

Ferrous (Land South of Chapelton Street), Manchester

Project Design: Excavation

MARCH 2024

PREPARED FOR

Capital and Centric



Project Design

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

1.1.1. Overview of the Site

The site comprises a roughly triangular parcel of land to the south of Chapeltown Street (Fig 1; SJ 85219 98064). During the course of the 19th century much of the land within the site was developed as an iron foundry with and workers' housing constructed to the north-east of the factory. The foundry comprised a series of buildings constructed around a central courtyard.

1.1.2. Planning Background

Capital and Centric have received consent for a planning application to redevelop the vacant parcel of land (centred on: SJ 85219 98064).

The archaeological potential of the site was first formally acknowledged in 2021, in an archaeological desk-based assessment by Archaeological Research Services Ltd. (Chapeltown Street, Manchester: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment October 2021). This document outlined the chronological development of the site. It also highlighted that the site held potential for below-ground remains.

In light of the conclusions drawn from the desk-based assessment, and following consultation with the advisory body, then the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU), it was recommended that a programme of evaluation precede any development. The evaluation was undertaken by Salford Archaeology in 2022 and identified significant archaeological remains within the site, relating to several phases of the foundry buildings and remains of casting pits, which were cut into the underlying boulder clay.

In light of the results of the evaluation, the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) recommended a further phase of mitigation be undertaken to fully excavate and record the remains.

This Project Design for an archaeological excavation has been prepared by Oliver Cook of Civic Heritage on behalf of Capital and Centric. Any change to the Project Design must be agreed between the client, GMAAS and Civic Heritage.

1.2. Setting

1.2.1. Location

The 0.14ha site lies adjacent to Capital and Centric's Phoenix building on Chapeltown Street, Ancoats. It is situated to the north-west of the Manchester to Ashton-under-Lyne Metrolink line, north-east of the Phoenix building, south-west of Chapeltown Street and south-west of a small carpark situated between the site and Great Ancoats Street.



Plate 1: Recent satellite image of the site, showing the red line development boundary; Great Ancoats Street lies to the north-east of the development site

1.2.2. Geology

The solid geology of the site is formed of Chester Formation sandstone (BGS 2025). The solid geology is overlain by superficial deposits of till (boulder clay) (BGS 2025), whilst at a distance to the south of the site lies a band of alluvium, which has been deposited within the floodplain of the River Medlock.

1.3. Proposed Development

1.3.1. Planning Application

A consented scheme for the erection of a 15-storey building to form 107 apartments together with residential amenity facilities, associated ground floor cycle storage, two ground floor commercial units, multipurpose events Pavilion, associated landscaping to site perimeter and rooftop PV panels.

1.4. Recommended Activity and Scope

1.4.1. Recommended Activity

The consented scheme will involve some level of landscaping and earthmoving activity, which have the potential to cause loss or damage to any below-ground remains surviving within the site. To mitigate against the impact caused by the development, it is proposed that an archaeological excavation be undertaken to fully record the remains of the foundry within the middle of the development site.

This approach to mitigating against the loss or damage to heritage assets and potential

heritage assets of archaeological interest follows the guidance of NPPF (Paragraph 218).

1.4.2. Scope

The scope of the mitigation will include one open-area excavation. The excavation will be targeted on features shown on the historic mapping which coincide with parts of the site earmarked for development.

The archaeological excavation shall be fully implemented in accordance with the approved Project Design (formerly referred to as a 'Written Scheme of Investigation') as stated in planning documentation (CIfA 2023).

2. Historical Background

2.1. Development of the Site

The archaeological potential for the site was highlighted in a desk-based assessment produced by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (Chapeltown Street, Manchester: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment October 2021).

