

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Slate Wharf, Blantyre Estate, Greater Manchester

ARS Report N°: 2021/174
OASIS ID: 502373

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Archaeological evaluation at Slate Wharf, Blantyre Estate, Greater Manchester

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Planning Reference:	113617/FO/2016
Local Authority:	Manchester City Council
Site central NGR:	SJ 83046, 97503
OASIS ID:	502373

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Name:	Archaeological Evaluation on land at Slate Wharf, Blantyre Estate, Greater Manchester
Site Code:	SWBM '21
Planning Authority:	Manchester City Council
Planning Reference:	113617/FO/2016
Location:	Slate Wharf, Manchester, M15 4ST
Parish:	Salford Parish Council
Hard Geology:	Sandstone of Chester formation
Superficial Geology:	None
Soil Type:	Naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy soils
NGR:	SJ 83046, 97503
Date of Fieldwork:	14/09/2021-16/09/2021
Date of Report:	02/11/2021

Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Prestbury Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Slate Wharf, Blantyre Estate, Greater Manchester, M15 4ST.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to fulfil Condition 5 of planning permission (Outline Planning Application No. 113617/FO/2016) for the development of a four-storey building to form 24 residential apartments (Use Class C3) with associated hard and soft landscaping and ancillary development. The site lies within an area of known archaeological significance and isolated evidence from the Romano-British period is found within the surrounding area due to the proximity of the Roman fort across the river from the development area (hereafter DA). A Smithy built between 1831 and 1845 previously lay within the DA.

A total of four trenches within the DA were excavated between the 14th and 16th September 2021 in accordance with a written scheme of works produced by Archaeological Research Services following consultation with the Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service (GMAAS). Alterations were made to the trench plans after consultation with GMAAS due to the underlying concrete pads that spanned the majority of the site. The trenches were backfilled following agreement with Ben Dyson Senior Planning Archaeologist GMAAS.

The evaluation trenches were targeted to determine if any archaeological features and/ or deposits survive within the site, between Slate Wharf to the West and Castlefield Canal basin to the East. No archaeological remains or features were encountered during the evaluation. Deposits of modern demolition material and made ground deposits underlay the concrete foundation pads of the former 20th Century warehouse that stood on the site.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background and Scope of Work

1.1.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Prestbury Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the land at Slate Wharf, Blantyre Estate, Greater Manchester, M15 4ST.

1.1.2 Informed by the DBA, and being post-determination, the subsequent archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) paragraph 205 (formerly 199) *'to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible*.' (DLHUC 2021) (as stated in section 1.1.3 of the WSI).

1.1.3 In accordance with the NPPF, Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) was commissioned by Prestbury Construction Ltd to undertake Archaeological evaluation at Slate Wharf, Blantyre Estate, Greater Manchester, M15 4ST (Figure 1), centred at NGR SJ 83046, 97503].

1.1.4 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) (Smith 2016) and Heritage Statement (Grimshaw 2016) were produced as part of the 2016 planning application, which detailed the location, character, date, potential and relative significance of heritage assets with an archaeological interest.

1.1.5 The proposed evaluation comprised the excavation and recording of three 10m x 2m trenches and one 15m x 2m trench (Figure 2). Due to the extent of the concrete pads across the site (as identified by preceding site investigation boreholes), and following consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS the trenches were altered to two 2m x 2m sondages, a 10m x 6m trench and a 15 x 2m trench (Figure 3).

1.1.6 Works were undertaken in compliance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (See Appendix III) approved by Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) and took place between 14/09/21 to 16/09/21

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The 'red line boundary' of the development area is depicted by a red polygon on Figure 1 and is *c.*0.10ha in area. The site is bounded by the Slate Wharf residential development and the Merchants Bridge to the north and east; the Wharf public house to the south and the Castlefield Canal basin to the east.

1.2.2 The topography of the site shows a fall from the north to south-east towards the canal basin, varying between 27.80m AOD and 25.86m AOD. The site is currently an area of open grassland centred at NGR SJ 83046, 97503 (Figure 1).

1.3 Geology and Soils

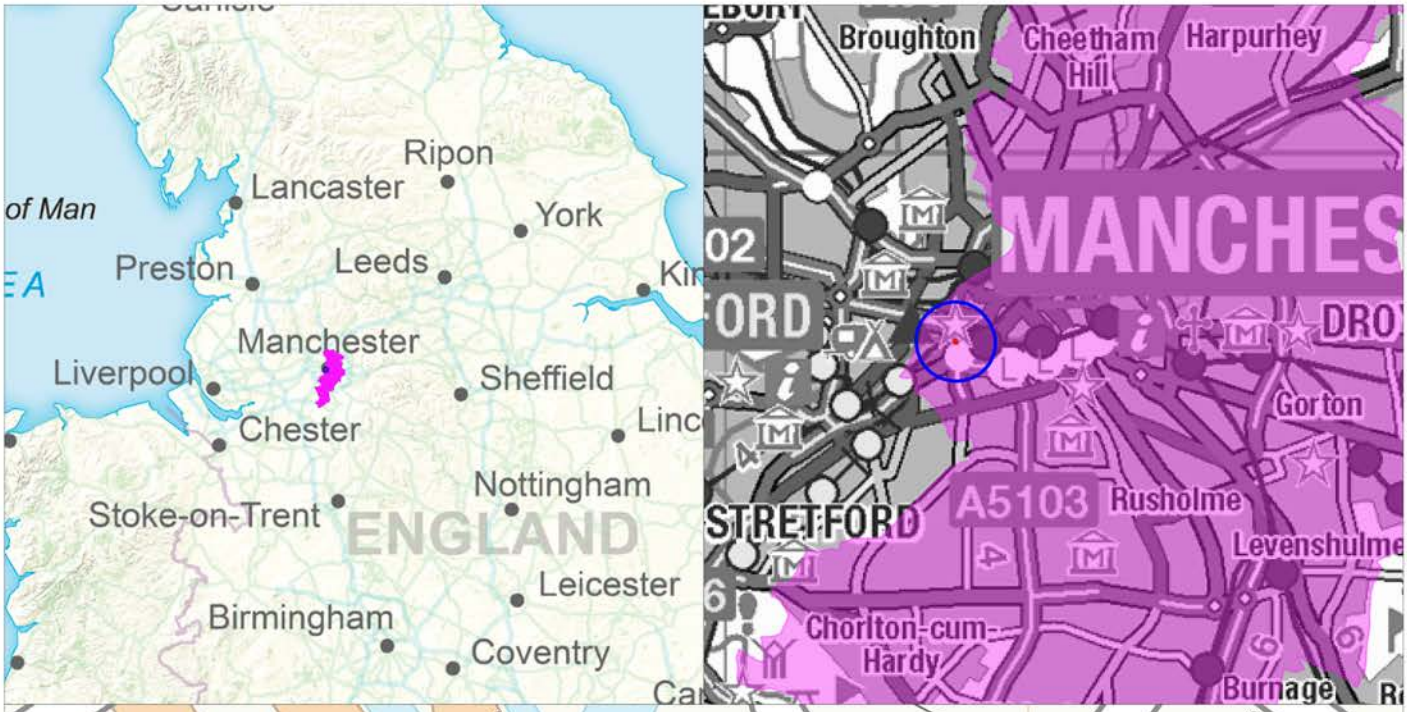
1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the DA comprises sandstone of Chester Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 247 to 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by rivers. No superficial deposits are recorded by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2021).

1.3.2 The soils of the DA are classified as naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy soils (Soilscapes 2021).

1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.4.1 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) (Smith 2016) and Heritage Statement (Grimshaw 2016) were produced as part of the 2016 planning application, which detailed the location, character, date, potential and relative significance of heritage assets with an archaeological interest. The 2016 DBA was an update of a previous study (Arrowsmith 2007) produced by the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) in 2007. A consultation response was provided by GMAAS as part of the 2016 planning application, which summarised the potential significance and impacts identified within the above documents.

1.4.2 The DBA identified the main archaeological interests as being the site of a wharf for the Bridgewater Canal including a smithy built between 1831 and 1845, together with a small building evident on Green's map of 1794. The Roman fort lies on the opposite side of the canal (originally the river Medlock) and, whilst later ground disturbance is likely to have had a negative impact on earlier remains, there is a possibility for Roman deposits. Recent excavations at Owen Street and Chester Road have demonstrated considerable Roman activity on this western side of the river Medlock, throwing new light on the origins of Manchester.





