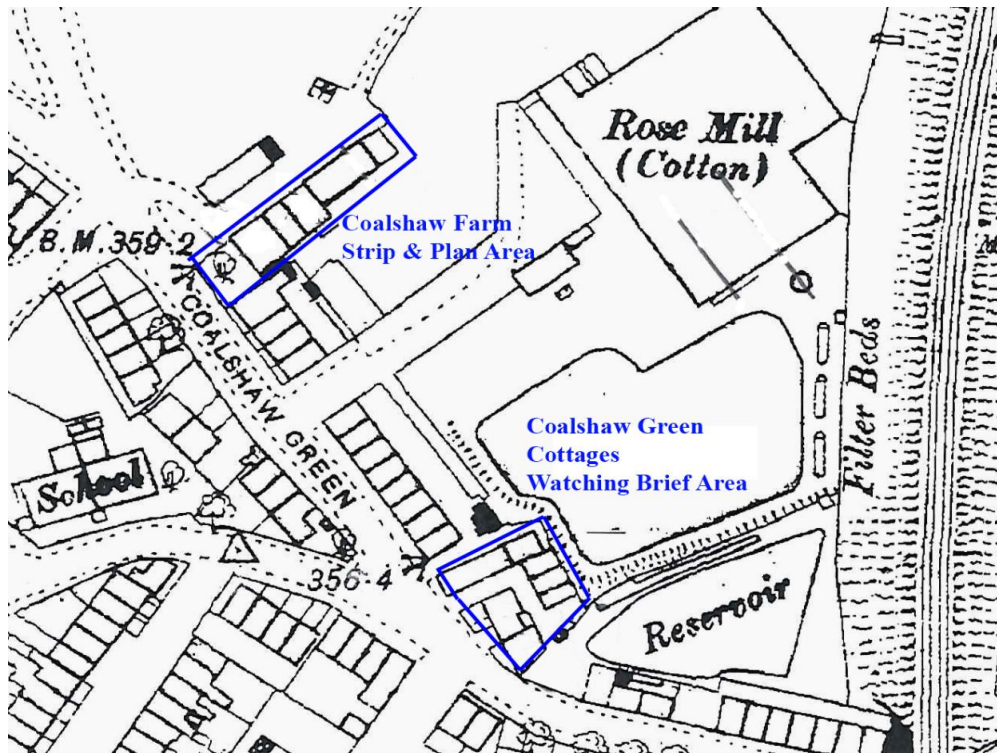


Plate 27: Areas of mitigation marked on the Ordnance Survey 1894 map.



Plate 28: Areas of mitigation marked on a google image.

8. Archive

The archive comprises digital drawings and photographs. This archive is currently held by Salford Archaeology.

9. Acknowledgments

Salford Archaeology would like to thank Countryside Properties for commissioning the archaeology works and for providing extensive background information on the site. Salford Archaeology would also like to thank Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director (Archaeology) at GMAAS for providing monitoring support and advice. The on-site excavations were conducted by Simon Hinchliffe and Elizabeth Statham. The report was written and illustrated by Simon Hinchliffe.

