SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY
University of Salford

CIVIC HERITAGE

325 Deansgate, Manchester

Archaeological Evaluation

June 2025

PREPARED FOR

Jedi Deansgate Ltd



Evaluation Report

Prepared By	Steve Tamburello and Lucia Percy
Reviewed By	Oliver Cook
Report Reference	61119_ 325_Deansgate_ Evaluation Report
Issued	16/06/2024
Front Cover	Extract from Ordnance Survey of 1955 showing the area of the site

This report is the copyright of Civic Heritage and is for the sole use of the person/organisation to whom it is addressed. It may not be used or referred to in whole or in part by anyone else without the express agreement of Civic Heritage. Civic Heritage do not accept liability for any loss or damage arising from any unauthorised use of this report. Civic Heritage is a trading name of Civic Heritage Ltd (registered number 15913145), which is a limited company registered in England, registered address Carver's Warehouse, 77 Dale Street, Manchester M1 2HG.

© Civic Heritage 2025

CONTENTS

Contents

Summary 2
Introduction 3
1.1. Background 3
1.2. Setting 4
1.2.1. Location 4
1.2.2. Topography 4
2. Academic aims and objectives 5
3. Historical Background 7
3.1. Contextual background- Roman *Mamucium* 7
3.2. Development of the Site 9
4. Aims and Objectives 16
5. Method Statement 16
5.1. Archaeological Works 16
5.1.1. Area rationale 16
5.1.2. Methodology 17
6. Evaluation Results 18
6.1. Trenches in north of site 19
6.1.1. Trench 1 19
6.1.2. Trench 2 24
6.2. Test Pits – Western Railway Arch 25
6.2.1. Test Pit 1 27
6.2.2. Test Pit 2 29
6.2.3. Test Pit 3 31
6.2.4. Test Pit 4 34
6.2.5. Test Pit 5 36
7. Finds Summary (Jeremy Bradley) 38
7.1. Introduction 38
7.2. Methodology 38
7.3. Overview 39
8. Discussion 44
9. Recommendations 47
Cartographic sources: 48
Bibliography 48
Finds Summary Bibliography 48
Acknowledgements 50
Appendix 1: Context list 51
Appendix 2: Figure List 58

Summary

In January 2023 Salford Archaeology were commissioned by Jedi Deansgate Ltd via their representatives Assured CMS, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 325 Deansgate in Manchester City Centre (centred at NGR 383422 397607).

Historical sources recorded that a Roman well had been discovered on the site of The Crown Public House (now the site of The Deansgate) in the 18th century and that an urn holding around 200 Roman coins was also found with the site in 1840. Successive phases of Roman activity were also recorded to the north of the site during excavation ahead of the construction of the Beetham Tower and at 340 Deansgate to the west

Due to the prior reduction of ground level across much of the site a more focused investigation was undertaken in November 2023 within the north of the site. Roman pottery was retrieved from the upper fill of a broad ditch, recorded with a preserved section underlying the modern rear extension of The Deansgate Pub and from deposits preserved below 19th century brick foundations.

In addition, 5 test pits were hand dug in June 2024 within the area below the western arch of the Castlefield Viaduct which ran across the south of the site. This recorded up 2m of 19th century made ground below the modern concrete floor with the natural ground level only recorded with the rear south-west corner.

The archaeological evaluation at 325 Deansgate, Manchester has provided a valuable, if limited, opportunity to record surviving buried remains related to the civilian settlement (vicus) of Roman *Mamucium*.

The understanding of the archaeological sequence at 325 Deansgate would be greatly enhanced by the processing and analysis of the environmental bulk and column samples retrieved from the excavation from features and layers presumed to date to the Roman period based on the retrieval of a small amount of Roman pottery found.

Introduction

1.1. Background

In January 2023 Salford Archaeology were commissioned by Jedi Deansgate Ltd via their representatives Assured CMS, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 325 Deansgate in Manchester City Centre (centred at NGR 383422 397607).

A planning application had been approved for the demolition of the existing buildings and structures on site and the erection of a 22-storey building comprising apart-hotel (Use Class C1) with flexible commercial uses at ground floor and within existing viaduct arches (Use Class A1, A2, A3, A4, D2), access, landscaping and other associated works (125804/FO/2019).

An archaeological desk-based assessment (Salford Archaeology, 2018), was approved by Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) in December 2019 concluded that:

'the Site holds considerable potential to contain buried remains of archaeological interest, located as it is within the area of the Roman settlement and in the vicinity of several important archaeological sites and finds. Despite intensive development during the later 19th century, important archaeological remains are likely to survive in-situ, particularly those of a Roman date, which can survive at considerable depths, and which have been found previously around the railway viaducts to the west of the Site. In addition, the foundations of early 19th-century workers' houses, as well as the canal extension and canal warehouse, are considered to be of high local archaeological interest. The presence or absence of these remains requires verification through archaeological evaluation, prior to development and, pending the extent and significance of any surviving resource, further archaeological excavation may be required to mitigate the loss of buried remains during the proposed construction programme.'

Consequently, a programme of archaeological investigation was agreed GMAAS which was detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Salford Archaeology (Salford Archaeology, 2023).

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in two stages; in November 2023 and June 2024. The reporting of the archaeological evaluation was subsequently undertaken by Civic Heritage following the closure of Salford Archaeology in 2024.

1.2. Setting

1.2.1. Location

The site was located at 325 Deansgate in the Castlefield area of Manchester City Centre (NGR: 383422 397607). The site (c. 0.25ha) was bounded by Trafford Street to the north, Century Street to the east, Deansgate to the west and the stair and lift access to Deansgate-Castlefield Metrolink Station on Whitworth Street West to the south (Plate 1, Fig 1). The Site incorporated a section of the Castlefield Viaduct, which is afforded statutory protection as a Grade II listed building (List Entry Number:1292315). The site previously comprised a two-storey commercial unit and associated service yard which had been demolished prior to the evaluation. The site also included two enclosed arches within the the Grade II listed Castlefield Viaduct; a three-storey public house and a carp park opening to Century Street and Trefford Streetto the rear.



Plate 1: Recent UAV image of the site, superimposed with the red line development boundary

1.2.2. Topography

Greater Manchester lies within an undulating lowland basin and is bounded by the Pennine uplands to the east and to the north. The region as a whole comprises the Mersey river valley, whilst the rivers Irwell, Medlock, and Irk represent the principal watercourses in Manchester (Countryside Commission 1998, 125). The topography of the site reflects former terraces of the River Medlock and River Irwell. The former course of the River Tib lies to the south-east

of the Site. The River Tib was culverted during the early 19th century, and the topography of the valley has been considerably developed and changed by urban expansion. The Site covers relatively level land, at around 35m above Ordnance Datum (Salford Archaeology, 2018).

The underlying geology of the site comprises Chester Pebble Beds Sandstone and Manchester Marl. To the north of the Site runs the West Manchester Fault line and overlying the sandstone and marl bedrock are glacially deposited sands and gravels (British Geological Survey, 2025).

2. Academic aims and objectives

The academic aims of the project were to establish the presence or absence of any buried remains of archaeological interest within the proposed development area and where present to characterise the level of preservation and significance and provide an understanding of their potential. This would enable informed recommendations to be made for the future treatment of any surviving archaeological remains.

Objectives

The principal objectives of the archaeological investigations were:

- To record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;
- To provide sufficient information to enable an informed decision to be made about the need for any additional archaeological mitigation;
- And to make available the results of the work

Research potential

Further, more detailed research aims may be generated and developed from the results of the archaeological evaluation, with specific reference to the North-West Regional Research Framework (NWRRF). It is envisaged that the evaluation may potentially improve our understanding of the following research questions:

R01: How can we refine the dating of Romano-British sites to clarify the period of transition?

