



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

Archaeological Watching Brief

Updated Report

Marketing Suite,
Great Jackson
Street,
Castlefield,
Manchester

Planning Refs:

118626/FO/2017 and
127812/FO/2020

Client:

CQ Investments

Technical Report:

Andrew Radford

Report No:

2020/107



Site Location: Great Jackson Street, Manchester

NGR: 383260 397277

Planning Refs: 118626/FO/2017 and 127812/FO/2020

Internal Ref: ELCA 1168

Prepared for: CQ Investments Ltd

Document Title: Marketing Suite, Great Jackson Street, Manchester

Document Type: Updated Archaeological Watching Brief

Version: Version 1

Author: Andrew Radford
Position: Supervising Archaeologist
Date: October 2020

Approved By: Ian Miller
Position: Assistant Director
Date: November 2020 **Signed:** 

Copyright: Copyright for this document remains with the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University of Salford.

Contact: Salford Archaeology, Centre for Applied Archaeology, Peel Building,
University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT

Telephone: 0161 295 4467 Email: i.f.miller@salford.ac.uk

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared by Salford Archaeology within the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University of Salford, for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be used or relied upon for any other project without an independent check being undertaken to assess its suitability and the prior written consent and authority obtained from the Centre for Applied Archaeology. The University of Salford accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than those for which it was commissioned. Other persons/parties using or relying on this document for other such purposes agrees, and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify the University of Salford for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. The University of Salford accepts no liability or responsibility for this document to any other party/persons than by whom it was commissioned.

Contents

Summary -----	4
1. Introduction -----	5
2. The Setting -----	6
3. Historical Background-----	7
4. Watching Brief Results -----	9
5. Discussion -----	26
6. Conclusion-----	28
Sources -----	29
Archive and Acknowledgments-----	30
Appendix 1: Figures-----	31

Summary

In January 2018, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by CQ Investments Ltd to maintain an archaeological watching brief during the ground-breaking works associated with the construction of a temporary marketing suite off Great Jackson Street in the Castlefield area of Manchester city centre (centred on NGR 383260 397277). The watching brief was required to satisfy a condition attached to planning consent for the proposed development (Planning Ref: 118626/FO/2017). A further application, proposing the continued temporary use of the marketing suite, together with the construction of an additional temporary building that replicates a two-bedroom unit apartment, was submitted to Manchester City Council in August 2020. This required some additional ground-breaking works (Planning Ref: 127812/FO/2020), which similarly merited monitoring by an archaeologist.

The site is bounded by Great Jackson Street, Silvercroft Street, Crown Street and Mebourne Street, and lies just beyond the area that formed part of the Roman settlement associated with the fort at Castlefield. A desk-based assessment that was produced at an early stage in the planning process concluded that the site had some potential to contain buried foundations of different types of early 19th-century workers' housing, any surviving remains of which could be of archaeological interest. Following consultation with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, in their capacity of Archaeological Advisor to Manchester City Council, it was recommended that a watching brief was maintained during construction works to ensure that a record of any archaeological remains was compiled in advance of their ultimate loss.

The watching brief was carried out in several stages between February and June 2018, with a second stage of work carried out as part of the revised planning application in September 2020. The watching brief maintained in 2018 confirmed that some structural elements of the 19th-century workers' housing survive *in-situ*. In most cases, the uppermost course of the surviving walls was exposed at a depth of just 0.25m below the modern ground surface. No archaeological remains related to the Romano-British period were uncovered during this excavation. The survival and depth of the 19th-century remains indicate that any Roman remains would likely have been disturbed, if not destroyed.

This conclusion was reinforced by the results obtained from monitoring the groundworks carried out in September 2020, which similarly exposed the natural drift geology at a relatively shallow depth with no indication of any archaeological remains deriving from the Romano-British period, whilst the remains of the 19th-century housing were scant and very fragmentary

The watching brief has enabled a record to be compiled of the archaeological remains exposed during the ground-reduction works for the temporary marketing suite, or otherwise demonstrated that no archaeological remains survive. The remains that were uncovered in 2018 can be considered to be of local importance. However, any future ground-breaking works required by construction work to replace the temporary marketing suite will merit the implementation of an appropriate archaeological strategy to ensure that a record of the foundations of the 19th-century houses encountered during the watching brief in 2018 is compiled in advance of their ultimate loss.

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

CQ Investments Ltd has obtained planning permission to erect a temporary marketing suite off Great Jackson Street in the Castlefield area of Manchester city centre (referred to hereafter as the Site). The design proposals for the temporary marketing suite require limited ground-breaking works, comprising the reduction of the ground level within the footprint of the proposed marketing suite to a depth of 0.5m, and excavation of the adjacent car-parking area to a depth of 0.15m (Planning Ref: 118626/FO/2017). The deepest disturbance required are for new services and drainage, which will require the excavation of narrow trenches to depths of up to 1m below the current ground level. Notwithstanding the limited extent of the ground-breaking works required, there was still potential for the construction programme to damage or remove any archaeological remains.

The archaeological interest in the site was highlighted in a desk-based assessment that was produced at an early stage in the planning process (Salford Archaeology 2018). This concluded that the Site has some potential to contain buried structural elements of different types of early 19th-century workers' housing, some of which contained cellars. It was also concluded that any damage to the foundations of these houses, should they survive *in-situ*, may merit the implementation of a strategy that would offset the harm of their ultimate loss. In addition, the Site lies on the fringe of Manchester's Roman settlement, raising the potential for archaeological remains of Romano-British origin to survive.

In the light of these conclusions, and following consultation with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) in their capacity of Archaeological Advisor to Manchester City Council, a condition was attached to planning consent that required an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during ground-reduction works. In order to fulfil the requirements of this planning condition, CQ Investments Ltd commissioned Salford Archaeology to undertake the watching brief.

The initial watching brief was carried out in several stages between February and June 2018, and has enabled a record to be compiled of the archaeological remains exposed during the ground-reduction works for the temporary marketing suite. The second stage of ground-reduction works was carried out as part of a revised planning application in September 2020 (Planning Ref: 127812/FO/2020), although no remains of archaeological interest were uncovered.

1.2 Methodology

The site was excavated mechanically by the SI contractor, operating under close archaeological supervision. The monitoring archaeologist worked with the machine to excavate the area to a depth of approximately 0.5m. All features of archaeological interest uncovered were cleaned, photographed, and recorded in accordance with the methodology outlined in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

2. The Setting

2.1 Location

The Site (centred on NGR 383260 397277) is situated approximately 1km to the south-west of Manchester city centre, and forms part of the historic township of Hulme. It is bounded by Great Jackson Street, Silvercroft Street, Crown Street and Mebourne Street in the Castlefield area of Manchester (Plate 1). The site was occupied most recently by surface car parking.

