



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

Archaeological Watching Brief

Ancoats Dispensary,
Old Mill Street,
Manchester

Client:

Eric Wright
Construction Ltd

Planning Reference:

130356/FO/2021

Technical Report:

Graham Mottershead

Report No:

SA/2022/97



Location: Old Mill Street, Ancoats, Manchester

NGR: 385455 398415

Project: Ancoats Dispensary

Internal Ref: SECL2220

Report No: SA/2022/97

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Signed:



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Summary

Salford Archaeology were commissioned by Eric Wright Construction Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks to the rear of Ancoats Dispensary (Figure 1; NGR 385455 398415; Planning Reference 130356/FO/2021).

Historical mapping has identified that the area to the immediate southeast of the Dispensary was formerly known as 'Brick Field'. This suggests that during the 18th century, or earlier, the area was used for the manufacture of bricks and could potentially contain the remains of early brick kilns.

Following consultation with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), in their capacity as Archaeological Advisors to Manchester City Council, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during any intrusive groundworks in the area immediately southeast of the dispensary.

The watching brief was carried out between March and May 2022. No features or structures of archaeological significance were encountered during the watching brief.

No further archaeological input is recommended.

1. Introduction

1.1 *Circumstances of the Project*

Eric Wright Construction are progressing a redevelopment at Ancoats Dispensary, Old Mill Street, Ancoats Manchester (planning reference: 130356/FO/2021; centred on NGR 385455 398415; Figure 1).

Historical mapping has identified that the area to the immediate southeast of the Dispensary was formerly known as 'Brick Field'. This suggests that during the 18th century, or earlier, the area was used for the manufacture of bricks and could potentially contain the remains of early brick kilns.

Following consultation with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), in their capacity as Archaeological Advisors to Manchester City Council, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during any intrusive groundworks in the area immediately southeast of the dispensary (Figure 2).

Salford Archaeology were commissioned to undertake the works in January 2022. The watching brief was carried out Between March and May 2022.

1.2 *Aims and Objectives*

The aim of the project was to monitor any groundworks within the designated area and record any archaeologically significant remains encountered.

1.3 *Objectives*

The principal objectives of the archaeological investigation were:

- to monitor all intrusive groundworks carried out as part of the improvement works;
- to record any archaeologically significant remains that may be encountered;
- to produce a full written and illustrated report of the findings of the excavation;
- to produce an ordered archive for the project;
- to make available the results of the work.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 The principal aim of the archaeological watching brief was to monitor all intrusive groundworks in order to record any archaeologically significant remains.
- 2.2 *General Methodology:* all archaeological was conducted following the ClfA Standards and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs (ClfA 2020). The groundworks contractor provided all excavation plant and was responsible for all excavations and service avoidance. The watching brief was undertaken by a qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.4 *Watching Brief:* an archaeologist was present to monitor all designated excavations.
- 2.5 All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically. Information was recorded on *pro-forma* watching brief sheets and was accompanied, where appropriate, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and high-resolution digital photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features and deposits.
- 2.6 *Photography:* a full and detailed photographic record of individual contexts was maintained throughout the watching brief. Photography was carried out in accordance with HE guidance, *Digital Image Capture and File Storage Guidelines for Best Practice* (July 2015). Photographs records were maintained on photographic *pro-forma* sheets.
- 2.8 *Planning:* where appropriate the precise location of all archaeological structures encountered was surveyed using manual measurements. All information will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.

3. *Historical Background*

The following background to the Ancoats Dispensary is summarised from a photographic survey carried out in 2003 (Nevell and Hradil 2003).

3.1 Development of the Site

- 3.1.1 The present site of Ancoats Hospital was begun in 1828 as the Ancoats Dispensary. This first building was totally rebuilt between 1872-4 and first appears on the Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan of 1891 as a roughly H-shaped complex at the junction of Mill Street and Kirkby Street. The front part of this complex was the range built in 1872-4 by the architects Lewis and Crawcroft.
- 3.1.2 The rear parts are later additions and include a datestone of 1888 for the Victor Albert Pavilion. The 1908 mapping shows that the Mill Street range had been extended to the west. At the western end of that extension was a new building named as a 'Girls Institute'. A photograph of 1962 shows these buildings as being of one and three storeys respectively and possibly built in a Baroque style. Their site is now occupied by a late 20th-century single storey building of the Ancoats Community Clinic. To the rear of that building was the nurses' home, of six storeys, which map evidence suggests was built in 1931 and later extended to the west.
- 3.1.3 The south-eastern part of the site had a number of 20th-century additions between 1931 and 1965.

3.2 The Watching Brief Area

- 3.2.1 On the late 18th and early 19th-century mapping the area to the rear of Ancoats Dispensary is named 'Brick Kiln Field'. This suggests that pre-19th-century clamp bricks kilns may have been sited in the area.

