5. Discussion

The evaluation has provided a valuable opportunity to investigate a block of early 19th-century houses in the New Cross area of Ancoats. The physical remains of 18th- and 19th-century workers' housing has been recognised as a legitimate avenue of research. This is articulated in the current *Archaeological Research Framework for North West England* (Newman and McNeil 2007; McNeil and Newman 2007), which identifies several initiatives that should be prioritised for archaeological research of the industrial and modern periods, including Initiative 7.6: 'A study of the development of workers' housing in Greater Manchester and East Lancashire should be undertaken to examine the development of different housing types…' (McNeil and Newman 2007, 139).

The area that was subject to archaeological investigation contained fragmentary structural remains relating to the 19th-century workers' housing that is shown on the available sequence of historic mapping. These houses are first clearly shown on the 1831 mapping. The area is shown as fields on all mapping earlier than Pigot's map of 1819, which depicts buildings within the area, but is not detailed enough to overlay any of the excavated features. The houses are first shown in detail on Bancks' map of 1831, with more detail visible on the detailed Ordnance Survey 1:1056 plan of 1850 (Figure 4). Running north-west/south-east through the centre of the excavation area is a narrow alleyway labelled as Goulden's Court. Between Goulden's Court and Goulden's Street to the south-west, eight back-to-back houses are shown in two rows of four each, with a narrow covered alleyway to the south-east separating the houses from a larger building to the southeast. Walls **001** and **002** fit well with the north-eastern range of these houses. Between the houses and Goulden's Court alleyway is a walled yard labelled 'Goulden's Court', the north-east wall of which corresponds with wall **005/006**.

Three blocks four back-to-back houses, arranged in squares and dating to the early 19th-century, lay at the north-eastern side of Goulden's Court alleyway. Elements of these houses, represented by walls **012**, **014**, **015** and possibly part of wall **016**, were revealed during the evaluation. However, it seems that the houses were demolished to foundation level in the 20th century, as very little indication for original floor survived *in-situ*. It was also clear from the results obtained from the evaluation that none of these back-to-back houses contained cellars. The position of the fireplaces in some of these houses, however, was identified during the archaeological investigation. These appear to have been placed against exterior walls rather than against interior walls, which would have allowed the chimneys to have been shared between the houses.

The layout of the recorded foundations corresponds closely with the footprint of buildings depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan of 1892, when the south-western range of houses were still standing. A range of small outbuildings, probably privies, had been erected along the north-eastern side of the yard area, labelled as 'Goulden Court'. Wall **003** corresponds with the wall of one of these structures and the patch of cobbles **004** may represent the original yard surface.

At the north-east side of the alley by 1892 all but one of the back-to-backs had been demolished and the rear of the double-depth houses extended with rear yards and small outbuildings erected over the site of the former back-to-backs. The group of walls **016**, **017** and **018** correspond with one of the small outbuildings. Walls **009**, **010** and **011** correspond with a block of two outhouse at the south-east side. These probably represent privies, washhouses and storerooms.

All the later remains were built from the same type of hand-made brick as the houses shown on the 1831 and 1850 mapping, and were bonded with lime-based mortar. The presence of the lime mortar strongly suggest a construction date closer to 1850 as buildings erected closer to 1892 would likely have been bonded with a hard grey cement, even where the earlier bricks were re-used.

6. Conclusion

The results obtained from the evaluation indicate that most, if not all, of the foundations of the workers' housing that once occupied the site had been heavily truncated during 20th-century clearance. Whilst the footprint of the houses and some associated outbuildings were identified during the evaluation, it is nevertheless concluded that there is little merit in undertaking any further archaeological investigation in advance of development.

7. Archive

The archive comprises of digital drawings, survey data and digital photographs. This archive is currently held by Salford Archaeology within the Centre for Applied Archaeology.

A copy of this report will be deposited with the Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record held by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS).

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The on-site excavations were conducted by Graham Mottershead, Oliver Cook and Katie Harvey. This report was written and compiled by Graham Mottershead with illustrations by Sarah Mottershead. The report was edited by Ian Miller, who was also responsible for project management.

