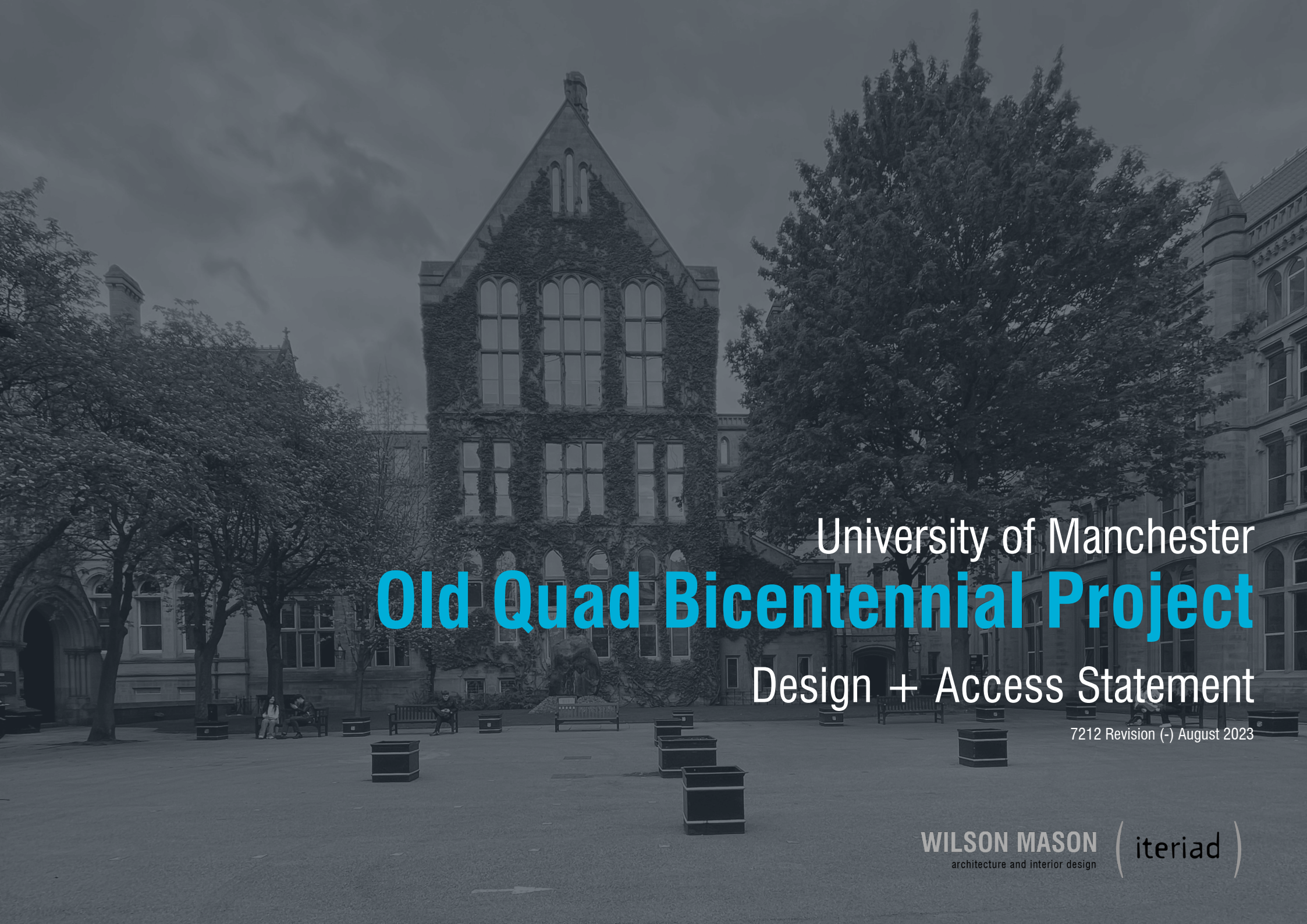


University of Manchester

Old Quad Bicentennial Project

Design + Access Statement

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30 August 2023

THIS DOCUMENT IS TO SUPPORT THE APPLICATION FOR LISTED BUILDING AND PLANNING CONSENT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER'S 'OLD QUAD' PROJECT.

The project is to mark the Bicentenary of the formation of the University of Manchester. The proposal recognises the importance of the the Old Quad renewing the space that has been at the heart of the University of Manchester. The space was formed over a 27 year period, a process which concluded in the early 20th Century with the completion of the Whitworth Hall.

The space has been at the heart of the University, with the buildings defining it comprising; the first parts of a college that became a formative part of the University, elements of Manchester Museum and engineering teaching space, the University library and the University's formal hall. The external space defined by these buildings was never formally planned or delivered the quality that would be for a setting of this nature.

The 'quad' space has been a circulation and access space to the buildings since its formation. It has never been the subject of any overall plan or landscape scheme. Research shows that for the past 70 years or so, the majority of its life it has been used as a car park.

The University of Manchester, have recognised that the space has been undervalued and consider that it is now the time to enhance the Old Quad to give it an appropriate quality to mark the University's 200 years of existence and the look forward to the future.

| Site

| The Site

The Old Quad is located directly off Oxford Road. It is at the heart of the University of Manchester's campus.

Old Quad is located within the a range of Victorian Building that form the original public face of the University. It is set behind the original Manchester Museum Building and Whitworth Hall, through Queens Arch.

The space was as an enclosed “quadrangle” over a period of 29 years from 1873 to 1902. The buildings forming the quad were constructed in the following sequence:

- John Owens Building
- Beyer Building + Manchester Museum (fronting Oxford Road)
- The Christie Library
- Whitworth Hall

Historic mapping and photographs evidence that the erratic glacial boulder located in front of the Beyer Building, has been in situ since the 1880s.

Research into the area has been undertaken through reviewing:

- The University of Manchester's records
- Manchester City Archive
- Historic Mapping - review through National Museum of Scotland and Promap (Ordnance Survey)
- Internet Image searching



| Site
| Historic Context

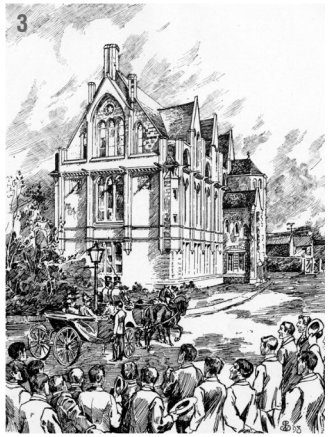
Old Quad developed into an enclosed quadrangle over a period of 29 years from 1873 to 1902. The buildings forming the quad were constructed in the following sequence:

- John Owens Building
- Beyer Building + Manchester Museum (fronting Oxford Road)
- The Christie Library
- Whitworth Hall

