

An aerial photograph of a residential area in Gorton, Manchester. The image shows a dense grid of streets and houses. A specific plot of land, located in the lower-left quadrant, is outlined with a purple border. This plot is a large, rectangular area of grass, possibly a field or a park, surrounded by residential buildings. The text 'FENIX HERITAGE' is overlaid in the top right corner in a large, white, serif font.

FENIX HERITAGE

**Land at
Mount Road, Gorton, Manchester**

**Written Scheme of Investigation
Archaeological Strip-Map-and-Record**

prepared on behalf of Kellen Homes and Greater Manchester Youth Federation

Document Ref: 1044.R01b
January 2024

Land at Mount Road, Gorton, Manchester

Project Design for Archaeological Strip-Map-and-Record

Land at Mount Road, Gorton, Manchester

FENIX HERITAGE

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Land at Mount Road, Gorton, Manchester

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Historical mapping, both Ordnance Survey (OS) and individual cartographer's work relies on the accuracy of the data input into it and the projection used to produce a two dimensional image from three dimensional data. Techniques of survey have evolved and improved over the centuries but pre-OS maps are of widely varying quality and their accuracy is limited by the technology used to create them.

Creating an overlay of historic mapping (including 1st and 2nd edition OS Maps) and modern OS data can never be completely accurate. Creating a good approximation relies on using digital technologies to estimate and extrapolate the projection, orientation and scale of original maps by correlating known points on the modern OS grid with the historic mapping. This georeferencing 'distorts' the historic mapping to fit the modern grid using a set of known points chosen by the cartographer/illustrator.

Modern digitally produced OS mapping has a stated accuracy tolerance. The most detailed mapping at 1:1,250 (urban) will have a relative error of $< \pm 0.5\text{m}$ up to 60m. On the ground that equates to an error between two points which are 60m apart on the ground. 95% of the time the scaled measurement would be between 59.1m and 60.9m (paraphrased from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/land-registry-plans-the-basis-of-land-registryapplications/land-registry-plans-the-basis-of-land-registry-plans-practice-guide-40-supplement-1>.)

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Fenix Heritage Controlled Document “The Materials” - Commercial-in-Confidence		
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Planning Authority Check	Mr. B. Dyson (Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service)	Date: 10.01.2023
Planning Authority Comment	GMAAS is adopting CIfA's recent change of referring to Written Schemes of Investigation as Project Designs and request that references to Written Schemes of Investigation are changed to Project Design. Controlled Document table, change D. to D. Dyson. Ensure that CIfA publications refer to the most recent updates to the 'Standards' and 'Universal Guidance' documents. Photography, page 14 - digital only. No need for monochrome silver halide negatives and prints and 35mm format colour slide. Regarding public participation, Lancashire Archaeology Society probably not the most appropriate group. suggest SMART (South Manchester Archaeological Research Team) may have an interest in the Nico Ditch over and above other Manchester-based societies. Given the applicant's charitable interests and association with the Greater Manchester Youth Federation, if an opportunity were to arise where features were identified then perhaps an area could be kept aside for volunteers to engage with the archaeology under the management of the archaeological contractor.	
Rev b	A. Martin	Date: 11.01.2024
Client Acceptance		Date:
Planning Authority Acceptance		Date:

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1 INTRODUCTION

Kellen Homes and the Greater Manchester Youth Federation (hereafter the Applicants) are seeking planning permission from Manchester City Council (hereafter the Council) for full planning permission at Land at Mount Road, Gorton (hereafter the Site). The description of development is as follows:

The erection of a youth, sports and community hub (Use Class E(d)(g)), F2(b)), 2no football pitches combined netball and basketball court, cricket strip (Use Class F2 (c)), a two storey apartment building comprising 36no apartments for young person's accommodation (Use Class C3) and 267no dwellinghouses (Use Class C3a), with associated landscaping, public realm, ecological mitigation, refuse storage, drainage, car parking and other associated works, with access from Wembley Road and Mount Road.

The application site is owned by GMYF in its entirety. GMYF is a charity, originating from the mid-1800s, who work with a wide variety of voluntary youth groups and projects throughout the most disadvantaged communities of Greater Manchester. GMYF's aim is to provide as many opportunities as possible for young people to grow and be the best that they can be, helping them to move beyond their boundaries. In simple terms, it is about getting young people off the streets, into clubs and doing something positive with their time.

The Site was previously in use as football pitches but has been vacant and underutilised since 2019 with no public access. GMYF selected Kellen Homes as their developer partner and together, with their

professional teams, they have developed proposals for the site which will secure its future as a youth, community and sports hub whilst also providing much needed housing in Gorton.

A historic environment desk-based assessment (Nexus Heritage 2022) identified no overt interest at the Site, and any archaeological potential would appear to be related to the presence of what is interpreted to be an early medieval earthwork feature – the Nico Ditch – which runs parallel to and just south of the site's southern boundary.

The Council considers that there is an archaeological interest at the Site related to the immediate environs of the Nico Ditch and requires an archaeological investigation, in order to cater for that interest, to compile an archive record of what archaeological evidence may remain and to disseminate the results in a suitable format(s).

It is anticipated that the Council will apply a condition to a permission (should such be forthcoming) to ensure that suitable archaeological attendances, investigation, reporting, dissemination and archiving is undertaken.

The Applicants acknowledge the duty of care to the archaeological interest and with this in mind and in compliance with the spirit and intent of the anticipated condition it has commissioned Fenix Heritage to prepare a Project Design for a programme of archaeological investigation in line with the Council's expectations.

In due course the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) will arrange for suitable archaeological

attendances to ensure that an adequate record of any archaeological features is made prior to development commencing. In addition, in the event of the discovery of significant archaeological remains attention can be brought to the discovery and suitable solutions devised and implemented to cater for the significant interest.

Fenix Heritage has prepared this Project Design which sets out how a programme of archaeological investigation will be undertaken in order to identify and record items of archaeological and historic interest. This document has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) document *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2020). The results of the archaeological investigations would be reported and submitted to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (hereafter GMHER). If merited the results of the archaeological investigations would be published in a local or national journal, as appropriate. If the results are of sufficient interest then consideration can be given to a suitable and proportionate programme of dissemination.