Site name:	Slate Wharf, Manchester
Date:	May 2021
Drawn by:	MB
Scale:	Varies

Figure 1:
Site location

N

Site Boundary

Manchester City Council

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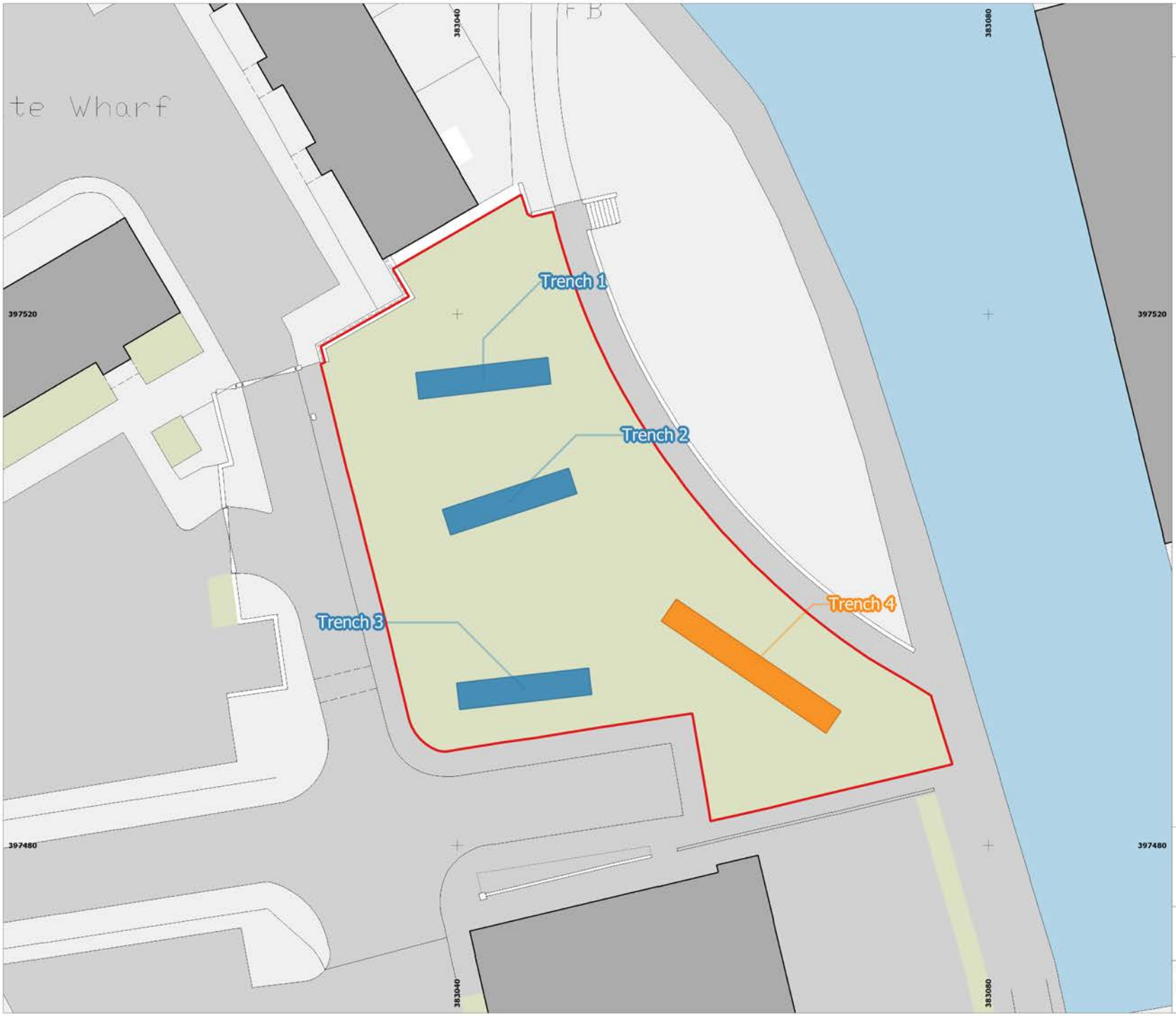
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Figure 2: Proposed Trench Plan



Site Boundary

Evaluation Trenches

10m x 2m Trench

15m x 2m Trench

0 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5 m

N

Site name: Slate Wharf, Manchester
Date: May 2021
Drawn by: MB
Scale: 1:400 @ A4

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2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Research Aims and Objectives

2.1.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation are outlined in detail in the WSI (see Appendix III) prepared by ARS Ltd. and are summarised below.

2.1.2 Research topics identified in the *Updated North West England Regional Research Framework* for the Romano-British and industrial and modern periods with relevance to the site include:

The Roman Period (Philpott 2021)

- R11: How can we identify typologies and the development of military sites and Roman road systems?
- R14: What were the date, extent, function and changes over time of extra-mural settlement (vici) in the region?

The Industrial and 20th Century Period (Nevell 2021)

- Ind52: What Industrial and Modern period type sites need further study?
- Ind53: What can archaeology tell us about the production and use of consumer products and their typologies from the late 18th to early 20th centuries?
- Ind98: How well understood and recorded are the North-West canals, waterways and basins?

2.2 Project Aims

2.2.1 The evaluation aimed to identify and record the possible presence/absence, location, nature, extent, survival, quality, significance and date of archaeological deposits that may have existed on the development area.

2.3 Project Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological evaluation trenching were as follows.

- Identify the presence/absence of archaeological features and deposits within the site.
- Record any archaeological features and deposits encountered.
- Sample sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits to establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation.
- Gather sufficient information to establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of any surviving archaeological deposits with a view to evaluating their significance and potential to inform the aims and objectives outlined in the associated WSI.

3 METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The methodology for the evaluation is set out in detail in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix III). However, the decision was made in consultation with Ben Dyson (GMAAS) to only excavate Trenches 2 and 4 after a large concrete pad was encountered during the preliminary soil survey. It was decided that Trench 2 would be extended southwards to find the edge of the concrete footing. When no edge was found two sondages at either end of Trench 1 were dug to investigate the northern limit of the concrete pad. While Trench 3 was left unexcavated as the southern edge of the amended trench 2 was only 1.5m from the northern limit of Trench 3.

3.2 Coverage

3.2.1 The location of the proposed evaluation trenches is outlined in section 4.1.1 of the WSI (Appendix III) and is illustrated in Figure 2. Due to circumstances mentioned in section 3.1.1 above the actual coverage of the evaluation trenches was as follows.

- Sondage 1: 2m x 2m. Located at the western extent of the formerly proposed trench 1 at the northern part of the site, targeting the footprint of the smithy depicted on mid-19th century mapping.
- Sondage 2: 2m x 2m. Located at the eastern extent of the formerly proposed trench 1 at the northern part of the site, targeting the footprint of the smithy depicted on mid-19th century mapping.
- Trench 2: 10m x 6m. Aligned east-north-east/west-south-west across the central part of the site, targeting the footprint of the smithy depicted on mid-19th century mapping.
- Trench 4: 15m x 2m. Aligned north-west/south-east across the south-eastern part of the site, targeting a part of the site that does not appear to have been developed previously.

3.3 Professional Standards

3.3.1 The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2019a) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (2020a).

3.3.2 All staff employed on the project were suitably qualified for their respective project roles and had substantial experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff were made aware of the circumstances and potential archaeological importance of the work and were fully briefed on the requirements highlighted in the WSI.

3.3.3 All ground works covered under this specification were undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a breaker, toothed and toothless ditching bucket or by hand.

3.4 Health and Safety

3.4.1 All works were undertaken in full compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and with the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992.