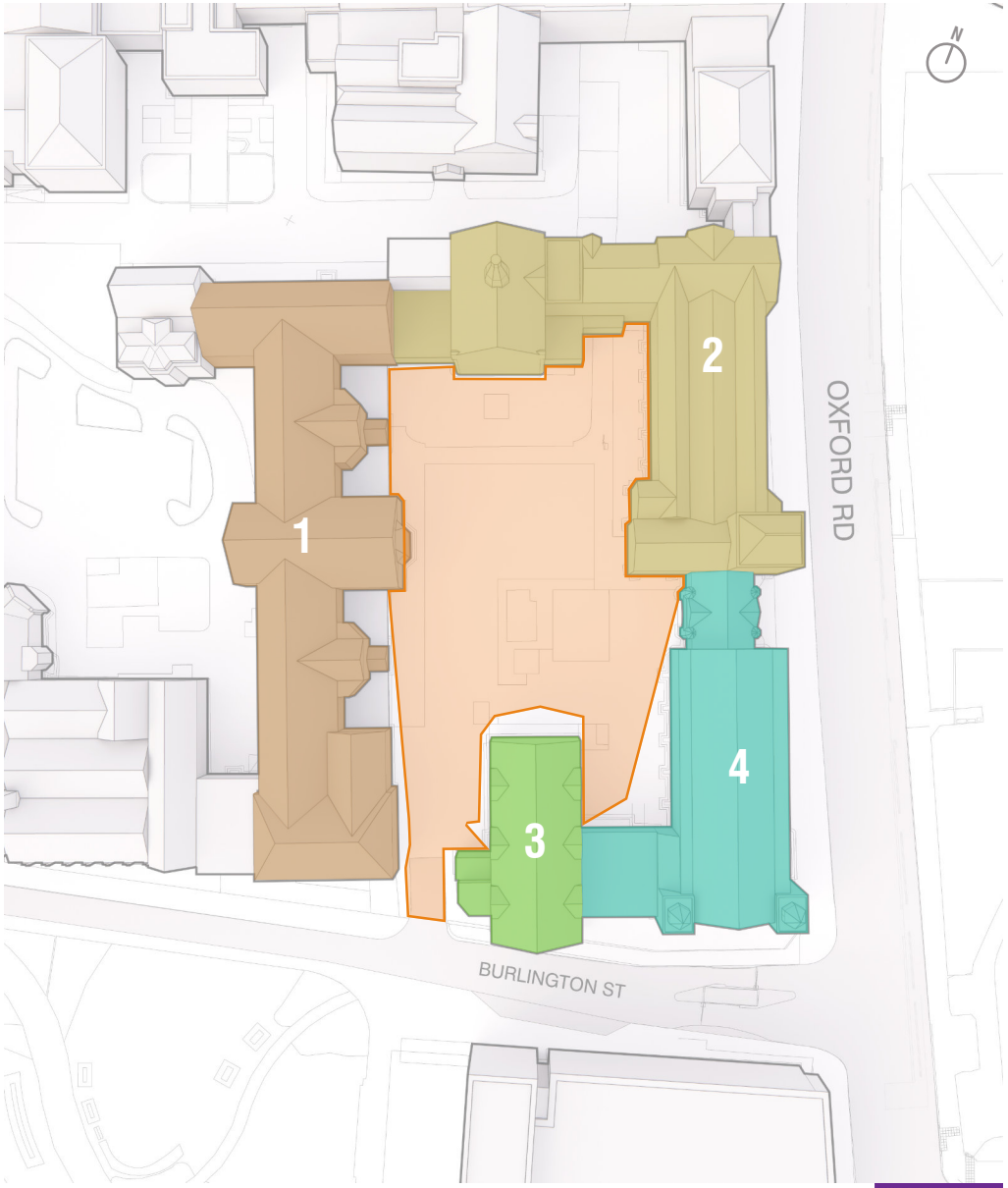
1. John Owens Building - 1873
2. Beyer Building and Museum - 1887
3. Christie Library - 1898
4. Whitworth Hall - 1902









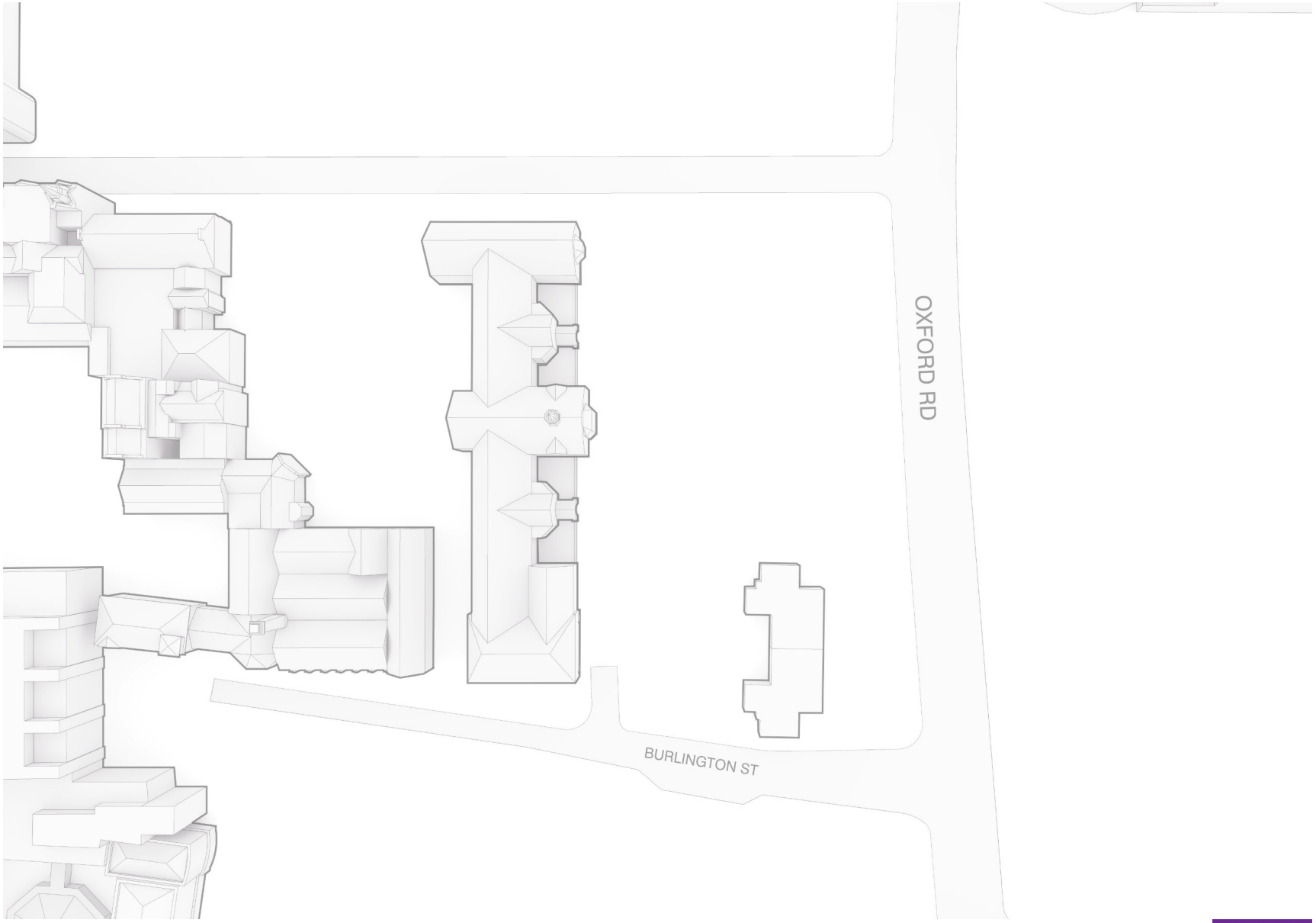


| Site

| Historic Context - First phase - John Owens Building

The first phase of the development was the building that housed John Owens College, now know as the John Owens Building.