The records generated during the archaeological programme (paper, photographic and digital) will be offered to Manchester Museum.

A draft version of this document is offered for consideration to the Applicants and the Council. The Council will be advised on the adequacy of the document's contents by Mr. B. Dyson (Senior Planning Archaeologist (hereafter SPA) of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (hereafter GMAAS).

2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHICAL, GEOLOGICAL AND PEDOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Location

The site comprises an area of land at Mount Road, situated within Gorton, a predominantly residential area located to the west of Manchester City Centre and is centred, approximately, at National Grid Reference SJ 88333 95035 (Fig. 1).

Topography

The site extends over 9.07ha (Fig. 2) and comprises an area of land at Mount Road, situated within Gorton, a predominantly residential area located to the west of Manchester City Centre.

The site as existing is vacant, with no public access, having previously been used as playing pitches until 2019. The site comprises 9.07ha and is rectangular in shape with the majority formed of grass land aside from an area of hard standing where the former changing facilities once stood. The former vehicular access is from Mount Road.

The northern boundary of the site sits adjacent to a residential development built by Sedona Homes comprising terraced and semi-detached properties, with Mannering Street running in between, separated by fencing. To the east is Wembley Road, which hosts a number of semidetached dwellings, with mature trees lining the site boundary. To the west is Mount Road, also lined with fencing and trees, with Gorton Primary School, Manchester Boxing Centre and Nutsford Vale Park adjacent to the street. To the south lies a footway

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which connects Mount Road to Wembley Road. Further south is Cedar Mount Academy.

Geology

The British Geological Survey Geology Viewer (https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/?_ga=2.184443238.1320875098.1669214624-1333521033.1669214624) records the bedrock at the site as Chester Formation – Sandstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 250 and 247.1 million years ago during the Triassic period.

The superficial deposits are recorded as Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.

Pedology

The Cranfield Soil and AgriFood Institute (CSAI) Soilscales Viewer (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/>) maps the soil cover at the site as Slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There are no confirmed archaeological remains from the Saxon/early medieval period recorded within the Site. However, in the wider Assessment Area, what is interpreted as an early medieval landscape feature is recorded by the GMHER. The Nico Ditch (GMHER ref. 1404.1.1, Gaz. 18, Fig. 3) still survives immediately to the south of the

site as a steep ditch with V-profile c. 4m wide and c. 1.5m deep. The cycle-way/footpath running parallel and to the north of the Nico Ditch has removed all traces of a bank. This section of the ditch is one of only three surviving sections (the others are at Denton Golf Course and Unitarian Chapel by Platt Fields, Fallowfield). It was recorded as 'Mykelldiche' in 1200 CE but it remains unclear when the structure was first established, by whom and whether its function was to drain land, act as a territorial demarcation or a militarily defensible barrier. The traditional explanation of the earthwork's origin was that it was created by the Saxon communities as protection against the Danish invaders of AD 869–70. Another interpretation is that it was built earlier by the native British population to repel Saxon incursions.

4 DEFINITIONS AND OBJECTIVES

The Council requires an archaeological investigation based on the notions and concepts of strip-map-and-record. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (hereafter CIfA) maintains a *Standard for archaeological excavation* (2023). This does not mention strip-map-and-record and does not define the process of strip-map-and-record. Notwithstanding this, the standard is applicable and defines archaeological excavation as follows:

Archaeological excavation involves a programme of intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within

a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or under water.

The *Standard* is supported by the CIfA document *Universal guidance for archaeological excavation* (2023) which sets out what is required for archaeological excavation to be in compliance with the Standard for archaeological excavation and provides guidance and minimum performance requirements for project design, project execution, post-excavation assessment and analysis, publication and dissemination

Research Framework, Aims and Objectives

The archaeological investigations are to be implemented with reference to a research design which reflects the ambitions of the North-West England Regional Research Agenda (2007), specifically relating the Early Medieval Period (McNeil and Newman 2007a and b).

In addition the Northwest Regional Research Framework (Updated Research Framework) has been developed as part of a national strategy to create a series of self-sustaining regional historic environment research frameworks for England. It builds on the original North West Region Archaeological Research Framework (Brennand 2006 and 2007 - <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/the-prehistoric-period/> and <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/the-romano-british-period/>).

The Early Medieval Period benefit from a series of refreshed research questions focused on a number of period-related themes which the Site may be able to address.

As the presence/absence of any archaeological remains at the Site is as yet unproven, preparation of a detailed research design is not possible during formulation of the aims and objectives, given the broad thrust of period-focussed and theme-focussed research imperatives in north-west England (<https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/>). Nevertheless, some attempt to be made at reconciling the Site with some putative research topics is worthwhile. The broad aims of the archaeological investigation are:

- to evaluate the Site for the presence/absence, character and state of preservation of archaeological remains
- to enhance knowledge and understanding of the historic environment of Manchester in particular, and north-western England in general;
- to effectively and rapidly disseminate the results of the project, and to archive them, enabling the project findings to be widely and readily accessed by professional and non-professional audiences alike
- to ensure that professional expertise and experience is advanced by the continual improvement of archaeological method and practice

The detailed objectives of the archaeological investigation are:

- To make a full and proper record of any archaeological structures, deposits, features, artefacts and ecofacts within the relevant areas of the Site, permitting a reconstruction of the

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Site's history and formation processes. To recover artefact and palaeoenvironmental samples from deposits of potential

- To analyse the generated records, artefacts and ecofacts to produce a report on the archaeology of the Site, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Manchester.

Some (but not necessarily all) of the specific research questions to be addressed relative to the Site are:

What evidence is there for landscape change during the early medieval period?

5 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Fenix Heritage acts as Archaeological Consultant to the Applicants. The archaeological investigations will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeological contractor experienced in the archaeology of Lancashire towns and who will provide a binding Statement of Compliance relative to this Project Design to include details of staffing, timetable, public liability, employers liability and professional indemnity insurance cover.

The archaeological contractor will operate in accordance with:

- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct* (2019 edition).

- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Regulation for professional Conduct* (2019 edition).
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2020 edition).
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2020 edition).
- The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2020 edition)

6 METHODS

Preliminaries

The archaeological attendances are designed to respond to the impact to the archaeological resource represented by the proposed development.

The rationale underpinning the archaeological investigations at the Site involves the recovery of archaeological information from the strip-map-and-record of two areas as shown in Fig. 3. Each area measures 50m x 5m. The broad characteristics of the areas are considered to be appropriate and are agreed with the SPA.

The areas for the archaeological investigation are initially restricted to zones which incorporate an easement to respect the southern

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boundary of the Site and also include space for staff welfare and temporary storage of arisings.

The areas have been designed to determine feature presence/absence, with a contingent facility designed for further investigative work after characterisation, should features be present, the characteristics of which have been insufficiently resolved within the core strip-map-and-record exercise. Contingent investigation will be optional, upon the discovery of archaeological artefacts, deposits, features or structures the characteristics of which can only be sufficiently determined upon further spatial investigation.

The GMHER will be contacted at the onset of the project to ensure that any data arising is formatted in a manner suitable for accession to the GMHER. The GMHER will be informed of the project start date, location including grid reference(s), estimated timescale for the work, and further relevant information associated with the project. The GMHER will be responsible for supplying the Event Primary Reference Number (PRN) for this project and for supplying the PRNs for any new identified and recorded assets.

Prior to commencement of the fieldwork a project initiation form from the archive recipient organisation will be completed by the archaeological contractor.

The archaeological contractor will detail any non-archaeological constraints which may influence the ability to meet the aims and objectives of this Project Design. Constraints may include overhead and buried services, the water table (the control of water during the excavation works is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor

and/or the presence/absence of alluvial and/or colluvial deposits and the likelihood of masking of earlier deposits by alluvial/colluvial activity. Where colluvial/alluvial deposits are anticipated appropriate strategies will be outlined in order to assess the implications of such ground conditions.

The Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) will be responsible for securing information on known services within the areas for archaeological investigation and providing such information to the appointed archaeological contractor. The Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) will undertake a scheduled works enquiry with The National Grid Electricity and Gas Enquiry System (EAGLES) website prior to the commencement of archaeological work on site and provide the results to the archaeological contractor. The location and extent of all intrusive archaeological excavations would be advised utilising the information from the enquiry and follow the requirements of the HSE Guidance Notes HSG47 - *'Avoiding Danger from Underground Services'* and GS6 - *'Avoidance of danger from overhead electric power lines'*.

Any area that requires ground penetration will be CAT scanned by the archaeological contractor using trained staff following a Safe System of Work for Avoiding Buried Services using a radio detection CAT³ in avoidance mode. All signals will be marked on the ground and investigated by the appointed archaeological contractor to determine location, direction and, where possible, depth of service and areas for archaeological investigation will be modified as

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appropriate. All services will be treated as live by the appointed archaeological contractor.

The archaeological contractor will take all reasonable precautions to avoid damage to services. Where necessary the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) will arrange for decommission/disconnection of live services.

Desk-Based Research

Sufficient desk-based research would be collated prior to commencement of the archaeological fieldwork in order to inform the fieldwork as it progresses and, ultimately, in order to place the results of the archaeological investigations in an appropriate research and historical framework.

Should the archaeological contractor consider the historic environment desk-based assessment to be insufficient the following source repositories will be accessed by the archaeological contractor prior to commencing the archaeological investigations.

The GMHER

the Lancashire Archives (LA); and

the Greater Manchester County Record Office (GMCRO)

Strip

The archaeologically inert near-surface and surface materials in the area designated for the archaeological investigations would be stripped.

Prior to commencing with the excavation the appointed archaeological contractor will undertake a visual inspection of the entire Site including examination of any available exposures. The results of the visual inspection will be taken into account during the excavation.

The expectation is that the excavations will be opened and any archaeologically inert made ground, hardstanding etc. and/or topsoil will be removed by a mechanical excavator equipped with a wide toothless blade, in spits of no more than 0.25m in thickness. The mechanical excavator will be used under the constant direction of an archaeologist.

The appointed archaeological contractor will arrange for arisings to be dispersed to stockpiles in a safe manner, at a safe distance from the edges of the areas for archaeological excavation and at a safe angle of repose.

The appointed archaeological contractor will confine movement of trucks or dumpers to designated temporary haul routes to stockpiling areas.

Upon exposure of the first horizon within the areas for archaeological investigation exhibiting archaeological deposits, features or structures the use of the mechanical excavator will cease.

Under no circumstances will the mechanical excavator be used to excavate archaeological deposits features or structures, unless endorsed by the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) and the SPA. After the areas have been

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opened, surfaces will be cleaned and prepared as appropriate in order to allow visual inspection for the presence/absence of archaeological remains, deposits, features and structures and mapping of such.

Map

The archaeological investigations will be surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The excavation areas, deposits, features and structures within them will be accurately located on a site plan prepared at an appropriate scale. Proprietary electronic hardware and software may be used by the appointed archaeological contractor to prepare the mapping output as appropriate.

Record

After a review of the mapping output the record would proceed as follows:

Archaeological deposits, features and structures will be excavated manually using best-practice techniques and in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project.

Contingency provision will be made for the following:

- additional excavation of specific features if the excavated sample proves to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.

- limited additional excavation beyond the boundaries of the designated area (subject to health and safety and structural constraints) to clarify the extent of features.
- colluvial/alluvial cover

It may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficiently to address the aims and objectives of the project and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable. The cessation of excavation in any area prior to the establishment of the level at which geologically lain material survives will be agreed with the Council during the course of the archaeological work.

The method of recording will adopt best-practice techniques and the stratigraphy of each area will be recorded in written descriptions even where no archaeological deposits have been identified. The drawn record will comprise plans of the site at an appropriate scale, e.g. plans at scale 1:20 and sections at scale 1:10. Proprietary electronic hardware and software may be used to prepare Site drawings as appropriate.

All artefacts discovered will be retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified items dating to the twenty-first century AD which will be recorded by material type, form, identification and weight, and discarded. All finds will be assessed in order to recover information that will contribute to an understanding of their date and function. All retained finds will be stabilised and packaged in

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accordance with best practice and current CIfA standards and guidance, and the requirements of the organisation nominated to receive the archive.

