



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

Archaeological Evaluation

Laystall Street, Ancoats,
Manchester

Client:

McCaul Group Limited

Planning Ref:

128911/FO/2020

Report Author:

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Report No:

SA/2022/87



Location:	Laystall Street, Ancoats, Manchester		
NGR:	Centred on NGR: 384979 398260		
Project:	Laystall Street, Ancoats, Manchester: Archaeological Evaluation		
Planning reference:	128911/FO/2020		
Internal reference:	SECL2273		
Report number:	SA/2022/87		
Prepared for:	McCaul Group Limited		
Document:	Archaeological Evaluation Report		
Version:	1		
Author:	Dave Lavery		
Position:	Project Officer		
Date:	July 2022		
Approved by:	Joe Brooks	Signed:	
Position:	Post-excavation Project Manager		
Date:	August 2022		
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SUMMARY

This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation and excavation at Laystall Street, Ancoats, Manchester (centred on NGR: 384979 398260). The work was undertaken by Salford Archaeology and was commissioned by McCaul Group Limited who have secured planning consent (128911/FO/2020) and intend to erect a 9-storey residential building (Use Class C3) comprising 89 residential units (28 x 1 bed and 61 x 2 bed) and a 3-storey extension to 32-34 Laystall Street for use as offices (Class E), with associated external works following demolition of an outrigger and associated structures along with other associated works including access, servicing, landscaping and secure cycle parking. As such, the construction works will necessitate the removal of all buried archaeological remains existing within the proposed development area. In October 2020, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by McCaul Group Limited to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment and, in December 2021, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by McCaul Group Limited to compile a Written Scheme of Investigation. Within these documents a preliminary assessment of the site revealed the potential for the remains of late 18th-century and early 19th-century workers' housing to survive below ground. Any surviving buried remains of the workers' housing would be of local significance.

Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) in their role as advisors to the Local Planning Authority recommended that an appropriate scheme of archaeological investigation should be undertaken in advance of development. Consequently, an archaeological investigation was conducted over two days between 11th and 12th of July 2022, which comprised the excavation of four archaeological evaluation trenches and the monitoring of a basement excavation. This revealed three main archaeological phases.

Late 18th- / early to mid-19th-century development was represented by the remains of workers' housing in two of the trenches along with structural remains representing the Welsh Harp Public House – observed on historic mapping – in another trench. 20th-century activity was represented by the demolition of these structures and the use of the demolition debris to create a made ground levelling deposit used for the layering of concrete and asphalt in order to create the modern ground surface.

The archaeological remains recorded were deemed to be of local importance. No further on-site work is merited.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 Salford Archaeology was commissioned by McCaul Group Limited to undertake an Archaeological Evaluation at Laystall Street, Ancoats, Manchester (centred on NGR: 384979 398260; Figure 1), herein referred to as 'the site'. The site is situated on Laystall Street, which lies in the Piccadilly area of Manchester city centre. The site comprises 32-34 Laystall Street, and is bounded by Laystall Street to the north, Brock Street to the east, 51 and 53 Ducie Street to the south, and Pigeon Street to the west. The site lies at a height of approximately 47m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.0.2 Full planning permission (128911/FO/2020) was granted by Manchester City Council on 15th December 2020 for the erection of a 9-storey residential building (Use Class C3) comprising 89 residential units (28 x 1 bed and 61 x 2 bed) and a 3-storey extension to 32-34 Laystall Street for use as offices (Class E), with associated external works following demolition of outrigger and associated structures along with other associated works including access, servicing, landscaping and secure cycle parking. The construction works necessitated considerable earth-moving works, which would impact any buried archaeological remains.
- 1.0.3 Before planning permission was granted, the McCaul Group commissioned Salford Archaeology to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed development site (Brogan 2020). This report identified that the Laystall Street and Pigeon Street frontage of the scheme area was occupied in the late 18th century by terraced houses, with a public house, the Welsh Harp, located at the streets' junction. The area to the rear of Laystall Street was developed in the early 19th century for back-to-back workers' housing. All of these houses were cleared during the second half of the 19th century in advance of the development of 32-34 Laystall Street and the associated yard and workshops to the rear. The new warehouses were constructed for John Armitage & Sons, a brick and tile manufacturer with offices in Manchester and Sheffield. The firm let out some of the workshops to clothes manufacturers and, by the mid-20th century, the majority of the complex was used for the manufacture of clothes.
- 1.0.4 Following consultation with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), which provides planning advice to Manchester City Council, the development was subjected to a planning condition. The condition attached to planning reference 128911/FO/2020 stated:

12) No demolition of the outrigger or below ground works shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of

a programme of archaeological works. The works are to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by Manchester Planning Authority. The WSI shall cover the following:

1. A phased programme and methodology of investigation and recording to include:

i) evaluation through trial trenching.

ii) dependent on the above, more detailed excavation (subject to a separate WSI).

2. A programme for post investigation assessment to include: - production of a final report on the investigation results.

3. Deposition of the final report with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.

4. Dissemination of the results of the archaeological investigations commensurate with their significance.

5. Provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation.

6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.

Reason: In accordance with NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 199 - To record and advance understanding of heritage assets impacted on by the development and to make information about the archaeological heritage interest publicly accessible.

1.0.5 Thus, in December 2021, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by McCaul Group Limited to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation (Mottershead 2021), which laid out a programme of works comprising an archaeological evaluation initially consisting of consisting six trial trenches targeted on areas of potential identified on historic mapping (Figure 2). Following a site inspection made in advance of the evaluation it was ascertained that trenches 5 and 6 lay within a modern basement. Following consultation with GMAAS, it was decided that a more effective methodology would be to monitor the open-area excavation of that basement and to then carry out the evaluation trenching following the monitoring (Figure 2).

1.0.6 The archaeological evaluation commenced on the 11th of July 2022 (Figure 2). This programme of archaeological excavation recorded the remains of possible 18th- and 19th-century workers' housing along with some structural remains of the Welsh Harp Public House observed on historic mapping.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.0.1 The main aims of the evaluation were to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains on the site and, if present, characterise the level of preservation and significance, and provide a good understanding of their potential.

2.0.2 The principal objectives of the archaeological investigation were:

- to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;
- to provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the need for any additional archaeological mitigation; and
- to make available the results of the work.

2.0.3 It was anticipated that the archaeological investigation would address several of the agenda for archaeological research of the industrial and modern periods stated in the current North-West Regional Research Framework (NWRRF 2021). In particular, the work had the potential to address the following research questions relating to housing and living conditions:

- Ind22: How can we take forward our understanding of the impact of industrialisation on the working class and their living conditions?
- Ind23: What evidence do we have for the improvement of urban public health during this period?
- Ind33: How well studied and understood are the back yards of workers housing and what is their significance?
- Ind39: What do we know about pre-By Law workers housing and where are significant examples?

3. LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.0.1 The site (centred on NGR: SJ 84981 98264) is situated on Laystall Street, which lies in the Piccadilly area of Manchester city centre (Figure 1). The site comprises 32-34 Laystall Street, and is bounded by Laystall Street to the north, Brock Street to the east, 51 and 53 Ducie Street to the south, and Pigeon Street to the west (Figures 1 and 2). The site lies at a height of approximately 47m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 3.0.2 Topographically, the Manchester conurbation as a region lies within an undulating lowland basin, which is bounded by the Pennine uplands to the east and to the north. The region as a whole comprises the Mersey River valley, whilst the rivers Irwell, Medlock, and Irk represent the principal watercourses in Manchester (Countryside Commission 1998, 125).
- 3.0.3 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2022) the underlying solid geology of the site is comprised of Sandstone of the Chester Formation formed approximately 247 to 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period (*ibid*). Within a local environment previously dominated by rivers (*ibid*). The superficial deposits are composed of Devensian till formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period within a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (*ibid*).

4.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1.1 The following information is derived from an archaeological desk-based assessment produced by Salford Archaeology (Brogan 2020), along with other sources listed in the bibliography.

4.2 Prehistory (Pre-AD 43)

- 4.2.1 The current understanding of human activity in the Manchester region during the prehistoric period is poor, although it is reasonable to suggest that several areas in the centre of the city, such as Castlefield and Ardwick, may have been conducive for late prehistoric settlement on account of the natural topography and the abundance of natural water sources (i.e., rivers) (Gregory 2007).

