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Louisa Street Works, Openshaw, Manchester

Historical Building Investigation Report



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1. Summary

Westchurch Homes has obtained planning consent from Manchester City Council to carry out the erection of 2 x 3 storey apartment block comprising 42 apartments and erection of 29 x one and three storey dwellinghouses (Class C3) with access from Louisa Street and associated works, following the demolition of all existing buildings/structures (NGR SJ 88596 97628), (Planning Ref: 134775/FO/2022).

In order to secure archaeological interests, Manchester City Council attached a condition to planning consent that required a programme of archaeological investigation in advance of, and during, the redevelopment of the site. Following consultation with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, it was recommended that an appropriate scheme of archaeological works would comprise a Level 2/3-type historic building investigating of the historic buildings, coupled with targeted archaeological trial trenching as an appropriate record of any buried archaeological remains of interest.

In July 2023, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Lanpro Services Ltd on behalf of Westchurch Homes to undertake the recommended investigation and fulfil the archaeological planning obligations with this report focusing on the historic building investigation, with the evaluation detailed in a separate report.

The historic building investigation concluded that the Site was formally part of the Louisa Street Works which was constructed in c.1892 by Joseph Stubbs as an Iron Foundry on land that was previously undeveloped. The original foundry was designed by Joseph Nodal, and comprised workshops flanking either side of the foundry, an oven to the west, a casting and pattern store to the north with an office, coaching house and stables fronting Louisa Street.

The works had undergone several expansions during the early 20th century including a new engine house and an extension to the casting and pattern store in 1903. The stable and coaching house were demolished by 1922 and replaced with an extension to the office building. The works continued as an iron foundry until its closure in 1966.

The historical building investigation of Louisa Street Works has provided a valuable opportunity to record an example of a late 19th/ early 20th century foundry, to mitigate any loss of historic fabric as part of the redevelopment. It has also enabled a review of the available documentary material to be combined with the physical evidence embedded in the historic fabric to produce a detailed narrative of the building's development, enhancing the questions posed by the North West Regional Framework questions.

2. Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Westchurch Homes has obtained planning consent from Manchester City Council to carry out the erection of 2 x 3 storey apartment block comprising 42 apartments and erection of 29 x one and three storey dwellinghouses (Class C3) with access from Louisa Street and associated works, following the demolition of all existing buildings/structures (NGR SJ 88596 97628), (Planning Ref: 134775/FO/2022).

The Site was formally part of the Louisa Street Works which was constructed in 1892 by Joseph Stubbs as an Iron Foundry. The land that was purchased was previously open fields and was close to the Stockport Branch of the Manchester & Ashton Under Lyne canal.

The foundry was built to the centre of the Site with workshops flanking either side, a lower oven to the west, a casting and pattern store to the north, with a range of ovens and flues to the south-west. The cupola house and furnaces were situated within the centre of the workshop range with an engine house and workshop to the east. An office building was constructed fronting Louisa Street along with a coach house and stable block.

The foundry was extended in 1903 to fill empty space at the rear of the site. The expansion included a new engine house, core stove and an extension to the casting and pattern store. The Louisa Street range was altered with an extension to the north, which superseded the coach house and stables.

The foundry was closed in 1966 and by 2017 most of the foundry had been demolished due to fire damage. However, the Louisa Street office building, the casting and pattern store to the north and two small buildings to the south-east corner had survived.

In view of the historic interest of the building, the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Manchester City Council, recommended that a Level 2/3 survey of the Louisa Street office and the former casting and pattern workshop is carried out in advance of any demolition works. They also recommended an archaeological evaluation to be conducted prior to redevelopment. It was also recommended that a condition be attached to planning consent (Condition 19) that advised:

1. *'No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in tile has secured the implantation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The WSI shall cover the following:*
 1. *A phased programme and methodology of investigation and recording to include:*
 - a) *a historic building investigation (Historic England Level 2/3);*
 - b) *archaeological evaluation trenching;*
 - c) *pending the results of the above, a targeted open-area excavation.*
 2. *A programme for post-investigation assessment to include:*
 - a) *production of a final report on the results of the investigations and their significance.*
 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, finds 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 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, and pursuant to policy of EN3 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).

2.2 Research Aims and Objectives

This report focuses on the historic building investigation, with the evaluation detailed in a separate report. The principal aim of the historic building investigation, given the commercial nature of the project, was to provide a written, drawn and photographic record of the former office building fronting Louisa Street and the former casting and pattern workshop, coupled with documentary research prior to redevelopment.

The stated objectives of the archaeological investigation included:

- to carry out an archaeological survey commensurate with an Historic England Level 2/3-type historic building investigation of the Louisa Street office and the former casting and pattern workshop buildings. This will comprise the production of measured survey drawings, coupled with a comprehensive photographic record and a written description;
- pending the results drawn from the historic building survey investigation, a watching brief may be required to monitor and record any hidden fabric during aspects of the stripping out and demolition of the buildings;
- to carry out documentary research to elucidate the development of the works;
- to present the results of the historic building investigation in a fully illustrated report that provides an account of the works origins, development and use;
- to produce an archive for the project;
- to make the results of the work publicly available via the deposition of the final digital report with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record and OASIS.

In addition, the historic building investigation may inform some of the research questions presented in the current North West Archaeological Research Framework (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>):

- *Ind21: How did Industrial period towns affect the pre-existing historic landscape?*
- *Ind52: What Industrial and Modern period type sites need further study?*

- *Ind60: How can we make sense of the relative significance of historic industrial processes and building types perceived as poorly understood and recorded?*

2.3 Historical Building Investigation Methodology

The historic building investigation was conducted following the ClfA Standards and guidance for archaeological building surveys (updated 2020), and was commensurate with a Historic England Level 2/3-type survey of historic buildings (Historic England 2016).

Level 2/3 Recording

Photographic Archive: a comprehensive photographic archive for the building was produced utilising a high-resolution digital camera with a sensor size of at least 15 megapixels. All frames, excluding general contextual views, incorporated a graduated metric scale.

A plan showing the viewpoint directions of each photograph was produced, together with a full photographic index. The archive comprises the following:

- the external appearance and setting of the building, including a mixture of general shots and detailed views taken from perpendicular and oblique angles;
- general shots of the surrounding landscape;
- the general appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas;
- any external or internal detail, structural or architectural, which does not show adequately on general photographs;
- any internal detailed views of features of especial architectural interest, fixtures and fittings, or fabric detail relevant to phasing the building.

Site Drawings: measured survey plans and elevations and key cross-sections of the buildings were produced utilising a combination of laser scanning, rectified photography, reflectorless electronic distance meter (REDM) and manual survey techniques. The resultant data was then used as the basis of CAD drawings, which are included within the final report as figures.

Written Description: a description of the historic structures was maintained to Historic England Level 2/3 standard. The records are essentially descriptive and provide a systematic account of the origin, development and use of the buildings, which include a description of the plan, form, fabric, function, age and development sequence. The written description includes a summary of the building's past and present use, an account of any key architectural features, fixtures and fittings, and a discussion of the relative significance of each individual component structure within the wider foundry complex.

In July 2023, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Lanpro Services Ltd, who also produced the Written Scheme of Investigation, on behalf of Westchurch Homes to undertake the recommended investigation and fulfil the archaeological planning obligations. This report presents the historic building investigation that has been completed, with the archaeological evaluation detailed in a separate report.

3. The Setting

3.1 Location

Louisa Street Works lies on the east side of the suburb of Openshaw, 5km from Manchester City Centre (centred on NGR SJ 88596 97628). The Site is bounded by industrial units and terraced housing to the north, Louisa Street to the east, green space to the south and a pedestrian footpath that follows the infilled line of the Stockport Branch of the Manchester & Ashton Under Lyne canal to the west (Plate 1; Fig 1).



Plate 1: Recent aerial shot, showing the extant buildings to be investigated within the wider Site, looking west

3.2 Geology and Topography

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 of the Mersey River valley, whilst the rivers Irwell, Medlock and Irk represent the principal watercourses in Manchester. The Site lies at a height of 71.0m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and is relatively flat.

The Site is located on a band of solid geology comprising the sandstone of the Cheshire Formation, formed between 250 and 247.1 million years ago during the Triassic Period. The solid geology is overlain by a superficial deposit of Till, Devensian Sand and gravel, which formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (British Geological Survey, 2023).

3.3 Designations

The Site does not contain any heritage assets that are afforded statutory protection, such as Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, or any Registered Parks and Gardens. The Site also does not lie within nor within the vicinity of any Manchester City Council's designated Conservation Areas.

4. Historical Background

4.1 Development of the Site

A more detailed historical background has been previously produced within the Desk Based Assessment (L-P Archaeology 2022) and the Heritage Statement (SLHA Ltd, 2022). This section summarises their findings. The Louisa Street Foundry was constructed in the late-19th century on land that was previously marked as open fields. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1845 and 1888-90 (published in 1893) shows the site was located within a network of open fields with the Stockport Branch of the Manchester to Ashton Under Lyne Canal to the west (Plate 2 and 3).