Review of contemporary photographs and mapping show that the site was largely cleared of the Villas that had occupied, with one remaining on the south side.

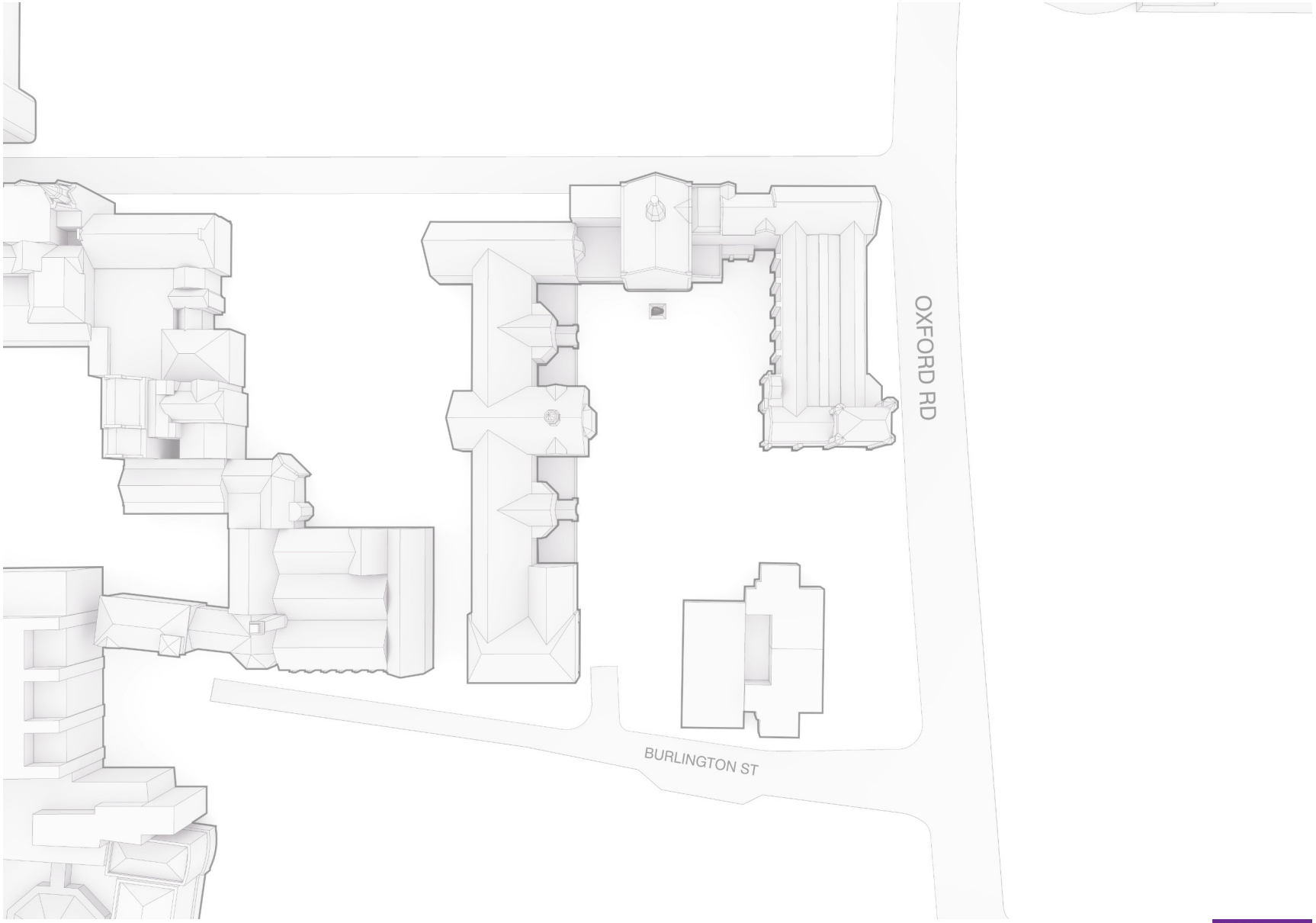


| Site

| Historic Context - Second Phase - Beyer Laboratory + Manchester Museum

The second phase of construction was the creation of the Beyer Building and Manchester Museum.

Review of the mapping of the time shows that a Gymnasium was added to the western side of the retained villas to the south of the site.