Based upon examination of historical maps it is indicated that the area of interest was formerly occupied by an iron foundry and terraced housing named Whittaker's buildings. The Whittaker's buildings and iron foundry date to the mid-19th century and were occupied by a number of Irish immigrants according to census information. Later maps show the demolition of the Whittaker's buildings during the early 20th-century. Likely, demolition was due to the outlawing of back-to-back dwellings and further legislation on the converting of existing back-to-back dwellings into larger dwellings in the mid to late 19th-century. The iron foundry changed management towards the end of the 19th-century. In the early 20th-century the iron foundry became known as the 'Dolphin Works'. During the First World War the foundry's functions were described as 'General engineering castings'. By the late-20th century, the foundry ceased production and was converted into a warehouse.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1. Aims

The main aim of the archaeological excavation will be to fully excavate and record the remains of the foundry and any other surviving archaeological remains within the central part of the site. More specific aims of the investigation will be to:

- to expose and record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;
- to fully excavate the foundry buildings and external courtyard
- to make available the results of the work

3.2. Regional Research Framework

Further, more detailed research aims may be generated and developed from the results of the archaeological excavation, with specific reference to the North West England Regional Research Framework (NWERRF 2024). It is envisaged that the excavation may improve our contribute towards of the following research questions:

Industrial:

- **Ind29:** How can we establish a typology of modern buildings, particularly of the twentieth century, and how does this vary within the region?
- **Ind55:** What is the evidence for the development of power production?
- **Ind58:** How have industrial buildings adapted to new technology and processes?
- **Ind60:** How can we make sense of the relative significance of historic industrial processes and building types perceived as poorly understood and recorded?
- **Ind105:** How can the study of building interiors inform our understanding of materials and their manufacture?

4. Method Statement

4.1. Archaeological Works

4.1.1. Excavation

The principal aim of the archaeological mitigation will be to fully excavate and record the remains of the iron foundry to mitigate against its loss / damage as part of the redevelopment of the site.



Plate 2: Location of the archaeological excavation

4.1.2. Trench Rationale

The rationale for the excavation area is outlined below:

- **Excavation Area** (26m x 27m; 522m²) located in the central part of the development site and targeted on the extent of the foundry as shown on the OS 1844 and 1891 Town Plans.

4.1.3. Pre-commencement

Production of this Project Design has been undertaken by Civic Heritage and submitted to the advisory body (GMAAS) for approval prior to the commencement of any onsite activities. In addition to the completion and approval of the Project Design prior to on-site commencement of activity, the nominated Project Manager will:

- Liaise with the client to ensure mutual understanding of the project deliverables, timeframes, access, health and safety, aims and resources.
- Liaise with the archaeological curator or their representative.

- Obtain background information necessary for the project
- Oversee the production of relevant documentation such as Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS).
- Ensure adequate staffing and resources (e.g. plant and welfare) are programmed.

4.1.4. Methodology

General Methodology

All archaeological work shall be conducted following the Standards for Archaeological Excavation (CIfA 2023a) and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (CIfA 2023b). Before commencement all interested parties will agree an acceptable method of proceeding. Prior to the commencement of any works, the location of the areas targeted for archaeological investigation will be laid out accurately with respect to the Ordnance Survey national grid.

Context Recording

All contexts will be recorded using pro-forma sheets, allowing details to be incorporated into a Harris matrix. All written recording of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts will be cross-referenced from record sheets using sequential numbering.

Photography

A full and detailed photographic record of individual contexts will be maintained and similarly general views from standard view points of the overall site at all stages of the excavation will be generated. Photography will be undertaken in accordance with HE guidance, Digital Image Capture and File Storage Guidelines for Best Practice (July 2015). All frames will include a visible, graduated metric scale. Photographs records will be maintained on photographic pro-forma sheets.

Planning

The precise location of all the excavation area and any archaeological remains encountered therein will be surveyed using a combination of manual drawing, total station/GPS survey, 3D laser scanning, and/or aerial drone/Hi-view photogrammetry. This process will generate scaled plans within AutoCAD, which will then be subject to manual survey enhancement. The drawings will be generated at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20 scale but can be output at any scale required. All information will be georectified to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and all levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum.

Human Remains

Human remains are not expected within the site area. If they are found they will be left in-situ covered and protected, and the Ministry of Justice, Local Planning Authority and GMAAS will be informed immediately. Removal of human remains is beyond the scope of this investigation and, should any be encountered, all works will cease until a mitigation strategy has been developed and an updated Project Design produced.

Finds Policy

Finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (following current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines, Standard and guidance for the

collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2020) and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines (UKIC 1990).

Any finds falling within the definition of 'treasure' recovered during the course of the investigation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996.