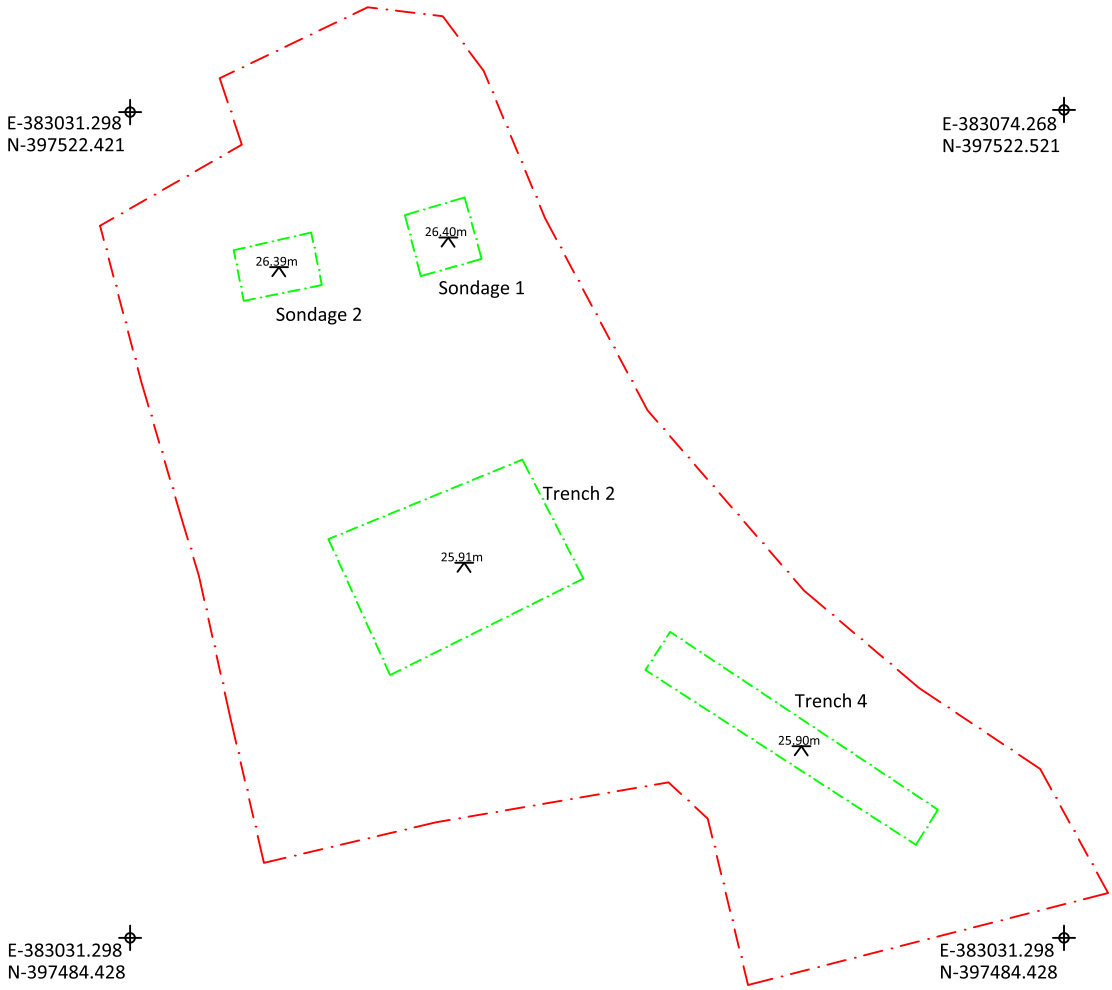
3.4.2 A risk assessment (RA No. 070/21/B) was produced before commencement of the work and was adhered to throughout the course of the fieldwork.

3.5 Fieldwork

3.5.1 The trenches were sited in accordance with the WSI (Appendix III) using survey grade equipment that typically give a minimum tolerance of sub-metre accuracy and usually centimetre accuracy, dependent upon satellite visibility. The same equipment was used to record known points on drawn plans and sections and to take spot heights within the trenches.

3.5.2 Where necessary, the concrete slab was removed using a toothed bucket. Overburden was removed in level spits down to the first archaeological horizon using a 13 tonne 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision.

3.5.3 Each trench was cleaned by hand to expose and define archaeological features. Pre-excavation photographs were taken of each trench and any exposed archaeology within them.



Site name: Slate Wharf
Date: 16.09.2021
Drawn by: SAC

Figure 3: Plan of Excavated trenches

N

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Limit of Excavation
Coordinate
PDA
Height AOD

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4 RESULTS

4.1 Summary of activities

4.1.1 An overall plan of trench locations is presented in Figure 3. Individual trench plans and photographs for those trenches where archaeological features were present are included as subsequent figures.

4.1.2 The context records are summarized in Appendix I providing an overview of the presence/absence of, or potential for, archaeology associated with each evaluation trench. The table should be viewed in association with the figures, photographs, matrices and text for each trench where archaeological remains were present. For those trenches where only modern features or no archaeological remains were present they are described in table 1 but their plans have not been produced within this report. Further details of such trenches are preserved within the site archive.

4.1.3 The overburden across the area subject to evaluation was machine excavated down to the start of the archaeological horizon or depth of development, whichever was the shallower, under continuous archaeological supervision.

4.2 Site Taphonomy and Condition of Preservation

4.2.1 The site sloped gently to the south east towards the river edge from a height of 27.80m (AOD) at the northwest to 25.86m (AOD) at the southeast end of the site. A fairly shallow topsoil (approximately 0.25m) covered the site with short grass covering the area. There was a pedestrian beaten track running broadly from the northeast corner of the site, to the southwestern corner.

4.2.2 Made ground across the site consisted of several layers of building demolition and other waste material deposits (possibly clinker waste from industrial processes). These seem to have been laid/deposited following the truncation of any previous archaeological structures and features. The concrete footing of a 20th century warehouse was founded on these made ground deposits and was overlain by further building demolition material and a fairly shallow silty sand topsoil.

4.2.3 The level of archaeological preservation was severely limited due to widespread truncation, most likely during the process of ground levelling prior to the foundation of later development, particularly the 20th century warehouse.

4.3 Trenching Results

4.3.1 A total of two evaluation trenches were excavated, which measured 10m x 6m and 15m x 2m, as well as two further sondages measuring 2m x 2m, with the array of trenches extending over one field (Figure 3) and covering a combined excavated area of *c*98m^2. All evaluation trenches were sited to provide appropriate coverage of the development area.

4.3.2 Of the two trenches and two sondages excavated, none contained archaeological remains. Trenches 2 and 4 encountered made ground deposits, but any archaeological structures or features had previously been truncated. A Trench summary table (Table 1) is presented below providing a synthesis of the presence/absence of archaeology or potential archaeology in each of the trenches as well as the depths of the topsoil/over burden and subsoil below ground level (BGL). This section should be read in conjunction with the accompanying figures and captions and the Trench Summary Table (Table 1) and Context Summary Table (Appendix I).

Trench 1

4.3.3 Trench 1 was excavated as two separate sondages (1 and 2) in an attempt to find the northern extent of the buried concrete footing of the 20th century warehouse. At a depth of 26.39 m AOD in Sondage 1 and 26.40 m AOD in Sondage 2 the concrete footing (104) and (108) was encountered with no edge visible in plan (figures 4 & 5). Two deposits of made ground overlay the concrete footing, a dark black/brown sandy clay (102) and (106) and an earlier deposit of mid brown/black sandy silt (103) and (107). It is likely that these deposits represent the creation of made ground following the demolition of the 20th century warehouse.



Figure 4. *Sondage* 1 looking west. Scale 2 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 5. *Sondage* 2 looing east. Scale 2 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.

Trench 2

4.3.4 Trench 2 was extended from a 10m x 2m trench southwards to become a 10m x 6m trench in an attempt to find the southern limit of the concrete footing (203). After carefully removing the *c*.0.15m thick concrete pad several layers of made ground and building demolition deposits were encountered before reaching the natural at a depth of 25.91 m AOD (1.18 m BGL). No archaeological structures or features were encountered in Trench 2 and any pre-existing archaeology had been fully truncated by later development, possibly in the process of levelling the ground for the 20th century warehouse (Figures 6, 7 & 8). Overlying the earliest, sandy yellow deposit (208) was a shallow deposit of building demolition material (207) that was largely comprised of brick crush. Although this deposit contained no artefacts the fabric of the bricks correlate with late 20th to early 21st century material. The following two deposits were comprised of gritty black clinker waste type material, (205) being finer than (206). Given the nature of these deposits it is possible that they represent waste material that had been dumped on the site from elsewhere as part of the levelling process for the foundation of the Concrete pad (203). Immediately beneath this was a grey-brown silty sand with broken brick inclusions (204) measuring 0.13m thick. The natural encountered was an orange sandstone (209).



Figure 6. Trench 2 looking east scale 2 x 2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 7. Trench 2 looking west. Scale 2 x 2m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 8. Representative section through the strata encountered in Trench2. Facing north, scale 1 x 1m.

Trench 3

4.3.5 Trench 3 was unexcavated due to the presence of the concrete pad.

Trench 4

4.3.6 Trench 4 encountered no archaeological finds or features and was excavated down to the natural at a depth of 0.86m BGL (25.90 m AOD) (Figures 8 & 9). A small sondage was excavated at the south eastern extent of the trench to investigate the natural and to ensure that it did not represent a deposit of river silt. Similar to Trench 2, multiple deposits of building demolition material and made ground deposits were present overlying the orange natural sandstone (409). As in Trench 2, a deposit of building demolition material (408) measuring 0.17m thick overlay the natural. Above the building material deposit were alternating deposits of a dark grey/black clinker waste material (403), (405) and (407), and dark yellow deposits of gritty stone (404) and (406) which represent the made ground. Figure 10 displays a profile of the deposits present within trench 4. It appears that these deposits resemble the made ground which were possibly brought in from elsewhere to level the ground for the later 20th century warehouse.