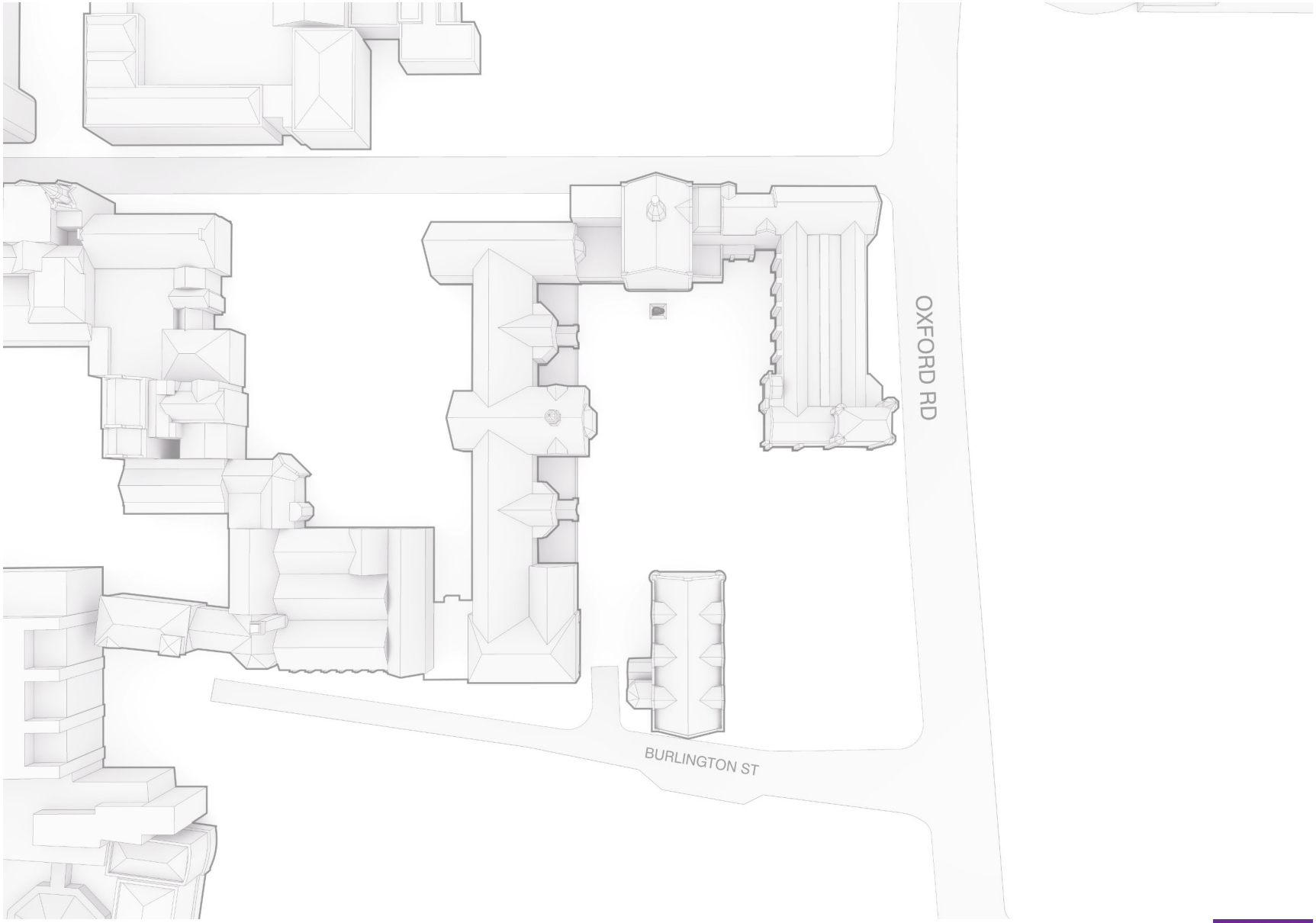
| Site

| Historic Context - Third Phase - Christie Library

The third phase of construction of the building that form the space was the constriction of the Christie library.

Manchester City Archive has drawings dated 1895. These records and an internet search show that there was an intent at that time to join the new library building to the John Owens building with a first floor link corridor, which was never constructed.

The buildings are connected with a below ground service passage, with and adjacent basement space that is accessed from John Owens and abuts the Christie Library building.

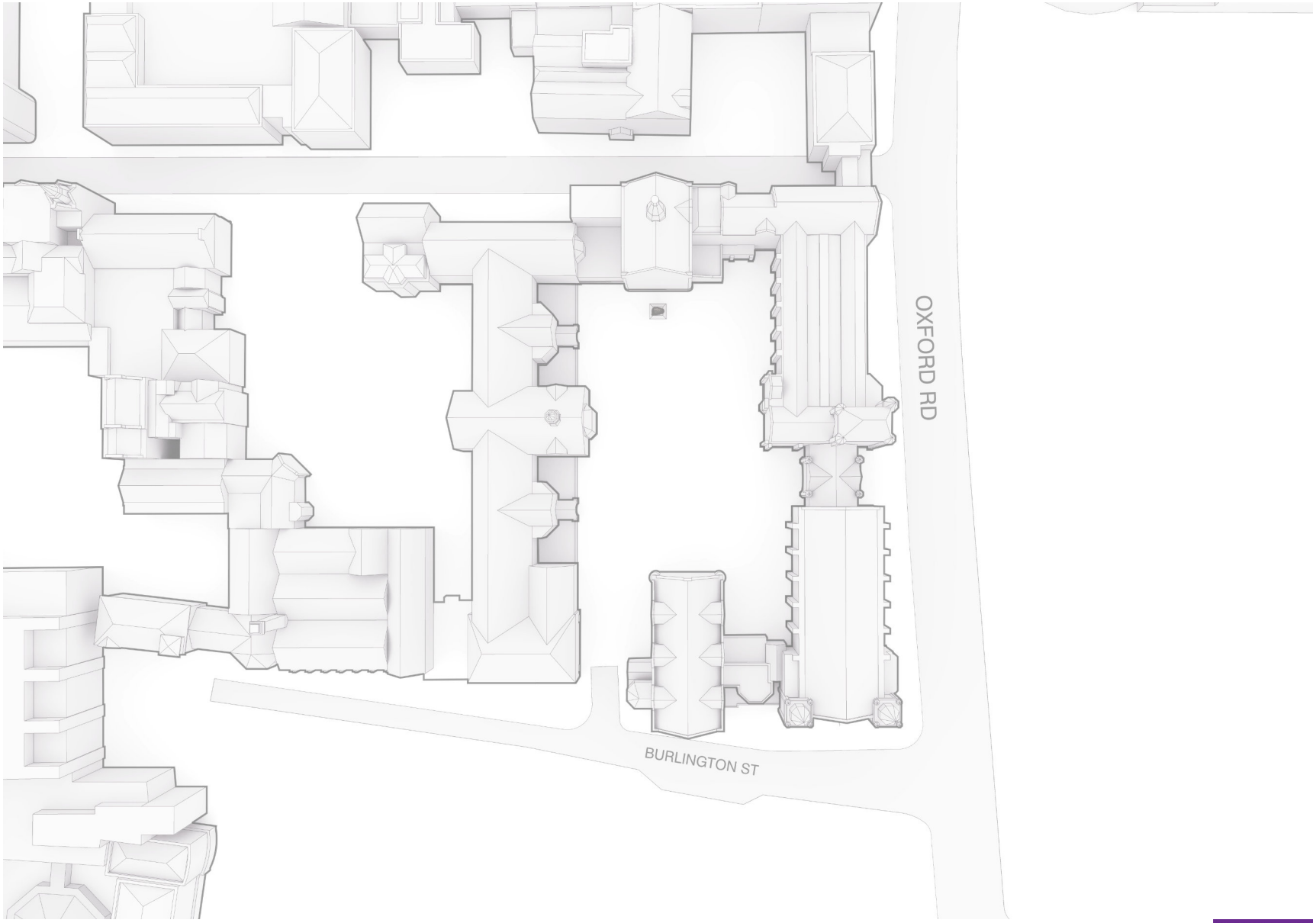


| Site

| Historic Context - Fourth phase - Whitworth Hall

The fourth phase of the constriction was the final element that created the enclosed space.

This is the Whitworth Hall, which is the main ceremonial space pf the University.



| Site Analysis

| Building Axis - Materiality

An axial analysis of the buildings and their features that form the space has been undertaken.