Deposit Sampling

Samples will be collected from any suitable deposits encountered during the excavation with the aim of identifying any residual evidence of the past environment or industrial processes and potential dating. The samples should be collected, where possible, in line with the Historic England guidelines (Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation, Second Edition EH 2011), appropriating 30 – 40 litres per sample, and sampled in as close to sterile conditions as feasible in external areas, although these guidelines may have to be adapted to given the small-scale nature of the investigation.

4.2. Report and Archive

4.2.1. Report

A draft copy of a the post-excavation assessment report will be submitted for comment to the client and GMAAS within eight weeks of the completion of the final phase of investigation fieldwork. This will present the results obtained from the archaeological investigation, and will include:

- a title page detailing site address, NGR, author/originating body, client's name and address;
- full content's listing;
- a non-technical summary of the findings of the fieldwork;
- a description of the archaeological background;
- an account of the historical development of the site;
- a description of the methodologies used during the fieldwork;
- a description of the findings of the fieldwork;
- detailed drawings (plans and relevant sections) at appropriate scales of the excavated trenches, showing the archaeological features exposed;
- Photographs with a good depth of field, appropriately lit and in clear focus of all archaeological features of potential significance;
- A catalogue and assessment of each category of artefact recovered during the investigation and biological samples, including the potential for further analysis;
- a summary, assessment, and interpretation of the results of the archaeological investigation;

- a consideration of the importance of the archaeological remains present on the site in local, regional and national terms;
- recommendations for dissemination in consultation with GMAAS

The client will be provided with a digital copy of the report (pdf format), printed copies will be available upon request and may be subject to an additional fee.

4.2.2. Archive

Project Archive

The results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines, and current ClfA guidance (ClfA 2020). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the ClfA in that organisation's code of conduct. As part of the archiving process, the on-line OASIS (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed. In preparation for this an OASIS number will be obtained and the initial record set up at the beginning of the investigation.

The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the North West of England. All drawn records will be transferred to and stored in digital format, in systems which are easily accessible. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained upon completion of the archaeological works with the archive either being maintained by Civic Heritage or being deposited with alongside any artefactual material with a suitable recipient museum.

The archaeological archive will consist of the following:

- All original records created throughout the course of the project;
- All original drawings, whether created during fieldwork or post-investigation;
- Indexes to the drawings;
- Indexes to the photographic archive;
- All digital material;
- Digital material created from written, drawn or photographed original records;
- The final project report;
- A list of contents of the archive

It is likely that a large element of the project archive will be in digital format. Any records that are created in hard copy during the course of the project will be scanned and added to this digital archive.

4.2.3. Dissemination

The results of the investigation will ultimately be disseminated through deposit of the findings of the investigation in a technical report, together with some form of publication, if required.

- The report will be submitted to the relevant HER within three months of production of the completed report.
- As a minimum a short summary note of the results obtained from the fieldwork will be sent for inclusion in the annual roundup of archaeological fieldwork published in a relevant journal (Medieval Archaeology/Post-Medieval Archaeology/Industrial Archaeology Review).
- Pending what remains are encountered it may be necessary to produce a full article for inclusion in a suitable academic journal.
- Civic Heritage will register the report with OASIS (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations).
- Civic Heritage may utilise social media to communicate the discovery of archaeological findings and any artefacts of interest at any time. Discretion will be taken not to disclose such information or make site locations anonymous if specifically asked to do so by the client.
- The Project Archive, including artefactual material will be deposited as outlined above.

4.2.4. Outreach and Public Engagement

Pending the nature of the archaeological remains, there could be scope for public engagement. This could take the form of an open day or public talk/seminar.

5. Programme

5.1. Timetable

5.1.1. Fieldwork

The project will commence on Monday 17th of March.

Civic Heritage have notified GMAAS one week prior to commencement of the onsite activities, allowing them to schedule monitoring visits during the course of the excavation.

It is anticipated that the excavation will be completed on-site within fifteen working days. Backfilling is scheduled to take place on 7th April.

5.1.2. Report

A draft report will be submitted to GMAAS and the Client for comment within eight weeks of completion of the final phase of fieldwork. The project archive will be deposited with the recipient museum (where applicable) within six months of completion of the fieldwork.