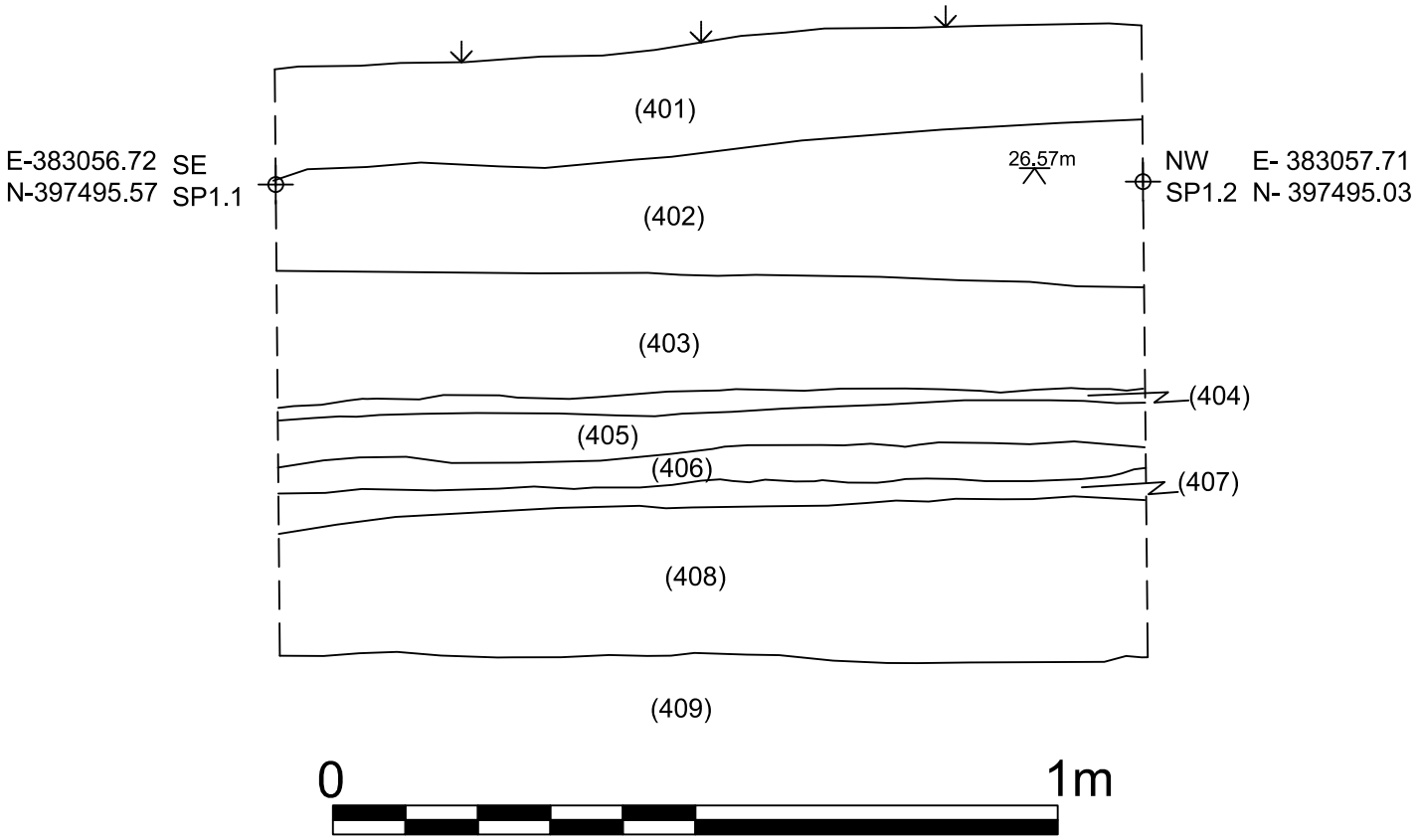


Figure 9. Trench 4 looking north-west. Scale 1 x 2m and 1 x 1m in 0.5m graduations.



Figure 10. Representative section through the strata encountered in Trench 4. Facing west, scale 1 x 1m.

Figure 11: Section drawing of deposits present in Trench 4



Site name:	SWBM '21
Date:	15/09/2021
Drawn by:	SAC

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4.3.7 The evaluation trenches identified no evidence for the presence of buried archaeological remains surviving in these areas. Trenches 2 and 4 did encounter the full depth of made ground and building demolition deposits that were associated with levelling the ground for the later 20th century development of a warehouse, the concrete footings of which were encountered in all of the trenches bar Trench 4. It is likely that, given the fabric and nature of the brick material in the lowest building demolition deposit, any pre-existing archaeological remains of the 19th century smithy or Roman deposits/features were truncated in the process of levelling the ground for the warehouse.

Table 1. Trench information summarized by trench number.

Trench No	Trench Dimensions (m)	Top soil thickness (m)	Archaeology? If no e.g. Modern field drain only.	Features (List each feature type on a separate line)	Context Number	Finds	Dating	Period
1, Sondage 1	2m x 2m	0.17m	No	None	N/A	None	N/A	N/A
1, Sondage 2	2m x2m	0.18m	No	None	N/A	None	N/A	N/A
2	6m x 10m	0.25m	No	Made ground/building demolition deposits	(202)-(208)	None	Late 20th Century	Modern
3	2m x 10m	N/A	Not excavated	Not excavated	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	2m x 15m	0.16m	No	Made ground/building demolition deposits	(402)-(408)	None	Late 20th Century	Modern

5 Discussion

5.1 Site Context

5.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken to identify the presence or absence of any archaeological features or deposits within the site and to the gather sufficient information as to the nature and character of any surviving deposits or features. Condition 5 of the planning permission required the archaeological works be carried out prior to the commencement of construction works, in accordance with the specification of the related WSI (Appendix III).

5.2 Summary of archaeology present by period and area of site

5.2.1 Any archaeological features or deposits that may have existed within the DA have been entirely truncated by the later construction of a 20th century warehouse.

5.3 Significance

5.3.1 The remains of any Romano-British and/or industrial deposits and features would have proven significant to our understanding of the independent periods in relation to the research framework set out by Philpott (2021) and Nevell (2021). However, the level of truncation that the site has been subjected to as a result of modern development has meant that no archaeology has survived to help inform the various criteria of the research framework.

6 Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

6.1.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

6.1.2 ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary, photographic and video material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

7 Statement of Indemnity

7.1.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

8 Archive

8.1.1 As no archaeologically significant finds or features were discovered during the evaluations, it is not necessary to deposit an archive with the recipient museum. This is in line with the *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* (CIfA, 2019), the *Updated North West England Regional Research Framework* and the Manchester Science and Industry Museum's Deposition Policy.

8.1.2 An OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ has been initiated and completed for this work and all parts of the OASIS online form completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded pdf version of this report. The site has produced a paper and digital archive which will be deposited, along with this report, in digital form with Archaeological Data Service (ADS). In addition, a copy of this report will be deposited with Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER).

9 Acknowledgements

9.1.1 ARS Ltd would like to thank Prestbury Construction Ltd for commissioning the project and particularly Wayne McNally for his help during the process of the project. ARS Ltd would also like to thank Ben Dyson, Senior Planning Archeologist of GMAAS for his assistance.

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APPENDIX I CONTEXT DESCRIPTION TABLE

Table 2. Context summary table

Trench No.	Context Number	Context Type	Length	Width	Depth/Thickness	Finds	Context Description	Estimated Date
Sondage 1	101	Topsoil	2m	2m	0.17m	N/A	Brown, silty sand topsoil	Post Industrial
	102	Deposit	2m	2m	0.29m	N/A	Dark brown/black sandy clay made ground	Post Industrial
	103	Deposit	2m	2m	0.52m	N/A	Mid-dark brown sandy silt, made ground	Post Industrial
	104	Deposit	2m	2m	0.98m BGL	N/A	Concrete pad	Post Industrial
Sondage 2	105	Topsoil	2m	2m	0.18m	N/A	Brown, silty sand topsoil	Post Industrial
	106	Deposit	2m	2m	0.38m	N/A	Dark brown/black sandy clay made ground	Post Industrial
	107	Deposit	2m	2m	0.51m	N/A	Mid-dark brown sandy silt, made ground	Post Industrial
	108	Deposit	2m	2m	1.07m BGL	N/A	Concrete pad	Post Industrial
Trench 2	201	Topsoil	10m	6m	0.25m	N/A	Brown, silty sand topsoil	Post Industrial
	202	Deposit	10m	6m	0.26m	N/A	Brown sandy made ground/building demolition material	Post Industrial
	203	Deposit	10m	6m	0.14m	N/A	Concrete pad	Post Industrial
	204	Deposit	10m	6m	0.13m	N/A	Grey/ brown, silty sand made ground	Post Industrial
	205	Deposit	10m	6m	0.18m	N/A	Fine, gritty black clinker waste material	Post Industrial
	206	Deposit	10m	6m	0.3m	N/A	Gritty black clinker waste deposit	Post Industrial
	207	Deposit	10m	6m	0.14m	N/A	Building demolition material	Post Industrial
	208	Deposit	10m	6m	0.08m	N/A	Sandy yellow deposit with rounded stones	Post Industrial