- 4.2.2 Physical indications of human activity are provided by a small number of residual finds. A Neolithic flint flake was found at Spinning Field, near Deansgate in 1892 (HER 414.1.0; Sutton 1892). A Neolithic stone hammer and arrowhead were unearthed in the Castlefield area of Manchester in 1845 (HER 119.1.0), whilst excavations at 77-83 Liverpool Road (HER 13944.1.0) produced two Mesolithic flints, one Neolithic/Bronze Age waste flake and a single sherd of late Bronze Age/iron Age pottery (Brogan 2020). These finds complement a growing regional body of evidence representing prehistoric activity, known to be concentrated on well-drained sand and gravel sites in proximity to watercourses and moss lands (*ibid*).

4.2.3 Romano-British Period (AD 43 – 410)

- 4.2.4 The first military occupation of Manchester was established during the governorship of Agricola (AD 77-84), and commenced with a five-acre wooden fort, known as *Mamucium* (Bruton 1909), situated c. 1.8km south-west of the site. The fort underwent several phases of development, with the earlier defences being deconstructed and improved (*ibid*). The military complex evolved in response to the ongoing military campaigns, from a purely defensive site to an established supply depot, essential to the expansion and consolidation of control in the region (*ibid*). The maturation of the military complex can be seen in the growing body of evidence for a military annexe, occupying an area to the north and east of the fort (Arrowsmith 2016, 9-12). Evidence pertaining to this annexe is relatively scant and thus the exact nature of early settlement is unclear (*ibid*).
- 4.2.5 As this military complex developed, a grid of roads was laid out and a substantial extramural settlement, or *vicus*, grew up around them (Brogan 2020). This settlement was made up of civilians, attracted by the security and commercial benefits of the

nearby fort (*ibid*). Based on archaeological excavations and the distribution of Roman finds, the limits of this civilian settlement appear to have extended south-eastwards along Chester Road, terminating somewhere in the vicinity of Great Jackson Street, northwards from the fort to approximately Quay Street, westwards along Liverpool Road for c. 100m from the north-west corner of the fort, and eastwards across Deansgate to the area now occupied by Beetham Tower (*ibid*). The Roman Road heading north from the fort at Castlefield ran nearby the site, along Deansgate, and is labelled on the 1848 OS map (*ibid*).

- 4.2.6 Roads from the fort linked Manchester with Buxton to the south-east, Chester to the south, Wigan to the north-west, Ribchester to the north, and Castleshaw and York to the north-east. The settlement was well connected in terms of trade and consequently lasted until the late third century AD (*ibid*). The Roman Road linking Manchester to Castleshaw ran along the line of Old Mill Street, which is located 176m to the east of the site (*ibid*).
- 4.2.7 **Medieval Period (AD 410 – 1540)**
- 4.2.8 There is very little archaeological evidence in the region as a whole that represents the period between the end of the Roman occupation and the Norman Conquest of 1066 (*ibid*). The area around Manchester came under the control of several kingdoms during this period (*ibid*). In AD 620, Edwin occupied Manchester, and it may have been at this time that settlement in the town was established around the cathedral (Farrer and Brownbill 1908).
- 4.2.9 In AD 919, the Anglo-Saxon king, Edward the Elder, established a fortified base at Manchester, which was then part of Viking Northumbria (*ibid*). It has been suggested that the burh lay within the area around the cathedral, which became a focus for settlement by the late eleventh century (*ibid*). The site occupied presently by Chetham's School is thought to have been the site of a castle founded by Manchester's Norman barons (*ibid*).
- 4.2.10 Following the Norman Conquest, William I assigned most of the land between the Ribble and Mersey rivers to Roger of Poitou, who retained the manor of Salford demesne (Tupling 1962, 116), but divided his other newly acquired land into several fiefdoms (Kidd 1996, 13). The largest of these was the landholding centred on Manchester, created by the grant of extensive lands in the hundreds of Salford, Leyland and West Derby to Albert Grelley (Tupling 1962, 116).

4.2.11 By the 13th century, the Grelley family had established a manor house at the confluence of the rivers Irwell and Irk and the medieval town grew up around it (Hartwell *et al.* 2004, 256). It was from this hall that they governed both the manor and the extensive barony (*ibid*). In 1222 Manchester was granted an annual fair, and in 1301 Thomas Grelley was granted the Great Charter of Manchester by Edward I, and thus it became a free borough (*ibid*).

4.2.12 **Post-medieval and Industrial Period (AD 1540 – 1914)**

4.2.13 During the 18th century, south-east Lancashire as a whole was predominantly an agricultural area of isolated settlements and market towns, with the growing town of Manchester at its centre (Williams with Farnie 1992, 3). By the 1780s, the national demand for textiles, particularly cotton, began to rise, resulting in a dramatic increase in mill building that transformed Manchester into a centre of the factory-based cotton manufacturing industry of international repute (Baines 1835). This process of industrial development was facilitated greatly by the introduction of canals, which provided the first efficient means of transporting bulk loads of goods (*ibid*). The first true industrial canal in Britain was that built by the Duke of Bridgewater, which was completed from his mines at Worsley to Manchester in 1764, the terminus of which was at Castlefield (Hadfield and Biddle 1970). This economic climate was linked to a rapid growth in the town's population; in 1773, an estimated 22,481 people lived in Manchester, but this figure had more than tripled to 75,281 by 1801 (Lloyd-Jones and Lewis 1993).

4.2.14 The development of the site may be traced reasonably well from the sequence of available historic mapping (Brogan 2020). The earliest reliable published map that shows the study area at a useful scale is Green's map of 1787-94 (Plate 1), which shows housing fronting Lees Street (now Laystall Street) (*ibid*). The map shows four terraced houses along Lees Street and six along Pigeon Street (*ibid*). The street plan shown on Green's map resembles the present street pattern, with Brock Street (formerly Bank Street) to the east of the site, Ducie Street to the south and Pigeon Street to the west (*ibid*).

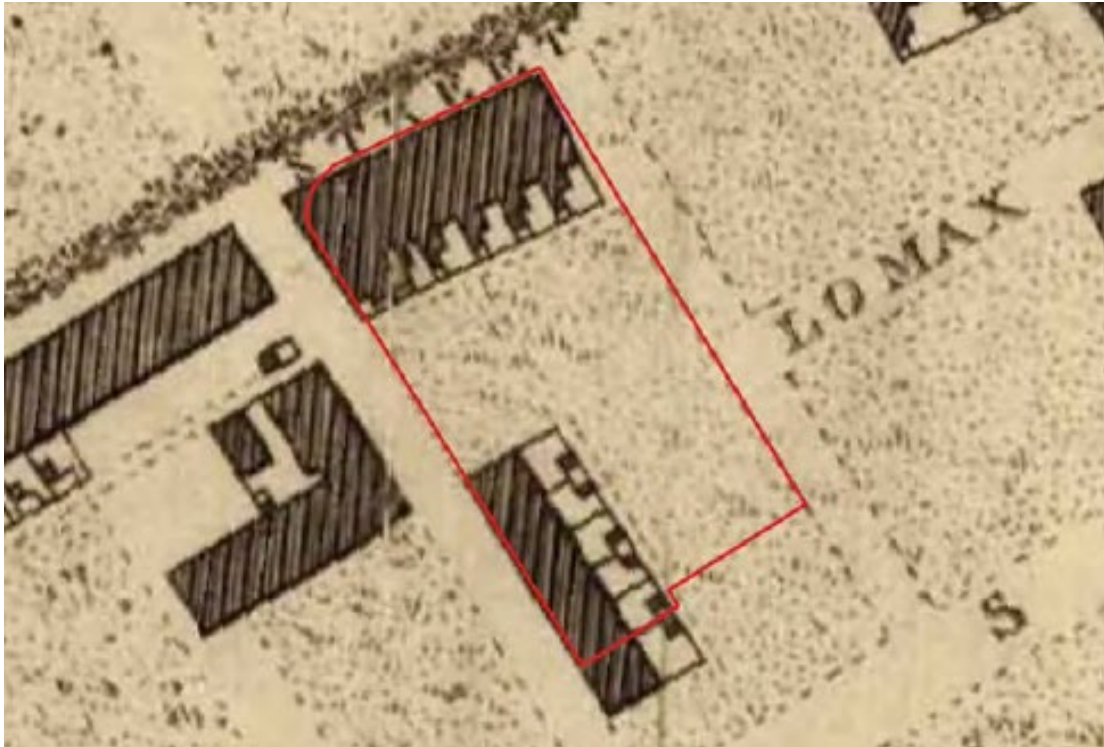


Plate 1: Site boundary superimposed onto Green's map of 1787-1794, north at top

- 4.2.15 Three courts of houses had been to the rear of the houses along Laystall Street by 1824 and appear on Swire's map of that year, with more houses also being added to the row of houses shown in Green's map (*ibid*). Little detail is shown on this map, although Bancks and Co.'s map of 1831 shows that these courts consisted of back to-back housing (*ibid*).
- 4.2.16 The detailed Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1851 (Plate 2) depicts the same configuration of buildings shown on Bancks and Co.'s map of 1831, but also indicates that many of the terraced houses within the site were furnished with cellars, as implied by the presence of pavement lights (*ibid*). The public house, located at the junction between Lees Street and Pigeon Street, is labelled '*The Welsh Harp*' (*ibid*). The only identifiable additional development within the site is a possible extension to the rear of the end of-terrace house (*ibid*). The area surrounding the site had become more developed by 1851, with more housing, a machine manufactory and Methodist school constructed within the formerly undeveloped areas shown on Bancks and Co.'s map (*ibid*).