R03: To what extent is resistance to Roman occupation tangible in the archaeological record?

R14: What were the date, extent, function and changes over time of extra-mural settlement (vici) in the region?

R20: How can we identify regional types and patterns of distribution, despite low levels of material culture across the region?

Ind22: How can we take forward our understanding of the impact of industrialisation on the working class and their living conditions?

Ind33: How well studied and understood are the back yards of workers housing and what is their significance?

Ind68: What can archaeological studies tell us about commodity storage and exchange buildings?

3. Historical Background

3.1. Contextual background- Roman *Mamucium*

A Roman fort was founded in the last quarter of the 1st century AD in the area now known as Castlefield. c.150m to the west of the site (Plate 2).

The fort and vicus at Manchester developed in phases. The fort was built between AD 77-84 under the governorship of Agricola, during the first military occupation of Manchester commenced with a five-acre wooden fort, known as Mamucium. Later phases of development saw the earlier defences being reconstructed and improved and the fort complex grew in size from c.1.2ha in size to c.5 ha. The increase in size was thought to accommodate additional granaries, with the fort possibly serving as a supply depot to aid the Roman military expansion northward.

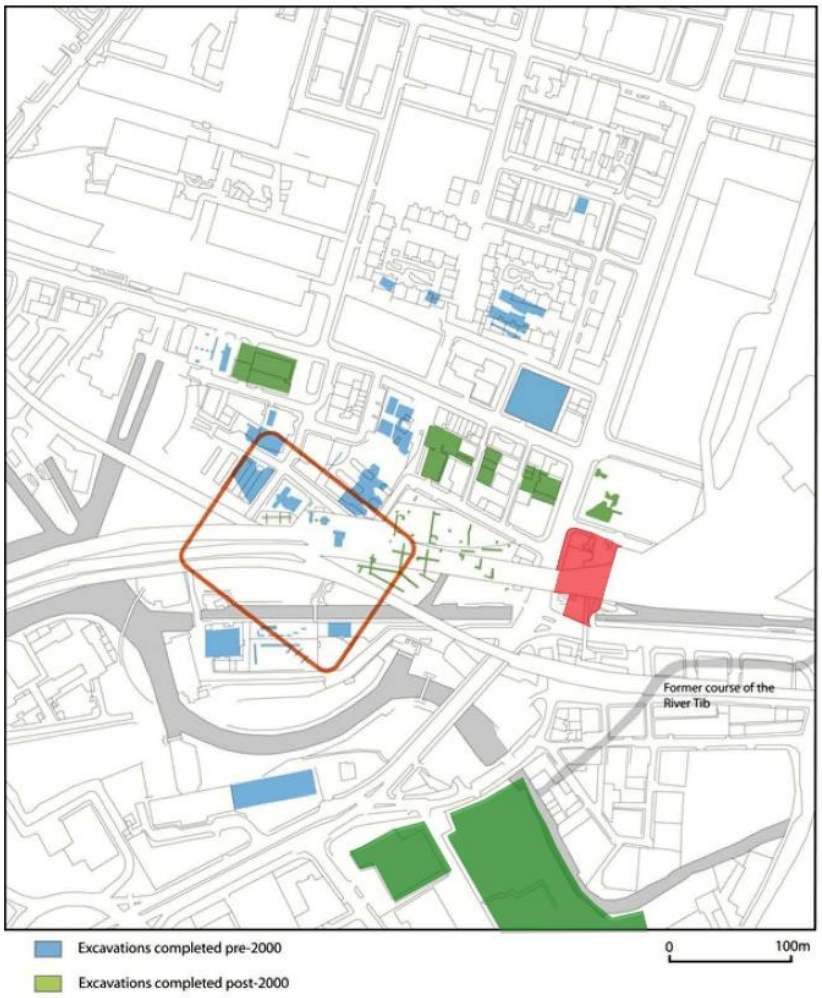


Plate 2: Map of Castlefield showing the location of the Roman Fort in relation to the site (red) and some of the previous excavations in the vicinity

The fort was rebuilt in stone in the early 3rd century, and the excavated evidence indicates that it remained occupied to the end of Roman rule in the early 5th century. Archaeological evidence also suggests that the vicus contracted in size during this period with the construction of outer defensive ditches that encroached on the pre-existing settlement.

The military annexe at Mamucium occupied the area to the north and east of the fort (Arrowsmith 2016, 9-12), the limits of which have been defined by a wide, defensive ditch and palisade, which has been identified by archaeological investigations in the Castlefield area. The eastern limit of the annexe is found at 340 Deansgate, just 50m to the north-west of the Site (Salford Archaeology, 2018).

Associated with the fort of Mamucium was network of Roman roads which linked the fort with Buxton to the south-east, Chester to the south, Wigan to the north-west, Ribchester to the north (HER 14.1.0), and Castleshaw, and York to the north-east.

The civilian settlement, or vicus, extended north from the fort to where modern day Quay street is, south-eastwards along the line of Chester Road terminating somewhere in the vicinity of Great Jackson Street (Grealey & Jones, 1974), westwards along Liverpool Road for approximately 100m from the fort's north-west corner and eastwards across Deansgate to the area now occupied by the Beetham Tower which is located immediately north of the Site.

Roman remains were recorded during archaeological excavation in advance of construction of the Beetham Tower in 2004, indicated by activity associated with the civilian settlement attached to the Roman fort. The earliest phase of Roman activity was characterised by a group of gravel pits, likely associated with construction of roads for the settlement, there was also evidence for tree clearance, boundary ditches, and the presence of timber-framed buildings.

The area may have been abandoned by c AD 120-60, however an intense occupation occurred after this 'abandonment' with structures which were laid out in a grid-like pattern fronting onto a road or street, possibly roadside shops. The last phase of Roman activity at this site was a large pit from which pottery dating to AD 200-50 was recovered (Pre-Construct Archaeology , 2005). After the abandonment of the Roman settlement in the late 4th or early 5th century the area became used as rural agricultural land that lay just beyond the edge of the settlement.

Evidence of a large timber and stone building was excavated at 340 Deansgate, to the immediate north-west of the site, which may have served as high status dwelling or

commercial centre, market hall or inn/ maniso (roadside hotel) (Gregory, 2007). The majority of structural evidence was provided by postholes, construction trenches and beam slots of timber framed houses.

In 1904 during the rebuilding of the Crown Inn (now The Deansgate pub) ‘pottery, charcoal, iron, a piece of oak and coins, one of them gold, and all likely of Roman date, were found however the coins were sold off by the workers. A 6-foot square Roman pit was also found beneath the pub which contained discarded material, three brass coins and a thick piece of gold wire’ (HER 415.4.0; Site 6).

Excavations at the nearby Owen Street (to the south of the site) in 2016 identified a spread of relict plough soil, containing Roman pottery and a series of ditches, aligned on one side by a row of post holes (Mottershead & Miller 2017), possibly a field boundary. This area (as well as the site itself) lay just beyond the civilian settlement and was likely rural agricultural land, a network of field systems with villas and agricultural buildings, which likely supplied the Roman fort and associated settlement with food supplies.

Much of the Roman occupational evidence of Manchester has been lost due to intense 18th- and 19th-century industrial development, however, some small patches of undeveloped land yield much important evidence of Roman activity.

