# Belle Vue Stadium, Gorton, Manchester

## Archaeological Excavation Report

**March 2022**

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# Belle Vue Stadium, Gorton, Manchester

## *Archaeological Excavation Report*

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# Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Lanpro Services on behalf of Countryside Properties and SCP Investments Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation, extending an earlier evaluation trench where archaeological remains had been encountered, at the site of a proposed housing development on the former Belle Vue Stadium, Kirkmanshulme Lane, Gorton, Manchester (NGR: SJ 8788 9606). The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref: 122160/FO/2018), and to meet the requirements of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by Lanpro Services and agreed in advance with Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service (GMAAS), advisors to Manchester City Council on archaeological planning matters.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services (ARS) in February 2021, which targeted two post-medieval farmsteads depicted on historic mapping. Trench 1 targeting Higher Catsknowl did not encounter any archaeological remains, although Trench 2, targeting Lower Catsknowl, did encounter several floor surfaces. As such, GMAAS required that an archaeological excavation be undertaken to expand Trench 2, with the aim of further exposing the remains of the former farmstead. OA North were subsequently undertook the excavation over three days, between 22nd and 24th March 2021.

The excavation identified archaeological remains across the area investigated relating to Lower Catsknowl; these were principally floor surfaces, although walls did survive, but generally only to a single course. The remains were heavily truncated, most likely during the demolition of the farmstead for the redevelopment of Belle Vue Stadium in the 1950s and 1980s, but also by modern services and drainage. The remains that did survive corresponded relatively well with the historic mapping of the site, with the buildings in the north-eastern part of the main range of buildings likely being domestic, due to the presence of flagged floors, with the western half of the range potentially having been used as barns or stables, as were the buildings to the south. Due to the level of truncation of the site, phasing of the structures identified was difficult, beyond what is depicted on the historic mapping, which does suggest that the buildings were relatively contemporary and minimal changes to the farmstead occurred. However, there did appear to be at least an earlier phase, potentially comprising wall ***105***, a main phase of structures and floor surfaces constructed on natural geology ***1005***, followed by a later phase, comprising wall ***104***. There did appear to also be periodic repair and remodelling of the structures and surfaces throughout, although there was no evidence of earlier surfaces or structures beneath the surfaces recorded.

Although the site has potentially assisted with one of the regional research framework questions, the poor preservation of the remains leads to the site

being ascribed with a low local significance of the site. As such, it is not recommended to publish the results of the excavation beyond inclusion of the site as a summary in *Post-Medieval Archaeology*'s yearly roundup. The archive, along with this report, will also be deposited with Greater Manchester County Record Officer and via OASIS (reference: oxfordar2-501594) to the Archaeological Data Service online database.

# Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North would like to thank Mitch Pollington of Lanpro Services for commissioning this project on behalf of Countryside Properties and SCP Investments Ltd. Thanks are also extended to Ben Dyson, Senior Planning Archaeologist for Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service (GMAAS), who monitored the work on behalf of the local planning authority for his advice and guidance.

The project was managed for OA North by Paul Dunn. The fieldwork was directed by Andrew McGuire, who was supported by Liberty Bennett. Survey and digitizing were carried out by Liberty Bennett, Maranda Wareham and Mark Tidmarsh.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Lanpro Services on behalf of Countryside Properties and SCP Investments Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation, extending an earlier evaluation trench where archaeological remains had been encountered, at the site of a proposed housing development on the former Belle Vue Stadium, Kirkmanshulme Lane, Gorton, Manchester (NGR: SJ 8788 9606; Fig 1).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 122160/FO/2018). A brief was set by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), and to meet the requirements of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; *Appendix A*) produced by Lanpro Services and agreed in advance with Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service (GMAAS), advisors to Manchester City Council on archaeological planning matter.

1.1.3 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services (ARS) in February 2021 (ARS 2021), which targeted two post-medieval farmsteads depicted on historic mapping. Trench 1, targeting Higher Catsknowl, did not encounter any archaeological remains, although Trench 2, targeting Lower Catsknowl, did encounter several floor surfaces. As such, GMAAS required that an archaeological excavation be undertaken to expand Trench 2, with the aim of further exposing the remains of the former farmstead. OA North was subsequently commissioned to undertake the excavation fieldwork, which was undertaken over three days, between 22nd and 24th March 2021. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

## 1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The proposed development site lies within the former Belle Vue Stadium (SJ 8788 9606; Fig 1) and is bounded to the north by Kirkmanshulme Lane, to the east by Mount Road, to the south by mid-twentieth century housing developments, and to the west by a new stadium and sports fields. The site comprises a car park to the north, to the south of which is the main stand and greyhound racing track.

1.2.2 The excavation area is situated to the south-east of the race track, to the immediate south of the easternmost section of former terracing. The ground level within the site is generally situated at an average height of 61m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.2.3 The bedrock geology of the site is mapped as sandstone of the Chester Formation (BGS 2021). The superficial deposits of the site are mapped as Devensian till (*ibid*)

## 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background is discussed in detail in the desk-based assessment produced by Lanpro Services (2018). A brief summary is provided here.

1.3.2 There is no recorded evidence of prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity within the proposed development site, although there is one record in the Historic Environment Record (HER), within 1km of the site, which relates to the presumed line of a Roman

road broadly on the same alignment as the A6 Stockport Road. The name Gorton derives from Anglo-Saxon, 'dirty farmstead' and was first recorded in 1282 (Mills 2011, 210), although the form of the name suggests early medieval occupation in the area. Following the Norman conquest, Gorton formed part of the manor of Manchester, and a survey of 1320 recorded five tenants and a mill in the area (Farrer and Brownsbill 1911, 276).

1.3.3 The earliest historic mapping of the site was produced by William Yates in 1786, which depicts two farms on the site, later named on Ordnance Survey mapping as Higher Catsknowl, to the north, and Lower Catsknowl, to the south. The Gorton tithe map of 1846 depicts Lower Catsknowl as a single building range sitting within an irregular plot with a pond at its western end. The structures appear to be a linear plan farmhouse (English Heritage 2014a), of a similar form to a Longhouse (English Heritage 2006; 2014b) or Laithe-houses, which are dwellings with other farm buildings, such as barns or stables, incorporated into a single structural unit, with separate entrances for people and livestock (Brunskill 2000).

1.3.4 The 1848 Ordnance Survey 6-inch map shows the layout of the site much as it is depicted on the earlier tithe map. Again the 1893 Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (Fig 3) shows the site remaining largely as it had in the mid-nineteenth century, although a new building is depicted north of Lower Catsknowl. The 1935 Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (Fig 4) depicts the main structure of Lower Catsknowl remaining the same, however, the outbuildings to the south received some modification and expansion since the 1893 mapping.

1.3.5 To the north of Kirkmanshulme Lane, the Belle Vue Zoological Gardens was first established in the 1830s, and then substantially extended in the 1880s. Terrace housing was constructed along newly laid out streets to the north of Hyde Road, with the Sheffield and Midland Railway line being constructed to the east of the site in the 1870s, with Belle Vue Station opening in 1875. The area of the site, to the south of Kirkmanshulme Lane, largely remained as open ground through the early twentieth century.

1.3.6 The site was purchased by the Greyhound Racing Associate in the mid-1920s, and a custom-built greyhound stadium was constructed on the site, with the first race being held in July 1926 (Genders 1981, 34). The buildings of both Higher and Lower Catsknowl continued to stand following the construction of the stadium, with both farm ranges being depicted on the 1935 Ordnance Survey map. By 1951 Lower Catsknowl farm had been demolished. The stadium was substantially redeveloped in the late 1980s creating its present layout and appearance, with the buildings of Higher Catsknowl being demolished at this time.

1.3.7 ***Census records***: the census records for both properties within the proposed development area were consulted and the results from 1841 to 1911 have been tabulated (*Appendix B*). The census clearly shows that from 1841 through to 1881 the farmsteads were occupied by the Twigg family who were principally farmers. Although based upon the census records they appeared to move from Lower Catsknowl to Higher Catsknowl by 1881. There did not appear to be any relationship between the

occupiers of Lower and Higher Catsknowl, other than this move between the properties in 1881.

1.3.8 The records show evidence that there was generally three families living in the two properties, seemingly Lower Catsknowl was occupied by two families, although earlier evidence suggests it was Higher Catsknowl that was occupied this way. In the census return for 1891 Lower Catsknowl, or Cats Knoll, is split into two with a Number 1 and Number 2 being referenced on the return.

1.3.9 Initially, as would be expected, the properties were occupied by farming families, with the head of the family being generally identified as a farmer and other members of the household with farming specific occupations, for example dairymaid or farm labourer. The later returns, certainly the 1901 return, suggest that the occupiers occupations have shifted away from farming, with the heads of the households being a Police constable and a picture frame maker.

# 2 EXCAVATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 Aims and objectives

2.1.1 The overall aim of the works was to obtain sufficient information to establish the function, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any structures or archaeological deposits associated with the post-medieval Lower Catsknowl farmstead. The objectives were as follows:

i. to identify and interpret the form and function of structural elements relating to the former Lower Catsknowl farmstead;
ii. to excavate and record features to a level appropriate to their extent and significance where assessed to be necessary;
iii. to assess the potential for survival of environmental remains;
iv. to undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to interpret the remains of the farmstead and any related finds;
v. to produce a report of the results and place them in their local, regional and national context; and
vi. to compile and deposit the site archive at a suitable repository.

## 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The methodology followed that outlined and detailed in the WSI produced by Lanpro Services (*Appendix A*). All archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with accepted industry standards (CIfA 2019; 2020a; 2020b; HE 2015).

2.2.2 The archaeological excavation comprised an area of approximately 250m² within the south-eastern corner of the site. The excavated area included the footprint of the previously excavated evaluation Trench 2 (ARS 2021) with extensions made to the north, south and west.

2.2.3 Prior to any excavations taking place, a utility survey was conducted using a gCAT4+ and signal generator. This identified a possible electrical service along the south-eastern edge of the proposed excavation area. During excavations, this service was identified and avoided but other extant (water) services to the west and east of the site were unintentionally uncovered. The presence, extent and condition of these services were immediately communicated to OA management and Lanpro Services.

2.2.4 Initial excavations were conducted using a 13-ton, 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine excavation was supervised, by a suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist. Overburden was removed in 0.10m spits until the first archaeological horizons were observed or, natural sub-soil deposits were reached. Sondages were excavated where necessary, to determine the character and extent of any archaeological features.

2.2.5 Excavated overburden was redeposited around the edge of the excavation area at a distance of approximately 1m where spatial constraints allowed. Any subsoil was stored separately, where present.

2.2.6 On completion of any machined excavation, all archaeological features and deposits were cleaned and recorded by hand to establish their extent, form, date, function and relationship to other features. Following this, a full written and drawn record was produced documenting all the features revealed during the course of the excavation. Recording was undertaken using OA's *pro-forma* sheets with any drawings recorded at appropriate scales.

2.2.7 A full photographic record was maintained throughout the excavation. Images were produced using a Canon SX540 HS, HD digital camera with 20.3 megapixels. All photographs were taken in RAW format with appropriate scales included where necessary. The photographic record includes a geo-referenced survey of the excavation area and is accompanied by a paper index complete with relevant contextual information.

2.2.8 A full survey of the excavation area was completed using survey-grade dGPS equipment. The recorded data was accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid allowing the reproduction of accurate site plans and geo-rectified photography.

2.2.9 The paper and digital archive will be deposited with Greater Manchester County Record Office following completion of the project, with an OASIS form (reference oxfordar2-501594) being produced for the deposition of the archive with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). A short summary will also be produced for *Post Medieval Archaeology*'s yearly roundup.

# 3 RESULTS

## 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the excavation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of any archaeological remains. The full details of the excavated area, such as dimensions and depths of features/deposits, can be found in *Appendix C*.

## 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence across the area was uniform. The natural geology comprised a yellow clay ***1005***, overlain by blue-grey clay ***1004***, likely formed due to gleying. This was, in turn, overlain by overburden ***1002***, which was, in turn, overlain by modern tarmacadam ***1001***.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

## 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present throughout the excavation area. These were largely divided into walls, foundations and floor surfaces. The majority of the walls occurred within the northern half of the excavation, relating to the principal range of buildings of the former Lower Catsknowl farmstead, with the more extensive floor surfaces, largely contained within the central and southern parts of the site, relating to external yard surfaces.

