

CLAYTON HALL, CLAYTON, MANCHESTER



Archaeological Trial Pitting

Matrix Archaeology

December 2024

CLAYTON HALL,
CLAYTON,
MANCHESTER

Archaeological Trial Pitting

Report No. 2024-10
(Project Code: MA866)

Client: Manchester City Council

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REPORT CONTENTS

Summary

1. Introduction
2. Scope and Methodology
3. Site Location
4. Site History
5. Trial Pit Description
6. Trial Pit Interpretation
7. Recommendations
8. Finds Report (by Jeremy Bradley)

Sources and Bibliography

Appendix 1 – Scheduled Monument Description

Appendix 2 - Listed Building Description

Appendix 3 – Digital Archive Content

Figures

Plates

Summary

Three small trial pits were excavated at this late medieval moated manor house, to inform a proposal to excavate a trench for an electrical cable. All of the pits were located within the south-east corner of the Scheduled Monument. Trial Pit 1, which was closest to the surviving timber-framed building, located a truncated sandstone wall footing, possibly of medieval or early post-medieval date. Trial Pits 2 and 3 encountered only C19-20 garden deposits and drainage features.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological trial pitting at Clayton Hall, Clayton, Manchester (OSNGR SJ 88129856) was undertaken by Matrix Archaeology during November 2024 (**Figure 1**). This was commissioned by Bernadette Bone of BB Heritage Studio, on behalf of the client, Manchester City Council. The work was undertaken in advance of a proposal to excavate a trench for an electrical cable connecting the Hall to an external source.
- 1.2 The Hall comprised a Grade 2* Listed Building (Appendix 1), the southern half of which was a late medieval timber-framed structure of two bays. The building stood upon the eastern side of the platform of a large moated site, which is a Scheduled Monument (SM1009339; Appendix 2). The only access to the moated platform was via a 17th century stone bridge which spans the south moat limb; this structure is listed Grade 2.
- 1.3 An application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was made by Bernadette Bone, as the proposed trial pits were to be located within the Scheduled Area. This was accompanied by a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to define the works. SMC was granted in October 2024.
- 1.4 The site has been of some antiquarian interest since the Victorian period, and a number of archaeological projects have been undertaken at the site in recent years (see Section 4).
- 1.5 The trial pitting was undertaken to accord with the documents ‘Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation’, 2014, CifA; and ‘Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives’, 2014, CifA.
- 1.6 **Acknowledgements**
The trial pitting was undertaken by Steve Price, Oliver Fletcher-Burgess, and Mark Fletcher. The report was compiled by Steve Price and Mark Fletcher, with the finds report (Section 8) being written by Jeremy Bradley.

2. Scope and Methodology

- 2.1 Three small trial pits were to be excavated by hand, immediately to the south of the Hall. These were intended to determine the presence or absence of deposits or features of archaeological significance, to determine any mitigation measures for the proposed electrical cable trenching.
- 2.2 Trial pit plans and sections were recorded manually, at a scale of 1:50. These were then scanned, and drawn up in AutoCAD (Figures 2 and 3). Context sheets were utilised for stratigraphic descriptions.
- 2.3 Colour digital photos were taken with a Canon EOS 1100D camera, fitted with a Tamron SP 10-24mm lens. A selection of the colour digital photos was used to produce the Plates.

3. Site Location

- 3.1 Clayton Hall was located in Clayton, c.4km to the east of Manchester city centre. Although this was a distinctly rural location until the late 19th century, subsequent industrial and housing development have enclosed the site, it now lies adjacent to the busy A662 road which connects Manchester to Ashton-under-Lyne.
- 3.2 Clayton is located within the plain of the Manchester embayment, and the area rises very gradually eastwards, with the hall being at about 78m AOD. The only distinct local relief comprises the valley of the river Medlock at Clayton Vale, located c.700m to the north; this river flows westwards towards its confluence with the river Irwell in Manchester.
- 3.3 Geologically, the eastern suburbs of Manchester are underlain by a thick deposit of englacial boulder clay, including the site of Clayton Hall. However, an irregular belt of glacial sand and gravel extends from Clayton Vale southwards to Gorton, and the eastern flank of this feature appears to contain the moated site on its western and southern edges.

4. Site History and Archaeology

- 4.1 A detailed archaeological desk-based assessment has been compiled (Arrowsmith, 2015). 4.2 to 4.8 below represents a brief summary derived from that document.
- 4.2 From the late 11th century, Clayton was part of the barony of Manchester, held by the de Grelley family. In about 1200, Robert de Grelley granted Clayton to Robert de Byron.
- 4.3 Sir John Byron was sheriff of Lancashire between 1437 and 1449, and his son Nicholas held the same office until 1460. In 1365, Sir John obtained a licence for an oratory, or private chapel, at Clayton, from the bishop of Lichfield. In 1380 his brother Sir Richard succeeded to the estates, and by marriage to Joan de Colwick, acquired Colwick, in Nottinghamshire.
- 4.4 By the end of the 15th century, the Byrons appear to have used Colwick as their principal seat; and in the late 16th century, Royton Hall was their principal centre for the administration of their Lancashire estates.
- 4.5 In the early 17th century, the family sold off most of their Lancashire estates, and Clayton was sold in 1621 to the brothers George and Humphrey Chetham. George died in 1627, and Humphrey inherited the estate. Clayton eventually became his residence, and he died here in 1653.
- 4.6 His nephew George Chetham inherited the estates, but lived at Turton Tower, probably renting out Clayton to tenants. He died in 1664, the estates passing to his son James. The estates then passed down through the family until in 1833, when they passed into the hands of the Hoare family, who sold Clayton in 1893 to Manchester Corporation.
- 4.7 A succession of tenant farmers leased Clayton from about 1697, until about 1833. By then, the hall had lost most of its farmland, and it was leased out to a number of professionals and businessmen. It then became a clergy house. In 1900, the City Corporation contracted the architect Alfred Darbyshire to advise upon the restoration.
- 4.8 The 2015 assessment inferred that the existing late medieval building probably represents a small surviving portion of the original hall. It was suggested that the late medieval building would probably have extended around three or even four sides of a quadrangle.
- 4.9 In 1997, the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit undertook an assessment of the late medieval timber-framed building at Clayton Hall. Nevill & Walker (1997) claimed that the building was originally a medieval open hall, based upon a number of erroneous assertions. In addition, samples of two timbers at Clayton were taken for dendrochronological analysis, giving estimated felling dates of c.1431-46; and c.1513-23. Doubt subsequently arose over these dates as a result of work by the Sheffield Dendrochronological Laboratory.