Plate 2: Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1845 with a red arrow showing the location of the Louisa Street Works



Plate 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1893 with a red arrow showing the location of the Louisa Street Works

The foundry was most likely constructed in c.1892 for Joseph Stubbs Ltd, who specialised as manufacturers of textile machinery. The company was founded by Joseph Stubbs in 1870 and was noted in Slater's Directory of Manchester and Salford as 'makers of textile machinery (reels and presses and machines for winding and gassing)', which was located at Store Street. The company also had a showroom at Mill Street Works in Ancoats and by 1900 the works on Louisa Street was in operation.

The Louisa Street works was designed by Joseph Nodal in 1892 with his offices at 61 Barton Arcade in Manchester. Nodal was a Mill architect and engineer who previously designed Follows and Bate Ltd Dutton Street Works and Gorton Works (1877-1888), Broad Schools at Great Sankey near Warrington (1885) and Memorial Hall at Penketh School (1882-1885). None of these buildings are extant today.

Nodal's 1892 plans of the site comprised a mid-rise brick boundary wall fronting Louisa Street with a wide vehicular entrance to the southern end. This afforded access into a yard that contained the weighing machine. An office building of two-storeys fronted Louisa Street with a stables to the north-eastern end of the site and a large expanse of workshops to the west. The original foundry was located to the centre of the site with a 'lowering oven' to the western end and a foreman's office situated to the eastern side. At the northern extent of the works was the original casting and pattern store with a connecting exhaust pit to the south.

The original office building contained two entrances affording street access from Louisa Street. The southern doorway was for site staff while the northern entrance was used by office staff.

In 1903 the works was extensively expanded and altered. The foundry was extended to the west, along with a large extension to the casting and pattern workshop. The Ordnance Survey map of 1908 first depicts the site as having been developed. This shows a vast building occupying most of the site with the office, stables and coaching house buildings fronting Louisa Street to the east and a small gatehouse to the south-eastern corner (Plate 4).

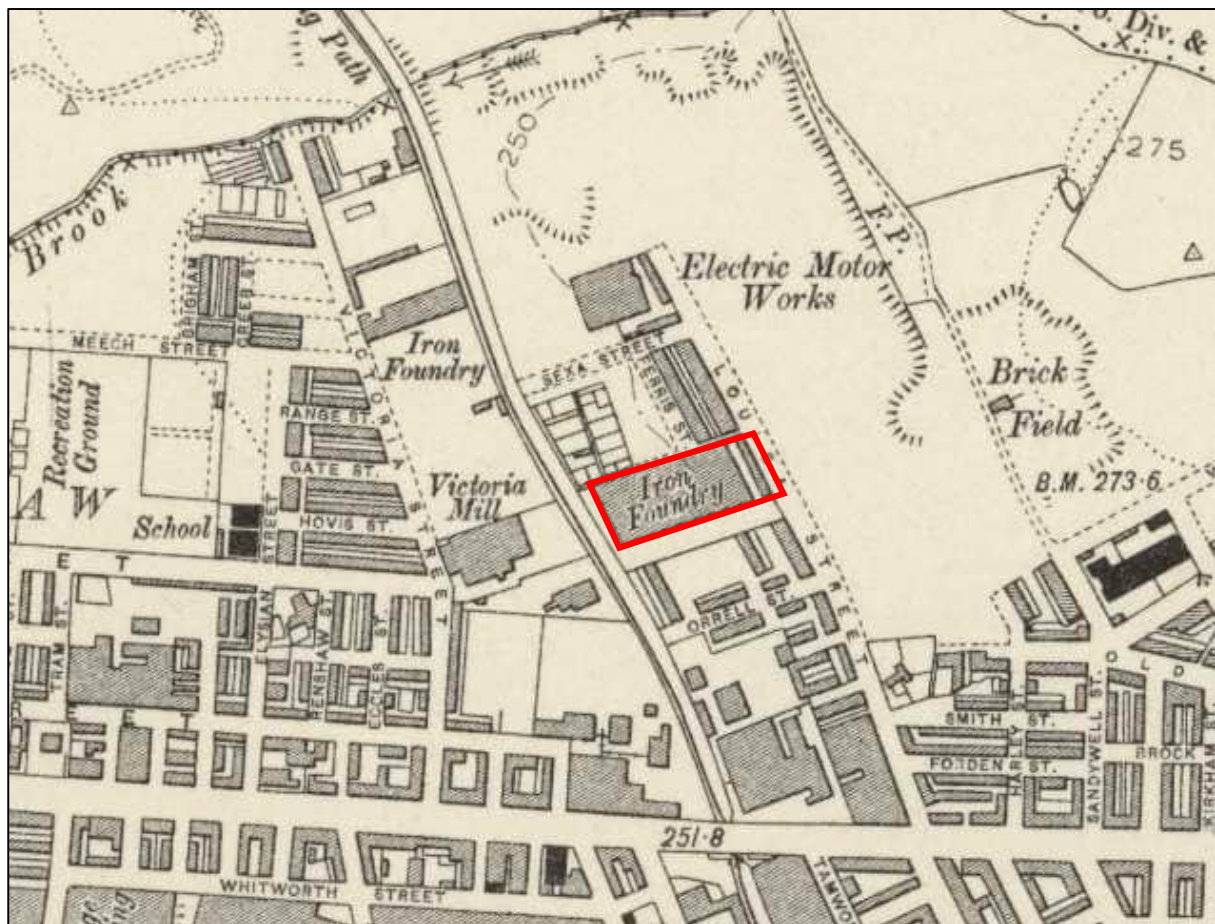


Plate 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1908

The site had undergone further redevelopment with the office building fronting Louisa Street having been altered during the latter 1910s or early 1920s. The Ordnance Survey map of 1922 shows the range continued to consist of three structures with the southern building, most likely the original office, having been set back (Plate 5). Two further buildings were constructed within the yard between the offices and the main foundry buildings (Plate 5).

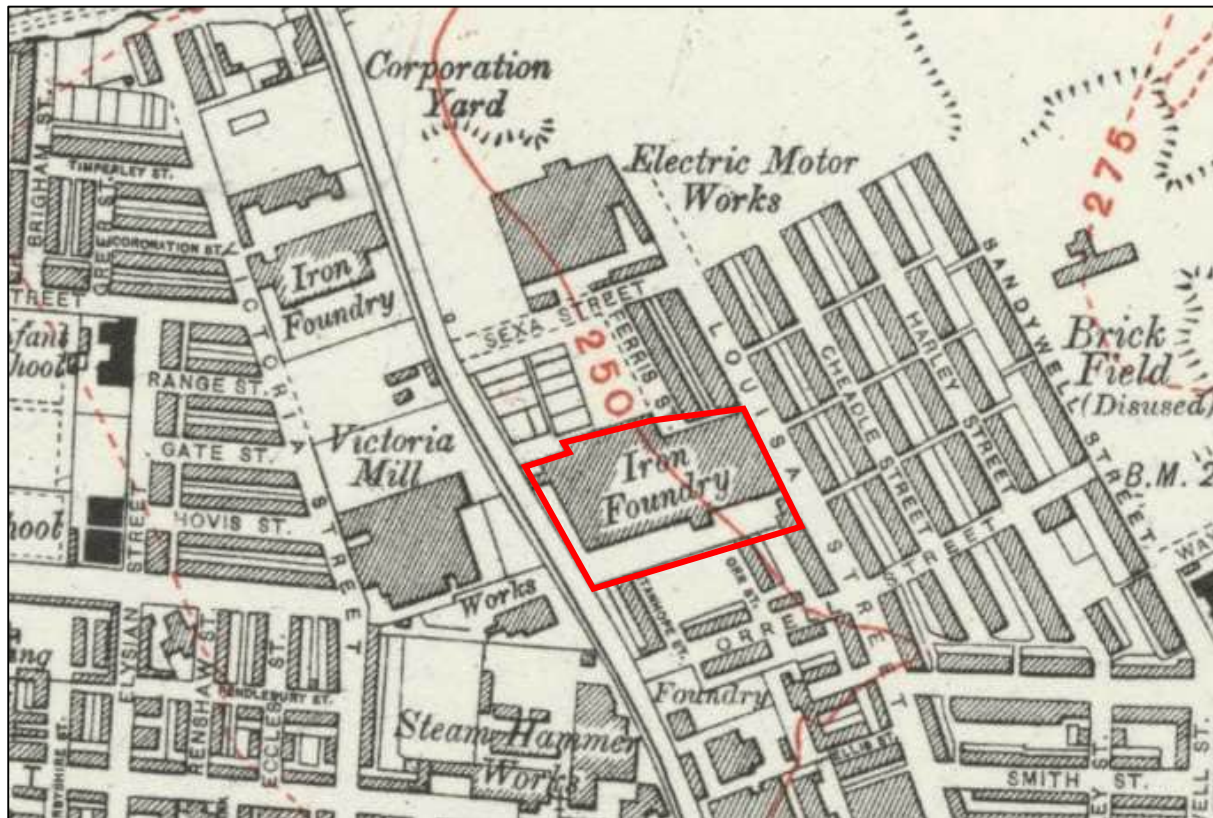


Plate 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey Map of 1922

The foundry had largely been unaltered during the mid-20th century and continued to manufacture textile machinery until its closure in 1966 due to a lack of demand. During the latter half of the 20th and early 21st century the Site was used as warehousing and by 2016 much of the Site was cleared due to a devastating fire, with only the office building, the northern casting and pattern workshop, the gatehouse and a small canteen having survived.

