

Ardwick Green North, Manchester

Final Archive Report

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PREPARED FOR
AEDI Construction



Final archive report

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1. Introduction

1.1. Circumstances of the Project

Church Inn (Ardwick) Limited and One have received consent for the erection of 16 no. three-storey townhouses (Class C3) with parking and new vehicular access (NGR 385207 397295; Planning Reference 135857/FO/2022; Figs 1 and 2). The works will entail considerable earth-moving works and landscaping.

The archaeological interest of the proposed development site was first highlighted in an archaeological desk-based assessment produced in 2022 (Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at Church Inn, Ardwick, Manchester 2022). The desk-based assessment highlighted the potential for relict soils, and structural remains of 18th-century houses, and a mixture of 19th-century residential, commercial and industrial buildings.

In light of the conclusions drawn from the desk-based assessment, and following consultation with Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), it was recommended that a programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the site. This initial stage of archaeological investigation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (Oxford Archaeology 2024) according to a Project Design prepared by Salford Archaeology (Salford Archaeology 2024). The evaluation established the presence of a relict soil horizon of post-medieval origin, surviving in the central part of the development site. Structural remains, likely belonging to an 18th-century building were identified in the north-eastern part of the site.

Following consultation with GMAAS, further excavation was required in the form of a strip, map and record excavation, which was undertaken over 10 days between 26th August and 6th September 2024 by Civic Heritage. The fieldwork was undertaken according to the Project Design produced by North West Archaeology and Heritage 2024. The results of the excavation were presented within a post-excavation assessment and updated Project Design (Civic Heritage 2024).

The post-excavation assessment concluded that the most important contribution of the excavation was the identification of several pre-18th century land divisions, which were previously undocumented and the recovery of stratified finds from post-medieval contexts, which have provided rare physical evidence for the early occupation of the area. As such, it was determined that further historical research on the land divisions and detailed analysis of the artefactual assemblage should be included within a full and detailed archive report and an appropriate level of publication (*ibid*). An updated project design set out the scope of the final archive report, which is presented within this document.

1.2. Site Location

The site is located in the Ardwick district of Manchester, to the north-east of Ardwick Green (centred on: NGR 385207, 397295). The site comprises a rectangular plot of land, lying at 41m aOD. The site is bounded by Niven Street to the north, Cotter Street to the east, Ardwick Green North to the south, and the St Thomas Centre to the west.



Plate 1: Recent aerial view of the site showing the red line development boundary

1.3. Geology and Soils

The solid geology of the site is formed of sandstone of the Chester Formation. The solid geology is overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian Till (BGS 2024).

The soils within the site are described as slowly permeable, seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils (LandIS 2024).

The site lies at a height of 41.1m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and is relatively flat.

1.4. Scope of the Project

1.4.1. Planning Background

Proposals

Church Inn (Ardwick) Limited and One have been granted permission for the development of the site. The proposal allows for the:

“Erection of 16 x 3 storey townhouses (Class C3) with associated parking, landscaping and boundary treatment and new vehicular access from Cotter Street and associated works.”

The proposed scheme for improvement works will involve some degree of landscaping and earthmoving activity, which have the potential to cause loss or damage to any below-ground remains surviving within the site.

Evaluation Results and WSI

This initial stage of archaeological investigation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (Oxford Archaeology 2024) according to a Project Design prepared by Salford Archaeology (Salford Archaeology 2024). The evaluation established the presence of a relict soil horizon of post-medieval origin, surviving in the central part of the development site, together with a wall, likely belonging to an 18th-century building in the north-eastern part of the site.

Strip, map and record and post-excavation assessment

This post-excavation assessment presented the findings of a strip, map and record excavation and was

prepared following the guidelines laid out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE: English Heritage 2008).

The report provided a summary of the results of the fieldwork, placing the results in the context of the local archaeology and history, discussing the significance and potential of the remains and laying out the structure for recommendations for analytical work.

1.4.2. Project Duration and Dates of Work

The strip, map and record excavation was undertaken over 10 days between 26th August and 6th of September 2024. The post-excavation assessment and updated project design followed later the same month.

1.4.3. Archaeological Methodology

The scheme of archaeological strip, map and record excavation was intended to further investigate the relict soil horizon identified during the evaluation, recover any artefactual evidence from the soil deposits and identify whether any earlier deposits or features are masked by the soil. A wall identified in the north-eastern part of the site was subject to further investigation to expose and record a suspected cellar belonging to a house / small brewery.

The post-excavation assessment presented the results of the archaeological excavation concluding that the earliest identifiable remains relate to boundaries, defining house plots or fields, which were laid out in the early post-medieval period. Pottery recovered from the ditch fills suggests these boundary features were established in the 16th century and fell out of by the 18th century. The earliest structural remains identified in Trench 1 correspond to a row of buildings first depicted on Laurent's 1793 and Green's 1787-94 maps.

The updated project design set out the scope of further work, including historic research, detailed analysis of the finds assemblage and the production of a short summary of the results that should be published in an appropriate academic journal.

1.4.4. Report Structure

The final archive report builds upon the results of the post-excavation assessment, incorporating new data and insights gained through further research and analysis. The archive report is formatted for limited distribution in paper copy to local libraries, the County Record Office, and the HER, in addition to its deposition with the site archive. This includes details of structural and stratigraphic elements of the site and associated activity, and analytical reports on the finds and environmental sampling.

A finds report on the finds by category, including the additional work required on the medieval and post-medieval pottery, clay tobacco pipes and glass, with a brief comment on the significance of the overall assemblage, in addition to the results of any further palaeoenvironmental analysis / radiocarbon dating is integrated into the report.

The discussion includes interpretation of the site, describing the results of the archaeological excavations and what they show about the conditions and changes through space and time within the study area.

2. Historical and Archaeological Background

2.1. Contextual Background

The archaeological and historical background of the site and its broader context has been assessed in the desk-based assessment produced by Salford Archaeology in 2022 (*Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at Church Inn, Ardwick, Manchester 2022*. Report reference: SA/2022/120) and should be referred to for more detailed information regarding the development of the site. The following text presents a brief summary of the known history of the site.

During the late medieval period, Ardwick was a small hamlet bounded by the River Medlock to the north and the Cornbrook to the south. In 1282, Ardwick consisted of a farm of ten oxgangs, nine acres of land in bondage amounting to 43s., and a plot of land called Twantirford, rendering 6s. 8d. The tenants had turbary on 100 acres of moor in Openshaw and were obliged to grind at Irk Mills. In 1320–2 Richard Akke, held two messuages and two oxgangs of land in villeinage at a rent of 8s. The hamlet was given by Roger La Warre, in 1357, to Thomas de Booth of Barton. The family held the land until the end of the 16th century when it descended to Dorothy, the youngest daughter of John Booth (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 279-81).

Ardwick was recognised as a township by 1622. The ‘manors of Over and Lower Ardwick’ which included messuages, lands and common rights, were sold in 1636 by Thomas Charnock and others to Samuel Birch. Ardwick then appears to have been acquired by the Birch family. Samuel Birch lived in the largest house within the area and paid more tax than his neighbours due to having seven hearths on his property. A considerable portion of Ardwick was then sold by Thomas Charnock to the Mosleys. The other families which formerly had estates in the township included Byrom, Booth, Entwisle and Strangeways. The land tax return of 1787 shows that the main contributors to the township were Birch, Hyde, Ackers and Tipping, all of whom owned land adjacent to the Site in the late 18th century. The established Church of St Thomas’s, Ardwick Green (which lies directly adjacent to the Site) was built in 1741 (Farrer & Brownbill, 1911, pp. 279-8).

The expansion of Ardwick as a suburb of Manchester in the late 18th and early 19th century resulted in the development of middle-class villa-style housing along the A57 (HER 9165.13). Ardwick, overall, became a very fashionable area to live in during the early 19th century.

The five-acre park of Ardwick Green (c 16m south of the site), was acquired in 1867 and opened to the public. The private park was originally built for the local wealthy residents, it was complete with a fountain and ornamental pond that is labelled on Green’s map (Plate 2) as a canal. Historically, the park was associated with the Manor of Ardwick, which was in possession of the Birch family. By 1867 it was taken over by Manchester Corporation. In the Lancashire parish records, surgeons, solicitors and many gentlemen were recorded within the area.

The area eventually became heavily industrialised with chemical works, builder’s yards, factories, and the railway. Examples of industrialisation within the area include the Mayfield (goods) railway (HER 9670.1.0) which was a Goods Station for the Crewe and Manchester line of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway and the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (380m north of the site). Close to the River Medlock (380m north-east of the site), was the Ardwick Mill (HER 13822.1.0) that was constructed c1831 – 1845. Some of the Victorian Villas were retained, however, these were surrounded by vast plots of terraced houses, examples of which survive along Harkness Street (HER 8419.1.0). These are located c 240m west of the Site. By the mid-20th century, when industry declined, Ardwick became one of Manchester’s most deprived areas.

2.2. Development of the Site

The development of the site can be traced reasonably well from the sequence of available historic mapping. Several cartographers began to map Manchester and its suburbs during the second half of the 18th century (Plates 2 and 3). Green’s map of 1787-94 provides a detailed survey of the area, showing that the site had been developed. The Site lay to the north of Ardwick Green, to the west of Chapel Street and to the south of an unnamed lane that provided access to Ardwick Chapel. A building of unknown function occupied the north-east corner of the site, with a large garden enveloping it. Green’s map shows that a row of domestic buildings bordered the gardens to the south. The dwellings were aligned broadly east to west, across the middle of the site. A small passageway lay to the south of these buildings and opened onto Chapel Street in the east and Ardwick Chapel grounds to the west. Several other buildings occupied the southern half of the

site, although Green's does not show the individual footprints in detail.

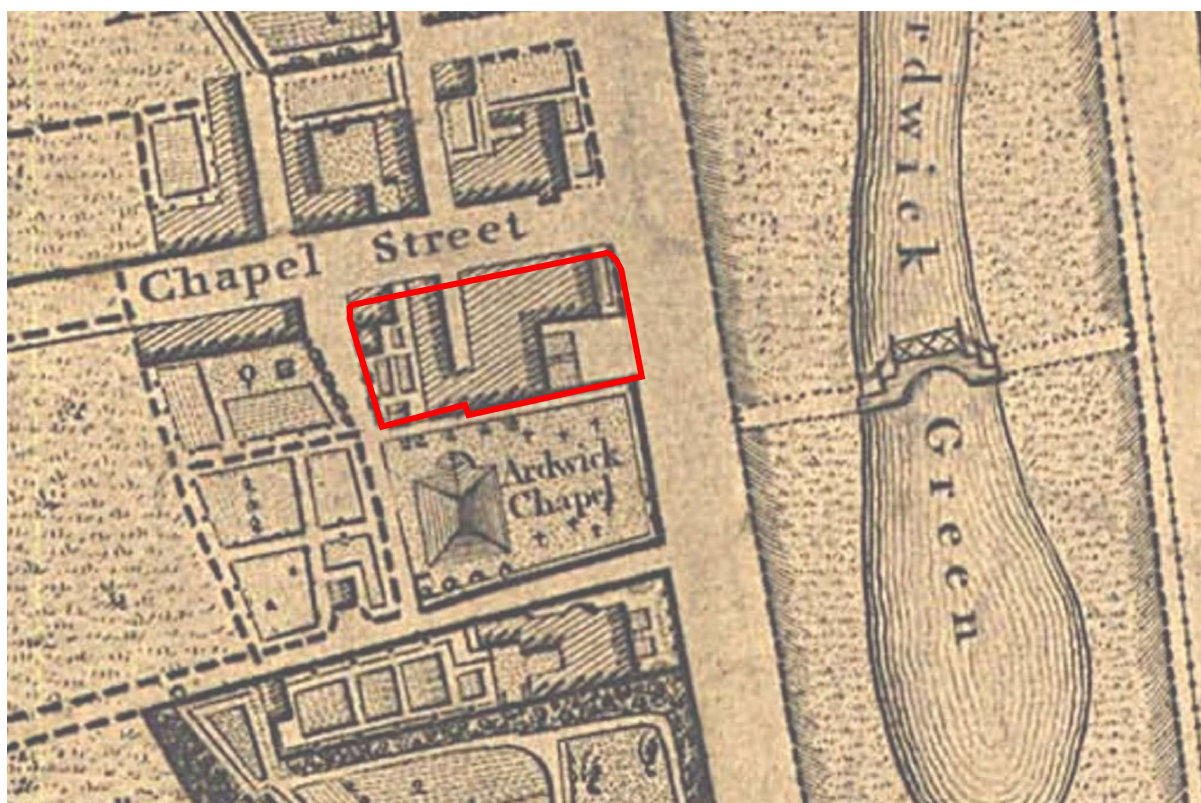


Plate 2: Extract from the Laurent's map 1793 (north to left)

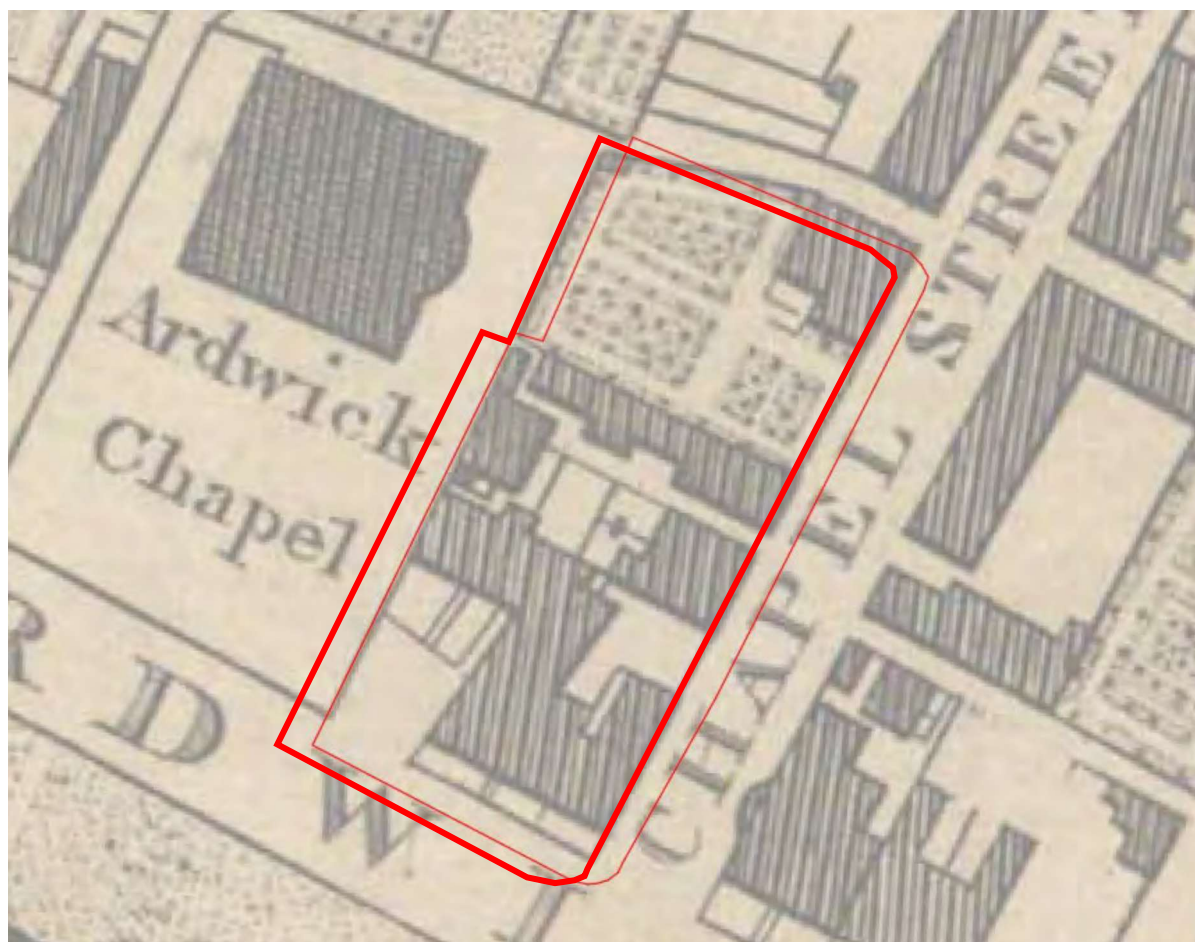


Plate 3: Extract from the Green's Map of 1787-94, showing the site boundary

Bancks and Co's Plan of Manchester and Salford, published in 1831, provides a slightly more detailed plan of the site, showing the individual buildings. Particularly along the east side of Chapel Street, where several rows of terraced houses had been built. The buildings in the southern half of the site, fronting and set back from Ardwick Green appear similar to those captured on Green's map. These buildings are of varying size and are slightly irregular in plan. Bancks's plan also shows the same row of buildings that bordered the southern side of the former gardens on Green's map. These buildings consisted of four probable dwellings. The same building occupied the north-east corner of the site, at the junction of Chapel Street and the narrow lane to the north of the Site.

In total, three domestic looking buildings, faced onto Chapel Street, with an additional property to the rear of the northmost dwelling. At least two of these buildings correspond to the square block of buildings shown on Green's map.

The gardens in the north of the site had been reduced in size and a long rectangular building had been developed in the north-west of the site and was annotated on the plan as a 'Sunday School'. The school, known as St Thomas' was associated with the adjacent church. It was built in 1830 (Anon, 1874, p. 95) and occupied the north-western corner of the site, fronting North Street.

The next available map that captures the site is the Ordnance Survey map of 1851, which is the first accurate plan that details the site. The map shows that the building within the north-east of the site had been converted into a brewery labelled as 'Chapel Street Brewery'. The passageway between the brewery and St Thomas' Church Sunday school is labelled on the 1851 OS map as 'School Place', whilst the passageway south of the brewery that cuts through the middle of the site is labelled 'School Entry'. School Entry led into a courtyard in the middle of the site, allowing access to the back of several domestic buildings within the site. The same configuration of buildings occupied the remainder of the site, though the row of four buildings on the southern side of School Entry seem to have been remodelled.

The Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1891 demonstrates that little change had occurred within the site. However, the footprint of the buildings associated with the brewery had been altered and are shown on the map to have consisted of three buildings fronting Chapel Street, with outbuildings and an open-fronted stable in the courtyard to the rear. The courtyard was accessed via a covered entrance off Chapel Street.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the northern part of the site was altered, buildings associated with the brewery had been partially demolished, though it continued to function as a brewhouse, later known as Park Inn. In addition, the row of 18th-century buildings aligned broadly east to west across the middle of the site had also been demolished, allowing the two passageways to connect. In total, three double-depth domestic buildings had been built facing Chapel Street, partly across the footprint of the brewery. This is evident on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1908.

The Ordnance Survey Map of 1948 shows that demolition was underway within the site, which included the domestic buildings along Chapel Street between the Church Inn and School Entry, and No. 39-43 Ardwick Green North. No. 45 & 47 (Church Inn) appear to have been converted into a single building.

In the 1970s the Church Inn was extended to the east, up to the junction of Ardwick Green North and Cotter Street (formerly Chapel Street). The Park Inn remained standing throughout the 20th century, until it was closed in 2008. The building was converted into a Martial Arts Centre in 2009 and later into residential use, however, it has recently been demolished. The Church Inn continued to serve food and drink throughout the 20th and early 21st centuries but was eventually closed in 2011 and demolished in 2016. St Thomas Church Sunday School building and the remaining domestic buildings were demolished sometime after 1971.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1. Considerations

- The updated research aims will consider the following:
- the development of the site from the early post-medieval period to the present day, with particular focus on the character of the site's occupation in the 16th to 18th centuries, including evidence for changes, both spatial and chronological, in the layout of land holdings.
- Comparison of the artefactual assemblage with other sites in Manchester
- Attempt to provide a closer date for the origins of the ditches and other negative features through obtaining radiocarbon dates from charred plant remains (CPR)

3.1.1. Updated Research Aims

Updated Research Aim 1: what are the occupation sequences of the site?

- Objective 1: what are the main periods of occupation?
- Objective 2: what is the dating evidence for each of the refined periods and sub-phases of activity on the site?

Updated Research Aim 2: how did the site develop through the post-medieval period?

- Objective 1: can the date at which activity commenced be established in detail?
- Objective 2: it possible to characterise the nature of occupation on the site in the 16th to 18th centuries?

Updated Research Aim 3: Can the stratigraphic evidence from Trench 1 be reevaluated following the artefactual analysis to help to generate a robust sequence for the lifespan of the boundary features?

- Objective 1: How can samples/artefacts be used to provide the dating evidence needed to firmly bracket the phases and sub-phases of activity inferred from the stratigraphic sequence?

Updated Research Aim 4: Can the understanding of the site be refined through assessment and integration of documentary research?

- Objective 1: Are there any estate maps or plans, which pre-date the late 18th-century mapping of the site and what do these sources tell us about the organisation of the pre-industrial landscape?
- Objective 2: Do any deeds, letters or written source material survive relating to the site and its use in the 16th – 18th centuries?

3.2. Regional Research Questions

The project will seek to contribute to and inform the following research questions outlined in the North West England Regional Research Framework (NWERRF):

Post-medieval and Industrial

- **PM15:** How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes, field patterns, distributions of buildings and building types?
- **PM01:** How can we develop Post-Medieval ceramic typologies and identify differences across social strata, rural and urban environments and the regions in the North West?
- **Ind33:** How well studied and understood are the back yards of workers housing and what is their significance?
- **Ind53:** What can archaeology tell us about the production and use of consumer products and their typologies from the late 18th to early 20th centuries?

4. Results

4.1. Introduction

4.1.1. Conventions

Deposits, layers and fills are indicated within round brackets e.g. (001) and cut features and structures within square brackets e.g. [002].

4.1.2. Summary

The earliest detectable occupation of the site occurred during the post-medieval period, dated to between 1550 and 1700. Plot boundaries identifiable from two intersecting linear ditches likely originated in this period. Sherds of post-medieval pottery date the closure of the ditches to the 17th century. Residual sherds of medieval pottery raise the possibility that the site, or its immediate surroundings were inhabited in the preceding centuries. The boundary features had seemingly fallen out of use completely by the 18th century.

PHASE	PERIOD	DATE RANGE
1A	POST-MEDIEVAL	c.1500 - 1650
1B	POST-MEDIEVAL	c.1650 - 1750
1C	POST-MED-INDUSTRIAL	c.1750 - 1794
2C	INDUSTRIAL	1794 - 1831
2D	INDUSTRIAL	1831 - 1851
2E	INDUSTRIAL	1851 - 1891
3	INDUSTRIAL-MODERN	POST 1891

Table 1: Provisional phasing

4.2. Natural

4.2.1. Superficial Geology

The earliest deposit revealed during the excavation was the natural geology that consisted of compacted, mid yellowish-orange sands and gravels (001) with bands of light greyish-yellow clay (002)/(003).