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Appendix 1: Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Location of excavation area

Figure 3: Plan of the excavated structures

Figure 4: Excavated structures superimposed onto the 1851 O.S. 1:1056 Town Plan

Figure 5: Excavated structures superimposed onto the 1892 O.S. 1:500 Town Plan

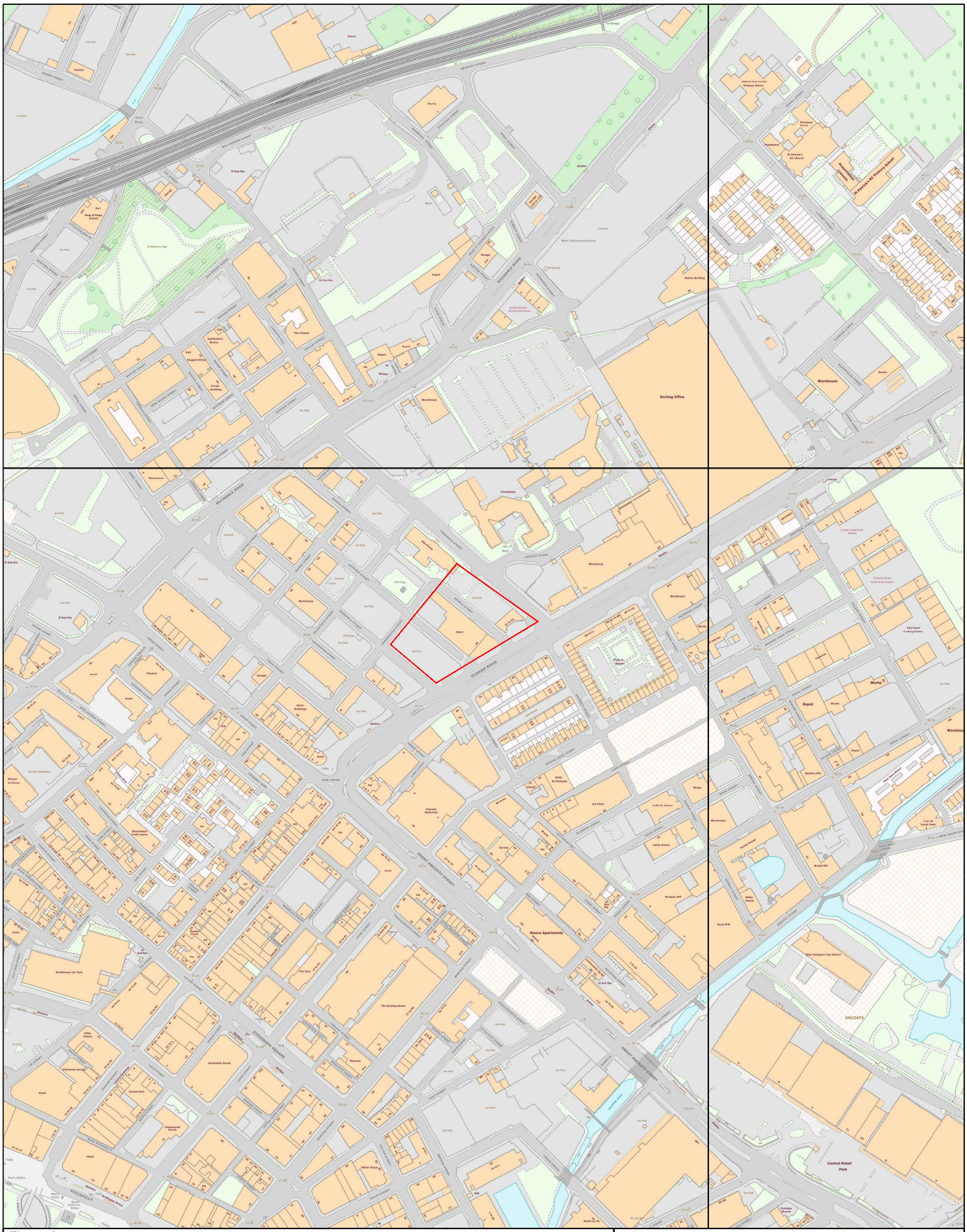

Figure 1:

Site Location Map

N

Key:

Site Boundary

University of Salford MANCHESTER

SA SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 200 m

Scale at A4 1:5000

Salford Archaeology, Peel Building,The Crescent, Salford, M5 4WT

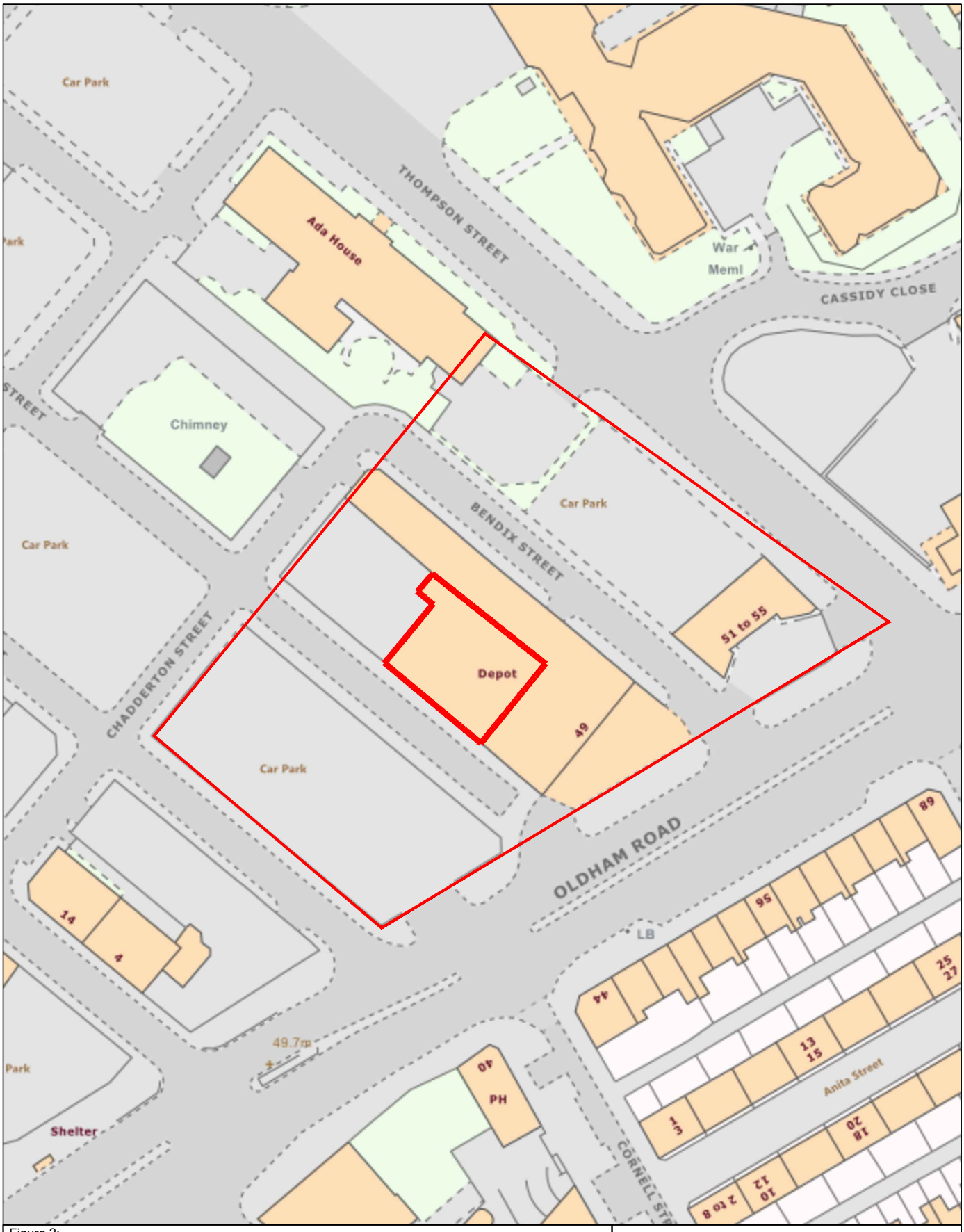

Figure 2:

Trench location plan

N

Key:

Site boundary

Trench location

University of Salford MANCHESTER

SA SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:1000

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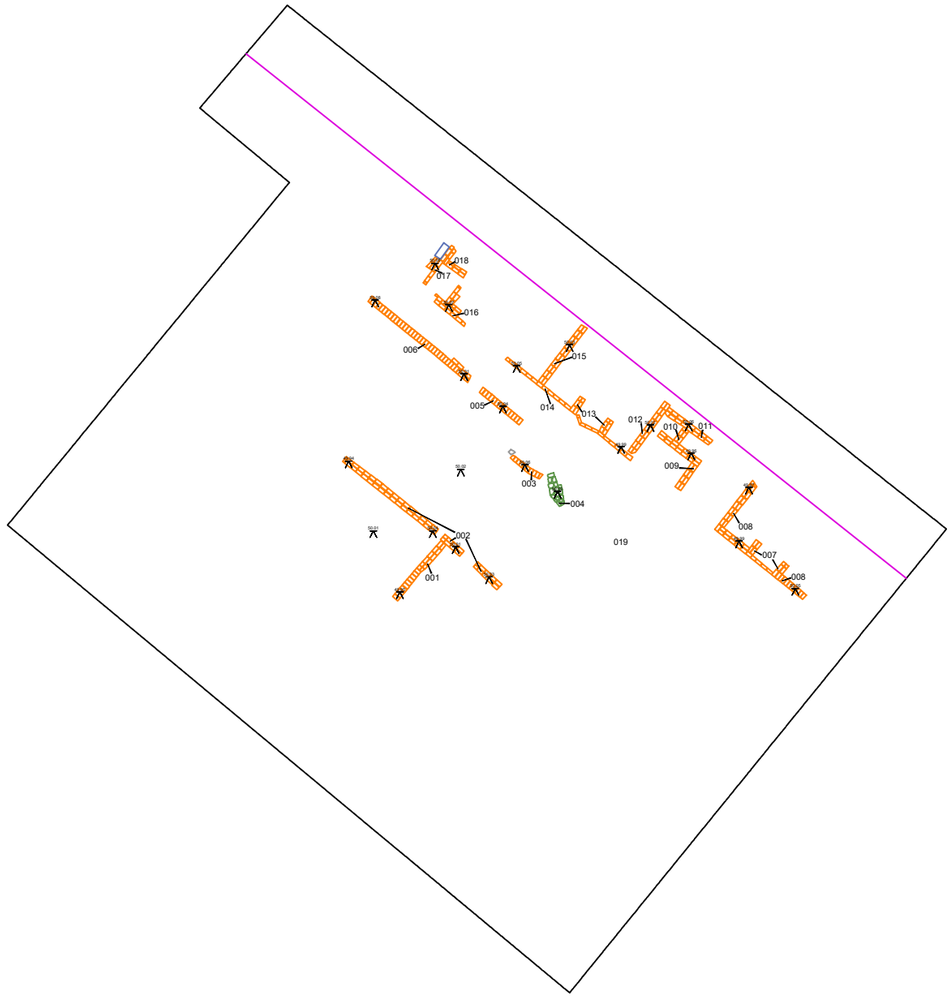

University of Salford MANCHESTER
SA SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