## 3.4 Excavation, Trench 2 extension

3.4.1 The discussion of the results will start with the structural remains identified along the northern extent of the area, primarily related to the principal buildings of the former Lower Catsknowl farmstead (Figs 2 and 3). The discussion will then move onto the remains encountered in the southern part of the area, appearing to be former outbuildings, then finally, the external floor surfaces identified within the central part of area (Figs 2 and 3).

3.4.2 ***Northern structures***: the westernmost structure, ***101*** (Plate 1; Fig 2), was identified at a depth of 0.8m, aligned roughly east/west and seemingly truncated at either end. The structure comprised two skins of hand-made brick, which were un-mortared and appeared to have a small central cavity, 0.04m wide. The function of structure ***101*** remained undetermined, but perhaps related to drainage, although there was no evidence of a base to the feature and it had been constructed straight on the natural clay.

*Plate 1: Brick wall **101** looking south, scale 0.5m*

3.4.3 Approximately 5m to the north and east of brick structure ***101*** was structure ***103*** (Plate 2), which comprised wall ***127***, foundation ***128***, and interior surface ***129*** (Fig 2). The whole structure measured 2.45m x 2.73m, and continued to the north and west beyond the northern limit of the excavation area.

*Plate 2: Structure **103** looking west, scales 2x 1m*

3.4.4 Wall ***127*** formed the southern element of ***103***, potentially relating to walls ***105*** and ***106*** to the east (*Section 3.4.6*), forming part of the southern elevation of the former farmstead. It was one and a half bricks wide and comprised hand-made bricks bonded with lime mortar. Foundation ***128*** formed the eastern element of ***103*** and comprised coursed sandstone blocks, with an additional widening of hand-made brick along the

eastern face of the wall, with gaps between the two being filled with thin pieces of rubble masonry (Plate 3). This wall may relate to an internal, or at least a dividing, wall within the building, potentially dividing the living quarters from livestock if the building was constructed as a laithe-house. The relationship between walls ***127*** and ***128*** was not obvious, due to the eastern end of wall ***127*** having been truncated.

*Plate 3: Wall **128** looking west, scale 1m*

3.4.5 Floor surface ***129*** (Fig 2) was confined to the western extent of the structure and was constructed from hand-made brick, stone flags and granite setts, which were bedded onto a layer of ash and clinker, ***1003***, with additional levelling deposits of mortar and slate, ***1007***, occasionally observed beneath.

3.4.6 To the east, and appearing to continue on the same alignment as wall ***127***, were foundation ***105*** and wall ***106***. Foundation ***105*** (Fig 2; Plate 4) was observed below a layer of blue-grey clay ***1004***, likely suggesting that it is an earlier phase of construction than ***106***. The foundation was observed for a length of 3.12m and comprised blocks of undressed sandstone, with no evidence of any bonding material.

*Plate 4: Foundation **105** looking south, scale 0.5m*

3.4.7 Wall ***106*** (Fig 2) extended for approximately 5.5m long across the central area of the site, and had been heavily truncated at either end. The general fabric of wall ***106*** was of hand-made brick, a single brick wide bonded by lime mortar, above a foundation of coursed stone masonry. The eastern third of the wall included a worn stone step alongside a quoin stone with a cut recess on the upper surface for a possible door jamb (Plate 5). These features are accompanied by evidence to suggest that the wall was widened to two bricks either side of the entrance.

*Plate 5: Sandstone step in wall **106**, looking north, scale 0.5m*

3.4.8 Wall foundations ***111*** and ***112*** appeared to form a north/south-aligned return to wall ***106*** (Fig 2; Plate 6), both walls likely being the same structure, although truncated through the centre. Wall ***111***, the southern component of the north/south-aligned wall, which butts up to wall foundation ***106*** at its southern extent, and is therefore, a later addition or remodelling of the structure. At its junction with ***106*** wall ***111*** initially comprised hand-made bricks, a single brick wide and bonded by lime mortar. Thereafter, this was a single sandstone block, potentially a step, measuring 0.86m by 0.27m. To the north of the sandstone block, only two more bricks survive of wall foundation ***111***, comprising hand-made bricks, half a brick wide and bonded by lime mortar.

*Plate 6: Wall foundations **111** and **112** looking south, scale 1m*

3.4.9 Wall foundation ***112*** appears to be the continuation of wall foundation ***111*** to the north, surviving to a length of 1.52m. The wall was constructed from hand-made bricks, a single brick wide and bonded with lime mortar.

3.4.10 The internal area between foundation ***105*** and walls ***106***, ***111***, ***112*** and structure ***103*** to the west was heavily truncated, with remnants of surfaces surviving sporadically across the area. These surfaces included ***108***, ***109*** and ***110*** (Fig 2; Plate 7). Floor surface ***110*** to the west of the possible sandstone block step in wall ***111*** and north of the threshold through wall ***106*** survived to the greatest extent, measuring 2.4m x 1.4m, and comprised hand-made brick and cobbles, overlain by tarmacadam. The bricks had been used to border the initial 0.6m from the entrance step within wall ***106***, with the cobbles continuing northwards.

*Plate 7: Central part of the northern range of the former farmstead looking north-west, scales 1m and 2m*

3.4.11 To the north of floor surface ***110*** was surface ***109*** (Fig 2; Plate 7), the fabric of which comprised granite setts, stone flags and bull-nosed bricks. The bricks were laid as soldiers and may have formed a stepped entrance from the east. Surface ***108*** (Fig 2; Plate 7), to the west, was formed using similar materials, but incorporated a stone block as a possible step at the western extent. The fabric of these two surfaces suggests that they could be later date than the other surfaces identified throughout the site.

3.4.12 Wall ***104*** comprised a single course of dressed stone, truncated in places and measuring 6.28m in length (Fig 2; Plate 8). The wall foundation was bedded on sand ***1006*** and was laid directly over floor surface ***110*** at the eastern extent. The easternmost block had a square recess cut into its upper surface. A stepped entrance was also observed 1.7m west of this. Wall ***104*** does not correspond with the buildings depicted on historic mapping (Fig 3), being on a completely different alignment and overlying floor surface ***110***; as such, it is likely related to a later phase of construction, possibly once the former farmstead had gone out of use.

*Plate 8: Wall **104** looking north, scale 1m*

3.4.13 The remains in the north-eastern arm of the excavation area were heavily truncated by modern services and drainage, although despite this truncation some internal floor surfaces and structures survived (Fig 2; Plate 9). Wall ***122*** comprised a hand-made brick wall, approximately on an east/west-alignment, a single brick wide bonded with lime mortar, with two coursed stone blocks at the western extent. To its west, wall ***123*** appeared to be a continuation of the wall ***122***, and extended beyond the limit of the excavated area, although wall ***123*** is slightly to the north and does clearly butt up to wall ***122*** (Plate 9). Wall ***123*** comprised hand-made brick, a single brick wide and bonded with lime mortar.

*Plate 9: Structures in the north-eastern part of the area, scale 1m*

3.4.14 Wall ***126*** (Fig 2; Plate 9) comprising hand-made brick, a single brick wide and bonded with lime mortar, was on a north/south-alignment and appeared to butt up to wall ***122***, potentially creating a return to the wall. To the north of wall ***122*** and east of ***126*** was brick floor surface ***121***, comprising hand-made bricks laid as soldiers on a north/south-alignment. The floor surface extended beyond the northern limit of the excavated area.

3.4.15 Wall ***124*** (Fig 2; Plate 9) was encountered immediately to the south of walls ***122*** and ***123***, on the same east/west alignment. The wall comprised hand-made brick, a single brick wide and bonded with lime mortar. At its eastern extent, ***124*** was much more fragmentary and only half a brick wide survives.

3.4.16 The floor surfaces to the east, ***118*** and ***119***, survived to a greater extent (Fig 2; Plate 10). Surface ***118*** was constructed using stone flags, with evidence for a possible fireplace, ***120***, along its western extent and was cut by a modern drain. Surface ***119*** comprised a cement skim, possibly covering an earlier surface, similar to ***118***. The two surfaces were separated by a 0.12m linear gap, roughly the width of a brick partition wall, aligned east/west and perpendicular to structure ***120*** (*Section 3.4.17*).

*Plate 10: Floor surfaces **118** and **119**, with fireplace **120** to the rear of the image, scales 1m and 2m*

3.4.17 Structure ***120*** was constructed from hand-made bricks and comprised the foundations of two buttresses connected by a half a brick wide wall (Fig 2; Plate 11). The whole structure measured 1.14m x 0.58m. There was no evidence for a wall to the west of structure ***120***, which it would have likely been bonded to, as such it was interpreted as a fireplace, although it is small, with much of its structure truncated by the later drainage trench which also cut through flag floor ***118***.

*Plate 11: Structure **120** looking west, scale 1m*

3.4.18 ***Southern structures***: floor surface ***113*** encompassed much of the southern extent of the excavation (Fig 2; Plate 12), comprised hand-made brick laid as stretchers or soldiers on a bed of clinker ash ***1003***. Towards the southern extent of the area a portion of surface ***113*** had been resurfaced with the addition of a cement skim, and in some areas, the hand-made bricks had been replaced with machine-made frogged bricks which were occasionally stamped 'Belle Vue', a date for the bricks could not be ascertained, however, the historic mapping from 1935 (Fig 4) suggests that these southern outbuildings were substantially remodelled after the production of the 1893 OS map (Fig 3). As such, these structures likely date to the early twentieth century, rather than the late nineteenth century.

*Plate 12: Southern structures looking south-west, scale 1m*

3.4.19 The walls that were observed within the southern arm of the area were all similarly constructed, comprising hand-made brick, a single brick wide and bonded with lime mortar (Fig 2; Plate 12). Walls ***116*** and ***117***, likely the same wall, although heavily truncated, bordered the southern extent of surface ***113*** and may represent the southerly point of any potential structure. Walls ***114*** and ***115*** appeared to create a potential corner of a structure, being of similar construction.

3.4.20 ***External surfaces***: cobbled surface ***102***, was identified in the western part of the site, to the south of structure ***103***, at a depth of 0.4m (Fig 2; Plate 13). This external surface was largely constructed using large river cobbles and measured 4.1m x 2.25m. The western and southern extent were bounded by granite edging setts, the northern extent butted up to structure ***103***, whilst the eastern extent was heavily truncated, possibly during demolition. Approximately 0.6m south of structure ***103*** an area of stretcher-lain bricks may be a deliberate formalisation of space or more likely an example of maintenance and repair during the lifetime of the feature.

*Plate 13: External floor surface **102** looking north-west, scale 1m*

3.4.21 To the east, separated by a large area of truncation, was external cobbled surface ***107*** (Plate 14). Despite containing predominantly large river cobbles, other building materials included hand-made bricks, small river cobbles, granite setts, granite edging setts and stone flags. Some of these elements had replaced earlier materials, while other elements were simply laid over the earlier cobbled fabric. Deliberate partitioning of space was created using edging setts, particularly in the formalisation of the entrance in/up to structure ***106*** and the 2m space to the south face of it. This effect was enhanced with the addition of stretcher-lain hand-made bricks and large granite setts.

*Plate 14: External floor surface **107** looking east, scales 1m and 2m*

3.4.22 Other features within the area included a central hollow at 3.3m from the southern face of wall ***106***. This was orientated roughly east/west and was infilled with tarmacadam. Where this could be removed, a single piece of timber was observed within the base (Plate 15). The cobbles of ***107*** were laid up to this indicating it may have originally served as a border or the foundation for a timber structure. Additional timbers were observed along the southern edge of ***107*** and within the fabric of surface ***113*** to the south. These were all in poor condition but seemed to delineate spaces within or between those surfaces. All the observed timber remains were aligned approximately east/west.

*Plate 15: Wood surviving within external floor surface **107**, looking north, scale 1m*

## 3.5 Environmental and finds summary

3.5.1 There were no environmental samples recovered from the site, as there were no suitable deposits to sample. Finds were sparse across site and largely residual. Most of the observed material comprised small sherds of undiagnostic white porcelain wares, only 10 small fragments being identified, of late nineteenth – early twentieth century date. A single small stoneware sherd (probable bottle) was also observed, again dating to the late nineteenth century. OA's post-medieval ceramic finds specialist was consulted during the fieldwork and the recommendation was for the finds to not be retained due to their small undiagnostic and residual nature.