3.2. Development of the Site

The development of the Site since the late 18th century can be drawn from a sequence of available historic mapping. Prior to the development of the Castlefield area in the 19th century, there was limited settlement beyond the medieval core of Manchester, centred around the cathedral and Hanging Ditch at the north end of Deansgate . From a depiction of the south-west prospect of Manchester in 1728, it is possible to suggest that land to the south of the town was partly taken up by small plots of arable, functioning as market gardens (Grealey & Jones, 1974)

The apparently undeveloped site appears to lay beyond the southern extent of the established town on the Tinker map of Manchester of 1772 (Plate 3) although Deansgate had been established and continued past the site as the road to Chester.



Plate 3: 1772 Tinker Map of Manchester orientated north, with the location of the site indicted beyond the southern limit of the town

The earliest published maps to show the site include William Green's survey of 1787-94 (Plate 4, Fig 3) which capture the initial development of the southern fringe of Manchester during the late 18th century. The site is bounded to the west by Alport Street (later Deansgate), which represented the main thoroughfare into town from the south. To the north and east a grid of new roads had been laid out, with empty plots yet to be developed, including Trafford Street and the soon to be named Crown Street. The Crown Inn is identified in the north-west corner of the Site, to the south of which is attached two buildings of uncertain function, with rear yards. Extending from the corner of Trafford Street and Crown Street is a row of possibly four dwellings, at least two of which had yards, whilst at the southern end of the site is an L-shaped building fronting Gaythorn Street to the south.

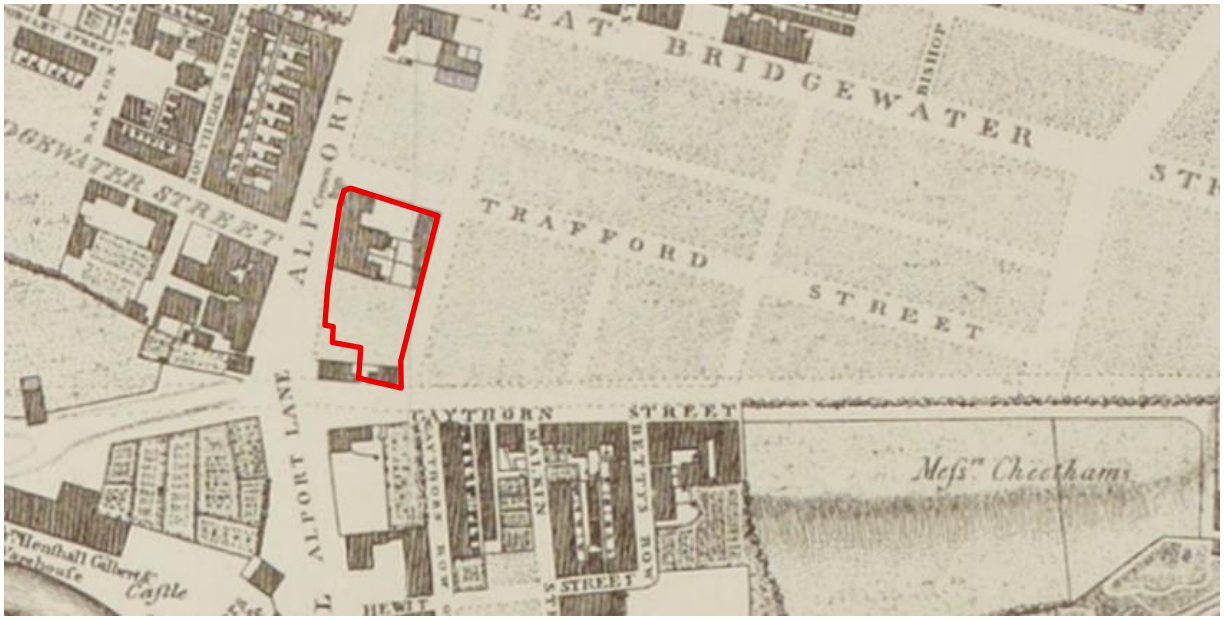


Plate 4: William Green's survey of Manchester and Salford 1787-94 superimposed with the site boundary

Bancks & Co's plan of 1831 (Plate 5, Fig 4) shows that the central part of the site had been developed with a large warehouse fronting Deansgate by the early 19th century. This warehouse was the Severn Warehouse, and its creation saw an extension off the Rochdale canal to be built to allow boats to load directly from the warehouse. This spur, which also served a warehouse on the east side of Crown Street, can be seen running north-west off the canal and under Crown Street. Bancks & Co's plan gives the occupiers of the warehouse as 'Cogswell & Co', and Pigot's commercial directory for 1829 confirms that 'James Cogswell & Co, from the Severn Warehouse convey goods to Huddersfield, Rochdale, Liverpool, Halifax, Bradford, Leeds, Hull, etc' (1829, 80). Maw (2013, 173) states that the warehouse was complete by 1808, and that the 1834 rate books indicate that the warehouse was owned by the Bridgewater Trustees, although it is not known when the change of ownership occurred. The route of the canal can be seen to continue through the Gaythorn Tunnel along the southern boundary of the site.

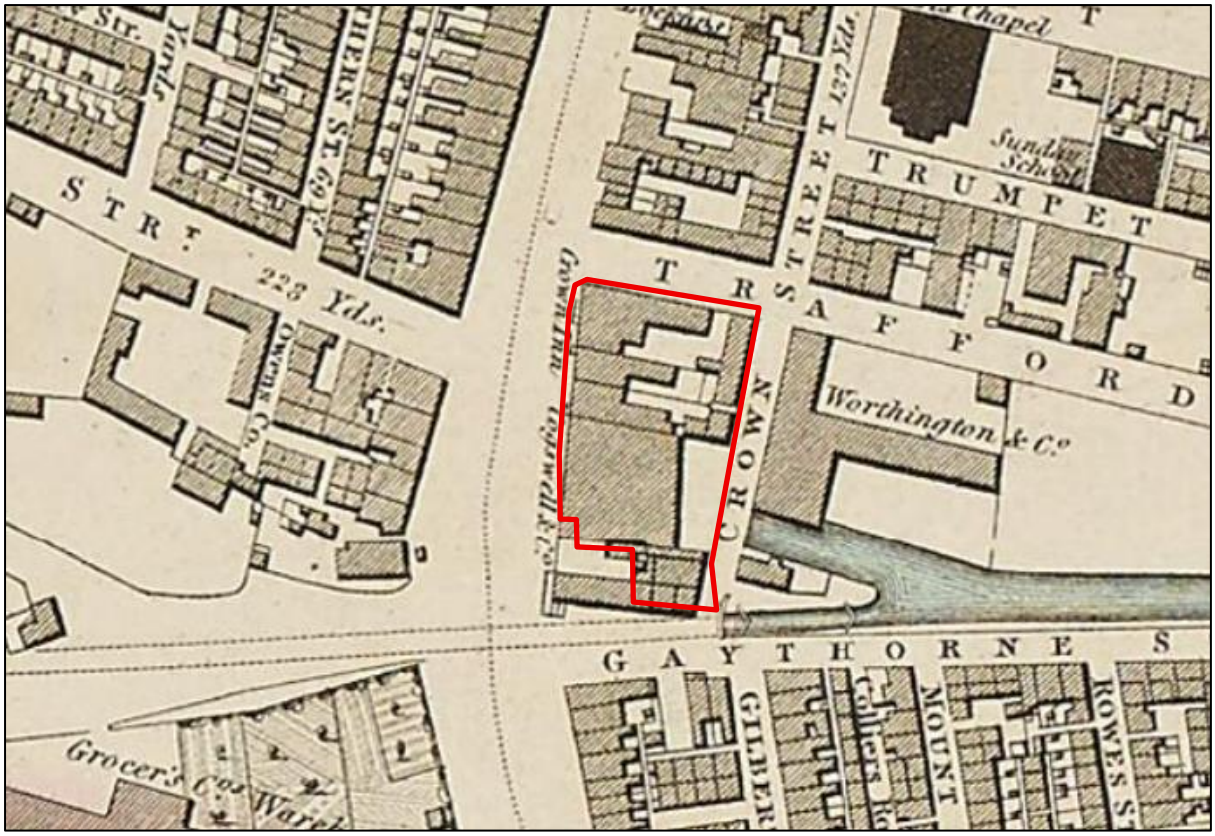


Plate 5: Extract from Bancks & Co map of Manchester of 1831 superimposed with site boundary

The site is shown in greater detail during the mid-19th century on the Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1851 (Figure 5) and Adhead's survey of 1851 (Plate 6). Both buildings to the south of the Crown Inn are shown to be cellared with south building identified as the 'Lock Hospital'. The Manchester and Salford Lock Hospital and Dispensary was founded in 1819 to treat patients with venereal disease and relocated to Deansgate in 1843.