The terms of the *Treasure Act* (1996) will be followed with regard to any items discovered to which the Act would apply. Such items will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required. Where removal cannot be effected on the day of discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the items from unlawful removal.

Animal bones would be treated in line with the Historic England document *Animal Bones and Archaeology - Recovery to Archive* (2019).

The aims, objectives and expectation of a palaeoenvironmental strategy will parallel the over-arching goals for the project, and proceed in accordance with the guidance provided in *Geoarchaeology - Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record* (Historic England, 2015a) and respect the recommendations for palaeoenvironmental data, featured within *Refresh for the Research Agenda for Wales: Palaeoenvironments* (<https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/pdf/review2017/palaeoenvironment2017.pdf>). The appointed archaeological contractor's environmental archaeologist will clearly devise and define a soil sampling and assessment strategy which address the project goals and provide this in its Statement of Compliance. The soil sampling and assessment strategy will be offered to the SPA for review and approval prior to the archaeological investigations commencing.

Reservoirs of palaeoenvironmental data, including alluvial sequences and palaeo-channels, which may be of intrinsic interest, will be identified and sampled on Site subject to health and safety considerations and where contamination does not prohibit retrieval. Bulk samples will be taken for wet-sieving with flotation to recover plant macro fossils, pollen, insects, molluscs, fish/animal bone, charred cereal remains, seeds, small bones or other small remains. Due to the low density of palaeoenvironmental remains expected from prehistoric contexts samples will be of around 40-60 litres. A range of samples will be taken from contexts with the potential to be datable and to contain remains to represent all feature types, areas and phases of the site. Target contexts will include appropriate stratified deposits within pits, ditch or gully terminals, refuse/waste deposits in ditches, domestic contexts, and burnt features. Features of other periods will be sampled as appropriate if encountered and other particular samples such as spot samples from intense concentrations of bones or seeds are found will be taken. Middens, if present, would require a specific investigation sampling strategy, possible on a grid pattern in order to recover remains systematically. Waterlogged: deeper features, if present, will be investigated for the preservation of organic remains including plant macrofossils, pollen and possibly insect remains, which may provide evidence of the environment or land use. If buried soils are encountered sampling for micromorphological/phosphate analysis by taking monoliths with sub-samples for soil chemistry composition will be considered and budgeted for.

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Soil and other samples from stratified deposits will be taken for assessment of archaeo-industrial remains where appropriate. Samples will be taken from appropriate deposits where secure stratigraphic relationships are present, subject to Health and Safety considerations and where contamination does not prohibit retrieval. Assessment will be conducted by means of coarse sieving, floatation and other techniques as appropriate.

Recommendations for further analysis (including the sub-sampling volumes) will be made in accordance with the Historic England guidance (2015a). It is expected that the scientific sampling strategies will evolve subject to the requirements of the project's aims. The proposed environmental and scientific sampling regime will form part of an ongoing dialogue with SPA relative to implementation. Any deviation from the sampling procedures outlined in the above guidance documents will be discussed and agreed with SPA in advance.

The appointed archaeological contractor will treat of any human remains discovered with respect. In principal, such remains will be left *in situ* and protected. The appointed archaeological contractor will notify Fenix Heritage of the presence of human remains at the earliest opportunity. If removal is necessary and mandated by the relevant regulatory authorities the remains will be excavated archaeologically in accordance with the English Heritage document *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (Second Edition 2017) and any conditions imposed by the Ministry of Justice and/or the Local Planning Authority Environmental Heath Directorate. Any

assessment and reporting work on recovered human remains will be undertaken in accordance with the document *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (CIfA 2017) and the Historic England document *The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project* (2018a).

The appointed archaeological contractor will deploy appropriate resources and expertise in the event of the discovery of ceramic production in line with the document *Archaeological and Historic Pottery Production Sites* (Historic England 2015b).

The appointed archaeological contractor will deploy appropriate resources and expertise in the event of the discovery of archaeological evidence for metalworking in line with the document *Archaeometallurgy – Guidelines for Best Practice* (Historic England 2015c)

The archaeological contractor will deploy appropriate resources and expertise in the event of the discovery of organic residues in line with the document *Organic Residue Analysis and Archaeology – Guidelines for Best Practice* (Historic England 2017).

The photographic record will comprise images captured on a digital camera (with resolution 16 mega-pixels or greater). All images recorded will form the images of record. Site photography should include general site images and images of individual features and groups of features. The use of low-level aerial photography using mast-mounted and/or remote-controlled camera equipment is optional. All photographs should include a suitable photographic

scale and will be recorded on a photographic register with the subject and direction of each image.

Soil excavated from the areas for archaeological investigation will be scanned for ferrous and non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making the necessary discrimination and operated by an experienced metal detector user under constant supervision. The appointed archaeological contractor will supply Fenix Heritage with details of a formal agreement stipulating the procedures to be used and will contain a waiver clause whereby the metal detector operative(s) will waive all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the *Treasure Act* (1996).

The appointed archaeological contractor will allow contingency for the recovery and processing of sufficient C¹⁴ and/or archaeo-magnetic samples and/or optically-stimulated luminescence samples and or dendrochronological samples in order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the project. The appointed archaeological contractor will supply unit rates for C¹⁴, archaeo-magnetic dates, dendrochronological dates and optically-stimulated luminescence dates. In the event that discoveries during excavation warrant refinement of the overall scientific dating strategy a sampling strategy will be agreed with a suitably qualified and experienced dating specialist. The scientific dating strategies will follow the relevant English Heritage/Historic England guidance (see below) and the advice and information at <https://www.bradford.ac.uk/archaeomagnetism/>.