4.3. Residual Material

In total, three potential sherds of medieval pottery (FN22-3 and 57; see 5.2.1) were recovered across the site within the fills of two post-medieval ditches, which likely originated in the 16th century. Both boundary ditches were visibly re-established before eventually falling out of use in the early 18th century. The medieval finds were found within three contexts (006)/(068)/(049). In total, two fabrics were recognisable within the assemblage and included oxidised wares and pottery in fabric redolent of pottery produced using coal-measures clay. The finds occur either in contexts containing later material or lie stratigraphically above contexts with post-medieval finds. As such they are seen to represent background noise, although the possibility of the ditches originating in the medieval period cannot be discounted entirely.

4.4. Phase 1: Post-medieval to Industrial (1500-1784) (Figs 3 and 4)

4.4.1. Phase 1a (1500-1650)

The earliest phase of activity was represented by two ditches, either bounding fields or house plots (Plate 4). The ditches were laid out along the same orientation as the extant Ardwick Green. The earliest dating evidence from the ditches appears to indicate the inception of these land divisions in at least the 16th century, if not earlier, with the primary cuts of the ditches having filled up, likely through lack of maintenance by the 17th century. The ditches however continued to influence the organisation and ownership of the land and were respected by activity in Phase 1b and Phase 1c; this activity included recuts alongside the ditches and clusters of post-holes.



Plate 4: Pre-ex shot of ditches F1, F2 and F3, looking west (scales: 1m)

A group of ditches (master no. [005]) were exposed across the trench.

F1: [076]/[080]/[078]

Ditch *F1* aligned north-east/south-west, was cut into the natural geology (001). The ditch was exposed over a total length of 16.47m and investigated by three interventions. The cut of the ditch [076]/[080]/[078] was relatively shallow, surviving to a maximum depth of 0.30m and had a maximum surviving width of 2.12m (Plate 5). The profile of the ditch cut consisted of gradual sloping sides and a concave base.

A loose, light orangey-brown sandy clay, with occasional stone inclusions (056) was exposed alongside the north edge of the ditch cut [080]. The fill likely represented the natural silting of the feature or material that had slumped into the feature during its early use rather than being indicative of deliberate backfilling. The fill (056) measured 0.08m wide and measured a total of 0.46m from the base of the ditch to the top of the cut.

A firm, light orangish-grey, silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecking and occasional small to medium-sized stone inclusions (049 / 050) formed the lower fill of the ditch. The fill of the ditch (049) and produced medieval pottery sherds (FN20 and 23), burnt animal bone, CBM and NCP. The fill measured 1.28m wide and 0.18m thick.

A firm, light to mid-brownish-grey, sandy clay (006), with small sub-rounded pebbles (each measuring approximately 0.04m) overlay fill (049 / 050). The fill measured 1.28m wide and was 0.12m thick and contained sherds of medieval (FN22) and post-medieval pottery (FN43 and 49). A dark, greyish-brown, silty sand (048) formed the upper fill of the ditch and measured 0.07m thick, although this was associated with Phase 1b.

The ditch was partly truncated along its north-western side by a shallower, narrower recut [052] (Plate 5). The south-western end of the ditch was partially truncated by a pit or rounded ditch terminus *F3* [077]/[075] (Plate 4), whilst the north-eastern extent was truncated by later drainage features [053] (Plate 6). In addition, the upper fill of the ditch was partly truncated by postholes and small pits associated with Phase 1b.



Plate 5: North-east-facing section through Ditch F1 [080] and later recut F4 [052] (scales: 1m, 0.25m)



Plate 6: Exposed north-eastern end of the ditch F1, truncated by later structures and drains, looking south-west (scales: 1m)

F2: [079]

A second, probably contemporary ditch [079], aligned north-west/south-east, was cut into the natural geology (001) in the south-western corner of the excavation area. The earliest component of the ditch survived for 4.28m in plan and had a maximum recorded width of 0.66m. The profile of the cut [079] was partly excavated

revealing that it had a gradual sloping side however the north-east edge of the feature was cut by a later pit [066]. The remainder of the feature continued beyond the south-west trench edge.

A friable, light-greyish brown, silty clay, with occasional rounded small to medium-sized stones, charcoal flecks and clay inclusions (064) filled cut [079]. The fill measured 0.70m and 0.35m thick. The fill of the ditch (064) closely resembled the fill of the north-east/south-west-aligned ditch *F1* (069)/(050) and it seems reasonable to assume the two ditches *F1* and *F2* were broadly contemporaneous, though the relationship between the two ditches wasn't established during the excavation.

Post-hole: [083]

A sub-circular post-hole [083] was cut into the base of the north-east/south-west-aligned ditch *F1* and was interpreted as being earlier than the overlying sequence of fills. The post-hole measured 0.30m by 0.25m and was 0.05m deep. A mid-brown, silty sand (084) filled the post-hole cut. A palaeoenvironmental sample <8> was taken from the fill of the post-hole, which contained charcoal (see 5.8).

F3: [077]

A ditch terminus or pit was excavated in the south-eastern corner of the excavation and visibly cut through ditches *F1* and *F2*. The cut of the feature [077] was sub-oval shaped in plan and continued south-east beyond the limit of excavation. The base of the cut was broadly flat, and the north-east edge of the cut had gradual sloping sides that were slightly undulating.

A rammed deposit of medium-sized pebbles (085) had been introduced along the north-eastern side of the cut [077], seemingly to stabilise the edge of the feature (Plate 7). The pebbles were compacted and may have been distributed shortly after the feature was cut.

A firm, light bluish-grey, gleied clay (067), with patches of iron staining represented the lower fill; this had likely accumulated through natural silting at the base of the feature. The gleied bluish-grey colour of the fill (067) suggests it formed under and experienced prolonged wet, anoxic ground conditions. The fill measured 1.57m wide and 0.12m thick. Finds from the primary fill (067) of the ditch included 16th- and 17th-century pottery.

A friable, mid brownish-grey, silty clay with irregular sandstone inclusions (068) overlay the lower fill. The upper fill was more friable in composition; this may have formed through reworking of the surrounding plough or garden soils. The upper fill yielded a single sherd of residual medieval pottery (FN57) was recovered from the ditch's upper fill (068). The fill also produced 16th- and 17th-century finds.



Plate 7: Pebbly consolidation deposit (085) on the north-eastern side of the ditch [077], looking south-east (scale: 0.50m)

4.4.2. Phase 1b (1650-1750)

F1: [076]/[078]/[080]

A dark greyish-brown, silty sand (048) formed the upper fill of the ditch [076]/[078]/[080] measuring 0.07m thick. The fill directly overlay fill (006). The fill contained post-medieval pottery dated to between the 16th and mid-18th century.

F4: [052]

The north-east/south-west-aligned ditch (*F1*) was truncated along its north-western side by a shallower, narrower recut [052], measuring 0.76m wide and 0.13m deep (Plate 5, p12). The re-cut was partly visible along the ditch's length measuring approximately 2.5m long in plan. A loose, dark greyish-brown, clayey silt, with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional very small and medium-sized stone inclusions (051) filled the ditch [052]. The ditch [052] contained a fill (051) but produced no dating evidence.

F5: [066]/[081]

In total, two sections of ditch, presumably representing a continuous north-west/south-east-aligned recut of ditch *F2* were revealed partially in plan and more fully in the sections of the trench. The south-eastern extent of this recut [081] was also exposed in plan for 1.22m and was seen to visibly truncate the upper fill (068) of the probable ditch terminus [077] *F3*.

The north-east edge of the recut [081] consisted of gradual sloping sides, whilst the south-west edge lay beyond the excavation. The base of the feature was irregular the cut formed a tapered-rounded base before gradually rising slightly forming flattish base which continued beyond the limit of excavation. A single fill consisting of a loose / friable, dark greyish-brown, sandy silt, with frequent orange clay inclusions (073). The fill measured 1.20m wide and 0.37m thick (Figure 4).

The same ditch was excavated in the south-west corner of the excavation trench (Plate 8). The ditch re-cut [066] was narrower in this part of the trench measuring 0.53m wide and 0.25m deep. The probable ditch re-cut [066] truncated the north-east edge of fill (064) associated with ditch *F2*. A firm, dark greyish brown, silty clay, with occasional small to medium rounded stone inclusions and moderate charcoal flecking (065) filled

[066]. The fill measured 0.53m wide and 0.25m thick.

A sterile redeposited layer of firm, light yellowish-brown, silty clay (082) capped the infilled ditch [066] and was seemingly laid down after the ditch was decommissioned. It may have been intentionally introduced to consolidate the ground above the ditch. Similarly, a compacted gravel deposit containing very small to medium-sized stones and pebbles (074) was laid down above the infilled south-eastern extent of the ditch [081] (Plate 9). This measured 1.47m wide and 0.17m thick (Figure 4).

Neither section of ditch produced any dating evidence, however the features are well-bracketed by the recovery from finds from the underlying contexts (e.g. (067)/(068) and overlying relict soil horizon (004).



Plate 8: South-east-facing section through ditches [079]/[065] with make-up deposit for a later building and floor visible above



Plate 9: North-west-facing section through ditch [081] with scales resting on the unexcavated lower fill (067) of [077] below (scales: 1m, 0.50m)

Pits / post-holes (Plates 10-14; Figs 3 and 4):

A series of pits and post-holes seemingly post-dating the infilled Phase 1a ditches were cut into the Phase 1a ditch fills or natural ground surface. Only one of these features [036] yielded artefactual evidence, but again the features can be seen to precede the formation of the overlying relict soil layer (004) and thus appear to date to the late 17th or early 18th century. The cut of [036] was sub-oval shaped in plan (Plate 10). The cut measured 1.14m by 0.92m in plan and was 0.82m deep. The eastern edge of the cut had a sharp break of slope, leading to a concave break of slope at the base; whilst the western edge of the cut was stepped and convex becoming near vertical towards the base. The base of the feature was flattish (Plate 11). A firm, mid-greyish brown, sandy clay, with occasional fragmented brick, coal, charcoal and mortar inclusions (037) filled cut [036]. The fill contained finds of pot, animal bone and CTP.

A second larger pit or post-hole [062] lay to the north-west of the boundary ditch *F1* to the south of the main group of post-holes (Plate 12). The pit was sub circular-shaped in plan and measured 0.86m x 0.76m. The profile of the cut consisted of a sharp break of slope at the top with straight sides leading to a flat base that was excavated at a depth of 0.20m. A very firm, light to mid-brownish-grey, sandy clay, with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional stone inclusions (063) filled the cut [062].

The morphology of the two features differed slightly from each other, with [036] having an oval shape in plan and the other [062] being sub-circular. Both features had flat bases and the lower part of the cut of [036] was however circular in shape at its base suggesting both features were created to contain similarly sized and shaped posts.



Plate 10: Pre-ex shot of Post-hole [036] looking south-east (scales 1m, 0.50m)



Plate 11: North-east-facing section of post-hole [036] looking south-west (scale: 0.50m)



Plate 12: Pit / post-hole [062] looking south-west (scale: 0.50, 0.25m)

In total, five post-holes [007]/[009]/[011]/[013]/[058] were clustered towards the northernmost exposed end of the ditch *F1*. There were all of a similar size and morphology. It was not however possible to make sense of any meaningful patterns in their distribution, though [007] and [009] were situated at similar distances on either side of pit [036]. Post-hole [007] was situated to the north-west of [036] and was sub-circular in plan (Plate 13). The cut measured 0.33m by 0.30m in plan. The profile of the post-hole consisted of stepped sides

and a tapered rounded base. A compact, mid-reddish-brown, silty clay with infrequent charcoal flecks and sub-rounded pebbles (008) filled the cut. The fill measured 0.15m thick.

Post-hole [009] was situated to the south-east of [036]. The post-hole was sub-oval in plan and was similar in size to [007] measuring 0.34m x 0.36m (Plate 14). The profile of the cut had gradual sloping sides becoming steep-sided. The base of the feature was 0.23m deep and consisted of a tapered, concave base. A firm, pinkish-purple, silty clay, with well-sorted very small stone inclusions (010) filled the post-hole.

Post-holes [011] and [013] were both cut into the upper fill of ditch *F1*. The cut of [011] was circular in plan and measured 0.20m x 0.20m. The features was ephemeral, with the base excavated at a depth of 0.01m. A firm light grey sandy clay with occasion flecks of charcoal (012).

A square-shaped post-hole [013] that measured 0.20m x 0.20m was also cut into the upper fill (006) of ditch *F1*. The profile of the cut consisted of a gradual-sloping side (south-east) and a steep-sloping side (north-west), giving way to flat base that was excavated at a depth of 0.09m. A single homogenous firm, mid-brownish-grey, sandy clay (014) filled [013].

A further small sub-circular post-hole [071] was revealed further to the south, near the intersection of boundary ditches *F1* and *F2*. The pit had a diameter of 0.12m. The profile of the cut was V-shaped consisting of steep sides and a tapered, pointed based. A loose, dark blackish-brown, silty clay, with moderate charcoal flecking inclusions (072). The fill measured 0.19m thick.

A sub-oval-shaped post-hole or pit [058] was excavated slightly north of the cluster of smaller post-holes. The feature measured 0.46m x 0.38m in plan with the base excavated at a depth of 0.23m. A firm, dark reddish-brown, silty clay, with occasional small angular sandstone inclusions (059) filled cut [058]. The probable post-hole or pit was truncated by a rectangular-shaped feature [057] that measured 0.54m x 0.49m in plan. The profile of the cut [057] consisted of a steep near vertical north-western side, and an irregular south-eastern side with a flat base excavated at a depth of 0.21m.

A plastic-firm, mid-greyish-brown, silty clay, with orange redeposited clay fragments and charcoal fleck inclusions (061) formed the lower fill of [057]. The lower fill measured 0.13m thick. A friable, dark greyish-brown, silty clay, with occasional charcoal flecks, sandstone and brick fragment inclusions (060) overlay the lower fill measuring 0.08m thick.



Plate 13: North-east facing section of post-hole [007] looking south-west (scale: 0.25m)



Plate 14 North-east facing section of [009] looking south-west (scale: 0.25m)

4.4.3. Phase 1c (1750-1794)

Relict Soil: (004)

A relict soil horizon had accumulated above the Phase 1a and 1b features. This comprised a loose, light reddish-brown to greyish-brown, silty sand (004). This deposit produced a moderate finds assemblage that can be dated to the late 17th to mid-18th centuries. Later material might be intrusive or could indicate the continuation of cultivation until this period. The artefacts making up this assemblage from the excavation complement finds previously recovered from the evaluation of the site by Oxford Archaeology (Stocks-Morgan 2024, 12).



Plate 15: General view looking north across the footprint of the single-depth house, highlighted red

Single-depth house: [018]/[028]/[019]/[034]/[026] (Plate 14)

A series of walls relating to a single-depth house, first depicted on Laurent's 1793 and Green's 1787-94 maps, represent the earliest structural evidence uncovered within the site. The building – part of a row of houses – was constructed in the 1780s or preceding decades. The fabric of the walls are characterised by handmade brick set in sandy lime-based mortar, with later modifications of repairs in ashy or cementitious mortars. The internal floorplan of the building measured 4.253m (13ft 11in) x 4.463m (14ft 7in). As depicted on Green's 1787-94 and on subsequent mapping, the south-western side of the building projected outwards beyond the face of the adjoining properties; this might suggest the building of the properties within this part of the site was piecemeal with each component of this row of buildings being added separately over time.

The external north-eastern and south-western walls [028]/[018] had substantial footings, measuring between 0.38-43m-wide, and were clearly well-built. The upstanding elements of the walls, as indicated by partially surviving brickwork and mortar scars would have been 0.21m wide. The south-eastern wall [034] also had substantial footings (0.46m wide) and may have originally formed an external wall to the structure. The foundations of the party wall [019] to the north-west were less substantial (0.21m wide). Wall [019] measured 4.43m long and 0.23m wide, 0.18m high.

The south-western wall of the structure [028] was not evidently keyed-into walls [028]/[034] and butted up to wall [019]. The fabric of the wall was also different and retained traces of a dark, black-ash mortar, suggesting this frontage of the building was rebuilt in the latter half of the 19th century (Phase 2). The wall measured 4.55m long, 0.8m wide and survived up to 0.7 high.

A single-skin internal wall [026] ran parallel with the building's south-eastern wall [034] and was set 0.751m (2ft 5½in) from the face of the outer wall [034]. This wall [026] stopped short of the north-eastern side of the property by 0.53m and appeared to represent the foundations for an internal staircase. The wall measured 3.50m long and was supported by two single-skin stubs of wall keyed into the south-eastern face of the wall likely acting as foundation walls for the steps. A butt-ended return [027] was constructed at the north-eastern end of the wall, presumably representing where the foot of the staircase turned a right-angle into the room.

Yards and walkways

An external surface (035) lay to the south of the row of single-depth building, described above, and can be seen as broadly contemporaneous. The general configuration of the yards, depicted on Green's map, respect the orientation of the pre-existing plot boundaries (Figure 6).

The flagstone surface (035) located immediately to the south of walls [028] and [034] survived over an area of 2.14m x 0.93m continuing south-east beyond the limit of excavation (Plate 16). This surface represents part of a walkway (alley) first depicted on Green's map.

It is possible that some of the elements of structures [032]/[033] to the south-west retain elements of yard walls first illustrated on Green's map. The surviving rectilinear brickwork [032]/[033] also corresponds closely to two back-to-back privies first depicted on the 1891 Town Plan; this block of structures is therefore likely to have been of a lean-to construction, built against the earlier yard walls.



Plate 16: External flagged surface [035] looking north (scales: 1m)

4.5. Phase 2: Industrial (1794-1900) (Figs 3, 7-9)

4.5.1. Phase 2a (1794-1831)

By the time of Bancks and Co's 1831 plan (Fig 7), three noticeable changes had occurred within the site, which were reflected archaeologically in the excavation.

The yards to the rear of the properties on Chapel Street and to the south of the (excavated) single-depth property were reconfigured and enlarged. The reestablished wall was repositioned 2.183m to the north-west.

St Thomas' Sunday School was built in 1830 immediately to the east of St Thomas' Church, fronting North Street (Anon, 1874, p. 95). The remains of the south-eastern corner of the building were excavated in the north-western part of the site (Plate 17). The building is depicted on Bancks and Co's map of 1831 (Fig 7) and is shown in greater detail on the 1851 Town Plan (Fig 8). The south-eastern part of the building appears to have been given over to a large internal staircase.

A small outbuilding was constructed to the north of the row of single-depth houses, in the south-western corner of a large yard to the south of the Chapel Street Brewery (Plate 17). It was constructed against a boundary wall and likely served as a privy or outbuilding. The boundary wall demarcated land between the school and Chapel Street Brewery.



Plate 17: General view of the initial exposure of the north-eastern end of the excavation area showing the remnants of walls associated with the Sunday School and outbuilding

Yards: [030]/[031] (Fig 3 and)

The remains of a north-east / south-west-aligned wall were excavated in the southern part of the trench. The wall [030] was 0.35m wide and survived up to 2.46m long. The wall most closely aligns with the east boundary wall of a yard to the south of School Entry. The wall was first shown on Bancks and Co.'s plan of 1831 and replicated in greater detail on the 1851 Town Plan (Fig 8). The fabric of the wall consisted of handmade brick and bonded with sandy lime-based mortar that were laid in stretcher bond. The wall bounded the south-east side of a brick-built external surface [031]. The surface survived up to a maximum of 1.5m wide, spanned the length of wall [030] and was one brick course high. The surface was truncated to the west by a ceramic pipe that was aligned broadly north to south. The surviving extent of the brickwork correlates with the dimensions of a later brick-built privy [032]/[033], surviving to the south-east. The surviving surface [031] and adjacent ceramic pipe might suggest that this represents part of an undocumented privy.

St Thomas' School:

Remains of the early-19th-century St Thomas' School were housed in a large linear construction cut, exposed in the north-western corner of the excavation. All the walls were of handmade brick and lime-mortar construction. The south-eastern corner of the building was seen to comprise a large external wall [015] with a substantial north-western return [016]. Wall [015] was orientated north-east to south-west and had an exposed length of 6.70m, measured 0.63m wide and survived up to 0.90m high. The wall constructed in English garden wall bond. The wall [015] was evidently load-bearing with a stepped foundation course (projecting 0.06m from the south-east face of the wall) situated at a height of 0.34m above the excavated base of the wall. Wall [015] corresponds to the east external wall of the Sunday School depicted on the 1831 plan (Plate 17; Fig 7).

A further wall [086] was exposed in the north-western baulk and exposed over a total distance of 4.06m. The wall was constructed in a similar fabric to walls [015]. Differential staining on the internal face of the wall indicates the position of an internal staircase (Plate 18), which appears to have led to a narrow corridor along the south-western end of the building. An aperture within the wall forming an internal doorway likely relates to the corridor. It was seemingly blocked by a poorly constructed machine-made brick wall [087] Phase 2b or 3 (Plate 19).

Wall [016] was keyed into wall [015] and formed a north-western return the wall. The wall had an exposed length of 1.6m (which continued beyond the north-west limit of excavation) and 0.34m wide. The wall correlates with the north demarcating wall of an internal staircase shown in detail on the 1851 plan (Fig 8), but likely extant in 1831 (Fig 7).

Wall [017] was also keyed into wall [015] and formed the south-eastern external wall of the Sunday School. The wall ran parallel to wall [016]. The wall was aligned north-west to south-east and measured an excavated length of 1.74m and was 0.45m wide. Both walls [016] and [017] were excavated in plan, only.



Plate 18: Stepped foundation wall [015] of St Thomas' School (scales: 1m)



Plate 19: Wall [086] of the St Thomas' School with blocked doorway [087] left (scales: 1m)

Outbuilding:

A small outbuilding was constructed to the north of the row of single-depth houses, in the south-western corner of a large yard to the south of the Chapel Street Brewery (Figs 7 and 8). This survived as a small section of wall [022] that was visible as a phase break between the east wall of the 18th-century house to the south and later wall [021] to the north-east (Plate 20). The wall measured 1m long, 0.11m wide and survived up to 0.04m high. The wall appears to represent one side of the small ancillary building or outhouse situated in the corner of the yard associated with the Chapel Street Brewery. It is first indicated in this area of the site on Bancks and Co.'s map of 1831 (Fig 7) and was superseded by a longer building indicated on the 1851 Town Plan (Fig 8).