# 4 DISCUSSION

## 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The archaeology exposed during the excavation was predominantly structural in nature, relatively poorly preserved, but clearly distinguishable from other deposits on site. The remains encountered were clearly heavily truncated by services and the building's demolition. The structures which did survive could be related to those identified on historic OS mapping (Fig 3 and 4). Phasing of the structural remains was difficult to establish due to the extensive truncation and low level of survival across the site, generally only single courses of structures survived, with the remains being predominantly floor surfaces. However, there did appear to be at least an earlier phase, potentially comprising wall ***105***, a main phase of structures and floor surfaces constructed on natural geology ***1005***, followed by a later phase, comprising wall ***104***. There did appear to also be periodic repair and remodelling of the structures and surfaces throughout, although there was no evidence of earlier surfaces or structures beneath the surfaces recorded. Finds were sparse across site and largely residual. Most of the observed material comprised small sherds of undiagnostic white porcelain wares.

## 4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 The archaeological remains identified during the excavation corresponded reasonably well with the historic mapping (Fig 3). The structural remains in the northern part of the site, on the whole, did correspond with building range of Lower Catsknowl farmstead, depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1893, the notable exception being wall ***104***. Wall ***104*** which appeared to be a later wall overlying floor surface ***110***, suggesting that it is a later structure. Earlier historic mapping, Ordnance Survey six inch to 1 mile map of 1848, suggests the building range initially comprised just the eastern two thirds of the range, with a subsequent extension being added prior to 1893 (Fig 3). This potentially explains the substantial nature of wall ***128***, as it was likely the gable-end of the building in 1848, with a subsequent extension to the building prior to 1893 being butted-up to the existing building, potentially also resolving the relationship between walls ***128*** and ***127***, with the former being earlier and part of the original construction of the range.

4.2.2 The remains in the north-eastern part of the site appeared to be domestic in nature, with evidence of flagged floors (***118*** and ***119***) and the remains of a possible fireplace (***120***), suggesting that this north-eastern structure was likely the living quarters of the range of buildings. The floor surfaces to the east of wall ***111***, cobbled surfaces (***110***) or mixed flag, brick and sett surfaces (***129***), appear to be more indicative of the sort of mixed floor material surfaces often found in barns or stables, in line with the interpretation of the farm as a linear plan farmhouse (English Heritage 2014), similar to a longhouse (English Heritage 2006; 2014b) or a laithe-house, common throughout upland areas. These structures commonly comprise a single structure for housing livestock and people via separate entrances, other examples have been recorded on the Pennine fringes in West Yorkshire: Dirker Farm, Marsden (ASWYAS 2004); Troaves

Farm, Marsden (Giles 1981); Royd Farm (Price 2019); House at Green Gate (Giles 1979a) Elysium, Cartworth (Giles 1979b).

4.2.3 The form of the buildings, as linear plan or laithe-house, and evidence from the census records suggests that the farm was likely a dairy farm. With the western half of the main range of the building likely being cow sheds. The extension to the main range in the mid to late nineteenth-century likely suggesting an expansion in the farm, also hinted at in the census records by the increase in acreage of the head of the household. Although this was potentially short-lived due to the change in the occupation of the occupiers from farming to other occupations in the early twentieth century, possibly suggesting that modernisation in farming techniques made the farm unsustainable in this period.

4.2.4 The southern part of the area appeared to be dominated by brick floor surface ***113***, which correlates well with the outbuildings depicted on the 1893 OS mapping (Fig 3). This surface does seem to have been maintained, with evidence for concrete having been laid over the brick flooring. The brick structural remains to the east of brick floor surface ***113*** do not seem to correspond particularly well with the 1893 historic mapping, although they do appear to correlate well with the structures depicted on the 1935 historic mapping, which depicts a substantial remodelling of the outbuildings to the south of the main range. The fabric of the remains, machine-made frogged bricks and concrete appear to correlate well with an early twentieth-century date.

4.2.5 The central part of the site is dominated by the remains of external cobbled surfaces ***102*** and ***107***, which appeared to relate to a yard area. The surfaces do contain evidence of substantial repairs, through the insertion of brick and other materials. There did appear to be a form of partitioning of the surfaces, through changes of materials and edging blocks, although this was difficult to fully discern due to the truncation from field drains and sections of the surfaces having been completely removed when the stadium was constructed.

## 4.3 Significance

4.3.1 The structures relating to Lower Catsknowl farmstead survived, relatively poorly across the area, having been heavily truncated during the farmsteads demolition for the redevelopment of Belle Vue Stadium in the 1950s and 1980s, the remains of Higher Catsknowl did not survive as well as those at Lower Catsknowl with no evidence of them being identified in the evaluation trench (ARS 2021). The remains of Lower Catsknowl identified during the evaluation were encountered during the excavation. The remains that were identified in the excavation corresponded well with the historic mapping (Fig 3 and 4). No environmental samples were recovered during the fieldwork, due to there being no suitable deposits, and no finds were retained, as only a small number of ceramic finds were identified which were largely residual.

4.3.2 The North West Regional Research Framework identifies that earlier farming structures consistently depict evidence of reuse or rebuilding (Research Frameworks 2022). Research Question Ind06 '*How did the industrial farm evolve and farming practices develop during this period?*' (*ibid*) has partially been addressed on this site via evidence of the extension of the farm building, potentially to increase the area of

the barn or stables and also by the census returns for the properties, the occupiers appeared to be potentially dairy farmers and then seemingly moved away in the early-twentieth century, likely due to the modernisation of surrounding farms making the farms at Higher and Lower Catsknowl unviable.

4.3.3 Although the site has potentially assisted with one of the regional research framework questions, the poor preservation of the remains leads to the site being ascribed with a low local significance of the site. As such, it is not recommended to publish the results of the excavation beyond inclusion of the site as a summary in *Post-Medieval Archaeology*'s yearly roundup. The archive, along with this report, will also be deposited with Greater Manchester County Record Officer and via OASIS (reference: oxfordar2-501594) to the Archaeological Data Service online database.

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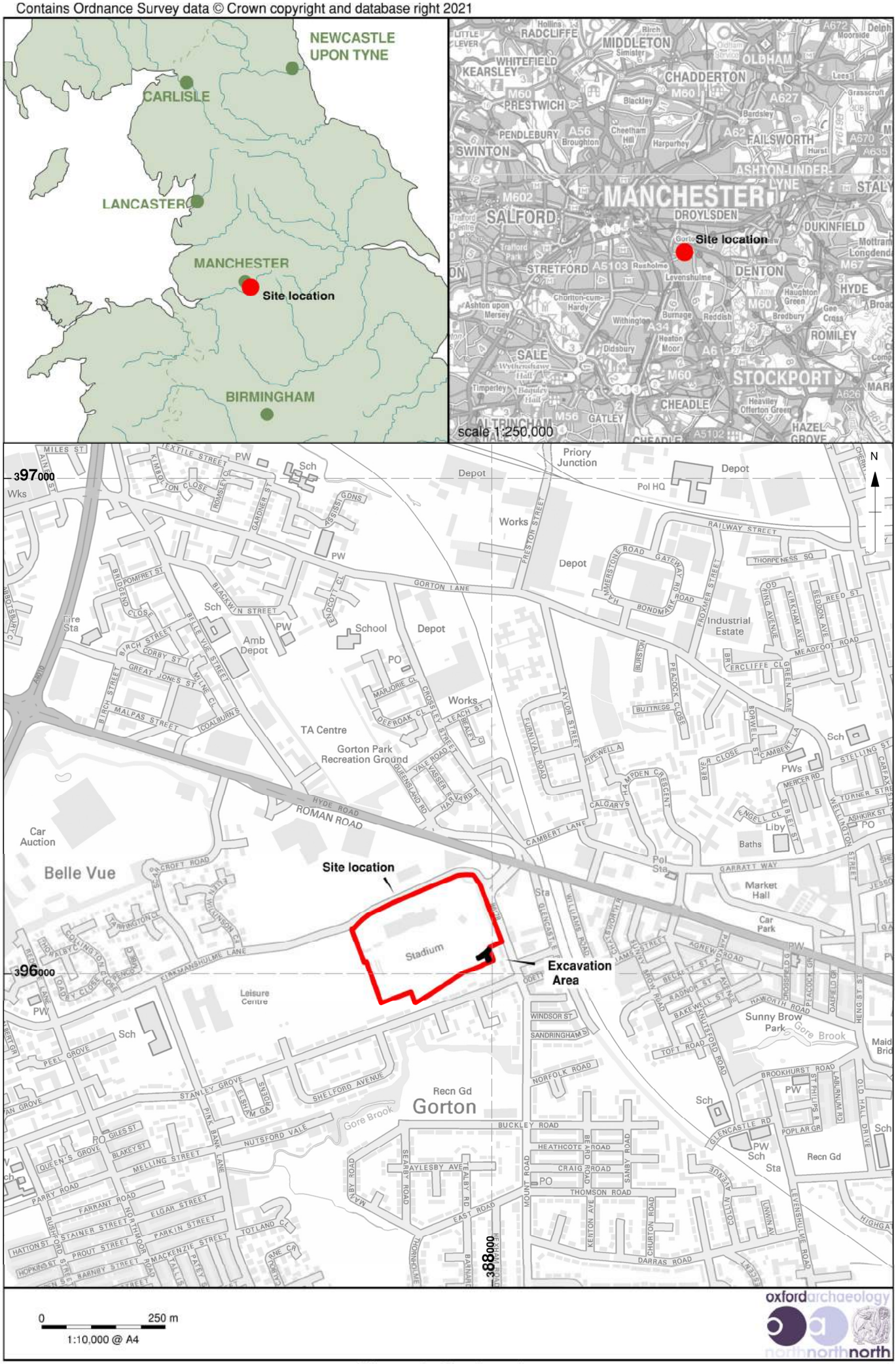


Figure 1: Site location

| Level Number | Height m(OD) | Level Number | Height m(OD) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 61.49 | 58 | 61.00 |
| 2 | 61.36 | 59 | 61.20 |
| 3 | 60.91 | 60 | 60.58 |
| 4 | 60.93 | 61 | 61.14 |
| 5 | 61.07 | 62 | 60.97 |
| 6 | 61.12 | 63 | 61.19 |
| 7 | 61.32 | 64 | 61.24 |
| 8 | 61.69 | 65 | 60.97 |
| 9 | 61.05 | 66 | 61.00 |
| 10 | 60.94 | 67 | 61.18 |
| 11 | 61.05 | 68 | 60.94 |
| 12 | 61.17 | 69 | 61.63 |
| 13 | 60.91 | 70 | 61.06 |
| 14 | 61.47 | 71 | 61.42 |
| 15 | 61.24 | 72 | 61.18 |
| 16 | 61.22 | 73 | 61.04 |
| 17 | 61.32 | 74 | 61.25 |
| 18 | 61.00 | 75 | 61.28 |
| 19 | 61.66 | 76 | 60.98 |
| 20 | 61.33 | 77 | 60.57 |
| 21 | 60.56 | 78 | 61.70 |
| 22 | 61.19 | 79 | 61.07 |
| 23 | 61.53 | 80 | 61.38 |
| 24 | 61.46 | 81 | 61.09 |
| 25 | 61.43 | 82 | 61.35 |
| 26 | 61.27 | 83 | 60.51 |
| 27 | 61.06 | 84 | 60.94 |
| 28 | 61.14 | 85 | 60.85 |
| 29 | 61.03 | 86 | 61.21 |
| 30 | 61.08 | 87 | 60.87 |
| 31 | 61.41 | 88 | 60.99 |
| 32 | 60.94 | 89 | 61.00 |
| 33 | 61.09 | 90 | 61.34 |
| 34 | 61.21 | 91 | 61.25 |
| 35 | 61.05 | 92 | 61.18 |
| 36 | 60.86 | 93 | 61.12 |
| 37 | 61.70 | 94 | 61.14 |
| 38 | 60.96 | 95 | 61.09 |
| 39 | 61.43 | 96 | 60.98 |
| 40 | 61.67 | 97 | 60.91 |
| 41 | 61.26 | 98 | 61.09 |
| 42 | 61.24 | 99 | 61.19 |
| 43 | 60.59 | 100 | 60.92 |
| 44 | 61.36 | 101 | 61.03 |
| 45 | 60.99 | 102 | 60.85 |
| 46 | 61.06 | 103 | 61.05 |
| 47 | 61.03 | 104 | 61.38 |
| 48 | 61.73 | 105 | 61.25 |
| 49 | 61.17 | 106 | 60.92 |
| 50 | 61.27 | 107 | 60.97 |
| 51 | 60.70 | 108 | 60.90 |
| 52 | 61.07 | 109 | 61.19 |
| 53 | 61.07 | 110 | 61.10 |
| 54 | 61.00 | 111 | 60.90 |
| 55 | 61.37 | 112 | 61.00 |
| 56 | 61.17 | 113 | 60.79 |
| 57 | 61.22 | | |

