

By the time of the next edition of Ordnance Survey mapping, published in 1908, the houses at the junction of Poland Street and Jersey Street had been cleared. This is also corroborated by a photograph from 1903 of the Lord Napier Inn and the adjoining house (Plate 14). Timber supports had been installed to support the building following the demolition of the houses to the south-west (Plate 14). The 1908 Ordnance survey map also shows the outbuilding at the rear of the Lord Napier Inn had been demolished, to form part of the property's backyard. A series of small outbuilding were erected immediately behind the properties on Jersey Street, possibly functioning as privies. Within the wharf, a new building was constructed between the existing sheds and the canal. The wharf occupying the north-eastern half of the site was labelled as the Corporation Yard.

The next group of properties to be condemned were Nos 55-63 Poland Street, which were demolished c.1908. They are shown on the Ordnance Survey mapping from 1908 but were absent from the 1922 edition. The Ordnance Survey map of 1922 reveals yet another building had been constructed along the canal arm in the north-west of the site (Plate 17). Other than those changes already noted, the site remained largely unchanged from 1908.

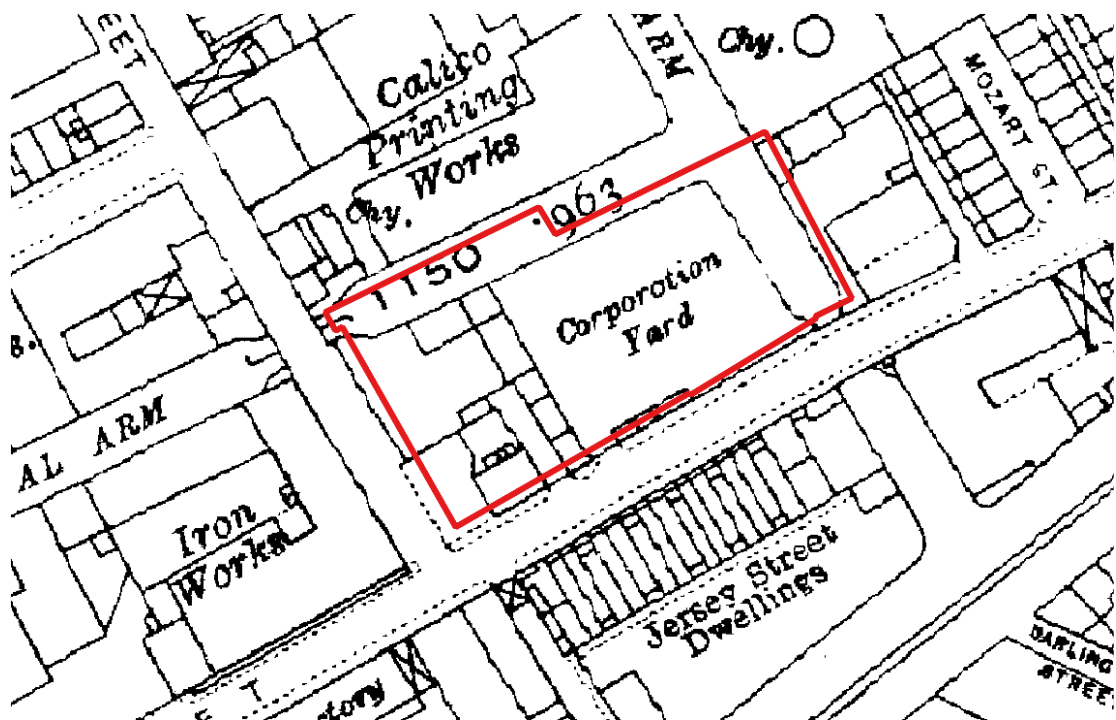


Plate 16: Site boundary superimposed onto the Ordnance Survey map of 1922

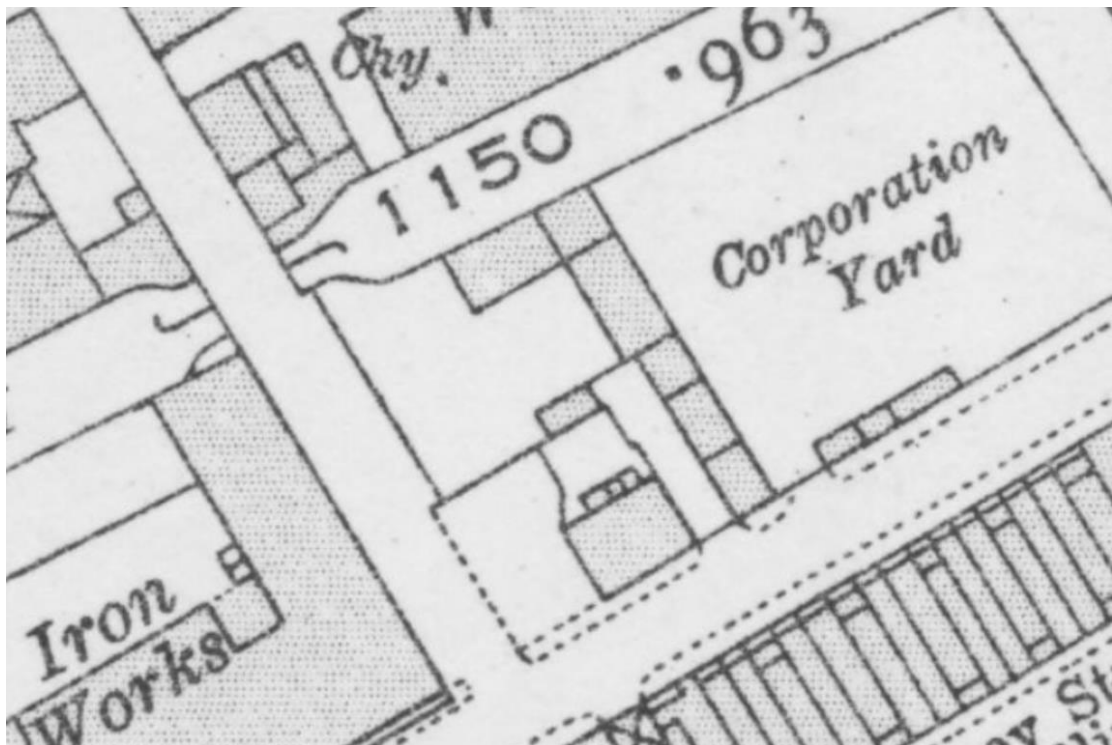


Plate 17: Ordnance Survey map of 1922

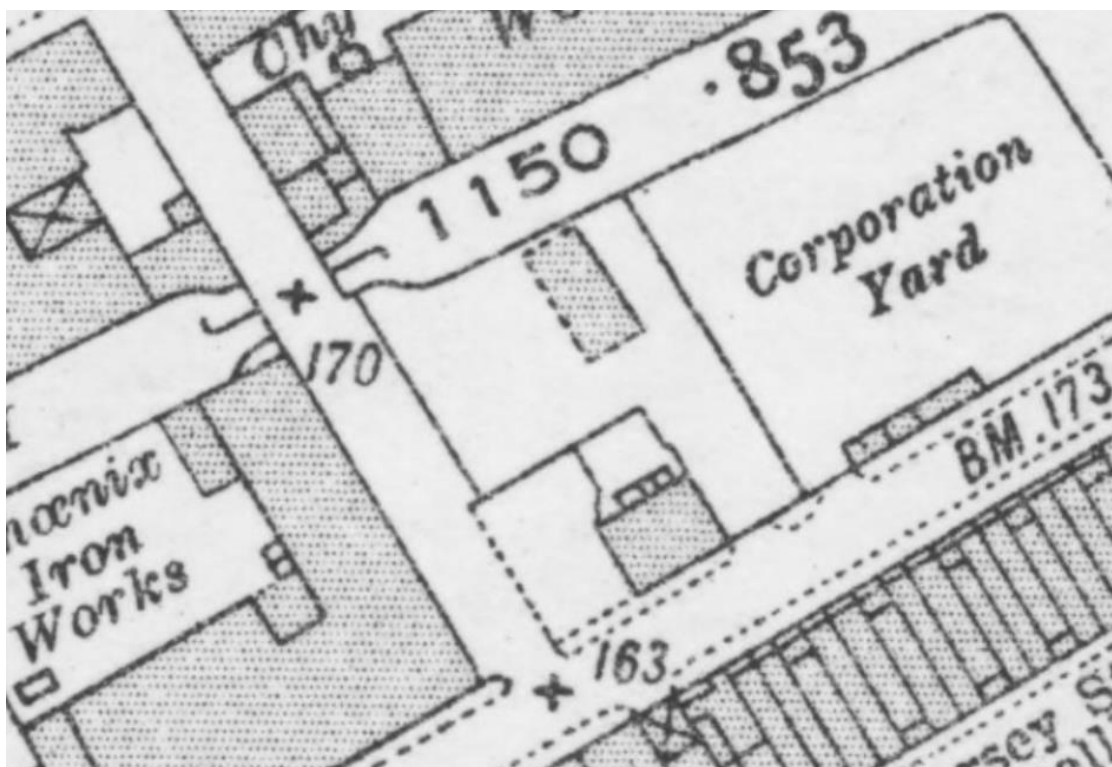


Plate 18: Ordnance Survey map of 1931

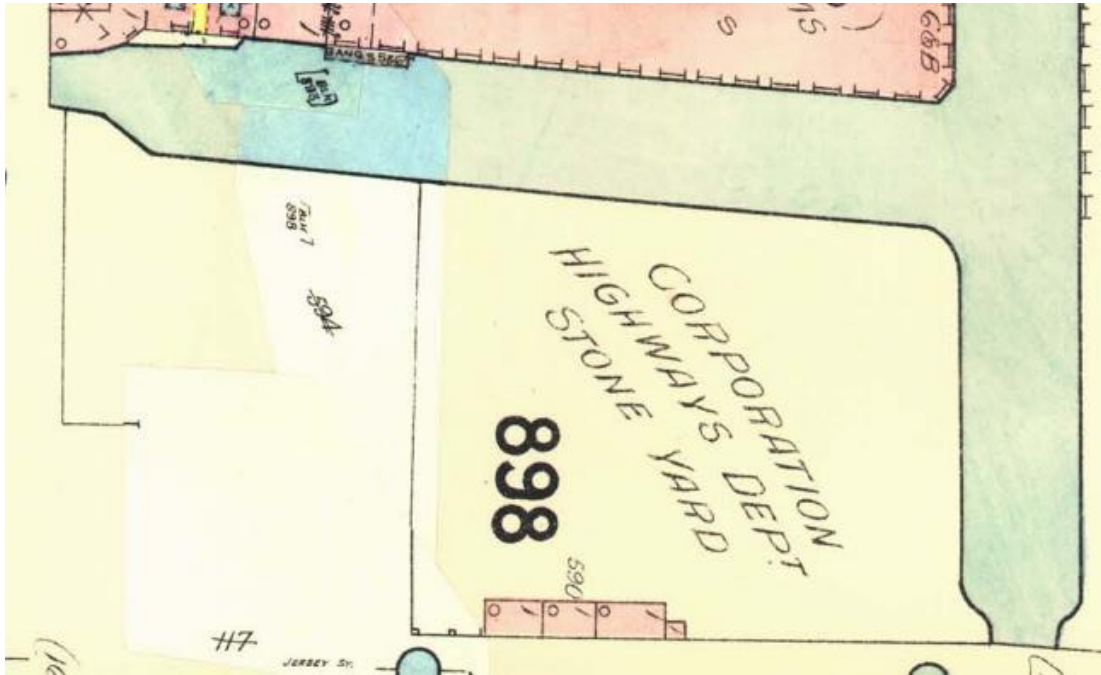


Plate 19: Extract from Goad's Insurance Plan of March 1928, revised in 1943. Note the vacant area of the site, which has been amended and the house No 117 crossed out. The eastern part of the site was occupied the Corporation Highways Dept. Stone Yard; it had single storey sheds.

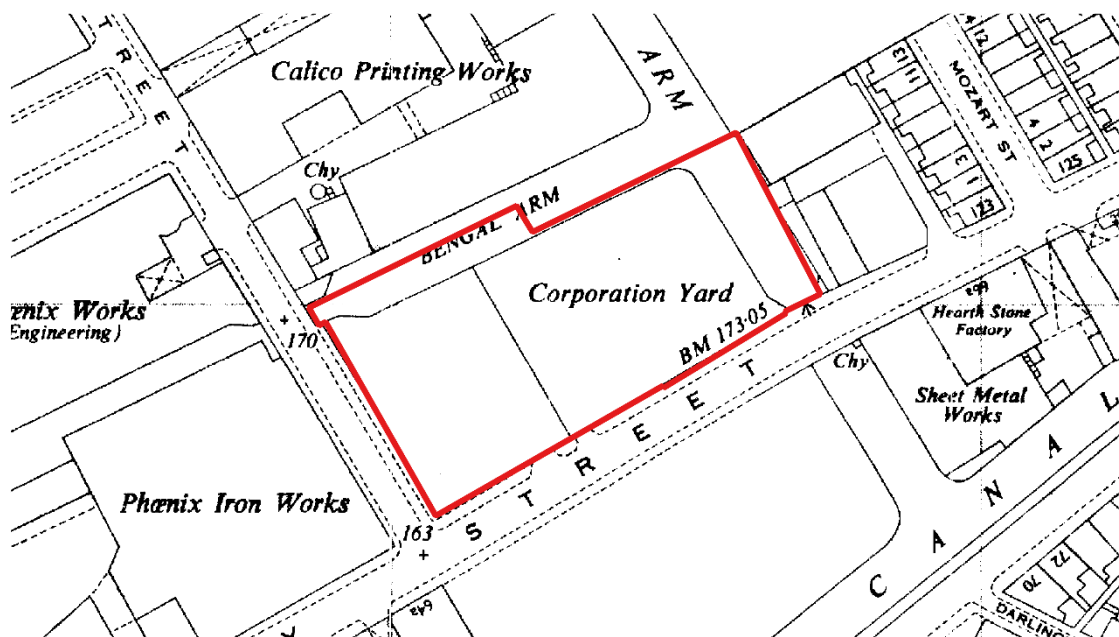


Plate 20: Site boundary superimposed onto the Ordnance Survey map of 1948

The Ordnance Survey map of 1931 shows all the late 19th and early 20th century sheds within the wharf had been cleared by this date and were replaced by a single shed. The corporation yard remained in use until the at