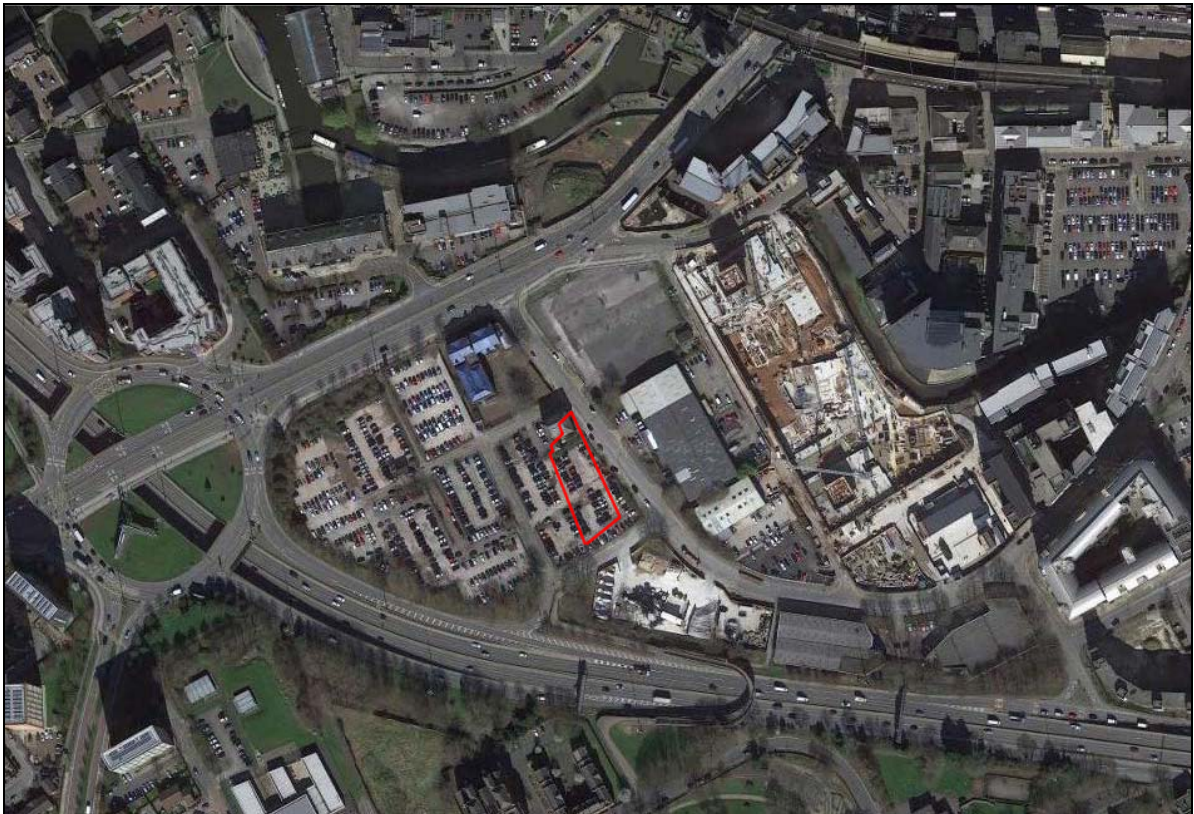


Plate 1: The development area boundary superimposed on a recent aerial view

Topographically, the Manchester Conurbation as a region is within an undulating lowland basin, which is bounded by the Pennine uplands to the east and to the north. The region as a whole comprises the Mersey river valley, whilst the rivers Irwell, Medlock, and Irk represent the principal watercourses in Manchester (Countryside Commission 1998, 125). The Site lies on the western bank of the River Medlock, and occupies a fairly level terrace at a height of c 32m above Ordnance Datum.

2.2 Geology

The solid geology of the area comprises Carboniferous sedimentary material and a series of Permo-Triassic rocks, consisting mainly of New Red Sandstone. The overlying drift incorporates Pleistocene boulder clays, and sands, gravels, and clays of fluvial/lacustrine origin (Ordnance Survey Geological Survey 1970; BGS 2018).

3. *Historical Background*

3.1 *Contextual Background*

In this section a brief discussion of the historical and archaeological context of this watching brief will be discussed; the previous desk-based assessment discussed each period in greater detail (Salford Archaeology 2018). The assessment concluded that there is little potential for the survival of remains within the Site boundary pre-dating the Industrial Period, therefore this discussion will primarily focus on the period 1750-1914, although the possibility of encountering Roman remains could not be discounted.

Little is known about all prehistoric periods around Manchester and there is no evidence that there is any archaeologically visible activity within the site boundary, and no sites are recorded within 250m of the excavation area. Occasional prehistoric artefacts have been found around Castlefield, but mostly without context (Nevell, 2008, 11-2).

Roman activity is well documented within the Manchester area generally. The site of the Roman fort at *Mamucium*, between the rivers Medlock and Irwell in the Castlefield area of the city, was constructed during the time of Agricola. A small settlement grew up around the fort around what is today Chester Road in the 2nd century AD (Grealey 1974, 11). At around this time the timber and turf fort was re-faced with stone walls and a gatehouse.

Several Roman finds discovered on the south side of the River Medlock have been reported by antiquarians since the 17th century, including fragments of pottery recorded in the 1770s by Whitaker, and a tomb, comprising a wooden coffin in a grave lined with tiles, found in 1832 at a location which Charles Roeder described subsequently as 'evidently near Great Jackson Street'. Perhaps the best-known Roman finds from the south side of the River Medlock, however, are three sculptured stones found at a depth of c 2m by workmen sinking a drain in 1821. One of has been identified as Cautopates, a figure associated with the worship of the Mithras, from which it is inferred that a Mithraeum, or building used for the worship of the god, stood within the locality.

An excavation carried out on the junction of Chester Road and Great Jackson Street in 2008 concluded that temples and mausolea probably lined the Roman road from Chester as it dropped down to the ford across the River Medlock. Significantly, a Roman altar was recovered from this excavation. Excavations at Owen Street in 2016 identified a spread of relict plough soil, containing Roman pottery and a series of ditches cut into the bedrock (Salford Archaeology 2016).

Archaeological evidence is scant for much of the North West during the early medieval period. Occasional finds have been found around Manchester, but there is no evidence of activity within the vicinity of the Site boundary. After the Norman Conquest the area of Castlefield remained almost wholly undeveloped until the 18th century; the only known activity in the area during the late medieval period was focused upon a mill at Knott Mill to the north-east of the present site boundary.

The onset of the rapid industrialisation centred on Manchester from the 18th century resulted in a massive expansion of the town's population. This expansion required the rapid construction of large amounts of workers' housing, such as that recorded within the site boundary as early as 1818 on Johnson's map of that year. Green's map of 1787-94 also shows that a 'Brewery' was located within the north of the site boundary, although this had been demolished by 1818.

The form of the workers' housing is clearer on the later large-scale Ordnance Survey mapping. These houses included an arrangement of blind-back and back-to-back properties on the plot bounded by Silver Street, Pryme Street, Back Silver Street and Southam Street, and a mixture of small and large back-to-backs and blind-back houses situated between Southam Street and Crown Street. A Methodist chapel had been constructed at the corner of Silver Street by 1824, which still stands in a converted form.

The area had been almost entirely developed by the mid-1840s, as shown on the Ordnance Survey 6": 1 mile that was published in 1845 and at a larger scale of 60": 1 mile in 1851. The 1851 edition provides considerable detail of the various buildings within the Site, and demonstrate that the area had been subject to further development since the early 1830s. There was little change on the site from the 1850s onwards until the early-to-middle part of the 20th century. Most of the workers' housing had been cleared by the 1940s with some small industrial buildings, labelled as 'garage' and 'depot', constructed and subsequently demolished in the 1950s and 1960s.