Plate 20: Wall [022] between walls [021] and [034] highlighted green (scales: 1m)

4.5.2. Phase 2b (1831-1851) (Figs 3 and 8)

Narrow outbuilding:

A narrow outbuilding (approximately 5.80 x 2.62m) associated with the brewery was constructed to the north of the 18th-century single-depth house [034], abutting an existing yard wall. This structure was seen to have replaced the smaller outbuilding [022] depicted on Bancks and Co's plan of 1831 (Fig 7).

The north-western side of the building incorporated wall [022] that had been repurposed and wall [021]. The north-eastern section of wall [021] was constructed during this period; this measured 4.06m in length and was 0.34m wide. The wall incorporated a relieving arch in its lower courses that spanned 1.23m long (Plate 21). The arch was built from handmade bricks laid header-on-edge.



Plate 21: Early to mid-19th-century wall [021] looking south-east (scales: 1m)

4.5.3. Phase 2c (1851-1891) (Figs 3 and 9)

Privies: [033]/[032] (Fig 9)

A block of privies was sited to the west of two earlier structures first depicted on Green's map. The structures encountered archaeologically most closely align with the enlarged privy block shown on the 1891 Town Plan (Fig 9).

The privy structure was represented archaeologically by the fragmented remains of parts of the external walling [033] and [032], which had likely been built against an existing yard wall [030]. A single-skin, L-shaped wall [033] measured 0.86m along a north-west to south-east alignment before returning to the north-west. The north-west return survived up to 0.48m long before it was truncated. Overlying wall [033] were the remains of a north-east/south-west aligned wall [032] that survived up to 0.92m long and was 0.24m wide. These walls were both likely associated with the privy structure that was presumably of a lean-to construction. The north-western side of the privies was formed by the north-west/south-east yard wall [030].

The rectilinear cut [040] for a salt-glazed ceramic drain was exposed immediately beneath the structure, exiting on its north-eastern side. The cut was filled by a dark, greyish-brown, silty clay (041). Finds recovered from the fill of the drainage trench (041) included an assemblage of residual pottery (late 18th- to early 19th-century date), which presumably were redeposited from the surrounding relict soils (004). The structure was more accurately dated by an assemblage of pottery recovered from a mid-brownish-orange silty clay (047) that was identified between the walls [032]/[033] of the privy (pit), which contained mid-19th-century Edge Ware and a 19th-century clay tobacco pipe bowl.

Single-depth house:

The south-western wall [028] of the single-depth property were reconfigured in the late 19th century. The south-western wall [028] was rebuilt using later bricks bonded with black-ash mortar. This change may reflect a reuse of the building or repair of the structure. Other outbuildings immediately south-east of the building were constructed along this building line. The row of properties remained extant with internal divisions capture on the 1891 Ordnance Survey Plan (Figure 9).

The north-eastern side of the property [018] was also reconfigured, perhaps to accommodate the narrow, wedge-shaped structure depicted between the house and the Sunday School on the 1891 Town Plan (Fig 9). The wall had been repointed with hard whitish-grey cement. The wall had an exposed length of 1.62m, survived up to 0.65m high and was 0.3m wide. The wall returned to the south-west surviving up to 0.89m long, 0.74m high and measured 0.24m wide. Wall [018] had stepped foundations however, these were mostly constructed from sandstone blocks [045], which may have been reused from a previous structure. The stepped foundation course consisted of bricks at the north-west extent of the wall. The sandstone blocks projected approximately 0.11m from the south-west face of the wall. These were also visible along the south-west return of the wall at the base of the south-east facing elevation.

4.6. Phase 3: Later Industrial (1890-1914) to Modern (post-1914) (Fig 3)

4.6.1. Structures

St Thomas' School [087]

A partially blocked aperture [087] within an internal wall [086] of the Sunday School was seen to relate to the closing of access to part of the building's cellar (Plate 19, p24). The blocked doorway measured approximately 0.8m wide and survived up to 1.2m high. The blocking was poorly constructed from machine-made brick and hard black-ash mortar. This blocking [087] had likely occurred during the later use of the building.

Manhole [023]/[024]/[025] and drains (Plate 21):

A brick-built manhole [024] and an associated drain were exposed in the northern part of the excavation. The manhole was square in plan and measured 0.96m x 0.76m in plan (Plate 22). The manhole was constructed against the north-west extent of wall [021]. The brickwork of the manhole [024] incorporated a mixture of reused handmade, machine-made brick and frogged bricks, bonded with a brownish black sandy ash-rich mortar.

A ceramic drainpipe was exposed to the south of the manhole laid within a linear cut and backfilled with mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional small to medium-sized angular stone inclusions. The section of pipework turned to the north-west at a right-angle cutting through brick wall [015]. The structure likely dates from the early 20th century.



Plate 22: Brick manhole [023]/[024]/[025] looking south-west (scales: 1m)

4.7. Phase 4

A loose very dark greyish-black gritty sand with brick, stone and coal inclusions (043) overlay the remains of a brick floor surface [031]. The deposit covered an area of 2.6m by 1.5m and measured 0.20m thick. The deposit was likely associated with demolition activity and contained 20th-century pottery sherds. A loose, very dark greyish-black, sandy silt, with occasional brick and flagstone rubble (044) overlay deposit (043). Layer (044) was 0.7m thick. These deposits may have been associated with the demolition of the adjacent privy block.

The structural remains uncovered in Trench 1 were overlain by a loose, very dark greyish-brown, coarse sand with fragmented brick and stone inclusions (044). This layer was likely associated with the demolition of buildings within the Site. It measured approximately 0.7m thick.

4.8. Trench 2

4.8.1. Results

Moderately compacted light brownish-orange coarse sand with natural gravel and pebble inclusions (200) was excavated in an area that measured 3.97 x 2.1m. This represented the natural geology that was overcut measuring an exposed thickness of 1.30m.

4.8.2. Phase 1D

The Park Inn

A brick wall [204] defining the south-western wall of the Park Inn was exposed in the north-east-facing section of Trench 2. The wall [204] spanned the width of the excavation trench, measuring 3.30m long (continuing beyond the south-east limit of excavation), 0.26m wide and survive up to approximately 0.8m high. The wall was constructed using handmade brick bonded with lime-based mortar. The wall correlates with the south-western external wall of the building captured on Green's plan of 1787-94 (Figure 6).

Vestigial traces of a second wall, running parallel to wall [204] were exposed 2.08m to the north-east of wall [204]. This survived in the form of a 0.48m-wide foundation trench [202], which was visible as a north-west/south-east-aligned linear cut. The cut [202] spanned the full width of the excavation trench (3.97m long) and ran parallel to wall [204]. The cut had vertical sides. The base of the feature was not excavated.

A dry, firm, greyish-brown, silty sand, with frequent small angular brick rubble and moderate charcoal fleck inclusions (203) were exposed within the foundation trench cut [202]. The wall itself had been removed.

No further structural remains were exposed, and the remainder of the building's footprint had been comprehensively remediated during a recent episode of site clearance.

4.9. Phase 4

The entirety of the trench was covered by a deposit of dark, blackish-brown, sandy-silt, with crushed brick and stone (201) reintroduced post-demolition.

5. The finds

5.1. Pottery overview (prepared by Jeremy Bradley)

The artefactual analysis looks at the pottery evidence with aim of addressing the updated research aims (as outlined in the updated project design: Cook and Bradley 2025). This will focus on the development of the site from the early post-medieval period to the end of the 19th century. The report will also compare of the artefactual assemblage with other sites in Manchester. The excavation resulted in the recovery of 186 sherds of pottery, weighing 2697.7g, 47 animal bone fragments (weighing 291.2g; Russ this report) as well as analysing eight bulk environmental samples taken during archaeological excavations (Russ this report).

The pottery is in good condition with joining fragments and inter-contextual cross joins. Very few fragments are abraded, with the bulk of the pottery assemblage showing little evidence of post-depositional disturbance or re-working. Cattle and sheep/goat bone was identified, along with fragments representing medium or large-sized mammals. Environmental remains comprised plant remains including wood, and wood charcoal and charred grains representing domestic oat. Insect body parts and fungal sclerotia were also identified. Non-environmental remains included small fragments of glassy slag material, larger fragments of a lightweight slag, hammerscale, and coal.

Other finds that may aid the dating of the site such as clay tobacco pipe stems will be referenced, however, as these have been fully recorded during the assessment stage, they will not be discussed in detail. A fully detailed catalogue of the finds recovered during the excavation and quantified by object count and weight form part of the archive held by Civic Heritage. The pottery has been grouped by period, displayed in Table 2, whilst Table 3 quantifies the ware type along with a date range.

5.2. Main contexts with finds

5.2.1. Phase 1: Post-medieval to Industrial (1500-1784)

Phase 1a (1500-1650)

The earliest phase of activity was represented by two ditches, either bounding fields or house plots. The ditches were laid out along the same orientation as the extant Ardwick Green.

Ditch F1 aligned north-east/south-west [076]/[080]/[078]. Deposit (049) formed the lower fill of the ditch and produced two finds both unabraded. An unglazed body sherd in a medieval coal measures sandy ware fabric (FN23) and a fragment of glazed red earthenware (FN20), which has not been identified with any certainty. It exhibits a thickly applied cream coloured glaze, with one edge displaying a purple slip. It may be part of a tile or possibly from a non-tuned vessel such as a dripping pan. The glaze resembles that noted on Buckley-type sgraffito or other similar types (Davey and Longworth 2006) therefore could be a regional import.

Later Fill (006) yielded a strap handle from a medieval coal measures sandy ware jug (FN22); a small, abraded fragment of slipware (FN43) missing its glaze and two joining self-coloured ware body sherds (FN49), which date from c 1650-1730 Innes 1985). A splinter of salt-glazed stoneware sewer pipe (FN86) is intrusive in this context.

F3: [077] A ditch terminus or pit was excavated in the south-eastern corner of the excavation and visibly cut through ditches F1 and F2. The upper and lower fills (067) and (068) in the same feature both produced 16th/17th century vessel fragments in Rainford/Cistercian-type (FN14) and the Midlands/North West purple type fabric (FN15 and 16) traditions. An unattributed and abraded unglazed, sandy ware rim (FN57) likely to be medieval, but could be later.

It is suspected that coal measures medieval pottery, particularly Ewloe-type wares, may have continued as late as the 16th century (Courtney1993). Therefore, both dark-glazed fine and coarsewares and the coal measures maybe be contemporary. This would suggest that Phase 1a activity commenced in the 16th century and continued to around the middle of the 17th century.

Phase 1b (1650-1750)

The upper fill (048) of ditch [005] contained material spanning the 16th/17th century to the first few decades of the 19th century. Pottery from the early part of this range comes in the form of body sherds of

Rainford/Cistercian-type and Midlands/North West purple-type (FN12 and 19). Self-coloured earthenware (FN42) is slightly later dating in Liverpool to the period c 1650-1730 (Innes 1985). A late 17th-century date for a Staffordshire-type slipware rim (FN45) brings this small assemblage to the opening of the 18th century where bases in mottled and dark-glazed buff ware take the dating well into that century (FN13 and 26). Bore diameters of two clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stems would be acceptable as broadly 18th-century in date (FN73 and 74). Two joining shell-edge wares (FN33) bracket the end of the deposition to c 1800-1830. Potentially the shell-edge wares (which weigh only 13g) could be intrusive from layer 004 in Phase 1c. Therefore, it might be possible to suggest a deposition spanning the mid-17th to mid-18th century.

Phase 1c (1750-1794)

A relict soil horizon (004) had accumulated above the Phase 1a and 1b features yielded a mottled ware fragment (late 17th to late 18th century; FN24), early 19th-century pearlware (FN39) with cross joins to FN29 and FN31 Phase 2c in deposit (041), as well as white salt-glazed stoneware (FN56) and creamware (FN05). Stem bore diameters taken from seven ceramic tobacco pipe stem fragments (FN66) suggest activity from the 17th until the later 18th century. Also present were three sherds of dark-glazed coarseware (FN06) which can only be dated broadly to the 17th or 18th century. A shard of plate glass (FN85) is likely to be intrusive within this deposit.

5.2.2. Phase 2: Industrial (1794-1900)

Finds were not recorded in either Phase 2a (1794-1831) or Phase 2b (1831-1851).

Phase 2c (1851-1891)

A single-depth house, first depicted on Laurent's 1793 and Green's 1787-94 maps, represents the earliest structural evidence uncovered within the site which was constructed Phase 1c. However, it is not until Phase 2c (1851-1891), that any artefactual evidence is apparent. A block of privies first depicted on Green's map, which were subsequently altered most closely align with the enlarged privy block shown on the 1891 Town Plan. Deposit (047) found between the privy structure walls [032]/[033] yielded pottery dating from the 17th to 19th centuries. The earliest was a rim from a dark-glazed fineware drinking vessel (FN10), probably dating to the 17th century, part of a self-coloured earthenware bowl/dripping pan (FN041; c 1650-1730), and mottled and dark-glazed buff ware (FN09 and 025) with a broad 18th-century date. A brown stoneware cylindrical mug (FN51) with engine-turned grooves with iron oxide slip probably dates to between the late 17th to mid-18th century. Dark-glazed coarse ware was not closely datable other than broadly belonging to the 17th to 19th century. There were more typical 19th-century ware types in the form of a blue shell-edge plate with an unscaloped rim (FN62), from the period c 1840s-1860s (Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab 2002 and 2015b). Clay tobacco pipe stems and a bowl without heel or spur suggest activity from the 17th century until the 19th century (Higgins 2017). A mid-19th-century date would be acceptable for the date of deposition.

A rectilinear cut [040] for a salt-glazed ceramic drain was exposed immediately beneath the structure, exiting on its north-eastern side, contained fill (041). This deposit contained 48 artefacts, most of which was pottery dating from the late 18th to early 19th century, with a number of refitting fragments and cross joins with other contexts. It is dominated by pearlware and creamware. Prominent amongst this collection was part of a pearlware plate (FN31) with a willow pattern variant dating to c 1810 (Coysh 1974, 26, pl 27). There are cross joins with Phase 1c deposit (004). A shell-edge plate (FN28) with a cross join to FN33 in Phase 1c deposit (048), dates to c 1800-1830 (Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab 2002 and 2015b). A creamware chamber pot comprising ten sherds, six of which were re-joining in three separate parts, might date to the early 19th century (FN01). Again, there are cross-joins to deposit (004). Part of a creamware plate rim (FN02) dates to the late 18th or early 19th century. An undiagnostic fragment of sanitary ware and a glass jug handle are mid-19th-century or later. It is possible that the drain cut [040] was used as a convenient repository for old and unfashionable crockery, or else it cuts an earlier feature used for rubbish disposal.

In total, two distinctive unstratified groups of pottery contain chronologically similar material to deposit (041). There are five fragments, two joining, of a pearlware or China glaze bowl (FN34) with cobalt blue painted patterns (Chinese house pattern) that dates to c 1775-1810 (Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab 2002 and 2015b). Also present were an incomplete transfer printed pearlware plate with a willow pattern variant "two temples" pattern (FN35; early 19th century), a near complete London shape cup (FN63) with neoclassical-inspired symmetrical scalloped rim (c 1800-1830) and near complete London-shape bowl

(FN48) displaying mocha decoration that is probably from the same date. Interestingly, there are also further fragments of the creamware chamber pot noted in Phase 2c deposit (041). There are also more typical 18th-century products such as slip-coated buff, white salt-glazed stoneware, mottled ware, and from either the late 17th or early 18th Staffordshire-type slipware, as well as slightly earlier yellow ware. In total, 28 CTP stems have bores that would easily fit an 18th-century date for deposition. This collection is tempered with less precisely datable dark-glazed coarse wares and mid-19th century, or later dust pressed ceramic tiles. Again, this may part of the same domestic clearance group as those in deposit (041) (see Barker 2010, 14-15 for similar domestic clearance groups).

Phase 4 demolition deposit (043) overlying brick floor [031] yielded creamware (late 18th to early 19th century) and shell-edge ware (c 1800-1830), whilst transfer-printed earthenware, brown stoneware and white earthenware probably span the whole of the 19th century or later.

5.3. The Pottery

Period	Number of contexts (including unstratified)	Count	Weight (g)	Percentage of assemblage	Date range
Medieval	7	3	58.5	2%	Mid-14 th to 16 th century
Post-medieval	7	15	267.7	8%	1500-1750
Post-medieval/ Industrial period	7	41	749.3	22%	1700-1800
Industrial period	7	127	1622.2	68%	1750-1900
Total		186	2697.7	100%	

Table 2 Breakdown of finds in the assemblage by period

5.3.1. Methodology

The medieval, post-medieval and industrial period pottery was examined by context group from the excavation. The ceramic material was catalogued according to ware type, fabric and form, in accordance with the guidelines set out by Historic England in MoRPHE (2015) and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Universal guidance for archaeological excavation, with particular reference to part 3 concerning project execution (2023), Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014, updated 2020) and Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2014, updated 2020). The pottery was examined with reference to CIfA Toolkit for finds: pottery (2024), with the aim of producing a Type 3 report, which provides a comprehensive interpretation of a pottery assemblage, in accordance with the recommendations made during assessment and the aims and objectives stated in the project design and post-excavation methodology. The aim of the report will be to provide information about the character and quantity of the assemblage, to a level sufficient to inform site-specific, local and regional, study of pottery technology, distribution, acquisition, use and deposition through time, at the levels of specific fabrics, through ware types to traditions and styles. Detailed analysis should also enable the comparison of the pottery with assemblages of other types of finds, as well as informing interpretations of the site, the character of specific features and contexts, and the structural sequence (CIfA 2024, 26).

The pottery was washed, bagged and sorted by ware type. Where possible the pottery was grouped into vessel types. Ware types were established based on fabric, form, glaze and decoration. A full catalogue was produced for the pottery assemblage, along with a photographic record of each ware type present. An overall date for each deposit was established based on the pottery present. The assemblage is deemed of local/regional significance and, as stated in the regional research framework (2025), the identification and excavation of sites with well-dated phases is key to a better understanding of the pottery tradition, periods and cut off points of styles.

5.3.2. Range of Material

Pottery formed 48% by object count and 44% by weight of the total assemblage (see Table 1). By period the pottery comprises a small amount of late medieval, transitional material in the form of various dark glazed fine and coarse ware from the 16th and 17th centuries. Ware types dating to the mid-17th to 18th century are present in modest quantities and include self-coloured ware, Staffordshire-type slipware and mottled ware. This material appears to be associated with the construction of the single-depth house in Phase 1c. There is also a noteworthy assemblage dating to the late 18th to early 19th century during the period when Ardwick is developing into a suburb of Manchester. An important additional element of pottery from this latter period is unstratified (44% by object count; 83 fragments), which mostly dates to this later period and includes cross-context joins. The significance of the pottery, with its small quantity of late medieval wares, through the 17th, 18th and into the early 19th century is that it provides a good and rare instance of the pottery used and consumed by the rural population in the pivotal period of when Ardwick Green was transitioning from farmland to town suburb.

5.3.3. Medieval

Three fragments of medieval sandy ware were retrieved from Phase 1a deposits. Finds numbers (FN) 22 and 23 are unabraded suggesting that there had been little post-deposition disturbance, whilst FN57 exhibits some moderate abrasion. Strap handle (FN22) is in a pale buff pink fabric, with traces of pale apple green glaze on upper surface (Plate 23). Body sherd FN23 is unglazed in a pale buff grey fabric, with the external surface having a faint pink hue, whilst internally there are traces of sooting. Both fragments contain moderately sorted medium to coarse quartz sand, with occasional red iron oxide grains up to very coarse grain size. FN22 and 23 are likely to be made from coal measures clays. A third unattributed rim fragment (FN57; weighing 2.7g), also from Phase 1a, in an orange oxidised sandy fabric was likely to be medieval but was too small to attribute to a particular ware type.



Plate 23 Coal measures Strap handle (FN22)

5.3.4. Dating and Provenance

The medieval pottery is very limited in quantity, with FN22 and 23 dating from the 14th century and may have continued as late as the 16th century (Courtney 1993). Orange oxidised rim sherd (FN57) can only be considered medieval in date. Where the Manchester coal measures pottery was produced is not clear. In the wider region there are production sites in Ewloe, Flintshire, although similar clays found in Staffordshire may also be a source (Harrison and Davey 1977; Edwards 2000). Another source maybe Prescot, Merseyside where excavations in the 1980s produced 74 fragments of wasters (Holgate 1989, 11).

5.3.5. Comparative Material

Coal measures clay pottery types are recorded in Manchester at Hanging Ditch (Edwards undated). It is possible that some of the fabrics described as pale orange in colour with quartzite inclusions found at Marsden Court (Site M1), located 200m to the north-east of Hanging Ditch are of a similar type (White 1983). Both sites are located in the core of medieval the town around the cathedral. Similar material has been recorded at Norton Priory and Bewsey Old Hall (Vaughn 2008, 333-344; Lewis et al 2011, 107-114). Timperley Old Hall has also yielded comparable pottery (Faulkner 2005, 50; per obs, J Bradley). It is of note that “the pottery supply for the Salford and Manchester markets was a melting pot for several regional traditions” (Garratt 2008, 32).