Figure 2: Site plan

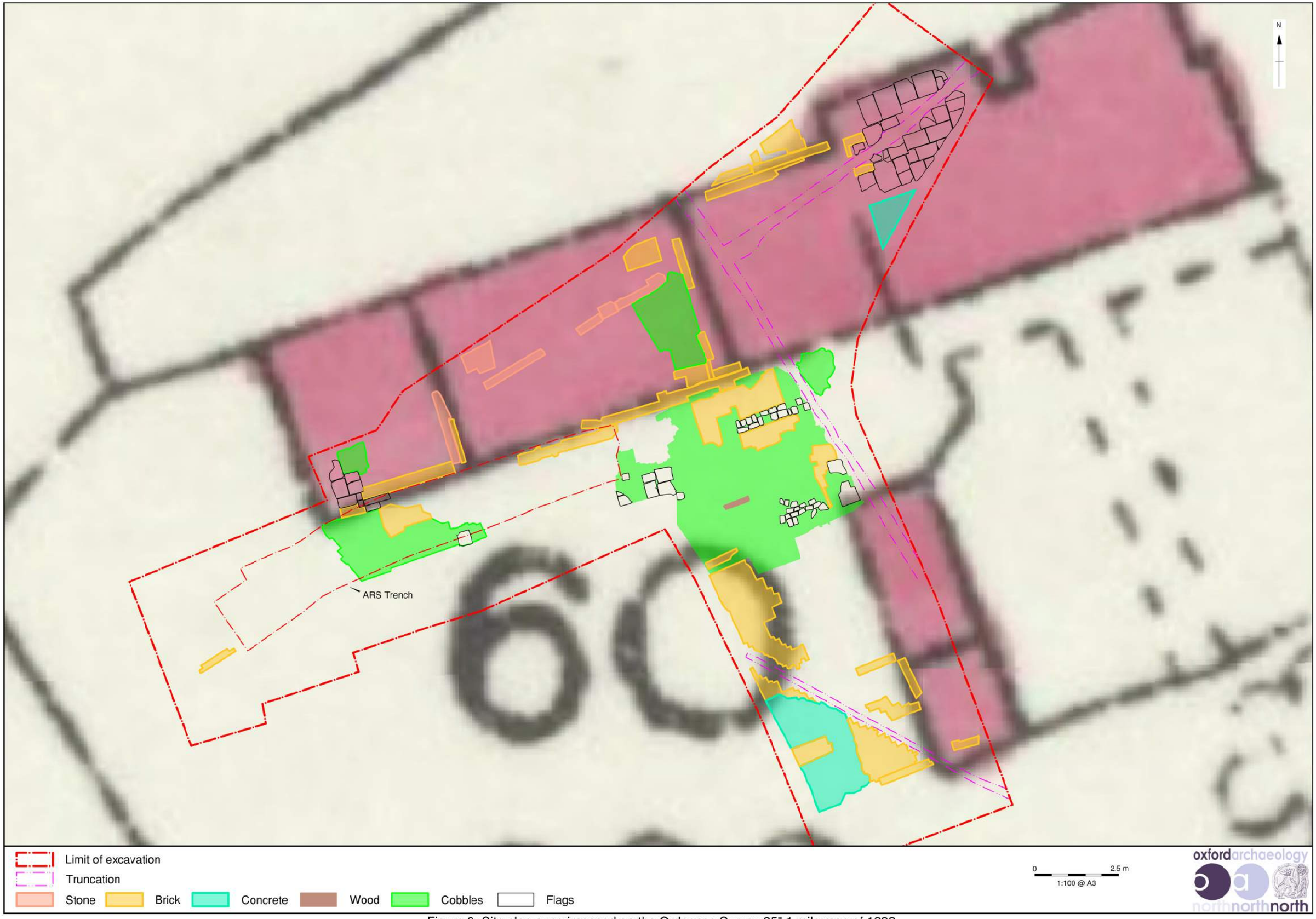


Figure 3: Site plan superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 25":1 mile map of 1893

Figure 4: Site plan superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 25":1 mile map of 1935

# APPENDIX A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

# WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

## BELLE VUE STADIUM
## GORTON, MANCHESTER

**PREPARED BY LANPRO SERVICES**
**ON BEHALF OF**
**COUNTRYSIDE PROPERTIES AND**
**SCP INVESTMENTS LTD**

February 2021

Lanpro

Planning + Development | Design Studio | Archaeology + Heritage

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Document Prepared by: Mitchell Pollington BA (hons) MA MCIfA

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Figure 2. Proposed excavation area

Figure 3. Proposed excavation area in relation to the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1893

# 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Lanpro on behalf of Countryside Properties and SCP Investments Ltd (the client) and details the methodology for undertaking a scheme of archaeological excavation at Belle Vue Stadium, Gorton, Manchester.

1.2 The archaeological excavation follows previous stages of archaeological desk-based assessment (Lanpro 2018) and the results of a programme of evaluation trenching that has recently been completed (ARS 2021). Trench 2 was excavated as part of this evaluation, over the site of the former post-medieval Lower Catsknowl farmstead, on the south-eastern side of the Belle Vue Stadium site, and revealed cobbled and flagged stone surfaces relating to the farmstead. Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) subsequently requested that further excavation is undertaken in this area to attempt to reveal further evidence of the farmstead.

1.3 The proposed archaeological excavation will comprise an area of c.250m$^2$, covering the area of Trench 2 and an area to its north and south, although this is constrained by the presence of adjacent stadium structures (see Figures 2 and 3).

# 2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The proposed development site comprises approximately 5ha currently occupied by the Belle Vue greyhound racing stadium, situated in Gorton, Manchester (centred at SJ 8788 9606). It is bounded to the north by Kirkmanshulme Lane, to the east by Mount Road, to the south by mid-20th century housing developments, and to the west by sports fields.

2.2 A car park occupies the northern side of the site. To the south is the main stand, which comprises largely internal viewing and seating areas, as well as bars and offices, and is fronted by large glass windows overlooking low terraces and the racing track.

2.3 There are low banks of terracing around the western side of the track, to the rear of which is a scoreboard and a number of small ancillary buildings. The area to the south of the track is open ground, metalled with stone, but was previously occupied by stands.

2.4 Further terracing is situated along the site's south-eastern side, which rises up to a stand of higher terracing at the track's eastern end. A small storage building and a separate turnstile are situated above the terraces on the site's north-eastern corner.

2.5 The ground level within the site is generally level, situated at a height of around an average of 61m above Ordnance Datum.

2.6 The recorded bedrock geology across the proposed development site comprises sandstone of the Chester Formation overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian till (BGS 2021).

# 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 A planning application has been approved for the residential redevelopment of the former Belle Vue Stadium site comprising the erection of 80 no. apartments within 1 no. part 3 part 4 storey block and 1 no. 3 storey block and the erection of 167 no. 2 and 2 1/2 storey dwellings with associated car parking, boundary treatments and landscaping, the creation of new roads and access points off Kirkmanshulme Lane, site remediation and other associated engineering works following the demolition of the existing buildings (ref. 122160/FO/2018).

3.2 GMAAS was consulted as part of the pre-application process and recommended that historic building recording, informed by additional archival research, was undertaken to record the stadium and its related structures. GMAAS also recommended that evaluation trenching was undertaken over the sites of two farmsteads recorded from the middle of the 18th century, which formerly occupied parts of the site. A WSI for the historic building recording and evaluation trenching was agreed with GMAAS in March 2019 (Lanpro 2019). This provided for a Level 3 Historic Building Survey of the stadium structures, work on which is due to begin in March 2021, as well as a programme of evaluation trenching targeting the sites of the two former post-medieval farmsteads, which was undertaken in February 2021 (ARS 2021). Trench 1 on the northern side of the site did not reveal any archaeological remains, while Trench 2 on the site's south-eastern corner identified cobbled and stone flagged surfaces which appear to relate to the Lower Catsknowl farmstead buildings which stood until the 1930s.

3.3 Following consultation with GMAAS, it was agreed that an area around the farmstead should be archaeologically stripped and excavated to fully characterise and record the farmstead remains in this area, where these hadn't been impacted by the later stadium construction.

3.4 This WSI provides a detailed methodology for the excavation of these remains, and any other unexpected archaeological remains that might be revealed.

# 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## Recorded Heritage Assets

4.1 The proposed development site contains no designated heritage assets or records of any heritage assets held on the Greater Manchester HER.

## Prehistoric Period (c. 9500 BC – c. AD 43)

4.2 There is no recorded evidence for prehistoric activity within the proposed development site or the surrounding area. The extensive disturbance to the site caused by the original construction of the stadium in the 1920s, together with phases of rebuilding and demolition of stands and other structures since that time, combined with the lack of evidence for prehistoric activity in the surrounding area, suggests that there is negligible potential for the survival of prehistoric remains in the site.

### Roman Period (c.AD 43 – c. AD 410)

4.3 There is no evidence for Roman period activity within the proposed development site.

4.4 The HER holds one record for the Roman period within the 1km of the site, relating to the presumed line of a Roman Road suggested to have been broadly on the alignment of the A6 Stockport Road (MGM 81; Margary 1967, 365; road no. 71b), nearly 1km from the site. The Ordnance Survey also marks the line of a Roman road, which is now followed by the A57 Hyde Road about 50m to the north of the site, but no physical remains of either road have been identified in the area.

4.5 There is no archaeological evidence for any Roman period activity within 1km of the site, apart from the suggested road alignments. The extensive disturbance to the site caused by the construction of the stadium in the 1920s, together with phases of rebuilding and demolition, combined with the lack of evidence for Roman period activity in the surrounding area, suggests that there is negligible potential for the survival of Roman remains in the site.

### Medieval Period (c.AD 410 – c. AD 1540)

4.6 There is no recorded archaeological evidence for medieval activity within the proposed development site or the surrounding area.

4.7 The name Gorton derives from Anglo-Saxon meaning, 'dirty farmstead' and was first recorded in a document of 1282 (Mills 2011, 210), although the form of the name suggests early medieval occupation in the area. Following the Norman Conquest, Gorton formed part of the manor of Manchester, and a survey of 1320 record five tenants and a mill in the area (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 276).

4.8 The later cartographic evidence suggests that the site was situated about 750m to the west of the nearest focus of medieval settlement at Gorton, and it is likely that the site remained primarily in agricultural use throughout this period.

### Post-Medieval and Modern Period (c.1540 – Present)

4.9 The HER does not record any sites of a post-medieval date within the proposed development site. All of the post-medieval and modern sites recorded on the HER within the surrounding area relate to extant or former buildings of a well-defined extent and nature, and add little to the understanding of the archaeological potential of the site.

4.10 The earliest map covering the site was produced by William Yates in 1786 which, despite its small scale, shows two farms within the site, named on later Ordnance Survey mapping as Higher Catsknowl, to the north, and Lower Catsknowl, to the south.

4.11 The Gorton tithe map of 1846 shows Higher Catsknowl consisting of an L-shaped building range with a small ancillary building to its south, to the immediate south of Kirkmanshulme Lane. This was surrounded by fields which were under cultivation or in use as orchards, according to the records of the tithe apportionment, although the field to the farms east, which now forms the north-eastern corner of the site is named 'Pit Meadows', perhaps

suggesting (sandstone) extraction in this area. Lower Catsknowl, which occupied the south-eastern corner of the site, is depicted as a single building range siting within an irregular plot, with a pond at its western end, while the land between the farm buildings and Higher Catsknowl was occupied by a single irregularly shaped field.

4.12 The 1848 Ordnance Survey 6 inch map shows the layout of the site much as it is depicted on the earlier tithe map. The plots to the south of Higher Catsknowl and east of Lower Catsknowl are, however, depicted as orchards, while the boundary of the plot in which Lower Catsknowl was situated is shown not to extend around the north-western side of the house as it was on the tithe map. A small pond to the east of High Catsknowl, in what the tithe apportionment named 'Pit Meadows' could have originated as an extraction pit.

4.13 Industrial growth in Gorton begun in the early 18th century with the development of the bleaching industry (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 275). From the early 19th century there was rapid urban growth, with the opening of the Gorton cotton mills in 1824, as well as dye and chemical works (MGM 10979 and 10980), iron works (MGM 10978 and 10981) and saw mills (MGM 10999 and 11000). This was accompanied by the construction of terraced housing for the workers, together with other amenities such as churches (e.g. MGM 9654).