least the mid-20th century (Plates 19 & 20). The Lord Napier Inn was still standing in 1931, appearing both on the historic mapping and in the rate books (M9 10671-1931-1932). The publican at this time was James Bernard Rafferty; he leased the pub, which was at this time tied to the Manchester Brewery Co. Ltd. A revision of Goad's Insurance Plan from 1943 shows the pub had been cleared by this date and the house number (117) had been crossed out. The site is shown as vacant on the Ordnance Survey map published in 1948.

METHODOLOGY

The archaeological works was undertaken according to the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Salford Archaeology (Mottershead 2023), which was subsequently revised in consultation with both GMAAS and Sisk to coordinate the works to run concurrently with the site remediation.

All archaeological work was conducted following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) '*Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation*' (CIfA 2020 [a]). Prior to the commencement of any excavation works, the location of the area targeted for archaeological investigation was laid out accurately with respect to the Ordnance Survey national grid. The position of the trenches was then scanned for live services using a cable avoidance tool. The excavations were regularly scanned as work progressed. Machine excavation was used to carefully define the extent of any surviving structures, features, and other remains. This was carried out using a mechanical excavator of appropriate size and power, under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Thereafter, remains were cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form, and where possible, date.

Once the extent of buried archaeological remains was established, they were then subject to detailed archaeological excavation and recording by trained professional archaeologists.

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

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

The precise location of all archaeological remains encountered was surveyed using a Leica GNSS unit in conjunction with overhead drone photography to produce an orthographic image. This process generated scaled plans within AutoCAD, which were then subjected to manual survey enhancement. All information was geo-rectified to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and all levels were tied into Ordnance Datum.

The finds recovery and sampling methodologies were undertaken in accordance with current ClfA guidelines '*Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*' and were subjected to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration (ClfA, 2020). Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

Introduction

The SMR investigation saw an area, measuring 33m x 22m excavated in the south-western half of the development site (Figs 2&3). The excavation area was bounded to the north Jersey Street to the south-east, Poland street to the south-west, the former Prussia Street and Bengal Street arm of the Rochdale Canal to the north-east and north-west respectively.

The deposits and features were attributed to one geological and five archaeological phases, which are described below.

- Phase 1: Late 18th century
 - Jersey Street (Elliot Street) and Poland Street Houses
- Phase 2: Early 19th century
 - Poland Street House
 - Outbuilding
 - Yards and Privies
- Phase 3: Early to mid-19th century
 - Coal Wharf – yard, lodge, weigh bridge, crane
 - Construction of terrace houses along Poland Street
 - Workshop
- Phase 4: Mid to late 19th century
 - Wharf sheds
 - Remodelling of Poland Street Houses
 - Remodelling of the Jersey Street Houses
- Phase 5: Late 19th to 20th century
 - Privies
 - Shed
 - Slum clearance
 - Clothes Factory



Plate 21: Phase 1 walls and surfaces (solid purple) shown within the excavated footprint of known 18th-century buildings (shaded purple; outlined with dashed lines)

Phase 1: Late 18th century

Two structural groups (S1, S2) corresponding to elements of 18th-century buildings first shown on Green's map surveyed 1787-94 represent the earliest remains identified on site.



Plate 22: S1 - wall [200] and floor surface [128]

S1 (Phase 1)

A row of houses was constructed in the north-western half of the site in the late 18th century. Most of the walls and floors of the house had been truncated by later activity, leaving only traces of a single-skin internal wall [200] and an associated floor [128], which survived beneath the yard surfaces [122] of the 19th-century coal wharf. The 0.11m-wide wall [200] was oriented north-east/south-west and survived to a maximum length of 4.18m. A floor surface [128] had been laid up to the wall on its north-western side. The floor surface comprised three 60mm-thick pale yellow / yellowish grey sandstone flags, which covered an area of 2.70 x 0.80m.



Plate 23: Flagstone floor [128]; looking north-east. Scales 2x1m

S2 (Phase 1)

Two houses were constructed along Jersey Street in the south-eastern part of the site in the late 18th century. Two partially exposed cellars (structure numbers: S2a and S2b) represent the rear cellar rooms of the properties. These cellars both had an internal footprint of 4.89m (NE/SW) by 4.55m+ (NW/SE).

Walls: The cellars were demarcated by three external walls, ascribed a single context number [166], and were separated by a party wall [178]. The south-eastern side of the cellars lay beyond the limit of excavation. The original fabric of the walls [166]/[178] comprised handmade brick bonded with pale yellowish white lime-based mortar.

The external walls [166] to the building were 0.25m wide and survived to a height of 1.05-1.13m. A cellar light [193] had been built into the north-western wall of cellar S2a (see below) and had been blocked during a later phase of the building's use; the adjacent section of wall [166] to the north-east had also be subject to repair. The north-eastern corner of cellar S2b had been significantly remodelled in the late 19th century, however the original wall line

could be traced in plan, returning to the south-east. A vertical phase break between the original wall [166] and the remodelled north-east corner [196] may denote the position of a doorway.

A vertical phase break was visible in the cellars' rear wall [166] at the point where the rear wall [166] party wall [178] would have met. A fracture ran the full height of the wall and several misaligned courses were also noted.

A wall stub protruding from the north-eastern wall [166] of cellar S2b may have formed a remnant of the dividing wall between the front and rear cellars of the building.

The party wall [178] between the two cellars was formed primarily of a single-skin partition. The wall [178] widened out to 0.25m at its north-western end to form the rear wall of the cellar's hearth or fireplace. At its south-eastern end, the wall [178] stepped inwards slightly, forming a shallow alcove within the north-eastern cellar (S2b).

S2a: The south-western cellar retained several original features, including a cellar light [193] and the setting for a fireplace or hearth. No trace of the original floor surface survived within the cellar, which had been resurfaced with concrete [174] during a later phase of use.