Plate 2: Site boundary superimposed onto the 1851 OS Town Plan, north at top

- 4.2.17 The terraced houses of Laystall Street were demolished during the late 1860s - early 1870s, perhaps in the wake of the introduction of the Manchester Waterworks and Improvement Act of 1867, and the site was redeveloped by J. Armitage & Sons, a brick and tile company that was already established within Sheffield (*ibid*). The firm first gained premises in Manchester at 19 Store Street in 1863 and, by 1864, Armitage had premises on Lees Street Wharf, located at the corner of Laystall Street (formerly Lees Street) and Tariff Street (formerly Leech Street), directly on the Rochdale Canal (Levrant 2020).
- 4.2.18 During the 1870s, Armitage & Sons constructed a new building within the site (Brogan 2020). An indenture, dated to 22nd February 1878, records the transfer of the site of the works from James Edmondson to John Armitage (*ibid*). The new building at 32-34 Lees Street operated as the head offices and works for the firm, although advertisements published in local newspapers show that rooms were available to let within the warehouse for other works and businesses (*ibid*).
- 4.2.19 The detailed Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan of 1891 (Plate 3) shows 32-34 Lees Street, together with a clothes manufactory located along the western boundary of the site and a smaller building at the southern boundary (*ibid*). A large yard was also located to the rear of 32-34 Lees Street (*ibid*).



Plate 3: Site boundary superimposed onto the 1891 OS map, north at top

4.2.20 The configuration of buildings occupying the site on the 1908 OS map appears largely similar to the 1891 OS Town Plan, although an additional structure is shown in the yard on the 1922 OS map, which is later labelled on Goad's insurance plan as 'stage' (*ibid*). Armitage & Co. was included in Slater's directory of 1911, which stated that works were still located at Lees Street and operated as fire brick makers (*ibid*). The 1922 OS map shows little development within the site between 1908 and 1922, although Bank Street had been renamed Brock Street during this period (*ibid*).

4.2.21 Modern Period (Post 1914)

4.2.22 Goad's insurance plan of 1929 labelled the various functions of the Armitage & Co. premises (*ibid*). The plan shows that the majority of the works was used as a clothes factory (*ibid*). The plan shows that 32-34 Lees Street consisted of three floors and a basement, and the narrow building along the western boundary of the site comprised four stories to the north and three stories to the south (*ibid*). Offices were also located on the first floor, and a lime store and garage were included within the buildings to the south of the site (*ibid*).

4.2.23 Little alteration to 32 and 34 Laystall Street is shown on subsequent mapping, such as the 1971 OS map (*ibid*). During this period, Lees Street had been renamed Laystall

Street and the terraced housing of Pigeon Street and the Welsh Harp public house had been demolished (*ibid*). Some minor alterations can be seen on the post 1891 mapping. The workers housing at the southeast side of the site appears to have been demolished between 1922 and 1951. A modern factory appears to have been erected between 1951 and 1965.

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.0 **General Methodology:** all archaeological work was conducted following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*' (CIfA 2020 [a]), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standards and Guidance for archaeological Excavation*' (CIfA 2020 [b]). 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 areas was then scanned for any live services using a cable avoidance tool. The excavations were regularly scanned as work progressed.
- 5.1 **Machine Excavation:** Under the supervision of a suitably experience archaeologist, a 20-tonne, 360°, tracked, mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket was used to remove the overburden sealing the structural remains. 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. Hand excavation was undertaken by trained professional archaeologists. All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically, utilising pro-forma context sheets, and was accompanied with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features.
- 5.2 The archaeological excavation involved the monitoring of the excavation of basement fill material and the excavation of four archaeological evaluation trenches. The trenches were targeting yards and associated features, as they are depicted on 18th- and 19th-century mapping. Trenches 5 and 6, originally intended to investigate the possible presence of remains below the structures to the rear of the listed building, were instead undertaken as archaeologically controlled monitoring of the removal of demolition material from the modern basements found to be present within the area.
- 5.3 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 guidance, *Digital Image Capture and File Storage Guidelines for Best Practice* (Historic England 2015). All frames will include a visible, graduated metric scale. Photographs records will be maintained on photographic *pro-forma* sheets.
- 5.4 The finds recovery and sampling methodologies were undertaken in accordance with current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standard and guidance for the*

collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials' (ClfA 2020 [c]) and were subjected to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive also followed the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' '*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*' (ClfA 2020 [d]).

6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

6.1.1 On the 6th July 2022, the removal of the backfill of the modern basements took place under the supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. The archaeological evaluation trenching took place over two days between 11th and 12th July 2022. The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of four archaeological evaluation trenches measuring between 6.5m and 11.7m long x 1.8m wide. The trenches targeted yards and associated features, as they are depicted on 18th- and 19th-century mapping.

6.2 Trench 1 (Plate 4; Figure 3)

6.2.1 Trench 1 was aligned south-east to north-west and excavated to a maximum of 10.2m long x 1.8m wide and was c. 1.25m deep.

6.2.2 The earliest deposit in Trench 1 comprised a firm yellowish-brown clay geological natural substrate [104], encountered at a maximum depth of 1.25m BGL (below ground level). This was overlain by a 0.33m thick deposit of mid-brownish sandy-clay subsoil [103]. This was overlaid by a 0.67m thick deposit of black mottled clay made ground [102].

6.2.3 Made ground [102] was truncated by a north-east to south-west aligned red brick surface [105] in the centre of the trench and sandstone surface [107] to the south-eastern end of the trench. Brick surface [105] was constructed of handmade, unfrogged red brick and bonded with lime mortar. Each brick measured an average of 230mm long x 70mm wide x 10mm thick. The entire area measured 1.35m wide x 1.8m long. However, it did seem to continue past the limit of excavation.

6.2.4 A wooden planked surface [106] also aligned north-east to south-west, was located between possible surfaces [105] and [107]. These boards measured 0.9m long x 0.2m wide x 0.04m thick.

6.2.5 A further white-brick surface [108] was located north-west of surface [105]. Brick surface [108] was constructed of machine made, white bricks with a central groove each measuring 230mm long x 80mm wide x 10mm thick, with the entire area measuring 1m wide x 1.8m long. However, this also continued past the limit of excavation.

6.2.6 The entire trench was sealed by a 0.12m thick deposit of modern asphalt surface [101] which formed the current ground surface



Plate 4: Trench 1 showing structural remains, looking south-west, scale: 1m.

6.3 Trench 2 (Plate 5; Figure 4)

- 6.3.1 Trench 2 was aligned north-west to south-east and was excavated to a maximum of 11.7m long x 1.8m wide x 0.77m deep. The general stratigraphy comprised a firm yellow clay geological natural substrate [204] recorded at 0.77m BGL. This was cut by a modern land drain aligned roughly east to west. Geological natural substrate [204] was overlaid by a 0.35m thick deposit of mid-brown sandy-clay subsoil [203]. This was then overlaid by a 0.20m thick deposit of firm made ground [202]. The trench was then sealed by a 0.12m thick deposit of modern asphalt [201].



Plate 5: General shot of Trench 2 looking north-west, scale: 2 x 1m.

6.4 Trench 3 (Plate 6; Figure 5)

- 6.4.1 Trench 3 was aligned north-west to south-east and was slightly shortened due to the proposed trench falling outside the designated area of works. Trench 3 therefore measured a maximum of 6.5m long x 1.8m wide x 1.6m deep. As the trench was 1.6m deep, and had very loose sides which often collapsed, access was not deemed safe. The earliest deposit recorded in Trench 3 was a York Stone flagged floor surface [302] aligned north-west to south-east, along with a handmade, unfrogged red brick wall [303] also aligned north-west to south-east.
- 6.4.2 The York Stone flagged surface [302] and red brick wall [303] was overlaid by a 1.5m thick deposit of made ground [301]. The trench was then sealed by a 0.1m thick deposit of modern asphalt surface [300] which formed the current ground surface at c. 45.15m aOD.