4. Watching Brief Results

- 4.1 All intrusive groundworks were monitored within the designated watching brief area (Figure 2).
- 4.2 Excavations progressed to a maximum depth of 1.2m and comprised mixed demolition rubble and 20th-century refuse. No structures or features of archaeological significance were encountered at any point during the watching brief (Plates 1 to 4).



Plate 1: Southwest end of the excavation



Plate 2: Central area of the excavation



Plate 3: Concrete and rubble in the central area of the excavation



Plate 4: Northeast end of the excavation

5. Discussion

- 5.1 No features or structures of archaeological significance were observed during the watching brief.
- 5.2 The nature of the ground suggested that it had been built up using demolition material from the late 19th-century and earlier 20th-century buildings that appear to have been demolished by the mid-1960's.
- 5.3 It is recommended that no further archaeological works will be required.

6. Archive and Dissemination

6.1 Archive

- 6.1.1 The results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards and in line with current ClfA guidelines updated 2020. The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the ClfA in that organisation's code of conduct. As part of the archiving process, an on-line OASIS (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations) has been completed.
- 6.1.2 The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the Northwest of England. All drawn records will be transferred to and stored in digital format, in systems which are easily accessible. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained upon completion of the archaeological works. The archive will be stored with Salford Archaeology until a suitable repository can be arranged.

6.2 Dissemination

- 6.2.1 The results obtained from the watching brief will be placed in the public domain via an appropriate level of dissemination.
- 6.2.2 This will be achieved by deposition of this technical report with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Records (GMHER).

Acknowledgments

Salford Archaeology would like to thank Eric Wright Construction Ltd, and in particular James Friedmann, for commissioning the archaeological works.

The watching brief was carried out by Lorraine McVinnie. The report was written and illustrated by Graham Mottershead, who was also responsible for the management of the project.

Sources

Cartographic

Ordnance Survey, 60" to 1 mile Town Plan, Published 1851

Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan, Published 1891

Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Published 1908

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Ordnance Survey 1:2500, Published 1931

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Secondary Sources

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Appendix 1: Figures

Figure 1: Site location map

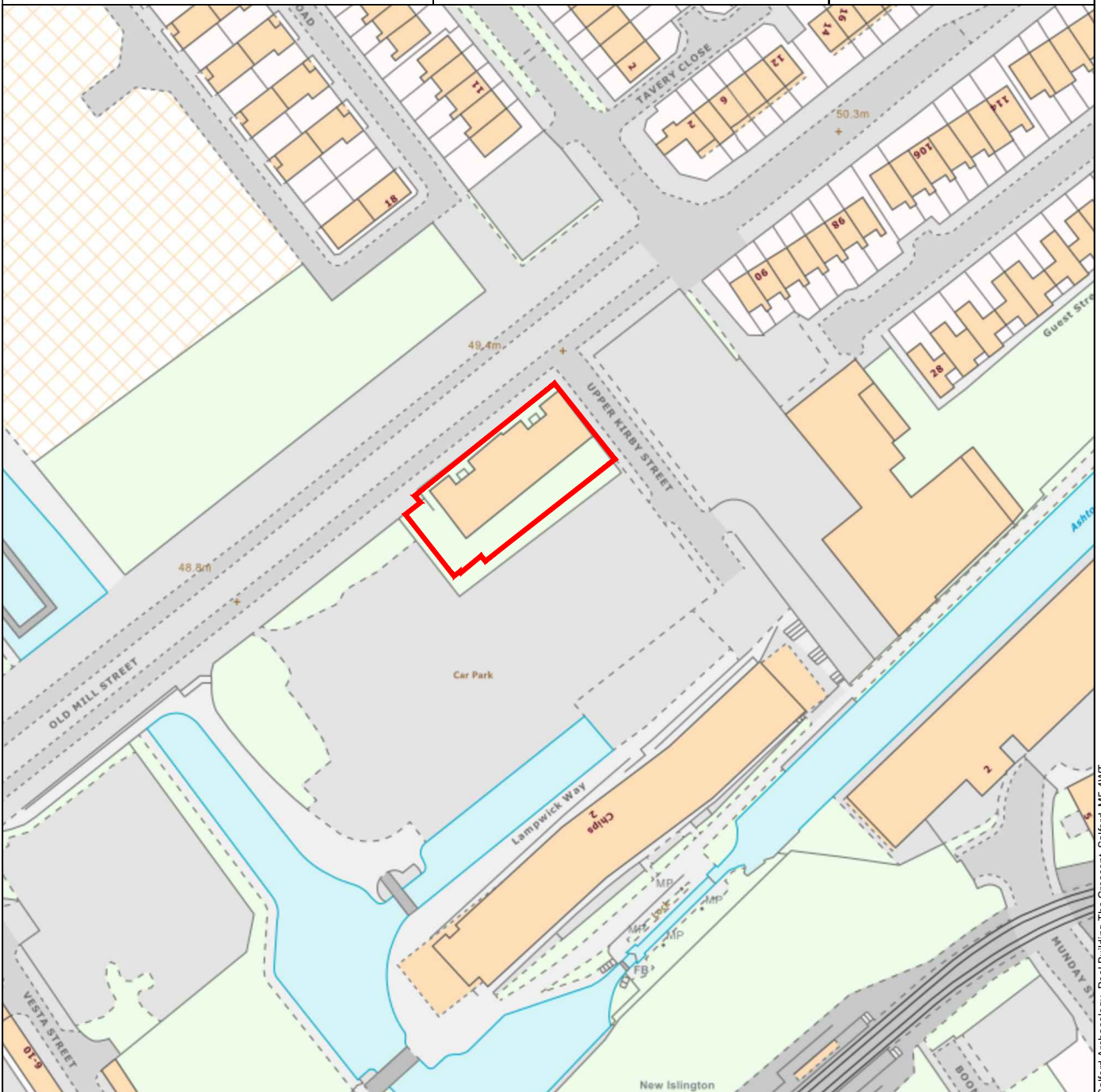
Figure 2: Location of monitored excavations