Two brick pillars [176]/[177] keyed into the party wall [178] formed the jambs of a small fireplace situated in the north-western corner of the cellar (S2a). The recess between the pillars [176]/[177] measured 0.67m.

This cellar was lit by means of a cellar light [201] built into the north-western wall [166]. The window aperture was 0.86m wide. It had been blocked-up in the late 19th century, however vertical recesses either side of the blocking [194] mark the position of the original timber jambs, which had since rotted away.



Plate 24: Cellars S2a/S2b looking north-west



Plate 35: Original elements of the rear, north-western wall [166] left of shot, [166], looking north-west. Note the vertical phase break with remodelled wall [196] beyond. (scale: 2m)



*Plate 36: Rear wall [166] of cellar S2a with blocked cellar light [201]; looking north-west.
(scale: 2m)*

S2b: as with the adjoining cellar S2a, cellar S2b retained several original features.

Two brick pillars [183]/[187] keyed into the eastern wall [166] denote the position of the cellar's fireplace. The pillars [183]/[187] were set 0.67m apart defining a 0.67m-wide hearth. The face of the wall [166] between the brick pillars [183]/[187] was heat-affected and stained with soot. Another slightly larger brick pillar [184] to the south-east may have formed a support for a fireplace on the first or second floor of the building. The faces of the pillar [184] and wall behind showed no sign of being heat-affected and instead retained traces of limewash.

The north-western cellar retained elements of its original floor surfaces, comprising both handmade brick [185] and sandstone flags [180]. Flags [186]/[179] arranged along the north-east wall [166] were laid at a slightly higher level.

A stone-capped drain [181]/[178] was constructed alongside the party wall [177] within the north-eastern cellar (S2b) (Plate 37). The side walls and base of the drain were constructed of handmade brick; it was capped with sandstone flags. The drain [178] was 3.10m long, 0.54m wide and a maximum depth of 0.34m.



Plate 37: Cellar S2b, looking north-east showing the drain [178] in the foreground (scales: 1m)



Plate 38: Floor surfaces [179]/[180] within cellar S2b looking south-east. Scale: 2m

Other buildings (Phase 1)

A further group of structures situated close to the junction of Poland Street and Jersey Street in the south-eastern half of the excavation encompassed elements of properties first shown on Green's map of 1787-94. Much of the buildings' original 18th-century footprint lay beyond the limits of excavation with only the rear walls and later extensions having been exposed archaeologically.

Phase 2: Early 19th century (Fig 4)

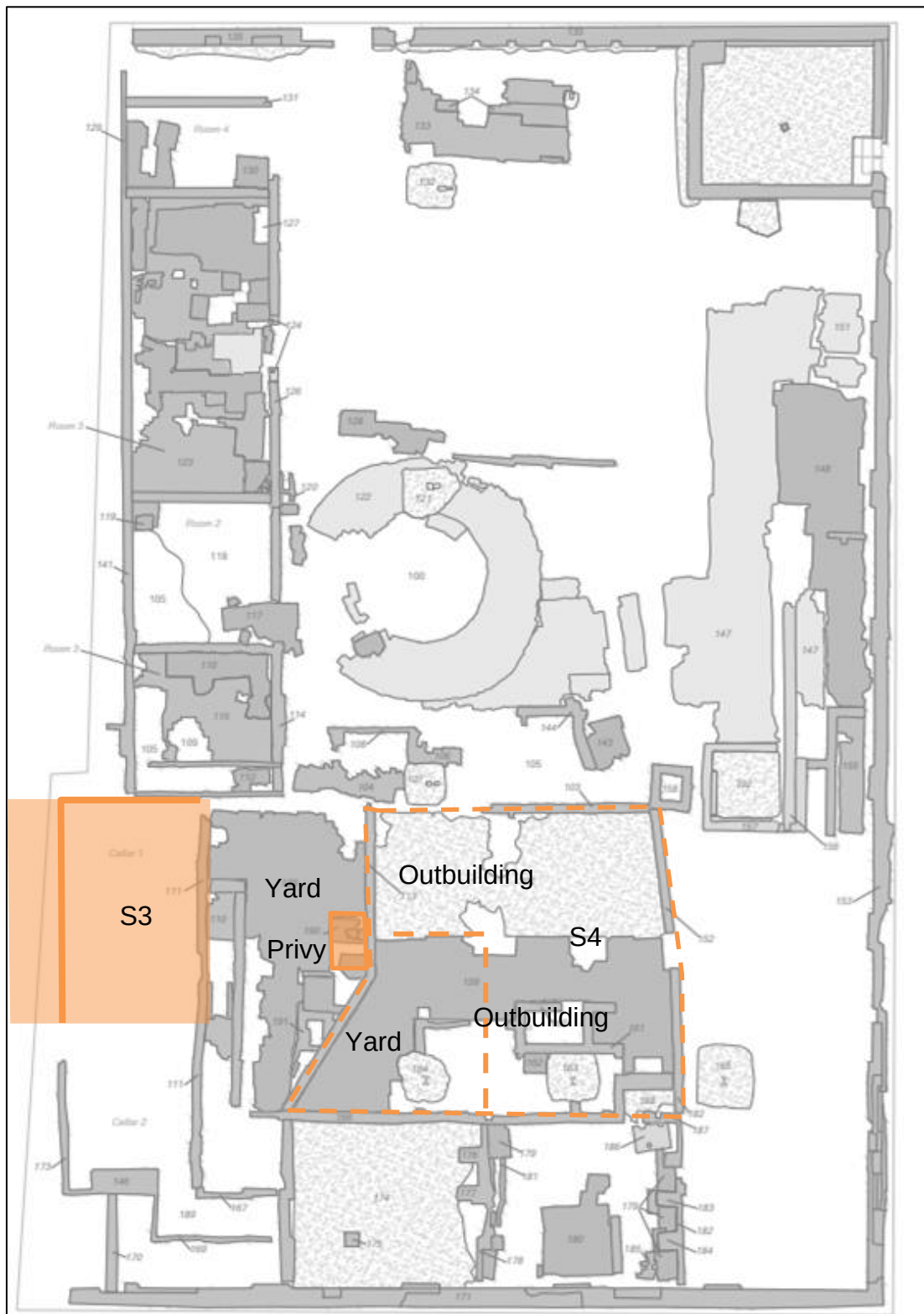


Plate 39: Phase 2 Early 19th century extensions (orange)

In the early-19th century (Phase 2), the properties on Jersey Street were extended to the rear with an L-shaped range of outbuildings and enclosed yard. Around the same time, one of the houses on Poland Street was extended to the rear. The excavation allowed for part of the cellar (S3) of this extension to be excavated.



Plate 40: Partially excavated cellar (S3) looking south-west. Note the blocked cellar light [205] in the foreground (scale: 2m)

Cellared extension to Poland Street House (S3)

Three sides to a cellared room (S3) were exposed within the excavation. The cellared room measured 3.89m (north-east/south-west) by c.4.77m.