Plate 6: South-west-facing section of Trench 3, scale: 2 x 1m.

6.5 Trench 4 (Plate 7; Figure 6)

- 6.5.1 Trench 4 was aligned north-west to south-east and measured a maximum of 8.5m long x 1.8m wide x 1.1m deep. The general stratigraphy comprised a firm yellow clay geological natural substrate [403] at 1.1m BGL. This was overlaid by a dark grey sandy-clay made ground [406] with a maximum thickness of 0.23m. This was then overlain by a 0.27m thick deposit of mid-yellowish-brown sandy-clay [407] with frequent sub rounded stone inclusions.
- 6.5.2 Wall [409] was constructed on made ground [406] and measured 1m long x 0.35m wide x 0.08m tall. This was constructed of handmade, unfrogged red bricks and was potentially a doorway or window lintel. Wall [409] abutted an L-shaped external wall [404], which measured 1.34m and 2.50m long x 0.11m wide x 0.78m tall (Plate 7). This was a single-skinned wall again constructed from handmade, unfrogged red bricks that were bonded with a lime mortar. Wall [404] abutted York Stone flagged surface [408] which measured 4.7m long x 1.8m wide, however this did continue past the limit of excavation. It is likely that these remains relate to the cellar of the Welsh Harp pub observed on historic mapping (Plate 3).

- 6.5.3 These remains were then sealed by 0.6m thick deposit of whiteish-grey demolition debris/ silt mix [402]. This was then overlain by a 0.3m thick deposit of clay [401] which had an abundance of smashed floor tile inclusions.
- 6.5.4 Finally, the trench was sealed by a 0.20m thick deposit of modern asphalt [400] which formed the current ground surface at a level of c. 47.30m aOD.



Plate 7: General shot of Trench 4 and York Stone flagged cellar surface {408} to the Welsh Harp pub, looking south-east, scale: 2 x 1m.



Plate 8: Trench 4, wall [404], looking north-west, scale: 2 x 1m.

6.6 Open Area Monitoring (formerly Trenches 5 and 6; Plate 8; Figure 2)

- 6.6.1 The monitored basement excavation measured 26m by 16.5m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.8m BGL (Figure 2).
- 6.6.2 The basement was constructed from machine-made white glazed bricks bonded with a hard white cement. It had a concrete floor surface and contained black plastic downpipes and modern drainage features (Plate 9). Several doorways were visible leading between the two buildings' cellars. Above the brick walls were reinforced concrete slabs forming the ground level floor surfaces. The basement floors were not excavated through and are to be retained for the current development.



Plate 9: Monitored excavation of open basement, looking north-west .

7. DISCUSSION

7.0 Phase 1: Natural

- 7.0.1 Natural deposits were encountered in trenches 1, 2 and 4. The levels at which natural deposits were recorded are described in the table below:

Trench	Level (BGL)	Level (m AOD)
1	1.25	43.90
2	0.77	44.42
3	-	-
4	1.10	46.12

7.1 Phase 2: Late 18th / Early 19th Century (Figure 7, 8 and 9)

- 7.1.1 Structural remains recorded in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 represent the earliest anthropogenic activity revealed during the evaluation. The brick wall [105], sandstone surface [107], Wooden surface [106] and wall [108] in Trench 1; along with York Stone flagged surface [302] along with red brick wall [303] in Trench 3 likely represent the remains of workers' housing observed on historic mapping. The L-shaped wall [404], wall [405], York Stone flagged surface [408] and wall [409] in Trench 4 represent the structural remains of the Welsh Harp Public House, which can also be seen on the historical mapping (Figures 7, 8 and 9).
- 7.1.2 The preservation of 18th/19th-century structural remains was generally poor across the site.
- 7.1.3 **Phase 3: Later 20th century**
- 7.1.4 This phase of activity on site was represented by deposits [102], [202], [301], [401] and [402] which evidenced the demolition of late 18th- and 19th-century structures. These demolition deposits served as levelling made ground on which a concrete had been laid throughout the site.
- 7.1.5 The modern basement revealed during the monitored open excavation is also related to this phase, likely being part of the factory first depicted on the 1965 OS mapping (Figure 11).

8. CONCLUSIONS

8.0 Key Results

- 8.0.1 The excavation at Laystall Street revealed three archaeological phases. The earliest phase represented natural deposits. A series of structural remains related to 19th-century workers' housing and the Welsh Harp Public House first depicted on Green's map of 1794 represented the earliest anthropogenic activity recorded on the site (Figure 7).
- 8.0.2 Phase 3 was represented by levelling deposits created by the demolition of 19th-century structures during the second half of the 20th century. The demolition debris was then used as a levelling layer for a modern concrete and asphalt floor surface which was present throughout the site. The two large factory basements at the rear of the listed building, built between 1951 and 1965, also represented 20th-century development.
- 8.0.3 The survival of 18th/19th-century remains across the site was generally poor with most being completely demolished down to natural ground level.

8.1 Significance

- 8.1.1 The archaeological investigation has provided a detailed record of buried archaeological remains of local significance. In particular, the site demonstrates further evidence of 18th/19th-century workers' housing in the Manchester area. As the remains can only be considered to be of local significance, it is not recommended that any further work take place on the site.

8.1.2 Dissemination

- 8.1.3 The project archive comprises site drawings, context sheets, matrix, digital scans and surveys and photographs. A copy of this report will be deposited with GMAAS Historic Environment Record. All drawn records will be transferred to a digital format and then a copy will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). A short summary of the evaluation will feature in *Post-medieval Archaeology*.

9. ARCHIVE

- 9.0.1 The results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards and in line with current ClfA guidelines updated 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. The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in north-west England. All drawn records will be transferred to and stored in digital format and deposited with the ADS (Archaeological Data Service). The integrity of the site archive will be maintained upon completion of the archaeological works with the archive ultimately being offered for deposition with an appropriate repository.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.0.1 Salford Archaeology would like to thank McCaul Group Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and to Ian Miller of GMAAS for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Julian Thorley for supervising the on-site work and Graham Mottershead for his project management.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Trench	Description	Phase	Same As
101	1	Concrete/ asphalt modern ground level	3	(201), (300) and (400)
102	1	Mottled backfill/ levelling deposit	2	(202) and (401)
103	1	Mid-brown subsoil	1	(203)
104	1	Geological natural substrate	-	(204) and (403)
105	1	Brick and sandstone block surface	1	-
106	1	Wooden plank surface	1	-
107	1	Sandstone block surface	1	-
108	1	White brick surface	1	-
109	1	Group number containing (105), (106), (107) and (108)	-	-
201	2	Concrete/ asphalt modern ground level	3	(101), (300), and (400)
202	2	Mottled backfill/ levelling deposit	2	(102) and (401)
203	2	Mid-brown subsoil	1	(103)
204	2	Geological natural substrate	-	(104) and (403)
300	3	Concrete/ asphalt modern ground level	3	(101), (201) and (400)
301	3	Destruction debris/ silt mix made ground	2	(402)
302	3	York Stone flagged surface	1	-
303	3	Red brick wall	1	-
400	4	Concrete/ asphalt modern ground level	3	(101), (201) and (300)
401	4	Mottled backfill/ levelling deposit with crushed tile inclusions	2	(102) and (202)
402	4	Destruction debris/ silt mix	1	(301)
403	4	Geological natural substrate	-	(104) and (204)
404	4	L-shaped brick wall	1	-
405	4	L-shaped brick wall	1	-
406	4	Packing fill	1	-
407	4	Levelling deposit	1	-

408	4	York Stone flagged surface	1	-
409	4	Red brick wall	1	-

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Location of Evaluation Trenches