5. Historical Building Investigation

5.1 Introduction

The programme of historic building investigation undertaken at the former Louisa Street Works consisted of a Historic England Level 2/3 standard. The initial survey was undertaken on 4th July 2023 to carry out the Historical Building Investigation of the former office building fronting Louisa Street and the casting and pattern store to the north of the site. A follow up visit was undertaken on 11th July 2023 to record the interior of the buildings previously inaccessible areas.

The site comprised a two-storey office and warehouse building fronting Louisa Street (Plate 6), the former casting and pattern store workshop to the northern end of the site, a single-storey gatehouse and a single storey warehouse to the south-eastern corner. The office building and the former casting and pattern store workshop form the basis of this report as the other two buildings were outside the scope of this investigation.



Plate 6: General view of the office building fronting Louisa Street, facing south-west

5.2 The Louisa Street Office Building External Description

The office building was of 12 bays wide and constructed in two phases. The southern five bays formed earliest phase designed in c.1892, with the northern bays built in the early-20th century (Fig 2). The eastern elevation of the 1892 office was of red brick construction in Flemish bond rising to two-storeys (Fig 2; Plate 7). The ground floor comprised six window apertures with a central doorway. The doorway was flanked by a pair of windows with a single opening to the north and south ends (Plate 7). Each of the windows measured 3' (0.91m) wide and consisted of chamfered edged sandstone lintels and sills with a simple stone banding above. Directly above was a decorative projecting terracotta string course with an inverted V above the southern aperture and the central doorway. The openings had been blocked with timber sheeting (Plate 7 and 8).



Plate 7: General view of the 1892 office building fronting Louisa Street, looking west



Plate 8: Detail of the southern ground floor window of the office building, looking west

The doorway was recessed within a projecting panel with brick pilasters (Plate 9). The 3'6" (1.07m) wide opening comprised a chamfered sandstone lintel with a recessed brick frieze above and housed a replaced timber door with late-20th century door furniture (Plate 9).



Plate 9: Detail of the central doorway within the eastern elevation of the office building, looking west

The first floor comprised seven 3' (0.91m) wide window apertures with the northern window situated within the curvature of the wall measuring 1'6" (0.45m) wide. The windows consisted of chamfered edged sandstone lintels and sills with a simple stone banding above. The openings had been blocked with timber sheeting (Plate 10).

The pitched roof with a gablet to the second bay from the southern end was obscured by a simple parapet wall topped with copings stones. The gablet contained a blocked slit window with a sandstone lintel and sill and was infilled with bricks (Plate 11).



Plate 10: Detail of the first floor windows to the eastern elevation of the original office building, looking north-west



Plate 11: Detail of the gablet to the original office buildings eastern elevation, looking west

The early 20th century extension to the northern end of the building consisted of seven bays rising to two-storeys. The ground floor consisted of six pairs of windows with a doorway within the fifth bay from the southern end (Fig 2; Plate 12). The windows comprised chamfered edged sandstone lintels and sills with a simple stone banding above. Housed within the 2'9" (0.83m) wide openings was a two-light timber framed window with the upper light forming the outward awning opening (Plate 13). A modern steel mesh security panel had been bolted to the quarter bat reveals during the latter half of the 20th century. The northern doorway had been remodelled with the inclusion of a roller shutter door and a modern timber door affording access into the northern half of the ground-floor (Plate 14). A single terracotta tiled step afforded access into the opening (Plate 14).



Plate 12: General view of the 20th-century extension to the office building fronting Louisa Street, looking west



Plate 13: Detail of the ground floor windows to the Louisa Street office building, looking west



Plate 14: The northern doorway within the eastern elevation, looking north-west

The first floor comprised seven pairs of window apertures and consisted of chamfered edged sandstone lintels and sills with a simple stone banding above. As with openings on the ground floor, a two-light timber framed window with the upper light forming the outward awning opening was housed within the 2'9" (0.83m) wide openings (Plate 15). The glazing had been removed and replaced with plywood timber sheeting.

The pitched roof contained a gablet to the central bay and was obscured by a simple parapet wall topped with copings stones. The gablet contained a blocked slit window with a sandstone lintel and sill and was infilled with bricks (Plate 16).



Plate 15: Detail of the first floor windows to the eastern elevation of the office extension, looking west



Plate 16: Detail of the gablet to the eastern elevation, looking west

The northern elevation was of a simple design forming the northern gable of the 20th-century extension (Fig 3). The elevation was constructed in a stretcher bond until ceiling height of the first floor then Flemish bond to the apex. The roof was capped with stone copings (Plate 17). The elevation was stepped at the intersection with lead flashings (Plate 17). Four T-shaped tie rod plates with square bolts were situated at ceiling height of the first floor (Plate 18).



Plate 17: The northern elevation of the 20th-century office extension, looking south



Plate 18: Detail of tie rod plates to the northern elevation

The southern elevation was associated with the original 1892 office and was of two storeys built in Flemish bond (Fig 3, Plate 19). The ground floor comprised three windows apertures with a single doorway to the western end (Fig 3; Plate 19). As with the windows to the principal eastern elevation, the windows comprised chamfered edged sandstone lintels and sills with a simple stone banding above. Housed within the 3' (0.91m) wide openings was a two-light timber framed window with the upper light forming the outward awning opening (Plate 19). A modern steel mesh security panel had been bolted to the quarter bat reveals during the latter half of the 20th century.

The doorway comprised a chamfered sandstone lintel with a recessed brick frieze above. The 3'6" (1.07m) wide opening had been infilled with brick and a sloping brick plinth had been inserted above the concrete threshold (Plate 20).



Plate 19: The southern elevation of the 1892 office building, looking north



Plate 20: Detail of the blocked doorway to the western end of the southern elevation, looking north

The first floor contained a pair of window apertures to the eastern end with a simple stone string band that continued from the eastern elevation. The windows had largely been obscured with modern signage; however, the chamfered sandstone lintel was observed. The 3' (0.91m) wide openings had been blocked with modern plywood sheeting (Plate 21).

The parapet wall that concealed the roof to the eastern elevation continued around and was topped with stone copings. At the centre was a blocked slit window with a sandstone lintel and sill and infilled with bricks (Plate 22).



Plate 21: Detail of the blocked windows to the first floor of the elevation, looking north



Plate 22: Detail of the blocked widow to the attic of the original 1892 office, looking north

The western elevation of the original phase was constructed in a three stretcher English Garden Wall bond rising to two-storeys with a pitched slate roof terminating at the eaves. At the southern end was a brick chimney (Fig 4; Plate 23). At the southern end of the elevation was the remains of a steel hoist arm.

The ground floor comprised a pair of windows to the north with a single window to the south which flanked a single doorway (Plate 23). The 3' (0.91m) wide windows consisted of chamfered sandstone sills and lintels with the original windows frames removed and the openings blocked with modern plywood sheets. The doorway comprised a segmental arched head with a concrete threshold. The original timber doorframe had been retained, although the door was a modern replacement (Plate 24).



Plate 23: The western elevation of the 1892 office building, looking east



Plate 24: The doorway to the southern end of the western elevation of the 1892 office building, looking east

Access into the building was afforded by a single doorway to the northern end of the elevation (Fig 4). The doorway consisted of a flush sandstone lintel, a concrete threshold and had retained the original timber doorframe. The door had recently been removed (Plate 25).



Plate 25: The doorway to the northern end of the western elevation, looking east

The first floor was of four single windows comprising gauged brick segmental arched heads with protruding sandstone sills (Plate 26). The 3' (0.91m) wide openings housed a replaced two-light timber framed window. The glazing had largely been removed; however, several shards of clear glass had been observed (Plate 26).