The survey identifies the three buildings in the north-east corner of the site which extend along Crown street as commercial premises that did not have cellars. The Severn Warehouse again dominates the central area of the site with a canal arm entering the east side of the building. The warehouse was bounded on the south side by the Railway Inn Public House which is noted as on the Ordnance Survey of the same year as the 'Runcorn, Worsley and Wigan Boat House Public House' (Figure 5).

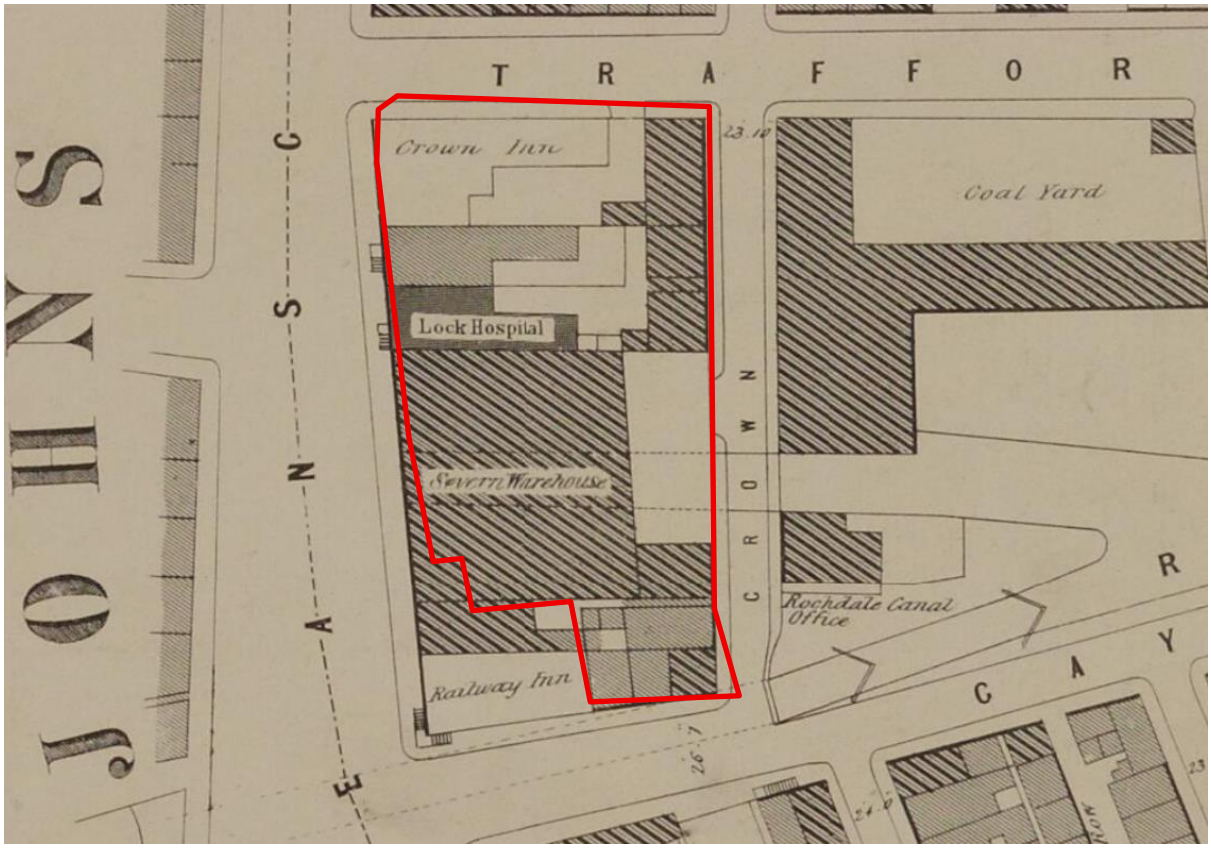


Plate 6: Extract from Adsheads map of 1851 superimposed with site boundary

The Severn Warehouse, formerly located in the centre of the site, was demolished in 1875 to allow for the construction of the Castlefield railway viaduct, built 1875-1880. The viaduct was built to link the Central Station, also opened in 1880, to the existing railway network and is shown crossing the site on the Ordnance Survey map of 1891 (Plate 7). The viaduct was built of red brick with segmental arches and castellated brick piers and led to the Cheshire Line Committee's Bridge which spanned Deansgate to the immediate west of the site. It is likely that the canal extension was partially demolished and filled in at this time.

The former lock hospital was demolished in 1872 to make room for the railway viaduct, the Cheshire Lines Committee paid £500 compensation for the disturbance and with this sum and their existing building fund, the Hospital purchased a plot of land on Duke Street, where it remained (Lee, 2018).

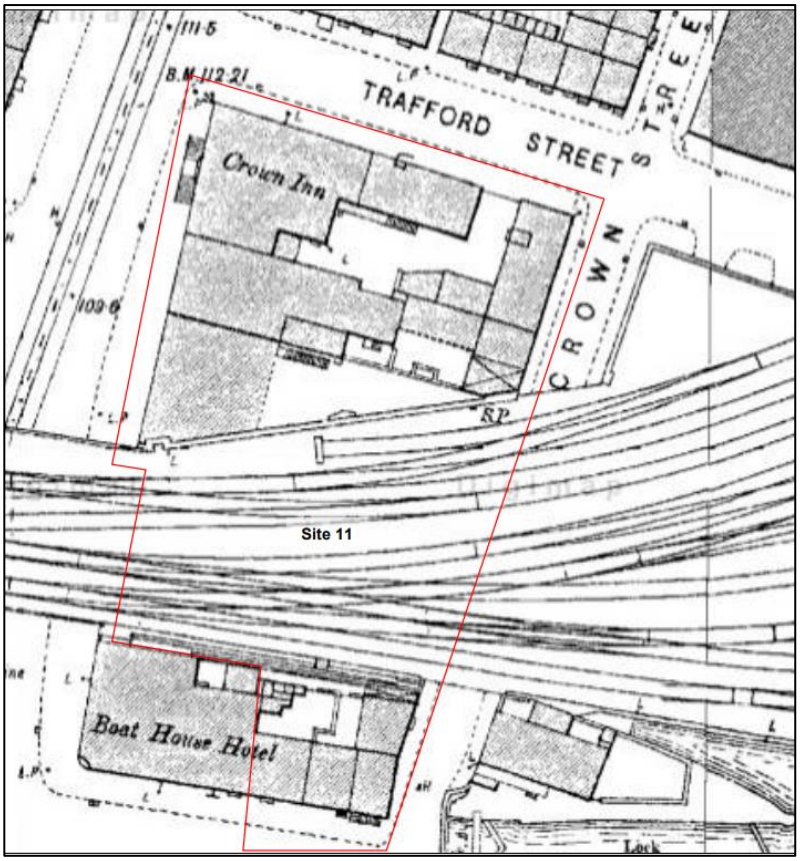


Plate 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey of 1891 superimposed with site boundary

The discovery of probable Roman remains were reported during the rebuilding of the Crown Inn in 1904. It was reported that 'pottery, charcoal, iron, piece of oak and coins, one of them gold, and all likely of Roman date, were found however the coins were sold off by the workers. A 6-foot square Roman pit was also found beneath the pub which contained discarded material, three brass coins and a thick piece of gold wire' (HER 415.4.0).