The exposed walls [202]/[203]/[204] were all built from handmade brick bonded with lime-based mortar. An aperture [205] within the north-western cellar wall [202] was interpreted as a cellar light.

Extension to the Jersey Street Houses (S4) and enclosed yard

Three walls [113]/[103]/[182] constructed to the rear of the Jersey Street houses (S2) defined the extent of an L-shaped range of outbuildings and an enclosed yard. Most of the exposed brickwork was bonded in a grey ashy

mortar, redolent of a mid- to late-19th century construction date (Phase 4), excepting a short section of the north-western wall [103], which retained traces of a light, orangey white lime-based mortar. A short projecting wall stub was keyed into wall [103] and could represent an internal division within the northern outbuilding. Whilst the overall arrangement of the structures corresponds closely to the layout shown on Bancks and Co.'s 1831 map, the walls appear to have been rebuilt along the same lines in the late-19th century.



Plate 41: Yard surface [109]

Yard and Privy (associated with Saxon's Court)

A yard surface [109] was laid out to the south-west of the kinked wall [113]. The surface may have once continued further to the south-east. The surviving surface [109] was formed of rectangular sandstone flags, recorded over an area of 4.47m x 4.05m.

A privy [190] was constructed along the north-eastern edge of the yard [109]. The privy structure This represents one of several structures constructed in this location in the 19th century. The earliest were constructed roughly midway along the yard wall [113] at the point at which the wall changed direction.

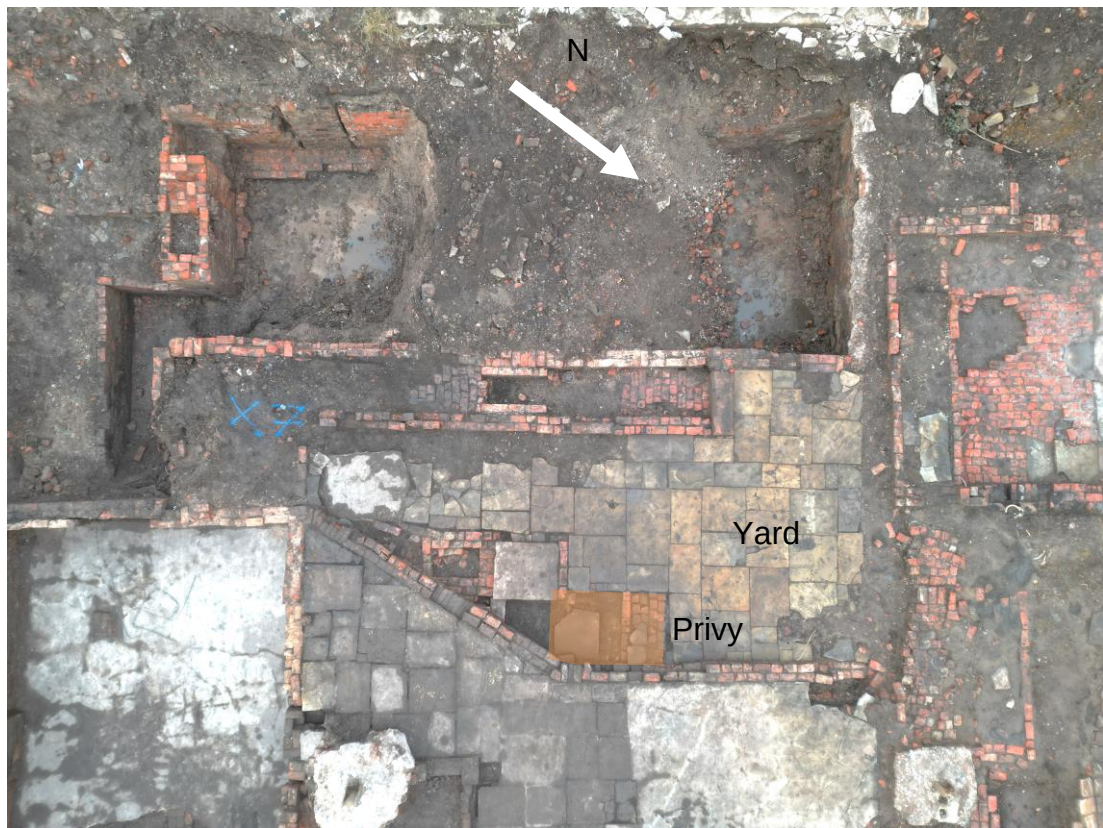


Plate 42: The yard [109] and privy [190] serving Saxon's Court

Phase 3: Early to mid-19th century (Figs 4-6)