Plate 2: View looking east along Melbourne Street from Pryme Street in the 1890s

4. Watching Brief Results

4.1 Introduction

The ground-reduction works required for the marketing suite in 2018 were focused on two areas, together with the excavation of a narrow service trench. The first of the areas monitored (Area 1) lay within what was until recently a car park, and was excavated to create a foundation for the new marketing suite. This area measured approximately 20m x 18m. A depth of at least 0.5m was required for the foundations of this building, which was later filled with a crushed aggregate. Area 2 was excavated at a later date, and comprised an area measuring 12.2m x 5.4m located to the south of Area 1, close to Melbourne Street. Area 3 consisted of a small service trench across the southern part of the Site. This trench was up to 0.75m in depth and 2.5m in width.

Ground-reduction works were carried out across Area 4 in September 2020, as proposed in a consented scheme for an extension to the marketing suite erected in 2018 (Planning Ref: 127812/FO/2020). This required earth-moving works across the site to a maximum depth of 0.65m, which similarly attracted a condition for an archaeological watching brief.



Plate 3: Recent aerial view showing the areas of the watching brief

4.2 Area 1

Area 1 was located in the central part of the Site, across the footprint of double-depth workers' houses that fronted onto Great Jackson Street, together with the yards to the rear, as shown on 19th-century mapping (Figs 3 and 4). This exposed the upper surviving courses of the foundations for these houses.

Wall **201** was a brick wall that was aligned north-east/south-west, parallel to Melbourne Street and Silvercroft Street. The foundations of this wall were not exposed during the watching brief, and its maximum depth is unknown. The uppermost surviving course of bricks was exposed at a depth of 0.5m below the modern ground surface. Immediately above wall **201** was a modern concrete layer associated with activity in the latter half of the 20th century. Into this concrete were set modern bricks, most likely the remnants of the garage, warehouse, or depot constructed in the 1950s and 1960s.

Wall **201** was three brick-courses wide (0.4m) with up to four layers of bricks exposed to a maximum wall height of (0.51m). The average brick measurements were 0.34m in length, 0.11m in width, and 0.075m in height. Both the northern and southern faces of wall **201** appear to have been white-washed. At the western end of wall **201** was a two-course thick wall, which continued to the north-east, but its full extent was not exposed; a 1.3m section was revealed during the watching brief. Wall **201** appeared to be contemporary with several other degraded and only partly revealed brick walls (Plate 4).

At the north-eastern end of the north-east/south-west-aligned section of wall **201** was a return that was orientated perpendicular to it, parallel to Great Jackson Street. This portion of wall **201** was truncated and disturbed and its full extent is unknown. A heavily degraded wall may also have continued along this same axis north-west. On the north-eastern side of wall **201** were the remains of what is most likely a threshold. This feature had had been disturbed and was only partially *in-situ* (Plate 6). The most westerly visible stone comprised red sandstone, which was not encountered anywhere else on site. It measured 0.5m in length, 0.25m in width, and 0.09m in height. To the east of this block was large broken flagstone which measured 0.45m in length, 0.4m in width, and was 0.06m thick.

Wall **202** comprised the remains of modern brick wall in the most north-westerly part of the excavation area (Plate 8). Wall **202** was constructed of modern machine-made bricks and was bonded with a hard grey cement, indicative of a 20th-century construction date. This wall survived to a maximum of five courses and was exposed to a maximum thickness of four courses. At the bottom of the the brick wall, 0.5m below the ground surface, was a concrete floor surface. Wall **202** was made up of two surviving walls, once aligned north-east/south-west, and aligned north-west/south-east. Wall **201** was clearly associated with the light industrial buildings dating to the mid-20th century, and was not considered of archaeological significance.



*Plate 4: View of wall **201** looking south. The threshold can be seen in the far left while the degraded north-eastern return can be seen in the foreground*



*Plate 5: Wall **201** with associated degraded and truncated walls in the foreground*



*Plate 6: Remains of threshold related to wall **201**, looking south-west*



*Plate 7: View looking south-east showing a degraded return of wall **201***



*Plate 8: View of wall **202** looking south-west. The remains of the concrete floor can be seen in front of the brick wall*

Feature **203** was a partly disturbed feature constructed of flagstones and bricks. The foundations were not exposed, and its purpose is unclear from what was uncovered during the watching brief but it was almost certainly represented some form of culvert or drain. The maximum extent of the feature uncovered 0.9 x 2.1m. The feature appeared to have been orientated north-east/south-west. Three flagstones were uncovered, the largest and most complete of which measured 0.6 x 0.7 x 0.06m. The bricks were bonded with a hard black mortar, and the uppermost flagstone was 0.4m below the surface of the modern concrete. Within and around **203** was a very dark grey-black silty sooty fill.

Wall **204** was aligned north-east/south-west, parallel to Melbourne Street (Plate 9). The wall was four courses thick (0.45m) with only the uppermost layer of bricks visible, and as such its maximum depth is unknown. The top of the wall was exposed at a depth of 0.7m below the concrete ground surface. The wall was bonded with a yellow sandy silty mortar. A section of wall approximately 3.5m in length was uncovered during this watching brief, but its maximum length to the north-east and south-west remains unknown.



*Plate 9: Photograph looking north-west showing feature **203** in centre with the remains of **202** in the upper left corner*

Wall **205** was visible in the southern baulk of the excavation Area 1. The uppermost bricks of **205** were exposed at a depth of 0.6m below the concrete ground level. The wall survived to a height of six courses, and the base of the wall was 1.05m below the ground surface. The wall was bonded with a yellow sandy mortar. In the south-westerly most point of **205** the wall extended an additional two courses northwards, although this had been disturbed in modernity and the full width of the the wall remains unknown. At the base of the wall was a very hard surface, which can be seen in Plate 10. This surface was embedded with small cobbles which were set into a a very dark grey-black silty material. This surface suvived to a maxium of 0.4m to the north from **205**. Sturctural remains **204** and **205** lay parallel to each other and were set 1.5m apart.



*Plate 10: Photograph looking south-east; wall **204** is in the foreground and **205** is in the background*



*Plate 11: Detailed view of the base of wall **205**, showing the semi-cobbled surface*



*Plate 12: View looking south showing wall **201** in the centre with the truncated remains of walls at the bottom and left*

Feature **206** was a large cobbled surface that was exposed for an area of approximately 5.5 x 3.2m. It was located at the south-western end of the excavation Area 1 (Fig 7). This area was 0.6m below the ground surface, and was constructed of rounded and regular cobbles, with a single line of curbstones on its northern edge. The cobbles comprising **206** regularly measured 0.18 x 0.22m.

The largest flagstone measured 0.9 x 0.84m, and was located next to the baulk at the north-western end of **206**, adjacent to the limit of excavation. The extent of cobbles **206**, flagstones **209**, and the surfaces **207** and **208** remains unknown due to the constraints of the excavation.