Plate 26: The first floor windows on the western elevation of the 1892 office building, looking east

The western elevation of the 20th century extension was of two-storeys with a pitched roof that also terminated at the eaves (Plate 27). The elevation was of eight bays with the ground floor having a six bays formed by astragal iron columns with Doric order capitals. The bolting plate of each column was fixed to the lower flange of the I-section rolled iron beams with square headed bolts (Plate 28). The bays were originally open, affording access between the office building and the adjoining building as noted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1915-16. Further evidence of an attached building was observed on the first floor at sill height in the form of the remains of lead flashings and scaring. During the latter half of the 20th-century the bays were infilled with pale cream bricks with modern windows inserted into the first, second and third bays.



Plate 27: The western elevation of the 20th-century extension, looking north-east



Plate 28: Detail of the column capital to the ground floor bays

The first floor was constructed in a three stretcher English Garden Wall bond and consisted of seven window apertures with a loading bay doorway to the southern end (Fig 4, Plate 26). The windows comprised segmental arched heads with sandstone sills and replaced timber framed windows (Plate 29).



Plate 26: The first floor windows on the western elevation of the office building extension, looking east

The loading bay doorway to the southern end of the first floor consisted of bullnose brick jambs a segmental arched head and a sandstone threshold set within a gablet. The remains of the hoist arm bracket had been retained at crown height of the lintel (Plate 27). The opening measured 4'6½" (1.38m) wide and was blocked externally with modern timber sheeting (Plate 27). A second loading bay was situated to the south of the fourth bay. This consisted of squared jambs with the arched head and threshold having been removed. The opening was infilled with modern concrete bricks and a concrete sill for the modified fourth bay window was later inserted (Plate 28).



Plate 27: The first loading bay doorway at the southern end of the western elevation, looking east



Plate 28: Detail of the blocked loading bay on the first floor of the western elevation

5.3 The Louisa Street Office Building Internal Description

Internally, the building was in an extremely poor condition and only some of the rooms could be accessed safely.

The ground floor was divided into 19 rooms, however five of these were inaccessible. Access was afforded by the doorway to the northern end of the original 1892 office building (Plate 25). The doorway entered a small vestibule which contained a doorway to the northern wall leading into Room 1 and the main staircase affording ascending access to the first floor (Fig 5; Plate 29). The stairs comprised a closed stringer with concrete risers and treads with timber loaf handrail fixed to the northern and southern walls (Plate 29).



Plate 29: The concrete staircase affording access to the first floor

Room 1 measured 7.71m by 2.17m and was situated to the south-western corner of the 20th century extension. The room comprised a flat ceiling, a concrete rendered floor with plaster render to the walls (Plate 30). Behind the plaster render was the original glazed brick walls (Plate 30).



Plate 30: General view of Room 1, looking north

The western wall contained two modern windows measuring 3'7" (0.79m) wide and housed a modern timber framed window within the openings (Plate 31). An earlier window aperture was situated above the southern window. This had a flush sandstone lintel with the opening infilled with modern concrete blocks (Plate 31). The eastern wall contained a further two windows measuring 3' (0.91m) wide. The lintel and sill were obscured by the modern plaster render. The original timber framed window with clear glass glazing had been housed within the openings (Plate 32).



Plate 31: The western wall of Room 1, looking west



Plate 32: The eastern wall of Room 1, looking east

The northern wall had been modified with the insertion of a tall doorway that afforded access into Room 2. The 7'7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (2.33m) wide opening had a steel lintel with brick repairs to the wall above (Plate 30).

Room 2 measured 7.71m by 2.78m and was also heavily modified with plaster render to the walls, a concrete floor and ceiling (Plate 33; Fig 5). The eastern wall contained two windows measuring 3' (0.91m) wide. The lintel and sill were obscured by the modern plaster render. The original timber framed window with clear glass glazing had been housed within the openings (Plate 33).



Plate 33: General view of Room 2, looking east

Room 3 was situated to the northern end of the original 1892 office building and was a modern corridor that afforded access into Room 1 to the north, Room 4 to the east and Room 5 to the south (Fig 5). This corridor had a flat plasterboard ceiling, plaster rendered walls and a concrete floor (Plate 34). The doorways comprised simple rectangular timber architraves with modern hollow timber doors.



Plate 34: General view of Room 3, looking south

Room 4 was also a small corridor affording access into the male toilets at the southern end (Fig 5). The room consisted of a false suspended ceiling, plaster rendered walls and a concrete floor (Plate 35). The eastern wall was curved and after the removal of the ceiling tiles the original glazed brick wall with a small window had been uncovered (Plate 35).



Plate 35: General view of Room 4, looking east

No access was gained into the toilets during the survey.

Room 5 could only be partially surveyed from the doorway due to the collapsing ceiling and was filled with modern debris. This room measured 4.23m by 2.52m and consisted of a false suspended ceiling, plaster rendered walls and a concrete floor (Fig 5). The eastern wall contained two windows measuring 0.91m wide. The lintel and sill were obscured by the modern plaster render; however, these had retained the original moulded timber architraves. The original timber framed window with clear glass glazing had been housed within the openings (Plate 36).



Plate 36: The windows within the eastern wall of Room 5

Room 6-14 were situated within the 20th century extension and were all heavily modernised with the inclusion of plaster render to the walls, concrete floors and false suspended ceilings. The partition walls between the rooms were formed using modern concrete blocks (Fig 5).

The only room of any historical value was Room 9. This contained a rolled iron beam at the centre of the ceiling and would have spanned the building transversely but was obscured within the adjoining rooms (Plate 37).



Plate 37: The rolled iron beam within ceiling of Room 9

The first floor was also heavily modified with the building of modern office spaces to the 20th century extension. No safe access could be obtained to the office spaces within the original 1892 office; however, part of the room was observed from the doorway.

Room 15 and 16 were situated within the original office building and consisted of flat ceilings, plaster rendered walls and timber floors. It was not possible to observe the windows within the eastern and western walls due to safety concerns (Plate 38; Fig 6).



Plate 38: General view of Room 15, looking south

Rooms 17-24 had been comprised of plaster render to the walls, concrete floors and false suspended ceilings and were situated within the 20th century extension. The partition walls between the rooms were formed using modern concrete blocks (Plate 39). However, after the soft strip of the building and the removal of the partition walls some of the historical features had been uncovered (Fig 6).



Plate 39: General view of Room 18, prior to the soft strip, looking south

The internal construction of the extension was of brick with a concrete floor (Plate 40). The original ceiling was flat with timber beams socketed into the eastern and western walls (Plate 41). The original bolted L-section angle iron fan trusses and timber purlins had also been uncovered (Plate 41).



Plate 40: General view of the first floor of the 20th-century extension, during the soft strip, looking north



Plate 41: Detail of the original ceiling to the first floor of the extension

The paired windows within the eastern wall measured 3' (0.91m) wide and comprised bullnose brick reveals with a squared brick mullion, timber lintels and sills. The original timber framed windows had been uncovered prior to demolition (Plate 42). The 4'10" (1.47m) wide windows to the western wall had segmental arched heads with flat timber internal sills. The openings housed replaced timber framed windows (Plate 43).



Plate 42: The windows to the eastern wall of the first floor



Plate 43: The windows to the western wall of the first floor

5.4 The Former Casting & Pattern Store Workshop External Description

The works had retained the northern shed that was associated with the former casting and pattern store workshop. The building was constructed in two phase with the original shed, to the eastern side, constructed in the late-19th century. The building had been extended to the west in 1903. The building was 22 bays long, double-height with a pitched roof and a lantern roof the original phase- bays 1 to 9.

The eastern elevation fronted Ferris Street and formed the principal entrance into the original former casting and pattern workshop as designed by J. Nodal. The elevation was double-height gable, built in a three stretcher English Garden Wall bond with a lower northern bay. The copings to the roof had been obscured or possibly removed and replaced with modern steel flashings (Plate 44).



Plate 44: General view of the eastern elevation of the former casting and pattern store, looking west

The elevation was remodelled with the insertion of a large roller shutter doorway to the southern end blocking two of the original window apertures. These consisted of segmental arched heads with squared reveals which were constructed in Ruabon bricks. The sills had been removed and the upper section of the 4'6" (1.37m) wide openings were brick infilled (Plate 44). A third window aperture to the northern end was also altered with the insertion of a modern doorway. The opening was also brick infilled (Plate 44).

At truss height if the pitched roof was a single window aperture measuring 4'5" (1.34m) wide. This comprised Ruabon bricks to the reveals and segmental arched head with a chamfered sandstone sill. The opening was blocked with brick infilling (Plate 45).



Plate 45: Detail of the blocked window and parapet wall to the lantern roof

The southern elevation was of 22 bays long with tall blind recesses comprising shallow brick segmental arched heads and squared brick reveals (Plate 46). Each of the piers had a flush stone corbel situated at ceiling height with the brickwork above damaged or removed. These suggest that the beams of a demolished building were attached to the south of the workshop (Plate 47).