Charles Roeder (1900, Plate 8) describes an 18th-century discovery of a 'a Roman well at the Crown Inn' in his book on Roman Manchester and also an 1840 discovery of a hoard of Roman coins , details of which were recounted in the Manchester Weekly News, 18th March 1899:

'*A man who was digging the foundation of a house on a piece of land belonging to Mr. Thomas Owen, at the corner of Trafford Street and Crown Street, found an earthen vessel…containing more than two hundred coins…mostly silver, but amongst them were a half-a-dozen to half-a-score of gold'.*

The account goes on to describe how the finder bartered the coins for drink at different public houses in the neighbourhood, and that the one surviving coin appeared to be of Domitian, emperor from AD 81–96.

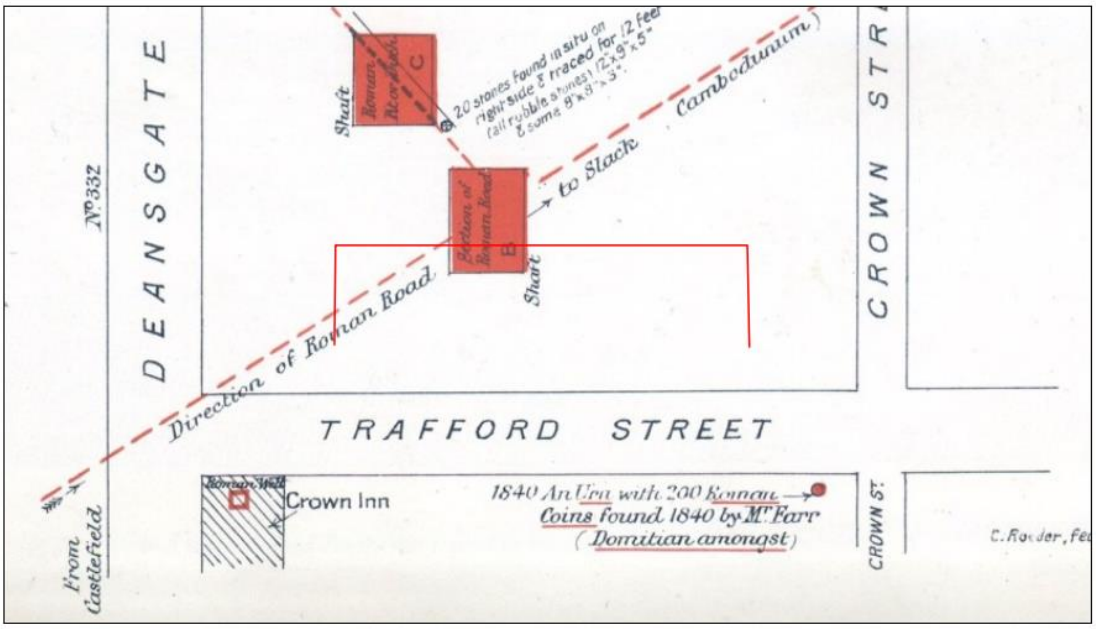


Plate 8: Map produced by Roeder (1900) showing location of Roman well and Roman coin hoard find within the Site (outlined in red). The 'Crown Inn' is now known as 'The Deansgate', and Crown Street is now Century Street.

By the mid-20th century the buildings on the corner of Trafford Street and Crown Street had been demolished and the building at 325 Deansgate had been extended all the way across to Crown (Century) Street, and (Plate 9, Fig 8).

By the late 20th century, the remaining buildings fronting Whitworth Street had been demolished and the area has since been paved and accommodates the lift and stair access to the Deansgate-Castlefield Metrolink Station.

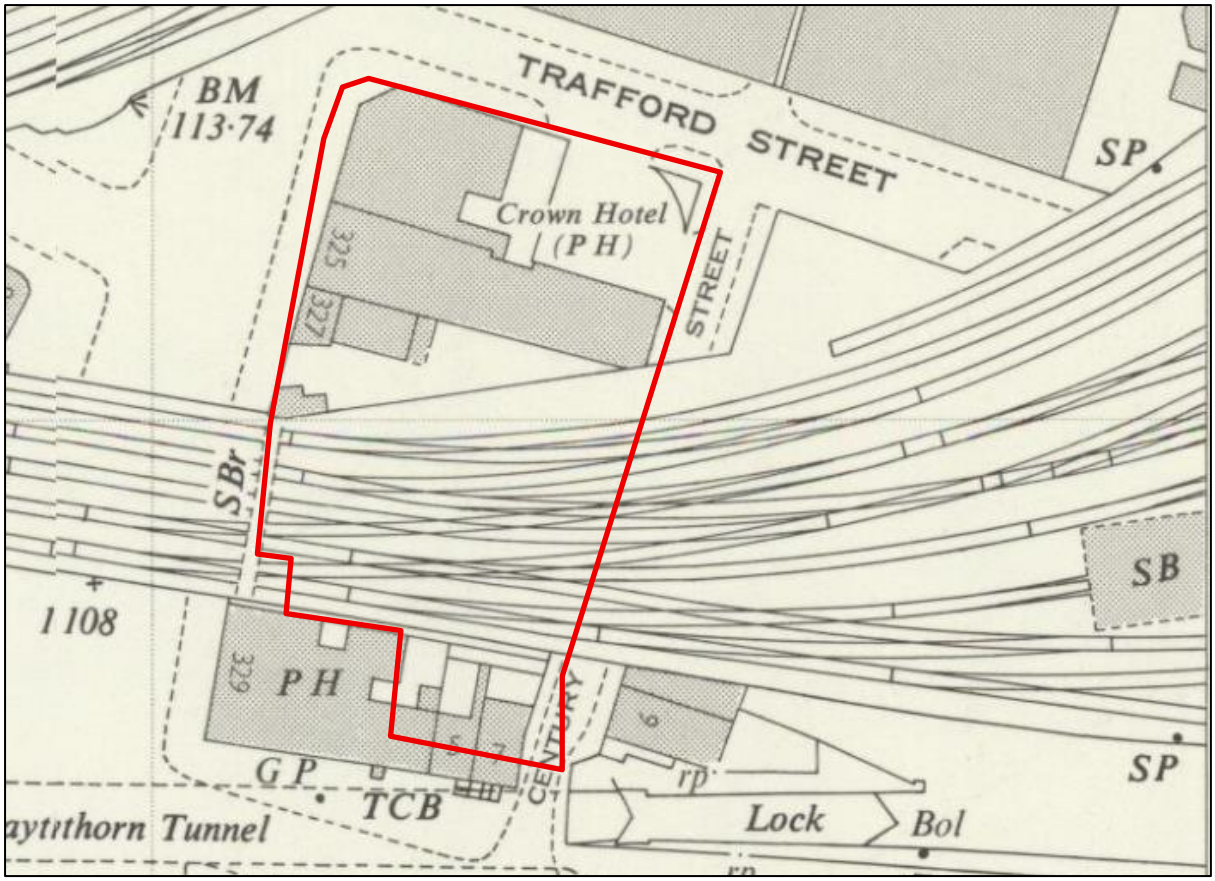


Plate 9: Extract from the Ordnance Survey of 1955 superimposed with site boundary

4. Aims and Objectives

5. Method Statement

5.1. Archaeological Works

5.1.1. Area rationale

The archaeological evaluation comprised two trenches at the north of the site, adjacent to the rear of Deansgate Public House and five evaluation test pits within the western arch of viaduct within the site. This represented an updated strategy for archaeological evaluation which was agreed with GMAAS following the prior reduction and piling of the site, ruling out the full excavation of the seven trenches as originally planned in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Salford Archaeology, 2023).