Every effort will be made by the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]), Fenix Heritage and the appointed archaeological contractor to allow public engagement with the archaeological resource. Fenix Heritage recognises that opportunities for members of the public to participate in archaeological fieldwork are a useful tool for training, engaging interest and increasing an appreciation of the historic environment. Therefore, with reference to the CIfA's policy statement on the use of volunteers (CIfA 2016), volunteers can be involved in archaeological projects managed by Fenix Heritage. However, due to operational constraints, and other factors it may not be possible to allow members of the public to participate in the on-site archaeological investigations. It is acknowledged that health and safety issues, public liability and commercial confidentiality, are important considerations, but would not be used as a barrier to public engagement without clear justification. In order to manage public participation appropriately it is proposed that an appropriate local amenity society will be advised of the archaeological investigations and should members of the this society wish to take part in the archaeological investigations then consideration will be given to any request received. In order to manage public participation appropriately it is suggested that the appointed archaeological contractor advises SMART (South Manchester Archaeological Research Team) of the archaeological attendances and should members of the Team wish to take part in the investigations then consideration will be given to any request received. Where feasible the investigations and their results will also be transmitted to the public by the use of outreach strategies such as newspaper and radio interviews, lectures to

amenity societies and if circumstances allow and adequate health and safety measures deployed, an open day towards the end of the investigations.

The appointed archaeological contractor will be responsible for securing working easements for the archaeological works (to include spoil storage, vehicle circulation/parking and welfare facilities) during the programme of archaeological investigation – unless advised otherwise by the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]). The appointed archaeological contractor will be responsible for maintaining and locking any fencing/gates etc. around the working easements in accordance with health and safety provisions. Any damage to or breakage of the fencing/security provisions will be reported by the appointed archaeological contractor to Fenix Heritage as soon as possible after discovery.

At or towards the conclusion of the archaeological excavation a site meeting will be convened at which the investigations can be inspected with a view to confirming completion of the archaeological investigations and compliance with the archaeological strategy. Upon such confirmation the areas can be backfilled (if required by the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) in accordance with the ongoing obligations of this document.

The appointed archaeological contractor may assume that all excavations may be backfilled with the material excavated and should not arrange for removal of arisings from Site.

7 ASSESSMENT, ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

Following the completion of the archaeological investigation, a programme of assessment, analysis and reporting would commence. The appointed archaeological contractor is expected to engage in the following tasks - cross reference and complete all recording *pro-formae*; complete and index photographic metadata in a suitable software package(s) and cross-reference to all *pro-formae*; download survey data using appropriate software package(s); cross reference and complete all sections (to include matrices); cross reference all plans and complete; quantify and identify all artefacts (if any recovered) and complete an artefact register; quantify and identify all ecofacts (if any recovered) and complete an ecofact register; quantify and identify a context register and complete a Site Matrix.

The appointed archaeological contractor will specify a suite of specialist/expert practitioners to deal with the conservation and /or analysis of the following material types to which it has access either in-house or as a sub-contractor:

- Organic material
- Non-organic material
- Bone
- Glass
- Metal
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale

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- Stone
- Wood
- Leather
- Environmental Material
- Coins, tokens, badges, insignia of rank
- Ceramic vessel material
- Ceramic Building Material

An assessment report will be prepared by the archaeological contractor which encompasses the results of the archaeological investigations. The report would normally contain the following, but the contents may be adapted to take account of project specific circumstances:

A non-technical summary

A table of contents

An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site

A statement of the project aims

An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies

A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site, (taking into account the results of the desk-based research).

A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements

A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data)

A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to archaeological investigation and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the investigations.

Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid

Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate

Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses

A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.

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A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work and recommendations for analysis, publication and dissemination.

A conclusion.

Notes on consultations with conservators and the nominated archive repository related the immediate and long-term conservation and storage requirements for the data held in the site archive and recommendations of retention/discard of artefacts and ecofacts.

A bibliography sources consulted.

Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive and a statement on its location/proposed repository

One digital .PDF copy of a draft version of the assessment report will be made available for comment within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

Should the delivery of the assessment report depend on the incorporation of reports arising from specialist and/or laboratory work then a revised timetable for delivery of the draft report may be agreed upon conclusion of the fieldwork stage.

Any observations on the content of the draft assessment report made by the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]), SPA will be taken into account during preparation of the final report.

A digital .pdf copy of the final report will be submitted to the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) and the GMHER.

A summary report on the archaeological investigations will be provided to a suitable local journal if this is appropriate to the significance of the results, with a record note presented to the appropriate national period journal(s). These reports/notes will include the collaborative role of the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]), the SPA and the Council in the completion of the archaeological works.

8 COPYRIGHT

Copyright to any commissioned reports and any other project documents will be retained by the appointed archaeological contractor under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act of 1988; excepting that an exclusive licence will be provided to the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) and the Council for the use of such documents by the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) and the Council in all matters directly relating to the project. The copyright of this document remains with Fenix Heritage, subject to the same exclusive licence.

9 CONFIDENTIALITY

Fenix Heritage, the prospective archaeological contractors and the appointed archaeological contractor will treat as confidential all information obtained directly or indirectly from the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) in connection with these archaeological investigations and will not, without the prior consent of the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]), disclose any information relating to the project or publicise the project in any way.

10 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The appointed archaeological contractor will provide/obtain all relevant certifications from the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) and/or its agents and contractors regarding Health and Safety prior to any site works and will conform to arrangements for notification of entering and leaving the site.

The appointed archaeological contractor will be guided by the *Health and Safety at Work Act* (1974), the *Standing Conference of Archaeology Unit Managers Health and Safety Manual* (1991), *Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations* (2002), *Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations* (2015), *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations* (1999), the *Work at Height Regulations* (2005), the *Confined Spaces Regulations* (1997) and the *Personal Protective Equipment at Work*

Regulations (2002).

While carrying out the archaeological investigations the appointed archaeological contractor will operate in accordance with all applicable Health and Safety Legislation.

The appointed archaeological contractor will provide its staff with all necessary protective clothing and equipment.

It is understood that contaminated material may be present within surface and subsurface deposits on the Site. The appointed archaeological contractor is invited to consider the results of the ground investigation report (CC Geotechnical Ltd. 2020) in order to familiarise itself with the range and degree of contaminants identified and devise its health and safety strategy accordingly.