- 4.10 In 2015, a detailed archaeological record was undertaken at Clayton Hall by Matrix Archaeology. This work produced an interpretation for the timber-framed building representing a late medieval lodging block, for either family members, or for senior household servants, possibly dating between 1380 and 1480.
- 4.11 In 2017, Salford Archaeology undertook watching briefs on the excavation of a cable trench; and on some internal alterations within the Hall. The cable trench crossed the moat at the south-east corner of the site, to run northwards to enter the rear of the building (Figure 2). It revealed little of any archaeological significance.

5. Trial Trenching Description (Figures 2 & 3)

5.1 General

The three trial pits were to be excavated on a small plot of lawn, immediately to the south of the late medieval building, within the south-eastern corner of the moated platform. These measured 1.0m by 1.0m, and were excavated by hand to the top of the natural clay subsoil. Following recording, they were backfilled and re-turfed. Small finds were recovered by context and assessed (Section 8); these will be offered to the Friends of Clayton Hall, upon the completion of the proposed works here.

Site north within this report is determined as 23 degrees west of grid north, following the alignment of the frontage of the surviving buildings on the moated platform.

5.2 Trial Pit 1

This trial pit was excavated just 2.5m to the south of the south-west corner of the Hall. It measured 1.0m by 1.0m, and had a maximum depth of 0.44m. Natural englacial clay was encountered at the maximum depth (03). This was a light-brown to yellow stiff clay, with mottled lighter patches. Within the south-west part of the pit, a 50mm deep cut [07] contained a basal course of sandstone walling (04), 300mm wide and 600mm long; comprising two slabs of local red sandstone. There was no trace of any bonding or matrix.

Cutting through the natural clay across the north-western corner of the trial pit was a north-east to south-west cut [06], which contained fill (05), a dark brown-grey loam.

Overlying all of these contexts was loam deposit (02), 0.25m thick, which comprised a dark brown sandy subsoil, with a few small subangular pebbles, and a few post-medieval finds. Overlying (02) was (01), a dark grey-brown topsoil, 0.19m thick, which was sandy and loose.

5.3 Trial Pit 2

This trial pit was excavated at a distance of 6.5m to the south of the south-west corner of the Hall. It measured 1.0m by 1.0m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m.

At the maximum depth, a pale greyish-yellow clay (04) was encountered, representing the englacial natural subsoil. Within the northern part of the trial pit, the natural was cut from east to west by a steep cut [06], which contained fill (05). This comprised a dark brown-grey loamy subsoil containing clay lumps.

These contexts were overlain by a 0.22m thick layer of dark grey loamy subsoil (03), containing small subangular stones, tree roots, and some post-medieval finds. Within the southern part of the pit, and contained within context (03), was (02), a mass of pored concrete, which measured 450mm by 230mm by 210mm deep. Embedded within its upper surface was cut-off iron

post. Overlying both (02) and (03) was a topsoil of dark grey brown loam, 0.12m thick.

5.4 Trial Pit 3

This trial pit was excavated at a distance of 10m to the south of the south-west corner of the Hall. It measured 1.0m by 1.0m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m.

The natural subsoil (03) was encountered at this full depth, and comprised a dirty yellow stiff clay, with darker patches. Cutting through this clay, from north to south, was irregular cut [05], which was steep sided and about 0.45m wide. This contained fill (04), a dark sandy loam, with a high percentage of pieces of iron slag. This fill had a maximum thickness of 0.12m.

Overlying all of these contexts was (02), 0.35m thick, a medium to dark brown subsoil, very mixed, with brick fragments, and small angular stones. Above (02) was (01), a dark brown sandy topsoil, with a few small subangular stones, a lot of tree roots, and very mixed.

6. Site Interpretation

6.1 Phase 1 – Late medieval – early post medieval construction?

The earliest recorded feature was probably east-west wall footing (04), within Trial Pit 1. It was clear that this feature represented the surviving lowermost course of a wall, the upper courses of which had probably been truncated. The truncation level was represented by the top of the natural glacial clay, at about 78.00m AOD, at a trial pit depth of 0.45m. Given that the existing ground level at TP1 is slightly lower than the internal floor level of the Hall, this implies that any late medieval or early post-medieval building floor levels within the area of Trial Pits 1 to 3 would have been significantly truncated by late post-medieval garden activity.

The wall footing did not seem substantial enough even for the cill of an external wall of a timber-framed structure; although it could conceivably represent the footing for an internal timber-framed partition. Alternatively, it may represent the remnant of a garden feature, such as a low revetment wall. Any further speculation as to function seems premature.