10. Sources

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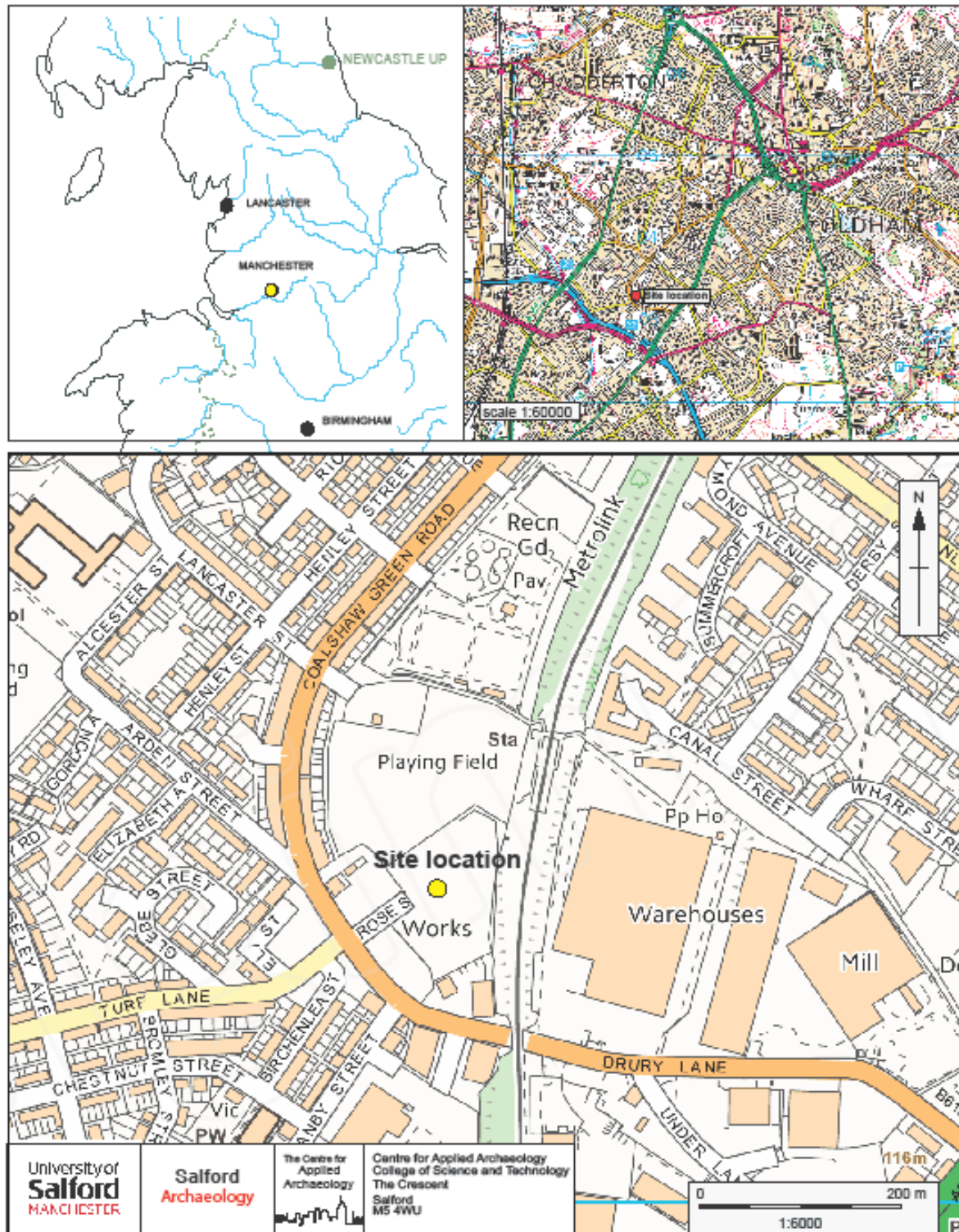
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Maps

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- Tithe Map of Oldham (Chadderton Sheets 13& 14), 1840-1848
- OS County Series 1:2500 First Edition, 1844-9, Lancashire Sheet XCVII.9.
- OS County Series 1:500 Town Plan – Oldham, 1892, Lancashire Sheet 97 SW
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- OS Plan 1:2500 Edition, 1959, Plan 90 SW
- OS Plan 1:2500 Edition, 1960-70, Plan Sheet 90 SW
- OS Plan 1:10,000 Edition, 1983, Plan SD 90 SW
- OS Plan 1:10,000 Edition, 1990, Plan SD 90 SW