Archaeological work may, therefore, encounter contaminants. The potential for acute exposure to archaeological practitioners is a material consideration and a risk. Accordingly, the appointed archaeological contractor will manage any potential acute exposure risk to its staff and adjacent site users during the archaeological investigations in accordance with, *inter alia*, the *Control of Asbestos Regulations* (2012). The appointed archaeological contractor will also be prepared to implement a series of control measures as follows:

- Attendance at a site specific toolbox talk training session for all operatives on site,
- the use of basic 5 point PPE (hard hat, to include a chin strap when working from height or in windy conditions, high visibility

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vest/jacket, un-laced protective footwear to provide toe, sole and heel protection, gloves, safety eye-wear),

- the use of disposable coveralls (Type 5 BS EN ISO 13982-1) if contaminants are discovered,
- Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) EN149 (type FFP3) or EN1827 (type FMP3), or Half mask respirator (to standard EN140) with P3 filter and an appropriate filter change regime, if contaminants trigger the use of RPE,
- Compliance with material handling requirements (keep number of operatives working in the area of contaminated material to a minimum and handle carefully potentially contaminated materials avoiding double-handling where possible)
- Decontamination washing of footwear, tools and equipment, if contamination is discovered
- Removal of disposable PPE/RPE upon leaving area/Site, if contamination is discovered.

In addition, if contamination is discovered during the archaeological investigations the appointed archaeological contractor will ensure that its staff wear coveralls one size larger than the normal fit for the individual to prevent tearing at the seams, that loose cuffs are sealed with tape to reduce the risk of contaminating clothing, that the coverall legs are worn over footwear to prevent dust / contamination entering the footwear, that the hood is worn over the straps of the RPE and that coveralls are removed by turning them inside out to facilitate disposal.

Coveralls will be the outer layer of clothing and high visibility vest/jacket should not be worn over the coverall. In some cases, white coveralls may be classed as high visibility clothing; this will be considered by archaeological contractor prior to commencing work. In cases where high visibility clothing cannot be avoided, garments should be disposed of when work in that area is completed if they have been exposed to significant levels of contamination that precludes decontamination and re-use.

Should the staff of the appointed archaeological contractor discover contamination, such contamination may need to be dealt with by an appropriately qualified contractor. Fenix Heritage will not take responsibility for the removal of contaminated material from the excavation area or Site.

Where contaminated material is present in the surface or sub-surface deposits at the Site appropriate measures will be taken by the appointed archaeological contractor to ensure the health and safety of staff which may come into contact with contaminants. In case of encountering contaminated material, the appointed archaeological contractor will inform the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) immediately.

In the event of encountering contaminated material, it may be necessary for the appointed archaeological contractor to produce a revised method statement. The appointed archaeological contractor will forward the revised method statement to the SPA for reference.

It is assumed that the Site is in an area at low risk from possible unexploded ordnance (UXO) resulting from the Second World War.

Nevertheless, the staff of appointed archaeological contractor will familiarise themselves with appropriate the actions to be undertaken in the event of a suspected or actual UXO discovery. Appropriate actions in the event of UXO discovery are a vital part of the general safety requirement and contribute to evidencing conformity with the principles laid down in the CDM regulations 2015. The appointed archaeological contractor on site will receive a general briefing from the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) concerning the identification of UXO what actions should be taken to keep staff and equipment away from such a hazard.

With respect to excavations within made ground the appointed archaeological contractor is advised that due to the depth and variability of the made ground there is a risk of inability and consideration should be given to the deployment of support systems and/or battering in accordance with guidance contained in the CIRIA document *Trenching practice (second edition)* (R97D).

Where access to confined spaces is required, the appointed archaeological contractor is advised to devise and adopt appropriate mitigation measures.

The archaeological contractor will submit a Health and Safety Plan (including a Risk Assessment) and/or a Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) to the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) for verification before Site works commence. The archaeological contractor will take into account any comments made by the Applicants [or the successors in title or party

nominated by the Applicants]) on its Health and Safety Plan (including a Risk Assessment) and/or a Risk Assessment Method Statement (RAMS) prior to finalisation.

A First-Aid Kit and Accident Book will be kept on site at all times by the archaeological contractor for the duration of the archaeological investigations.

11 ARCHIVE

Manchester Museum is identified as the archive repository and the appointed archaeological contractor will contact the Archaeological Curator upon project inception (bryan.sitch@manchester.ac.uk/0161 306 1582).

The appointed archaeological contractor will inform liaise with the Archaeological Curator concerning archive procedures and storage requirements. The Archaeological Curator will issue an accession number for the project archive, should the Museum decide to accept the archive.

The Museum is likely to operate on a cost recovery basis and may levy a one-off payment per box based on costs incurred for processing the material into the collections and long-term storage. The appointed archaeological contractor will determine the cost per box and advise the Applicant accordingly.

Legal title to any artefacts or other items identified and/or recovered during the archaeological investigations remains vested in the land-

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owner. The archaeological contractor will request deposition of the artefact archive along with the remainder of the archive by means of an agreement to transfer legal title to the artefacts from the landowner to the archive repository. Should the land-owner not wish to donate the artefact component of the project archive to the recipient organisation the archaeological contractor will request that the landowner retains the artefact archive and makes it available, on a cost-free, fair-usage basis to those individuals and/or organisations with a legitimate research therein.

The appointed archaeological contractor will deposit the digital archive with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) in accordance with their requirements (for which there is a fee).

In addition, the appointed archaeological contractor will also submit and entry for the project to the **Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations**, (OASIS) also maintained by ADS

The project and its resulting archive would be undertaken within a Digital Data Management Plan (DDMP) environment to be established and maintained by the appointed archaeological contractor. A suggested template for a DDMP is provided below.

Digital Data Management Plan

Project Type

Archaeological Strip-Map-and-Record.

Types of data

Digital text, digital photographs, vector and raster images, digital spreadsheets, hand-written notes.

Format and Scale of the Data

Photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIF format for long term archiving and JPEG format for use in the digital report, converted using Adobe Photoshop. All photographs renamed using AF5 freeware with the prefix (project code_frame number) and a photographic metadata created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or Access (.accdb).

Written descriptions taken in digital .txt format and sent via email to ensure a digital backup copy at time of record.

