



Manox Dye Works, Watching Brief Manchester

Addendum to
Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Watching Brief

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Addendum to Written Scheme of Investigation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Hunter SFH Manchester Ltd, to produce an addendum to a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out at the site of the former Manox Dye Works, Manchester. The watching brief is to monitor ground remediation works. The site is known to contain high levels of contaminants and the approach outlined here has been devised alongside Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Services (GMAAS) to reduce the monitoring archaeologist's exposure to any contamination.
- 1.1.2 The planned watching brief works will focus on three areas of archaeological interest which equate to an area of approx. 1 ha. The site is centred on NGR 386214, 399358, at Coleshill Street, Greater Manchester, M40 8EF (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.3 This watching brief is part of a programme of archaeological works, which has included a desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site (Wessex Archaeology 2020).

1.2 Scope of document

- 1.2.1 This addendum sets out the extent of the area to be investigated and highlights the objectives of the works, building upon the existing WSI for the works (Wessex Archaeology 2023). This document does not seek to reproduce the contents of the existing WSI and should be read in conjunction with it.
- 1.2.2 This document will be submitted to Senior Planning Archaeologist, archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), for approval prior to the fieldwork.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The location, topography and geology at the site are set out in Section 1.3 of the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior desk-based assessment (DBA: Wessex Archaeology 2020), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 750 m study area of the proposed development. A summary of the results is presented in Section 2 of the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023).



3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1.1 The aims and objectives remain the same as those set out in Section 3 of the WSI for the works (Wessex Archaeology 2023).

4 FIELDWORK METHODS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Compliance with health and safety regulations and requirements will take priority over archaeological considerations in all works.
- 4.1.2 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI for the works (Wessex Archaeology 2023) and this addendum. Any significant variations to these methods will be agreed in writing with the Senior Planning Archaeologist and the client prior to being implemented.

4.2 Contamination

- 4.2.1 A review of previous geotechnical investigations within the site by Smith Grant LLP in January 2019 (Smith Grant LLP 2019) indicates that made ground deposits within the area of the former chemical works range from 0.9 to 3.1+ metres below ground level (bgl); it is likely that extensive foundations and sub-structures remain *in situ*, including a lined tunnel/trench containing coal tar. Within the area of the former school, made ground range from 0.7 and 2.5+ metres bgl. Within the area of open parkland made ground deposits range from 0.95 and 2.6m bgl; this area has been previously quarried, with evidence of mining also being documented. Subsequent intrusive works by RSK (RSK 2019) have confirmed the disturbance and contamination identified above.
- 4.2.2 A significant number of entries across the site area were observed to have visual or olfactory evidence of soil contamination, with blue dye material, black staining and/or tars with creosote odours.

4.3 Watching brief methods

- 4.3.1 Prior to any works being undertaken on site the supervising archaeologist will deliver a toolbox talk (Appendix 1) to the client and/or the groundworks team who will be undertaking the excavation works. This toolbox talk will include:
- Introduction
 - What is archaeology
 - Why is it important to you
 - What you might find
 - How to recognise archaeology
 - Outline of works
 - Method of works
 - What should I do if I find something that looks like it might be archaeologically significant?
 - Example photographs of what you might find