Appendix 1: Figures



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Fig. 1: Site location

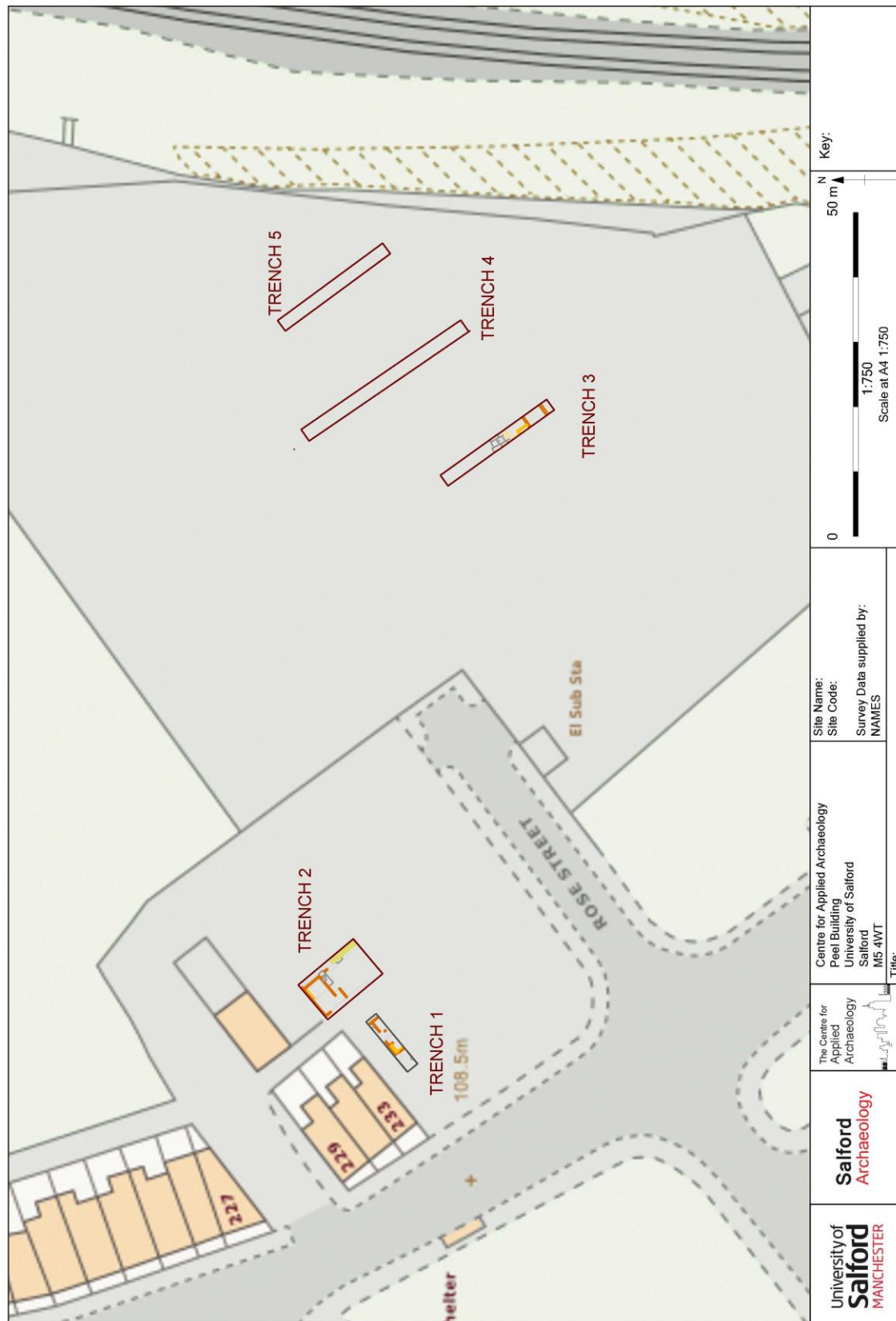


Fig 2: Trench Location Plan



Fig 3: Trench Locations Overlaid on 1898 OS Map

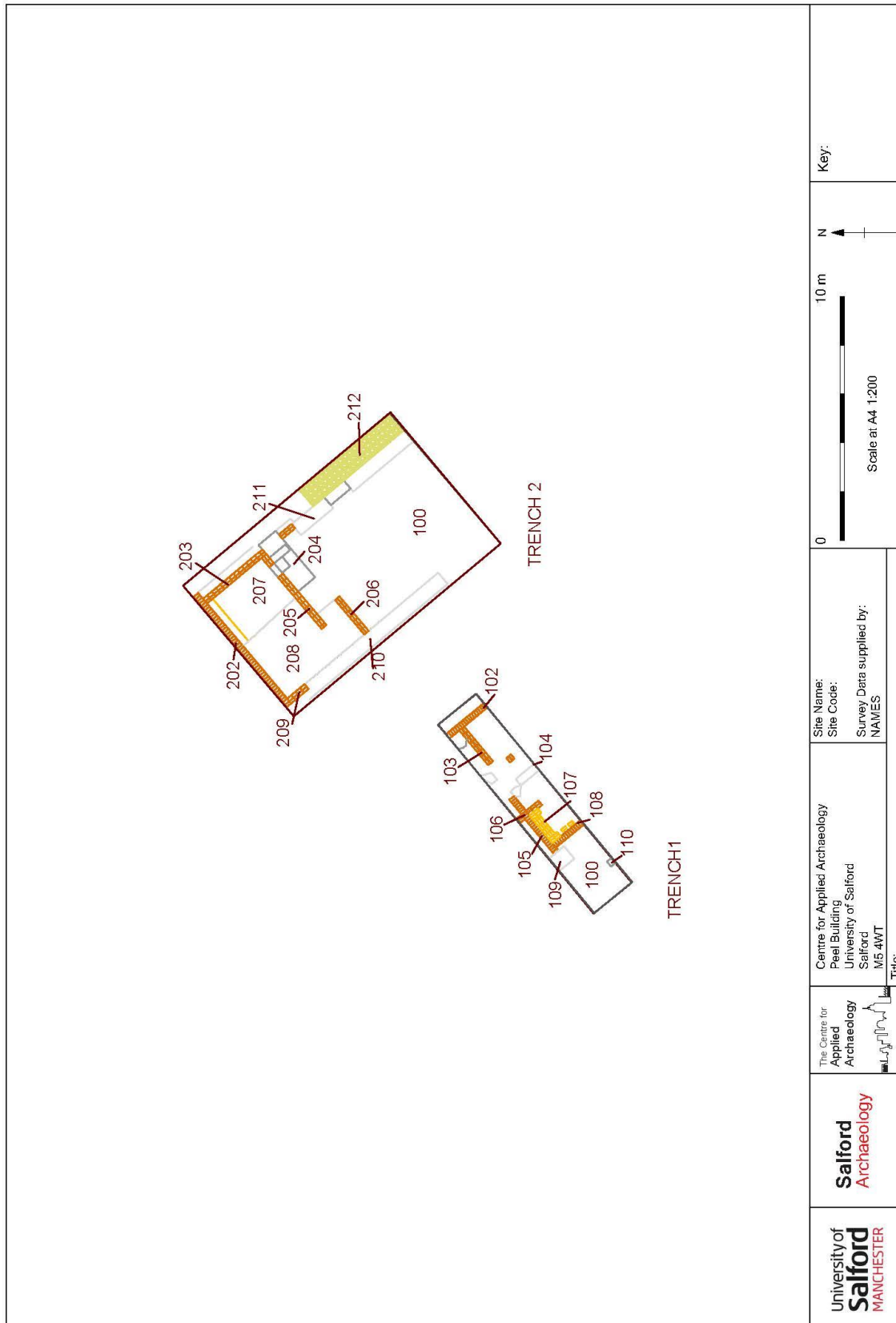


Fig 4: Trenches 1 & 2 Contexts

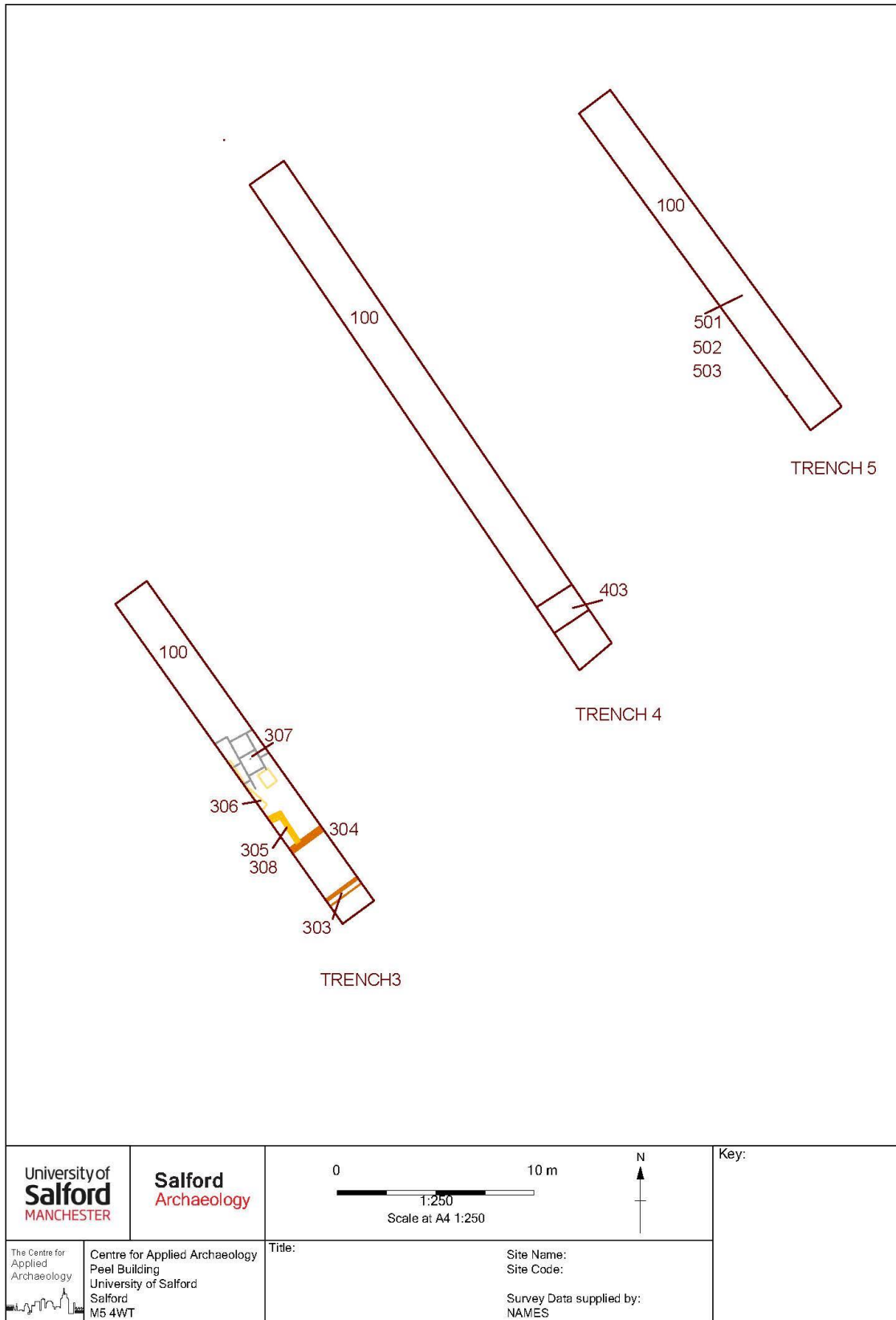


Fig 5: Trenches 3-5 Contexts



CONSULTANCY



DESK BASED ASSESMENTS



WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION



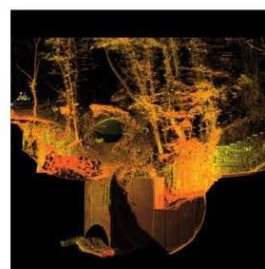
EXCAVATION



BUILDING SURVEY



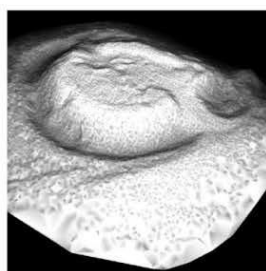
3D LASER SCANNING



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



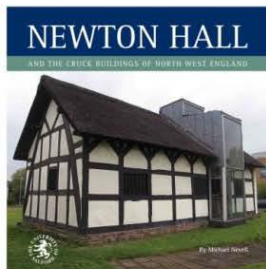
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS



WORKSHOPS & VOCATIONAL TRAINING



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Centre for Applied Archaeology (C/AA), School of the Built Environment, University of Salford
Joule House, 1 Acton Square, The Crescent, Salford, M5 4NW
Telephone: 0161 295 3818 email: a.thompson@salford.ac.uk