0 10 m
Scale at A3 1:200

Figure 3:
Trench plan

N

Key:
- Brick
- Flagstones
- Stone
- Disturbance
- Trench

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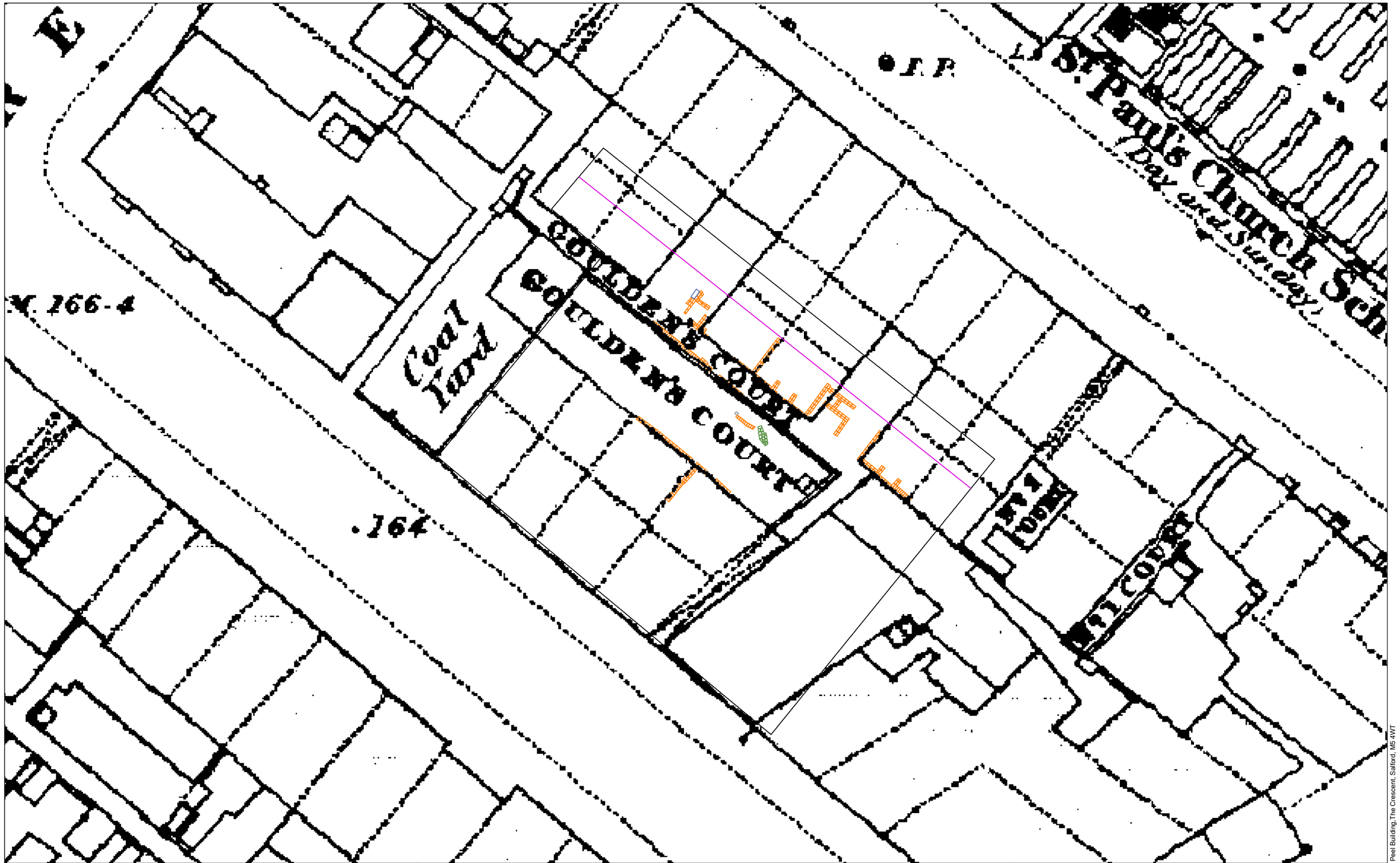

Figure 4:

Trench plan overlaid onto O.S. 1:1056 Town Plan 1851

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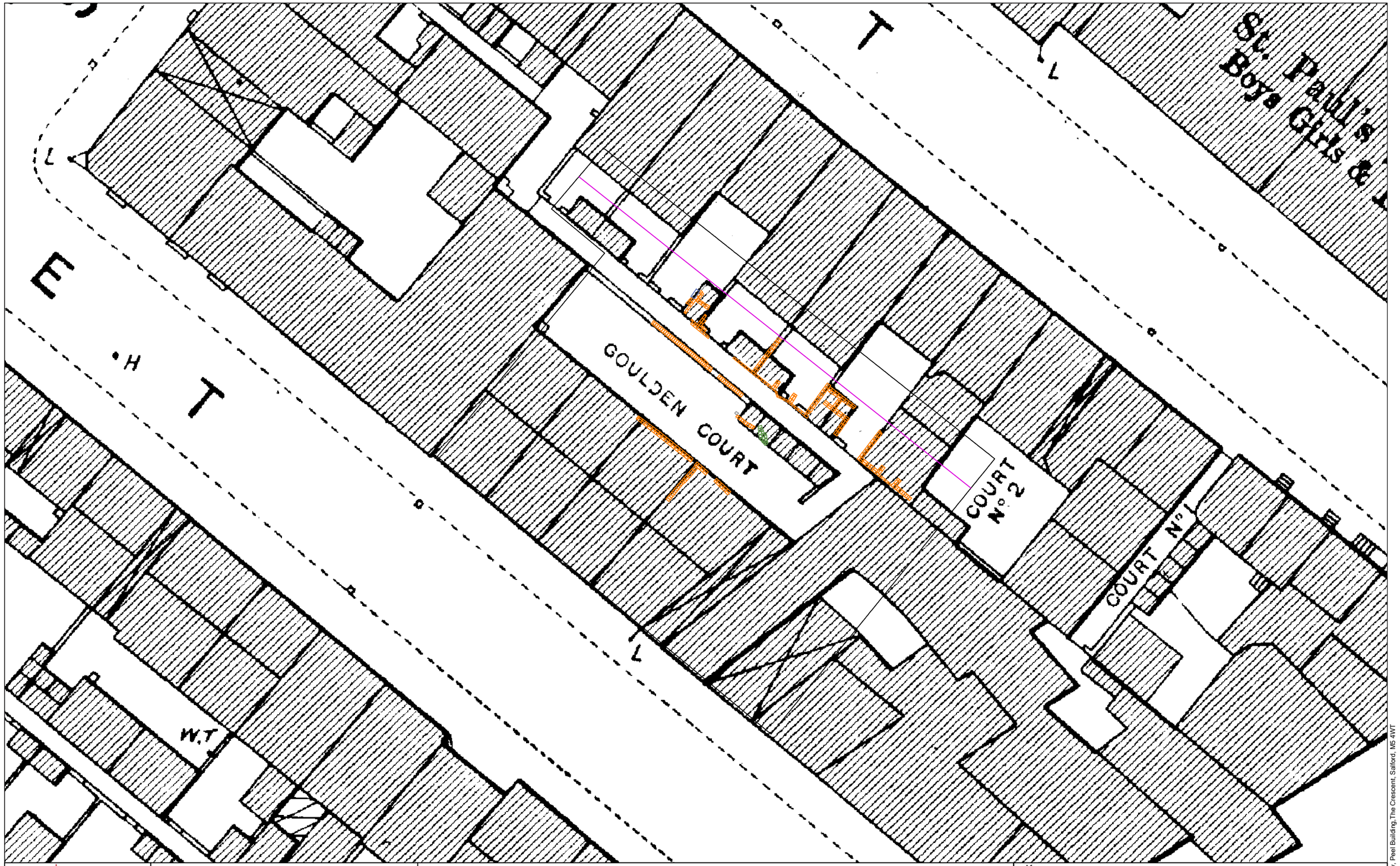

University of Salford MANCHESTER · SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY	0 — 10 m Scale at A3 1:200	Figure 5: Trench plan overlaid onto O.S. 1:500 Town Plan 1891	N Key: Brick · Flagstones · Stone · Disturbance · Trench

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