- 4.3.2 Once the client and/or their groundworkers have received the toolbox talk all mechanical excavation will, where possible, be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 4.3.3 The groundworks team will excavate trenches as depicted in Figure 2 to a depth of 1 m. If any archaeological remains are identified during this work the ground works team will inform Wessex Archaeology. Once the trenches have been excavated the supervising archaeologist will attend site to examine the trenches for archaeological remains. If no archaeological remains are identified the rest of the site can be reduced by 1m to the same depth. If any archaeological remains are identified during these site reduction works the ground works team will inform Wessex Archaeology. This process will be repeated until excavation works reach either archaeological remains or the superficial geology below the site. Should obviously modern remains be identified during any of the excavation works these may be removed using a toothed bucket once they have been confirmed as being modern by Wessex Archaeology.
- 4.3.4 Photographs and updates will be provided to Wessex Archaeology daily from the client and/or their groundworkers showing progress and any findings. If any features considered to be of archaeological significance are identified the supervising archaeologist will review photography and, in consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS, instruct the client and/or their principal contactor on how to proceed. If appropriate, it will be requested that areas of archaeological interest will be defined and suitably protected in advance of further review and digital recording.
- 4.3.5 Where archaeological remains are identified the ground works team will be asked to reduce the surrounding site to that level so that the extent and nature of the remains can be recorded. Where overburden needs to be removed from smaller or more delicate areas, such as the interior of structures to reveal floors, a mini digger with a toothless bucket may be required. This process will be guided remotely by the supervising archaeologist. Archaeological features and deposits may not be tracked or driven over until they have been fully recorded.
- 4.3.6 If extensive, complex or well-preserved archaeological remains are identified, for which the scope of the approved strategy is insufficient, the supervising archaeologist will halt the groundwork, and report immediately to the Wessex Archaeology project manager. Wessex Archaeology will then inform the client and GMAAS, as a contingent excavation or revised strategy may be required.
- 4.3.7 The programme, and additional resources, for any contingent excavation will be agreed with the client. Accordingly, this Addendum WSI will need revising before any further fieldwork proceeds – the revised addendum WSI will need the approval of GMAAS, on behalf of the LPA.

4.4 Recording

- 4.4.1 If archaeological remains are identified at the site a full areal photographic record will be made using a drone equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. This will record the detail and general context of the principal features and the site. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set. From these images a complete record of archaeological features and deposits will be made. This will include plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales from the photographic source (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans, 1:10 for sections).



- 4.4.2 All exposed archaeological deposits and features will be recorded remotely using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.

4.5 Monitoring

- 4.5.1 Wessex Archaeology will inform GMAAS of the start of the watching brief and its progress. Reasonable access will be arranged for the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS to make site visits to inspect and monitor progress. Any variations to the WSI and this addendum, if required to better address the project aims, will be agreed in advance with the client and GMAAS.

4.6 Finds

General

- 4.6.1 No finds will be retrieved from site due to risk of contamination. Wherever possible any finds will be photographed in situ and their presence recorded.

Human remains

- 4.6.2 The process of dealing with human remains set out in the WSI for the works (Wessex Archaeology 2023) will be followed in full.

Treasure

- 4.6.3 The process of dealing with any material covered, or potentially covered, by the *Treasure Act 1996* is set out in the WSI for the works (Wessex Archaeology 2023) and will be followed in full.

4.7 Environmental sampling

- 4.7.1 No environmental samples will be taken from site due to the risk of contamination.

5 POST-EXCAVATION METHODS AND REPORTING

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 The post-excavation methods detailed in Section 5.1 of the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023) will be followed in full.
- 5.1.2 No samples or finds will be recovered from the site due to contamination.

5.2 Reporting

- 5.2.1 Reporting will be as set out in Section 5.4 of the WSI for the works (Wessex Archaeology 2023).

6 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 Works will follow all archive storage and curation details as set out in Section 6 of the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023).

6.2 Third party data copyright

- 6.2.1 This document, the report and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are



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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Toolbox Talk

Toolbox Talk – Archaeology

Introduction:

This toolbox talk outlines a methodology for ground works staff to photograph and record their excavation works which will help enable a qualified archaeologist to identify the presence of any archaeological remains surviving at the site.

What is Archaeology:

Archaeology is the scientific study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of physical remains. Where no other historical records exist, it is often the only way to understand how humans used to live; from the earliest people tens of thousands of years ago until the 21st century.

Archaeologists look for buildings, ditches, and pits, but also artefacts such as flint, jewellery, pottery, coins, bones, and skeletons that need expert examination before removal and preservation.

Many sites may have ancient monuments and/or listed buildings on them, which are protected by law and planning control. Any specific issues related to these should be identified before work on site begins.

Why is it important to you:

Archaeology is an important part of our heritage; it is valuable and irreplaceable and can easily be damaged on construction sites. It is illegal to disturb human remains, remove treasure and to damage certain monuments and historical structures/buildings.