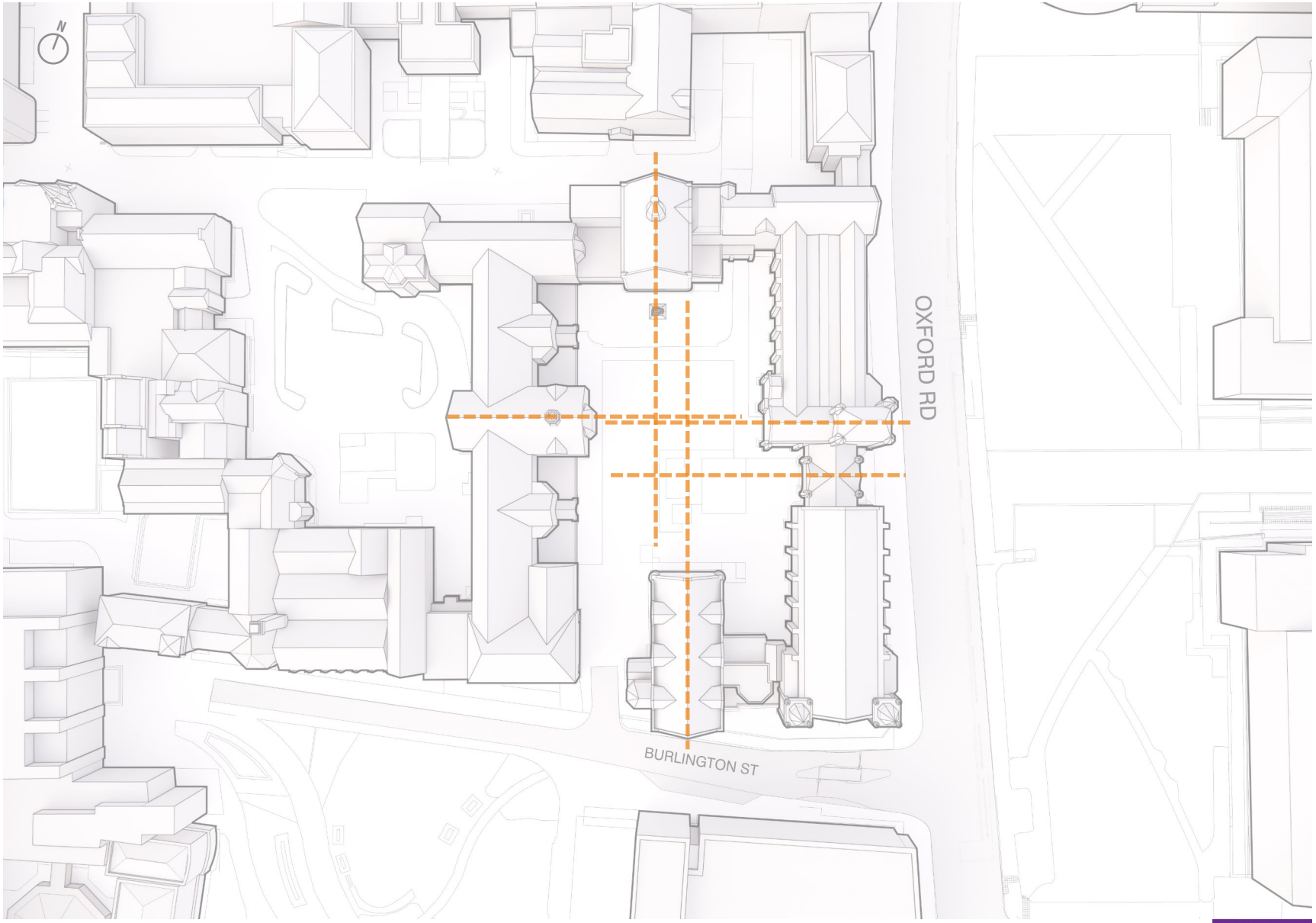
This shows that the buildings were design in a discrete way. That they were each designed as separate individual entities, that do not refer to the building existing across the space or adjacent to them.

This evidences that the space was formed and not designed as a coherent whole with clearly defined axese.

Materiality

The stone forming the buildings round the Old Quad is sandstone.

The appearance of the stone on the buildings varies: Museum, Whitworth Hall and Christie buildings fronting Oxford Road have a redder colour that the Beyer and John Owens buildings, which has elements of grey within it.



| Site

| Historic Context - mapping 1850

RESEARCH

The team have undertaken a search of the Manchester City Council Archive records with regards to the Old Quad. The records found during the search relate to selected buildings that form the quad, but not the space that is the quad.

The archive has a number of photographs of the buildings with the Quad in the foreground. A further search of the historic maps of the area has been undertaken. Some of the maps clearly record the layout of the quad. This has changed over time of with it latterly being used as a car park.

The photographs and maps are the best record of the quad.

Copies of the Historic mapping has been obtained that records the sequence of development and shows the ground level features of the site area. These are shown on the following pages.

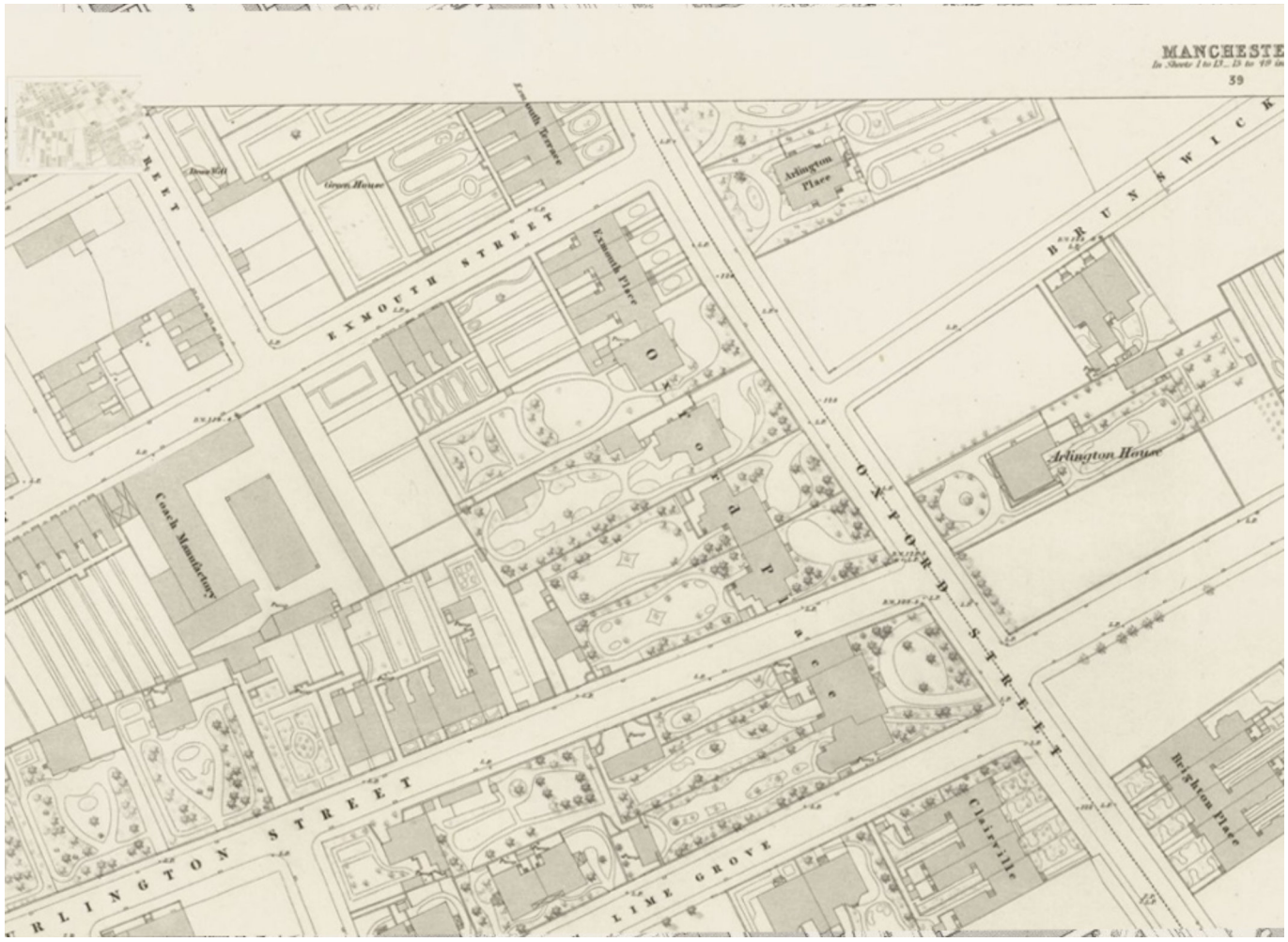
OBSERVATIONS

The space that is the quad has evolved over time.