The northern side of cobbled surface **206** was lined with large kerbstones (Plates 13 and 14). These measured up to 0.45m x 0.12m. A line of flagstones, **209**, extended from the cobbles towards the south-east, where they had been truncated by later activity. Flagstones **209** were 0.6m in width and at least 4.7m in length. On the northern side of this line of flagstones was a brick surface, **208**, (with bricks on edge), which measured 1.2 x 4.7m. On the southern side of the line of flagstones was a second brick surface, **207** (with bricks laid as headers), which measured 3 x 1.8m. The largest area was that of the cobbles which survived to a high degree. Cobble surface **206** was located to the north, east, and south-east of flagstones **209**, and measured 3.2 x 5.5m, respectively. To the north of the line of kerbstones was the degraded remains of a north-west/south-east-aligned brick wall, **210**. While heavily degraded and truncated it was possible to suggest that **210** was two bricks across, or 0.3m. The most southwesterly of the flagstones, **209**, had been overlain with 0.05m of later concrete.



Plate 13: View looking south-west, showing the extent of surface 206



Plate 14: View looking north-west, showing surface 206

4.3 Area 2

Area 2 was located in the southern part of the Site, across the footprint of double-depth workers' houses that fronted onto Great Jackson Street, together with the yards to the rear, as shown on 19th-century mapping (Figs 3 and 4). This exposed the upper surviving courses of the foundations for these houses, many of which had been truncated and were in a general poor condition (Plate 15).



Plate 15: General view of Area 2, with service trench (Area 3) in the background, looking south-east

Wall **001** consisted of a single-skin of hand-made bricks bonded with a sandy lime mortar, and measured 1m in length and 0.12m in width (Fig 7). The northern end of wall **001** appeared to have been truncated in antiquity, whilst the southern end returned to the west for 0.5m before turning once again to towards the south as wall **002**. This similarly consisted of a lime-mortared single single-skin wall, 1.5m in length and 0.12m in width. Wall **002** had been truncated at its southern end and may have originally continued to wall **007**.

Wall **003** was a double-skinned brick wall bonded with sandy yellow-white mortar, 3.6m in length and 0.24m in width. The depth of wall **003** remains unknown, as with most of the walls encountered in Area 1. Wall **003** was orientated south-east/north-west and was joined, as a return, at its north-eastern end by wall **007**. Wall **004** was a small segment of single-skinned brick wall 2.2m in length, which connected perpendicularly to wall **003**, 0.8m from its most westerly surviving point (Plate 16). On its western side, wall **003** had been cut by a modern service trench. This cut for a modern ceramic pipe was aligned north-east/south-west, and was 0.8m wide and cut across Area 2. Structure **005** consisted a very small segment of brick wall immediately to the south of the modern pipe truncation, and was aligned north-west/south-east. Wall **005** comprised a single-skinned hand-made brick wall bonded with a hard, grey, lime-mortar. It was located 0.2m below the level of the modern concrete and measured 0.11m x 0.4m.



Plate 16: Walls 003 and 004, looking south-west



Plate 17: Modern ceramic pipe cutting across Area 2

Wall **006** consisted of a small segment of heavily truncated brick wall, which ran parallel to **007** and abutted wall **003**. It consisted of hand-made-bricks and was mortared with hard lime-mortar. Wall **007** abutted wall **003** at its eastern end and was abutted at its southern end by wall **008**. It consisted of a double-skinned brick wall bonded by a sandy lime mortar and had a maximum length of 1.24m. Wall **008** followed a phase-break from wall **007** and was bonded with a harder mortar. The entire surviving length of **008** was 2.63m until it was truncated at its southern end. Walls **009** and **110** were two small segments of double-skinned walls constructed similarly to wall **008**. Both were aligned perpendicularly to **008** and were keyed into its construction. Walls **110** and **009** were 1m apart, and were exposed to a length of 0.5m, but continued beyond the limit of excavation. These short sections of wall almost certainly represented the cheeks of a fireplace set against the north-western wall of one of the houses.



*Plate 18: Wall **008**, showing fireplace cheeks **009** and **010***

Wall **011** consisted of a small segment of double-skinned handmade-bricks which was aligned south-east/north-west. It was truncated on its eastern side by structure **017** and on its western side by the modern service trench. It was bonded with a sandy lime-mortar.

Wall **012** may have been a continuation of wall **007** before it had been truncated and reconstructed with **008**. Wall **012** was bonded with a soft, crumbly, lime-mortar and was double-skinned for 1.75m of its length, as measured from its northern end, and single-skin for 1.3m until its southerly return to the north-west as wall **013**. Wall **013** continued as the same construction as **012** for 0.8m where it was truncated by a modern trench that was 1m wide. Beyond this truncation, wall **013** continued its north-westerly trajectory for 1.38m where it was once again truncated. Wall **014** had similarly been heavily truncated and measured a total of 0.9m in length and 0.24m in width. Wall **014** was double-skinned and bonded with a crumbly, sandy, lime-mortar. The wall was aligned north-east/south-west, and likely was connected to **013** and **011**.



Plate 19: General view across Area 2

Structure **016** and **017** were possible floor surfaces in the centre of Area 2, constructed of hand-made bricks and bonded with a hard, grey, cement-mortar. Structure **017** appeared to cut wall **011** and measured 0.8 x 0.5m. Structure **017** had been damaged, and its ultimate size was unknown. Structure **016** was immediately adjacent to **017** and measured 0.6 x 0.85m in size, and was bonded with a hard, grey lime-mortar.

Structure **020** consisted of a small segment of double-skinned wall constructed of hand-made bricks and bonded with a yellow-white lime-mortar. The main wall of structure **020** was aligned with **013** and was located 7.5m to its north-west. Two small segments of double-skinned brick-wall were aligned north-east (Fig 7). The area around **020** was rubble-filled and it is highly likely that much of the surrounding structures had been destroyed prior to this investigation.

4.4 Area 3: Service Trench

A narrow service trench was excavated across the footprint of 26 Jackson Street, along the southern boundary of the Site (Plate 20). Short sections of walls were revealed in the trench, including wall **101**, which was situated 5m north-east from the trench edge. The wall consisted of a single skin of hand-made bricks bonded together with lime mortar, indicative of an early 19th-century construction date. The wall was exposed for a distance of 1.20m and was aligned north-west/south-east. It is likely to have represented an internal partition, given its width.



Plate 20: View along the excavated service trench (Area 3)

Wall **101** was abutted by wall **102**, which similarly comprised hand-made bricks laid in stretcher bond with lime-based mortar. The wall was exposed for a distance of 1.6m, and was aligned north-east/south-west. As with wall **101**, wall **102** is likely to represent an internal partition.

4.5 Area 4

Area 4 was subject to earth-moving works in September 2020 to enable an extension to the marketing suite that was erected in 2018, and lay to the south and west of the existing building, across the footprint of outshuts and yards to the rear of the houses shown on 19th-century mapping. In the first instance, the ground level immediately to the south of the marketing suite was reduced to enable additional services to be installed and new hard surfacing to be laid. Removal of the modern ground surface exposed a modern deposit of levelling sand at a depth of 150mm (Plate 21). This thin deposit overlay a demolition rubble deriving from the clearance of the site in the second half of the 20th-century.