5.1.3. Project Monitoring

Civic Heritage will notify GMAAS of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed PD will only be made in consultation with the Heritage Management Director (at GMAAS) acting on behalf of the local planning authority.

6. Staff Proposals

6.1. Team Structure

6.1.1. Responsibilities

The project will be overseen and managed by Oliver Cook (Director, Civic Heritage). Oliver is an experienced field archaeologist with over 11 years' experience and has undertaken many investigations and excavations across the country. Oliver holds current valid CSCS certification.

His role will be to ensure that the Project Design is implemented within the framework of the Project Objectives and will be responsible for all aspects of staff and resource logistics, ensuring the smooth running of the project programme.

6.1.2. Fieldwork Staff

It is not possible to provide details of specific archaeologists that will be involved with the fieldwork at this stage, but all shall be suitably qualified archaeologists with proven relevant experience

6.1.3. External Specialists

The following list of internal and external specialists can be called if required:

- Post-med pottery Jeremy Bradley (independent specialist)
- CBM Jeremy Bradley (independent specialist)
- Phil Mills (independent specialist)
- Clay tobacco pipes Jeremy Bradley (University of Salford)
- Glass David Dungworth (independent specialist)
- Iron/Steel objects David Dungworth (independent specialist)
- Industrial residues Gerry McDonnell (independent specialist)
- Animal bone Hannah Russ (Archaeology.Biz)
- Leather Quita Mould (independent specialist)
- Conservation Karen Barker (independent specialist)

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Secondary Sources

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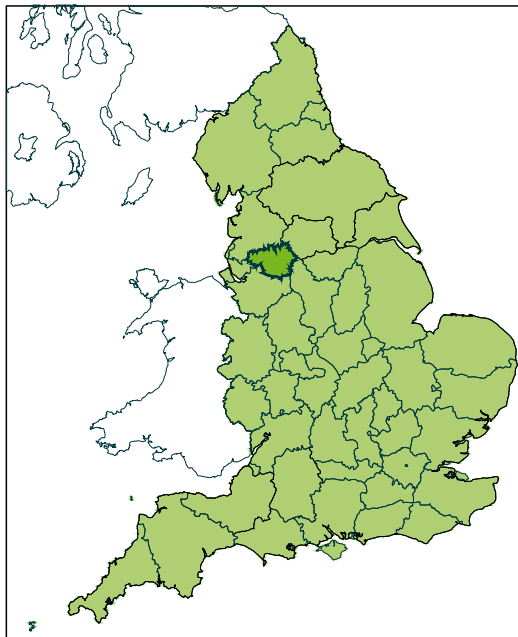
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Appendix 1 - Figures