Plans scanned as .PDF files

For GIS creation, if relevant, the metadata relating to each spatial feature will be contained in the attribute table. This will include:

- Date of creation
- Date of any edits and modifications
- Ordnance Survey Grid reference
- Extent

Methodologies for Data Collection / Generation

Digital data will be collected / generated by the appointed archaeological contractor in line with recommendations made in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) document *Standard and*

Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives (2014. Rev 2020). Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.3 are relevant:

In its Statement of Compliance the appointed archaeological contractor will outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate.

12 RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

The timing of the archaeological presence on site will depend on the development programme devised by the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) and will be confirmed in due course. The SPA will be provided with two weeks' notice of an intention to commence archaeological investigations.

The archaeological work will be undertaken by a team of demonstrable competence provided by the appointed archaeological contractor. Archaeological staff engaged on the project will have appropriate and relevant experience and the nominated responsible individual person to manage successful delivery of the project on behalf of the appointed archaeological contractor will be deployed only upon confirmation of their capacity to undertake the project by the SPA.

13 MONITORING

Reasonable access to the archaeological investigations will be provided by the Applicants (or the successors in title) and the appointed archaeological contractor to representatives the Council in order to monitor the investigations. A site tour and opportunity to scrutinise artefacts and site records will be provided to the monitors as appropriate.

The appointed archaeological contractor will advise the Applicants (or the successors in title) immediately of any significant discoveries and provide regular reports. The appointed archaeological contractor will ensure that any significant results recovered during the archaeological investigations are brought to the attention of the Applicants (or the successors in title). The Applicant (or the successors in title) will arrange to notify the relevant organisations on significant discoveries as soon as is practicably possible, and certainly within 24 hours.

Consultations between Fenix Heritage, the appointed archaeological contractor, the Applicants (or the successors in title) and the Council/Council representative will be convened periodically and towards or at the conclusion of the archaeological investigation. The purpose of the consultations is to advise all parties on the manner in which the objectives of the investigation are been addressed, amend the practical approaches to the investigation and secure agreement that the fieldwork element of the project has been concluded to the

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satisfaction of the Applicants [or the successors in title or party nominated by the Applicants]) and Council, and in compliance with the condition applied to the planning permission.

A suite of suggested consultations is provided below.

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Milestone	Purpose of Consultation	Participants	Format	Outcome
Issue of draft Project Design	To discuss draft Project Design, areas of excavation, timetable, etc.	Fenix Heritage / Applicants (or the successors in title) / SPA	Telephone/e-mail	Authorisation of Project Design (amended as appropriate) and issue of final Project Design. Authorisation to begin.
Upon appointment of archaeological contractor	To confirm project to LCCMS and secure accession number	Archaeological Contractor GMHER Manchester Museum	Telephone/ e-mail (Archaeological Project Notification)	Issue of Manchester Museum accession number
At half-way point or thereabouts of archaeological works	To confirm compliance with Project Design	Archaeological Contractor / Applicants (or the successors in title) / SPA	Site meeting	Continuation of archaeological investigations
Upon completion of archaeological works	To review results	Archaeological Contractor / Applicants (or the successors in title) / SPA	Site meeting	Confirmation of completion of archaeological works and compliance with the Project Design. Authorisation to commence reporting.
Production of the draft assessment report.	To review results of data assessment and to authorise continuation to next stage	Archaeological Contractor / Applicants (or the successors in title) /SPA	Telephone/e-mail	Authorisation to commence production of final report
Production of final report	To review results	Archaeological Contractor / Applicants (or the successors in title) / SPA	Telephone/e-mail	Confirmation of completion of technical reporting in compliance with Project Design and determination of the need for and scope of publication and dissemination
Publication, dissemination and submission of project archive	To confirm that all tasks have been completed with reference to the Project Design and to formally close the project	Archaeological Contractor / Applicants (or the successors in title) / SPA / Manchester Museum	Telephone/e-mail	Completion of publication text and submission of archive Conclusion of project.