4.14 The 1893 Ordnance Survey 25 inch map (Figure 3) shows the site remaining largely as it had in the mid-19th century, although the majority of field boundaries had been removed and a new building constructed to the north of Lower Catsknowl. The character of the areas to the north and east of the site had, however, changed dramatically.

4.15 The Belle Vue Zoological Gardens was first established in the 1830s to the north of Kirkmanshulme Lane (MGM 10236), but by the 1880s these pleasure grounds had been substantially extended and a large boating lake constructed to the north of the site. Terrace housing was constructed along newly laid out streets to the north of Hyde Road and, to the site's east, the Sheffield and Midland Railway line was constructed in the 1870s, with Belle Vue Station opened in 1875.

4.16 Further terrace housing was constructed to the south-east of the site by the early 20th century, although the site itself and the area to the south of Kirkmanshulme Lane remained largely open ground. The land between Higher and Lower Catsknowl is, however, depicted on the 1908 Ordnance Survey map as being marshy ground by this time, suggesting that it was not being sufficiently maintained for agriculture. There was little change to the site or its surroundings through into the 1920s.

4.17 The site was purchased by the Greyhound Racing Association in the mid-1920s, and a custom built greyhound stadium was constructed on the site, with the first race being held in July 1926 (Genders 1981, 34). The Ordnance Survey 25 inch map of 1935 shows the stadium consisting of the main stand on its northern side, with further smaller stands around the track, as well as open terraces surrounding the track perimeter. To the north-east of the stadium were turnstile buildings and what appears to be a parading circle, while kennels were situated outside the site's western edge.

4.18 The buildings of both Higher and Lower Catsknowl Farm continued to stand following the construction of the stadium, with both farm ranges shown on the 1935 Ordnance Survey map, although 'Lower' Catsknowl is now confusingly named 'Higher' Catsknowl.

4.19 There was little substantial change to the stadium through into the 1950s, although by 1951 two of the stands on the south-west side of the track had been removed, and 'Higher' Catsknowl, located on the site's south-eastern edge, had by this time been demolished and the site was in use as a Corporation Yard. To the south of the proposed development site, extensive new residential development had also been constructed.

4.20 The layout of the stadium remained unchanged through the 1970s and into the late 1980s, with the original Higher Catsknowl buildings surviving on its northern side. The stadium was substantially redeveloped during the late 1980s creating its present layout and appearance, most significantly including the rebuilding of the main stand. The Higher Catsknowl buildings were demolished at this time and the north-eastern side of the site cleared of structures.

# 5 RESEARCH DESIGN

## Aims and Objectives

5.1 The overall aim of the programme of archaeological excavation is to obtain sufficient information to establish the function, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any structures or archaeological deposits associated with the post-medieval Lower Catsknowl farmstead.

5.2 This will be achieved through the following objectives:

- Identify and interpret the form and function of structural elements relating to the farmsteads
- Excavate and record features to a level appropriate to their extent and significance where assessed to be necessary
- Assess the potential for survival of environmental remains
- Undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to interpret the remains of the farmsteads and any related finds
- Undertake any necessary post-excavation analysis of the remains of the farmsteads and any related finds, if required
- Report the results and place them in their local, regional and national context
- Compile and deposit a site archive at a suitable repository

## Research Framework

5.3 The programme of archaeological excavation has the potential to contribute to a number of research priorities identified in the *North West Regional Research Framework* (Research Frameworks 2021), specifically those relating to post-medieval agricultural buildings and settlement.

5.4 The investigation will also take account of the national research programmes outlined in the English Heritage (now Historic England) *Strategic Framework for historic Environment Activities and Programmes in Historic England (SWYAASE),* first published in 2008.

# 6 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

6.1 All archaeological works will be undertaken to fully meet the requirements of all nationally recognised guidance for such work, including standards laid down by the former English Heritage (now Historic England) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

6.2 The programme of archaeological excavation will be managed in line with the standards laid down in the Historic England guidance publication *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers Guide* (2015a) and the MoRPHE *Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation* (PPN3) (2008a). The recording system will be based on the Museum of London's Archaeological Site Manual (1994).

6.3 General guidance of particular relevance to the programme of works are:

- *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2019)
- *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (CIfA 2020a)
- *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2020b).
- *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2020c)

# 7 METHODOLOGY

## Fieldwork

7.1 Lanpro will inform GMAAS at least one week in advance of the commencement of fieldwork.

7.2 The archaeological excavation will comprise a 250m$^2$ area around Trench 2, specifically targeting any archaeological remains relating to the former Lower Catsknowl farmstead which has been partially revealed in Trench 2 of the previous archaeological evaluation (see Figures 2 and 3).

7.3 Overburden will be stripped across the excavation area using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless, flat bladed, grading bucket where possible, or toothed bucket where required, down to the first archaeological horizon or natural sub-soil.

7.4 All overburden removal will be undertaken under direct archaeological supervision, by a suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist.

7.5 Excavated overburden will be redeposited around the edge of the site. All spoil will be stored and managed safely in line with the standards of the *Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites* (DEFRA 2009).

7.6 Spoil from mechanical excavation will be scanned by eye and by metal detector to aid the recovery of artefacts, and topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately if present.

7.7 The excavated area and all exposed archaeological features will be surveyed using survey-grade (cm accurate) GPS equipment, and/or a Total Station as required, to produce a pre-excavation plan.

7.8 All survey data will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Datum Newlyn levels using survey-grade (cm accurate) GPS equipment and/or total stations.

7.9 The following sampling strategy is identified as a guide, however, this will be re-examined in liaison with GMAAS following completion of the pre-excavation plan to confirm that this represents the most appropriate policy following overburden removal:

- Built structures, such as walls, will be examined and sampled to a degree whereby their extent, form, date, function and relationship to other features and deposits can be established
- Any in situ building remains will be fully recorded for the extent that they are exposed. Brick and stone samples may be taken if potentially diagnostic of date or function.
- 100% sample of all stake-holes
- 100% excavation of all funerary features
- 50% sample of all post-holes and pits with a diameter of up to 1.5m
- 25% sample of pits with a diameter of over 1.5m. This will include a complete section across the pit to recover its full profile
- 20% sample of all linear features, up to 5m in length; for features greater than this, a 10% sample will be excavated. For field boundaries over 5m in length, of a post-medieval date, sections will be excavated to confirm their date, but a full 10% sample will not be required.
- Deposits at junctions, intersections and interruptions in linear features will be excavated over a sufficient length to determine the stratigraphic relationships between the different components.

7.10 All archaeological features and deposits revealed will be excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner, in order to establish their extent, form, date, function and relationship to other features.

7.11 All features will be investigated to understand the full stratigraphic sequence down to naturally occurring deposits. Where depth of excavation is required to be greater than safe working depth, suitable stepping will be employed.

7.12 Any excavation, by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which are demonstrably worthy of preservation in situ.

7.13 The stripped surface will be kept clean and free of loose spoil. Wherever possible spoil arising during hand-cleaning and hand-excavation will be piled beyond the limits of excavation. Where those limits are too distant to make off-site storage practicable then spoil will be stored on spoil-heaps on areas away from any archaeological features.

7.14 Mechanical excavators and other plant will not track or drive over an area that has been stripped until an archaeologist has confirmed that no archaeological remains are present. If required, areas of archaeological remains will be fenced off to prevent accidental damage.

7.15 A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all features revealed during the course of the archaeological excavation. Plans will be completed at a scale of 1:20 (as appropriate), with section drawings at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of features. All plans will be tied in with the Ordnance Survey National Grid with levels given to above OD.

7.16 The photographic record, will utilise high resolution digital photography of a minimum of 10 megapixels and in RAW format. This will be maintained throughout the course of the fieldwork. All photography will follow the Historic England guidance for digital image capture (Historic England 2015b). All images will have accompanying metadata specifying; photo ID, capture device, converting software, colour space, bit depth, resolution, date of capture, photographer, caption, and any alterations made to the image.

### Finds

7.17 All identified finds and artefacts will be collected and retained, and bagged and labelled according to their context. Finds of significant interest will be given a 'small finds' number, and information on their location in three dimensions will be entered on a separate pro-forma sheet. No finds will be discarded without assessment by an appropriate finds specialist, and/or the approval of GMAAS. It is anticipated that unstratified 20$^{th}$ and 21$^{st}$ century material will be noted, spot dated as required, and discarded.

7.18 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner during the excavation stage and to standards agreed in advance with GMAAS. Finds will be exposed, lifted, bagged, conserved and stored in accordance with the guidelines set out in United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guidelines No. 2* and the CIfA guidelines *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2020b).

7.19 The terms of the Treasure Act 1996, as amended, and the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002 will be followed with regard to any finds that might fall within its purview. All finds of gold and silver, and associated objects, will be reported to the coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996 (and the act's amendment of 2003 to include prehistoric objects such as Bronze Age metalworking hoards and other non-precious metal items), after discussion with Lanpro, the client, GMAAS and the Finds Liaison Officer. It is considered highly unlikely that any prehistoric remains will, however, be present.

### Palaeoenvironmental Sampling

7.20 Soil samples will be taken from all suitable features or deposits for palaeoenvironmental sampling. This will comprise the removal of a bulk sample from every securely sealed and hand-excavated context, excepting those with excessive levels of residuality or those with minimal 'soil' content (such as building rubble).

7.21 Bulk samples will comprise representative 40 litre samples, or more if appropriate. Where a context does not yield 40 litres of material, smaller samples will be taken (generally the maximum amount of material that it is practicable to collect). Bulk samples will be used to recover a sub-sample of charred macroplant material, faunal remains and artefacts. Suitable deposits will also be sampled for industrial residues.

7.22 If buried soils or other deposits are encountered, column samples may be taken for micromorphological and pollen analysis. Environmental material will be stored in controlled environments and specialists will be consulted during the course of the work as necessary.

7.23 If required a qualified and experienced palaeoenvironmental specialist will undertake site visits to discuss the sampling strategy, and if necessary assist in any required fieldwork, and the appropriate advice of the Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be sought.

7.24 All environmental work will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2011).

### Human Remains

7.25 The Ministry of Justice and GMAAS will be informed if human remains are found. The contractor will comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981 or other Burial Acts regarding the exhumation and interment of human remains.

7.26 If human remains are encountered, they will be cleaned with minimal disturbance, prior to recording and removal, following receipt of the required Ministry of Justice licence. Investigation and excavation of human remains will be undertaken by, or under supervision of, suitably experienced specialist staff and in accordance with former Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) guidelines *Excavation and Post-excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains* (McKinley and Roberts 1993) and *Guidelines to the standards for recording human remains* (Brickley and McKinley 2004). Assessment of excavated human remains will be undertaken in line with current English Heritage guidelines *Human Bones from archaeological sites: Guidelines for the production of assessment documents and analytical reports* (English Heritage 2004) and *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England 2017).

7.27 The archaeological contractor will comply with all reasonable requests of interested parties as to the method of removal, re-interment or disposal of the remains or associated items. Every effort will be made, at all times, not to cause offence to any interested parties.

7.28 If required a qualified and experienced osteoarchaeologist will undertake site visits to discuss the recording and assist in the removal of any human skeletal remains.

### Scientific Dating

7.29 The recovery of material suitable for radiocarbon, archaeomagnetic and/or dendrochronological dating will be sought, as appropriate.

### Strategy Review

7.30 The strategy for the archaeological fieldwork will be held under continuous review. Should the strategy be considered unsuitable at any time by Lanpro or the appointed archaeological contractor, an alternative strategy will be proposed for agreement with GMAAS.

### Unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries

7.31 Should unexpectedly extensive, complex or significant remains be uncovered that warrant, in the professional judgment of the archaeologist on site or GMAAS, more detailed recording than is appropriate in the terms of the WSI, the scope of the WSI will be reviewed.

7.32 In the event of a review of the WSI being required, Lanpro will contact the client and GMAAS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter. This is likely to require an on-site meeting between the relevant stakeholders to review the archaeological remains on-site and identify a way forward. Any variations to this WSI will be put in writing and agreed by the relevant stakeholders including GMAAS and the client.

### Plant and equipment

7.33 The archaeological contractor will be responsible for the provision of all required welfare, plant, and health and safety equipment and the organisation and management of these in line with best practice (e.g. DEFRA 2009; HSE 2009), during the excavation stage.