	209	Natural	10m	6m	1.18m BGL	N/A	Orange sandstone	Geological
Trench 4	401	Topsoil	15m	2m	0.16m	N/A	Brown, silty sand topsoil	Post Industrial
	402	Deposit	15m	2m	0.26m	N/A	Brown sandy made ground/building demolition material	Post Industrial
	403	Deposit	15m	2m	0.16m	N/A	Grey/black clinker waste material	Post Industrial
	404	Deposit	15m	2m	0.02m	N/A	Dark yellow brown gritty deposit	Post Industrial
	405	Deposit	15m	2m	0.06m	N/A	Dark grey black, possibly ashy deposit	Post Industrial
	406	Deposit	15m	2m	0.02m	N/A	Dark yellow brown gritty deposit	Post Industrial
	407	Deposit	15m	2m	0.07m	N/A	Dark grey/black gritty deposit, possibly clinker	Post Industrial
	408	Deposit	15m	2m	0.17m	N/A	Dark brown mixed building demolition material	Post Industrial
	409	Natural	15m	2m	0.86m BGL	N/A	Orange sandstone	Geological

APPENDIX II OASIS FORM

Summary for archaeol5-502373

OASIS ID (UID)	archaeol5-502373
Project Name	Evaluation at Slate Wharf, Blantyre Estate
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	
Planning Id	113617/FO/2016
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Archaeological Research Services Ltd, Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Project Dates	14-Sep-2021 - 16-Sep-2021
Location	Slate Wharf, Blantyre Estate NGR : SJ 83046 97503 LL : 53.4739809675791, -2.25689534234087 12 Fig : 383046,397503
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Greater Manchester District : Manchester Parish : Manchester, unparished area
Project Methodology	Excavation of four evaluation trenches to a depth at which the upper horizon of archaeology or the natural bedrock was exposed, whichever was highest. Any archaeological features or structures would be excavated and recorded fully to show the extent of presence/absence and nature of any surviving archaeology.
Project Results	All trenches encountered no archaeological remains what so ever. Any previous archaeological features or structures had likely been truncated in the process of demolition of a previous modern structure.
Keywords	
HER	Greater Manchester HER - noRev - LITE
HER Identfiers	
Archives	

APPENDIX III WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Slate Wharf, Blantyre Estate, Greater Manchester

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Works

May 2021

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH SERVICES LTD
Digging with Purpose

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Suite 1, First Floor, Dunham House, Cross Street, Sale, M33 7HH

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Prepared on behalf of:	Prestbury Estates Ltd
Date of compilation:	May 2021
Side code:	SWBM'21
Local Authority:	Manchester City Council
Planning Application Ref:	113617/FO/2016
Site central NGR:	SJ 83046, 97503

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Prestbury Estates Ltd. It details a scheme of archaeological evaluation trenching to be carried out at Slate Wharf, Blantyre Estate, Greater Manchester.

1.1.2 Planning permission has been approved by Manchester City Council (Planning Ref. 113617/FO/2016) for the erection of a four-storey building to form 24 residential apartments (Use Class C3) with associated hard and soft landscaping and ancillary development thereto. Condition number 5 of the approved planning permission states that:

'No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or their successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by the appointed archaeological contractor. The WSI shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation has been completed in accordance with the approved WSI. The WSI shall cover the following:

(a) A phased programme and methodology of site investigation and recording to include:

- *Targeted field evaluation trenching*
- *(Depending upon the evaluation results) a strip map and record exercise*
- *Targeted open area excavation.*

(b) A programme for post investigation assessment to include:

- *Analysis of the site investigation records and finds*
- *Production of a final report on the significance of the archaeological and historical interest represented.*

(c) Provision for publication and dissemination of the analysis and report on the site investigation.

(d) Provision for archive deposition of the report, finds and records of the site investigation.

(e) Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.'

1.1.3 The archaeological works will be carried out in accordance with *the National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) paragraph 199 (MHCLG 2019, 56), '*to record and enhance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible*.'

1.1.4 This WSI confirms the nature of the archaeological works to be undertaken by ARS Ltd at land at Slate Wharf, Blantyre Estate, Greater Manchester comprising a

phase of archaeological evaluation trenching, in accordance with guidance provided by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS).

1.2 Site Description and Location

1.2.1 The 'red line boundary' of the proposed development area (hereafter PDA) is depicted by a red polygon on Figure 1 and is *c.*0.10ha in area. The site is bounded by the Slate Wharf residential development and the Merchants Bridge to the north and east; the Wharf public house to the south and the Castlefield Canal basin to the east. The topography of the site shows a fall from the north to south-east towards the canal basin, varying between 27.4m aOD and 25.8m aOD. The site is currently an area of open grassland centred at NGR SJ 83046, 97503 (Figure 1).

1.3 Geology and Soils

1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the PDA comprises sandstone of Chester Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 247 to 250 million years ago in the Triassic Period when the local environment was previously dominated by rivers. No superficial deposits are recorded by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2021).

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1.1 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) (Smith 2016) and Heritage Statement (Grimshaw 2016) were produced as part of the 2016 planning application, which detailed the location, character, date, potential and relative significance of heritage assets with an archaeological interest. The 2016 DBA was an update of a previous study (Arrowsmith 2007) produced by the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) in 2007. A consultation response was provided by GMAAS as part of the 2016 planning application, which summarised the potential significance and impacts identified within the above documents.

2.1.2 The study area identifies the main archaeological interests as being the site of a wharf for the Bridgewater Canal including a smithy built between 1831 and 1845, together with a small building evident of Green's map of 1794. The Roman fort lies on the opposite side of the canal (originally the river Medlock) and, whilst later ground disturbance is likely to have had a negative impact on earlier remains, there is a possibility for Roman deposits. Recent excavations at Owen Street and Chester Road have demonstrated considerable Roman activity on this western side of the river Medlock, throwing new light on the origins of Manchester.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

3.1.1 Research topics identified in the *Updated North West England Regional Research Framework* for the Romano-British and industrial and modern periods includes the following.

The Roman Period (Philpott 2021)

- R11: How can we identify typologies and the development of military sites and Roman road systems?
- R14: What were the date, extent, function and changes over time of extra-mural settlement (vici) in the region?

The Industrial and 20th Century Period (Nevell 2021)

- Ind52: What Industrial and Modern period type sites need further study?
- Ind53: What can archaeology tell us about the production and use of consumer products and their typologies from the late 18th to early 20th centuries?
- Ind98: How well understood and recorded are the North-Wests canals, waterways and basins?

3.1.3 This regional research framework will help inform the aims and objectives of the programme of archaeological work at Slate Wharf, Blantyre Estate, Manchester.

3.1.4 These aims and objectives will be visited both during and after fieldwork in order that they may be updated as necessary.

3.2 Fieldwork Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The aim of the archaeological works is to identify and record the possible presence/absence, location, nature, extent, survival, quality, significance and date of archaeological deposits that may exist on the proposed development site.

3.2.2 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation trenching are as follows.

- Identify the presence/absence of archaeological features and deposits within the site.
- Record any archaeological features and deposits encountered.
- Sample sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits to establish relative sequence, likely dating and quality of preservation.
- Gather sufficient information to establish the character, extent, form, function and likely status of any surviving archaeological deposits with a view to evaluating their significance and potential to inform the aims and objectives outlined in section 3.1 of this WSI.

4 Archaeological Fieldwork

4.1 Coverage

4.1.1 A phase of targeted trial trenching was drawn up and approved by GMAAS in 2016. This comprised four trenches, ranging from 15m x 2m and 20m x 2m in size. Due to current site restrictions, the trench sizes have been amended, though they have been aligned to target the previous features as before. The proposed new methodology of this scheme of works is as follows.

- Trench 1: 10m x 2m. Aligned east/west across the northern part of the site, targeting the footprint of the smithy depicted on mid-19th century mapping.
- Trench 2: 10m x 2m. Aligned ENE/WSW across the central part of the site, targeting the footprint of the smithy depicted on mid-19th century mapping.
- Trench 3: 10m x 2m. Aligned east/west across the south-western part of the site, targeting a part of the site that does not appear to have been developed previously.
- Trench 4: 15m x 2m. Aligned north-west/south-east across the south-eastern part of the site, targeting a part of the site that does not appear to have been developed previously.

4.1.2 Current trench locations have been placed without access to utilities plans, and it may be appropriate to amend the trench locations once these are made available.

4.1.3 Provision will be made for an addition 10m contingency trenching to enable further investigation or clarification of the initial trenching results, should this be required.

4.1.4 Should significant archaeological remains be identified during the archaeological trenching, then a further phase of archaeological works, comprising targeted open area excavation, will be required. These works will be undertaken before any development ground works commence in the area of archaeological interest and would be subject to a separate WSI.

4.2 General Statement of Practice

4.2.1 All elements of the archaeological trenching and excavation will be carried out in accordance with CIfA's *Code of Conduct* (2019a) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2020a).

4.2.2 All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified for their respective project roles and have substantial experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff will be made aware of the circumstances and potential archaeological importance of the work and will be fully briefed on the requirements of this specification.

4.2.3 All ground works covered under this specification will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a breaker, toothed and toothless ditching bucket or by hand. Where trenches are to be excavated through tarmac, a breaker will be used.