What you might find:

After a review of historical data the Site is likely to contain remains of a late 19th century chemical works.

The remains of structures will be the most likely type of archaeology to be found at this site, they will vary greatly in size, shape and appearance. Structures of this period are typically made from stone, brick or concrete. Floors, walls, cellars, internal features and old roads may all survive and require recording. You may also find evidence of ditches and pits which can be identified through a change in texture and colour from the surrounding soil, although this may be very subtle.

Sometimes, but not always, archaeological deposits may contain finds such as flint, jewellery, pottery, coins, bone, and glass. On this site we ask that you do not collect or handle any finds and only take a photograph to send to Wessex Archaeology.

Photographs of a selection of different archaeological features you may come across in your works are shown at the end of this toolbox talk.

Monitoring and recording works

Outline of works:

Due to the level of contamination there will not always be a monitoring archaeologist on site so you will be asked to undertake self-monitoring of your excavation works for any potential archaeological remains. Records of your works will need to be forwarded on to Wessex Archaeology to enable a qualified archaeologist to confirm whether or not any remains are present. These photographs will also be required for reporting.

Method of works:

This must be done for all open cut trench excavations each day:

- The location of the trenches should be set out prior to works commencing.
- Take photographs of the working area prior to excavation.
- All mechanical excavation, where possible, should be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket.
- Each trench has a pre-determined number and this number should be used to reference photographs taken of each trench.
- Take regular photographs of the trenches during excavation. You should take both general overview shots showing the length of the trench as well as shots showing the stratigraphy (sequence of soils) in the section.
- You should aim to take 2 or 3 shots of the section, as straight as possible, showing the full depth of the trench. Try to avoid objects (people, machines, equipment) in the background where possible.
- Trenches are to be excavated to a depth of 1 m. If any archaeological remains are identified during this work you will need to inform Wessex Archaeology. If significant structural remains are identified you will be required to strip the surrounding site to that level to reveal the extent of these remains.
- Once the trenches have been excavated the supervising archaeologist will attend site to examine the trenches for archaeological remains. If no archaeological remains are identified the rest of the site can be reduced to the same depth. If any archaeological remains are identified during these site reduction works you will need to inform Wessex Archaeology. If significant structural remains are identified you will be required to strip the surrounding site to that level to reveal the extent of these remains.
- This process will be repeated until excavation works reach either archaeological remains or the superficial geology below the site.
- If identified and where appropriate, the surface of archaeological deposits or structures will be cleaned with a mini digger with a toothless bucket. This process will be guided remotely by the supervising archaeologist. Archaeological features and deposits may not be tracked or driven over until they have been fully recorded.

- Please take photos of any finds but do not touch these, due to the risk of contamination.
- **Note:** Photos should ideally be taken so that shadows or glare are avoided. You can never take too many photos!

This must be done at the end of each day:

- Photographs of the trench and corresponding trench number should be emailed to j.winfer@wessexarch.co.uk at the end of each day with subject line "255451 Photos".
- Include a description of what each photograph is of (which trench/where in trench the photo was taken/ direction facing), the size of scale used if one is present, and the date the photograph was taken.



Example of how to photograph archaeological section. Suggested title 'Section of Trench 1 looking west'



Example of how to photograph an open cut trench excavation. Suggested title 'Trench 1 looking north east'

What should I do if I find something that looks like it might be archaeologically significant:

Do:

- Stop work and immediately contact a supervisor or manager for instructions.
- Fence off any part of the site suspected of containing archaeological remains.
- Forward photographs of the suspected remains to j.winfer@wessexarch.co.uk as quickly as possible with a location and written description of what has been found. This will enable Wessex to attend site if required and reduce the risk of any delays to works or damage to archaeological deposits.

Don't:

- Assume that any artefacts or features discovered are unimportant.
- Do not touch or remove any 'finds' such as coins, pottery, or bones from the site.
- Undertake work near to area of potential archaeological remains without considering if any damage may be caused.
- Use vibrating equipment near to areas of potential archaeological remains as it may cause damage – check with a line manager.
- Drive vehicles through the area.