The photos and research demonstrate the following:

- The glacial boulder in place from crica 1889
- Lawns with compacted limestone gravel 1838
- Hardsurfacing with landscaped mounds 1889
- Completion of the buildings defining the quad 1903
- Quad being all hard / compacted surface 1903
- Quad as carpark, the oak tree visible through Queens Arch 1972

The form, finish and nature of the quad space has evolved over time. The materiality has changed and it is evidenced that none of the current ground finishes are original from the formation of the space, or date beyond the mid 1950s.



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| Site

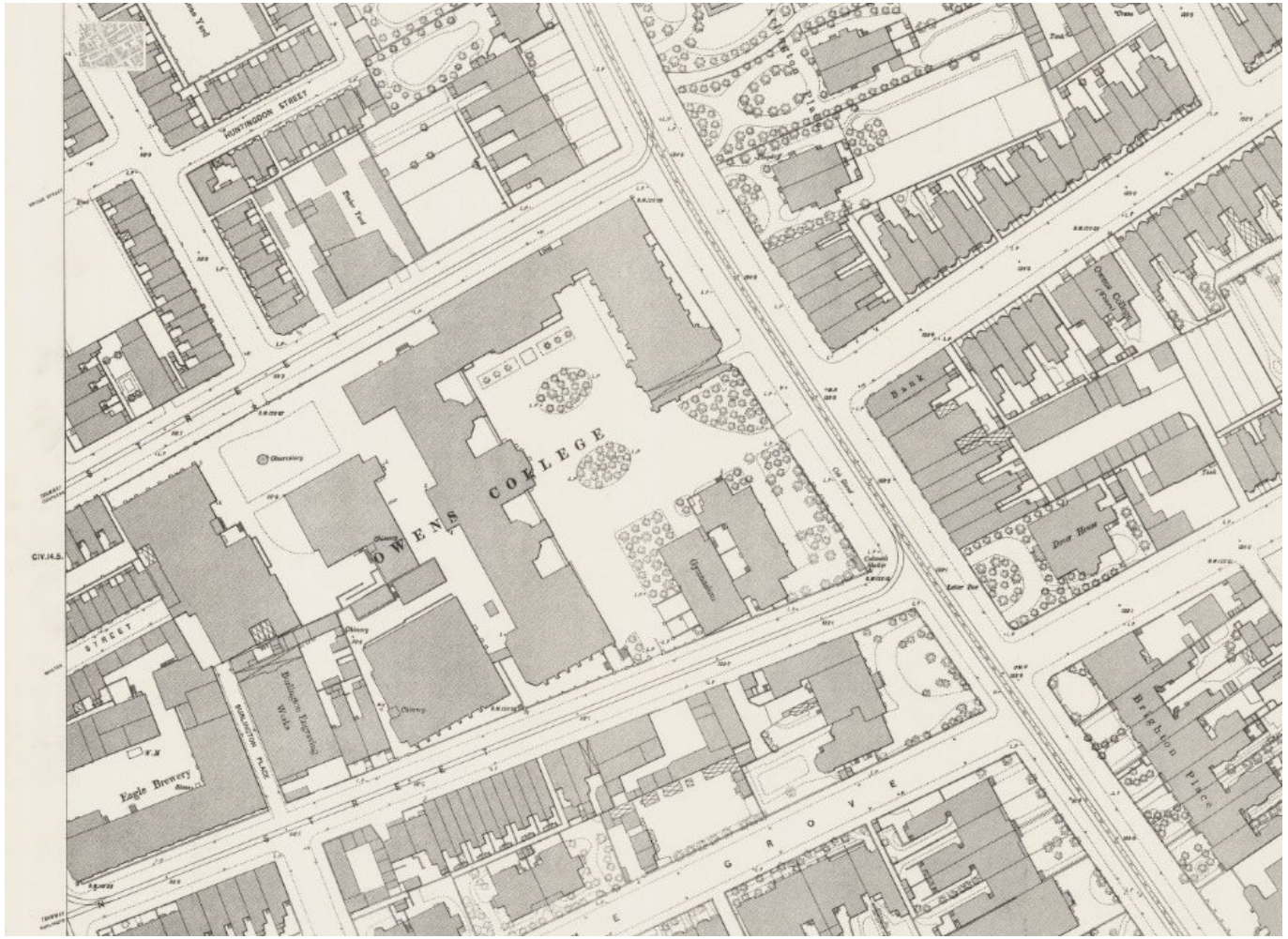
| Historic Context - mapping 1889





Images of the Quad showing the Glacial Boulder in place, before the construction of the Christie Library and Whitworth Hall, 1889.





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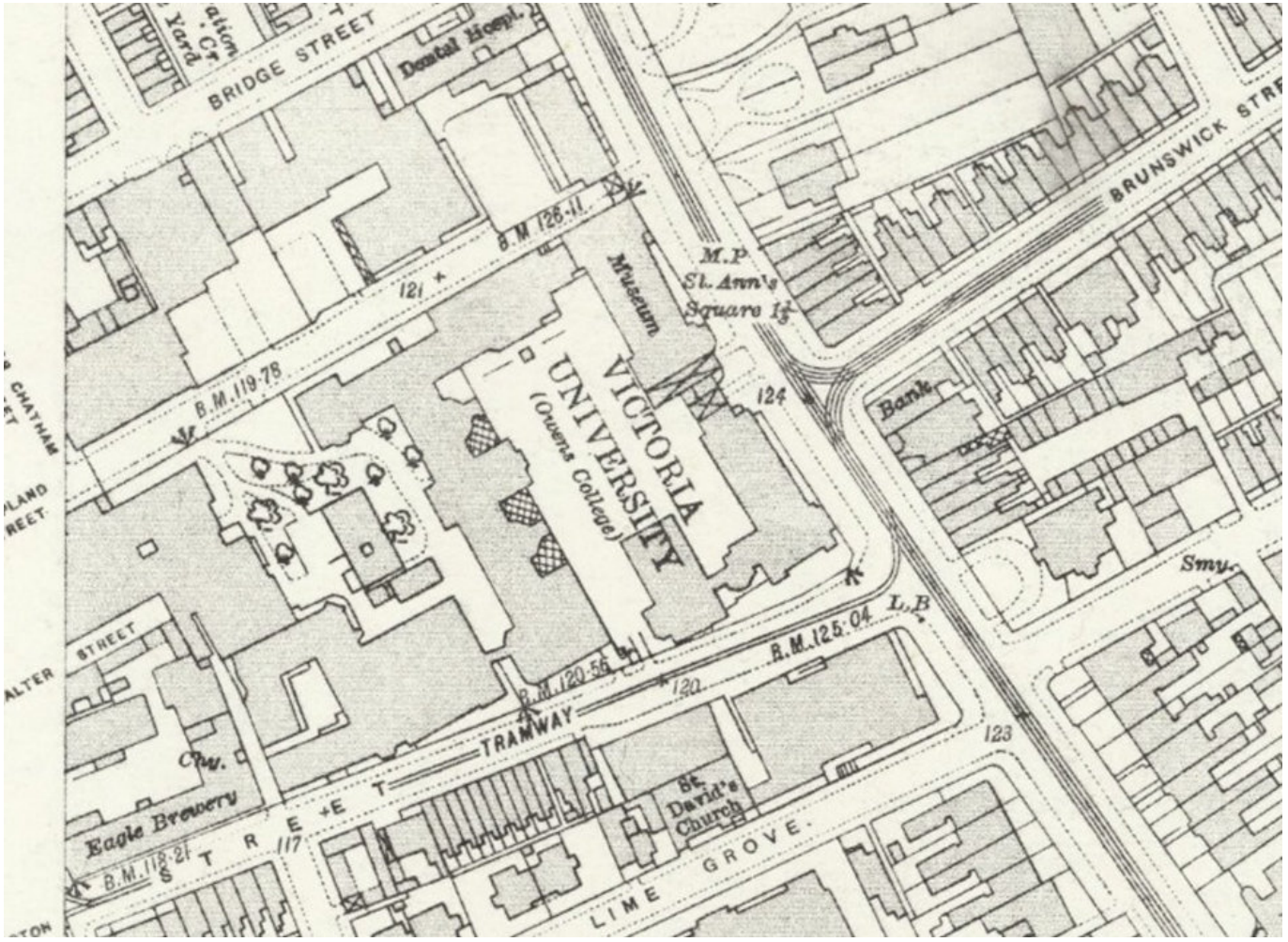
| Site