4.2.4 Should archaeological deposits or structures be revealed that are more numerous, better preserved, or of higher status than expected or than which could reasonably be expected consultation will take place with GMAAS to identify and agree further excavation/recording strategy.

4.2.5 ARS Ltd will ensure that plant or machinery will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until they have been recorded.

4.2.6 Contractors and plant operators will be notified that any observations of archaeological remains must be reported immediately to the archaeologist on site. Regular contact will be ensured between ARS Ltd and the site project manager to ensure that ARS Ltd is kept up to date with site works and given the chance to respond appropriately and in line with GMAAS requirements.

4.2.7 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site and .

4.3 Methodology

4.3.1 Any concrete flooring or hard standing will be pecked and/or lifted by machine under archaeological supervision. Modern overburden and topsoil will be removed by a mechanical excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. No machinery will track over areas that have previously been stripped until the area has been signed off by ARS Ltd.

4.3.2 All trenches will be appropriately cleaned using hand tools in order to expose the full nature and extent of archaeological features and deposits.

4.3.3 All spoil removed during groundworks will be visually scanned to recover small finds. Any finds recovered will be recorded and their location noted on a site plan at a relevant scale. The finds will be retained and recorded.

4.3.4 All archaeological features will be planned and sectioned. Dispensation may be sought, in relation to sectioning of features from GMAAS, where said features are so large in instances where excavation may be better effected during subsequent mitigation.

4.3.5 Isolated, discrete features such as pit or postholes not belonging to structures or industrial activities will be 50% sampled, if they produce artefacts then provision is made for full excavation.

4.3.6 Linear features, such as ditches and gullies relating to agricultural activity, will be sampled a minimum of 20% along their length, with each sample section to be not less than 1m, or a minimum of a 1m sample section, if the feature is less than 5m in length.

4.3.7 The depositions at junctions or interruptions in linear features will be sufficiently excavated for the relationship between components to be established. All termini will be investigated.

4.3.8 Any depositions relating to funerary/ritual activities, such as burials and cremation deposits, will be 100% excavated. Domestic/industrial activity (such as walls, postholes, floors, hearths) will be sufficiently excavated to understand their form and function and to recover potential dating evidence and artefact and ecofact assemblages.

4.3.9 Area deposits, such as buried soils, or middens, will be hand excavated at a minimum 10%. Subsequent excavation by machine will be considered.

4.3.10 Cut features of an archaeological nature which comprise structural units will be completely excavated to and respect the original interface of construction.

4.3.11 Upstanding or positive features of an archaeological nature, following recording, will be either partially or wholly excavated by hand where such excavation facilitates access to lower lying archaeological stratification. Where said features do not represent elements of a physically superimposed sequence and are observed to be truncating natural strata partial excavation, as a representative sample (to demonstrate construction technique, depth of foundation trench, construction materials etc.) will be undertaken.

4.4 Sampling, Faunal Remains and Treasure

4.4.1 This section outlines sampling methodologies to be utilised during all excavation types.

4.4.2 A minimum soil sample of 40 litres will be taken from sealed and stratigraphically secure deposits, that are adjudged to have the potential to provide environmental evidence relating to diet and economy, dating evidence or land use regime. A 100% soil sample of the deposit will be taken if the deposit is less than 40 litres in volume.

4.4.3 In the case of waterlogged or anaerobic deposits a minimum sample size of 20 litres will be taken.

4.4.4 Should a sequence of superimposed deposits of note be present, column sampling may be considered.

4.4.5 Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist and provision will be made for scientific dating, where justified against the project aims.

4.4.6 Where there is evidence for industrial activity, macroscopic technological residues (or samples of them) will be collected by hand. Separate samples (*c.*10ml) will be collected from micro-slags (hammer scale and spherical droplets) in accordance with *Archaeometallurgy: Guidelines for Best Practice* (Historic England 2015a) and *Archaeological Evidence for Glassworking* (Historic England 2018a).

4.4.7 Samples will be taken for scientific dating (such as radiocarbon dating) in specific circumstances that will apply where dating by artefacts is insecure or absent.

4.4.8 Appropriate consideration will be given to the need for any geoarchaeological assessment of buried soils and sediment sequences exposed. Where this is necessary, these will be inspected and recorded on site by a recognised geoarchaeologist as field inspection may provide sufficient data for understanding site formation processes. The procedures and techniques presented in *Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record* (Historic England 2015b) will be applied. Samples for laboratory assessment will be collected where appropriate, following discussion with GMAAS.

4.4.9 Sampling strategies for wooden structures should follow the methodologies presented in Historic England's (2010) *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood*. For other

waterlogged organic finds, guidance provided by Historic England's (2018b) *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts. Guidance on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* will be followed.

4.4.10 Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as required. Advice from the Historic England Scientific Advisor will be taken as appropriate.

4.4.11 In all instances sampling strategies will be in accordance with guidelines issued by Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation* (Campbell *et al*. 2011) and will be targeted in order to explore the levels and types of preservation present.

4.4.12 Any human remains will initially be left *in-situ,* covered and protected. Removal will be undertaken, if deemed necessary, once a Coroners licence has been obtained in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations, in line with current guidelines (Brickley and McKinley 2004; English Heritage 2004; English Heritage/Church of England 2005; APABE/English Heritage 2013; APABE/Historic England 2017; Mitchell and Brickley 2017) and in discussion with GMAAS.

4.4.13 All finds that may constitute 'treasure' under the Treasure Act, 1996, will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (DCMS 2008). The Portable Antiquities Liaison Officer will also be notified.

HM Coroner
Mr Graham Jackson
Coroner's Office
Crown Square
Manchester
Greater Manchester
M60 1PR
Tel: 0161 830 4222

Finds Liaison Officer
Heather Beeton
National Museums Liverpool
Pier Head, Liverpool Waterfront
Liverpool
Merseyside
L3 1DG
Tel: 0151 4784259

4.4.14 GMAAS will also be notified and, if necessary, a site meeting arranged to determine if further investigation in the vicinity of the find spot is required. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

4.5 Recording

4.5.1 The site will be recorded in accordance with the ARS Ltd's field recording manual and single context recording system, and will include as a minimum context record sheets, an accurate site plan and record photography where no archaeological features are present.

4.5.2 The site will be tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area.

4.5.3 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and sections/elevations will be drawn where required at the appropriate scale and in accordance with best practice. In addition to relevant illustrations, provision for rectified photographic recording shall be made, if deemed necessary.

4.5.4 For brick structures, the record will include details of brick dimensions and type (handmade/machine-made, plain/frogged), mortar (colour, composition, hardness) and the extent of structures (number of courses, thickness in skins).

4.5.5 Sample representative levels will be taken to record the maximum depth of excavation and /or natural should no archaeological features be uncovered.

4.5.6 The stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

4.5.7 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled.

4.5.8 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded with above ordnance datum (aOD) levels.

4.5.9 Site photography will comprise high resolution (minimum of 16.4megapixels) colour DSLR photography. The photographic record will encompass all encountered archaeological entities as well as recording the general environs of the site and working practices. In addition, key relationships between entities, where these help demonstrate sequence or form, will also be photographed. A clearly visible, graduated metric scale will be included in all record shots. A supplementary record of working images will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation. The photographs will be archived in accordance with Historic England guidance (2015c) and a register of all photographs will be kept.

4.6 Finds Processing and Storage

4.6.1 All finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *Excavated Artefacts and Conservation* (UKIC 2001). All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the CIfA (2020b) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage.*

4.6.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.

4.6.3 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

4.6.4 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

4.6.5 Metal finds will be sampled, processed and analysed in line with *Archaeometallurgy: Guidelines for best practice* (Historic England 2015a), and *Guidelines on the X-radiography of archaeological metalwork* (English Heritage 2006a). Any waterlogged artefacts or ecofacts will be sampled, processed and analysed using *Waterlogged Wood: Guidelines on the Recording, Sampling, Conservation and Curation of Waterlogged Wood* (English Heritage 2010) and *Waterlogged Organic Artefacts. Guidelines on their Recovery, Analysis and Conservation* (Historic England 2018b).

4.6.6 Artefacts, ecofacts and deposits suitable for dating purposes will be identified and obtained in line with *Dendrochronology: Guidelines on producing and interpreting dendrochronological dates* (English Heritage 1998), *Archaeomagnetic Dating: Guidelines on producing and interpreting archaeomagnetic dates* (English Heritage 2006b), and *Luminescence Dating: Guidelines on using luminescence dating in archaeology* (English Heritage 2008).

4.6.7 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

4.6.8 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and the repository museum, in this case potentially the Manchester Science and Industry Museum, prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.

4.6.9 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

4.7 Post-Excavation

4.7.1 The archaeological fieldwork will be followed by post-excavation analysis and reporting. This will include the cataloguing and analysis of any finds, samples and the preparation of the archive for the site report and its subsequent deposition. Where artefacts are recovered from identified features they will be quantified by date class and type; in other circumstances, they will be quantified by period and class and type (e.g. 5 sherds, late Roman grey ware pottery); in other circumstances, as a minimum, they should be quantified by period and class (e.g. 5 sherds, Roman pottery).