5.4. Post-medieval and Industrial Period Pottery

5.4.1. Range of material

Ware type	Object count	Weight (g)	% of total assemblage by object count	% of total assemblage by weight (g)	Date range
Creamware	20	539	10.8%	20.0%	Mid-18 th to early 19 th century
Dark-glazed buff ware	2	35.2	1.1%	1.3%	18 th century
Dark glazed coarse ware	20	589.5	10.8%	21.9%	17 th to 19 th century
Dark-glazed coarseware (Rainford/Midlands purple type)	5	184.1	2.7%	6.8%	16 th to 17 th century
Dark-glazed finewares (Rainford/Cistercian type)	3	38.5	1.6%	1.4%	16 th to 17 th century
Glazed red earthenware coarse	1	10.3	0.5%	0.4%	17 th -19 th century
Industrial slipwares	2	112	1.1%	4.2%	Late 18 th to 19 th /20 th century
Lustre ware	1	3.4	0.5%	0.1%	19 th century
Medieval sandy ware	2	55.8	1.1%	2.1%	12 th to 14 th /15 th century
Mottled ware	9	53.1	4.8%	2.0%	Late 17 th to mid/late

					18 th century
Pearlware shell edge	13	78.3	7.0%	2.9%	Late 18 th to early 19 th century
Pearlware painted	5	9	2.7%	0.3%	Late 18 th to early 19 th century
Pearlware plain	5	16	2.7%	0.6%	Late 18 th to early 19 th century
Pearlware TPE	55	468	29.6%	17.3%	Late 18 th to early 19 th century
Porcelain	1	3	0.5%	0.1%	18 th to 19 th century
Self-coloured earthenware	3	49.2	1.6%	1.8%	Mid-17 th to mid-18 th century
Slip-coated buff ware	1	1.3	0.5%	0.0%	Early to late 18 th century
Decorated slipware	4	14.9	2.2%	0.6%	Late 17 th to 18 th century and later
Stoneware	15	197.1	8.1%	7.3%	17 th century and later
Unattributed sandy ware	1	2.7	0.5%	0.1%	Medieval or later
Unglazed redware	2	6.9	1.1%	0.3%	17 th century and later
White earthenware decorated	1	5	0.5%	0.2%	19 th to 20 th century
White earthenware plain	9	138.1	4.8%	5.1%	19 th to 20 th century
White earthenware shell edge	1	9.6	0.5%	0.4%	Early to mid-19 th century
White earthenware TPE	4	73.6	2.2%	2.7%	19 th to 20 th century
Yellow ware	1	4.1	0.5%	0.2%	17 th century
Total	186	2697.7	100.0%	100.0%	

Table 3 Post-medieval and industrial period ware types present in Ardwick Green North, assemblage

In total, 183 fragments of pottery weighing 2639.2g dating from the 16th to 19th century were recovered from the site. Alongside the medieval pottery described above, Phase 1a also produced 16th- and 17th-century dark-glazed fine and coarse wares. Phase 1b yielded pottery that was deposited between c 1650-1750. Two small fragments of pearlware may be intrusive. For Phase 1c, closely datable pottery was restricted to three fragments of mottled ware, a ware type in production from the later 17th century until at least 1780 in Prescott (Philpott 1985). Pottery was not then found until Phase 2c which is dated to between 1851-1891. However, the material from this phase appears to be part of a domestic clearance deposit consisting of old or unfashionable crockery. Most dates to the 18th and early 19th century, comprising mottled ware to pearlware, with a smattering of early dark-glazed fine and self-coloured earthenware. A large group of unstratified pottery of the same types with cross-joins would appear to be part of this assemblage.

5.4.2. Post-Medieval (1500-1650)

Dark-glazed finewares

In total, three sherds of dark-glazed fine ware were recorded. A fragment with a upright simple rim with an vertical loop handle joining near the rim is from a mug form in the Cistercian-type ware tradition (FN14), with a resemblance to Rainford Type 2 vessels (see for instance Philpott et al 2015, 71-73, fig 5.23:4). A late 16th- to 17th-century date being applicable. A body sherd (FN19) with the same fabric and similar glaze is also likely to be in the Cistercian-type ware tradition (Plate 24). They were derived from Phase 1a and 1b, respectively. Another rim (simple and slightly out turned, with beginning of a shoulder) was recorded in Phase 2c (FN10). On this sherd the glaze is much more evenly applied than FN14 and 14. It is perhaps more akin to the early 17th-century blackwares recorded at Rainford (see Philpott et al 2015, 82). All three share the same brownish purple fabric with very few visible inclusions of quartz sand (less than c 0.25%).



Plate 24 Cistercian-type ware mug rim (FN14)

Dark-glazed courseware (early)

The earliest material recovered were fragments of Midlands purple-type ware, alongside dark-glazed fabrics with oxidised fabric that may be contemporary or perhaps even late medieval, all of which were found Phase 1a and b. A moderately-sized body fragment of Midlands purple-type ware (FN12; sometimes referred to as North West Purple Ware; Philpott et al 2015, 93), was recovered from Phase 1b. It has a hard, dark brownish-red fabric displaying moderately well sorted quartz sand inclusions. The exterior surface displays a thin and patchy lead glaze, whilst the interior is grey, and almost of a stoneware-like appearance. Late medieval in origin in the north Midlands and north of England, this type of pottery gains a more evenly applied metallic glaze at the end of the 16th century in the North West (op cit, 94). The fabric matches that of Rainford products (see Philpott et al 2015, 94, fig 5.35:70).

Phase 1a, ditch terminus/pit fills (067) and (068) produced four fragments in an oxidised, moderately sandy orange fabric, including two base sherds (FN15 and 16). Dark brownish-purple, patchy glaze, occasionally with small areas of orange decorate the sherds. This pottery appears to belong to Midlands/North West purple tradition of dark-glazed coarse wares, perhaps even being examples of the 'late medieval orange ware' and found alongside the Midlands purple tradition (Barker 2008; Philpott et al 2015, 94).

5.4.3. Dating and Provenance

The presence of a very small quantity of Midlands purple-type and Cistercian-type wares indicates activity at the site during from the late 15th to 17th centuries. As highlighted in the discussion of the dark-glazed wares

recorded at Chapel Wharf, the source of dark-glazed wares in assemblages from Manchester has been disputed and may have been produced in a number of different manufacturing sites using clays of the Lower Pennines coal measures, including Rainford and Prescott. Further material from Chapel Wharf, Timperley Old Hall, Ordsall Hall, and Greengate Towers, adds to a theory that a production centre is yet to be discovered in the Greater Manchester region, as known production sites in the region are a relatively large distance from the Manchester markets and it would have been difficult to transport goods such a distance during the 16th and 17th century (Motterhead et al 2022, 81). That said, the rim fragment from FN14, bears some similarity to Rainford Type 2 mugs, although similar vessels are also recorded in the Wrenthorpe repertoire (Moorhouse and Slowikowski 1992, fig 56.9). Although this should not deter, given the small assemblage and fragment size, the notion that there is compelling evidence growing for the existence of a kiln in the historic core of Salford of Manchester.

5.4.4. Comparative Material

Greater Manchester has produced several well-stratified early post-medieval pottery assemblages which typically include the wares present at Ardwick Green. Similar local collections have been discovered at Chapel Wharf, Salford, Millgate Wigan, Greengate Towers in Salford, Chapel Street in Salford, the collection from a moat at Timperley Old Hall in Altrincham, and most recently the New King's Head Yard, also in Salford (Mottershead and Garrat 2008; Mottershead et al 2022; CfAA 2013; OAN 2011; OAN 2014; Elder 2024). Further afield, well-stratified assemblages of early post-medieval date in the North West region have been published from Merseyside. This includes the Rainford and Prescott production sites, previously mentioned, the collection at Norton Priory, South Castle Street in Liverpool and 25 Bridge Street, Chester (Philpott 2015, Davey et al 1989, Brown et al 2008; Davey et al 1985; Edwards 2008).

5.5. Post-Medieval and Industrial Period Pottery (1650-1900)

The pottery discovered in this section covers the period 1650-1900 (Phase 1b-1c and Phase 2). This is the period between the end of the British Civil War and industrialisation of production including pottery. Growing trade with continent brought new pot types and new eating and drinking habits, with one such type being the individual drinking vessel (Brears 1971, 13), early regional examples of which are discussed above. The 18th century was the period when country pottery producing earthenwares was overtaken by urban potteries manufacturing white earthenwares influenced by the by porcelain from China and Japan (Draper, 184, 53).

Self-coloured earthenware dating in Liverpool to the period c 1650-1730 was found in Phases 1a, 1c and 2c. The name deriving from the application of a clear lead glaze, which enhances the colours in the body of the vessel, particularly by iron derived from the clay (Innes 1985). Although this type of ware has its origins in late medieval orange wares and sandy wares of the north Midlands and North West England (Barker 2008; Philpott et al 2015, 94), its similarity to Dutch red and lighter coloured wares is notable. Phase 1b also produced late 17th-century Staffordshire-type slipware and 18th-century mottled and dark-glazed buff ware.

However, it is in Phase 2c where there is a concentration of residual pottery, the earliest of which dates from second half 17th and early 18th centuries along with more typical 18th- and early 19th-century wares. This is augmented by 74 unstratified pottery fragments (comprising 40% of the pottery assemblage), with cross-joins to material from Phase 2c, which suggests this represents a domestic clearance group. This together with general observations on the 18th-century wares are discussed below.

Deposit (047) between walls [032]/[033] in Phase 2c, as well as producing a residual rim from a blackware-type vessel (FN10) also produced a self-coloured earthenware cooking vessel (FN41). More typical 18th-century fabrics such as mottled ware, and part of an engine-turned brown stoneware cylindrical mug and dark-glazed buff ware was also recorded. Mottled ware is considered to succeed self-coloured ware (Innes 1985). Although no mottled ware forms from the site were identified, other than a Phase 1b sherd (FN26) exhibiting sooting indicating it was used as a cook pot, personal drinking vessels such as cylindrical mugs were a mainstay of this ware type. The same can be said for brown stoneware where cylindrical mugs are by far the most common form (Barker 2008). The cylindrical stoneware mug base from with engine turned grooves and iron oxide slip (FN51) present in deposit (047), is a form usually dating from the late 17th to mid-18th century. Also, within this deposit was dark-glazed coarseware, which in this context may be 18th-century or later.

Phase 2c drain fill (041) is dominated by pearlware and creamware and has cross joins with Phase 1c deposit (048) as well as others in the unstratified material. Some 20 fragments of creamware were recorded from the site, with just over half of them being found in Phase 2c. All were undecorated and comprised plates and part of chamber pot. Creamware from a domestic clearance group at Leek, Staffordshire, thought to date from c 1805-1810, comprised mainly undecorated forms (Barker 2010, 15).

Ware type	Object count	Weight (g)
Pearlware painted	5	9
Pearlware shell edge	13	78.3
Pearlware plain	5	16
Pearlware TPE	55	468
Total	78	571.3

Table 4 Pearl ware types identified at Ardwick Green

Pearlware was also noted in the Leek domestic clearance group. At Ardwick Green it formed 42% of the pottery (78 fragments). The types identified at Ardwick Green are listed in Table 4, above. The earliest element of the pearlware assemblage comprises five fragments from an underglaze painted vessel. All are probably from the same bowl/cup form, with two joining rim pieces present. Although the motif cannot be identified, it is clearly inspired by wares originating in China. A date range of c 1775-1810 has been suggested for this ware type (Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab 2002 & 2015a). Shell-edge pearlware consists of Rococo-inspired asymmetrical, undulating scalloped plate rim with impressed curved lines dating to c 1775-1810, and the slightly later neoclassical-inspired plate having a symmetrical scalloped plate rim, with impressed lines and dating to c 1800-1830s (Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab 2002 and 2015b). By the early 19th century shell-edge pearlwares were the most widely used table wares, as well as being the cheapest decorated table wares available (Barker 2010, 15).

The bulk of the of the pearlware consists of transfer printed plates. There are cross joins with Phase 1c and Phase 2c contexts suggesting that the mid-18th-century and early 19th-century elements are related to the later clearance episode. Printed decoration was becoming more widely used on tables wares by c 1800 and by the 1820s was the dominant type (Barker 2010, 15). One of the most complete plates (FN35) displays a willow pattern variant known under various names including “temple Landscape” or “two temples” (Coysh and Henrywood 1982, 360, 372). Although appearing on plates as late as 1879, the Ardwick Green example appears similar, although not an exact copy, of a Herculaneum pottery design of c 1800-1810, whilst there are also Spode and Wedgwood versions dating to c 1817 and 1825 (Coysh and Henrywood 1982, 372; Hyland 2005, 44, 46, fig 16; Plate 25). Therefore, a similar date might be applicable here. Cross-joining fragments (from FN31 and 39) appearing in Phase 1c and 2c possibly belong to another willow pattern variant called “bridgeless pattern”, although not enough remains to be certain. Again, based on vessels with this design a date of c 1810 is possible. The remaining pearlware is more fragmented and the patterns can only be described by a general decorative style. For instance, FN29 displays a floral pattern with continuous repeating designs which were being produced in the early 19th century, or FN30 with a border on the rim very similar to those appearing on willow pattern vessels. Also of note, is a London shape bowl (FN48), exhibiting five annular dark brown bands, rouletting below the rim and mocha decoration against an orange slip on a pearlware body (Plate 26). This vessel closely resembles a published example dating to c 1820 (Rickard 2006, 52, fig 69). Lastly, a white earthenware London shape cup decorated with a symmetrical scalloped rim, and light blue under glazed transfer-printed willow pattern (FN48; Plate 27). Both vessels, although unstratified, would not be out of place in the same assemblage.

The finds from deposit (041) and the majority of the unstratified material appear to represent a domestic clearance group. Its content providing an important and rare insight into pottery supply and consumer tastes of Ardwick Green as it transitioned from rural to a suburban landscape.



Plate 25 (FN35) with willow pattern variant "two temples"



0

5 cm

Plate 26 Mocha decorated London pattern bowl (FN48)



Plate 27 Transfer printed London shape cup with neoclassical-inspired symmetrical scalloped, a decorated with willow pattern

5.5.1. Dating and Provenance

The two main ware types that characterise what is likely to be a clearance group, combining deposits (041), (047) and associated unstratified material, are creamware and pearlware. Moreover, given the similarity of the unstratified material collected, and the various cross joins with Phase 1 deposits the pottery assemblage from the late 18th to early 19th centuries has a distinct homogeneity.

Creamware is a twice-fired earthenware made of ball clay with calcined flint added to the body and lead glazed. Although there are early dated wares from 1740s, it was becoming increasingly common by the 1750s and is seen as a major ware type during 1760s-1780s, when it was fashionable. It starts to decline in popularity by c 1800-1810, although it is still used in the 1820s, especially as toilet ware (see FN01 and 04). Decoration, it has been noted, was always the exception, but was less common on 19th-century wares (Barker 2008). It was produced at all major production centres in the north Midlands and northern England, for example Stoke, Derby, Liverpool, widely in various Yorkshire Potteries, plus Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sunderland and Whitehaven (ibid).

Pearlware was developed in Staffordshire in the 1770s where cobalt was added to the glaze which gives the characteristic blue hue. Pearlwares, in particular transfer-printed wares were made in vast quantities at all the main potting centres of Britain, and in particular in the north Midlands and the north of England at Stoke, Liverpool, Leeds and other Yorkshire Potteries, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sunderland, Whitehaven and Hull, (Hyland 2005, 12-13; Barker 2008). None of the pottery displays a maker's mark, such as was used by the

large potteries, including the Herculaneum pottery in Liverpool which impressed on its earthenwares “HERCULANEUM” in small capitals (Hyland 2005, 227-228). This would suggest the pottery found Ardwick Green was being produced by smaller scale manufacturers for the mass market.

5.5.2. Comparative Material

A certain repertoire of pottery fabric types define the post-medieval and industrial periods in Greater Manchester. These are various types of dark-glazed fine and coarse wares recorded from the 16th and 17th centuries, which continue into the 18th and 19th centuries, almost exclusively as courseware. Fine wares, which in the early part of the period were in the dark-glazed tradition are succeeded by self-coloured wares, and later by mottled ware with a few examples of highly decorated Staffordshire-type slipwares and occasional examples of brown stoneware. From the third quarter of the 18th century, domestic assemblages for the less affluent began to see the gradual increase in ceramic table wares (Barker 2010, 13). As recorded in clearance groups in Staffordshire, these typically contain creamware and pearlware (op cit, 14-15). Greater Manchester and, in this instance, Ardwick Green witness the same trend.

Assemblages containing creamware and pearlware were recovered at Chapel Wharf Phase 2 in Salford (Garrat 2008), although the Phase 3 work, which contained self-coloured, slipware, mottled ware and tin glazed earthenware produced only three sherds of creamware and pearlware (Rowe 2022). At Great Jackson Street, also a site covering the transition from rural to industrial, pottery included 16th- to 19th-century dark-glazed coarse and finewares, late 17th- to 18th-century mottled, self-coloured ware and Staffordshire-type slipware, as well pearlware (Bradley 2024). Again, finds recorded at Manchester Goods Yard, Quay Street were very similar. They included self-coloured ware, mottled ware, slip-coated buff ware, 17th- to 18th-century stoneware, Staffordshire-type slipware, 18th-century tin-glazed earthenware and pearlware (Rowe 2019). A notable absence at Ardwick green was tin-glazed earthenware, which in the North West is usually associated with more affluent households (Gregory 2011)

In the wider region two domestic clearance deposits are relevant here. These are from St Mary’s Grove, Stafford and Hargate Hall, Leek. At the former, a group of ceramic vessels was discarded in c 1770, with a significant proportion (37%) being refined table ware mostly of poor-quality white salt-glazed stoneware (Barker 2010, 14). Only a single unstratified fragment of white salt-glazed stoneware was recorded at Ardwick Green, and is generally only seen in very small quantities in Greater Manchester. At Hargate Hall, the deposition date was c 1805-1810, with the table ware (30%) being split between pearlware and creamware, with a few sherds of porcelain and white salt-glazed stoneware. Printed wares were uncommon (op cit, 15). This probably indicates, due to the quantity of printed wares recorded, that at Ardwick Green the deposition date was slightly later, perhaps between 1830 and 1850.

Records of clearance deposits in Greater Manchester appear to be rare. Several such deposits were recently excavated, all probably relating to the former King’s Head in Salford, and are not in wholly domestic in context. Two of the deposits date from the mid- to late 17th century and into the first few decades of the 18th century and are dominated by dark-glazed coarse and fine wares. A further deposit from a cellar was probably deposited in 1860s or 1870s (dated by two coins of 1862 and 1869), but contained material as early as the 17th century alongside material from the second half of the 19th century (Bradley forthcoming).

5.6. Conclusion

The pottery assemblage from Ardwick Green charts the development of the area from c 1500 until the late 19th century. Late medieval coal measures fabrics are seen within the same phase as vessels in the Rainford/Cistercian ware-type and Midlands/North West purple-type traditions, showing that “the pottery supply for the Salford and Manchester markets was a melting pot for several regional traditions” (Garratt 2008, 32). Later ware types such as self-coloured, Staffordshire-type slipware and mottled ware are typical of those being found in 17th- and 18th-century assemblages from Greater Manchester. The recovery of pearlware and creamware at Ardwick Green (accounting for 52.8% of the pottery) are an illustration of the increasing use of ceramic table wares in less affluent households, as can be seen from similar domestic clearance deposits from the wider region. The mid-18th- to early 19th-century pottery from the site also charts the transition from rural to urban in this part of Manchester. As well as showing how the industrialisation of pottery production, almost all of it likely to have been produced elsewhere in the Midlands and Northern England, was changing the appearance of ceramic table wares in Mancunian households.

5.7. Animal Bone (Dr Hannah Russ FSA MCIfA)

5.7.1. Introduction

Animal bone (47 fragments weighing 291.24g) was recovered via hand collection and from bulk environmental samples taken during archaeological excavation at Ardwick Green North, Manchester (AGNM-003). The animal bone was recovered from seven contexts as well as unstratified deposits. Animal bone was recovered from deposits attributed to Phase 1a, 1500-1650 CE, early post-medieval activity at the site as well as undated features/deposits. This report includes quantification of the animal bone assemblage, identification at species level where possible, an assessment of significance and recommendation for any further work, if required.

5.7.2. Methods

The animal bone was identified to element, side and to as low a taxonomic level as possible using the archaeology.biz reference collection and published and online identification guides (Hillson 2003; 2005). Quantification for mammal remains used the diagnostic zone method as presented by Dobney and Rielly (1988). A taphonomic assessment of each fragment was undertaken, recording the presence and absence of cut and chop marks, burning and calcination, any evidence for animal activity (canid or rodent gnawing), and surface preservation; any other surface modifications of note were also recorded.

At this stage, no attempt was made to sex any of the remains, or to measure any elements. Sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goat (*Capra hircus*) distinctions were also not considered. Fragments of bones that could be identified to element but not any specific species were grouped as far as possible using size categories at class level (e.g., large mammal, etc.).

Results were recorded in an electronic proforma in Microsoft Excel.

The animal bone was identified, interpreted and reported on in line with national standards and guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019; ClfA 2014; 2021), with reference to the North West Regional Research Framework (accessed March 2025). Site information was provided by Civic Heritage as part of a Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design (Cook and Bradley 2024).

Results were recorded in an electronic proforma in Microsoft Excel.

5.7.3. Results

Animal bone was recovered via hand collection (HC; 14 fragments weighing 291g) and from five bulk environmental samples (23 fragments weighing 0.24g) taken during archaeological excavation at Ardwick Green North, Manchester, Table 5.

None of the fragments from the samples could be identified beyond 'mammal' (Table 5) and, except for the two fragments from context (070) (sample<6>), were all burnt (see Russ 2025). The hand collected remains include seven identified specimens which included three re-fitting fragments of a right cattle tibia (*Bos taurus*) from context (047), three unstratified (U/S) cattle maxillary teeth and a distal sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) femur from context (041). The remaining seven fragments represented medium or large-sized mammals, Table 5.

Animal bone was recovered from seven contexts and from unstratified deposits, Table 5. Context (006A), lower fill of Ditch [005] has been attributed to Phase 1a, 1500-1650 CE, early post-medieval activity, and context (041), fill of drain cut [040], and Deposit (047) to Phase 2c, 1851-1891, industrial period activity. Specimens from contexts (041) and (047) are suitable for radiocarbon dating, should these contexts be appropriate for informing on site chronology. The remaining contexts had no chronologically diagnostic finds and were not phased.

Context	006A	041	047	050		064	069	070	U/S	Total
Taxon	Sample	1	HC	HC	4	HC	5	7	6	
Cattle				3						3
Sheep/goat		1								1
Large mammal										2
Medium/large mammal					2					2
Medium mammal										3
Mammal		7			3		16	5	2	33
Total		7	1	3	3	2	16	5	2	47

Table 5: Summary of animal bone from Ardwick Green North, count. HC = hand collected.

5.7.4. Taphonomic assessment

Bone surface preservation and fragmentation

Bone surface preservation varied throughout the recorded assemblage from 'good' (2) to 'poor' (4) on a scale of 1 to 5 from 'very good' (1) to 'very poor' (5). Most specimens had 'poor' (4) surface preservation, forming 70.2% of the animal bone assemblage by count (n=33). Fragmentation was moderate to high throughout the assemblage with only complete teeth recovered. Overall, the assemblage was in poor condition.

Butchery/carcass processing

Seven specimens representing four skeletal elements displayed evidence for carcass processing in the forms on cut or saw marks. Three unstratified fragments of a medium-sized mammal rib (likely sheep) all had cut-marks, as did a sheep/goat femur from context (041). Saw marks were observed on two of three re-fitting fragments of a proximal cattle tibia from context (047) as well as both ends of a section of large mammal rib (likely cattle). The cut and saw marks are indicative of butchery and/or meat preparation and indicate that the remains represent food waste, the cut marks on the sheep/goat elements more consistent with that expected during kitchen preparation or serving. The saw marks are also indicative of butchery, in this case being loosely chronologically indicative as the butcher's saw did not come into regular use until the mid-18th century (e.g. Cameron *et al.* 2019). The rib was sawn such that it was typical of that resulting from a cut of beef rib known as Jacob's ladder, while the tibia may have formed the distal part of a leg of beef or shank, being sawn at a point that would detach elements with extremely low meat value.