## 8 POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

8.1 Upon completion of the fieldwork, the artefacts, soil samples and stratigraphic information will be assessed for their potential and significance for further analysis. An assessment report on the fieldwork will be produced within an agreed timetable following the completion of the fieldwork. This will inform the production of an Updated Project Design detailing the methodology for the analysis and publication stage, if necessary (see Section 9).

### Finds

8.2 All finds will be treated in a proper manner during the post-excavation stage and to standards agreed in advance with the recipient museum. Finds will be cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and stored in accordance with the guidelines set out in United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's C*onservation Guidelines No. 2* (1990) and the CIfA guidelines *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014b) and the former English Heritage's *Investigative Conservation* (2008b).

8.3 In accordance with the procedures outlined in English Heritage's MoRPHE PPN3 (2008a), significant iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins), and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy will be X-radiographed before assessment.

8.4 All material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, as described in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Waterlogged organic materials will be dealt with in line with the English Heritage guidance documents, *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts. Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (2012a) and *Waterlogged Wood. Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood* (2010).

8.5 The finds assessment will be reported in the overall post-excavation assessment report and include proposals for full analysis to be incorporated into the updated Project Design.

8.6 For ceramic assemblages, recording will be carried out in a manner compatible with existing typological series in local pottery reference collections. Reporting on ceramic artefacts and pottery should follow the guidance given in *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Barclay *et al.* 2016) and endorsed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, the Study Group for Roman Pottery and the Medieval Pottery Research Group.

### Environmental Sample Processing

8.7 The processing of any palaeoenvironmental samples will be undertaken in line with the requirements of the English Heritage publications *Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions: Best Practice Guidance for Curators and Commissioning Archaeologists (2006)* and *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2011).

8.8 The samples will be processed, and ecofacts collected and assessed with regard to the potential for detailed analysis of pollen, charred plant macrofossils, land molluscs, faunal remains (including small mammals and fish) and soil micromorphology. Samples suitable for radiocarbon, or other dating methods, will also be identified. The environmental assessment will be reported within the overall post-excavation assessment report and include proposals for full analysis to be incorporated into the Updated Project Design. Unprocessed sub-samples will be stored in conditions specified by the appropriate specialists.

8.9 Samples for dating will be submitted to specialists promptly, so as to ensure that results are available to aid development of the Updated Project Design for the analysis stage.

### Human Remains Processing

8.10 Human remains will be processed following national standards and guidance, including English Heritage (2004), Brickley and McKinley (2004) and the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (2017). Processing will be undertaken by experienced specialists trained in the identification of human remains and who are familiar with delicate areas of the skeleton that need careful preservation, important areas required for an individual identification (e.g. age and sex) as well as potentially pathologically altered bones.

8.11 Where specialist processing may be required, for example where samples may be required for ancient DNA analysis, specialist advice will be sought to minimise potential contamination. The human remains will be placed in breathable bags and labelled and boxed protected by polyethylene 3mm foam sheeting and in line with any specific archive requirements.

8.12 Cremation burials will be processed by removing the fill of the vessel in 5 to 10mm spits with recording of the distribution and density of the bone per spit following guidance by Brickley and McKinley (2004). The fill will be wet sieved over a 1mm mesh with retrieval of burnt bone, pyre debris such as charcoal and botanical remains, and the remains air-dried and hand-sorted.

### Conservation

8.13 If required, conservation will be undertaken by approved conservators in line with the *First Aid for Finds* guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 1998) and the former English Heritage guidance document *Investigative Conservation* (English Heritage 2008b). Material considered vulnerable will be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. Where intervention is necessary, consideration must be given to possible investigative procedures (e.g. glass composition studies, residues in or on pottery, and mineral-preserved organic material).

### Assessment Report

8.14 The results of the excavation, including the results of the previous evaluation trenching, and the post-excavation assessment stage, will be presented in an integrated assessment report to allow an informed decision to be made on the future analysis and publication of the project, if required.

8.15 The assessment report shall contain the following information:

- A title page, with the name of the project, the name of the author(s) of the report, the title of the report and date of the report
- A non-technical summary of the scope, methodology and results of the work
- Introduction which includes site code/project number, planning reference number and dates when the fieldwork took place, grid reference
- Description of the aims, methodology and extent of fieldwork completed
- Factual assessments of stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental evidence

- Factual assessment of stratigraphic evidence to include interpretation, covering phasing of the site sequence and integrating spot-dating of ceramics or other material
- Factual assessment of the artefactual evidence, where applicable
- Factual assessment of the environmental evidence
- An assessment of the archaeological potential of the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental records
- Proposals for the selection of samples or sub-samples for further analysis and reporting
- Identification of interim and long term conservation and storage requirements.
- Updated Project Design (UPD) detailing proposed programme for analysis and publication, if required
- Proposed format for analysis reporting and publication of the results, if required
- Conclusions
- Details of archive location and destination together with a catalogue of what is contained in that archive
- Copy of the OASIS entry form and any entry updates
- Appendices, illustrations and figures, as appropriate
- References and bibliography of all sources used

8.16 A draft copy of the assessment report will be supplied to GMAAS for comment. Following approval of the draft report, a printed and bound copy of the report will be supplied to GMAAS for incorporation into the Greater Manchester HER. A digital copy of the report (in PDF/A format) will also be supplied to the Historic England Regional Science Advisor.

8.17 If required, a summary report of will be prepared and submitted for publication in an appropriate journal.

# 9 POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS

9.1 The scope of work for the analysis stage will be detailed in the Updated Project Design and a detailed publication quality report produced following the results of the analysis, if required based on the nature of any archaeological remains identified.

9.2 The following is provided as a guide to the potential content of the analysis report, but this will be reviewed within the Updated Project Design as necessary. As a minimum the analysis report shall contain the following information:

- A title page, with the name of the project, the name of the author(s) of the report, the title of the report and date of the report
- A non-technical summary of the scope, methodology and results of the work

- Introduction which includes site code/project number, planning reference number, dates when the fieldwork took place, grid reference
- A description of, and a background to the works and its aims and objectives
- A description of the site location and the archaeological and historical context for the area
- An account of the methods and results of the fieldwork, describing both structural data and associated finds and/or environmental data recovered
- The results and interpretation of specialist analysis of stratigraphic records, artefacts, environmental and scientific samples, as necessary and based upon the requirements identified at the assessment stage and detailed in the Updated Project Design
- An analysis of the archaeological significance of the deposits identified, in relation to other sites in the region. The report must also integrate the results of evaluation excavations undertaken for the scheme.
- Details of archive selection strategy
- Conclusions
- Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a catalogue of what is contained in that archive
- Appendices and figures, as appropriate, including a copy of the updated project design; and References and bibliography of all sources used

9.3 Draft digital copies of the analysis report will be provided in draft form in MS Word and PDF format to Lanpro, the client and GMAAS. Two iterations of the draft analysis report based on consultee and client comments will be allowed for.

9.4 The contractor shall rectify any defects and make any amendments as identified by Lanpro, the client and GMAAS and shall subsequently submit the final report within an agreed programme from receipt of any comments.

9.5 Final copies of the analysis report (in PDF/A format) will be produced, and submitted to GMAAS, together with all other digital information in industry standard formats as required.

9.6 Digital copies of the final analysis report and the digital archive will be submitted to OASIS and ADS to allow the results of the work to be accessible on-line to the wider archaeological community and general public.

9.7 The preparation of a publication report for an appropriate journal (or another agreed form) will be required if GMAAS considers the results significant enough to warrant dissemination to a wider audience.

# 10 ARCHIVING AND DATA MANAGEMENT

## Archive Content

10.1 The archive will be prepared in accordance with the CIfA guidelines detailed in *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2020a). The preparation of the archive will also be informed by the *Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long–term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990), *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994), and in accordance with any museum deposition guidelines. Provision will be made for the stable storage of paper records and their long–term storage.

10.2 The appointed archaeological contractor will contact the recipient museum in advance of commencing any fieldwork to determine the preparation, and deposition of the archive and finds, and obtain an accession number for all archaeological works. The landowner will be encouraged to transfer ownership of the finds to the museum.

10.3 Adequate resources will be provided during fieldwork to ensure that all records are checked and internally consistent. Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork and will include the following work:

- the site record will be checked, cross–referenced and indexed as necessary
- all retained finds will be cleaned, conserved, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum
- all retained finds will be assessed and recorded using pro forma recording sheets, by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Initial artefact dating will be integrated within the site matrix
- all retained environmental samples will be processed by suitably experienced and qualified staff

10.4 The archive will consist of paper records and digital data, as well as finds and samples as selected. Not all material collected or created during the course of the works will require preservation in perpetuity, and the final contents of the archive will be subject to selection prior to the accession of the archive to the recipient museum, in line with a Selection Strategy detailed in the UPD and agreed with the client and GMAAS.

10.5 The selected contents of the archive will be appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities. Selection will be focused on selecting what is to be retained to support these future needs.

10.6 Methods for disposing of de-selected material will be agreed with the landowner and other relevant stakeholders.

10.7 A copy of the digital archive will be submitted to GMAAS on completion of all work, for integration into the Greater Manchester HER.

10.8 An OASIS form will be completed for the project and an electronic copy of the final report and the digital archive deposited with the ADS.

### Data Management

10.9 A Data Management Plan will be created and managed by the appointed archaeological contractor on commencement of the project, which will outline the strategy for the sharing and preservation of the project's digital data.

10.10 The Data Management Plan will be produced in line with CIfA standards (2020a) and guidance produced by the ADS (2014), and will include;

- Details of data that will be generated during the work
- Type of file formats to be used (e.g. .doc, .pdf., .dwg., .shp, etc.)
- Methods of data collection or capture (e.g. GPS/Total Station/digitising from hard copies)
- File naming conventions (e.g. ADS naming conventions)
- Metadata, standards and quality assurance measures
- Plans for sharing data
- Ethical and legal issues or restrictions on data sharing (e.g client confidentiality etc.)
- Copyright and intellectual property rights of data
- Data storage and back-up measures
- Data management roles and responsibilities
- Costing or resources needed (ADS archiving costs etc.)

10.11 The digital archive will be produced using industry standard file formats, with a clear file structure that allows these to be easily shared with all stakeholders, and allows the data to continue to be preserved and shared with the public through, for example, the HER.

10.12 The data comprising the digital archive will comply with the English Heritage (now Historic England) guidance on historic environment data standards, *MIDAS Heritage; the UK Historic Environment Data Standar*d (English Heritage 2012b).

10.13 It is anticipated that the repositories to which the digital archive are submitted (i.e. HER/local museum/archive) will have in-house Data Management Plans to allow for the long term preservation of the digital archive data, including plans for data back-up and migration to new digital formats as these emerge.

# 11 TIMETABLE

11.1 GMAAS will be informed of the proposed start date for the project as soon as practicable, and at least one week before commencement.

11.2 It is anticipated that archaeological excavation will take between one and two weeks, depending on the nature of the remains identified.

11.3 A draft assessment report will be produced within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork, with a final version to be submitted to the client and GMAAS following any comments. If required, a draft analysis report will be submitted to GMAAS within a programme agreed in the UPD, informed by the results of the post-excavation assessment. This will be followed by a final report following any comments, and the publication of the results of the report in a suitable format, if the results of the excavation and post-excavation assessment warrant this.

# 12 STAFFING

12.1 Mitchell Pollington (MCIfA; Regional Director, Lanpro) will oversee management of the overall project and will monitor the work on behalf of the client.

12.2 The archaeological excavation, monitoring and post-excavation works will be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced professional archaeological contractor, that will adhere to the CIfA Code of Conduct (2019) and all appropriate standards and guidance.

12.3 Details of the CVs of key personnel and specialists will be provided to GMAAS in advance of the commencement of fieldwork, following appointment of the archaeological contractor. The appointed archaeological contractor's Project Manager for the project will be able to demonstrate competence and experience of managing archaeological projects of a similar size, nature and complexity. Assessment and analysis of finds, environmental samples and human remains will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced specialists. The archaeological contractor will be responsible for the organisation and management of all plant, welfare and health and safety on site in line with all professional guidance.

# 13 MONITORING

13.1 GMAAS will monitor the implementation of the archaeological mitigation works on behalf of Manchester City Council and evaluate the scope and progress of the work against the methodology detailed in the agreed WSI. GMAAS will be responsible for considering any changes to the agreed scope of works. Any such changes will be agreed in writing with relevant stakeholders prior to commencement of on-site works, or at the earliest opportunity. Lanpro will oversee the management of the project and will monitor the work on behalf of the client.