4.7.2 Artefacts, biological samples and soils will be assessed for evidence of site and deposit formation processes and for evidence of recent changes that may have been caused by alterations in the site environment. Assessment will, where

necessary, include x-radiography of all iron objects, (after initial screening to exclude obvious recent debris), and a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins).

4.7.3 Where necessary, active stabilisation or consolidation will be carried out, to ensure long-term survival of the material with due consideration to possible future investigation.

4.7.4 Once assessed, all material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, as described in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 2001).

4.7.5 Assessment of any technological residues will be undertaken.

4.7.6 Any samples for dating will be promptly submitted and prior agreement will be made with the laboratory on turn-around time and report production.

4.7.7 Processing of all soil samples collected for biological assessment, or subsample of them, will be completed. The preservation state, density and significance of material retrieved will be assessed by recognised specialists. Special consideration will be given to any evidence for recent changes in preservation conditions that may have been caused by alterations in the site environment. Unprocessed sub-samples will be stored in conditions specified by the appropriate specialists.

4.7.8 Samples collected for geoarchaeological assessment will be processed as necessary by a recognised specialist and appropriate assessment be undertaken. Where preservation *in-situ* is a viable option consideration should be given to the possible effects of compression on the physical integrity of the site and to any hydrological impacts of development.

4.7.9 Animal bone assemblages, or sub-samples of them, will be assessed by a recognised specialist.

4.7.10 Where human remains have been lifted assessment will be undertaken by a recognised specialist.

4.8 Reporting

4.8.1 Following completion of the archaeological evaluation, ARS Ltd will produce a report which will include the following as a minimum:

- A non-technical summary.
- Introduction and objectives of the fieldwork.
- Methodology of the fieldwork.
- An objective summary statement of results.
- A phased stratigraphic discussion of the archaeological features.
- An interpretive discussion of the results, placing them in a local and regional framework and an assessment of the significance of any remains.
- Appropriate supporting illustrations, including a site plan, a site location plan on an OS base map of a suitable scale, trench and section plans, feature

sections and plans, a phased site plan as appropriate, photographs of work in progress on the site, and appropriate finds illustrations.

- The results of an assessment of artefacts, ecofacts and industrial residues carried out by suitable specialists, who will be furnished with relevant contextual and stratigraphic information.
- If sufficiently significant remains are recovered than an analysis of the above based upon the specialist assessment recommendations.
- In the event that significant remains are encountered, then a timetable for wider dissemination will be included in the report.
- Conclusions.
- Supporting data including a detailed context index, tabulated or in appendices.
- Index to archive and details of archive location.
- The proposed date of the deposition of the archive.
- References.
- Statement of intent regarding publication.
- Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements.
- A copy of the WSI and OASIS form.

4.8.2 Within the report,

- all plans will be clearly related to the national grid, and
- all levels will be quoted relative to ordnance datum.

4.8.3 One digital PDF/A copy of the final report will be deposited with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report will be updated as part of the OASIS record for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.

5 TIMETABLE, STAFFING AND RESOURCES

5.1 The timetable for the works is as follows. GMAAS will be updated by email as work progresses.

Task No	Task	Proposed Commencement Date
1	Site set-up and mobilisation	TBC
2	Trial trenching and site sign off	Immediately follows Task 1
3	Post excavation assessment including any specialist reporting required	Immediately follows Task 2
4	Report preparation and completion	Immediately follows Task 3
5	Archive preparation, completion and deposition	Immediately follows Task 4 and to be completed within 6 months of Task 3

5.2 All archaeological fieldwork projects are overseen by Karl Taylor MCIfA, Head of Field Archaeology at ARS Ltd. The fieldwork Project Manager and Project Officer will be drawn from ARS Ltd's pool of experienced staff and will have demonstrable experience in their respective role. Additional ARS Ltd Archaeological Officers may be allotted to the project as necessary and required.

5.3 Finds analysis will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.

♦ Flint and prehistoric pottery:	Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA
♦ Romano-British pottery:	Dr Phil Mills MCIfA
♦ Samian ware:	Dr Gwladys Monteil
♦ Romano-British small finds:	Alex Croom
♦ Medieval and post-medieval pottery:	Dr Chris Cumberpatch
♦ Medieval and post-medieval metalwork, glass and clay pipes:	Mike Wood MCIfA
♦ Industrial Remains:	Dr Roger Doonan
♦ Plant macrofossils and charcoals:	Luke Parker
♦ Human and animal bone:	Milena Grzybowska
♦ Radiocarbon dating:	Professor Gordon Cook (SUERC)
♦ Finds conservation:	Vicky Garlick (Durham University)

6 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 The Senior Planning Archaeologist for GMAAS will be responsible for monitoring the archaeological evaluation. A minimum of two weeks' notice of the commencement of fieldwork will be given by ARS Ltd to the Senior Planning Archaeologist for GMAAS in order that arrangements for monitoring the fieldwork may be made.

Ben Dyson
Senior Planning Archaeologist
Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service
School of Environment & Life Sciences
Room LG20, Peel Building
University of Salford
Salford
M5 4WX
Email: b.j.dyson@salford.ac.uk

6.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with GMAAS as regular intervals throughout the course of the work.

6.3 The client will afford reasonable access to GMAAS, or their representatives, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological works.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 Archive Selection Strategy

7.1.1 Selection of the working project archive will be guided by: the aims and objectives as set out in this WSI (section 3 above), the *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* (CIfA 2019b), the *Updated North West England Regional Research Framework* and the Manchester Science and Industry Museum's Deposition Policy.

7.2 Documentary Archive

7.2.1 All original documentary material created and collected during the archaeological works will be selected for inclusion in the final archive. Any duplicates (including photocopies) of original documents will not be included in the final archive, in line with the Manchester Science and Industry Museum's Deposition Policy.

7.2.2 The deselected documents will be recycled, subject to final checks by ARS Ltd's Post-Excavation and Archives Officer.

7.3 Digital Archive

7.3.1 All digital data created over the course of this project will be collected, stored, and selected for final deposition in line with the project's Data Management Plan. This is likely to see final online deposition with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) based at York University (ADS 2011). The key types of digital data produced will include the following:

Type	Data
Text	Digital copies of the Written Scheme of Investigation and final report
Images	Site photography, scans of site drawings, graphics for reports, digitised drawings
Finds Data	Finds reports and tables, conservation records, images

7.3.2 Only final copies of any digital data will be selected and deposited in the final project archive.

7.3.3 Digital data to be included in the final archive will be reviewed during the post-excavation and archiving phase of works.

7.3.4 The project manager and digital archive repository will be consulted on the fate of any deselected material. Deselected material is expected to include duplicates and any non-final versions of data. Digital photographs will be assessed during post-excavation works and selected in line with Historic England's *Digital Image Capture and File Storage* (2015c). The deselected material will be stored on the ARS Ltd server for a period before being reviewed and deleted.

7.4 Material Archive

7.4.1 The selection of material finds for final deposition in the archaeological archive will be decided in collaboration with the finds specialist during the post-excavation phase, based on addressing the aims and objectives of the project set out in this WSI, the *Updated North West England Regional Research Framework* and the Manchester Science and Industry Museum's Deposition Policy.

7.4.2 No material will be discarded without processing and recording. Deselected material can be retained as part of a handling or teaching collection, returned to the landowner, or discarded as agreed by the landowner, specialists, collecting museum and planning archaeologist.

7.5 Deposition

7.5.1 Should the project produce archaeologically significant finds, the repository museum will allocate an archive accession number at the beginning of the post-excavation stage and a project archive prepared for deposition by ARS Ltd with the recipient museum. This digital, paper and artefactual archive will comprise all the primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data and an accompanying metadata statement.

7.5.2 High resolution digital photographs would, in discussion GMAAS, be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) digital archive repository with the associated photographic registers and metadata. The digital archive will be prepared in line with current best practice as outlined in *Archaeology Data Service/Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice* (ADS/Digital Antiquity 2011).

7.5.3 A digital PDF/A copy of the final report will be deposited with the Greater Manchester HER. A copy of the report will be updated as part of the OASIS record for online access via the Archaeological Data Service.

7.5.4 The archive will be deposited in line with *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), CIfA's (2020c) *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, and Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA 1993) *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections. Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland*. In addition, the archive will be prepared in accordance with the Manchester Science and Industry Museum's Deposition Policy. The archive will be deposited within six months of the completion of the report.

7.5.5 GMAAS and the Museum Curator will be notified at the earliest opportunity should the site produce archaeologically significant, unusual, or unexpected finds.

7.5.6 GMAAS will be notified in writing on completion of the fieldwork with projected dates for the completion of the report and deposition of the archive. The date for deposition of the archive and its contents will be outlined in the report and GMAAS informed in writing on final deposition of the archive.