Animal interaction

No evidence for animal interaction in the form of carnivore or rodent gnawing was observed.

Pathology

No specimens displayed skeletal abnormality possibly resulting from disease, injury or age.

Burning and calcination

Thirty-three fragments of burnt bone were recovered; all of the burnt specimens represented unidentified medium or large sized mammals. The presence of burnt animal bone within archaeological contexts can be the result of numerous different activities. A common pathway for burnt animal bone to be deposited in ditches is through the discard of kitchen or dining waste within domestic fires as a means of food waste/bone disposal. When the fires are cleared out the burnt bones is then discarded with the ashes.

Potential for measurement

No specimens were suitably complete to allow measurement for size estimation.

Potential for ageing and sexing

Bone epiphyseal fusion was recorded for one or both epiphyses of two specimens. No mandibles or loose teeth were suitable for estimating age at death. None of the animal remains were suitable for estimating sex.

5.7.5. Discussion

The animal bone recovered during archaeological excavation at Ardwick Green North includes domestic livestock species that are typical for post-medieval and industrial period sites in the Manchester region. Cattle and sheep/goat have been two of the species that have formed the focus for animal husbandry activities in Britain since their introduction at the beginning of the Neolithic period (e.g. Baker and Worley 2019, 3). While the focus for these animals was often on the production of meat, cattle and sheep/goats were also kept for their milk as well as other secondary resources such as wool, leather and/or horn. The butchery marks on cattle and sheep/goat remains indicates that the assemblage includes material resulting from food waste, providing evidence for the consumption of beef and lamb/mutton.

The animal bone from Ardwick Green North provides scant evidence for human diet and animal-based economy at the site, with few identified specimens recovered. This report and the data in the associated spreadsheet form an appropriate record of the remains; no further work is recommended

5.7.6. Recommendations for future analysis and dissemination

This report and associated data should be integrated into any site-wide grey literature or publication reporting and retained within the site archive. The animal bone may be discarded on completion of the project.

5.7.7. References

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5.7.8. Online resources

North West Regional Research Framework. Accessed March 2025.

<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>

5.8. Environmental remains (by Dr Hannah Russ FSA MCIfA)

5.8.1. Introduction

In total, eight bulk environmental samples were taken during archaeological excavations at Ardwick Green North, Manchester (Site code: AGNM-003). The aims of the sampling strategy were to assess the presence, preservation and abundance of any environmental remains and artefactual fragments and to determine the potential of the material for indicating the character and significance of deposits at the site. The samples were taken from features dating to the post-medieval to modern periods.

5.8.2. Methods

In total, eight bulk environmental samples (62.5 litres in total) were processed by Greenlane Archaeology in 2025 (Boughton 2025). The heavy fractions were also sorted by Greenlane Archaeology, with the light fractions/flots and environmental material extracted from the heavy fractions forward to archaeology.biz for sorting, identification and reporting. A total of 62.5 litres of samples were taken from eight contexts (006A, 008, 049, 050, 064, 069, 070, and 083) from two features, Ditch [005] and Posthole [007]; a posthole ([084]) in the base of Ditch [005] was also sampled (<8>, context 083). Flots were recovered from all eight samples, and environmental remains from seven samples had been extracted for inclusion in this reporting alongside those from the flots.

The light fractions/flots were quantified by weight to the nearest 0.01g and by estimated volume to the nearest 5ml. They were sorted under a low power light microscope at 10x to 60x magnification, with any artefactual or environmental remains extracted for identification. The presence of charcoal <4mm and 'modern' materials in the light fractions, such as root fragments, were recorded on a scale of abundance. The abundance scale for all materials was as follows: *** abundant, ** common, *rare, with blank cells indicating absence.

Archaeobotanical remains were identified under a low power light microscope at 10x to x60 magnification using the archaeology.biz reference collection and published identification guides (Digital Plant Atlas; Cappiers *et al.* 2006; Jones *et al.* 2004; Jacomet 2006). Plant taxonomy followed Stace (2019 (2024 reprint)). Quantification was by count, where a grain/seed with 51-100% surviving quantified separately from fragments representing 50% or less of the complete grain/seed.

Charcoal >4mm was recovered from both the heavy fractions and flots. Charcoal >4mm was quantified by count and weight (to the nearest 0.01g) for material from the heavy fraction and flots. Charcoal <4mm was recorded by weight and estimated count (e.g., 50-100, 100-200 etc.) for material from heavy fraction and by abundance (as outlined above) for the flots. Charcoal >4mm suitable for fracturing to attempt wood species identification was recovered from the heavy fraction of five samples: Ditch [005] contexts (006A, 049, 064, and 069), and context (083), fill of Posthole [084]. The remaining charcoal >4mm, and the <4mm charcoal was either too small, abraded and/or poorly preserved to attempt identification. Where identification could be attempted this was undertaken using an AmScope compound microscope with darkfield/brightfield and magnification range from x40 to x2000, with reference to published identification guides (Schoch *et al.* 2004; Hather 2000; Fahn *et al.* 1985).

The flots and environmental remains from the heavy fractions were sorted, identified and reported on in accordance with Historic England guidelines for environmental archaeology (Campbell *et al.* 2011) and hammerscale (Dungworth and Wilkes 2007), and national standards and guidelines (CIFA 2014; 2021), with reference to the North West Regional Research Framework (accessed March 2025). Site information was provided by Civic Heritage as part of a Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design (Cook and Bradley 2024).

Results were recorded in an electronic proforma in Microsoft Excel.

5.8.3. Results and discussion

Flots from eight bulk environmental samples (62.5 litres of sediment) taken during excavations at Ardwick Green North were sorted and identified (Table 6). Environmental remains from heavy fractions of the same samples are also included in this reporting (Table 7). Six samples were taken from the fills of Ditch [005], one from the fill of Posthole [007], and one from a posthole in the base of Ditch [005], Posthole [84]. The flot from Posthole [007], context (008), sample <3>, was sterile and is not discussed further.

The remaining seven flots contained a range of materials that can be attributed to human activity and/or natural accumulation within features at the Site, Table 6. Two samples from Ditch [005] (<1> and <2>) from contexts (006A) and (049), respectively, were attributed to Phase 1a (1500-1650 CE). None of the other contexts contained any chronologically diagnostic material and were not phased.

Non-environmental remains in the flots included small (up to 3mm) fragments of glassy slag material, larger fragments (up to 2cm) of a lightweight slag, hammerscale, and coal, Table 6. Faunal remains included insect body parts, Table 6. Fungal sclerotia, in this case black spherical specimens ranging in size from 0.5mm to 2mm in diameter, formed of hardened fungal mycelium created by some fungi as a food reserve, were

present in four samples, Table 6. Plant remains included wood charcoal and charred grains representing domestic oat (*Avena sativa*) and indeterminate cereal grains (see Table 8). Fragments of untransformed wood were common in sample <6> from context (070), one of the fills of Ditch [005]; these looked to represent fragments of roots of larger plant(s) or tree(s). Bioturbation proxies included untransformed (recent) plant roots and potentially the insect remains.

Environmental remains were recovered from the heavy fractions of seven of the eight samples, Table 6. The material extracted for inclusion in this reporting comprised bone, burnt bone, charcoal, and charred and recent plant remains.

The materials from the flots (Table 6) and heavy fractions (Table 7) are presented and discussed by material type below.

Feature	Ditch [005]							Posthole [007]	Posthole [084]	Total
Context	006A	049	050	064		070	069	008	083	
Sample	1	2	4	5 (Flot 1)	5 (Flot 2)	6	7	3	8	
Sample volume (l)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0.5	2	
Flot weight (g)	3.71	8.88	2.13	1.16	4.83	1.32	4.58	0.43	1.29	24.62
Flot volume (ml)	60	100	40	10	10	10	60	5	10	245
Material										
Glassy slag <3mm			*			*	*		*	-
Slag <2cm	4	2					3			9
Coal	*	*				*			*	-
Hammerscale				1		1				2
Insect	*		*							-
Fungal sclerotia		*		*			*		*	-
Charcoal >4mm		3		1						4
Charcoal <4mm	*	**	**	**	*	**	**		***	-
Plant remains	12	11					2		3	28
Wood						**				-
Roots	***	***	***	*		*	***			-
Total	16	16	-	2	-	1	5	sterile	3	43

Table 6: Summary of remains present in light fraction/flots from Ardwick Green North, count or abundance.
Abundance: ***abundant, **common, *rare.

Feature	Ditch [005]						Posthole [084]	Total
Context	006A	049	050	064	069	070	083	
Sample	1	2	4	5	7	6	8	
Sample volume	10	10	10	10	10	10	2	
Material								
Bone						2		2
Burnt bone	7		3	16	5			31
Charcoal <4mm	100-200	100-200	100-200	200-300	100-200	50-100	50-100	-
Charcoal >4mm	39	29	20	87	19	39	6	239
Plant remains					1	2	2	5
Total	46	29	23	103	25	43	8	277

Table 7: Summary of environmental remains recovered from sample heavy fractions from Ardwick Green North, count.

5.8.4. Slags, hammerscale and coal

Small fragments of 'glassy' slag were present in small numbers in the flots from four samples, three from Ditch [005] and the sample from Posthole [064], Table 6. This material was shiny and often globular in appearance. It was not clear what process may have resulted in this material forming; one oat grain had this material adhering to it and one possibility is that this material is a result of the starch from cereal grains combining with moisture during the burning process.

Larger fragments of a pale grey lightweight slag were present in three flots, all from samples from the fills of Ditch [005], Table 6. This material was formed as the result of high-temperature activity, but no specific process is suggested.

Two spheroidal hammerscales were noted, one in each of the flots from samples <5> and <6> from Ditch [005], Table 6. Hammerscale is produced during iron working and, as such, the remains provide evidence for iron working (not smelting) at or close to the site. Experimental work has indicated that spheroidal hammerscale is produced during traditional fire-welding - joining two pieces of metal by heating them to a high temperature and then hammering them together (Dungworth and Wilkes 2007).

Tiny fragments of coal were recorded in small numbers in four flots, three from samples from Ditch [005] and from the sample from Posthole [084], Table 6. While coal was mined and used in Britain during the medieval period (e.g., Galloway 1969; Freese 2003), coal occurs naturally in the local area, with the site located close to coal outcrops located to the east of Ardwick (Coal Authority 2025). It was not possible to determine if the coal fragments result from mining during the medieval and/or post-medieval periods, are intrusive and resulting from later activity at the site, or are naturally occurring.

5.8.5. Bone

Small fragments of bone or burnt bone was recovered from the heavy fractions of five samples, Table 2. None of the bone could be identified any more precisely than 'mammal'.

5.8.6. Insect remains

Insect body parts were observed in small numbers in the flots from two samples, both from Ditch [005]. It was not possible to determine if the remains represented recent inclusions in the archaeological deposits, or ancient remains that might contribute to understanding past environmental conditions at the site. The quantities were not sufficient for any meaningful analyses, but did include potentially identifiable remains.

5.8.7. Fungal sclerotia

Fungal sclerotia, in this case black spherical specimens ranging in size from 0.5mm to 2mm in diameter, formed of hardened fungal mycelium created by some fungi as a food reserve, were present in flots from four samples. The species of fungus could not be identified, and it is uncertain if their presence is related to fungal activity during the medieval or post-medieval periods, or more recently. Fungal sclerotia are common finds in flots recovered from bulk environmental samples, but the nature of their accumulation has yet to be understood.

5.8.8. Wood

Fragments of wood were observed in the flot from sample <6>, context (070), from Ditch [005]. These appeared to be recent in origin and may be the of the roots of large plants or trees that had grown through the archaeological deposits and fragmented during excavation to allow removal.

5.8.9. Wood charcoal

Wood charcoal was present in seven of the eight heavy fractions and flots, Tables 6 to 8. Most of the charcoal comprised small fragments (<4mm) that had very low/no potential for further analysis that might allow wood species identification.

In total, 19 fragments of charcoal, all recovered from heavy fractions from five samples were suitable for fracturing to attempt wood species identification (Table 8). In total, 19 fragments were fractured, of which three could not be identified beyond representing dicotyledonous taxa. The most frequently identified species was oak (*Quercus* sp.; n=10), which was identified in two samples from Ditch [005] and the sample from Posthole [084], Table 8. Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) was identified in sample <2> from context (049) in Ditch [005], with a possible further hazel fragment from sample <5> from context (064), also Ditch [005]. Birch (*Betula* sp.) was identified in two samples from Ditch [005], while a fragment of possible

Maloideae charcoal was also recovered from Ditch [005], Plate 28. It is noted that “Pomoideae species: *Pirus malus*, *P. communis*, *Crataegus* sp. and *Cydonia oblonga* are hardly distinguishable by wood anatomy” (Schoch et al. 2004); taxonomy has since changed for these species, but the fragment of charcoal identified as possible Maloideae could be apple, pear, hawthorn, or quince morphologically.

Most of the identified charcoal fragments (n=12) were recovered from the Phase 1a (1500-1650 CE) fills of Ditch [005], samples <1> and <2>, contexts (006A) and (049), respectively. None of the other contexts contained any chronologically diagnostic material and were not phased.

Feature	Ditch [005]						Posthole [007]	Posthole [084]	Total
Context	006A	049	050	064	070	069	008	083	
Sample	1	2	4	5	6	7	3	8	
Sample volume (l)	10	10	10	10	10	10	0.5	2	62.5
Heavy fraction									
Charcoal >4mm	39	29	20	87	39	19	0	6	239
Charcoal <4mm	100-200	100-200	100-200	200-300	50-100	100-200	0	50-100	-
Flot									
Charcoal >4mm		3		1					4
Charcoal <4mm	*	**	**	**	**	**		***	-
Potential for ID	6	6	0	2	0	1	0	4	19
No. fractured	6	6	0	2	0	1	0	4	19
Taxa	4x <i>Quercus</i> 1x <i>Betula</i> 1x Indet.	3x <i>Quercus</i> 2x <i>Corylus avellana</i> 1x Maloideae?	-	1x <i>Betula</i> 1x cf. <i>Corylus avellana</i>	-	1x Indet.	-	3x <i>Quercus</i> 1x Indet.	-
C14 potential	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	-

Table 8: Charcoal recovered from samples from Ardwick Green North, count or abundance. Abundance: ***abundant, **com

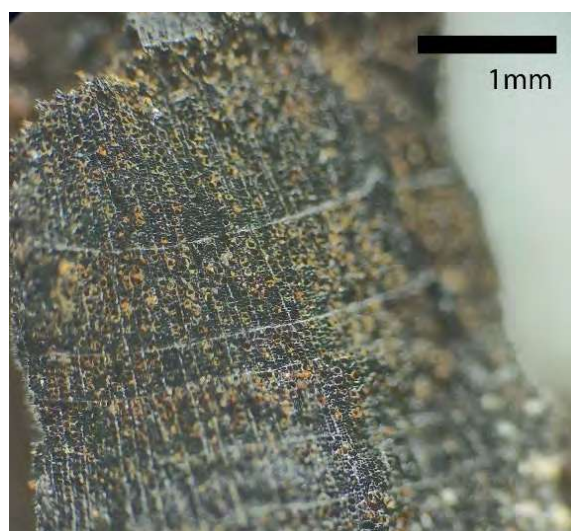


Plate 29 Possible Maloideae charcoal



Plate 28 Oat embryo (*Avena sativa*)

5.8.10. Plant remains

Charred, possible waterlogged, and recent/untransformed plant remains were identified and quantified, Tables 6, 7 (see above), and 9.

Ditch [005]

Most of the plant remains were recovered from four fills of Ditch [005], Table 9. Charred plant remains included a wheat grain (*Triticum* sp.) that was too poorly preserved to determine type, eight grains of oat (*Avena sativa*; Plate 29, above), additional fragment of cereal grains that could not be further identified, a fragment of hazel nutshell (*Corylus avellana*) and a stem of heather (*Calluna vulgaris*). A fruitlet (endocarp) of a *Rubus* genus plant, which compared well with blackberry (*Rubus cf. fruticosus*) was recovered from the flot of sample <7>, from context (069). This specimen was not charred but may still relate to historic activity at the site, either preserved by possible waterlogging (though the deposit was not identified as such and the flot was not consistent with that expected for a waterlogged sample) or due to the resilience of *Rubus* fruitlets to taphonomic processes that would usually lead to the loss of most plant remains that were not charred, waterlogged or mineralised. Indeterminate plant remains were also recovered, which again could represent waterlogged material, but in this case likely represent recent/intrusive material in the samples.

Samples <1> and <2> from contexts (006A) and (049) respectively contained most of the plant remains recovered from Ditch [005]. Both of these fills are attributed to Phase 1a of activity at the site, date to 1500-1650, the early post-medieval period.

Posthole [084]

The sample from Posthole [084] contained a single fragment of charred hazel nutshell that may relate to historic activity at the site, and four fragments of elder fruit (endocarps) that are considered recent/intrusive in the sample. This feature did not contain any chronologically diagnostic artefacts and was not phased.

Taxon	Feature	Ditch [005]						Posthole [084]			Total
	Context	006A	049	069	070			083			
	Sample	1	2	7	6			8			
	Fraction	Flot		Flot	Flot	HF	HF	Flot	HF		
	Part	ch	r	ch	wl?	ch	ch	r	ch	r	
<i>Triticum</i> sp - wheat	Grain						1				1
<i>Avena sativa</i> - oat	Grain	4		4							8
Cereal - indeterminate	Grain	5		2							7
Cereal - indeterminate (fragment <50%)	Grain			5							5
<i>Corylus avellana</i> - hazel	Nutshell						1		1		2
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> - heather	Stem					1					1
<i>Rubus cf. fruticosus</i>	Fruitlet (endocarp)				1						1
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> - elder	Fruit (endocarp)							3		1	4
Indeterminate	Plant parts		3		1						4
Total		9	3	11	2	1	2	3	1	1	33

Table 9: Plant remains from samples from Ardwick Green, count. HF = heavy fraction, ch = charred, wl = waterlogged, r = recent.

5.8.11. Radiocarbon dating

Charcoal and charred plant remains of suitable preservation, size and weight for radiocarbon dating were recovered from four contexts. None of the remains appeared to represent those from a single in-situ burning event, which would be the ideal situation for the selection of radiocarbon samples. However, charred oat grains from Ditch [005] context (006A), sample <1>, and context (049), sample <2>, and charcoal from the same samples as the oat grains as well as those from Ditch [005], context (064),

sample <5>, and Posthole [084], context (083), sample <8> (see Table 8), would provide dating for activity at the site.

5.8.12. Bioturbation proxies

Bioturbation proxies included untransformed (i.e. recent) roots and potentially insect remains (see *insects*, above).

Roots

Untransformed (i.e. recent) roots were present in six of the eight flots, recorded as abundant (***) in four, Table 1. All of the samples from Ditch [005] contained some roots, while none were present in the posthole fills, Table 6. As plant roots grow through archaeological features, they can disturb archaeological remains, especially smaller items such as those recovered via flotation. As such, it is important to note that deposits with high concentrations of roots may contain intrusive and/or residual material that has been translocated by root action.

5.8.13. Conclusion

The remains recovered from bulk environmental samples provide an insight into human diet and economy at Ardwick Green.

It is possible that the slags and hammerscale (Table 6) may contribute to understanding the nature of high-temperature activities at the site and these should be considered by an appropriate specialist alongside the industrial residues recovered from the heavy fractions (see Boughton 2025) and any hand-collected materials.

The coal does not contribute any information significant to understanding the nature of human activity at the site or the natural environment. The bone should be integrated into the animal bone report with the hand-collected material. The insect remains have very low potential for understanding past environmental conditions at the site, both being very few in number and potentially representing recent/intrusive material. The fungal sclerotia do not contribute any information for further understanding human activity at the site.

While many fragments of charcoal were recovered, few were of sufficient size and preservation to attempt wood species identification. Sixteen fragments represented at least four species, with oak and hazel most frequently represented. The fills of Ditch [005] included oak, hazel, birch and possible Maloideae (apple/pear/hawthorn/quince; Plate 28), while the only identified species from the fill of Posthole [084] was oak, Table 8. All of the taxa identified are expected at a post-medieval site in the Manchester region, being trees native to Britain, or in the case of some of the possible Maloideae species, long established species (apple or pear), or one with known presence in Britain at this time (quince). However, the low count in any single sample/context is limiting for any meaningful analysis or interpretation.

The charred plant remains are consistent with those expected at post-medieval period sites in northern England, with oat often recorded as the most frequently occurring cereal in charred assemblages from the medieval period onwards (e.g., Huntley and Stallibrass 1995), and in cee deposits (O'Meara 2016), but at Ardwick Green North, these were recovered only in very small quantities. The only evidence for cultivated plants was a single wheat grain and eight oat grains from Ditch [005], and the only other potential food plants were a fragment of charred hazel nutshell and a possibly waterlogged blackberry fruitlet (endocarp) also from Ditch [005], and another fragment of charred hazel nutshell from the fill of Posthole [084]. No charred remains of any wild plants that might inform on past environments or weeds affecting arable farming were recovered.

The charcoal and plant remains provide some evidence for the roles of plants at Ardwick Green North during the early post-medieval period, including the use of two of the main cultivated cereals, oat and wheat, and the potential gathering of wild food resources including hazelnuts and blackberry. Charcoal is indicative of the use of oak, hazel and birch, all of which would have been available locally, and were

important resources as raw materials for building, artefact production and for fuel. However, overall, these were very small assemblages that are not suitable for any further analyses.

5.8.14. Recommendations

Material from four samples was suitable for radiocarbon dating should they be from contexts suitable for further understanding the chronology of the site.

The sorted flots, plant remains and wood charcoal recovered from the samples and may be discarded on completion of the project. This report and associated data should be retained within the site archive and integrated into any sitewide grey literature or publication reporting.

5.8.15. References

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5.8.16. Online Resources

Mining Remediation Authority Map Viewer. Accessed March 2025.
<https://datamine-cauk.hub.arcgis.com/>

Digital Plant Atlas. Accessed March 2025. <https://www.plantatlas.eu>

North West Regional Research Framework. Accessed March 2025.
<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>

6. Curation and Conservation

6.1. Recipient Museum

Manchester Museum

University of Manchester

Oxford Road

M13 9PL

Museum Accession Number: To be confirmed.

6.1.1. Conservation

All of the artefacts are of a sound and stable state and will not require specialist conservation. It is recommended that the post-medieval vessel glass be reconstructed to accurately establish its form and date.

6.1.2. Storage

The complete project archive, which will include written records, plans, digital plans and photographs, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the guidelines set out in Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites (UKIC 1984, Conservation Guidelines 3), and in accordance with Manchester Museum's policy for receiving physical archives.