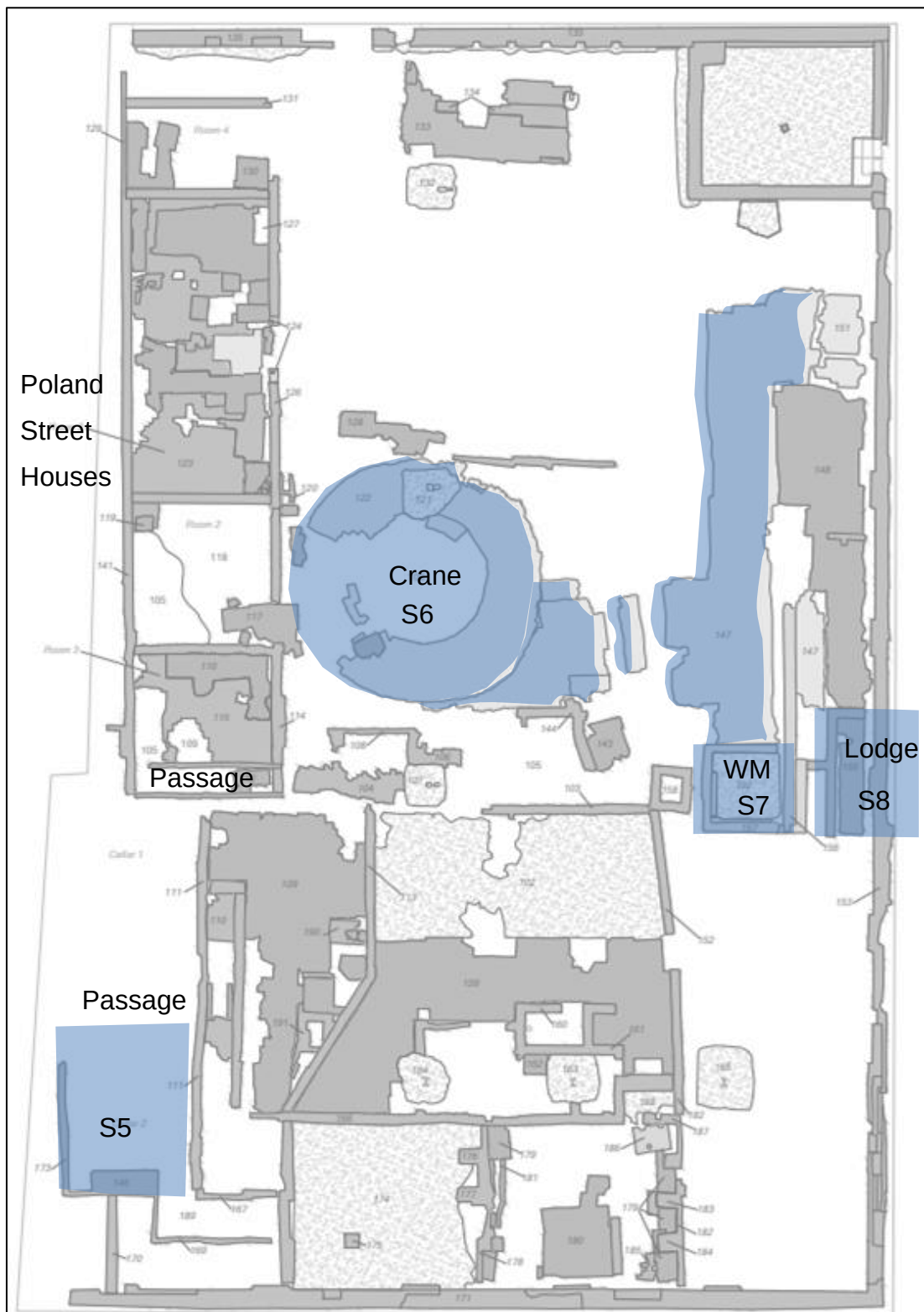


Plate 43: Phase 3 Early 19th to mid-19th century extensions (blue)

The majority of developments attributed to this phase relate to the development of a coal wharf in the north-western half of the site. The creation of the wharf necessitated the levelling of houses in the north-western part of the site to create an open yard.

Cellar, Saxon's Court (S5)

The south-eastern house making up Saxon's Court was extended to the rear in this period. The rear extension included a cellar of broadly similar proportions to that exposed to the north-west (S3). An area of approximately 3.45m² was revealed during the excavation; the full dimensions are likely to have been 3.45m x 4.77m.

The cellar was defined by three walls [111]/[146]/[173] constructed from handmade brick and lime-based mortar. The north-eastern and south-western walls [111]/[173] were 0.25m wide. The wall [146] to the south-east was formed of a single skin of brick (0.11m wide). The walls retained traces of a sandy render and limewash.



Plate 44: Initial exposure of cellar (S4) forming Saxon's Court, looking south-west (scale: 2m)



Plate 45: Rear cellar of Saxon's Court (S4) looking south-west (scale: 2m)

A fireplace was built into the south-eastern wall [146]; it measured 1.78m (north-east/south-west) by 0.66m (north-west/south-east). The jambs were 0.33m and 0.48m wide and the recess for the hearth was 0.79m wide.

The opening for a doorway [206] between the front and back cellars had been built into the south-western wall [173]. It had been blocked-up in the late-19th century (Phase 4), however vertical recesses either side of the blocking denote the position of the timber door jambs.

The floor of the cellar was formed of handmade brick [172]. This survived alongside the fireplace and south-western wall [173] of the cellar.

An L-shaped corridor was constructed to the south-east of the main cellar (S5) and was defined by two walls [167]/[169] the fabric of these walls and two adjacent walls [170]/[168].

Wharf (S6-8)

Following the construction of the Prussia Street and Bengal Street arms of the Rochdale Canal a series of wharfs were established, including those within the development site. To make way for the wharf the row of 18th-century houses (S1) were cleared and the ground level raised above the level of the 18th-

century ground surface, as indicated by the surviving floor [128] of the row of houses (S1). A series of contiguous surfaces [147] were laid down to form an open yard. The surfaces were formed primarily of rectangular sandstone setts and sub-rectangular cobbles.



Plate 45: Aerial view of surface [122] with circular aperture possibly denoting the position of a crane or jib (S6)

Crane (S6)

An unusual feature within the coal wharf was an arrangement of setts [122], forming an annular shape in plan. These had evidently been laid around a structure or mechanism, which had since been removed. One possibility is this could have been the location of a rotating crane or jib (S6). The extrapolated external diameter of the surface [122] was 6.56m.

Weighing Machine (S7)

Another structure (S7) easily attributed to this phase of the site's use was a rectangular weighing machine [157]. This was constructed at the entrance to the wharf and was formed of rectangular rough-faced sandstone laid atop a

brick base. The structure measured 2.00m x 2.20m and was approximately 0.35m deep.



Plate 46: Weighing machine (S7) scales: 1m

Lodge (S8)

To the north-east of the weighing machine was a brick-walled structure with an internal brick floor [155]. This structure was only partially exposed but could be seen to relate to a rectangular building (4.50m x 5.00m) shown on the 1851 Town Plan. This has been interpreted as a porter's lodge or watch house, controlling the entrance to the wharf.

Poland Street Houses

The rear, ground floor rooms of four or five buildings, together with a narrow ginnel or passageway [112] were revealed along the south-western limit of the excavation. These structures were seen to correspond to a row of houses first depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1851 Town Plan. The rooms were of varying proportions and had evidently been subject to remodelling in the late 19th century (Phase 4). None of the surviving walls or surfaces could confidently be ascribed to this phase.

Phase 4: Mid to late 19th century (Fig 7)