7.5.7 All retained artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive.

7.5.8 A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts deposited with the archive as digital images on disc.

7.5.9 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded pdf.

8 GENERAL ITEMS

8.1 Health and Safety

8.1.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1973. Specific health and safety policies existing for all our workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork and will be read and signed by all on-site operatives. ARS Ltd retains Citation as its health and safety consultants.

8.2 Insurance Cover

8.2.1 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability, public liability, professional indemnity, and all-risks cover.

8.3 Community Engagement and Outreach

8.3.1 Any opportunities will be sought for engaging the local community in any archaeological findings, for example a guided site tour and/or dissemination of information via ARS Ltd's website, social media and local media.

8.4 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

8.4.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of GMAAS.

8.5 Publication

8.5.1 Depending on the requirements of GMAAS, a summary report of the results of the work or a synthesis of them will be published in an appropriate archaeological journal.

8.5.2 In the event of significant remains being encountered, there may be the need for a more formal publication than in the summary form. The requirement for, and the final form of, any publication arising from the project will be agreed with GMAAS and the client dependent on the results of the fieldwork. Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, e.g. via ARS Ltd's website, social media and local media (at the client's discretion) and talking to local societies.

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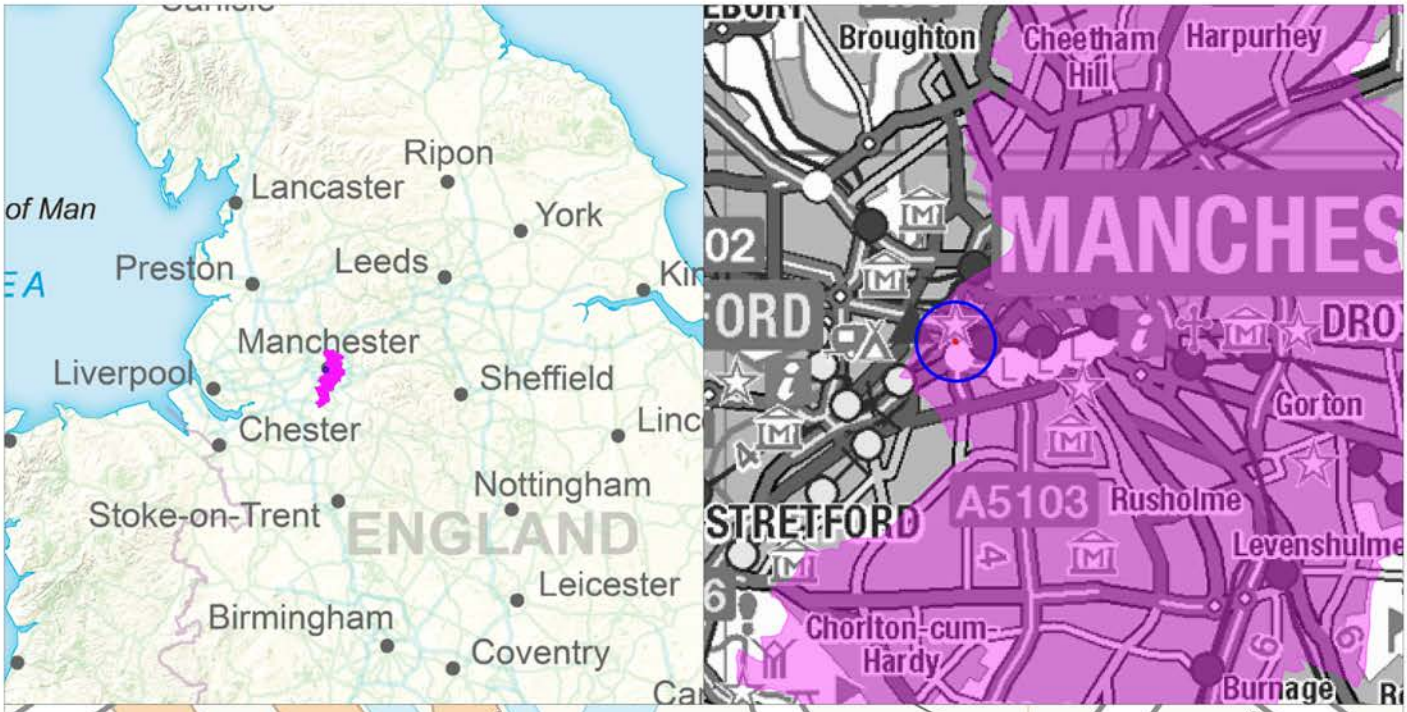
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FIGURES





Site name:	Slate Wharf, Manchester
Date:	May 2021
Drawn by:	MB
Scale:	Varies

Figure 1:
Site location

N

Site Boundary

Manchester City Council

This drawing: © ARS Ltd

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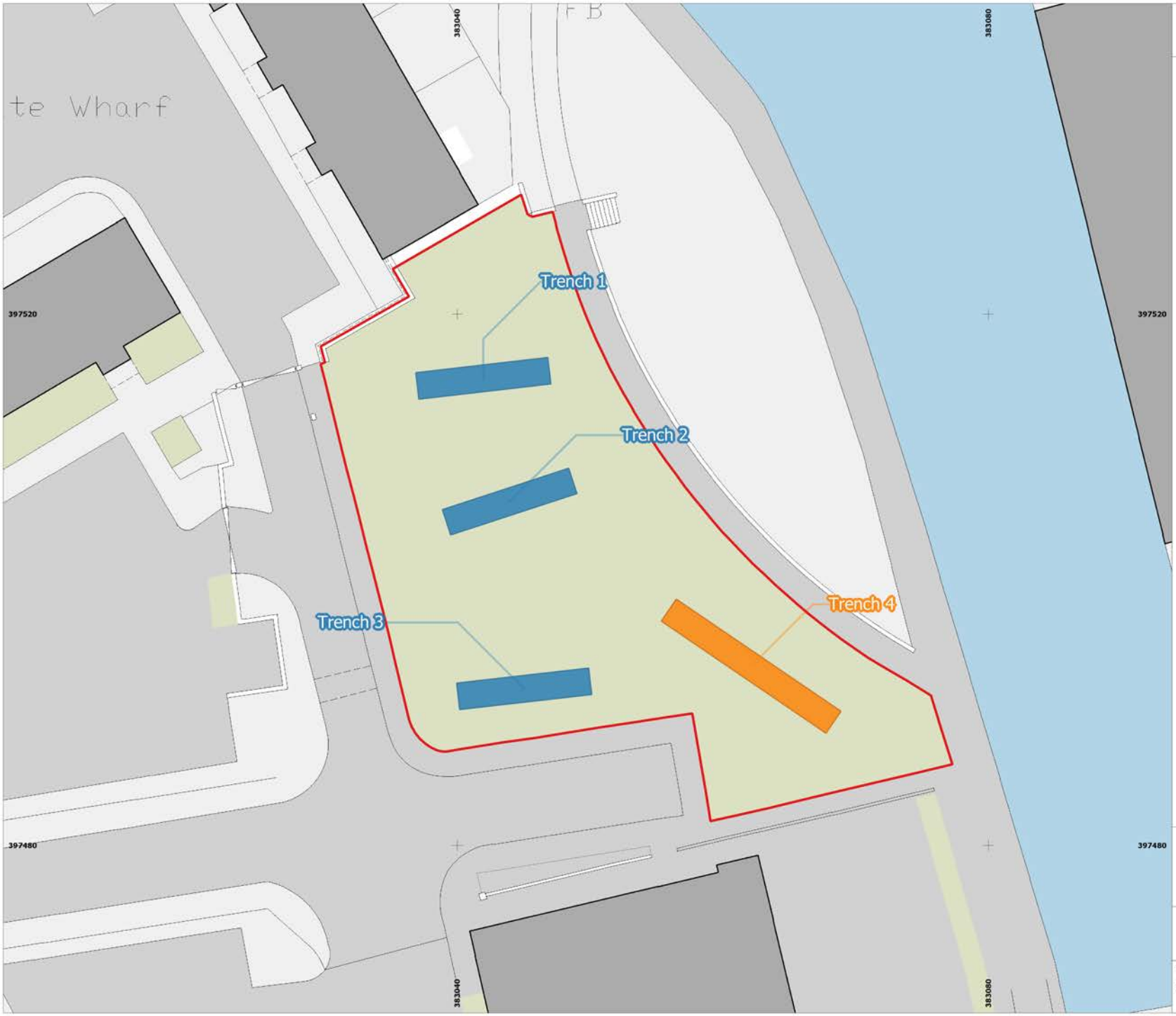
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Figure 2: Proposed Trench Plan



Site Boundary

Evaluation Trenches

10m x 2m Trench

15m x 2m Trench

0 2.5 5 7.5 10 12.5 m

N

Site name: Slate Wharf, Manchester
Date: May 2021
Drawn by: MB
Scale: 1:400 @ A4

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GAStudio Drawing No. P_L(--)020

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