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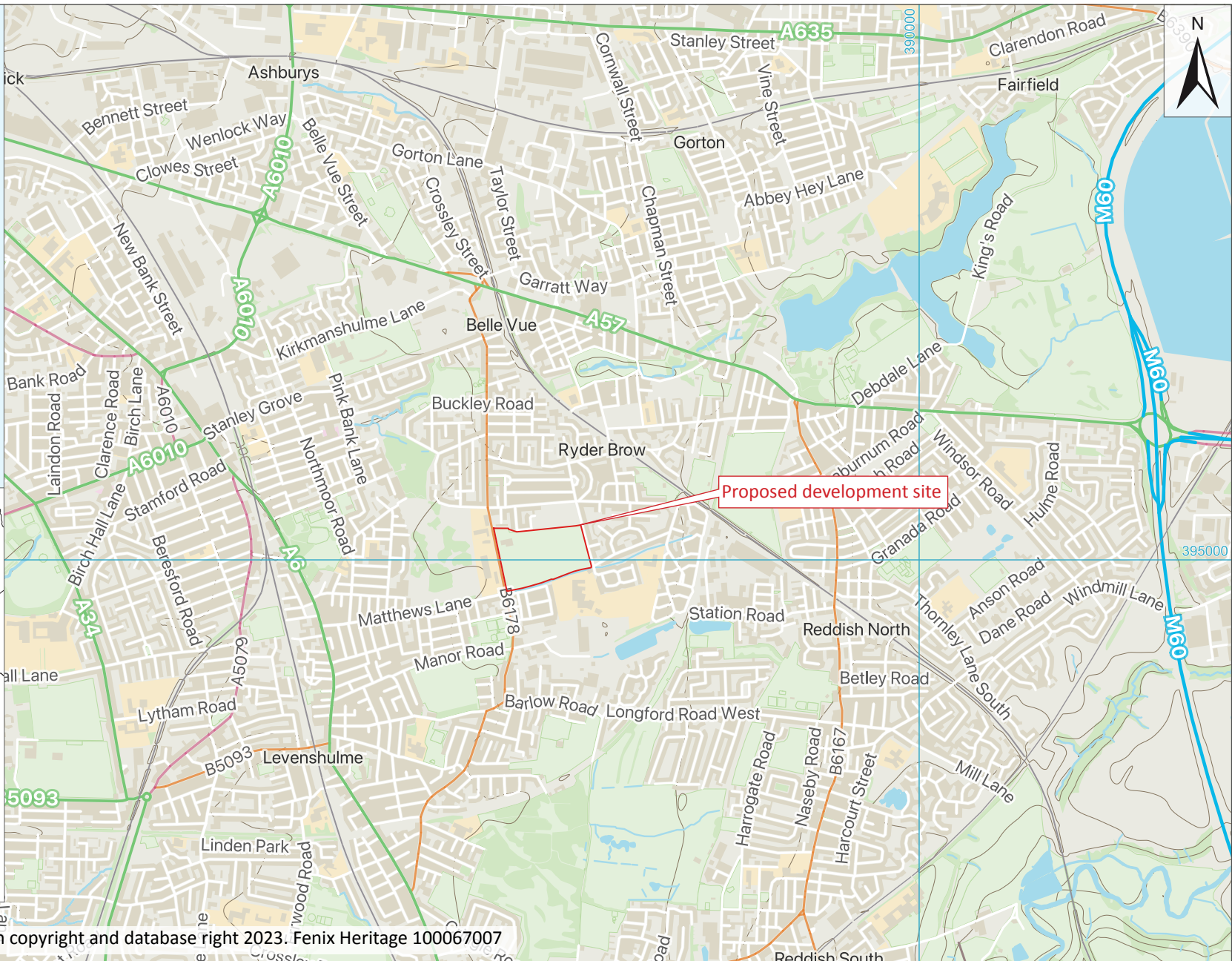
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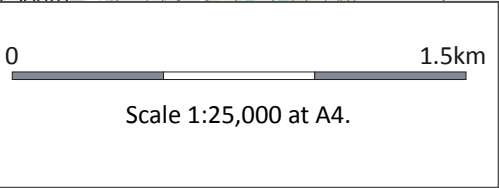
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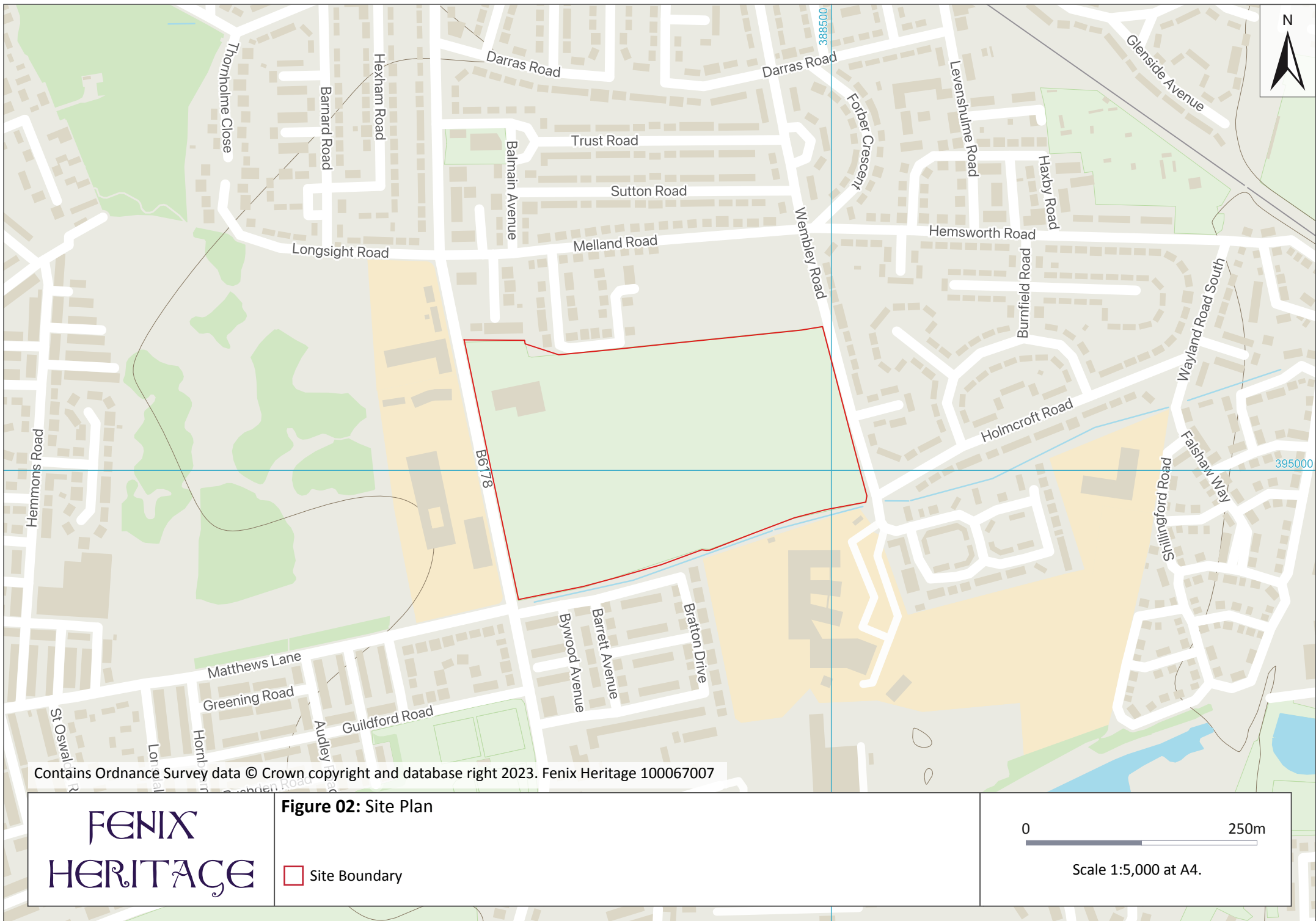


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Figure 01: Location of proposed development site at Mount Road, Gorton, Manchester







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	Figure 03: Site Plan showing location of archaeological strip, map and record areas Site Boundary Archaeological strip, map and record areas	0 100m Scale 1:2,500 at A4.
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