A few isolated short sections of brick walls embedded in the demolition rubble almost certainly represented the vestiges of the 19th-century houses that had fronted onto Great Jackson Street, but no associated internal floors survived *in-situ* (Plate 22). The few component bricks that did survive were all hand-made, some with traces of lime-based mortar adhering to their surfaces, consistent with an early 19th-century construction date. These parts of the houses evidently did not contain basements, as the natural drift geology was exposed in patches beneath the demolition rubble, although excavation ceased at a depth of c. 0.5m, so the demolition material was not removed entirely across the whole of the area. No finds were recovered, and no archaeological remains pre-dating the 19th century were identified.



Plate 21: General view across the area to the south of the 2018 building, showing the initial excavation of the ground surface



Plate 22: View across the area to the south of the 2018 building, showing the 20th-century demolition material, overlying the natural geology

The second phase of the ground works necessitated the excavation of ground to the west and south-west of the 2018 building. Initially, this comprised the excavation of a 1.80m-wide trench to a depth of c. 1m, exposing a thick deposit of sandy clay with patches of gravel, clearly representing the natural drift geology. This was overlain by a mixed deposit that contained 20th-century demolition material, which was exposed immediately beneath the modern topsoil. The layer of mixed demolition material had been cut by a modern service trench that was aligned broadly north/south along the central part of the excavated trench (Plate 23). No features of archaeological interest were identified, and no finds were recovered.

Following the excavation of the initial trench, a larger area was subject to ground-reduction works. This revealed the same simple stratigraphic sequence that was exposed in the initial trench, comprising the natural drift geology overlain directly by a layer of modern mixed demolition material sealed beneath topsoil (Plate 24). A second modern service trench was also exposed, cut into the natural geology and backfilled with a pale yellowish-cream coloured sand. No features of archaeological interest were identified, and no finds were recovered.



Plate 23: Trench excavated along the western side of the 2018 building, showing a modern service trench cut into the natural drift geology, and vestiges of modern mixed demolition material overlying the natural geology



Plate 24: The second area fully excavated

5. Discussion

5.1 Great Jackson Street

The archaeological remains combined with the available cartographic evidence suggest that most of the surviving remains exposed during the watching brief dated primarily from two periods, spanning the early 19th century to the 20th century. The earliest cartographic evidence that correlates with the archaeological record of the investigation area is the Ordnance Survey map of 1851. Overlaying the position of the recorded walls onto this historic map confirmed that many of the walls had been constructed prior to the mid-19th century (Fig 3). The second phase of construction activity dates from the mid- to late 20th century, and consisted of a series of industrial units of little archaeological interest.

Wall **202** in the northern corner of excavation Area 1 was bonded with modern grey cement and was constructed of machine-made bricks and certainly dating to the 20th century. Much of the workers' housing had been demolished by Ordnance Survey of 1948. By the Ordnance Survey map of 1954, an initial industrial building had been built on the site, labelled as 'garage'. By the 1969 Ordnance Survey map this area had been greatly expanded to include two large warehouse structures each labelled as 'Depot'. The cartographic evidence suggests that the garage structure had been at least remodelled, if not demolished and subsequently rebuilt during this 15 year interval. Wall **202** is most likely the southern outer wall of the garage and the western wall of the garage, which by this time backed onto one of the 'depot'. These 20th-century industrial structures had been demolished by the end of the century, with the ground concreted and later used as a car park.

All other archaeological remains can be presumed to represent the foundations of workers' housing dating from the early 19th century. This initial housing in the north-western part of the Site is first shown on Johnson's map of 1818-19. The Ordnance Survey map of 1851 shows that the site had been further developed, with workers' houses covering the entirety of the Site.

Using this cartographic evidence, it is possible that the large cobbled area (**206**) is the eastern corner of the small lane / courtyard labelled on both the 1851 and 1891 Ordnance Survey maps as 'Seddon's Court'. The line of kerbstones on the eastern side of **206** may correspond to the south-east/north-west aligned 'Seddon's Court', which had small, single-room dwellings to the north-west and south, and larger cellared houses to the east. However, this cobbled area could be part of the backyards of the houses fronting Great Jackson Street. This theory is backed up by the line of flagstones that were aligned north-west/south-east through the centre of the cobbles, corresponding to one of the small alleyways separating the backyard of the houses fronting Great Chester Street and those smaller west-facing dwellings of Melbourne Place.

Walls **204** and **205** are likely relate to the larger cellared houses in the east of the site which fronted onto Great Jackson Street. It seem probable that these walls were in fact part of the same dwelling, due to their close proximity and that they run parallel to each other. The foundation course of wall **204** was not exposed, but can be seen to be deeper than wall **205**. This alone suggests that wall **204** was an exterior or supporting wall and wall **205** was a smaller internal partition. The surviving cobbled surface adjacent to wall **205** is likely the floor of a cellar, and due to its relatively shallow depth below the ground surface (1.1m) is likely a half cellar. This would also explain the sooty nature of the cobbled surface, which would likely have been used for the storage of coal, at least in its later lifetime.

Ordnance Survey mapping of 1851 and 1891 show that at the back of the houses fronting Great Jackson Street, the buildings were constructed somewhat like an L-shape; the narrow area next to the gardens can be estimated from historic mapping to be between 1.3 and 3m, which would match with what was found archaeologically. However, due to both preservation and the extent of these features uncovered in this watching brief it is not possible to assume which dwelling walls **204** and **205** relate to.

The archaeological evidence for feature **203** is too fragmentary to make an interpretation with any degree of certainty. Cartographic evidence does not lend much information to its function either. However, it is possible that it is part of an unmarked toilet block or culvert, due to the natures of the surrounding fill. Feature **203** was the sole feature uncovered during this watching brief which was bonded with black mortar; all other features relating to the 19th century were bonded with a yellow sandy mortar. This may suggest that this was a later addition, and perhaps reflects compliance with legislation introduced during the later 19th century that aimed to address sub-standard sanitation of working-class dwellings.

Wall **201** is likely to represent part of the houses along the eastern side of Melbourne Place, including the remains of a threshold. This feature, along with other individual structural remains, were fragmentary and are difficult to contextualise or link to early mapping. However, the depth of **201** and the fact that it is three-brick courses thick strongly suggests that it is a supporting wall, and probably an exterior one. The single red sandstone block appears out of place on the site, but does appear to be *in-situ*, albeit partly disturbed during the later 20th century. The nature of this block suggests reuse, although it is not clear where this block would have originally resided.

6. Conclusion

In the light of the results obtained from the watching brief, coupled with the conclusions drawn from the desk-based assessment, it is clear that buried archaeological remains of local importance survive within the development area. Any future ground-breaking works required by the replacement of the temporary marketing suite with more permanent buildings will merit the implementation of an appropriate archaeological strategy. The results of this watching brief suggest that the remains of the workers' housing constructed in the 19th century have a good level of preservation close to the Great Jackson Street frontage, and the development work carried out in 2020 indicates that little survives of the rear portions of the houses. It appears that groundworks related to the demolition of buildings in the 20th century, and the construction of the car park subsequently, rarely went to a depth greater than 0.5m. In some areas of the Site closer to the Great Jackson Street frontage, archaeological remains were uncovered at a shallow depth of just 0.25m below the current ground level, with the concrete car park immediately above the walls of the demolished houses.