5.1.2. Methodology

General Methodology

All archaeological work was conducted following the Standards for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2023a) and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2023b). Before commencement all interested parties agreed an acceptable method of proceeding.

Prior to the commencement of any works, the location of the areas targeted for archaeological investigation were laid out accurately with respect to the Ordnance Survey national grid.

All trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and any demonstrably modern overburden were excavated down to the first significant archaeological horizon or geological deposits, whichever was reached first. Thereafter, remains were cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date.

The test pits within the western arch of eth viaduct in the south of site were excavated by hand following the removal of the modern concrete surface

Context Recording

All contexts were be recorded using pro-forma sheets, allowing details to be incorporated into a Harris matrix. All written recording of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts were cross-referenced from record sheets using sequential numbering.

Photography

A full and detailed photographic record of individual contexts was maintained along with general views from standard viewpoints of the overall site at all stages of the excavation. Photography was undertaken in accordance with HE guidance, Digital Image Capture and File Storage Guidelines for Best Practice (July 2015). All frames will include a visible, graduated metric scale. Photographs records were maintained on photographic pro-forma sheets.

Finds Policy

Finds recovery and sampling programmes were in accordance with best practice (following current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines, Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2020) and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation followed professional guidelines (UKIC 1990).

No finds fell within the definition of 'treasure' during the course of the investigation.

6. Evaluation Results

The evaluation at 325 Deansgate comprised two trenches located to immediate east of the Deansgate Public House at the north end of the site, and five test pits located within the western arch of the viaduct in the south of the site (Plate 10, Fig 2)

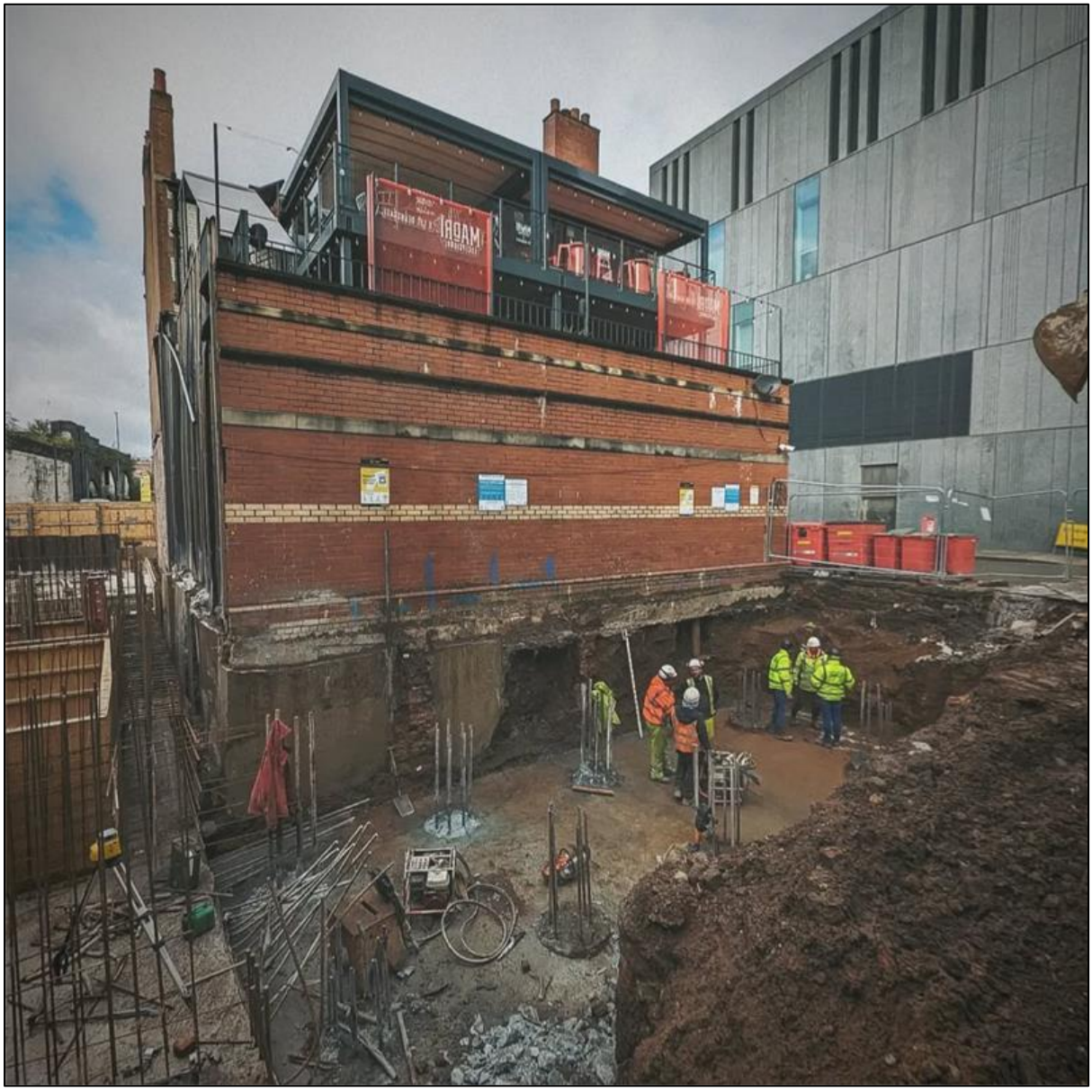


Plate 10: General location shot of Trench 1 showing preserved sections below The Deansgate Pub, looking north

6.1. Trenches in north of site

6.1.1. Trench 1

Trench 1 (12.6m by 6m) was located at the north end of the site, to the immediate east of The Deansgate public house. The archaeological stratigraphy was preserved solely within the south-east facing section beneath the rear wall of the Deansgate Pub and within the adjacent south-west facing along Trafford Street as the ground had been reduced prior to the archaeological evaluation (Fig 12).

The modern carpark ground cover comprised a layer of tarmacadam (0.13m) overlying a layer of concrete (036) which extended for the full length of the trench and underlay the extant rear wall of The Deansgate pub (0.17m thick). It also incorporated a poured concrete foundation at the south-west end of the south-east facing section, for the modern rear extension of The Deansgate (2m deep by 1.2m wide).

The concrete overlay a modern construction cut [032] also likely associated with the modern pub extension wall. The cut (1.1.m wide in southeast facing section and 0.45m deep) was filled with a mid-reddish brown friable silty sand deposit with inclusions of modern demolition debris including plastic, red brick and an iron pipe .



Plate 11: South east facing section of trench 1, looking north west

A series of brick walls were recorded within both the southeast facing section [021][017] [025] and in the southwest facing section [027] immediately below the modern intrusions, likely associated with earlier phases of the public house which had been demolished in the 20th century. The large concrete foundation block (036) truncated a cellar room formed by walls [021] and [017] at the southwest end of the south-east facing section. The cellar room was 2.4m wide and descended to a depth of 1.45m where a cellar floor comprising stone flags and brick was encountered (018) bedded on a number of thin levelling deposits (033)(034)(035) with varying inclusions of small, rounded stones and sands.