## 14 COMMUNICATION

14.1 The appointed archaeological contractor will provide at least weekly updates to Lanpro via email and/or telephone. Any issues that arise on site or during the post-excavation stages should first be addressed by the archaeological contractor directly to Lanpro, who will then liaise with the client, GMAAS and any other stakeholders in order to resolve the matter.

14.2 In the event of issues arising regarding the implementation of this WSI, or the scope or methodology of the excavation, these will be resolved in the first instance by contacting Lanpro who will liaise with the client and GMAAS to determine a solution. Should the issue not be resolved remotely a meeting will be held between key stakeholders to facilitate discussion of the issues and identification of a suitable strategy for progress to be agreed by all parties.

## 15 COPYRIGHT AND PUBLICITY

15.1 Copyright of the documentation prepared by the archaeological contractor and specialist sub-contractors should be the subject of additional licences in favour of the client, Lanpro, the recipient museum and GMAAS to use such documentation for their commercial, statutory or educational functions, and to provide copies to third parties as required.

15.2 Under the *Environmental Information Regulations* (EIR 2005), information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'.

15.3 It is recognised that the project may identify remains which are of interest to the public and these may be publicised through appropriate media. Any publicity for the project proposed by the archaeological contractor should be approved by Lanpro and the client. The appointed contractor will not issue any information on the work through media, internet or social media without prior agreement with Lanpro and the client.

15.4 Care will be taken to ensure that any publicity does not compromise the security of archaeological remains that may have been identified or recovered. Any approaches by the press to the archaeological contractor should be referred to Lanpro in the first instance.

## 16 INSURANCE

16.1 The appointed archaeological contractor will hold Employers Liability Insurance, Public Liability Insurance and Professional Indemnity Insurance to at least the following amounts;

- Public Liability £5,000,000
- Employer's Liability £5,000,000
- Professional indemnity (for any single claim) £5,000,000

# 17 HEALTH AND SAFETY

17.1 The management of all health and safety on site during the excavation phase will be the responsibility of the appointed archaeological contractor. All works will be undertaken by the contractor in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) and all applicable regulations and Codes of Practice.

17.2 All archaeological staff will undertake their operations in accordance with safe working practices and will be CSCS certified. At least one First Aider will be present on site at all times.

17.3 A site-specific risk assessment and method statement (RAMS) will be produced by the appointed archaeological contractor, prior to the commencement of work on site.

17.4 All work will be undertaken in-line with the government's and the CIfA guidance (CIfA 2021) for health and safety on construction sites during the Covid-19 outbreak. Documented procedures for safe working will be supplied by the appointed archaeological fieldwork contractor, in addition to the usual site specific RAMS.

17.5 Suitable welfare facilities and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided by the archaeological contractor, including hi-visibility coats/vests, hard hats, safety boots and gloves, as well as safety glasses if required.

17.6 Site welfare accommodation and car parking should be located within the site and the location of these facilities will be agreed between the archaeological contractor, Lanpro and the client in advance of the commencement of work.

17.7 All staff will receive a health and safety induction prior to starting work on site to be provided by the archaeological contractor.

17.8 Regular audits of health and safety practices will be carried out during the course of the project by the archaeological contractor in consultation with the site workforce. Toolbox talks on health and safety issues will be conducted at minimum weekly intervals and/or after changes in working practices or identification of new threats/risks. The risk assessment will be updated and control measures will be implemented as required in response to specific hazards.

17.9 Safe working will take priority over the desire to record archaeological features or remains, and where it is considered that recording is dangerous, any such features will be recorded by photography at a safe distance.

17.10 All areas of excavation will be scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) prior to ground works commencing. Necessary measures will be taken to avoid disturbing any services.

17.11 Plant operators will be required to produce evidence of qualification within an industry accepted registration scheme. Sub-Contractors health and safety performance will be kept under review and action taken if necessary.

17.12 All spoil will be stored and managed safely in line with the standards of the *Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites* (DEFRA 2009).

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# Figures

Lanpro

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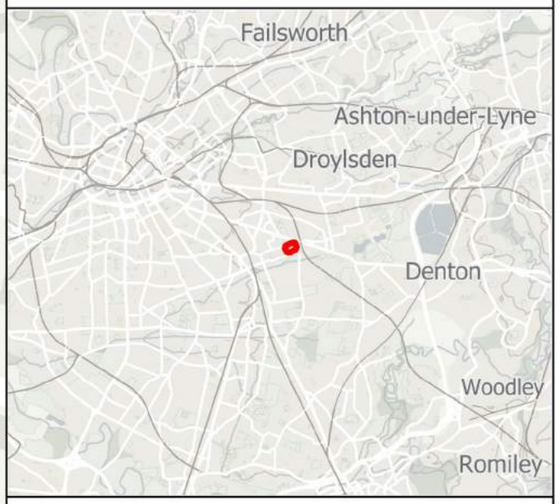


Site boundary

Proposed excavation area

N

0 20 40 60 80 100

Figure 1. Site location

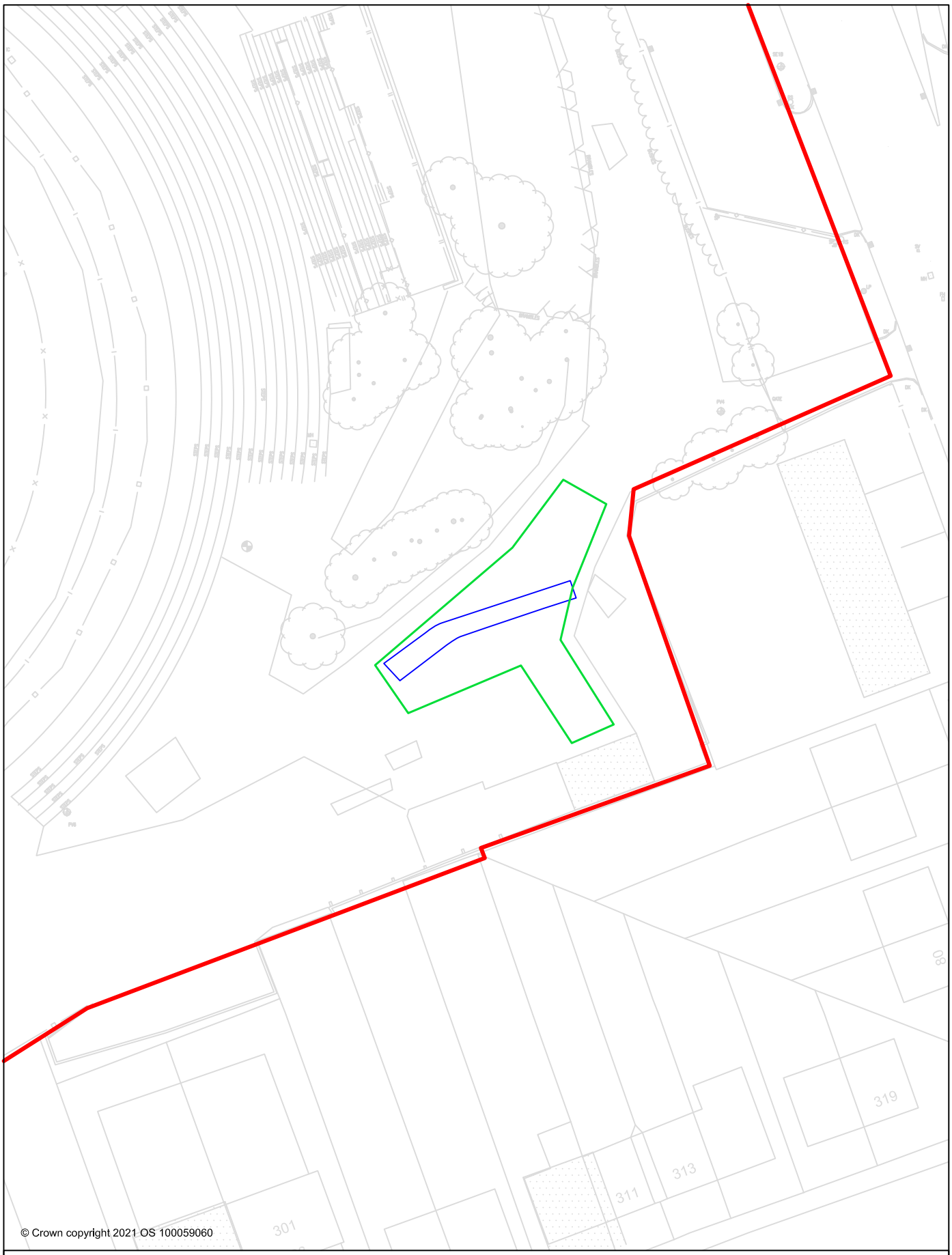


Figure 2. Proposed excavation area

N

Study Site

Proposed excavation

Trench 2

0 20m

1:500 @ A4

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Figure 3. Proposed excavation area in relation to the 25 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1893

N

Study Site

Proposed excavation

Trench 2

0 20m

1:500 @ A4

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**Norwich:**

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01245 929 074

**Retford:**

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# APPENDIX B CENSUS RECORDS

### Census Return 1841 Cats Knoll

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Joseph Twigg Senior | 30 | Male | Farmer | Derby, Terrington |
| Mary Twigg | 40 | Female | | Derby, Parwich |
| Joseph Twigg Junior | 7 | Male | | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Sarah Twigg | 4 | Female | | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Eliza Twigg | 2 | Female | | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Elizabeth Shawcross | 20 | Female | | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Thomas Shawcross | 15 | Male | | |
| Hannah Shawcross | 11 | Female | | |
| Job Webster | 35 | Male | | Derby, Parwich |

### Census Return 1851 Lower Cat's Knowl

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Joseph Twigg Senior | 40 | Male | Farmer | Derby, Terrington |
| Mary Twigg | 52 | Female | Farmer's wife | Derby, Parwich |
| Joseph Twigg Junior | 16 | Male | Scholar | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Sarah Twigg | 14 | Female | Scholar | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Eliza Twigg | 12 | Female | Scholar | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Elizabeth Shawcross | 30 | Female | Farmer's Daughter, House Servant | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Job Webster | 45 | Male | Labourer | Derby, Parwich |
| John Ramsbotherson? | 31 | Male | Labourer | Lancashire, ??? |

### Census Return 1851 Higher Cat's Knowl

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| John ??? | ?? | Male | ??? | ??? |
| ??? ??? | ?? | Female | ??? | ??? |
| Ellen Healey | ?? | Female | ??? | ??? |

### Census Return 1851 Higher Catsknowl Farm

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Susan Higson | 57 | Female | Famer | Lancashire, Gorton? |
| William ??? | ?? | Male | Servant | |
| ??? | ?? | Female | ??? | ??? |

### Census Return 1861 Lower Cat's Knowl

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Joseph Twigg Senior | 50 | Male | Farmer of 72 acres | Derby, Terrington |
| Mary Twigg | 63 | Female | Farmer's wife | Derby, Parwich |
| Joseph Twigg Junior | 27 | Male | Farmer's son | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Sarah Twigg | 24 | Female | Farmer's daughter | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Elizabeth Shawcross | 41 | Female | Farmer's daughter | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Job Webster | 45 | Male | Farm Labourer | Derby, Parwich |
| Eliza Anne Smith | 9 | Female | Granddaughter | Lancashire, Newton |
| Samuel Hill Twigg | 4 | Male | Grandson | Lancashire, Manchester |

### Census Return 1861 Higher Cat's Knowl

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Susan Higson | 67 | Female | Famer of 20 acres | Lancashire, Gorton |
| William Ormston | 56 | Male | Farm servant | Chorlton upon Medlock |
| Peter Ashbrook | 43 | Male | ??? Farm | Lancashire, Gorton |

### Census Return 1871 Gorton Hall Estate

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Joseph Twigg Senior | 59 | Male | Farmer of 41 acres | Derby, Terrington |
| Elizabeth Shawcross | 49 | Female | Farmer's daughter | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Eliza Anne Smith | 19 | Female | Dairy Maid | Lancashire, Newton |
| John ??? | 15 | Male | ??? | ??? |
| | | | | |
| John Ashbrook | 59 | Male | Farmer of 23 acres | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Sarah ??? | 38 | Female | House Servant | Lancashire, Gorton |
| | | | | |
| William ??? | 34 | Male | ??? | Scotland |
| Marrion ??? | 41 | Female | House wife | Scotland |
| ??? | 12 | Female | | Scotland |
| Margret ??? | 8 | Female | | Scotland |