The wall footing appeared to comprise slabs of the purple-brown Carboniferous Worsley Delph Rock, derived from the quarry at Collyhurst, which supplied stone for the Collegiate Church at Manchester, and was first noted by the antiquary Camden in 1586. This stone type also appears to have been utilised to construct the substantial chimneystack located against the south gable of the Hall, just a few metres from this trial pit (Plate 3), as well as the masonry cill of the timber-framed building (Fletcher and Johnson, 2011).

Certainly by the early 19th century, other stone types (mainly Carboniferous buff sandstone) were being imported into the suburbs of Manchester, usually by canal from the Pennine fringes, and the Collyhurst quarries would have seen much less use by then. Also, it is at least possible that the wall footing in Trial Pit 1 may have been reused from earlier structures located at Clayton Hall.

6.2 Phase 2 – Late post medieval garden activity and drainage

All other deposits and features noted within the trial pits could be attributed to 19th or 20th century activity. The mass concrete block (02), with cut off iron post, noted within Trial Pit 2 was probably an original component of the fence line which is visible in the centre of Plate 5, which originally extended from north to south across the site.

Contexts (05) and [06] in Trial Pit 1; and (05) and [06] in Trial Pit 2 are probably the fills and cuts respectively of the C20 drains recently investigated by camera, which are indicated in Figure 2.

Contexts (04) and [05] in Trial Pit 3 appear to represent a French drain dug into the natural, which has been subsequently truncated by garden activity. The use of iron slag as a fill suggests a desire to create a channel which drains easily, into the open moat cut.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 The recent archaeological trial pitting has determined that probable late medieval or early post medieval features has survived later truncation by garden and drainage activity. This would justify a slight eastward realignment of the proposed route of the electrical cable, to avoid the position of wall (04) within Trial Pit 1.
- 7.2 An archaeological watching brief should be maintained during the proposed electrical cable trenching, on the basis that other below-ground elements of the late medieval or early post-medieval manor house may well survive.

8. Finds Report, by Jeremy Bradley

Introduction

A small artefactual assemblage was recovered from the trial pits excavated at Clayton Hall, Manchester, comprising 29 artefacts, weighing 1036.4g. The assemblage comprises finds from various material categories and is dominated by 19th century to modern ceramics, glass and industrial waste. The aim of the finds report is to describe and quantify the material evidence recovered, along with some chronological interpretation, relating it as far as possible to other known finds from the same site or area, in line with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidelines (2022) and Toolkit for finds: pottery (2024).

Methodology

The examination of the artefactual assemblage was carried out 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).

The finds recovered from the excavation comprised various categories of material including; Industrial period and later ceramics, glass, industrial waste, ceramic building material and stone. For quantification and full contents of the assemblage, see *Table x1*.

All categories of finds were examined in full, with observations supplemented by the finds records generated during the course of the fieldwork. The finds were categorised according to type and class and have been entered onto a database in order to prepare a catalogue. The finds were then given a unique accession number (Finds Number/FN) and digitally photographed. Full details of all recovered material reside within the project archive held by Matrix Archaeology.

This report follows the CIfA guidance set out in *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (2022). The finds report will consist principally of a description and quantification of the material evidence recovered, with some chronological interpretation, relating it as far as possible to other known finds from the same site or area. In relation to pottery the report will follow guidance set out in *Toolkit for finds: pottery* (2024) for creating a basic record, consisting of a rapid analysis that is detailed enough to produce a report that will inform an understanding of the site indicating the significance of the pottery assemblage as evidence for site activities, modes of distribution, and social and economic conditions.

Overview

The material recovered during the excavation all derives from garden and drainage activity found in Phase 2. Finds were recovered from loam deposit (02) in Trial Pit 1, subsoil deposit (03) in Trial Pit 2 and the fill (04) of north to south aligned French drain [05]. The assemblage comprises finds dating from the early 19th century

through to the modern period. The earliest identifiable vessel being a fragment of shell edge ware dating to the early decades of the 19th century. The most abundant fabric type were fragments of white earthenware representing various ware types including industrial slipware, shell edge ware and the ubiquitous Transfer printed earthenware. Also present were unglazed earthenware horticultural vessels, as might be expected from an area of former gardens. Nonceramic finds comprised industrial waste, window glass, ceramic building material and heat affected stone.

Material	Object count	Weight (g)	% of total assemblage by object count	% of total assemblage by weight (g)	Period (century)
Pottery	18	132.5	62%	13%	19th-21st
Industrial waste	5	666	17%	64%	18th-20th
glass	3	15.9	10%	2%	20th-21st
Ceramic building material	1	210	3%	20%	19th-20th
Stone	2	12	7%	1%	NCD
Totals	29	1036.4	100%	100%	

Table X1: all material recovered

Main contexts with finds

All the finds were recovered from industrial period features or deposits relating to garden and drainage activity in Trial Pits 1, 2 and 3. The trial pits extended south from the late medieval building. Loam deposit (02) in Trial Pit 1 produced a rim fragment from a shell edge ware plate dating to the first few decades of the 19th century. Also present was an industrial slipware mug rim from the second half of the 19th century, and two sherds of white earthenware from a jug and a mug. There were also five fragments of unglazed earthenware in the form of plant or flowerpots. Two fragments of vitrified coal ash and window glass were also recovered, the latter potentially dating to the early 20th century. Also present were two heat affected stones.