Narrow (c.0.2m) construction cuts [022] and [016] were observed adjacent to the outer facades of walls [021]/[017], each subsequently filled with a mid-greyish brown silty sand construction backfills with inclusions of brick rubble. (023)/(019).

The cellar walls [022]/[016] were constructed of machine-made brick (8 ½ in/0.22m × 4 ½ in/0.11m × 3 ¼ in/0.08m) laid in a four-stretcher English Garden Wall bond and bonded with a lime based light, sandy mortar. Traces of a blue painted plaster were observed on the internal elevations of the cellar room, which had been subsequently backfilled with a dark reddish brown clayey silt with frequent inclusions of brick rubble (020).

Further cellar walls stubs were observed to the northeast [025] and also spanning the full width of the adjacent south-west facing section [027] (Plate 12, 3.7m wide). Both were constructed of similar bricks to the southwest cellar room , laid in the similar English Garden Wall bond, but were shallower in depth (max 0.7m deep).



Plate 12: Working shot of the south-west facing section of Trench 1 revealing wall [027] overlying darker layer [005], looking north

The southwest cellar room [021][017][018] had been cut into a firm mid-greyish brown silty clay deposit (013) which comprised inclusions of occasional small fragments of red sandstone, moderate inclusions of charcoal fragments and small fragment of Roman oxidised ware pottery (See Finds summary: Section 7). The deposit, observed to the northeast of wall [017], within the southeast facing section was 2.05m wide appeared to be tipped from the north-east, reaching a maximum thickness of 0.55m to the south-west where it was truncated by wall cut [016].

Deposit (013) formed the uppermost deposit of a broad sloped cut [011] whose south-west side had been truncated by the 19th century cellar. The feature (3.70m wide by 1.3m deep) had a gradual (c.20^{o}) sloped side and may have been a broad ditch of which the sharp base [008] survived below the cellar wall [017]. Underlying (013) and filling the truncated ditch [011]/[008] was a sequence of sloped layers underlying including mid-grey silty clay deposit (028) (0.21m thick) which also comprised inclusions of charcoal fecks. Underlying layer (028) was a firm greyish-brown silty clay with lenses of reddish-brown gravel (012) (0.3m thick) and a light orangish-grey sandy silt (029) (0.16m).

Two lower fills were observed within the sharp base of the ditch [011][008], truncated by the cellar wall [017]. Deposit (010) comprised a firm, mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks (0.2m thick), which overlay the primary fill (009), a similar mid-greyish brown silty clay (0.06m) (Plate 13).

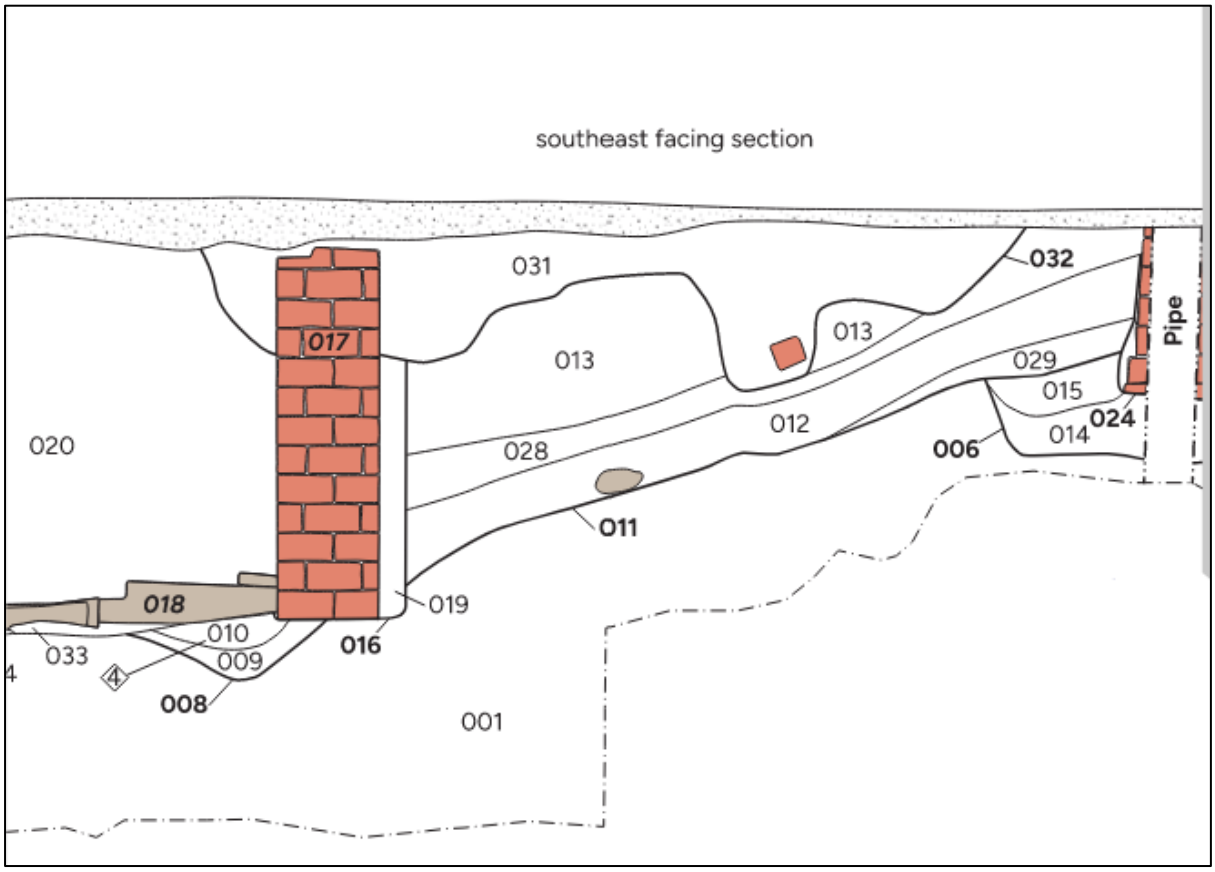


Plate 13: South-east facing section showing truncated Roman ditch [008]/[011]

The north-eastern extent of Roman ditch [008]/[011] appeared to cut through a possible pit [006], though both features had been truncated by the later 19th century brick foundations [025]. The pit (2.4m wide in the section by 0.65m deep) had steep sides with a sharp break of slope and a flat base, cut into the mid reddish brown degraded sandstone natural (001). The ditch [011] cut the upper fill of the pit (015) which comprised a mid-grey silty clay (0.2m thick) which overlay the primary fill (014)/(007), a loose reddish orange clay sand (0.53m thick)

Within the south-west facing section, the brick foundations [027] overlay a light greyish brownish sandy clay with lenses of sand and clay and inclusions of small subangular stones (Plate 14, Fig 12). The deposit (0.10m thick) had been truncated by concrete but extended at least 3.8m wide, underlying the wall. A small sherd of Roman Samian ware pottery was retrieved from the layer (See Finds Summary : Section 7). Deposit (005) overlay a similarly truncated layer (004) which comprised a mid-orangish brown sandy clay (0.24m thick) which in turn directly overlay the degraded natural sand (001).

A probable stake hole [002] was recorded, inserted into the natural, underlying layer (004). The stake hole (0.08m wide) was observed in profile in the section and sloped at a 45° to the south-east (0.11m deep), filled with a greyish-brown silty sand (003).

A number of bulk and column environmental samples were taken from the sequence of deposits within Trench 1 including (010)(012)(013)(014) and (028), although these have not been processed as yet.