Plate 46: General view of the southern elevation of the former casting and pattern store, looking north-west



Plate 47: Detail of the blind bays forming the southern elevation, looking north

A doorway at the eastern end of the elevation was remodelled with a narrowed opening to the eastern end. The original opening measured 15'9" (4.82m) wide with a rolled steel I-section lintel (Plate 48). The western half of the original opening was infilled with brick and a later doorway with a concrete lintel and brick jambs was situated to the east. The 6'7" (2m) wide opening was later blocked with hollow bricks and glazed tiles with a timber frame, most likely for a toilet cubical, was situated to the western section (Plate 48).



Plate 48: Detail of the remodelled doorway to the east of the southern elevation, looking north

The elevation also contained several blocked doorways situated to the western end which afforded access between the workshop and the previously demolished building to the south. Each comprised rolled steel lintels with bullnose brick jambs. The openings were infilled with brick however the remains of a ledge and braced timber door had been retained within the westernmost opening (Plate 49).



Plate 49: The westernmost doorway within the southern elevation, looking north

The western elevation consisted of two gables each constructed in a three stretcher English Garden Wall bond (Plate 50). The gables had largely been obscured by modern corrugated steel sheeting, however two doorways at the centres had been observed (Plate 50). Each comprised a rolled steel I-section lintel with bullnose brick jambs and remodelled with the insertion of a roller shutter door, affording vehicle access into the 1903 extension of the workshop (Plate 50). Pedestrian access was afforded by the inserted steel doorway at the northern end of the southern gable.



Plate 50: General view of the western elevation, looking north-east

The remnants of a blocked window aperture was located to the centre of the southern gable, directly above the vehicle entrance. This comprised a segmental arched head with squared reveals constructed in Ruabon bricks. The sill had been removed and the 4'6" (1.37m) wide opening was brick infilled (Plate 51). The alteration to this window suggests that the doorway was a later insertion.



Plate 51: The southern gable detailing the later inserted vehicle doorway with the blocked window aperture above, looking east

The northern elevation was 22 bays long with tall blind recesses to the 1903 extension comprised shallow brick segmental arched heads and squared brick reveals (Plate 52). The original building was largely devoid of features, although a bank of windows was situated to the western end with a blocked doorway and a later inserted doorway situated to the eastern end. The windows consisted of three apertures with segmental arched heads and reveals that were built with Ruabon bricks and sandstone sills. The openings were blocked with modern aerated bricks (Plate 53).



Plate 52: The blind recesses to the northern elevation of the 1903 extension, looking south-west



Plate 53: Detail of the blocked windows to the northern elevation of the original workshop, looking south

A blocked doorway at the centre of the original workshop comprised a shallow brick segmental arched head and squared brick jambs that were also built using Ruabon bricks (Plate 54). The 5'3½" (1.61m) wide opening was infilled with bricks and a rolled steel I-section beam had projected out of the infilling at the eastern end (Plate 54).



Plate 54: Detail of the blocked doorway to the northern elevation of the original workshop, looking south-west

5.5 The Former Casting & Pattern Store Workshop Internal Description

Internally, the building could only be partially surveyed due to health and safety concerns. The original workshop had been divided into multiple rooms, however only two could be recorded safely (Rooms 1 and 2). The 1903 extension was also divided into several rooms, but again only two rooms could be recorded safely (Rooms 3 and 4) (Fig 7).

Access was afforded into Room 1 from the doorways within the eastern elevation. The room measured southern wall 28.67m by 8.9m and comprised a concrete floor and painted brick walls. The high open ceiling exposed the fan L-section angle iron trusses and the lantern roof above (Plate 55; Fig 7).



Plate 55: General view of Room 1 within the original casting and pattern store workshop, looking west

The southern wall of the room contained a single doorway at the eastern end. The opening was remodelled with a narrowed opening to the eastern end. The original opening measured 15'9" (4.82m) wide with a rolled steel I-section lintel. A sign with 'THE VAUGHAN CRANE CO LD MANCHESTER' embossing was riveted to the web of the beam. A second sign with '10 CWTS' situated to the eastern end of the webbing (Plate 56 and 57). The original opening was brick infilled with the later doorway having a steel lintel. The opening had subsequently been blocked with brick infilling (Plate 56).



Plate 56: The blocked doorway to the eastern end of the southern wall, looking south



Plate 57: Detail of the rivetted makers sign to the web of the steel lintel

The eastern wall remodelled with the insertion of a large roller shutter doorway to the southern end blocking two of the original window apertures. These consisted of segmental arched heads with squared reveals which were constructed in Ruabon bricks which had been painted white. The sills had been removed and the upper section of the 4'6" (1.37m) wide openings were brick infilled (Plate 58). A third window aperture to the northern end was also altered with the insertion of a modern doorway. The opening was also brick infilled, however the original tall two light timber framed window had been retained internally (Plate 59).

At truss height of the pitched roof was a single window aperture measuring 4'5" (1.34m) wide. This comprised bullnose brick reveals and a segmental arched head with a flat sandstone internal sill. The opening was blocked with brick infilling (Plate 58).



Plate 58: General view of the eastern wall of Room 1, looking east



Plate 59: The remodelled northern window within the eastern wall of Room 1, looking east

The northern wall comprised nine bays of blind recesses with shallow segmental arched heads and bullnose brick jambs. The wall was supported by a rolled I-section steel beam with simple 8" (0.2m) diameter columns (Plate 60). A small doorway was inserted into the western end of the wall, affording access into Room 2.



Plate 60: The northern wall of Room 1, looking north-west

The western wall comprised two tall doorways affording access into Room 3, with a smaller doorway at the centre. Each had segmental arched heads and bullnose brick jambs. The two large openings were partially infilled with a later opening with a rolled steel I-section beam lintel spanning the openings.

Room 2 was a small kitchenette within the northern wing of the original workshop (Fig 7). The room comprised a concrete floor, plaster render walls and a false suspended ceiling (Plate 61). A section of the ceiling had been removed uncovering the simple L-section angle iron roof truss of the long northern bay.



Plate 61: General view of Room 2, looking north

Room 3 measured 18.3m by 8.9m and was situated to the eastern end of the 1903 extension. The room comprised a concrete floor, painted brick walls with a high open ceiling exposing the fan L-section angle iron trusses (Plate 62). The northern and southern walls contained six blind recessed bays with shallow segmental arched heads and bullnose brick jambs (Plate 62). The western wall contained two large doorways which had afforded access into Room 4. The openings measured 8'½" (2.45m) wide and contained a rolled steel I-section lintel and were recently infilled with modern concrete blocks (Plate 62).



Plate 62: General view of Room 3, situated within the 1903 extension

Room 4 was situated to the western end of the 1903 extension and consisted of a concrete floor, painted brick walls with a high open ceiling exposing the fan L-section angle iron trusses (Plate 63; Fig 7). The northern wall contained eight blind recessed bays with shallow segmental arched heads and bullnose brick jambs (Plate 64). The wall also contains three doorways affording access into several rooms within the northern bay. The central doorway was constructed with a segmental arched head, while the two outer opening had simple timber lintels. All three openings had bullnose brick reveals (Plate 64).



Plate 63: General view of Room 4, situated within the 1903 extension, looking east



Plate 64: The northern wall of the 1903 extension, looking north-east

The eastern wall contained two large doorways which afforded access into Room 3. The openings measured 8'½" (2.45m) wide and contained a rolled steel I-section lintel and were recently infilled with modern concrete blocks (Plate 65). An off-centre doorway with an opening of 3' (0.91m) with a segmental arched head was also blocked with modern concrete blocks (Plate 65).



Plate 65: The eastern wall of the 1903 extension, looking east

The southern wall was largely devoid of features with only a single doorway situated to the western end having been observed. This afforded access into the recently demolished building to the south and comprised a steel lintel and a concrete threshold. The opening had been infilled with modern concrete blocks (Plate 66). The simple nature of the lintel suggests this was a later insertion as the majority of doorways within the building have segmental arched heads.



Plate 66: The blocked doorway within the southern wall, looking south

The western wall contained three tall window apertures with segmental arch heads and bullnose brick reveals. The window frames had been removed and the openings had been infilled with brick (Plate 67). The southern two apertures were altered with the insertion of a modern roller shutter door while a modern pedestrian doorway was inserted into the northern window (Plate 67). The elevation was partially rebuilt with modern bricks at approximately eight courses above the window heads (Plate 67). This seems to be contemporary with the corrugated steel cladding that was attached to the western elevation.



Plate 67: The western wall of the 1903 extension, looking west

The northern bay of the building could not be safely recorded due to the collapsed roof structure and the vast amount of pigeon guanos.

6. Discussion

6.1 Introduction

The historical building investigation of Louisa Street Works has provided a valuable opportunity to record the remaining buildings dating from the 1890s with extensions during the early 20th century. It has also enabled a review of the available documentary material to be combined with the physical evidence embedded in the historic fabric to produce a detailed narrative of the building's development.