For long-term storage of the digital data, CDs will be used, the content including the reports, plans, scanned images and digital photographs. Each CD will be fully indexed and accompanied by the relevant metadata for provenance. The digital record should ideally be duplicated as a paper record for long-term archiving, including comprehensive printouts of photographs and survey plots, labelled and summarised.

All dry and stable finds will be packed according to the museum's specifications, in either acid-free cardboard boxes, or in airtight plastic boxes for unstable material. The artefactual assemblage is predominantly stable, but should be packed carefully with bubble wrap protecting the bags to minimise movement and abrasion in the boxes.

6.1.3. Packing

The assemblage is currently well-packaged and will require no further packaging. Box lists derived from the site database have been compiled and will be updated when the identification of objects is complete, in accordance with Manchester Museum's deposition requirements.

6.1.4. Discard Policy

A discard policy will be prepared, in consultation with the recipient museum. Material of no discernible long-term archaeological potential will be discarded, with the museum's agreement.

7. Discussion

7.1. Site interpretation

The results of the archaeological investigation provide a rare and unique insight into the transition of land from the early post-medieval period to the 19th century within the former hamlet Ardwick, on the fringe of Manchester. The archaeological remains demonstrate that land within the hamlet was in use during the post-medieval period, defined by boundary ditches that either bounded fields or house plots.

In total, four distinct phases were identified during the fieldwork. Phase 1 is associated with pre-19th-century remains, which rarely survive within Manchester and Salford.

7.1.1. Phase 1a (1500 – 1650)

The earliest activity on the Site is represented by two ditches (*F1-2*), a post-hole [084] and a ditch terminus or pit (*F3*). The fills of the four features produced 16th- and 17th-century pottery (some of which contained residual medieval sherds). These features were cut into the natural geology and represented former land divisions within the Site during the post-medieval period.

7.1.2. Phase 1b (1650-1750)

A second phase of post-medieval activity was represented by ditch re-cut [054] of *F1* and re-cuts [066] and [081] of *F2*. In total, two pits [036] and [062] and five small pits or post-holes [007], [009], [011], [1013] and [058] also represented this phase of activity, many of which were cut into the upper fills of the three ditches (*F1-3*).

7.1.3. Phase 1c (1750)

A layer of relict soil (004) seemed to overlie the earlier features. This layer produced late 17th- to mid-18th-century finds (together with a sherd of early 19th-century pearlware). There's some potential that the Phase 1a and Phase 1b features were cut into the relict soil (004).

7.1.4. Phase 1d (1750-84)

This phase is represented by the vestiges of an 18th-century house [018-9, 026-8, 034-5] first shown on Laurent's map of 1793 and Green's map of 1787-94 (Plate 2 and Plate 3; Fig 6). The property directly overlies features associated with Phases 1a-c. Wall [204] of the Park Inn and wall cut [202] represented the remnants of Park Inn in Trench 2 and also dated to this phase.

7.1.5. Phase 2a (1794-1831)

Archaeological remains associated with Phase 2a correlates with Bancks' plan of 1831 (Fig 7) and includes the remains of the south-eastern corner of St Thomas' Sunday School [015-7]. A yard [030-1] was constructed to the south. In addition, a small outbuilding or privy [022] was constructed to the north of the row of single-depth houses, in the south-western corner of a large yard to the south of the Chapel Street Brewery.

7.1.6. Phase 2b (1831-1851)

A narrow outbuilding (approximately 5.80 x 2.62m) associated with the brewery was constructed to the north of the 18th-century single-depth house [034], abutting an existing yard wall by 1851 (Fig 8). This structure was seen to have replaced the smaller outbuilding [022] depicted on Bancks and Co's plan of 1831 (Fig 7).

7.1.7. Phase 2c (1851-1891)

The construction of privies [032-3] and the reconfiguration of the south-western wall [028] of the 18th-century house in later bricks bonded and black-ash mortar represent this phase and correlate with the arrangement of buildings shown on the 1891 plan (Fig 9).

7.1.8. Phase 3 (late 19th century to modern)

A manhole [023-5] and partially blocked aperture [087] within an internal wall [086] of the Sunday School date to this phase of activity.

7.1.9. Phase 4 (modern)

Demolition rubble (201) and (044) overlay most of the archaeological remains within the site and represented the demolition of 18th- and 19th-century structures within the site.

7.2. Historical research

7.2.1. Land

The 'manors of Over and Lower Ardwick' which included messuages, lands and common rights, were sold in 1636 by Thomas Charnock and others to Samuel Birch. Samuel Birch owned much of the manor of Ardwick and lived in the largest house within the area and paid more hearth tax than his neighbours due to having seven hearths in his property in 1666 (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 279-81).

Much of the manor of Ardwick remained in the Birch family throughout the 18th century. Samuel Birch (junior) inherited the manor before he died in 1693, leaving a son and heir John, who by his will left a messuage and lands in Upper and Lower Ardwick to his wife Elizabeth, and the remainder to his son Thomas. A younger son, Samuel, also had lands in Lower Ardwick. Thomas Birch rebuilt the manor-house in 1728, but died without issue in 1753. He divided his estates, with his land in Ardwick going to his brother George, with remainders to his nephews Samuel and George, sons of his brother Samuel. He left money for a school at Ardwick (*ibid*).

Land within the vicinity of the site was owned by Samuel Birch (the brother of Thomas Birch) of Lower Ardwick, who gave land to erect a chapel for "the ease and convenience of the inhabitants of Ardwick and Chorlton Row lying remote from the Mother Church of Manchester" in 1740. St Thomas's church was consecrated by the Bishop of Chester in 1741 and lies immediately to the west of the site.

Samuel Birch died in 1757 leaving land to his three sons, which included Thomas, who died without issue in 1781; Samuel, who served in the American War and died in 1811; and George, of Ardwick, who died in 1794, leaving his children, Thomas and Maria. The manors of Upper and Lower Ardwick were left by the will of Thomas Birch, dated 1780, to his brother, Major General Samuel Birch, who sold them in 1795 to William Horridge (Green's map of 1787-94 shows that Major General Birch held a plot of land at the boundary of Ardwick and Ancoats). They changed hands several times, and in 1869 were purchased by Alderman John Marsland Bennett of Ardwick (*ibid*).

The parcel of the estate of Thomas Birch Esq (deceased) in Lower and Upper Ardwick was advertised for sale in 1786 (Manchester Mercury, 05 December 1786). This comprised '*land on the northerly side of Ardwick Green and of the lane leading from Ardwick Green to Ancoats, laid out in lots for building on*' (*ibid*). The advertisement listed various plots of land containing a mixture of fields, pasture, cottages, gardens, orchards and closes of land in the possession of Ann Booth, William Nabb, James Meredith, Ann Turner and lands formerly in the possession of John Peploe Birch Esq '*(now in the possession of John Wood)*'. It also included '*Several Chief or Quit Rents issuing out of lands and buildings in Ardwick and Chorlton Row amounting in the whole to the yearly sum of 200l*' (*ibid*). In addition, five pews in the south aisle and 17 in the old gallery were available in Ardwick Chapel. Chorlton Row lay to the south of Ardwick Green, annotated on Green's map of 1787-94 (Plate 22).

A heritage statement produced by Stephen Levrant Heritage Architecture (2022, p23) notes that two indentures were formed in 1773 and 1777 between Thomas Birch and Elizabeth Whitehead, and between Thomas Birch and Richard Cooper which probably record the period in which Park Inn was constructed, suggesting that Thomas Birch (or the estate's trustees) held land within the site.

The other families which formerly had estates in the township included Byrom, Booth, Entwisle and Strangeways. The land tax return of 1787 shows that the main contributors to the township were Birch, Hyde, Ackers and Tipping, all of whom owned land adjacent to the site in the late 18th century (Farrer

and Brownbill 1911, 278-81). Green's map (Plate 22) notes that Thomas Tipping Esquire owned the fields that bordered the north, north-east and north-west of the Site.

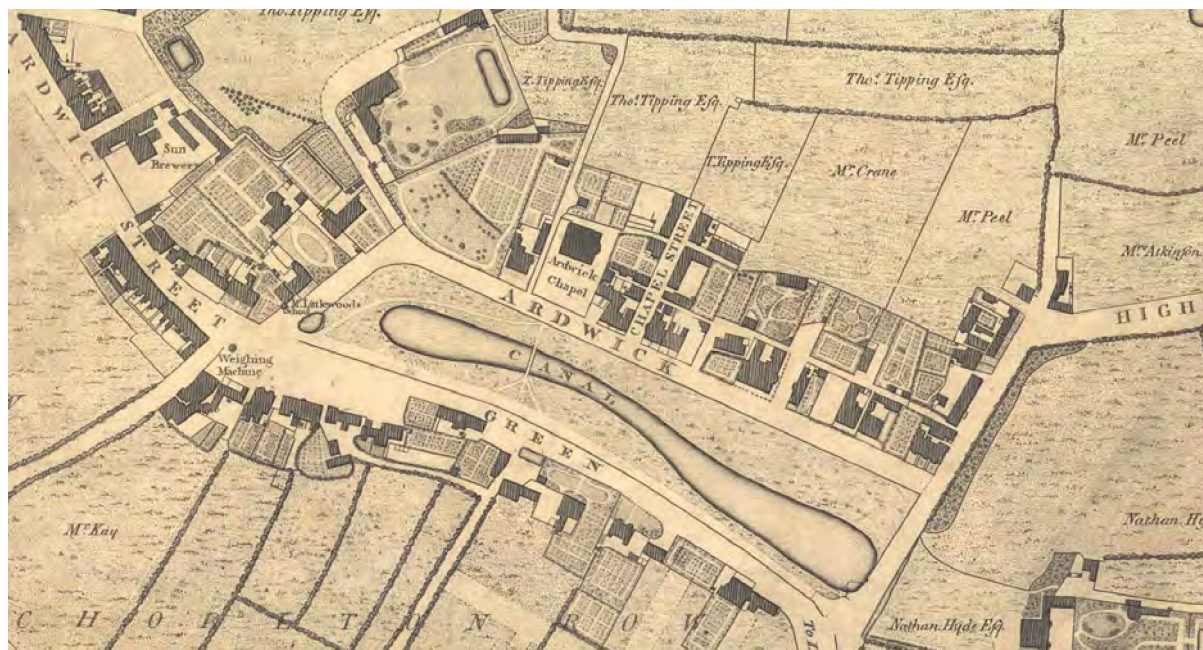


Plate 30 Green's map of 1787-94, showing the area surrounding the Site

Plots of land, houses, and farms were advertised for sale or let throughout the second half of the 18th century. Richard Taylor owned a plot of land at Ardwick Green in the 1760s including a house, a garden, a meadow and pasture field and a barn and shippon (Manchester Mercury, 12 March 1765; Manchester Mercury, 28 April 1767). An article titled 'Building Lease' noted the disposal of land and gardens owned by John Gore Booth esquire in 1776, which included land on the right-hand side of Ardwick Green that was intended to be sold for building upon (Manchester Mercury, 20 January 1778). This plot of land was likely beyond the site.

Several sources were consulted at Manchester Central Library in order to view any estate plans or earlier mapping that may shed light on the former property boundaries pre-dating Green's map of 1787-94 (this included references: GB127.L1/33/3; GB127.M35/1/37/1; GB127.M57/1/19/3; GB127.M159/1/12/7, 12-16, 18-2; GB127.Deeds MC 145; GB127.Deeds MC 147). None of these sources contained plans or maps.

Archive box M159/1/12/ documented the Gartside family property from 1639 to 1785, which had formerly belonged to the Birch family (from a collection of deeds from Slater Heelis of Manchester, solicitors). The document is titled 'The Title to the Ardwick Estate'. It was produced to 'divers messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Upper and Lower Ardwick and Manchester in the county of Lancaster agreed to be sold by Messer Charles Ford and Joseph Tipping as trustees for sale of the estates of John Gartside Esquire to Mr Holland Ackers'. No references to land on or near the streets within the site were identified. The Birch family continued to hold land in Higher Ardwick near to the Lime Works, which was sold to Edward Hall in 1799.

It hasn't been possible to conclusively determine who owned the land within the site during the post-medieval period, though it seems likely that it fell within the lands that were held by the Birch family.

7.2.2. The character of Chapel Street

There doesn't seem to be any available rate books that reference Ardwick Green or Chapel Street in 18th century (*Findmypast*). The rate books for 1800 recorded the residents at Chapel Place, Ardwick, which included Matthew Baldwin, Charles Boardman, Richard Basford, Cenritta Jones and Jonathan Withington (Rate Books, 1804, Chapel Place, Ardwick township, M 10/1/5/68). Several benefactors to the Ladies' Jubilee Charity School lived along Chapel Street, Ardwick in 1811. This included a Mr

Wheelhouse and a Miss Thyer (Manchester Mercury, 15th October 1811).

A newspaper advertised no. 6 Chapel Street, Ardwick Green for auction in 1815 noting the sale of 'valuable household furniture, shop fixtures etc' following the death of an unnamed lady (Manchester Mercury, 28th March 1815). The advertisement suggests that the premise likely functioned (in part) as a shop and that the premise was reasonable. A man named W. C Duffield later occupied no. 6 Chapel Street, Ardwick Green. He ran classical and mathematical education classes for young ladies and gentlemen at their houses (Manchester Guardian, 3rd July 1824). It is not known whether no. 6 Chapel Street lay within the site. It's reasonable to suggest that the properties along Chapel Street weren't occupied by skilled and semi-skilled professionals during the early 19th century.

A three-storey dwelling house with large cellars was advertised for let at Chapel-Street, Ardwick Green in 1837. The property had 'a plot of land' attached, which was noted to be suitable as a playground. The house was noted as being suitable for a boarding-house or school (Manchester Courier, 8th July 1837). It is unclear whether the property described refers to any of the dwellings within the site, although the premise at the junction of Chapel Street and North Street did contain a large garden plot.

John Sorton and George Wrench had likely operated the brewery shown within the site on the 1851 Ordnance Plan (Fig 8). Their partnership was dissolved in 1846 (Manchester Times, 17th October 1846). The Manchester Courier advertised an upcoming auction offered by Mr Royle for the entire 'Valuable Brewing Plant', including barrels, dray, carts, engine, boiler, copper pans, copper and iron pumps, lead and iron piping at Chapel Street Brewery, Ardwick Green (Manchester Courier, 18th August 1864). Almost two years later, another newspaper advertisement promoted the sale of grain at the Chapel Street Brewery. Any interested persons were told to apply to Cox and Cade (Manchester Courier, 6th August 1866). Cox and Cade may have operated the brewery.

7.3. Comparison with other sites

The results of the archaeological excavation at Ardwick Green provide a unique insight into the development of the township of Ardwick during the post-medieval period. The results from the excavation produced an important assemblage of pottery that ranged from the late medieval period (unstratified) to post-medieval period, providing evidence of occupation and activity in an important township, on the outskirts of Manchester. There is currently a limited body of archaeological evidence for post-medieval activity within Manchester's surrounding townships and hamlets, therefore, the results generated from the excavation make a valuable and significant contribution to the archaeological record. The results of the excavation can be compared and contrasted to post-medieval archaeological evidence obtained during investigations at: Chapel Wharf, Salford; Old Granada Studios, Manchester, and; Crown Street, Manchester.

Evidence for the re-use of medieval burgage plot ditches, and post-medieval infill were uncovered during excavations at Chapel Wharf, Salford. This included a regionally important assemblage of post-medieval pottery. In most cases, the medieval pottery from the Chapel Wharf excavation, which is very fragmentary, was found in later plough soils or ditches. The pottery was probably mixed together with manure and other household waste that was used to fertilise the open fields that once covered the site.

The earliest features excavated comprised late medieval relic plough soil, which contained several pottery sherds that ranged in date from the 13th to 18th century. Unlike the features excavated at Ardwick Green, a number of features were cut through the plough soil, one of which represented the remains of a former boundary ditch and similarly contained pottery that spanned from the 13th to 18th century. Several field boundaries are shown to have existed within the site, captured on a map of Salford and Manchester dating to 1650 and on Casson and Berry's plan of 1741 (Plates 2 and 3). The surviving remains of the ditch were substantial, measuring 18.7m long, 1.8m wide and a maximum of 1m deep suggesting that it was previously a large distinctive feature cut within a predominantly rural landscape to demarcate the boundary of a burgage plot. The ditch excavated at Chapel Wharf was much more substantial than those excavated at Ardwick Green.

In addition, a sub-circular large pit cut through the centre of the ditch. The fill of the pit yielded pottery that dated from the 16th to 18th centuries. The form of the cut and morphology of the fill suggested that the remains of the pit represented a refuse pit cut on the outskirts of the town. Several small pits and / or post-holes were excavated through and near to the potential boundary ditch at Ardwick Green.

Most of the remains excavated at Chapel Wharf contained a high proportion of 15th- to 17th-century pottery suggesting an increase in activity during the early post-medieval period. An extract from a plan of Salford and Manchester in 1650 shows that the Chapel Street frontage had been developed up to the north-east edge of the study area. This may imply that the fields saw more activity as they lay closer to the developing town than in the previous period when they lay beyond Salford's medieval core. Ardwick Green was a small hamlet and similarly would have witnessed more activity throughout the post-medieval period, with most of the site being developed by the late 18th century.

Similarly, archaeological investigations at Old Granada Studios in the St John's area of Manchester also exposed areas of relict soils with features, such as ditches, pits and plough scars cut into the soils rather than overlaying them (Mottershead and Harvey 2019). The presence of the relict plough soil and plough scars is a rare survival from preindustrial Manchester, a time when much of the built-up areas of Manchester and Salford we know now were farmed fields with small farms and settlements dispersed across the landscape. The plough soils uncovered on the site contained 16th- to 18th-century pottery and clay pipe, similar to relict soil (004) excavated at Ardwick Green. By the late 18th century houses were being built and street patterns laid out across the area and much of the former agricultural land began to be used as kitchen gardens.

Archaeological investigations at Crown Street in 2018 also revealed the vestiges of a relict agricultural soil (103), which yielded a single sherd of Midlands Purple-type pottery, with a date range spanning the 16th and 17th centuries (Salford Archaeology 2018). The absence of any later material in the layer suggests that it may have been sealed by the first development of the area in the early 19th century. It seems likely that until that date, the site was used solely for agricultural purposes. The late 18th-century houses at Ardwick Green similarly sealed relict soil (004) within the site.

More recently, remains of a post-medieval shoe (16th-century) were excavated within a large pond-type feature (that pre-dates Green's 18th-century map) at the adjacent plot of land, at the junction of the A56 and Great Jackson Street, Manchester (Civic Heritage, report upcoming). Although the site currently falls within Manchester, it previously lay within the township of Hulme. The archaeology recovered from this site provides another fascinating insight into the post-medieval landscape and field patterns before the industrial transformation of Castlefield, Manchester. The results of these excavations contribute to a greater understanding of post-medieval field patterns, pottery assemblages and settlement activity in Manchester and Salford, and the surrounding townships and hamlets.

The footprint of the 18th-century property excavated at Ardwick Green can be compared to other properties of the same period that have been excavated within Manchester Salford. Among the early discoveries for structural remains in Salford, were the well-preserved cellars of two separate buildings on the Chapel Street frontage, excavated at Gore Street, that were first shown on Casson and Berry's map of 1745. The most complete cellar measured 4.5m by 3m, with the southern wall incorporating the foundation for a bow window. Handmade bricks laid in a herringbone pattern paved the floor, with a large brick-built fireplace and chimney breast surviving against the east wall. Being cellared, the 18th-century remains uncovered at Gore Street survived in much better condition than those excavated at Ardwick Green (Cattrell 2017; Harvey and Mottershead 2018; Harvey and Burns 2017). However, both houses are comparable in that they were better built than many workers' houses excavated throughout Salford and Manchester. The remains of the excavated house at Ardwick Green had substantial foundations and walls over 0.24m wide, including the party walls. The internal floorplan of the building measured 4.253m (13ft 11in) x 4.463m (14ft 7in), occupying a larger footprint than room excavated at Gore Street.

Frederick Engels noted the poor construction methods and lack of materials used to build some of the worst types of housing so that private developers could make economies where possible. The body of

archaeological evidence gathered from sites around Manchester and Salford supports the historical documents and demonstrates that a single-skin wall divided poorer built houses. This may suggest that the houses at Ardwick Green were of better built.

8. Conclusions

8.1. Key Results

In summary, the archaeological excavation has successfully addressed the aims set out in the Project Design. The investigation has provided a detailed record of archaeological remains present on the site. The earliest identifiable remains relate to boundaries, defining house plots or fields, which were laid out in the early post-medieval period. Pottery recovered from the ditch fills suggests these boundary features were established in the 16th century and fell out of use by the 18th century. The primary fills of the ditches produced medieval pottery and early post-medieval finds (17th-century glazed red earthenware, Rainford/Cistercian Ware and Midlands/North-West purple ware), which together constitute an important contextual group of finds and give some indication of when the boundary ditches were first laid out. Finds from the later ditch contexts span the late 17th and early 18th century, including slipware and stoneware and overlying contexts contain material that indicates deposit into the 18th century and potentially the early 19th century.

The ditches identified clearly defined long-lasting boundaries associated with the ownership of the land. The north-east/south-west boundary ditch was respected by a length of yard wall shown on Green's map. Later buildings are aligned to this property boundary. The north-west/south-east ditch corresponds closely to the northern extent of a row of buildings shown on Green's map.

The earliest structural remains identified in Trench 1 correspond to a row of buildings first depicted on Laurent's 1793 and Green's 1787-94 maps (Fig 6). The row of buildings comprised four or five properties. Access was likely afforded along a passageway to the south-west.

The general configuration buildings established in the late 18th century was retained into the 19th century but with several notable additions. The former gardens in the north-western corner of the site were built over by St Thomas' Sunday School in 1830. Small outbuildings were established in the yard to the south and west of the brewery; part of one of these outbuildings, represented by wall [022] was partially exposed within Trench 1. Retention of this earlier wall within a later structure was confirmed by comparison of the recorded structural relationships on-site and historic mapping.

The 18th-century housing stock survived well into the 20th century. However, much of the former gardens associated with the earliest documented buildings were built over. In the north-western corner of the site, a large garden shown on Green's map was built over by a Sunday School, associated with St Thomas' church. The foundations of this large, cellared building – depicted on the historic mapping and shown on an aerial photograph from 1949 – effectively removed any earlier archaeology from within its footprint. In other areas of the site, which were retained as yards or walkways from the 18th century onwards, the survival of pre-industrial-era features remained much higher.

8.1.1. Initiatives

Several key initiatives in the current North-West Archaeological Research Framework have been addressed during the archaeological investigation (NWERRF 2021):

PM01: How can we develop Post-Medieval ceramic typologies and identify differences across social strata, rural and urban environments and the regions in the North West?