Subsoil layer (03) in Trial Pit 2 yielded part of brown-glazed, buff earthenware teapot lid, a base fragment also brown glazed, but in a red earthenware fabric, a fragment of stoneware, willow pattern transfer printed ware, a blue banded industrial slipware mug rim, and a further piece of plant/flowerpot. Window glass was also present, as was the right-angled corner of a fragment of ceramic building material in a purple fabric, potentially part of a garden edging tile.

Finds recovered from French drain fill (04) in Trial Pit 3 consisted of part of a rim from a later 19th – early 20th century preserve jar, a willow pattern plate rim and three further fragments of vitrified coal ash.

The pottery

Eighteen pottery fragments were recovered from the trial pits, the small assemblage was unabraded but fragmentary. The earliest closely datable ware type was part of a shell edge plate (FN12; *Plate 1*), exhibiting a neo-classically-inspired symmetrical scalloped rim, with straight impressed lines, produced during the period c 1800-1830s (Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab 2015). By the early 19th century in Staffordshire, one of the many production centres of this common ware type, shell

edge wares were the most widely used table ware, primarily because it was also the cheapest decorated table ware available (Barker 2010).

A base sherd from a brown glazed red earthenware vessel (FN2) was potentially earlier. Although, similar coarse earthenwares were produced from the 17th century, production however continued into the 19th century (Barker 2008), with forms be long lived and conservative. A teapot lid (FN1), in brown-glazed buff earthenware (Rowe undated), was a type that first appeared in the 19th century and continued to be produced well into the 20th century.

White earthenware is the most numerous ware type, represented by eight vessels. This term is used to describe pottery manufactured from c 1820 onwards using a mixture of ball clay, calcined flint and China clay. Following contemporary usage, the wares being described according to their decoration, e.g. 'edged' (see FN12 above) 'dipped' for industrial slipware and 'printed' for transfer printed earthenwares (Barker 2008). Two industrial slipware cylindrical mug fragments span the 19th and 20th centuries. That from Trial Pit 1 displays blue and pale green slip banding over a white body (FN11: *Plate 1*), typically these duller hues, which contrast with the brighter, earthier colours of the earlier wares, date to the second half of the 19th century (Carpentier and Rickard 2001,132). Trial Pit 2 yielded a blue slip banded mug rim which can tentatively be identified as a fragment of 'Cornish Kitchen Ware' a type produced from the early 1920's (then known as 'E-Blue') by T G Green & Co Ltd of Church Gresley, South Derbyshire (Hambling 2024), although very similar wares were widely produced at other potteries.

Two white earthenware plate rims (FN 7 and 9) displaying geometrical border design usually associated with willow pattern (Coysh 1974, 18, fig 15), a design that was not only long lived (still being produced), but was also immensely popular (Coysh and Henrywood 1982, 402-403). Two further fragments of white earthenware (FN10) from Trial Pit 1 are from an undecorated jug with part of the spout present, and a cylindrical mug/jar rim displaying relief moulded decoration with simple upright rim topped by pale red line. A later 19th or 20th century date is applicable.

Fragments of two stoneware vessels were also recovered from Trial Pits 2 and 3. A bottle or jar fragment (FN3; *Plate 1*) displays a Bristol glaze, that is a feldspathic glaze introduced in London in c 1831, but more famously 'introduced' in Bristol in 1835 (Green 1999, 159). Again, this type of decoration is part of a long-lived tradition with some examples dating to the 1920s (Askey 1981, 121). A small rim fragment from a grey stoneware jar with vertical fluting probably once held jam or marmalade, with similar jars being produced from c 1870 until the end of the 1920s (Will *et al* 2017, 10).

Six unglazed earthenware, cylindrical horticultural vessel fragments were recovered from Trial Pits 1 and 2. These are identifiable as plant or flowerpots. All fragments were in an oxidised pale red fabric with occasional grog (fine grains) and occasional mica. A fragment with a thickened rim (FN6: *Plate 1*) and a base represented the only diagnostic sherds, the latter measuring 50mm in diameter is an example of a two inch 'thumb pot' pot used to grow a single seed (McGarva 2000, 63). Flowerpots, albeit of a highly decorated type, are known from the medieval period, where the meagre documentary evidence suggests that ceramic plant pots were far more common than

the scanty archaeological evidence suggests (Moorhouse 1991, 114-115). Plant or flowerpots, of the type commonly found in gardens, become more widespread and visible in the archaeological record in the 18th century. Mass transport and mass production led to the decline in locally produced wares with straight simple rims becoming dominant after 1850 (Currie 1993). Country potteries still produced horticultural wares into the 20th century (McGarva 2000, 115-116).

The lack of clay tobacco pipe within the finds bearing deposits is of note. And might hint that the entire assemblage was deposited in the period after the First World War when clay tobacco pipe manufacturing had virtually come to an end (Ayto 1994, 10). Additionally, the presence of drawn glass commonly found in England by the end of the 1920s would add further substance to this date. Although this assertion must be tempered with a degree of caution given the presence of material as early as the beginning of the 19th century.

The material might be considered typical of that found in gardens, that is fragmentary and small. Larger fragments finding their way into the rubbish pits commonly found near to houses before the advent refuse collection (Licence 2015, 16), or more likely the moat. A similar but more extensive assemblage in terms of ware types was recently excavated at Monk's Hall in Eccles (Cook forthcoming).



Plate 1: Top row left to right, FN3 stoneware jar or bottle, plant or flower pot with thickened rim (FN5), bottom row left to right, shell edge plate (FN12) and industrial slipware (FN11).