6.2 Louisa Street Works

The office building was originally constructed in c.1892 and was designed by the architect J. Nodal for Joseph Stubbs Ltd. The original office was of five bays and constructed in red brick with Flemish bond to the eastern and southern elevations, and a three stretcher English Garden Wall bond to the western elevation. The original plans to the building show it was only a single storey high with an attic, however the extant building was of two storeys (SLHA Ltd, 2022). There were no distinguishing phase breaks between the levels either externally or internally suggesting the building was constructed as a single phase.

During the early 20th century, the office building had been extended to the north with a further seven bays and was constructed in a similar style, although the northern elevation was largely of a stretcher bond arrangement.

Internally, the building was in an extremely poor condition and could not be fully surveyed due to health and safety concerns. However, the vast majority of the historical features had been removed, with only the original steel fan trusses having been retained.

The Site also contained the northern shed of the former casting and pattern store workshop. This was also constructed in two phases with the original 1892 building consisting of nine bays with a pitched roof and a lantern roof above. During the 1903 expansion of the works a further 13 bays were constructed to the west.

As with the office building the workshop could only be partially surveyed due to health and safety concerns. The rooms that were safely recorded had been stripped of their historical fixtures and contained late 20th century remodelling.

6.3 Conclusion

The conclusion drawn by the archaeological building survey is that due to the modern interventions most of the historical features had been removed, but those original features that survived have been recorded by the historical building investigation. However, due to the unsafe condition of the buildings it should be noted that not all the areas could be recorded during the survey. Accordingly, due to this it is recommended that no further investigation should be undertaken ahead of the demolition to the Louisa Street office building and the former casting and pattern workshop.

7. Archive

7.1 Introduction

The results of the archaeological investigation form the basis of a full archive that has been prepared to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines, the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and current ClfA standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archive. 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.

The documentary and digital archive generated from the historic is currently in the possession of Salford Archaeology. A copy of this report will be submitted to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record in digital and hard copy formats. A digital copy of the report will be publicly available on the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website.

Sources

Cartographic sources

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Date accessed: 21/8/2023

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The historic building investigation was undertaken by Lewis Stitt, who also compiled the technical report and accompanying illustrations. The report was edited by Graham Mottershead who also was responsible for the project management.

Appendix 1: Figures

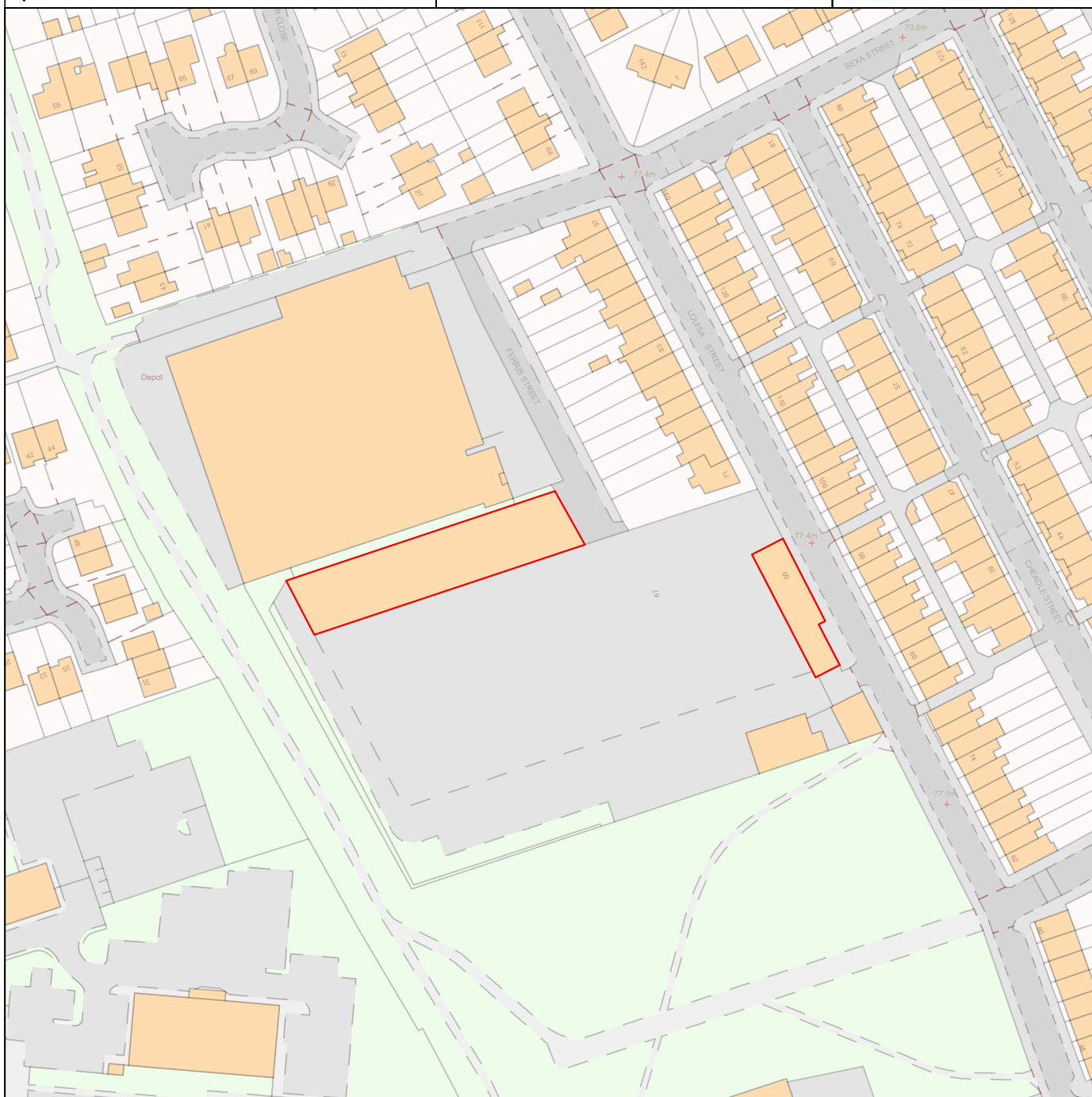
- Figure 1: Site location map
- Figure 2: East elevation of Louisa Street office building
- Figure 3: North and south elevations of Louisa Street office building
- Figure 4: West elevation of Louisa Street office building
- Figure 5: Ground floor plan of Louisa Street office building
- Figure 6: First floor plan of Louisa Street office building
- Figure 7: Ground floor plan of the former casting and pattern workshop



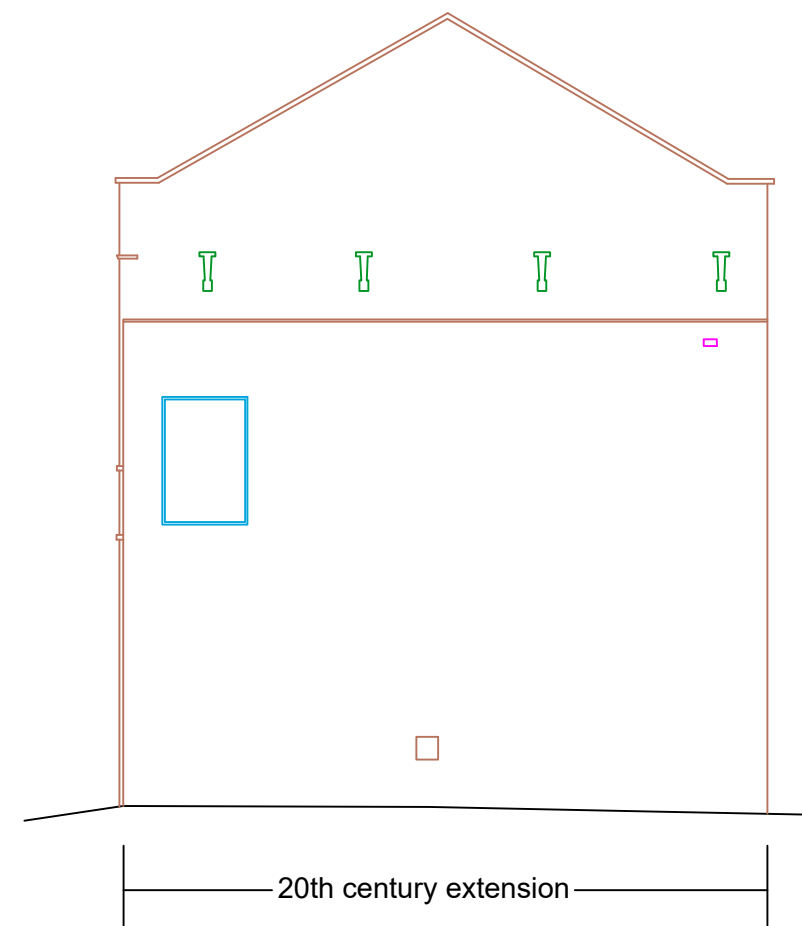
Louisa Street Works, Openshaw, Manchester