No archaeological remains related to the Romano-British period were uncovered during this excavation. The survival and depth of the 19th-century remains indicate that any Roman remains would likely have been disturbed, if not destroyed. However, the wider site in general must still be considered as possibly containing archaeological remains relating to the Romano-British period.

Sources

Cartographic Sources

Map of Manchester and Salford, drawn from a survey by William Green, begun in 1787 and completed in 1794

Map of Manchester and Salford, C Laurent, 1793

A Map of Manchester and Salford, Bancks & Co, 1831

Ordnance Survey 6": 1 mile map, Manchester sheet 24, surveyed 1848-49, published 1851

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 First Edition map, surveyed 1888-91, published 1896

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, 1908 Edition, (surveyed 1905)

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, 1922 Edition, (surveyed 1915)

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, Revision of 1933

Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map, 1950-51

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, Plan SJ 8499 and Plan SJ 8599, Revision of 1966

Secondary Sources

Grealey, S. (ed). 1974 *Roman Manchester*. Altrincham

Salford Archaeology, 2018 *Crown Street Marketing Suite, Desk-based Assessment*. Salford Archaeology, University of Salford. Unpub

Nevell, M. 2008 *Manchester: The Hidden History*. The History Press.

Web sources

British Geological Survey: (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).
Recovered 24/02/2018.



Archive and Acknowledgements

Archive

The archive is currently held by the Centre for Applied Archaeology, and a copy of this report will be forward to the client and deposited with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.

Acknowledgements

Salford Archaeology would like to thank Pete Mills and John Messer for commissioning and supporting the project on behalf of CQ Investments Ltd. Thanks are also due to Norman Redhead, the Heritage Management Director with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), for his support and advice.

Appendix 1: Figures

- Figure 1: Site location, showing the boundary of the Crown Street Development
- Figure 2: Location of the Marketing Suite
- Figure 3: Excavated remains superimposed on an extract of Bancks & Co's map of 1831
- Figure 4: Excavated remains superimposed on an extract of the Ordnance Survey map of 1851
- Figure 5: Excavated remains superimposed on an extract of the Ordnance Survey map of 1891
- Figure 6: Excavated remains superimposed on an extract of the Ordnance Survey map of 1908
- Figure 7: Plan of the excavated remains

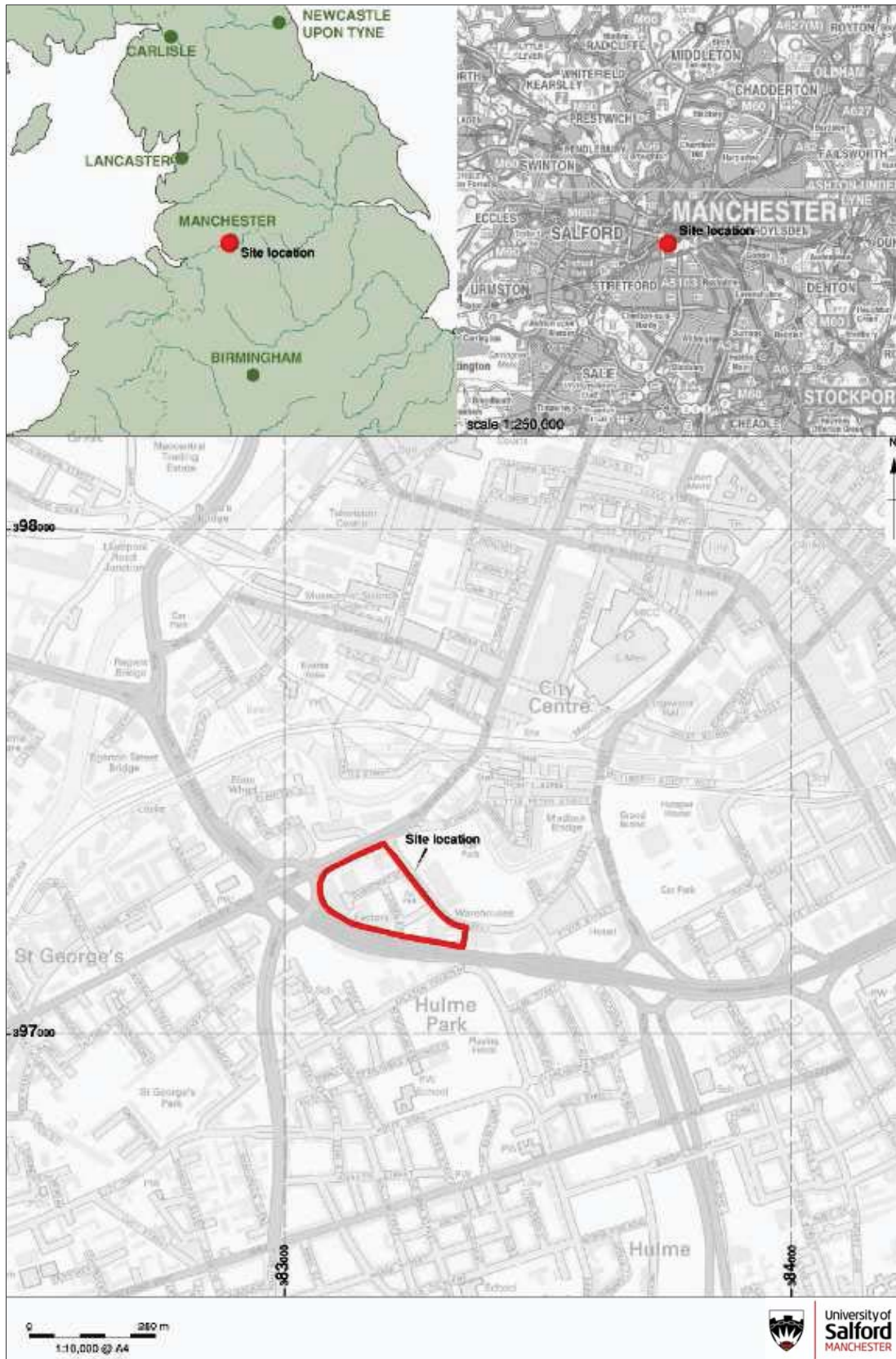


Figure 1: Site location, showing the Phase 1 and wider Crown Street development



Crown Street site boundary superimposed on the modern Ordnance Survey map



Key:

Site boundary



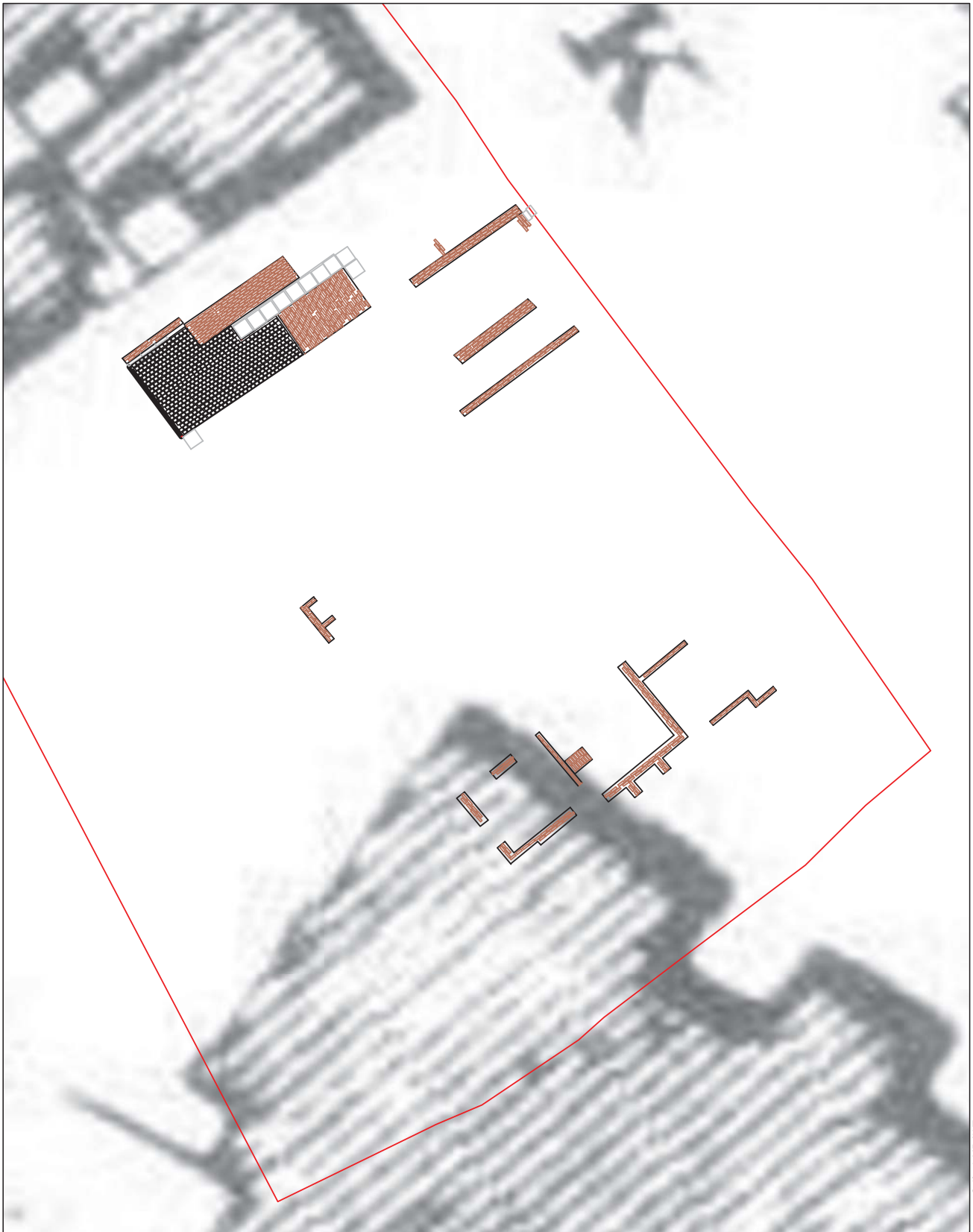
SA
SALFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY

0

50 m



Scale at A4 1:750



Crown Street Marketing Suite Watching Brief with archaeological features overlaying Banck's map of 1831



Key:

- Site Boundary
- Cobbles
- Flagstones
- Brick



SA
SALFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY

0 10 m
Scale at A4 1:200



Crown Street Marketing Suite Watching Brief with archaeological features overlaying 1851 OS map



Key:

- Site Boundary
- Cobbles
- Flagstones
- Brick



SA
SALFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY

0 10 m
Scale at A4 1:200



Crown Street Marketing Suite Watching Brief with archaeological features overlaying 1891 OS map



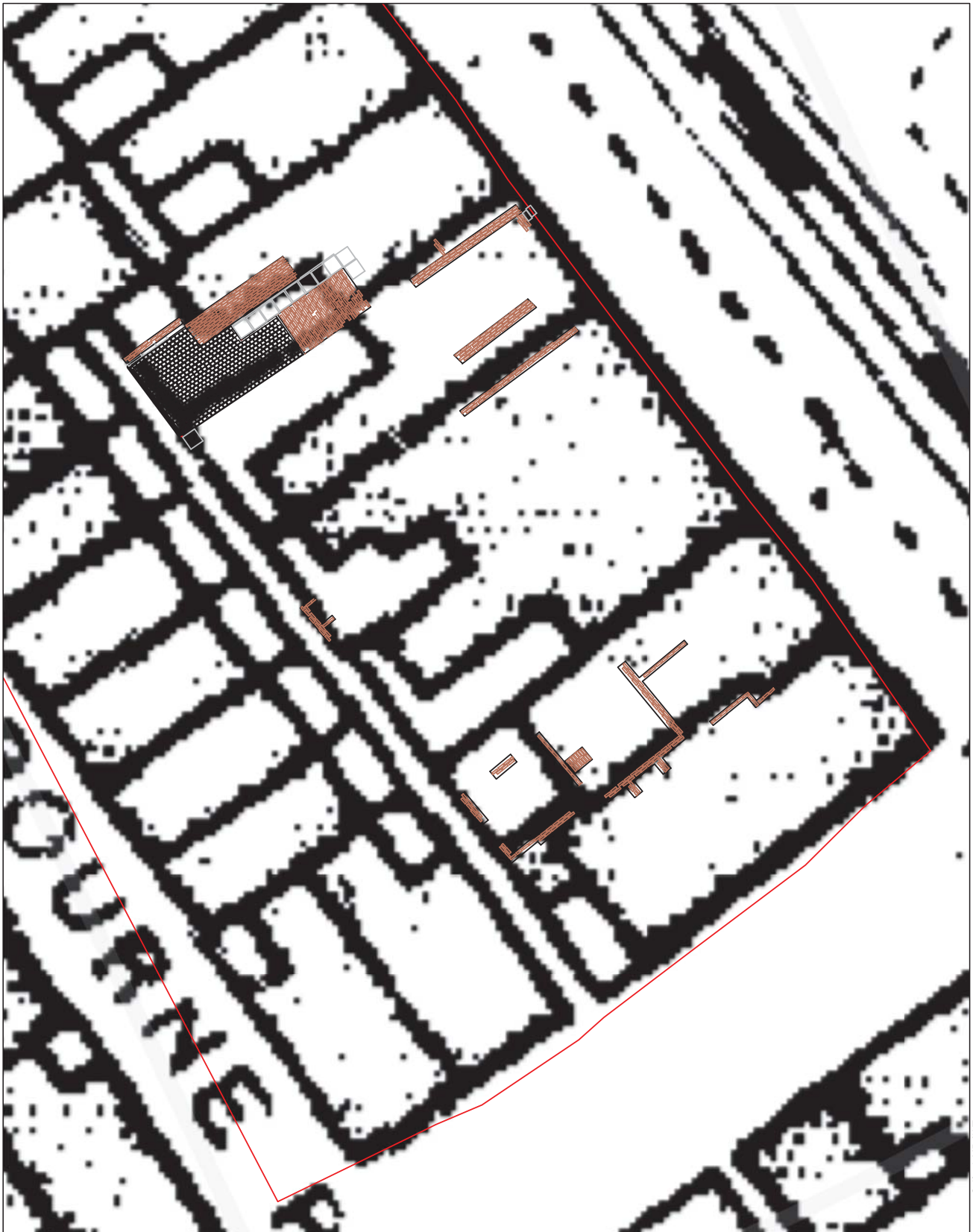
Key:

- Site Boundary
- Cobbles
- Flagstones
- Brick



SA
SALFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY

0 10 m
Scale at A4 1:200



Crown Street Marketing Suite Watching Brief Site Boundary Overlaying 1908 OS map

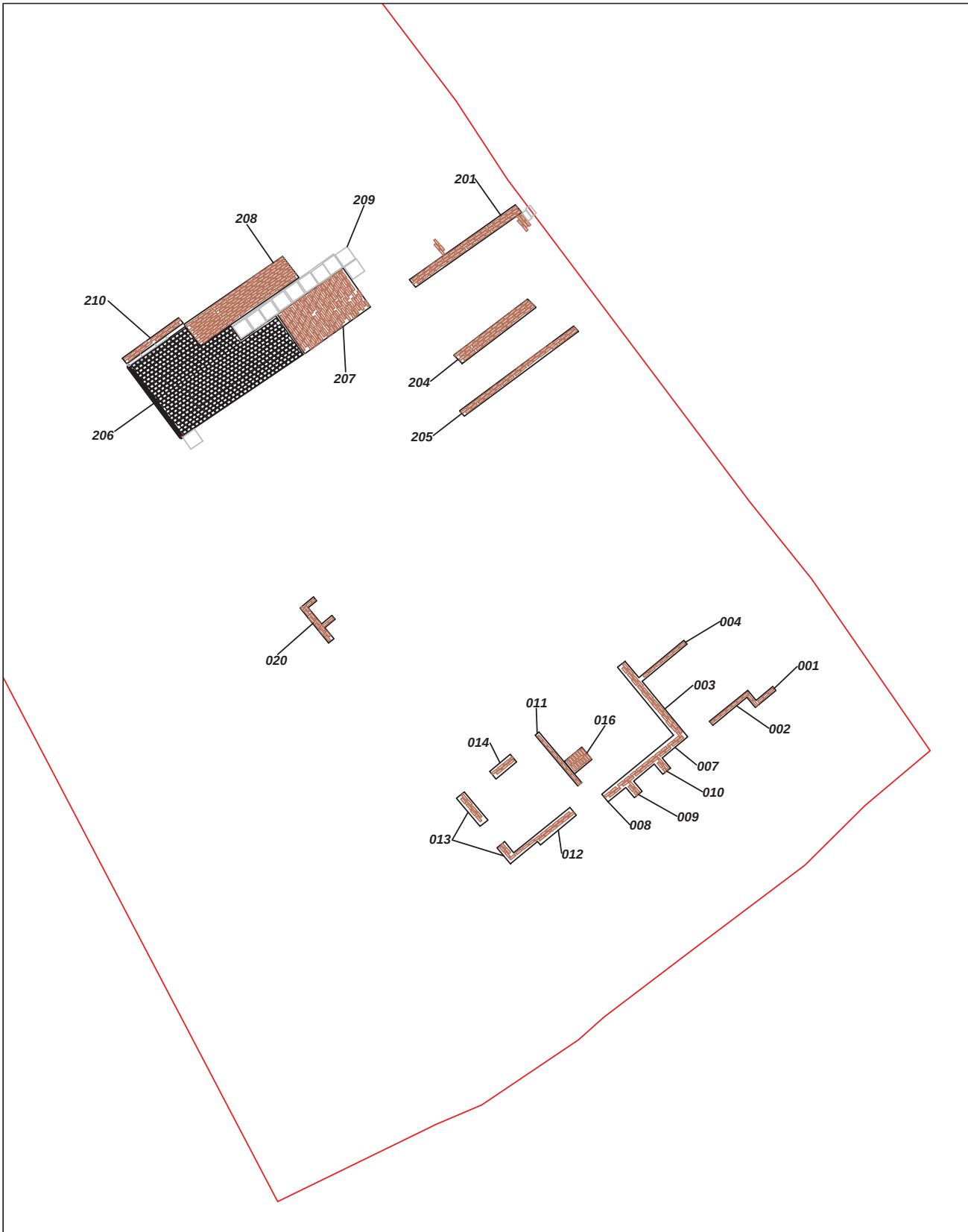


SA
SALFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY

0 10 m
Scale at A4 1:200

Key:

- Site Boundary
- Cobbles
- Flagstones
- Brick



Crown Street Marketing Suite Watching Brief with archaeological features and context numbers



Key:

- Site Boundary
- Cobbles
- Flagstones
- Brick

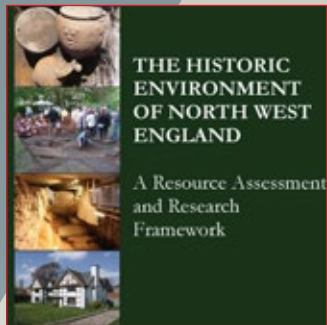


SA
SALFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY

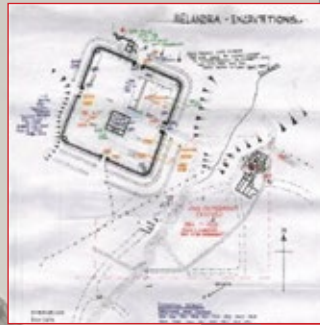
0 10 m
Scale at A4 1:200



CONSULTANCY



DESK-BASED ASSESSMENTS



WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION



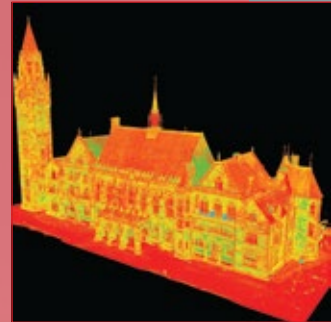
EXCAVATION



BUILDING SURVEY



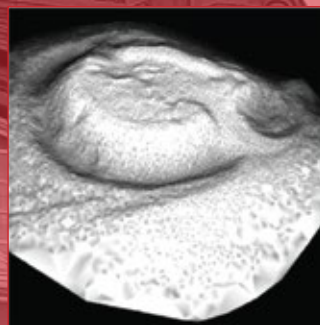
3D LASER SCANNING



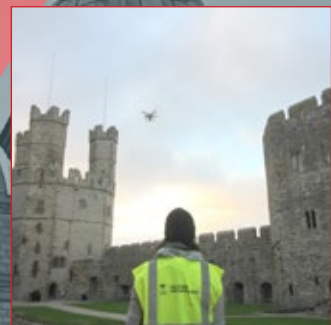
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



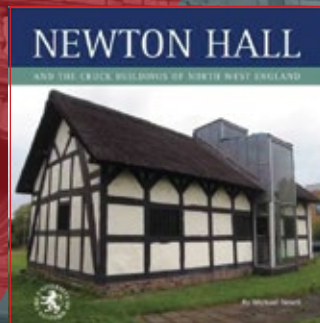
DRONE SURVEYS



WORKSHOPS & VOCATIONAL TRAINING



RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS



SEMINARS, DAYSCHOOLS CPD EVENTS