| Historic Context - mapping 1915





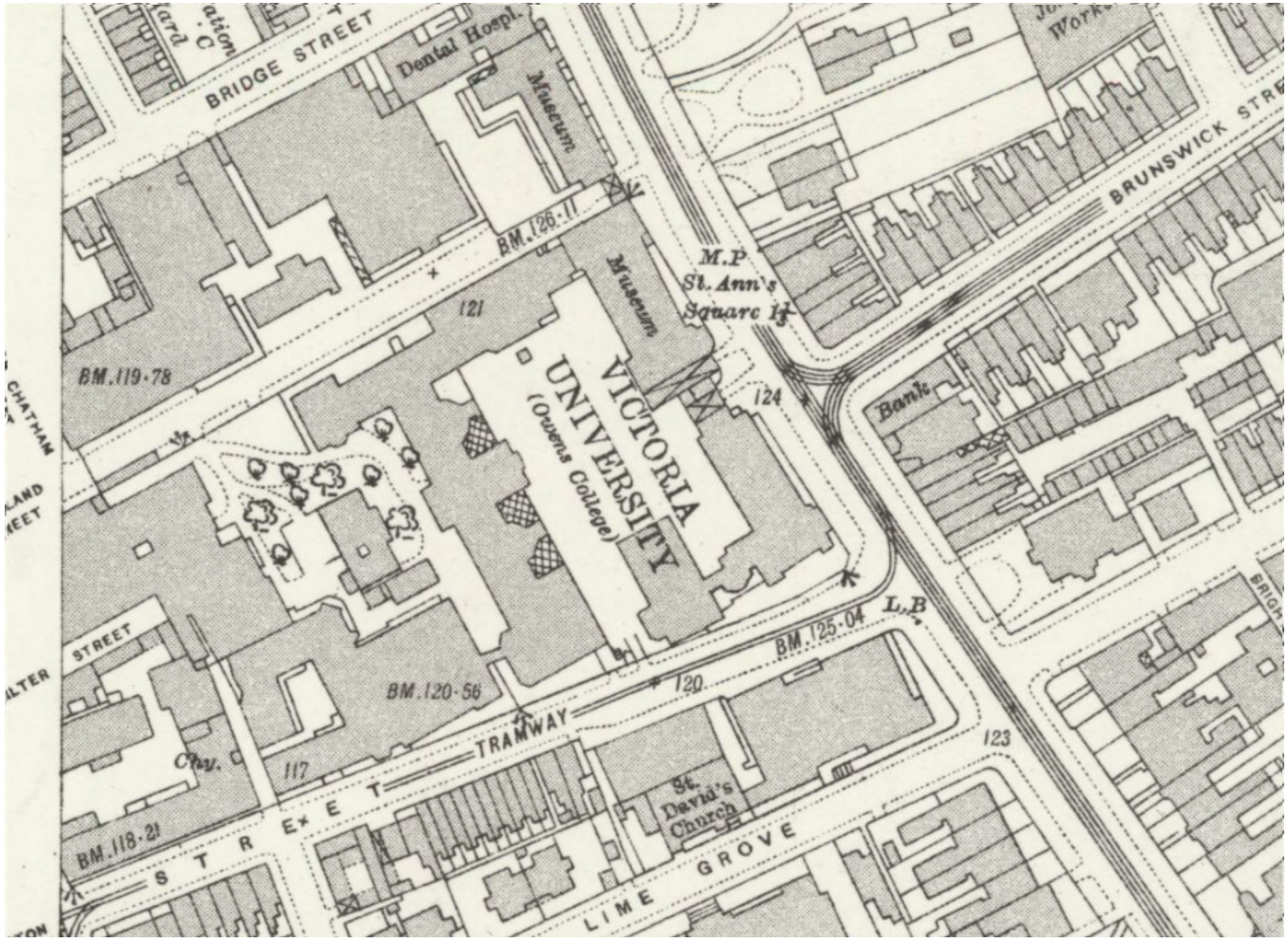
Image from City of Manchester archive - dated circa 1903 - erratic boulder in place



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| Site

| Historic Context - mapping 1935



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| Site

| Historic Context - mapping 1955-1965

Current arrangement shown.

The space has been as Car Park since the early / mid 1950s.