Glass

Three fragments of sheet window glass were also recovered from trial Pits 1 and 2. The glass is colourless, lacks imperfections and gas bubbles, and variously measures between 1.4mm and 1.9mm thick, with one shard exhibiting a thickened and rounded edge. The glass is likely to drawn glass made by the Foucault process developed in Belgium just before the First World War but not widely used in England until the end of the 1920s (Dungworth 2019, 111).

Ceramic building material

A single, incomplete corner fragment of ceramic building material (FN17) was recorded in Trial Pit 2. It measures 32mm thick, with an external surface fired to a metallic purple colour and displays a shallow rectilinear frog on one surface. The fabric is hard, varying from purple to red, with inclusions consisting of occasional grog and coarse quartz sand. It is likely to be part of a garden edging tile. Ceramic building material with this colouration is typical of the Staffordshire brick and tile works, where the use of Etruria marl, when firing using a reducing atmosphere, produced the characteristic hard solid ‘blue’ colour (Birks 2024). Robert Plot in *The natural history of Stafford-shire* commented on “[A] peculiar sort of brick-earth which became blue when heated” that was being extracted from near Stoke-on-Trent in the later 17th century (Birks 2024; Plot 1686, 120).

Industrial residues

Five fragments of industrial waste were found in Trial Pits 1 and 3 (*Plate 2*). All the fragments are non-magnetic and versicular in appearance. They are likely to be vitrified coal ash or clinker rather than metal working slags. Such material can be produced by a number of industrial processes such as metallurgy or glass making where coal is used as a heat source. However, it can also be formed in other contexts such heating steam engines (Historic England 2015, 59-60, fig 55). A possible source for this material is the former brickworks that lay 0.3km to the east of Clayton Hall (OS 1909), where coal would have been used to fire the kilns and potentially provide fuel or any steam engines used at the works. Cinders and other by products from potteries, for instance, are recorded as being sold to local farmers for roadmaking (McGarva 2000, 111). In this instance they would have provided suitable drainage material used in the French drain [05].



Plate 2: vitrified coal ash or clinker found the fill of French drain [05] in Trial Pit 3.

Potential of assemblage and recommendations

The assemblage from Clayton Hall, Manchester is very fragmentary and further work would produce little additional information on the site. No further analysis is,

therefore, necessary. However, the finds should be retained and considered alongside any artefacts produced during any future archaeological work associated with the proposal to excavate a trench for an electrical cable connecting the Hall to an external source. Once this work is completed and after consultation with the appropriate museum the finds can be discarded.

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APPENDIX 1 – SCHEDULED MONUMENT DESCRIPTION

Heritage Category:	Scheduled Monument
List Entry Number:	1009339
Date first listed:	08-Jan-1993
District:	Manchester (Metropolitan Authority)
Parish:	Non Civil Parish
National Grid Reference:	SJ 88124 98564

Reasons for Designation

Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. In some cases the islands were used for horticulture. The majority of moated sites served as prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between about 1250 and 1350 and by far the greatest concentration lies in central and eastern parts of England. However, moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, are widely scattered throughout England and exhibit a high level of diversity in their forms and sizes. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. Many examples provide conditions favourable to the survival of organic remains.

Despite the loss of archaeological deposits from the surrounding moat Clayton Hall moated site survives well. Evidence of the earlier building phases of Clayton Hall will survive on the island as will further remains of the late 14th/early 15th century chapel.

Details

The monument is the moated site of Clayton Hall. It includes the rectangular island which measures c.66m by 74m upon which stands the present Clayton Hall. Access to the island is by a late medieval twin-arched stone bridge across the moat's south-eastern arm. Clayton was the seat of the Byron family from the late 12th to the early 17th century, after which it passed through various families. It was the birthplace of Humphrey Chetham, founder of Chetham's School. A late 14th/early 15th century chapel stood at the island's north-west corner until the beginning of the 18th century and fragments of the masonry have been found on the island from time to time. During the 15th century building expansion took place and Clayton Hall is thought to have been quadrangular or of three wings at this time. This hall was largely demolished and a new house built during the 17th century. Additions to the hall were made in the 18th century and in 1900 the house was largely restored. The late medieval bridge replaced an earlier timber structure and was widened at the turn of the 19th century. Clayton Hall is a Listed Building Grade II*. Clayton Hall and its outbuildings, the bridge, all service pipes, paths, driveways, fences, stone gateposts, a stone mounting block, ornamental stone posts, and the works compound and its associated buildings in the island's north-eastern corner are all excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath these features is included. The surrounding

moat, which has been scoured out and concrete lined, is not included in the scheduling.

APPENDIX 2 – LISTED BUILDING DESCRIPTION

Name	Clayton Hall, Clayton Hall Road, Manchester
Site Status	Grade II* Listed Building (No.387908)

Description: Remains of manor house, now two dwellings. Probably C15, altered in C16 and C17, partly rebuilt or enlarged in C18 and restored c.1900 and in C20. Red brick, some timber framing, stone slate roofs. Linear plan in 2 parts on north-south axis, the C15 or C16 southern half of 2 bays and single-depth plus a front corridor, and the later portion to the left double-depth and double-fronted. Two storeys, 3+3 windows.

The earlier portion is of square-panelled timber-framing at 1st floor, probably formerly jettied but the ground floor rebuilt or enclosed in brick, and has a short gabled stair-turret offset right of centre with a bellcote on the ridge; the ground floor has a simple doorway to the left of the wing and a 2-light casement left of this; the upper floor has 3 wooden mullioned windows with diamond-pattern leaded glazing, 5 lights in the gable of the wing, 4 lights to the left, and 3 lights to the right, and a jettied gable with kingpost and raked struts. The right-hand gable wall has a very large external chimney stack of squared sandstone blocks, finished or rebuilt in brick at the top.