Example photographs of what you might find:



19th and 20th century structures



19th and 20th century structures within a trench



19th and 20th century structures within a trench



Archaeological pit



Archaeological Ditch



Post Medieval pottery



Medieval pottery

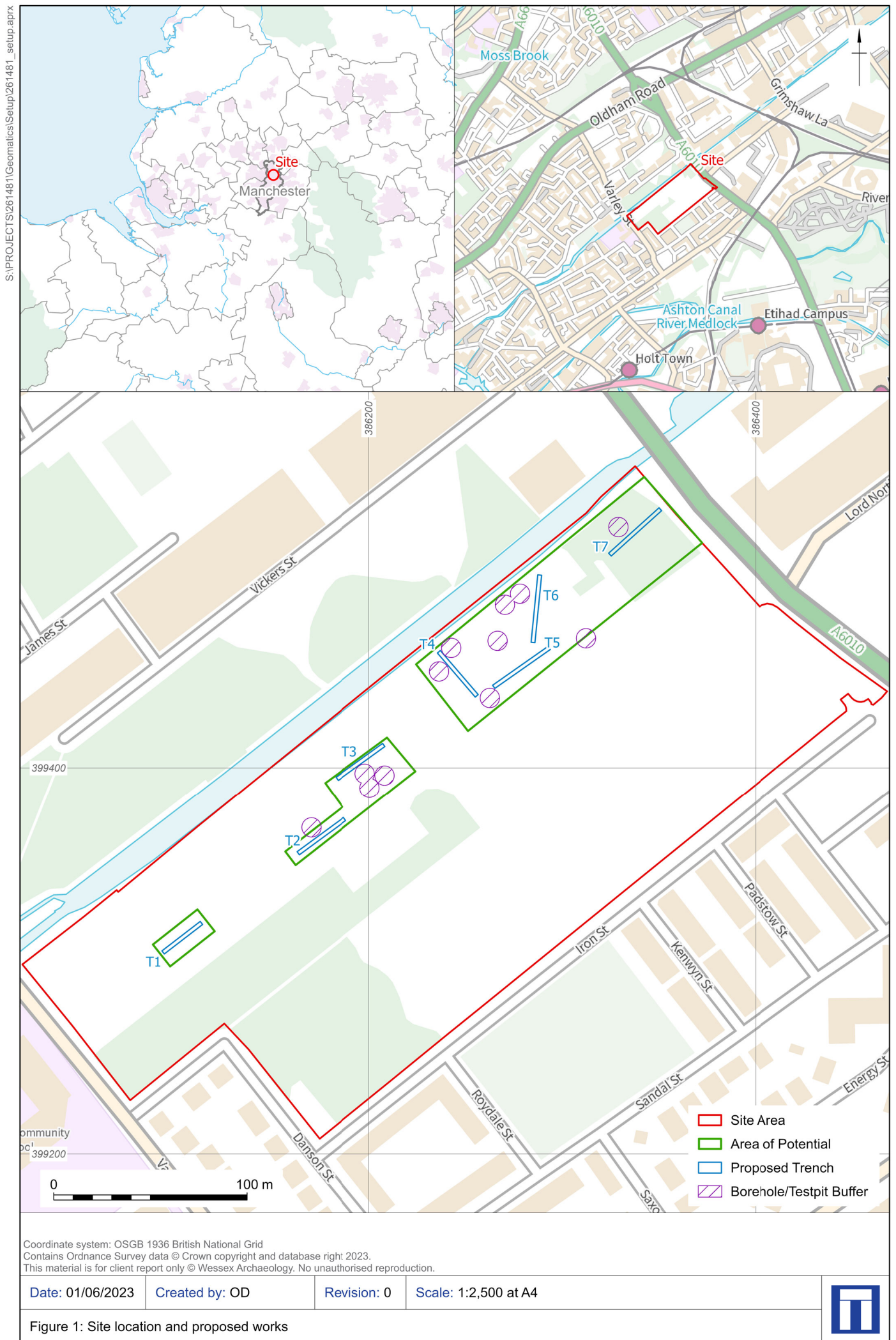




Figure 2: Site location and proposed works with 1893 historic map



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