The group of ceramic finds and associated artefactual from the site but particularly from the stratified contexts within the ditches and the overlying soils material provide a useful indication of the vessel types and wares of pottery being used within Ardwick in the post-medieval period.

PM15: How well recorded and understood are farming landscapes, field patterns, distributions of

buildings and building types?

The excavation has provided a valuable and rare insight into post-medieval activity within the hamlet of Ardwick. The results of the archaeological excavation contribute to a growing body of material that is building a picture of settlement patterns and land use before the industrial revolution on the outskirts of Manchester.

8.1.2. Significance

The recovery of stratified medieval and post-medieval finds from Ardwick represents an important contribution to the corpus of material recovered from this area and Manchester as a whole.

The remains excavated within the Site are likely to be of medium significance (ICOMOS, 2011).

8.1.3. Dissemination

The project archive comprises site drawings, context sheets, digital scans and surveys and photographs. A copy of this report will ultimately be deposited with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service.

A short summary of the results has been published in an appropriate academic journal.

9. Archive

The results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards and in line with current ClfA guidelines (updated 2023).

The archaeological excavation has been accessioned to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record as EGM5746.

OASIS No: civicher1-532763.

10. Acknowledgements

Civic Heritage would like to thank AEDI Construction and specifically Matthew Watts for commissioning and facilitating the fieldwork. Thanks, are also expressed to Ian Miller of Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) for monitoring the work. The role of Site Director(s) during evaluation and excavation was fulfilled by Mandy Stanton, who was assisted by Jenny Addis, Richard Carter and Lucia Percy. The report was written by Oliver Cook and the finds assessment and recommendations by Jeremy Bradley. The report was reviewed by Katie Fletcher and the illustrations were produced by Richard Ker. Thanks are given to Lucia Percy for compiling the project archive.

11. Bibliography

11.1. Primary Sources - Maps

Laurent's map of Manchester 1793

Green's map of Manchester, 1787-94

Bancks & Co's map of Manchester and Salford, 1831

Ordnance Survey 1:1056 Town Plan of 1851

Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan of 1891

11.2. Newspapers

Manchester Mercury, 12 March 1765

Manchester Mercury, 28 April 1767

Manchester Mercury, 20 January 1778

Manchester Mercury, 05 December 1786

Manchester Mercury, 15th October 1811

Manchester Mercury, 28th March 1815

Manchester Guardian, 3rd July 1824

Manchester Courier, 8th July 1837

Manchester Times, 17th October 1846

Manchester Courier, 18th August 1864

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Appendix 1 – Context List

Context	Description		Dimensions	Spot Date
001	Natural	Moderately compact light-yellow coarse sand with natural gravel and pebble inclusions	-	
002	Natural	Possible natural – firm yellow / grey clay		
003	Natural	Possible natural – firm yellow / grey clay	-	
004	Layer	Relict soil – a loose, light reddish brown to greyish brown silty sand	-	1c
005	Cut	Ditch, linear shape in plan, U-shaped profile, orientation NNE/SSW, filled by (049), (006)	20m (l) x 1.28m (w), 0.30m (d)	1a
006	Fill	Fill of ditch [005]; firm light to mid brownish grey, sandy clay with sub-rounded pebbles	1.28m (w), 0.12m (t)	1a
007	Cut	Sub-circular post-hole, steep-sided, rounded base, filled by (008)	0.33m x 0.30m, 0.15m (d)	1b
008	Fill	Fill of possible post-hole [007]; compact, mid reddish brown clay with charcoal flecks and infreq. sub-rounded pebbles	0.15m (t)	1b
009	Cut	Oval post-hole, gradual sloping sides becoming convex and steep-sided	0.34m x 0.36m, 0.23m (d)	1b
010	Fill	Fill of possible post-hole [009]; firm pinkish purple, clay, well sorted stone inclusions	0.23m (t)	1b
011	Cut	Circular post-hole, cut into ditch fill (006); very shallow / ephemeral	0.20m x 0.20m, 0.01m (t)	1b
012	Fill	Fill of post-hole [011]; firm light grey sandy clay with flecks of charcoal	0.01m (t)	1b
013	Cut	Square post-hole, one gradual sloping side and one steeper side, giving way to flat base. Shape in plan at its base: circular.	0.20m x 0.20m, 0.09m (d)	1b
014	Fill	Fill of post-hole [013], firm mid brownish grey sandy clay, no inclusions	0.09m (t)	1b
015	Structure	Brick wall (four brick widths wide)	6.70m (l), 0.63m (w), 0.90m (d)	2a
016	Structure	Brick wall (three brick widths wide)	1.60m (l), 0.36m (w)	2a
017	Structure	Brick wall (four brick widths wide)	1.74m (l), 0.45m (w)	2a

018	Structure	Brick wall (single skin)	1.62m (l), 0.30m (w), 0.19-65m (h)	1d
019	Structure	Brick wall (two brick widths wide)	4.43m (l), 0.23m (w), 0.18m (h)	1d
020	Structure	Stone (flags) below modern wall	-	1d
021	Structure	Brick wall (two to three brick widths wide)	4.10m (l), 0.35m (w), 0.45m (h)	2b
022	Structure	Brick wall (three brick widths wide)	1m (l), 0.11m (w), 0.04m (h)	2a
023	Structure	Brick wall (two brick widths wide)	0.94m (l), 0.21m (w)	3
024	Structure	Three-sided (single-skin) brick structure	0.80m x 0.91m	3
025	Structure	Brick wall (single skin)	1.17m (l), 0.50m (w), 0.27m (h)	3
026	Structure	Brick wall (single skin), parallel to [022]	3.86m (l), 0.11-23m (w), 0.4m (h)	1d
027	Structure	Brick wall (single skin), abutting wall [026]	0.6m (l), 0.12m (w), 0.23m (h)	1d
028	Structure	Brick wall (three to four brick widths wide)	4.55 (l), 0.8m (w), 0.7m (h)	1d – rebuild / repair 2c
029	Structure	Brick wall (two brick widths wide), located at the NW end of wall [028]	-	
030	Structure	Brick wall (three brick widths wide), east side of brick floor [031]	2.38m (l) x 0.34m (w)	2a
031	Structure	Part of a brick floor surface, western side of wall [030]	2.60m (NE/SW) x 1.50m (NW/SE), 0.07m (t)	2a
032	Structure	Brick wall (two brick widths wide)	0.92m (l), 0.24m (w)	2c
033	Structure	L-shaped (single skin) brick wall, south of wall [032]	0.48-84m (l), 0.11m (w)	2c
034	Structure	Brick wall (two brick widths wide), south of wall [022]	5.52m (l), 0.48m (w), 0.65m (d)	1d – rebuild 2b
035	Structure	Stone-flagged floor, south of wall [034]	2.14m (l), 0.95m (w), 0.05m (t)	1d
036	Cut	Sub-oval shape in plan, concave eastern side with a sharp break of slope, leading to a concave base; convex western side becoming near vertical; sharp break of slope to a concave base; filled by (037)	1.14m (l), 0.92m (w) x 0.82m (d)	1b
037	Fill	Fill of pit [036]; firm, mid greyish brown, fine sandy clay with fragmented brick, coal, charcoal and mortar inclusions; finds: pot, bone, CTP	0.82m (t)	1b
038	Cut	Irregularly shaped pipe trench (pipe removed)	4.47m (l) x 0.50m (w)	2c / 3
039	Fill	Fill of cut [038]	-	2c / 3
040	Cut	Linear cut for drain through ditch fill (006) (pipe removed)	-	2c

041	Fill	Fill of drain cut [040]	-	2c - Late 18 th – early 19 th century
042	Layer	Yellow clay, north of structure [028] and east of structure [019]	Approx. 3.2m x 1.36m	-
043	Layer	Demolition deposit overlying brick floor [031], comprising loose very dark greyish black gritty sand with brick, stone and coal inclusions	2.60 x 1.50m, 0.20m (t)	2c / 3- Early to mid-19 th century
044	Layer	Demolition layer overlying all of the SW end of the trench; loose, very dark grey, coarse sand, fragmented brick, stone	Approx. 0.70m (t)	4
045	Structure	Brick wall and stone threshold	1.62m (l), ___ (w), 0.13m (h)	2c
046	Structure	Brick wall atop [045]	-	2c / 3
047	Deposit	Deposit between walls [032]/[033]	0.52m x 0.45m, approx. 0.18m (t)	2c
048	Fill	Upper fill of ditch [005], above fill [006]	Intermittent spread Approx. 0.07m (t)	1c - Post-medieval 16 th to mid-18 th cent
049	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [005] below [006] (intervention 1); firm, mid grey sandy clay, occasional stone inclusions and charcoal	1.04m (w), 0.18m (d)	1a - Medieval (coal measures ware)
050	Fill	Fill below [006] (intervention 2); firm, light orange, grey, silty clay; occasional charcoal flecking; lower fill of ditch [005]	1.28m (w), 0.18m (t)	1a - NCD (CBM and burnt bone)
051	Fill	Fill of [052] (intervention 2), loose, dark greyish brown, clayey silt, charcoal flecks, stone inclusions	0.76m (w), 0.13m (t)	1b
052	Cut	Recut of ditch (intervention 2), linear shape in plan, U-shape in plan, filled by (051)	1.00m (excavated length), 0.76m (w), 0.13m (d)	1b
053	Cut	Cut of modern pipe trench	0.55m (w), 0.06m (d)	
054	Fill	Fill of [053] pipe trench; loose, dark black sandy clay, charcoal inclusions, fragmented brick	0.55m (w), 0.06m (t)	2c/3
055	VOID	VOID	VOID	
056	Fill	Silting within cut [ditch 005] (intervention 2); loose, light orangey brown sandy clay, stone inclusions	0.46m (w), 0.08m (t)	1a
057	Cut	Cut of post-hole; rectangular shape in plan, steep sided, near vertical north-western side, and irregular south-eastern side. Flat base. Filled by (060), (061)	0.54m x 0.49m, 0.21m (d)	1b

058	Cut	Oval-shaped post-hole; filled by (059) truncated by [057]; located to the south-west of wall [019]	0.46m x 0.38m, 0.23m (d)	1b
059	Fill	Fill of post-hole [058]; firm, dark reddish brown clay, occasional sandstone inclusions; cut by [057]	0.23m (t)	1b
060	Fill	Fill of [057], friable, dark greyish brown, silty clay, charcoal flecks, sandstone inclusions, fragments of brick	0.54m x 0.49m, 0.11m (t)	1b
061	Fill	Fill of [057], plastic-firm, mid greyish brown with orange redeposited clay fragments, silty clay, charcoal flecks	0.54m x 0.49m, 0.13m (t)	1b
062	Cut	Sub oval-shaped pit, sharp break of slope at the top with straight sides leading to a flat base; filled by (063)	0.86m (l), 0.76m (w), 0.20m (t)	1b
063	Fill	Fill of pit [062]; very firm, mid to light brownish grey sandy clay, charcoal flecks, stone inclusions	0.20m (t)	1b
064	Fill	Fill of linear ditch [005] (intervention 3), friable, light greyish brown, silty clay with stone inclusions, charcoal flecks and clay	0.70m (w), 0.35m (t)	1a/ b
065	Fill	Fill of pit [066]; firm dark greyish brown, silty clay, occasional small to medium rounded stone inclusions, moderate charcoal flecking	0.55m (w), 0.25m (t)	1b
066	Cut	Pit (viewed in section, western corner of site), bowl-shaped in section	0.53m (w), 0.25m (d)	1b
067	Fill	Fill of ditch [005] (intervention 4)	1.57m (w), 0.12m (t)	1a- 16 th – early 17 th
068	Fill	Fill of ditch [005] (intervention 5), firm mid greyish blue clay with stone inclusions; infreq. charcoal flecks, finds: pot	8m (l), 2m (w)	1a
069	Fill	Fill of ditch [005] (intervention 5); firm, mid greyish brown with yellowish-orange degraded sandstone, silty clay	1.75m (exc. length), 0.77m (w), 0.21m (t)	1a
070	Fill	Fill of [005]; soft light bluish grey clay (=same as 068) infreq. stone inclusions	Approx. 2m (l), 0.85m (w), 0.19m (t)	1a
071	Cut	Cut of v. small pit [071]; v-shaped profile	0.12m (w), 0.09m (d)	1b
072	Fill	Fill of small pit [071]; loose, dark blackish brown silty clay, moderate charcoal flecking	0.12m (w), 0.09m (t)	1b
073	Fill	Dark grey deposit overlying (068) (intervention 4); loose, dark grey friable sand with	1.5m (l), 1.20m (w), 0.37m (t)	1b

		frequent orange clay inclusions; upper fill of ditch		
074	Deposit	Layer of pebbles above (073) visible in section above infilled ditch [005]	1.47m (w), 0.17m (t)	1b
075	Cut	(Assigned post-ex); recut of ditch [005], filled by (070)	-	1a
076	Cut	Individual cut number assigned to [005] intervention 5 / drawing 21	-	1a
077	Cut	Individual cut number assigned to [005] intervention 4 / drawing 19	-	1a
078	Cut	Individual cut number assigned to [005] intervention 2 / drawing 13	-	1a
079	Cut	Individual cut number assigned to [005] intervention 3 / drawing 15	-	1a
080	Cut	Individual cut number assigned to [005] intervention 1 / drawing 8	-	1a
081	Cut	Supposed recut of east/west arm of ditch, housing fill 073	-	1b
082	Deposit	Clay capping of ditches, firm light yellowish brown silty clay	-	1b
083	Cut	Cut of ephemeral circular post-hole revealed at the base of Ditch F1	-	1a
084	Fill	Fill of post-hole [084]	-	1a
085	Fill	Pebbly deposit within cut [077]	-	1a
086	Structure	Wall of the Sunday School exposed in section	-	2a
087	Structure	Blocked doorway in wall [086]	-	3

Context	Description		Dimensions	Spot Date
200	Natural	Moderately compact light brownish orange coarse sand with natural gravel and pebble inclusions	3.97 x 2.1m (extent), 1.30m (exposed thickness)	-
201	Fill	Backfill deposit of demolition cut [202]: dark blackish brown sandy silt with stone inclusions and brick rubble	3.97m (l) x 4.4m (w) x 2.9m (t)	4
202	Cut	Machine-excavated demolition cut, square footprint following the extent of the Park Inn. Vertical sides, flat base.	3.97m (l) x 0.48m (w) x 2.9m (d)	1d
203	Fill	Backfill deposit of demolition cut [202]:	3.97m (l), 0.46m (w)	1d
204	Structure	Brick wall, English garden wall bond, sandy lime mortar, handmade brick	3.3m (l), 0.26m (w), 0.48m (d)	1d

Appendix 2 – Fig List

Fig 1 – Site Location

Fig 2 – Strip, Map and Record Areas shown on Modern Mapping

Fig 3 – Trench 1

Fig 4 – Selected Sections, Trench 1

Fig 5 – Trench 2

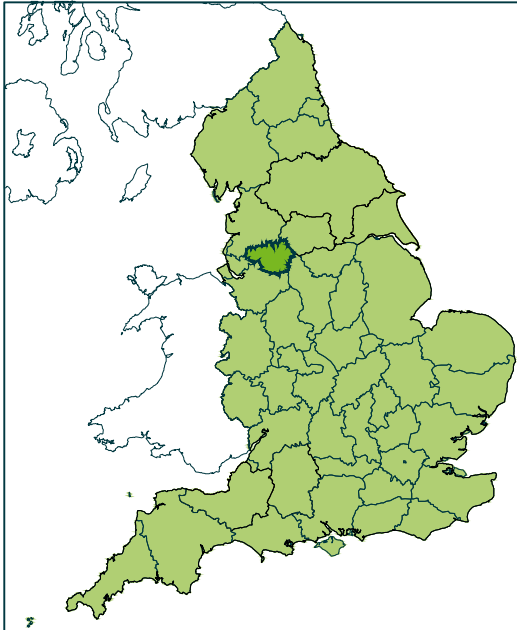
Fig 6 – Trenches 1 and 2 superimposed onto Green's map of 1787-94

Fig 7 – Trenches 1 and 2 superimposed onto Bancks and Co.'s Map of 1831

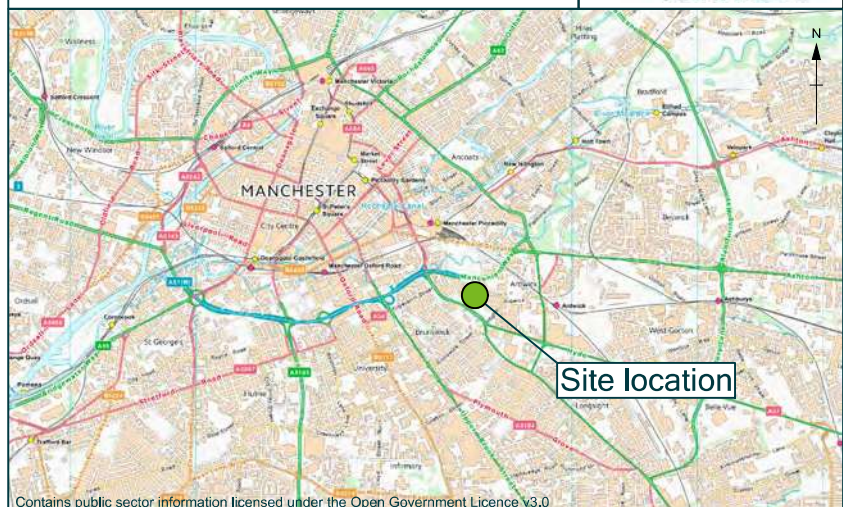
Fig 8 – Trenches 1 and 2 superimposed onto the 1851 Town Plan

Fig 9 – Trenches 1 and 2 superimposed onto the 1891 Town Plan

CIVIC



Site Name: Ardwick Green, Manchester
 Project Code: 61017
 Figure one: Site location



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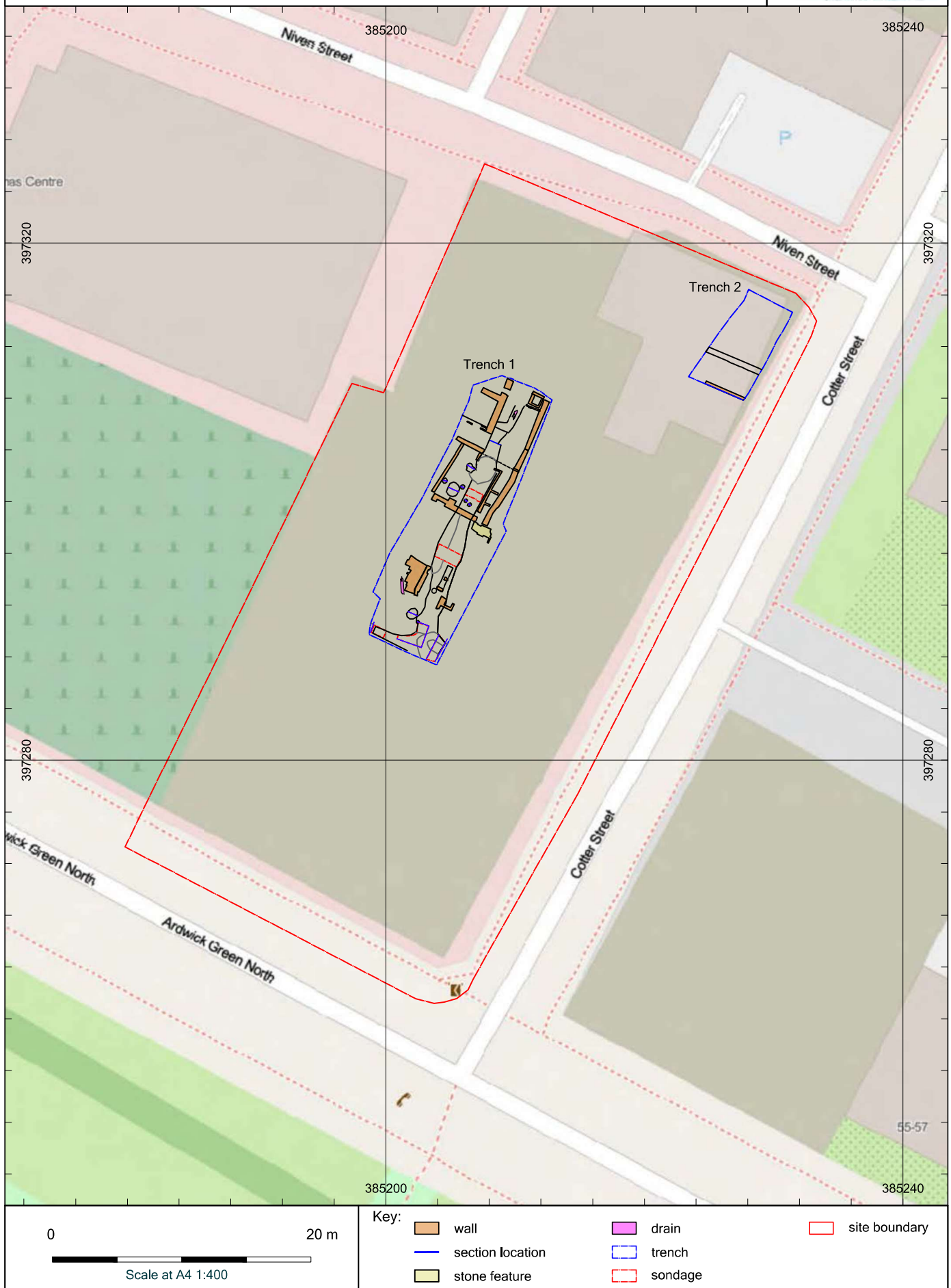
Ardwick Green, Manchester