The later portion to the left, of hand-made brick in English garden wall bond with stone quoins, has a segmental-headed doorway offset slightly left of centre with quoined stone surround, C19 diamond-paned casement windows of 3 and 3 lights to the left, 4 and 4 lights to the right, and 4, 2 and 5 lights at 1st floor, all with raised sills and rectangular stone lintels except that in the centre at 1st floor which has a brick label; rainwater heads dated 1900; and 2 ridge chimneys.

Rear: southern portion has small-panelled timber-framing through both floors, and almost continuous wooden mullioned windows on both floors (probably insertions and recently restored).

Interior: southern portion has small-framed partition walls of unusually high quality, with timbers of large scantling: an unusual longitudinal partition making a front corridor, and the lateral partition, with doorways which have nicked Tudor-arched lintels (including 2 blocked doorways at 1st floor of the partition); massive wallplates, that in the rear wall with mortices of former wallposts and studs over the present windows; massive arch-braces to the tie-beams; rectangular stone fireplace in south gable wall with chamfered lintel (now blocked).

Forms group with bridge over moat to south.

Listing NGR: SJ8814198568.

APPENDIX 3: Contents of digital archive (forwarded to ADS, with report to OASIS)

Report as PDF

Text as Word file

Figure 1 as a TIFF file

Figure 2 & 3 as DWG files (AutoCAD 2023)

Plates 1 – 14 as JPEG files

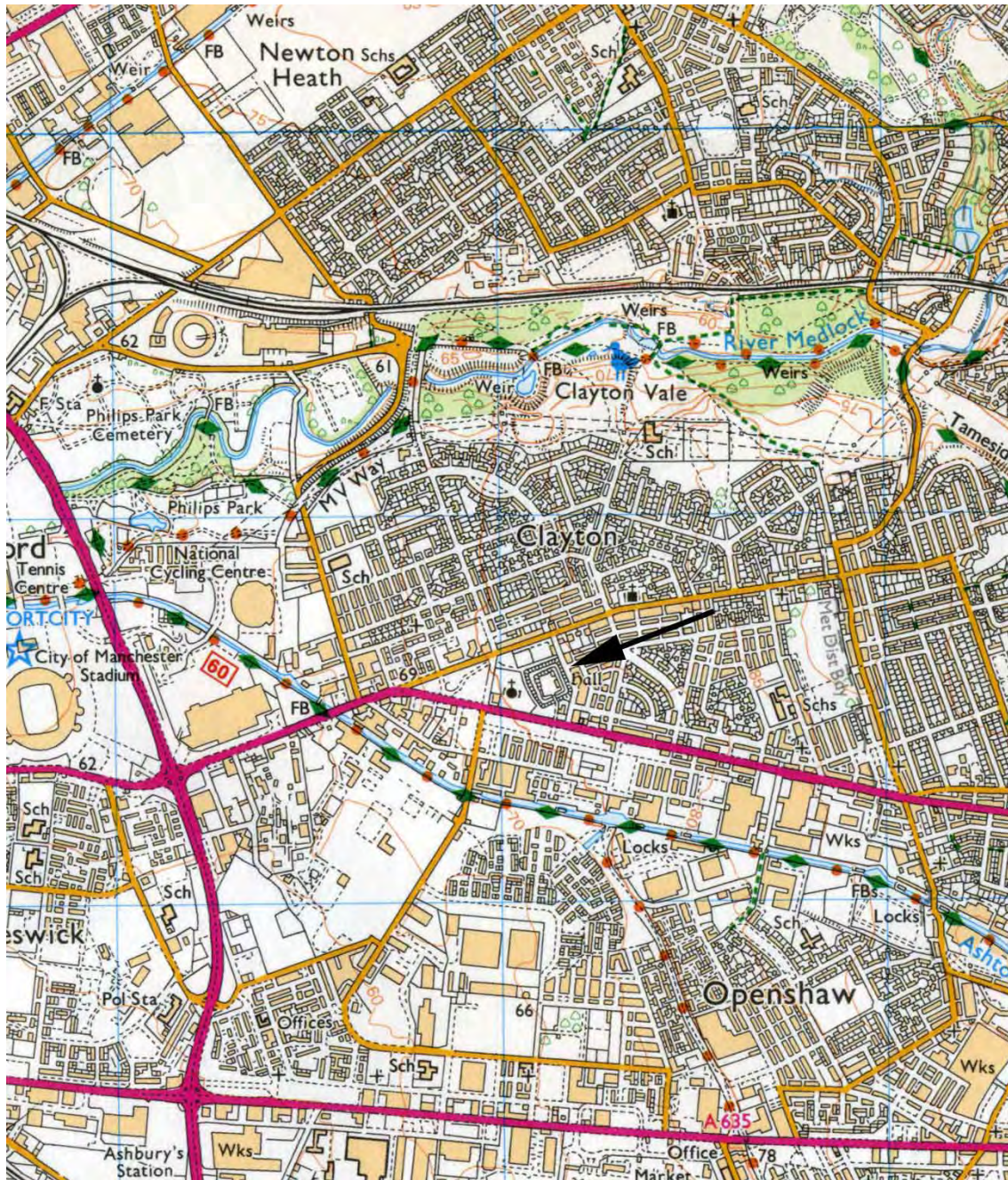
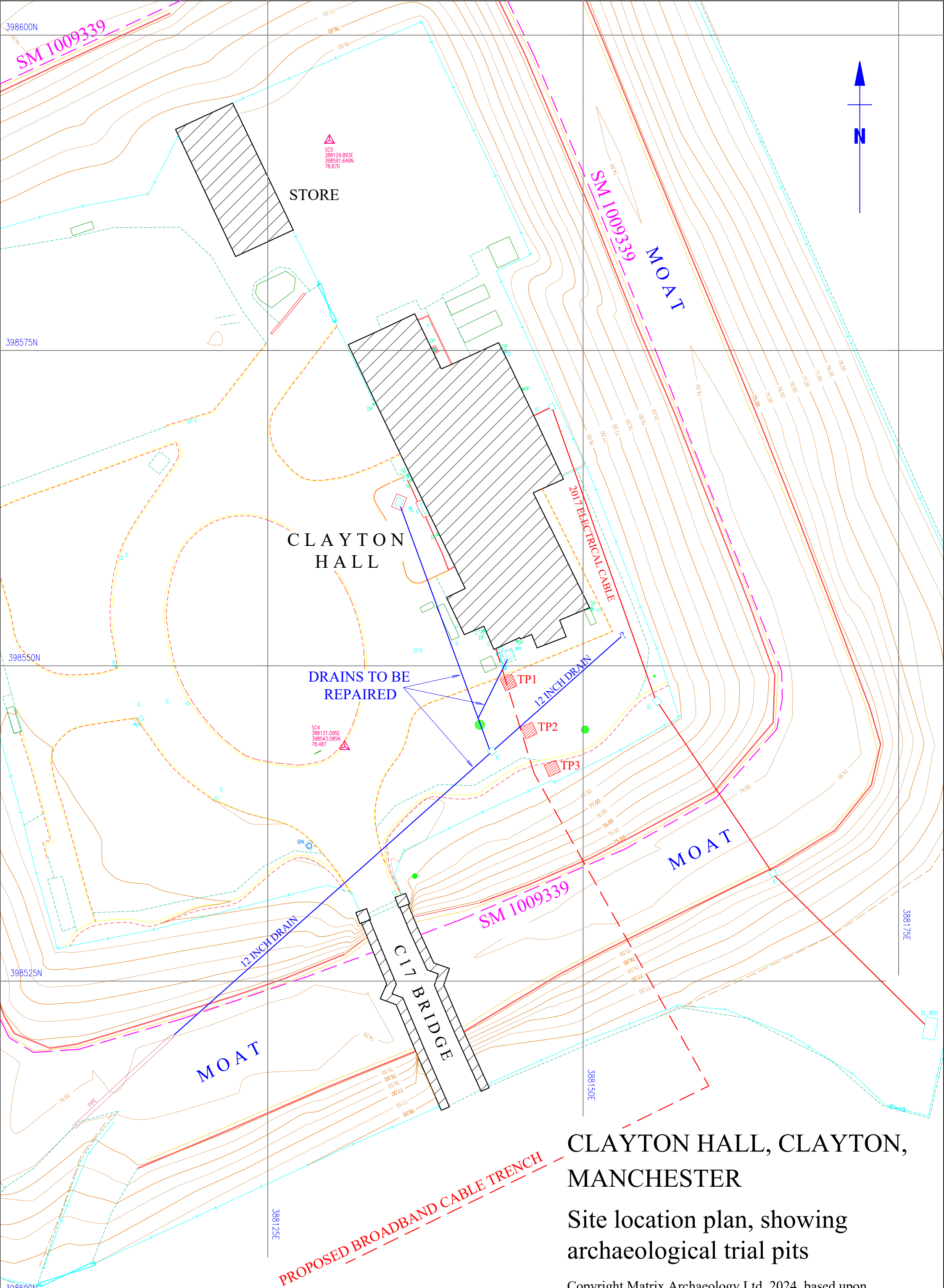