Figure 1:
Site Location
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2022



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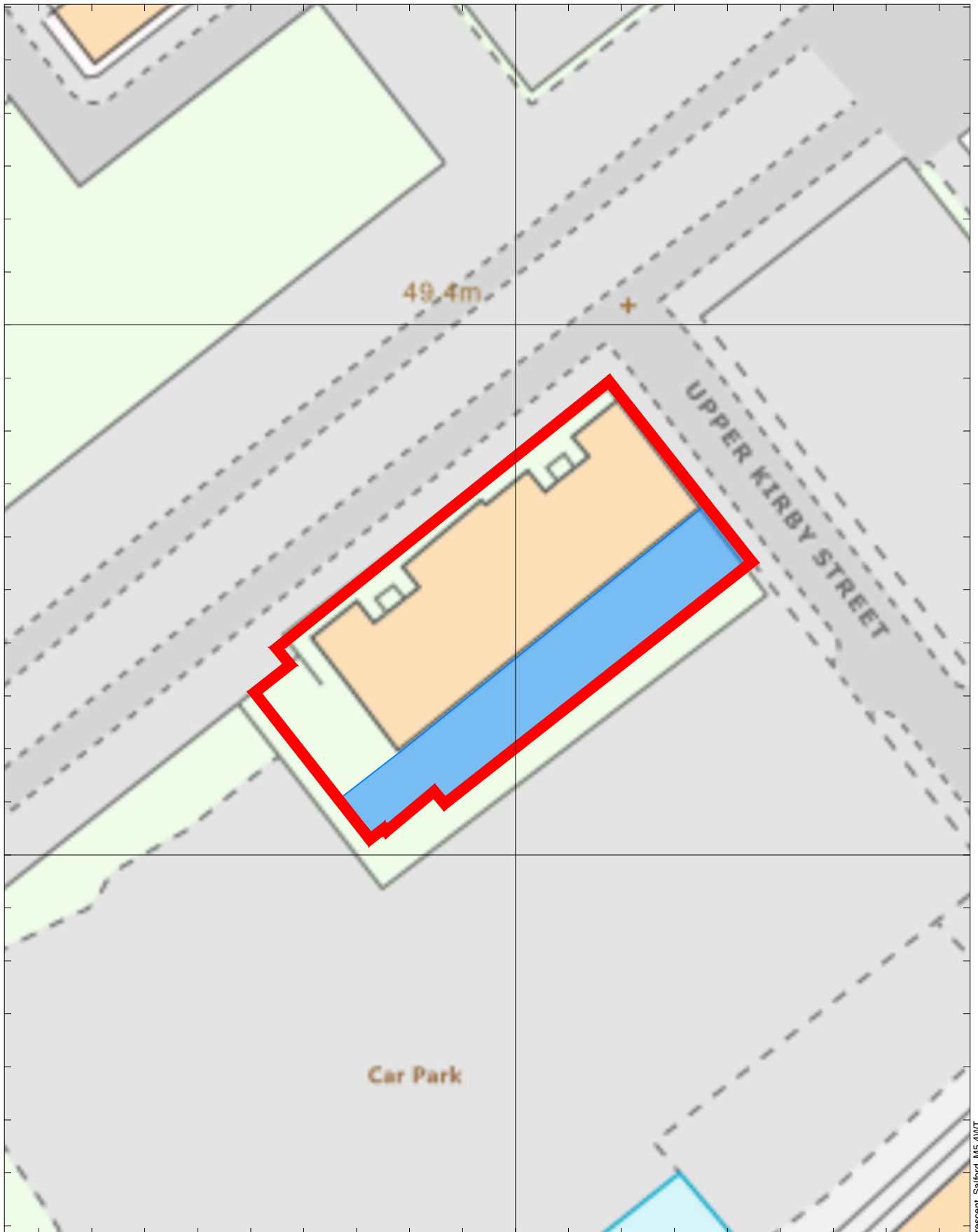


Figure 2:

Ancoats Dispensary. Location of Watching Brief Area

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Key:

- Site Boundary
- Area of Watching Brief



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0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:500