Figure 1 Site Location

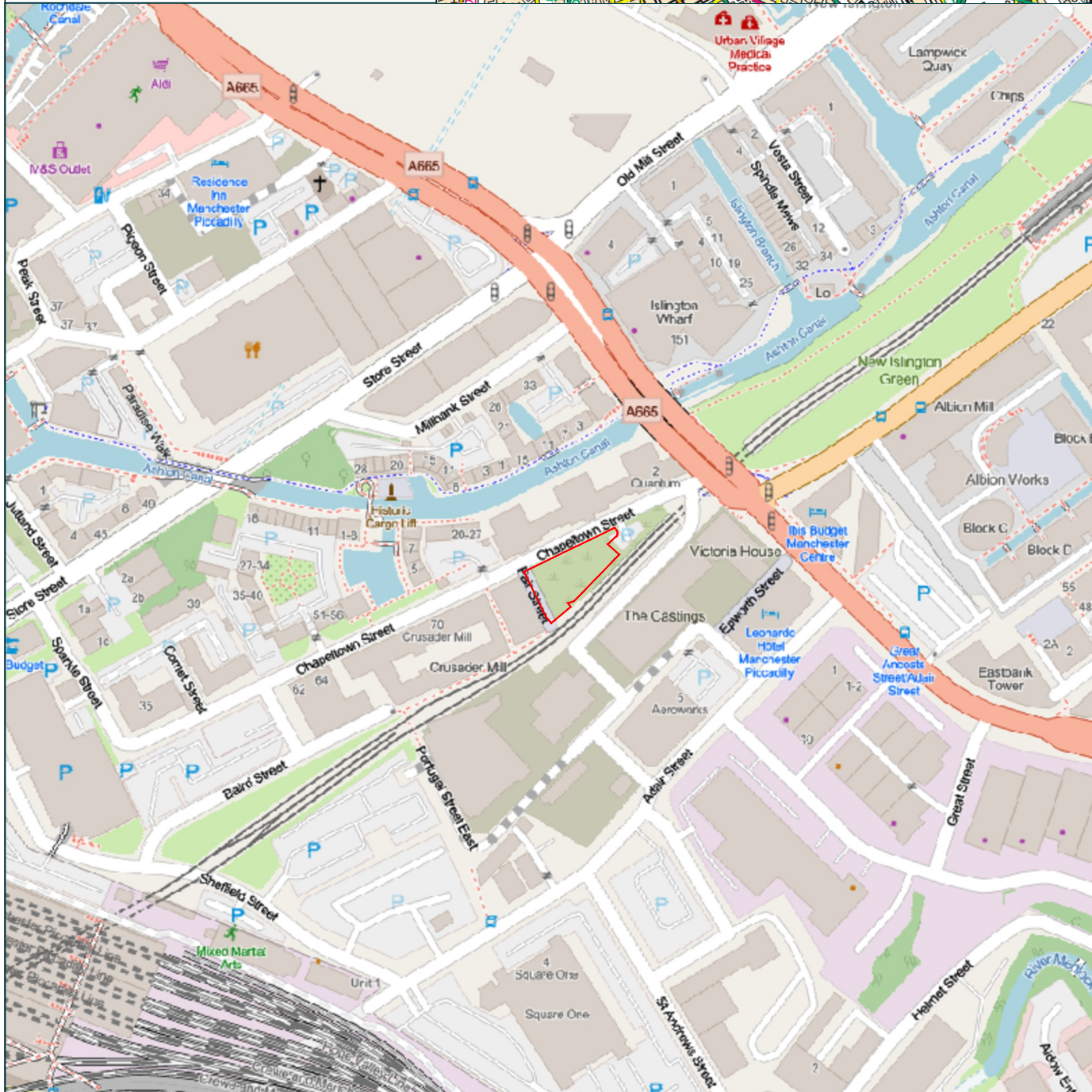
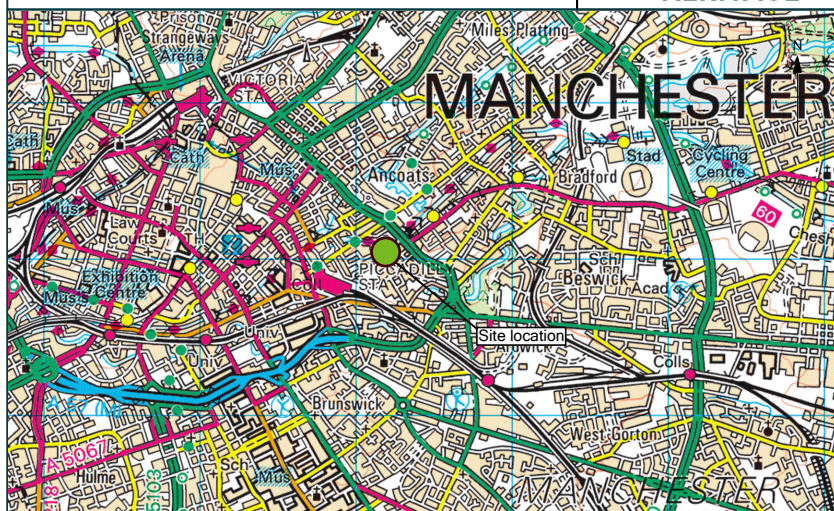
Figure 2 Site Location and Excavation shown on Modern Mapping

Figure 3 Location of Excavation Superimposed onto Ordnance Survey 60" to 1 mile Town Plan 1851



Land South of Chapeltown Street
Project Code: 61123
Figure 1: Site Location

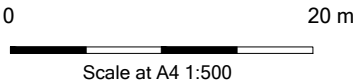
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Land South of Chapeltown Street