### Census Return 1881 Lower Cat's Knowl

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reuben Boothroyd | 28 | Male | Labourer | Cheshire, Hyde |
| Susanna Boothroyd | 28 | Female | | Cheshire, Newton |
| Fred Boothroyd | 5 | Male | | Lancashire, Gorton |
| John A Boothroyd | 3 | Male | | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Tom Boothroyd | 1 | Male | | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Mary Boothroyd | 20 | Female | Cotton weaver | Cheshire, Hyde |
| | | | | |
| William H Thorp | 35 | Male | Waste paper dealer | Lancashire, Manchester |
| Helen Thorp | 35 | Female | | Scotland |
| Harriet Thorp | 13 | Female | | Lancashire, Manchester |
| Leane Thorp | 11 | Female | | Lancashire, Manchester |
| Amy Thorp | 7 | Female | | Lancashire, Manchester |
| Ernest Thorp | 3 | Male | | Lancashire, Manchester |

### Census Return 1881 Higher Cat's Knowl

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Joseph Twigg | 46 | Male | Famer of 20 acres | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Elizabeth Shawcross | 59 | Female | Homekeeper | Lancashire, Gorton |
| Eliza A Smith | 29 | Female | Dairymaid | Lancashire, Newton |

### Census Return 1891 Lower Cats Knoll No 1

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| John Darby | 50 | Male | Farm labourer | Leicester, Osgathorpe |
| Elizabeth Darby | 49 | Female | | Derbyshire, Alvaston |
| Elizabeth Darby | 16 | Female | Scholar | Lancashire, Gorton |

### Census Return 1891 Lower Cats Knoll No 2

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Samuel Potts | 42 | Male | Stableman Groom | Cheshire, Battley |
| Anne Potts | 35 | Female | | Cheshire, Prestbury |
| Samuel Potts Junior | 4 | Male | | Cheshire, Prestbury |
| ??? Potts | 2 | Female | | Lancashire, Gorton |

### Census Return 1891 Higher Cats Knoll Farm

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| James Clarke | 43 | Male | Hotel porter | Cheshire |
| Sarah W Clarke | 44 | Female | Poultry farmer | ??? |
| Ada Clarke | 16 | Female | Mothers help | Lancashire, Prestwich |
| Marrion Clarke | 2 | Female | | Lancashire, Manchester |

### Census Return 1901 Lower Cats Knoll

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| John Darby | 60 | Male | General Labourer | Leicester, Osgathorpe |
| Elizabeth Darby | 60 | Female | | Derbyshire, Alvaston |
| Elizabeth Darby (daughter) | 26 | Female | Machinist | Lancashire, Gorton |

### Census Return 1901 Cats Knoll Kirkmanshulme Lane

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Samuel Parker | 41 | Male | Police Constable | London, St Pancras |
| Sarah Parker | 33 | Female | | Lancashire, Manchester |
| Alice Ferns (Niece) | 13 | Female | | Lancashire, West Gorton |

### Census Return 1901 Cats Knoll Farm

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| John Walls | 40 | Male | Picture Frame Maker | Lancashire, Manchester |
| Eliza Walls | 35 | Female | | Lancashire, Newton-Le-Willows |
| Thomas Fulcher (boarder) | 32 | Male | ??? Head Reader | London |
| Ernest Roberts (boarder) | 34 | Male | Composition Printer | Devon, Plymouth |
| John Brooks (boarder) | 24 | Male | Chemists assistant | Lancashire, Manchester |

### Census Return 1911 Lower Cats Knol Farm

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Samuel Parker (4 others) | 51 | Male | Police Constable | London, St Pancras |
| Mr Sutherland (3 others) | ? | Male | ? | ? |

## Census Return 1911 Higher Cats Knol Farm

| Name | Age | Gender | Occupation | Where born |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Eliza Walls (2 others) | 45 | Female | | Lancashire, Newton-le-Willows |

# APPENDIX C TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

| Trench extension (Excavation) | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | | **Orientation** | N/a |
| Excavation extension informed via remains uncovered during an earlier site evaluation (ARS 2021). Intact archaeological remains were present across much of the area and included the walls, foundations and floor surfaces associated with the former Lower Catsknowl farmstead. | | | | | | **Area (m)** | 250² |
| | | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | 0.30 |
| **Context No.** | **Type** | **Length (m)** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **Description** | **Finds** | **Date** |
| ***101*** | Wall/drain | 1.43 | 0.30 | 0.07 | Single course, no bonding, laid as stretchers | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***102*** | Surface | 4.10 | 2.00 | 0.10 | Cobbled surface, brick elements, bordered with edging setts to south and west | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***103*** | Structure | 3.12 | 2.45 | - | Bounded by walls ***127*** and ***128***. Contains surface ***129*** | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***104*** | Wall | 6.28 | 0.40 | 0.24 | Pink Sandstone wall, coursed stone, laid on ***1006***. Blocks; 0.90m x 0.25m | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***105*** | Wall | 3.12 | 0.37 | - | Stone foundation, roughly-hewn, below ***1004*** | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***106*** | Wall | 5.20 | 0.40 | 0.30 | Brick wall with stone foundation, truncated at East end, single brick wide, bonded by lime mortar | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***107*** | Surface | 5.50 | 4.50 | - | External floor surface, comprises cobbles, hand-made brick, stone flags and edging setts, likely same as surface ***102***, edging setts used to | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | delineate access through ***106*** and to South | | |
| ***108*** | Surface | 0.58 | 0.70 | 0.10 | 0.58m x 0.30m Stone block bordering granite sett surface, does not align with wall ***104*** | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***109*** | Surface | 0.84 | 0.72 | - | Surface comprising hand-made brick, granite setts and stone flags, step formed by bull-nosed bricks in soldier course | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***110*** | Surface | 3.87 | 1.40 | - | Brick and cobble surface, cobbles to north covered with asphalt, hand-made bricks laid as stretchers, overlain by ***104*** | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***111*** | Wall | 0.86 | 0.27 | - | Stone block aligned similarly with wall ***112***, sandstone | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***112*** | Wall | 1.52 | 0.22 | 0.06 | Hand-made brick, header course, bonded by lime mortar | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***113*** | Surface | 14.40 | 4.70 | 0.07 | Hand-made brick, internal surface, laid as stretchers, covered to south by later cement skim, repairs with frogged brick, evidence for surface drainage, heavily truncated | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***114*** | Wall | 1.02 | 0.23 | 0.15 | Internal wall, hand-made brick, two | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | courses, single brick wide, stretchers, bonded by mortar | | |
| ***115*** | Wall | 1.20 | 0.24 | 0.15 | Internal wall, hand-made brick, single brick wide, laid as stretchers, bonded by lime mortar | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***116*** | Wall | 1.92 | 0.24 | 0.15 | External wall, hand-made brick, single brick wide, laid as stretchers, bonded by lime mortar | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***117*** | Wall | 1.70 | 0.25 | 0.15 | External wall, hand-made brick, single brick wide, laid as stretchers, bonded by lime mortar | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***118*** | Surface | 3.80 | 3.00 | 0.05 | Internal surface, stone flags, butts fireplace ***120*** to west, 0.12m gap between ***118*** and ***119*** suggests truncated internal partition | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***119*** | Surface | 1.50 | 1.40 | - | Cement skim surface, Stone flags beneath but not observed | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***120*** | Structure | 1.14 | 0.58 | 0.16 | Fireplace foundation, constructed from hand-made brick, half a brick wide back, single brick wide buttresses with soldiered lower course | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***121*** | Surface | 1.24 | 1.00 | 0.11 | Hand-made brick floor, laid as soldiers | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***122*** | Wall | 2.40 | 0.25 | 0.20 | Hand-made brick wall with stone elements, single brick wide stretchers, 3 courses surviving | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***123*** | Wall | 1.02 | 0.24 | - | Hand-made brick wall, light brown sandy mortar, single brick wide, butts ***122*** | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***124*** | Wall | 3.09 | 0.28 | - | Hand-made brick wall, light brown sandy mortar, single brick wide, Eastern extent seems bonded to southern face of ***122*** | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***125*** | Cut | 3.80 | 0.25 | 0.20 | Possible foundation cut extending from ***128*** to ***106***, seems to be filled with mix of ***1004*** with occ. cobbles | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***126*** | Wall | 0.38 | 0.24 | - | Hand-made brick wall, unknown mortar, butts ***121*** and ***122*** | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***127*** | Wall | 2.80 | 0.34 | 0.20 | Hand-made brick wall with stone Quoin at West extent. Bonded by lime mortar | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***128*** | Wall | 2.45 | 0.37 | 0.20 | Coursed sandstone wall Blocks; 0.60m x 0.24m | | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***129*** | Surface | | | | Interior floor surface comprises; hand-made brick, stone flags and setts, Includes | | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | soldiered brick entrance | | |
| ***1001*** | Layer | - | | 0.15 | Tarmacadam | - | Modern |
| ***1002*** | Layer | - | | 0.25 | Brick Demolition overburden | - | Modern |
| ***1003*** | Layer | - | | 0.20 | Clinker and ash bedding layer | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***1004*** | Layer | - | | - | Blue-grey clay | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***1005*** | Layer | - | | - | Yellow clay natural geology | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***1006*** | Layer | - | | 0.10 | Orange bedding sand for wall ***104*** | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |
| ***1007*** | Layer | - | | - | Slate and mortar bedding | - | Eighteenth/ Nineteenth century |

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# APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Site name:** | Belle Vue Stadium, Gorton, Manchester |
| **Site code:** | BVS21 |
| **Grid Reference** | SJ 8788 9606 |
| **Type:** | Archaeological Excavation |
| **Date and duration:** | 22nd -24th March 2021; 3 days |
| **Area of Site** | 250m$^2$ |
| **Location of archive:** | The archive is currently held at OA North, Mill 3, Moor Lane Mills, Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QD, and will be deposited with Greater Manchester County Records Office in due course. |
| **Summary of Results:** | The excavation identified archaeological remains across the area investigated relating to Lower Catsknowl, these were principally floor surfaces, although walls did survive, but generally only to a single course. The remains were heavily truncated, most likely during the demolition of the farmstead for the redevelopment of Belle Vue Stadium in the 1950s and 1980s, but also by modern services and drainage. The remains that did survive corresponded well with the historic mapping of the site, with the identification that the buildings in the north-eastern part of the main range of buildings likely being domestic, due to the presence of flagged floors and remains of a fireplace, with the western half of the range likely having been used as barns, along with the buildings to the south. Due to the level of truncation of the site, phasing of the structures identified could not be discerned, beyond what is depicted on the historic mapping, which does suggest that the buildings were relatively contemporary and minimal changes to the farmstead occurred. |

# APPENDIX F OASIS SUMMARY REPORT

# Summary for oxfordar2-501594

| | |
|---|---|
| OASIS ID (UID) | oxfordar2-501594 |
| Project Name | Excavation at Belle Vue Stadium |
| Activity type | Excavation |
| Project Identifier(s) | L11353 |
| Planning Id | 122160/FO/2018 |
| Reason For Investigation | Planning: Between application and determination |
| Organisation Responsible for work | Oxford Archaeology North |
| Project Dates | 15-Mar-2021 - 30-Apr-2021 |
| Location | Belle Vue Stadium<br>NGR : SJ 87801 96167<br>LL : 53.4621051352134, -2.18520507916375<br>12 Fig : 387801,396167 |
| Administrative Areas | Country : England<br>County : Greater Manchester<br>District : Manchester<br>Parish : Manchester, unparished area |
| Project Methodology | Excavation |
| Project Results | The structures relating to Lower Catsknowl farmstead survived, relatively poorly across the area, having been heavily truncated during the farmsteads demolition for the redevelopment of Belle Vue Stadium in the 1950s and 1980s, the remains of Higher Catsknowl did not survive as well as those at Lower Catsknowl with no evidence of them being identified in the evaluation trench. The remains of Lower Catsknowl identified during the evaluation were encountered during the excavation. The remains that were identified in the excavation corresponded well with the historic mapping. No environmental samples were recovered during the fieldwork, due to there being no suitable deposits, and no finds were retained, as only a small number of ceramic finds were identified which were largely residual. |
| Keywords | |
| HER | Greater Manchester HER - noRev - LITE |
| HER Identifiers | |
| Archives | Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Greater Manchester County Record Office (with Manchester Archives) |

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