Figure 3: Trench 1 Plan

Figure 4: Trench 2 Plan

Figure 5: Trench 3 Plan

Figure 6: Trench 4 Plan

Figure 7: Trench plans superimposed onto Green's map of 1787-94

Figure 8: Trench plans superimposed onto Bancks & Co's map of 1831

Figure 9: Trench plans superimposed onto OS 60" to 1 mile Town Plan 1851

Figure 10: Trench plans superimposed onto OS 1:2500 National Grid Series 1951

Figure 11: Trench plans superimposed onto OS 1:2500 National Grid Series 1965

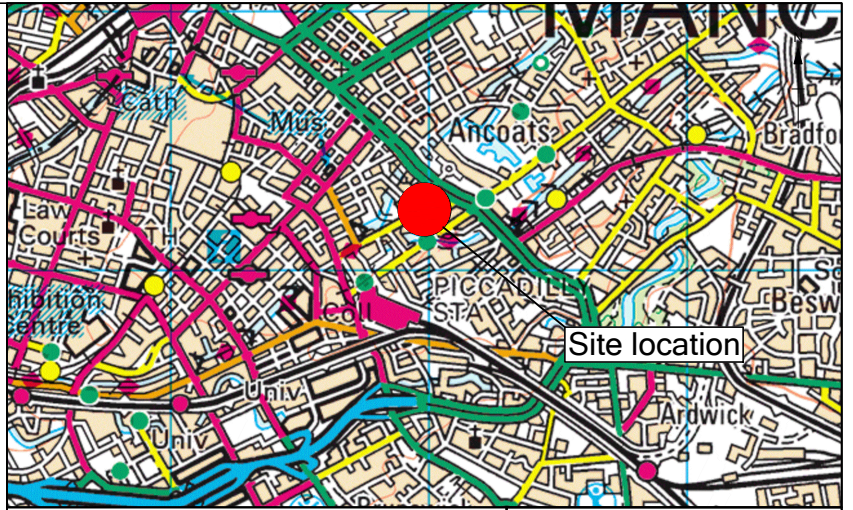


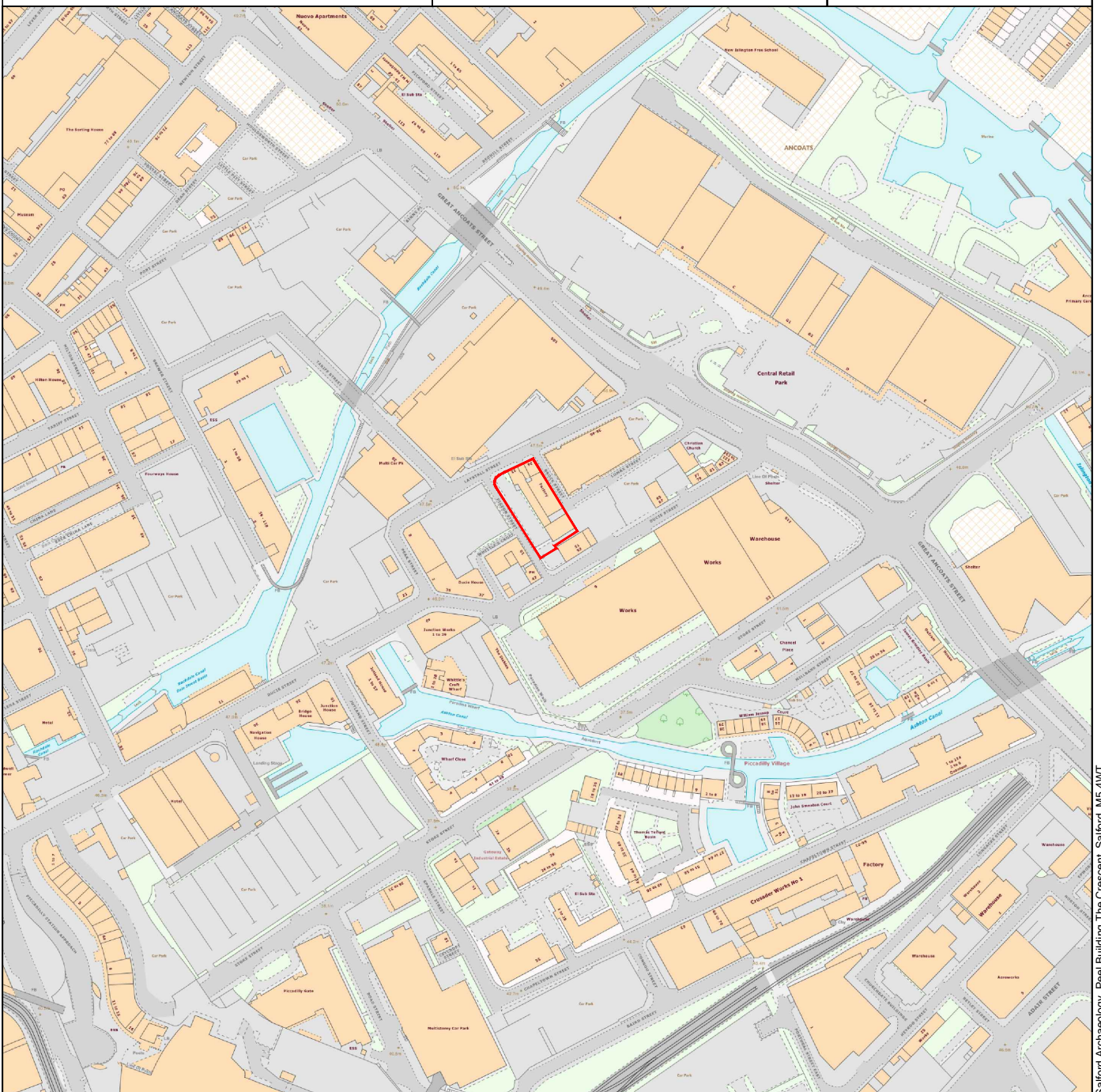
Figure 1:

Site Location

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384960

385000

398280

398280

398240

398240

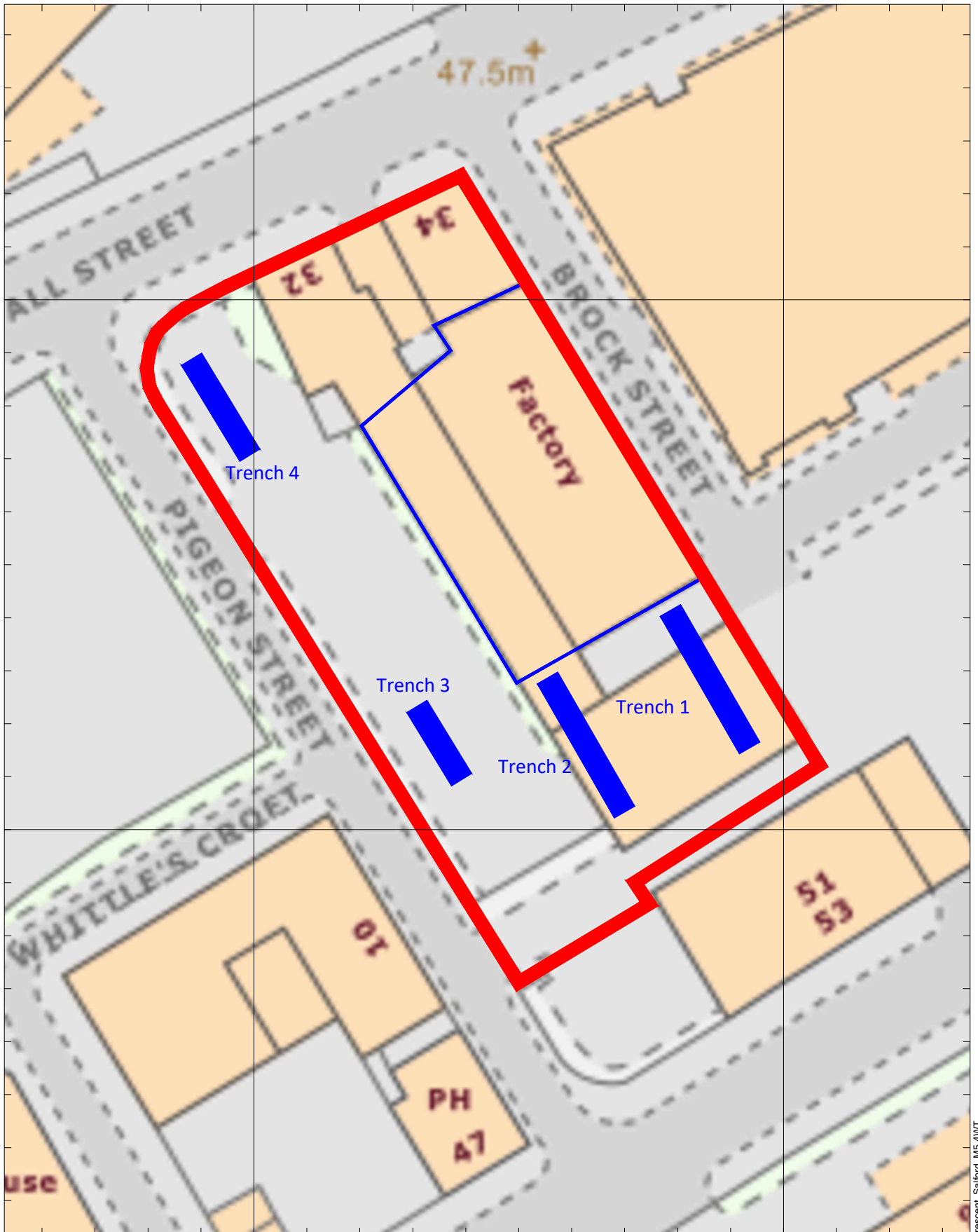


Figure 2:

Trench Location Superimposed onto Modern Mapping

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Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench Locations
- Basement Area



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0

20 m

Scale at A4 1:400

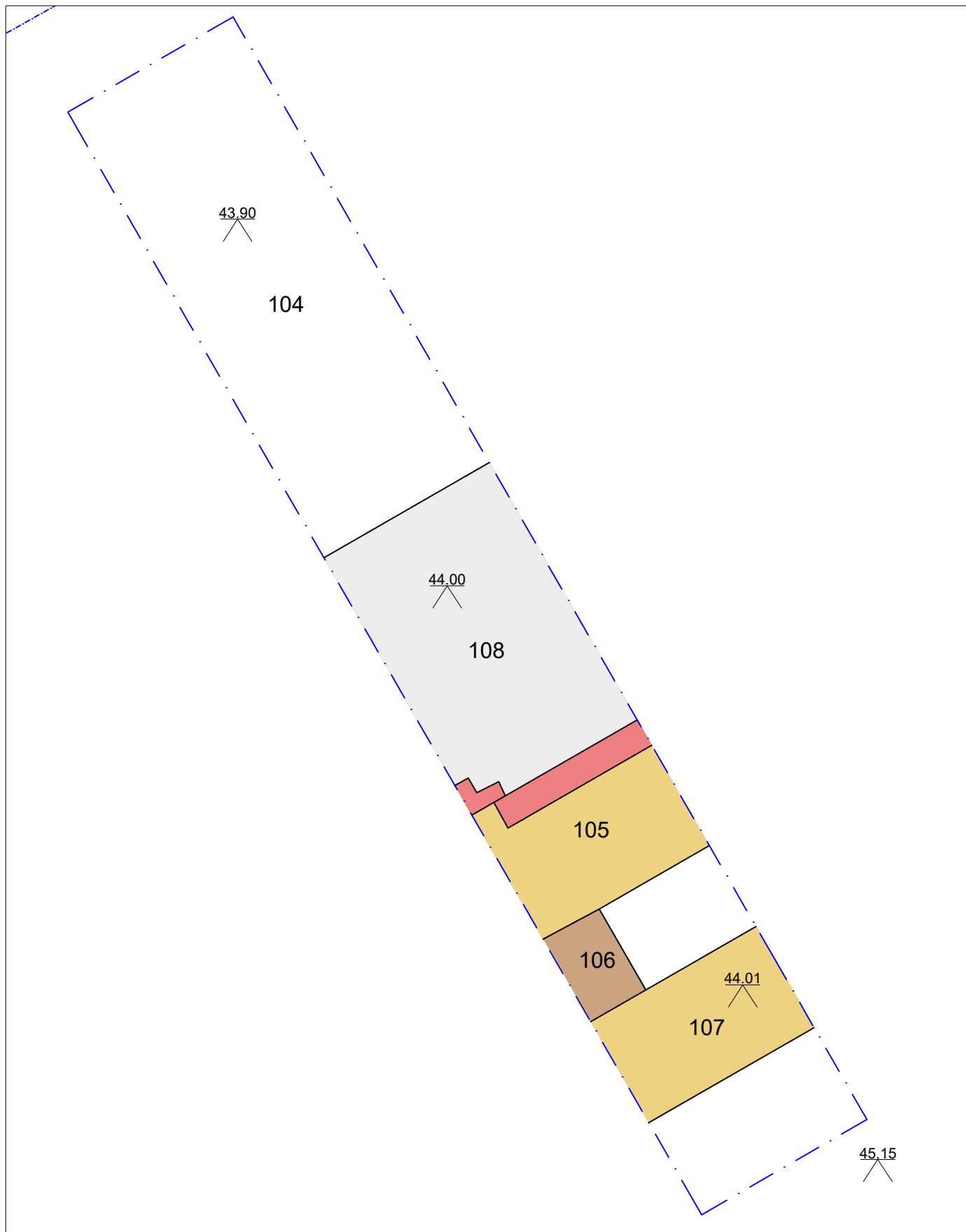


Figure 3:

Plan of Trench 1



Key:

- Sandstone Blocks
- Glazed Bricks
- Wooden Boards
- Bricks
- Limit of Excavation



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0 2 m

Scale at A4 1:50

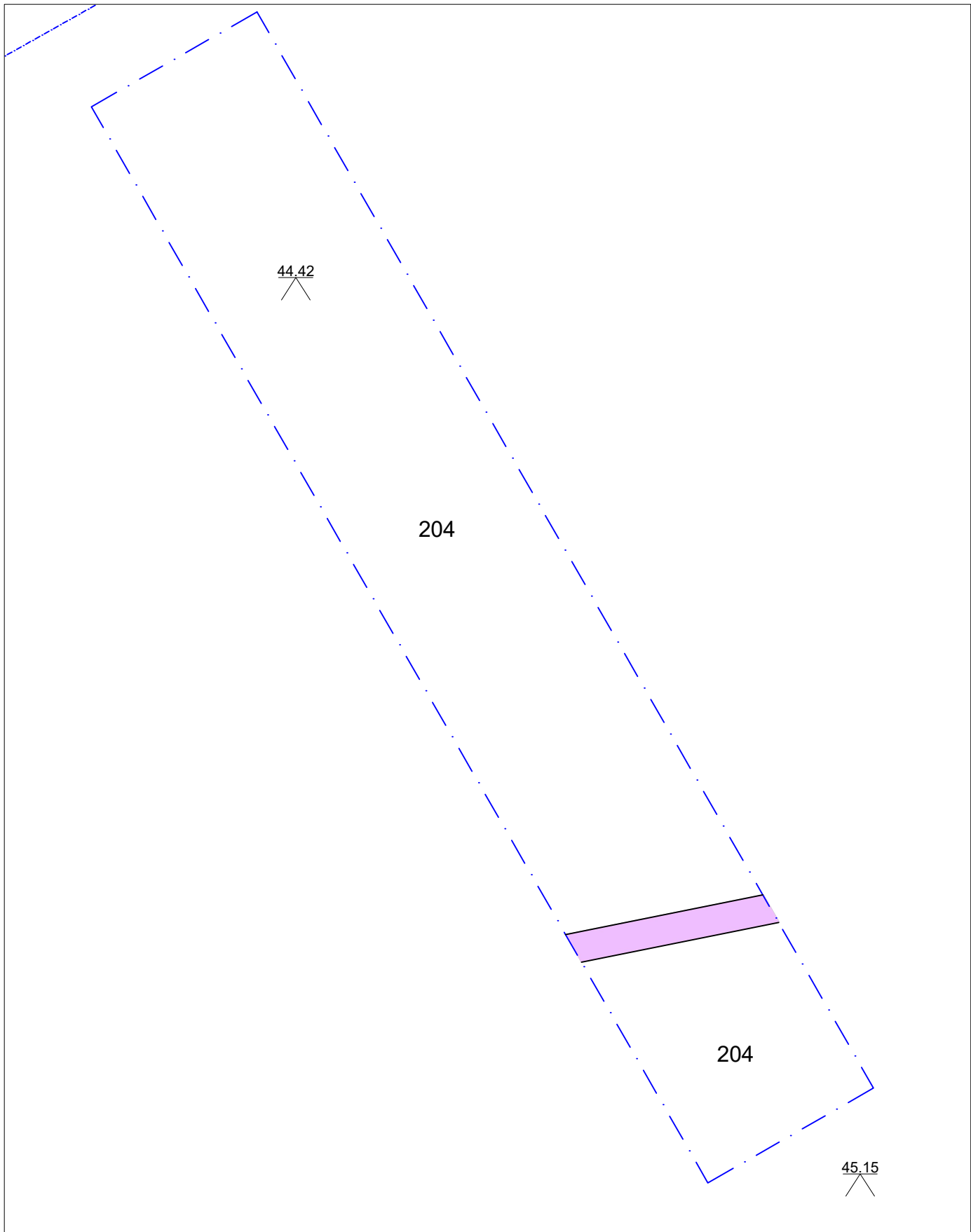


Figure 4:

Plan of Trench 2

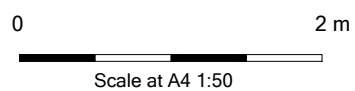


Key:

- Drain
- Limit of Excavation



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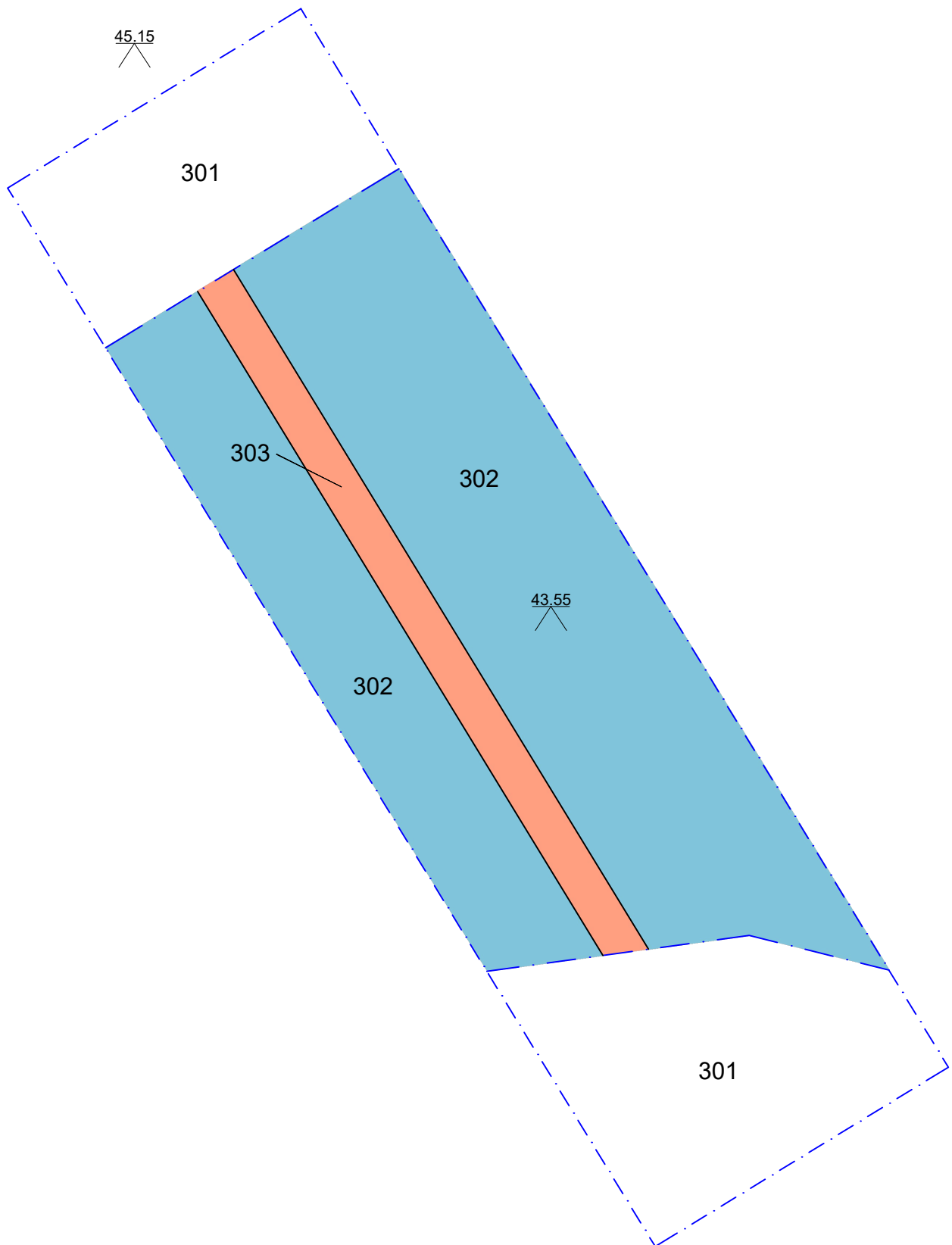


Figure 5:
Plan of Trench 3



Key:

- Flags
- Brick Wall
- Limit of Excavation



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Scale at A4 1:30

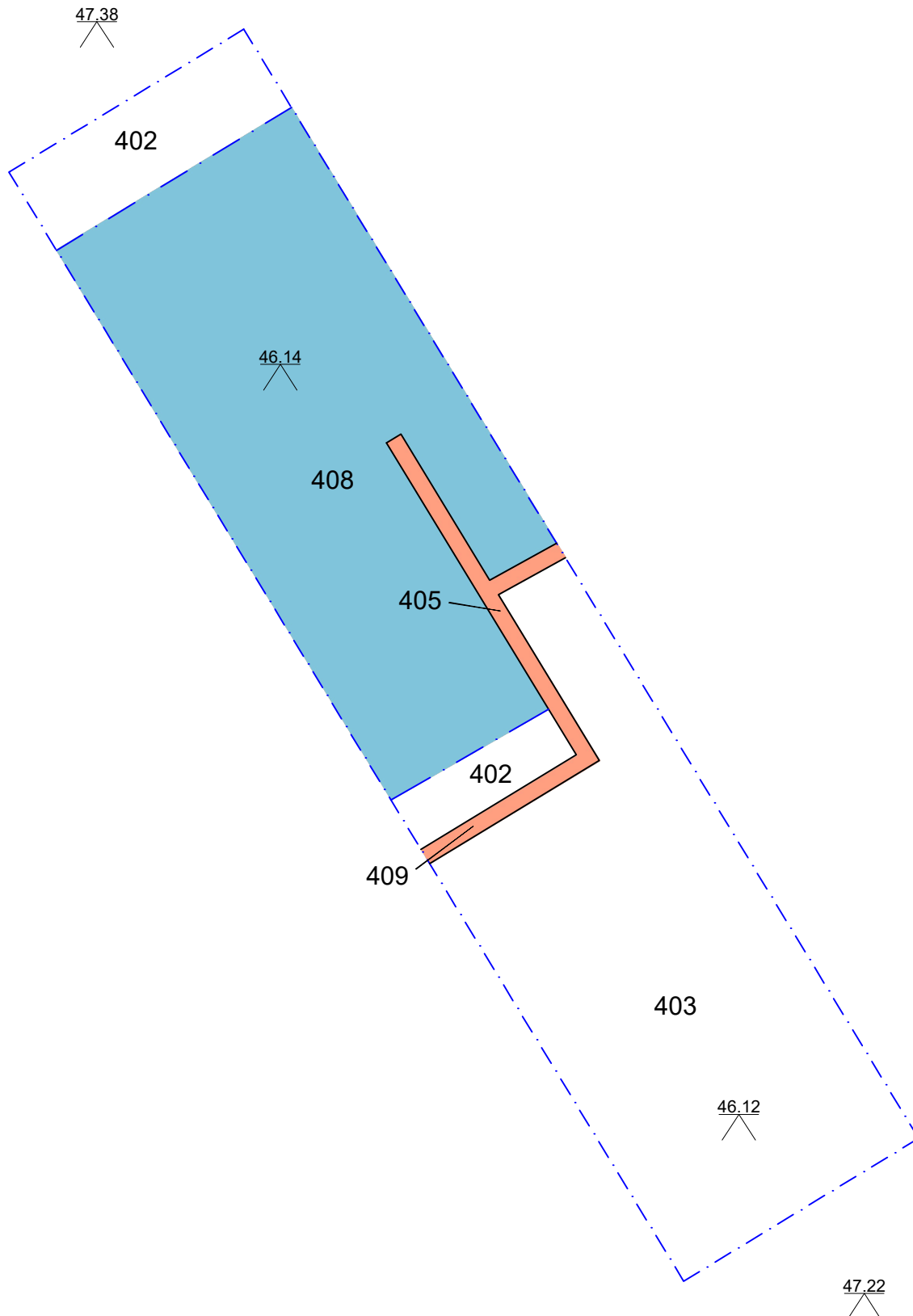


Figure 6:
Plan of Trench 4



Key:

- Flags
- Brick Wall
- Limit of Excavation



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Scale at A4 1:40

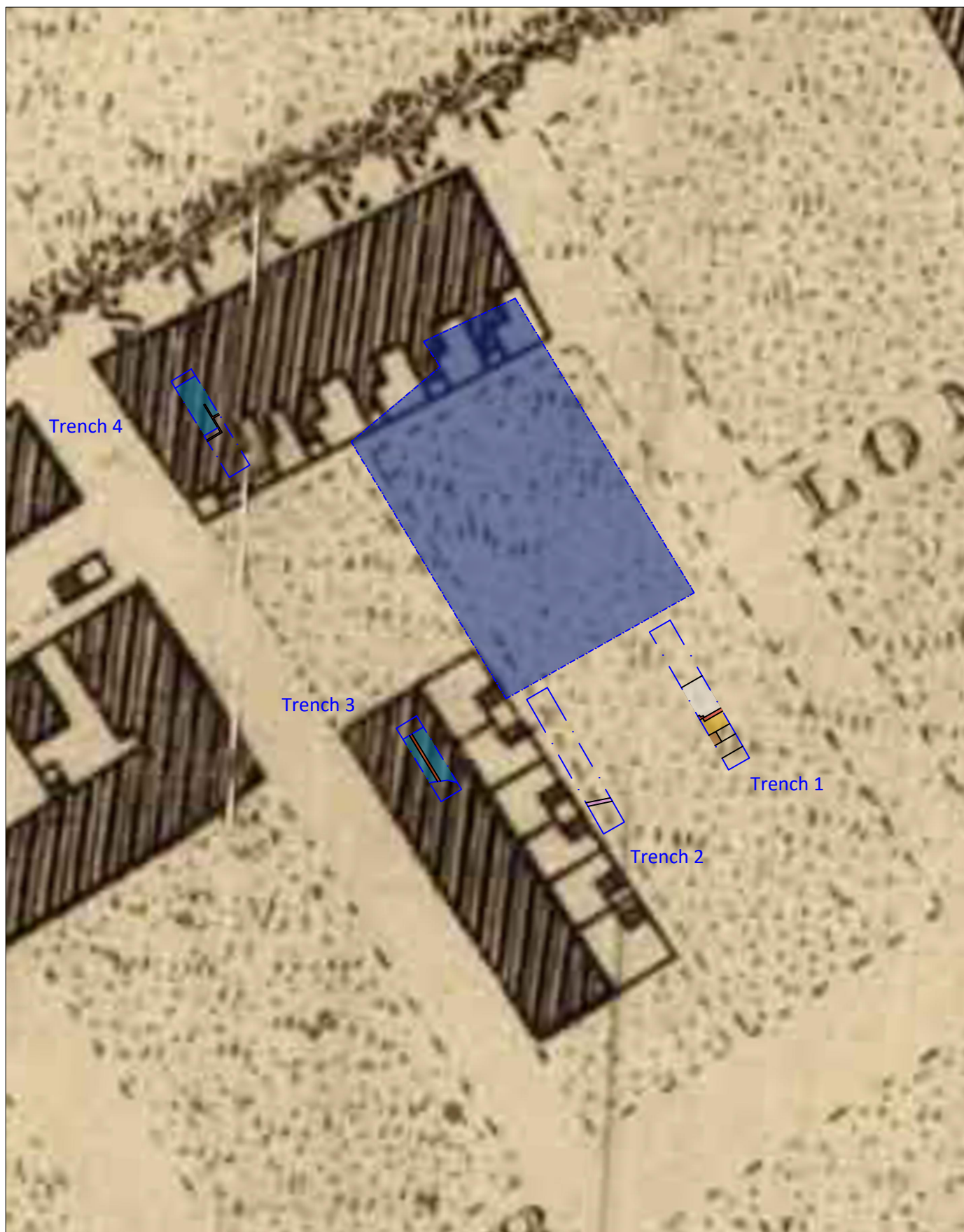


Figure 7:
Evaluation Results Superimposed onto Green's Map of Manchester & Salford 1787-94



Key:

	Brick Wall		Drain
	Flags		Basement Area
	Glazed Bricks		Limit of Excavation
	Sandstone Blocks		
	Brick		
	Wood		



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0 20 m
Scale at A4 1:400



Figure 8:
Evaluation Results Superimposed onto Bancks & Co's Map of Manchester & Salford 1831



Key:

	Brick Wall		Drain
	Flags		Basement Area
	Glazed Bricks		Limit of Excavation
	Sandstone Blocks		
	Brick		
	Wood		



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0 20 m
Scale at A4 1:400

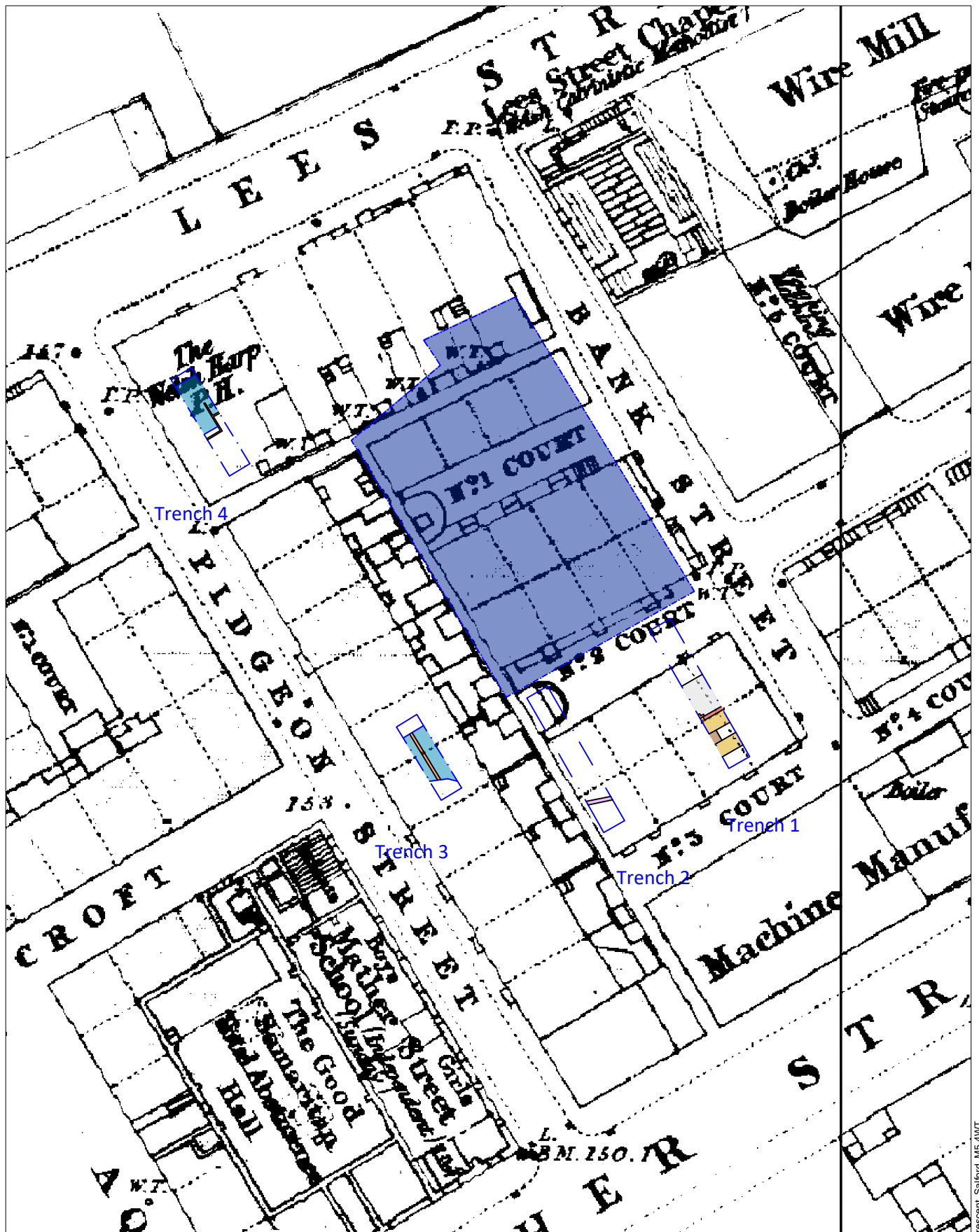


Figure 9:
Evaluation Results Superimposed onto the 1:1056 Town Plan of 1851

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Key:

	Brick Wall		Drain
	Flags		Basement Area
	Glazed Bricks		Limit of Excavation
	Sandstone Blocks		
	Brick		
	Wood		



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0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:400



Figure 10:

Evaluation Results Superimposed onto the 1:2500 National Grid Map of 1951

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Key:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Brick Wall | Drain |
| Flags | Basement Area |
| Glazed Bricks | Limit of Excavation |
| Sandstone Blocks | |
| Brick | |
| Wood | |



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0 20 m



Scale at A4 1:400



Figure 11:

Evaluation Results Superimposed onto the 1:2500 National Grid Map of 1965

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0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:400

Key:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Brick Wall | Drain |
| Flags | Basement Area |
| Glazed Bricks | Limit of Excavation |
| Sandstone Blocks | |
| Brick | |
| Wood | |



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