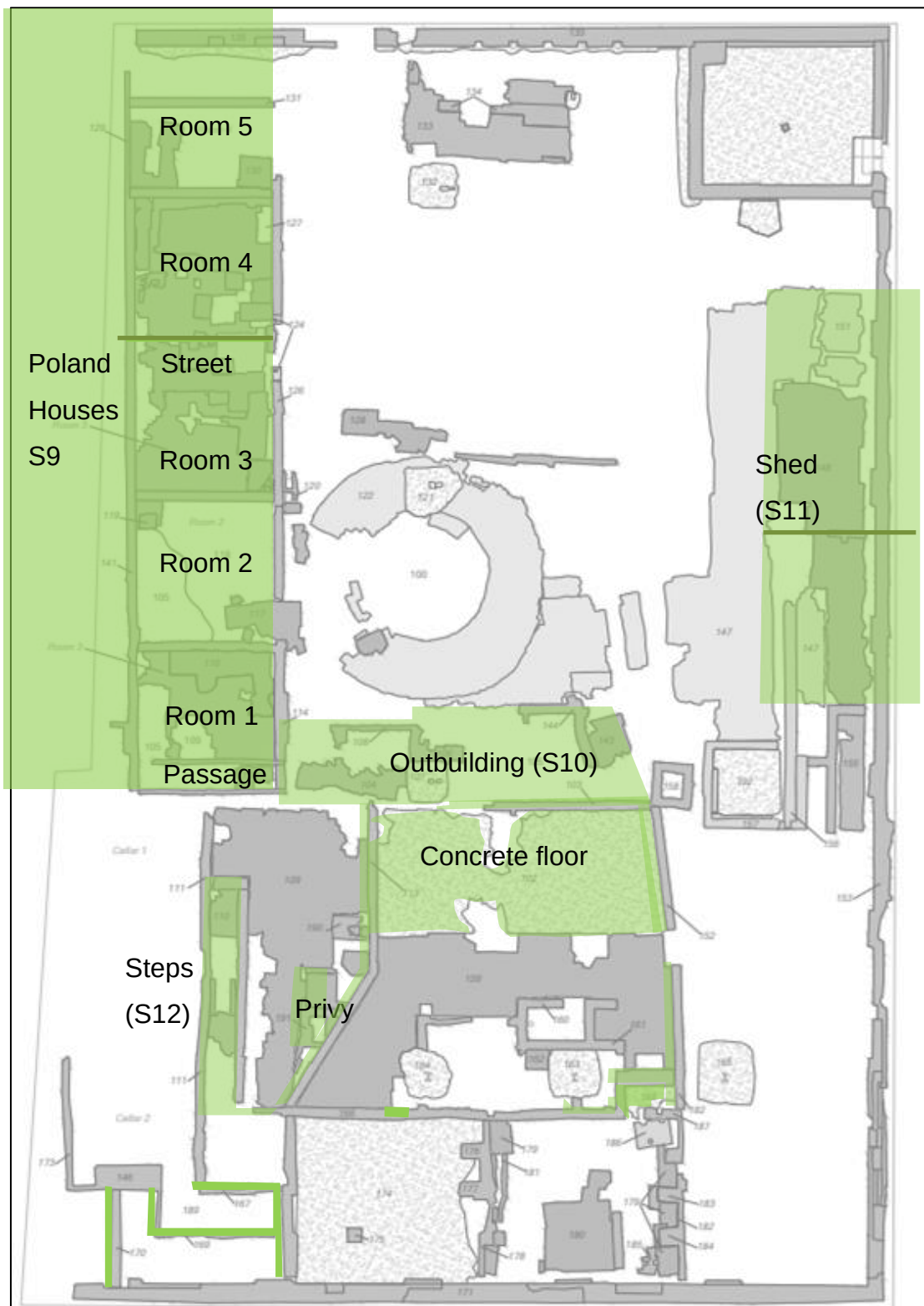


Plate 47: Phase 4 Mid to late 19th century

Further developments within the yard forming the coal wharf took place during the late 19th century and included the construction of a series of sheds along the north-eastern side of the wharf and an L-shaped range, to the rear of the Jersey Street and Poland Street houses. The Poland Street properties also appear to have been remodelled during this period and the majority of walls and floor surfaces, likely relate to the buildings depicted on the 1891 OS map.



Plate 48: Example of the floor surfaces within the Poland Street Houses (S9, Room 4)

Poland Street Houses (S9) Rooms 1-4

The size and shape of the Poland Street houses correspond closely with the reconfigured properties, as shown on the 1891 Town Plan. Five ground floor rooms were identified. The exposed walls [114]/[141]/[131]/[127] were constructed using a mixture of handmade and wire-cut bricks, which were bonded with black ash mortar. Internally, the rooms were floored with an assortment of brick, firebrick, sandstone flags (contexts: [130]/[123]/[117]/[116]/[115]/[119]. Of particular note were the use of large blocks of refractory brick to form the foundation of a step in the corner of Room 2. Two sandstone blocks [124] with sockets for door jambs were constructed into the walls of Rooms 3/4.

The surface [112] of the adjacent passage to the south-east of the houses was formed from flags.

Outbuilding (S10)

An L-shaped range of outbuildings was established to the rear of the Poland Street and Jersey Street properties in the mid- to late 19th century. The remains of this building were represented archaeologically by the south-eastern range, which comprised two brick walls [144]/[108] and a series of internal floor surfaces [104]/[106]/[143]. The surviving extent of the building can be extrapolated from these elements and the preexisting walls. This south-eastern element of the building had a footprint of 9.32m x 2.36m.

Wharf sheds (S11)

The only tangible remains of the open-fronted sheds on the wharfs north-western side was a large expanse of sandstone flags [148], extending over an area of 8.37m x 2.10m, which were seen to represent approximately one-third of the buildings' internal floorplan. A putative brick partition was recorded in the middle of the structure.

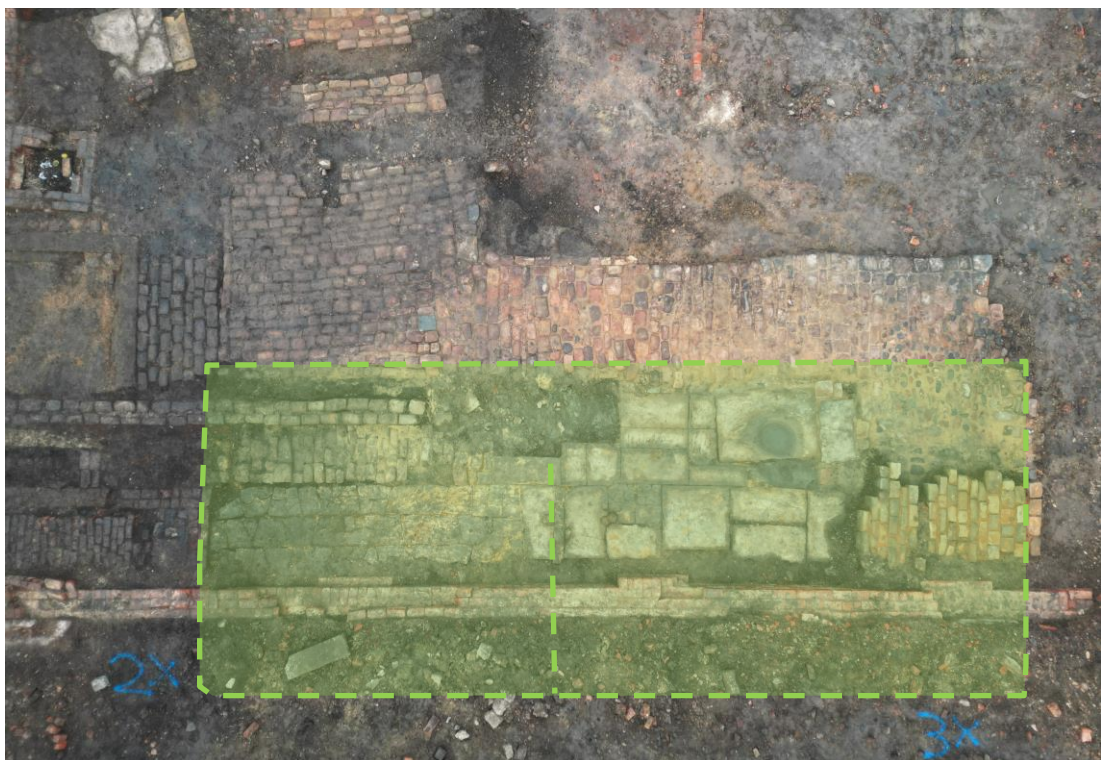


Plate 49: Wharf sheds (S11)

Jersey Street Houses and outbuildings

The properties on Jersey Street were modified in the late 19th century. The cellar light [201] in the south-eastern cellared room (S2a) was blocked during this phase comprised handmade brick bonded with grey ashy mortar.