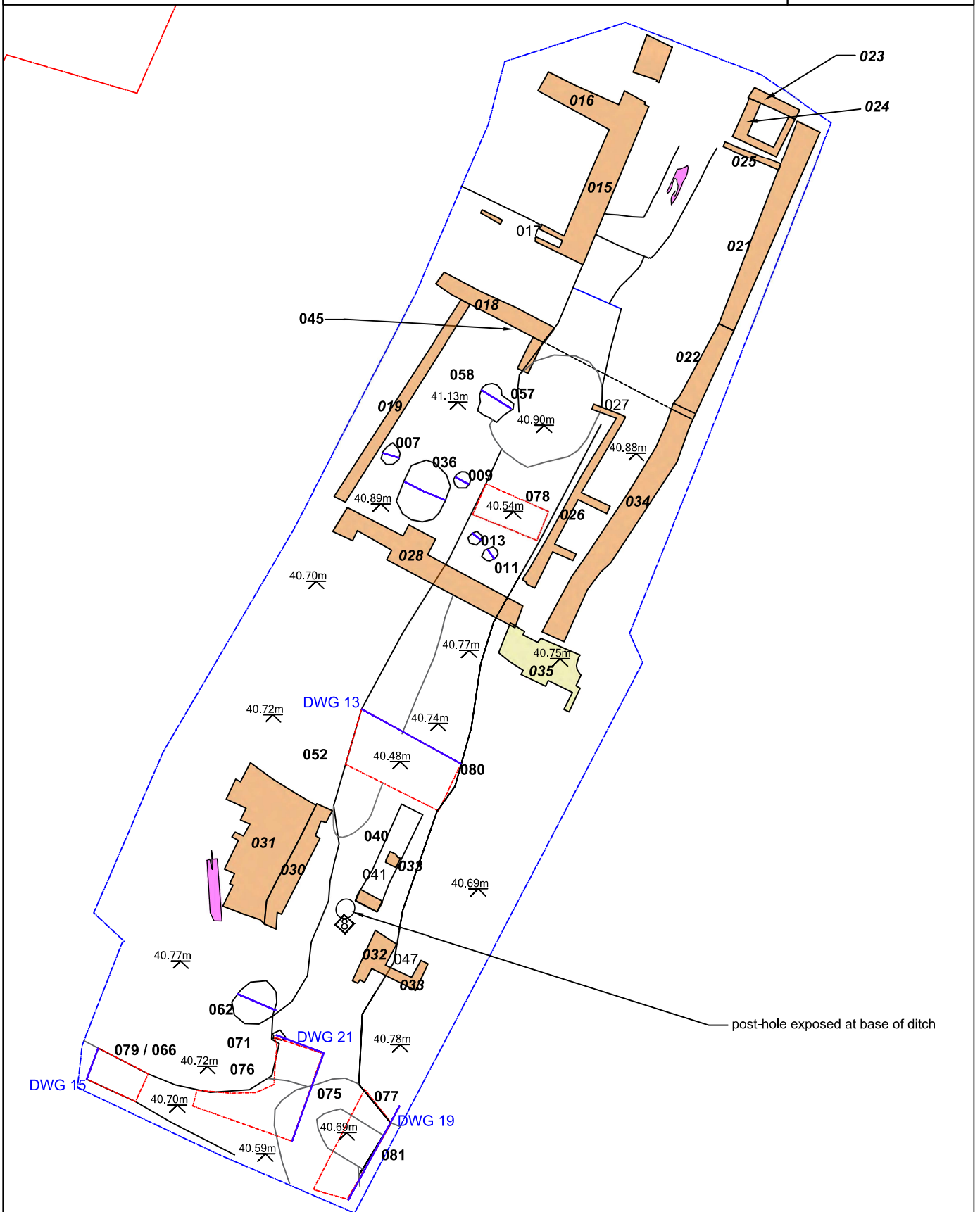
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Figure 2: strip, map and record areas shown on modern mapping



CIVIC
HERITAGE



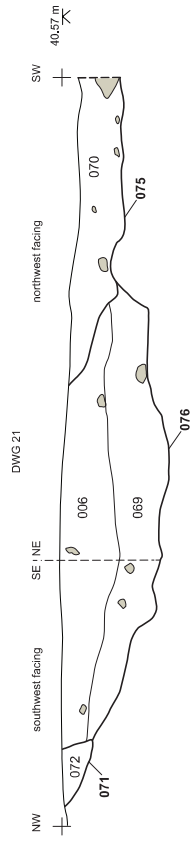
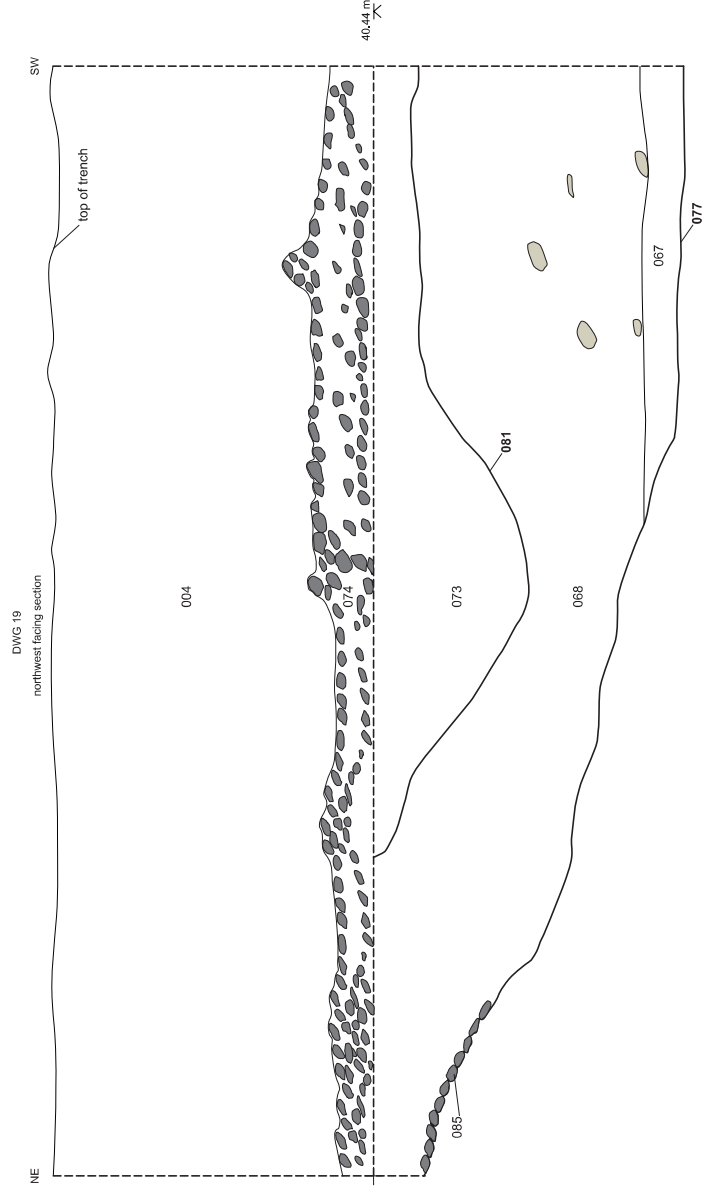
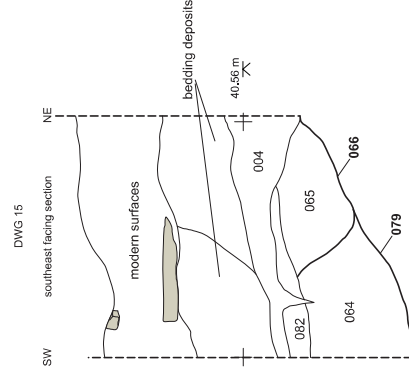
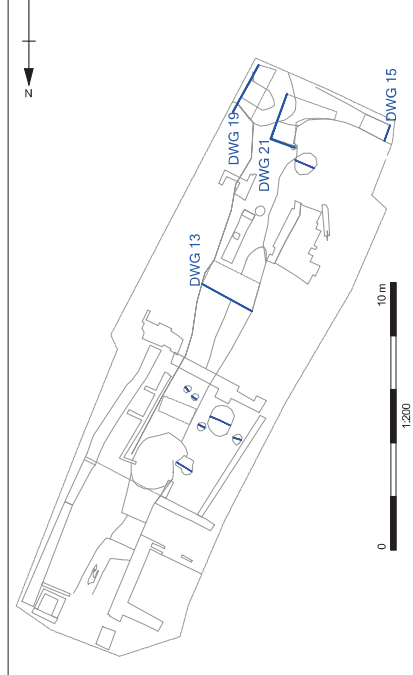


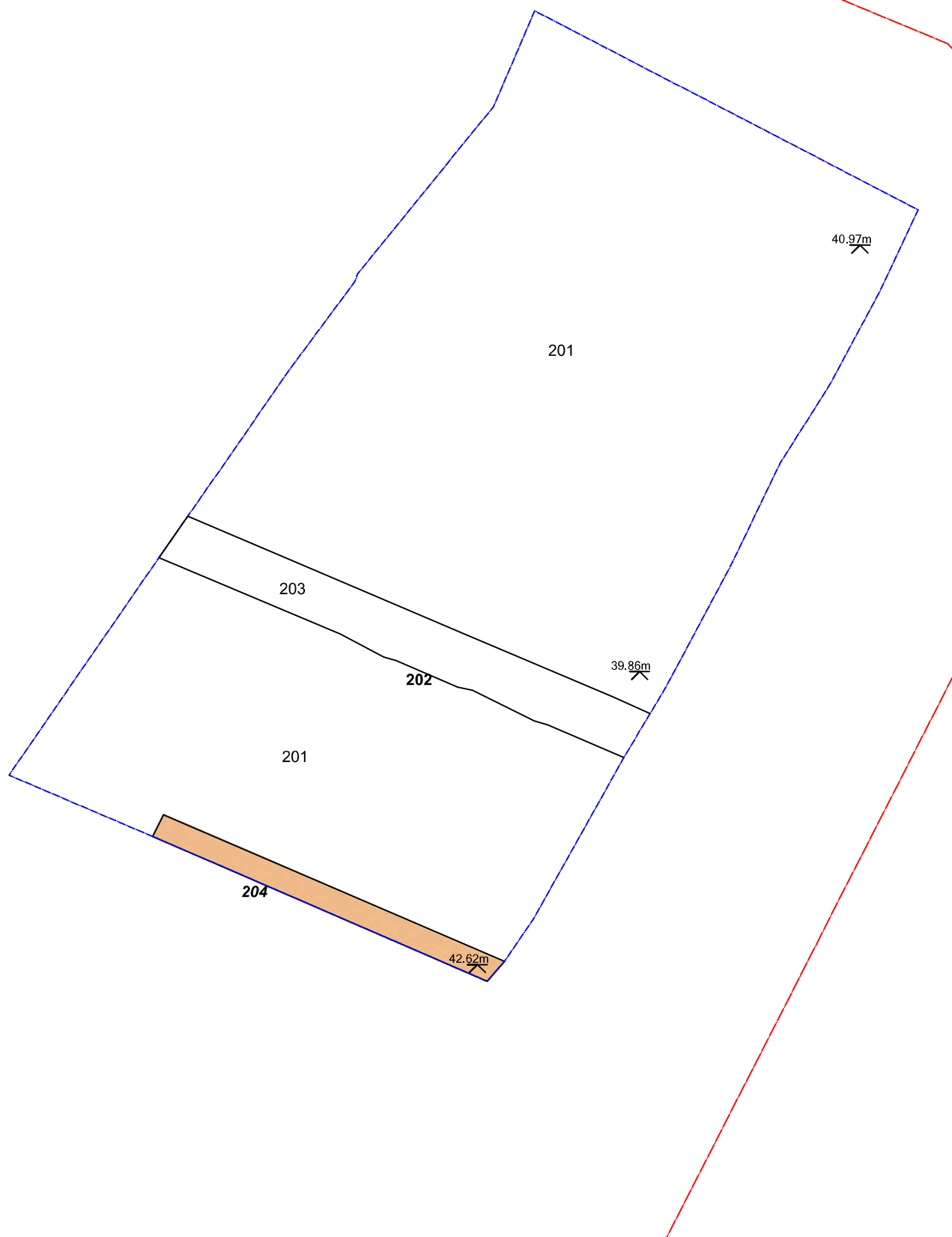
Key:

 wall
 section location
 stone feature

 drain
 trench
 sondage

 site boundary

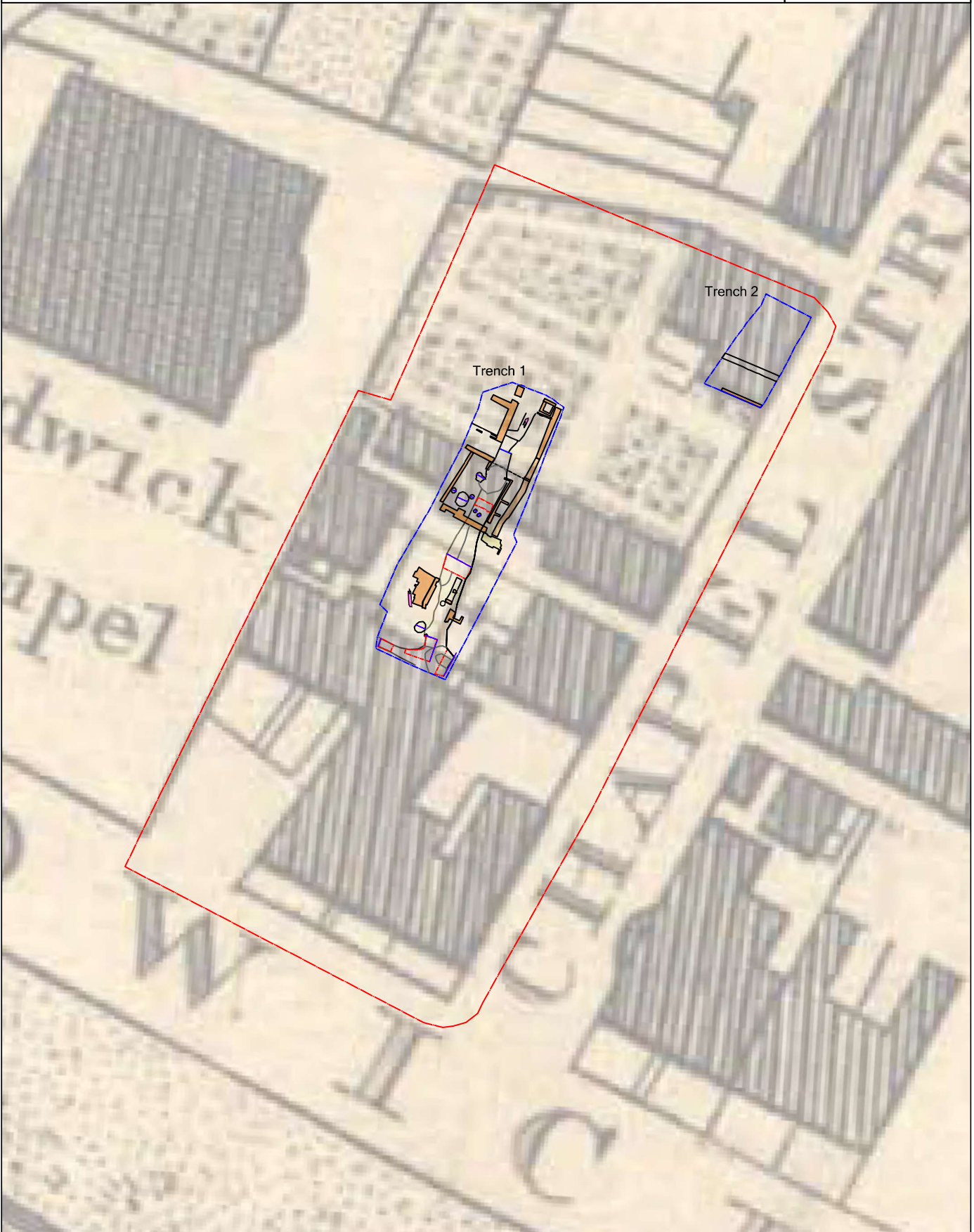




0 2 m
Scale at A4 1:50

Key:

- wall
- site boundary
- trench



0

20 m



Scale at A4 1:400

Key:

wall

section location

stone feature

drain

trench

sondage

site boundary



0

20 m



Scale at A4 1:400

Key:

■ wall

— section location

■ stone feature

■ drain

■ trench

■ sondage

□ site boundary



0

20 m



Scale at A4 1:400

Key:

wall

section location

stone feature

drain

trench

sondage

site boundary



0

20 m



Scale at A4 1:400

Key:

wall

section location

stone feature

drain

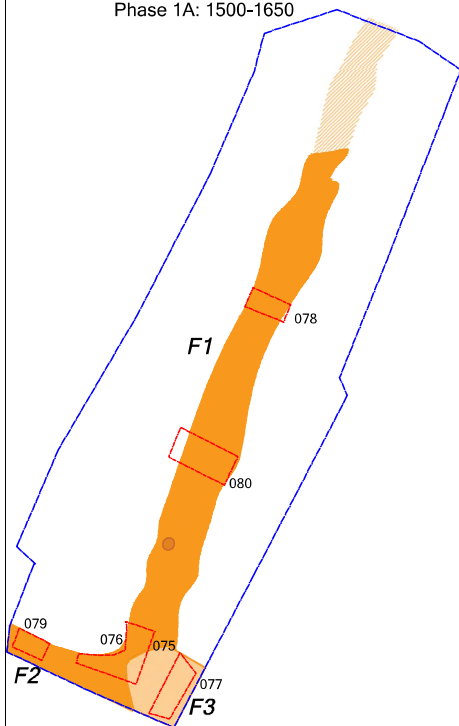
trench

sondage

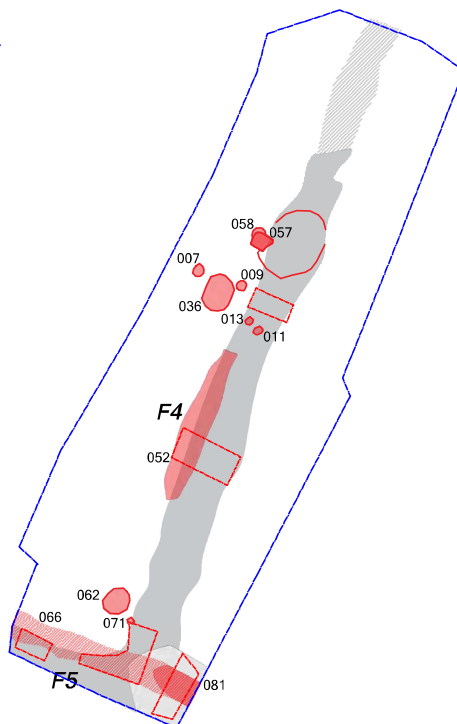
site boundary



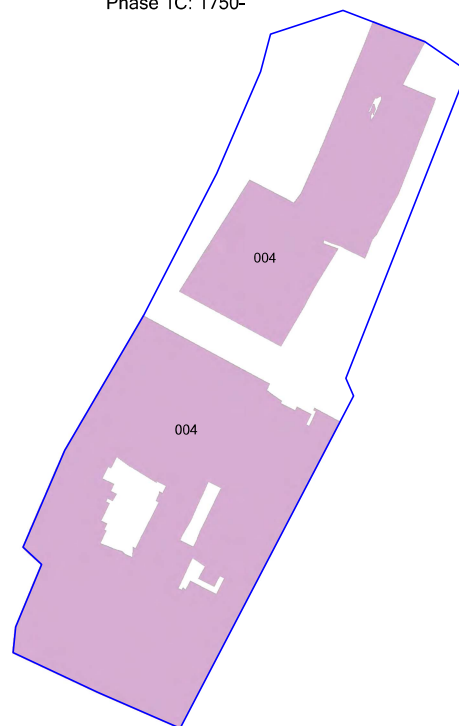
Phase 1A: 1500-1650



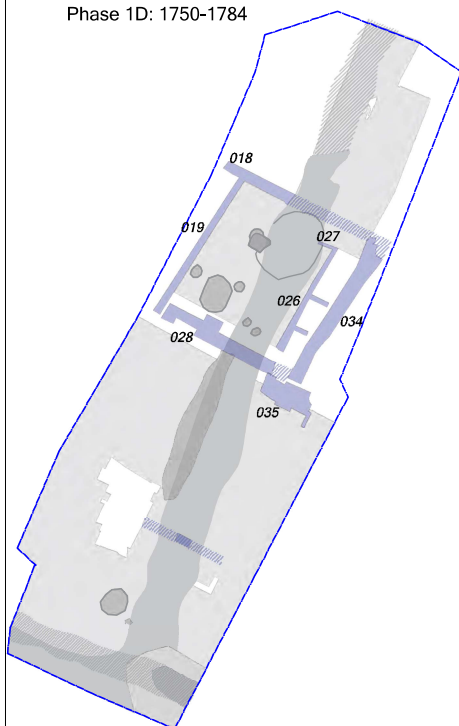
Phase 1B: 1650-1750



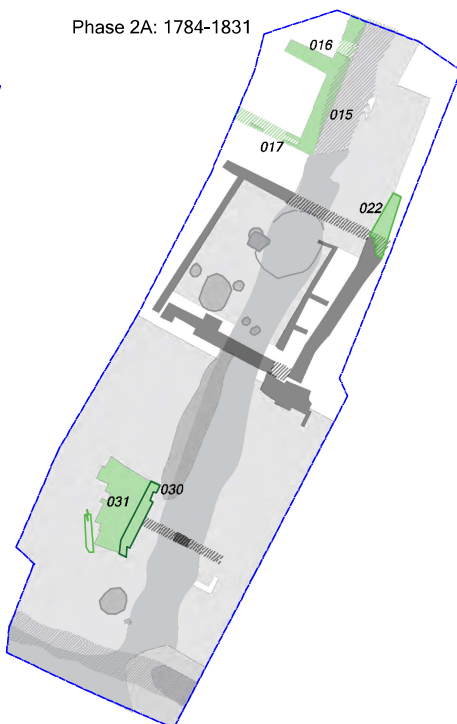
Phase 1C: 1750-



Phase 1D: 1750-1784



Phase 2A: 1784-1831

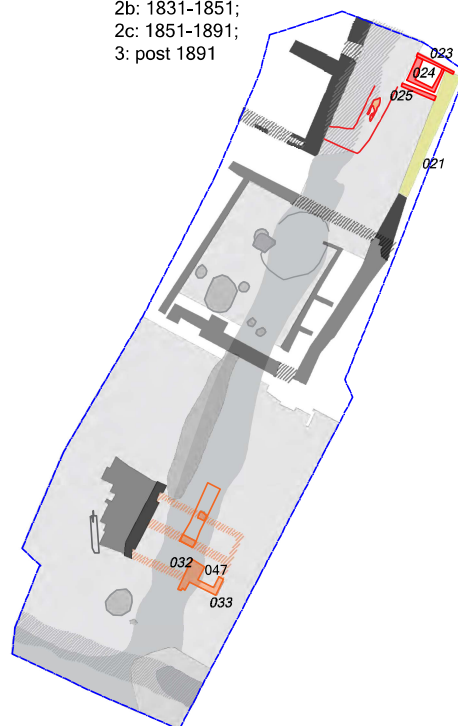


Phases

2b: 1831-1851;

2c: 1851-1891;

3: post 1891



0 10 m

Key:

Phase 1A
Phase 1B
Phase 1C

Phase 1D
Phase 2A
Phase 2B

Phase 2C
Phase 3