Figure 1. Site location map, derived from O.S. Explorer Map 277. Clayton Hall site is arrowed. Crown copyright, Licence No. AL100032621.

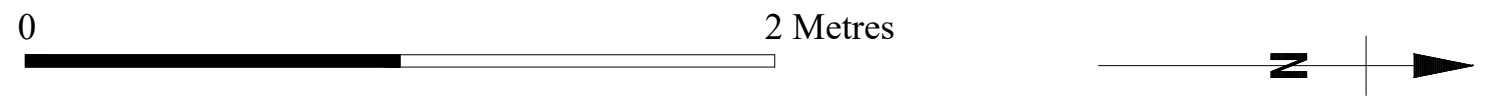
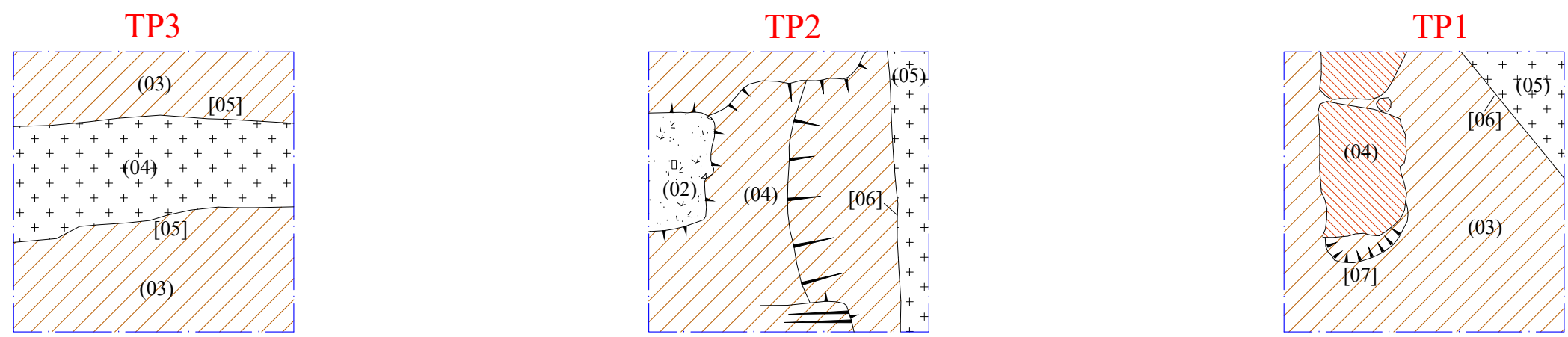
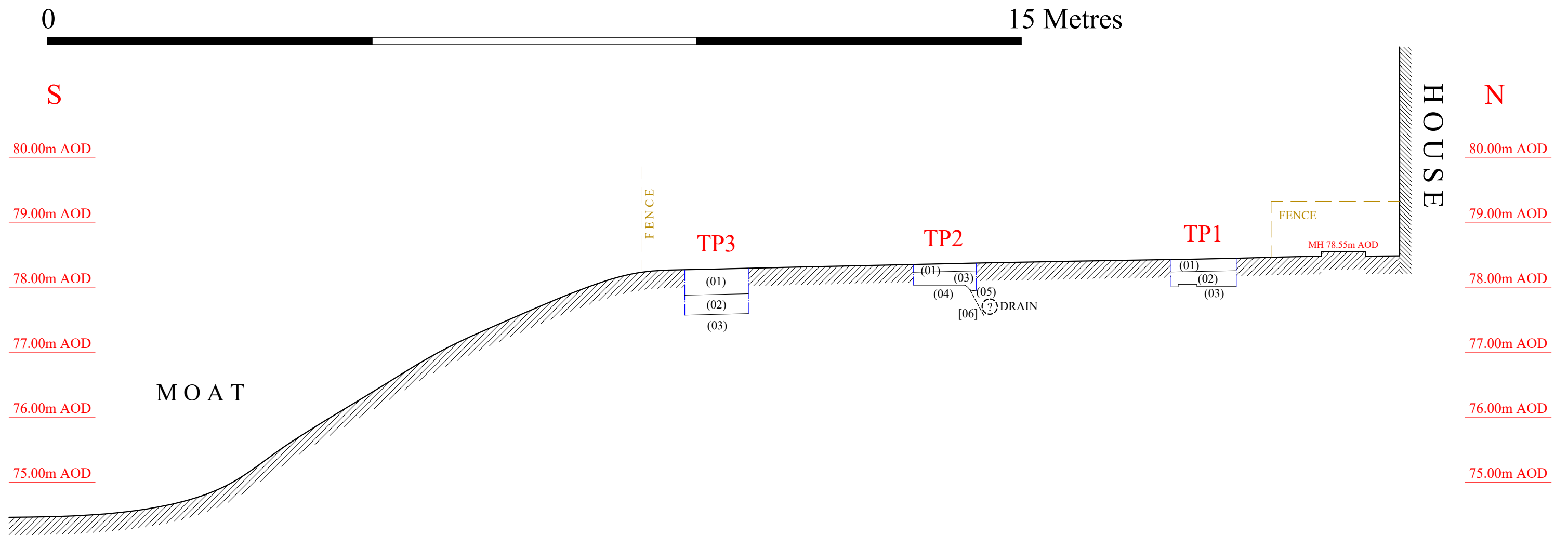


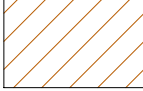
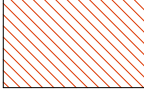
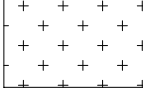
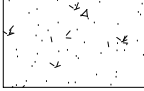
CLAYTON HALL, CLAYTON, MANCHESTER

Site location plan, showing archaeological trial pits

Copyright Matrix Archaeology Ltd, 2024, based upon topographic survey by Malcolm Hughes Land Surveyors

0 30 Metres



- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | - NATURAL GLACIAL CLAY |  | - SANDSTONE WALL FOOTING |
|  | - POST-MED DRAINAGE FEATURE |  | - MASS CONCRETE |

CLAYTON HALL, CLAYTON, MANCHESTER

Archaeological trial pit plans; and north - south cross section



Plate 1. Clayton Hall, viewed from south-west, trial pitting site to lower right.



Plate 2. Trial pitting site, viewed from west, Trial Pits 1 (left) and 2 (right), under excavation.



Plate 3. Trial Pit 2 in foreground, Trial Pit 1 in background, viewed from south.



Plate 4. Trial Pit 1, viewed from south-west.



Plate 5. Trial Pit 1, viewed from south.



Plate 6. Trial Pit 1, viewed from north.



Plate 7. Trial Pit 1, viewed from east, wall footing (04), visible to left.



Plate 8. Trial Pit 2, viewed from south.



Plate 9. Trial Pit 2, viewed from south.



Plate 10. Trial Pit 2, viewed from north, mass concrete post base (02) visible.



Plate 11. Trial Pit 3, viewed from south.



Plate 12. Trial Pit 3, viewed from north.



Plate 13. Trial Pit 3, viewed from south, north-south drainage feature (04) visible.



Plate 14. Trial Pit 3, viewed from north, north-south drainage feature (04) visible.