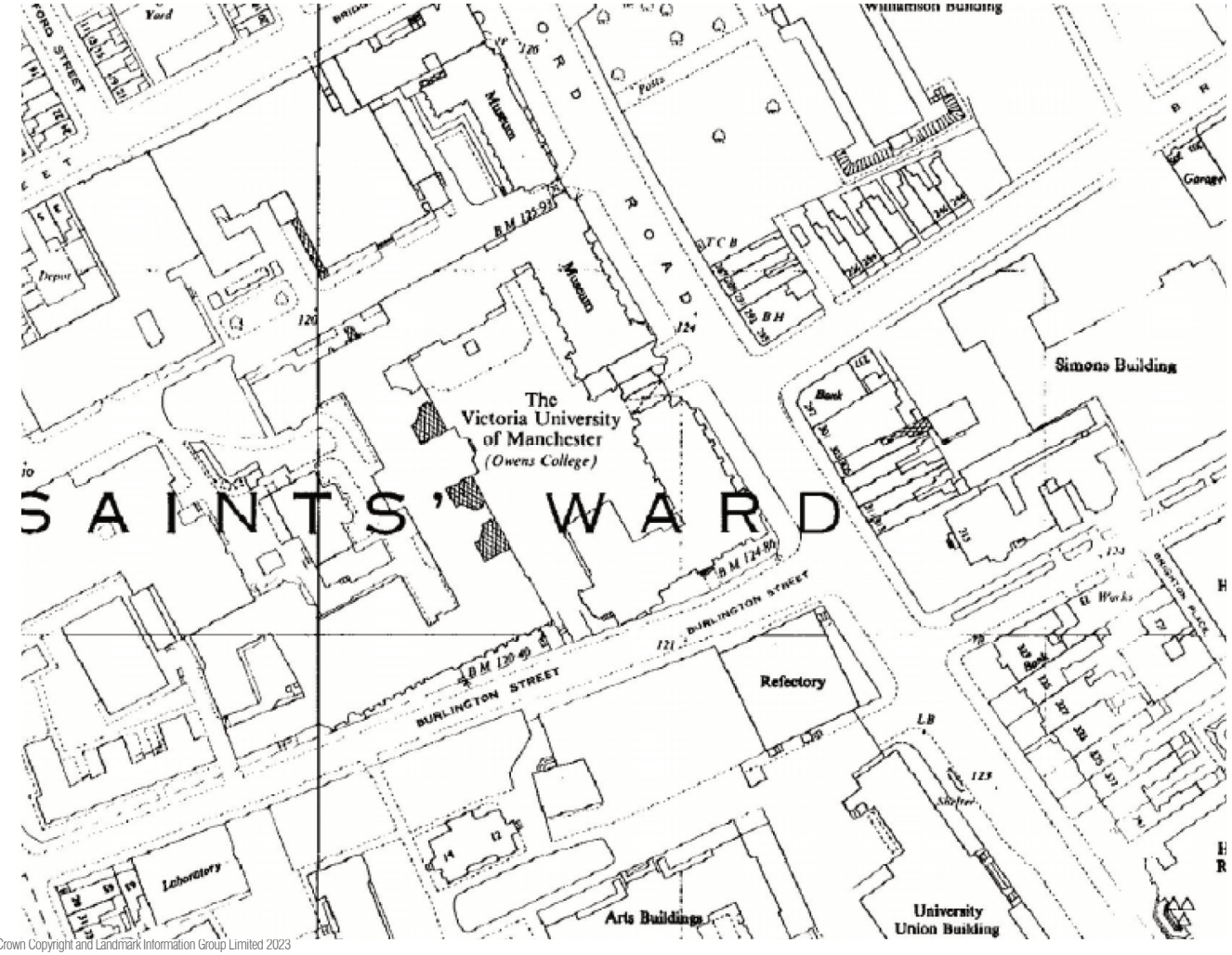
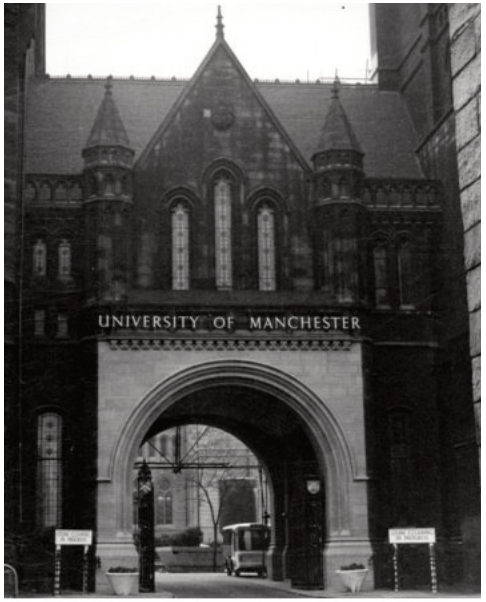


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| Site

| Historic Context - mapping 1977-1990





The images are dated as 1972, the Queens arch has been cleaned as the trial for the facade cleaning

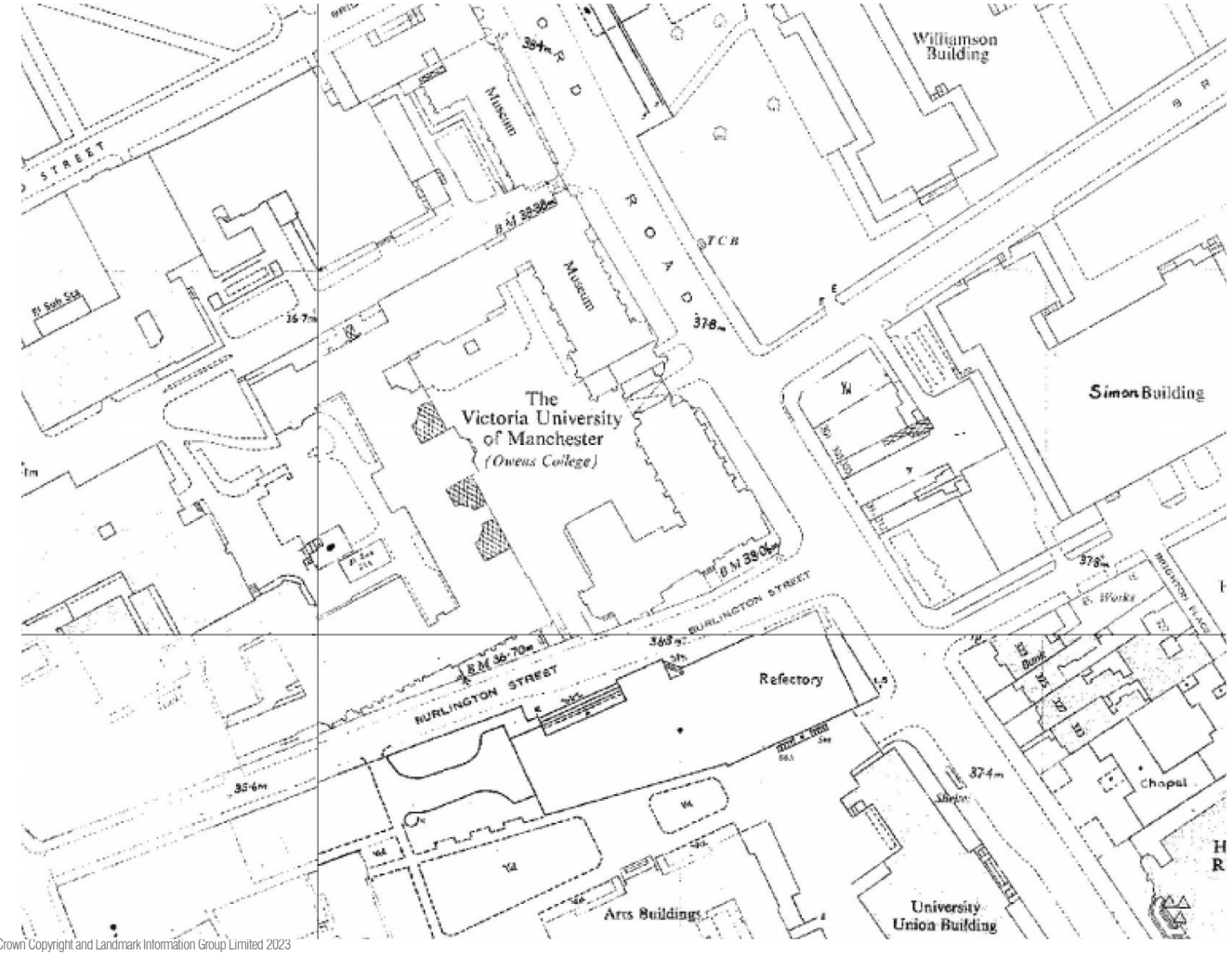


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