Project Code: 61123

Figure 2: Site Location and Excavation Shown on Modern Mapping



- Key:
-  Red Line Boundary
 -  Excavation Area

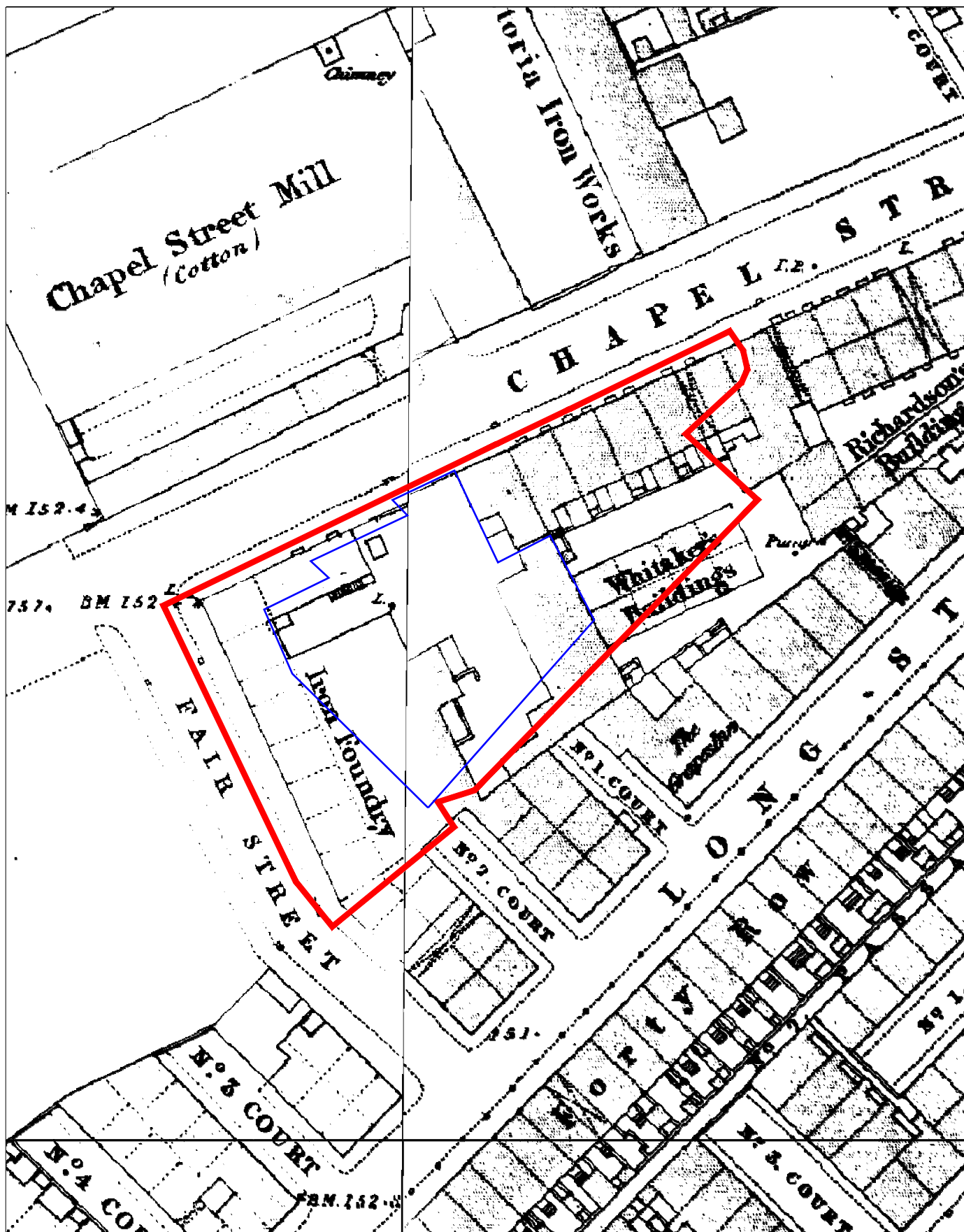


Figure 3: Location of excavation superimposed onto Ordnance Survey 60"to 1 mile Town Plan 1851



- Red Line Boundary
- Excavation Area

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