The north-eastern corner of the cellar (S2b) was remodelled with the supposed blocking of an entranceway and small rectangular extension [196]. The extension necessitated the demolition of part of the north-western wall [166] of the cellar. Internally, the small extension was floored with concrete.

Broadly contemporaneous with extension formed by wall [196] was the rebuilding of the walls of the outbuildings to the rear of the Jersey Street buildings; the rebuilt walls [103]/[113]/[182] followed the line of the earlier structures but the brickwork was bonded with grey ashy mortar. The north-eastern room or outbuilding was floored with concrete [102] during this phase of use.

To the west of the yard wall [113] was a rectangular ash pit and privy [191]. This comprised a brick-lined pit and adjacent enclosed room with a flagstone floor.

Other structures:

A series of other walls [170]/[169]/[167]/[168] were constructed to the south and west of cellars S5 and S2a, respectively. Two of the walls [167]/[169] defined an L-shaped corridor. This could have functioned as store for coal associated with the adjacent cellar (S5).

A rectangular structure (S12) formed of a linear wall [110] running parallel to the rear walls [202]/[111] of cellar's S3 and S5. A large sandstone block at the structure's north-western end likely functioned as the tread of a set of steps. The structure (S12) had an overall footprint of 6.33m x 1.11m.

Phase 5: Late 19th to 20th century (Figs 8 & 9)

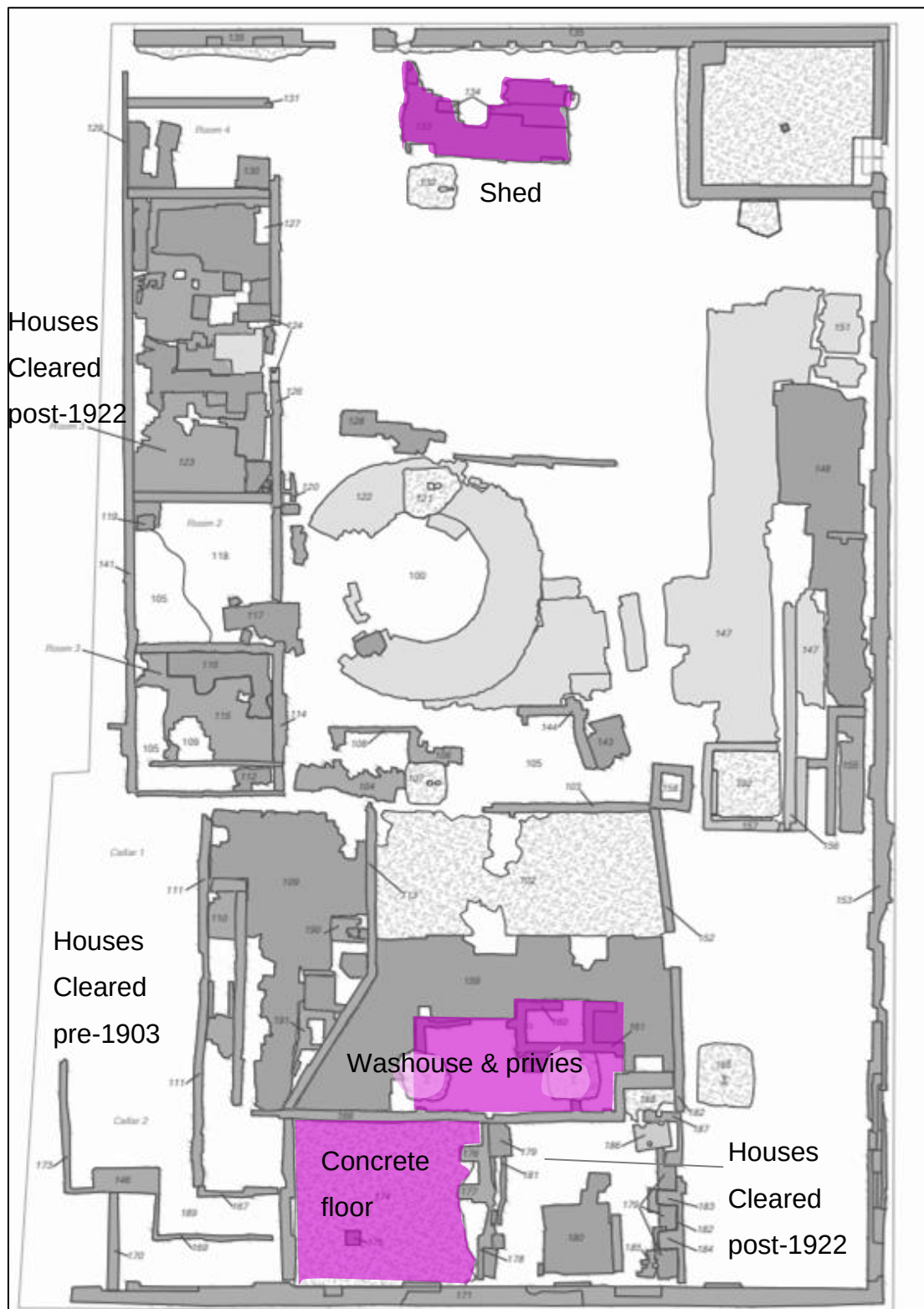


Plate 50: Phase 5 - Late 19th-century and early 20th-century structures (pink)

Phase 5: Late 19th to early 20th century

A block [160] was constructed to the rear of the Jersey Street properties in the late 19th century. This comprised one large room and three smaller cubicles. The structure likely functioned as a washhouse with the adjoining smaller rooms functioning as privies. A small vestige of floor survived in one of the rooms [162].



Plate 51: Privy to the rear of the Jersey Street Houses, part of structure [160]

The houses along Poland Street were cleared c.1908 and those at the junction of Jersey Street and Poland Street including Saxon's Court were cleared in the lead up to 1903.

A concrete floor was laid down in the south-western cellar (S2a) on Jersey Street; this had likely been laid down the latter half of the 19th century or early 20th century.

Phase 5: Early 20th century c.1908-

A rectangular building was constructed in the north-west of the site in the early 20th century. This survived as a brick surface [133] with timber joists [134]. These correspond to the south-western corner of a rectangular building shown