Figure 1: Site Location

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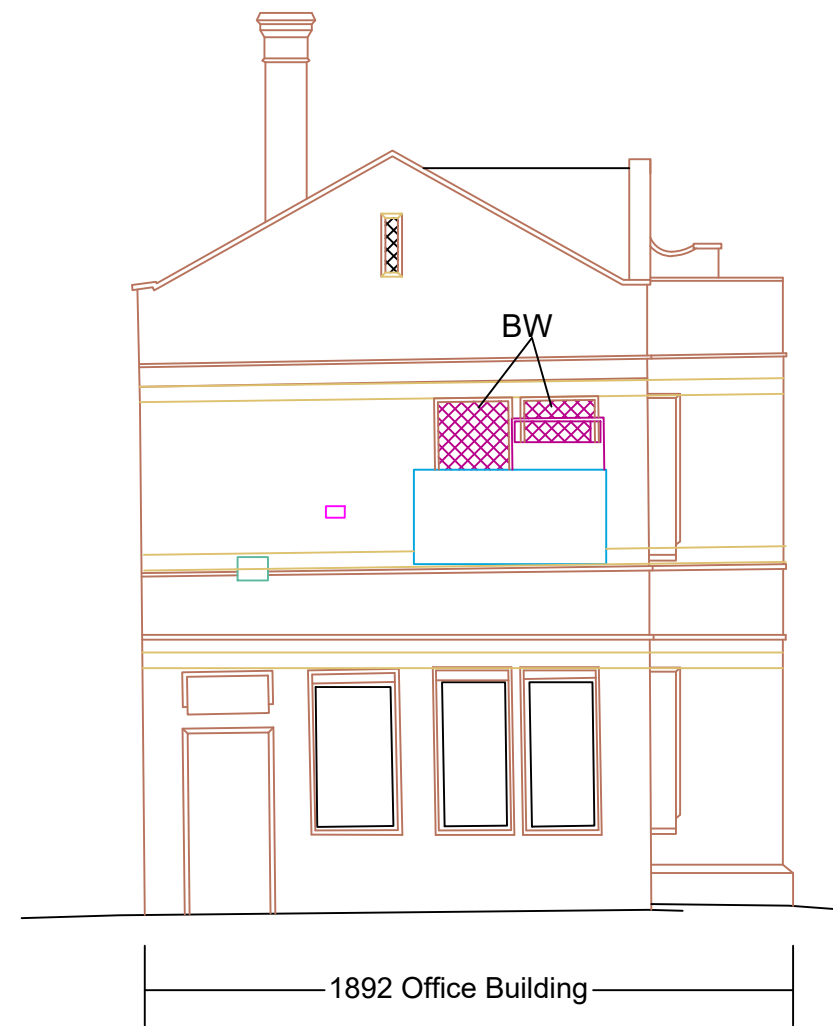






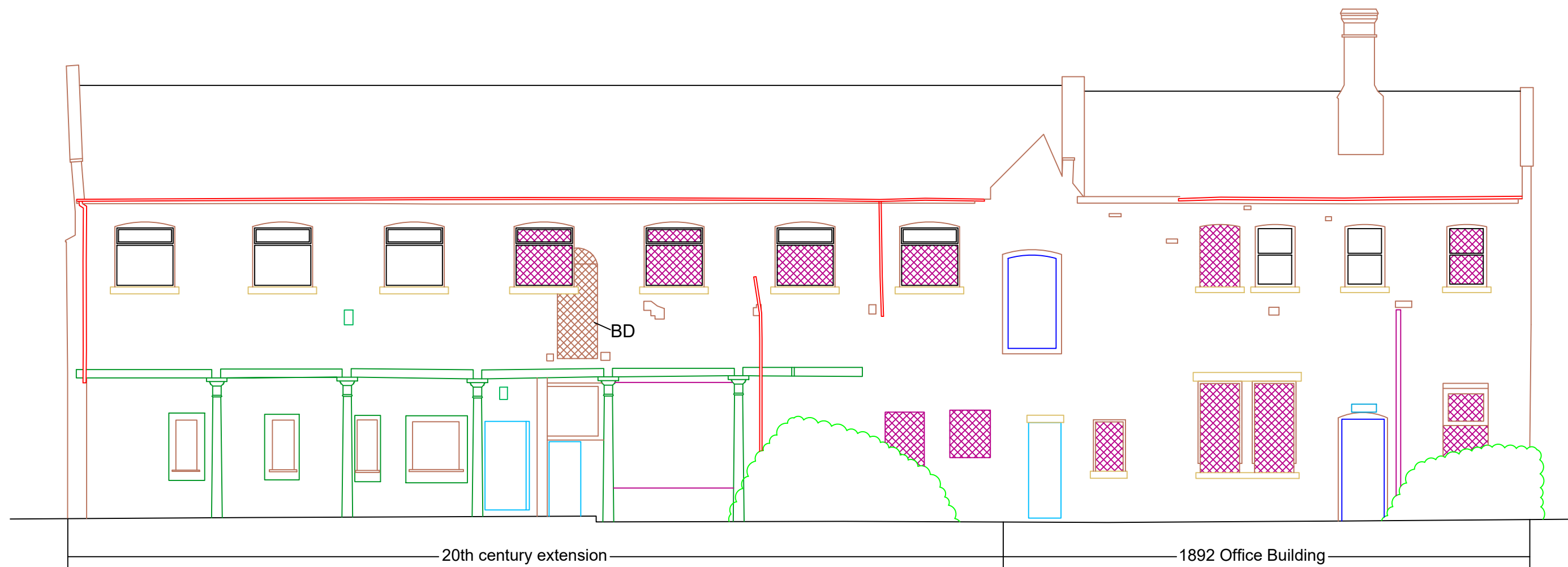
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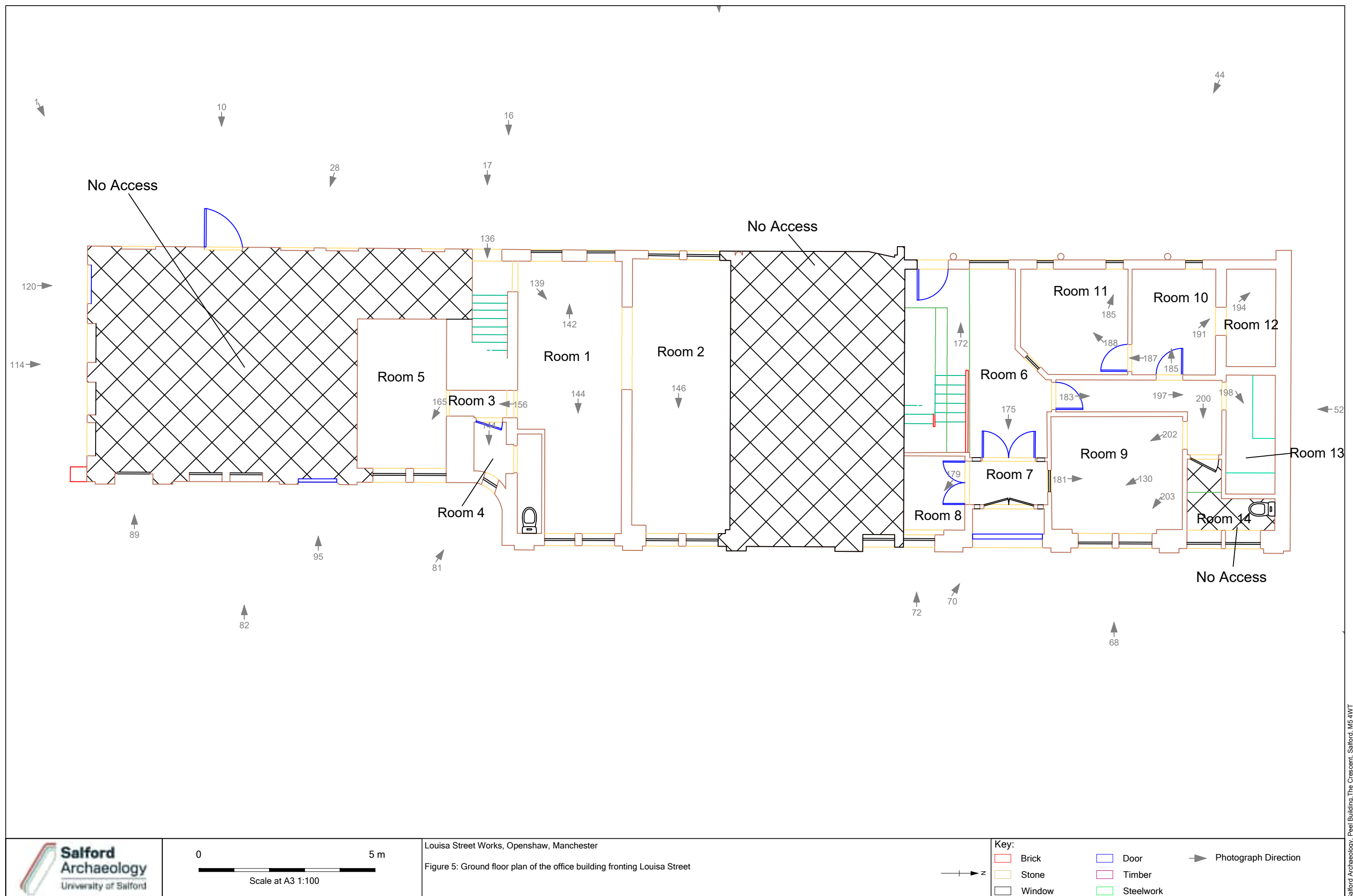


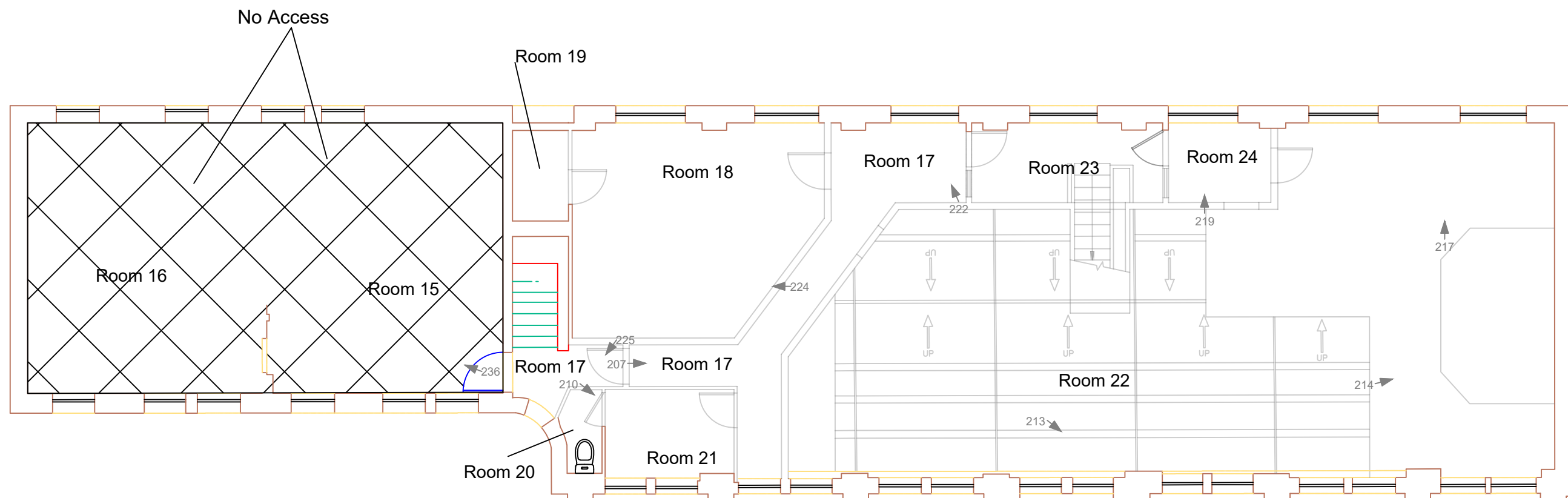
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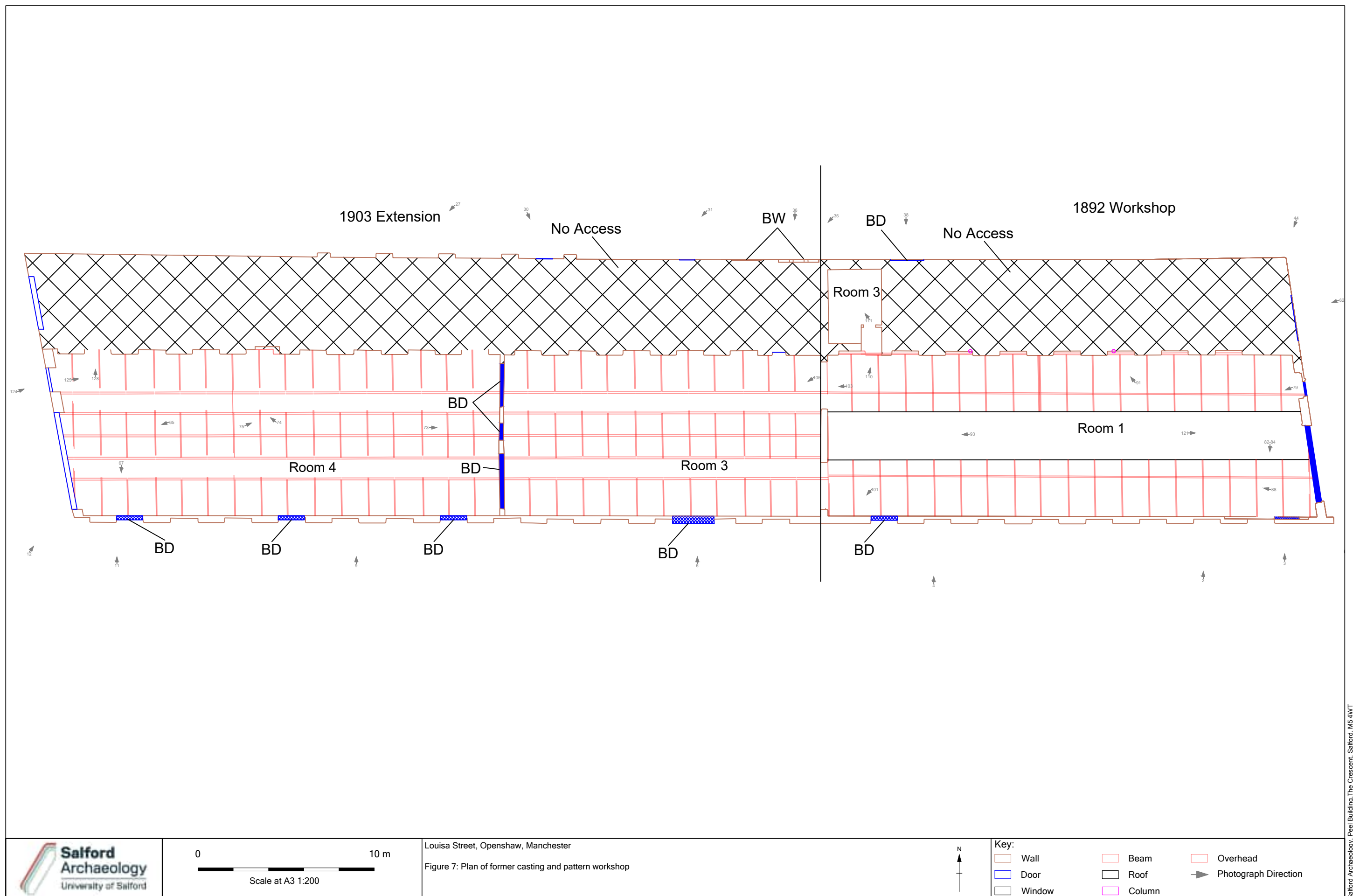
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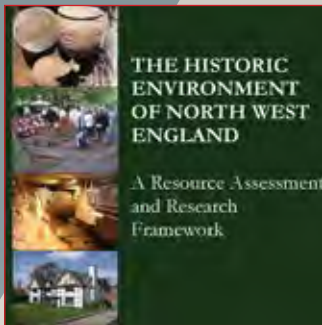








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DESK-BASED ASSESSMENTS



WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION



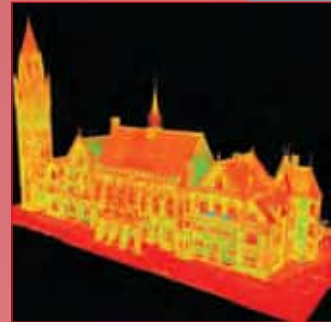
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BUILDING SURVEY



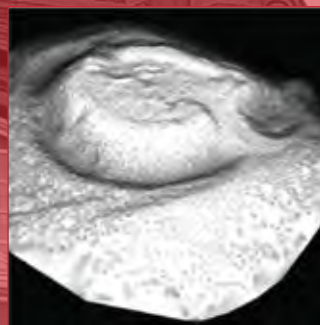
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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



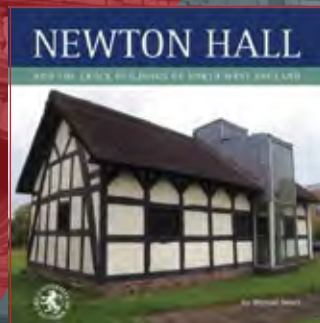
DRONE SURVEYS



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