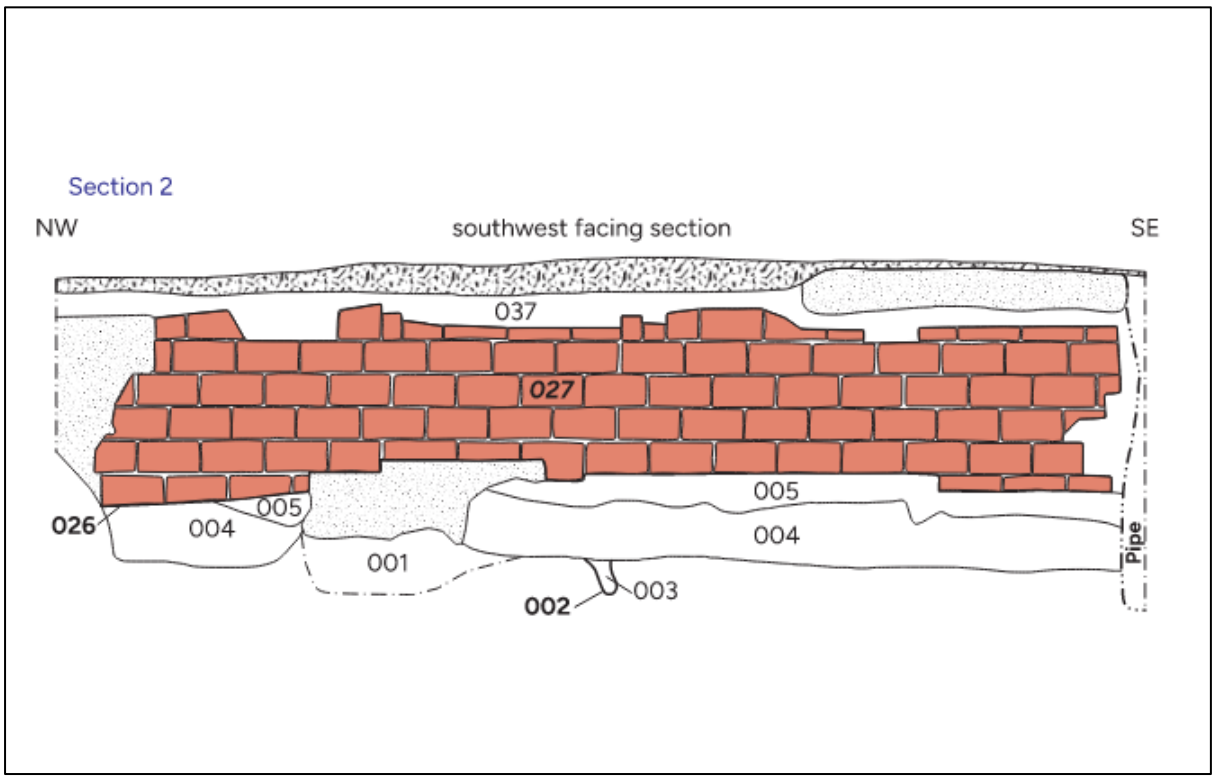


Plate 14: South-west facing section of Trench 1, showing 19th century brick foundation [027] overlying possible Roman deposits (005)/(004) and stake hole [002]

6.1.2. Trench 2

Trench 2 (8m by 3.6m) was located 10m to the south-east of Trench 1 in a car park area , within the north-east corner of the site, adjacent to the junction of Trafford Street and Century Street. It was overlain with a modern concrete surface (203), 0.13m thick, which had previously been bored for the installation of piles (Plate 15, Fig 10).

The concrete surface overlay a modern levelling deposit (202) which comprised a mid-brownish black silty sand with frequent modern brick inclusions and general demolition rubble (1.2m deep, Plate 16).

This in turn directly overly the reddish brown sandy natural (001) which was encountered at a depth of 1.5m (33.01m aAD).

No archaeological features were identified within the trench



Plate 15: Piles within Trench 2, looking north-east



Plate 16: Representative south-east facing section of Trench 2, , showing contexts [001], [201] and [202]. looking north-west

6.2. Test Pits – Western Railway Arch

In June 2024 five test pits were excavated by hand within the western arch of the viaduct in the south-west area of the site (Plate 17). These comprised four 2m x 1.5m test pits (TPs1, 2, 4 and 5) located adjacent to the side walls, surrounding a larger (5m by 2m) test pit (TP4) placed along the centreline (Plate 18,Fig 13). The modern reinforced concrete surface was removed by the groundworkers on site prior to the hand excavation of the underlying deposits (Plate 19). Contexts recorded within the test pits undertaken within the railway arch were prefixed with RA to distinguish them from those of the earlier phase of evaluation in the north of the site.



Plate 17: Exterior façade of western railway arch, looking south-east



Plate 18: Test pit locations with western viaduct arch



Plate 19: Pre-excavation shot of Test Pits with western viaduct arch, looking south across TP1

6.2.1. Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1 (2m x 1.5m) was located within the open north-east corner of the western viaduct arch, adjacent to the eastern wall. Underlying the modern reinforced concrete (RA100) (0.2m thick) was a gravel subbase (0.2m) laid on plastic sheeting (RA101).

A modern wall [103] spanned the width of the test pit (north/south) which could be seen within the concrete surface to either side of the test pit, prior to turning to the east and continuing as a wall scar up the adjacent wall of the viaduct arch, indicating the position of a now demolished modern internal subdivision within the arch (Plate 20).

The wall was constructed of frogged, red brick (0.23m x 0.11m x 0.07) laid in a running stretcher bond and bonded with modern cement mortar. The wall (0.17m wide) was 0.8m high and sat on a broader concrete base (0.60m wide, 0.2m deep).

A similarly modern wall [RA107] crossed the east side of the test pit on a north-west/south-west orientation at a similar level to the base of the wall [RA103]. The wall was two courses deep and was roughly constructed modern frogged bricks, bonded with cement and may have been associated with drainage.



Plate 20: North-facing section of Test Pit 1, crossed by wall [RA103]

A construction cut [RA102] for walls [RA103] and [RA107] was observed cutting into the underlying deposit of made ground (RA105). The construction cut had been subsequently filled with a mid-greyish brown silty sand construction backfill (RA104). The backfill (0.5m thick) comprised frequent inclusions of brick rubble , plaster, stone mixed with likely redeposited blue and white 19th century pottery.

Deposit (RA105), underlying the wall cut [RA102] comprised a loose mid-greyish brown sandy silt (0.6m) with frequent inclusions of brick rubble, plaster, glass bottles. A large assemblage of pottery was retrieved from the deposit (47 sherds) broadly dating from the late 18th to later 19th century (See Finds Summary: Section 7).

A loose dark greyish-black silty sand deposit was encountered at a depth of 1.5m and was excavated for 0.1m without the lower extent being observed.

6.2.2. Test Pit 2

Test Pit 2 (2m by 1m) was located to the south of Test Pit 1, toward the rear south-east corner of the viaduct arch, adjacent to the eastern wall (Fig 13).

A crushed rubble subbase layer (RA201) (0.2m thick) underlay the reinforced concrete surface (RA200)(0.17m). The rubble subbase directly overlay a brick surface which extended across the area of the test pit. The modern, mixed deposit included several 'Bakerlite' electrical plugs with three cylindrical pins, as well as a residual shell edge ware plate with a Rococo-inspired asymmetrical, undulating scalloped rim with impressed curved line (c 1775-1810). The brick surface [RA 202] comprised a mix of frogged and unfrogged bricks, up to three courses deep (0.7m) laid in an ad-hoc manner without any bonding (Plate 21).

Following the removal of the brick surface [RA202], a dark greyish -brown loose sandy silt (RA203) was encountered (0.4m thick) which had inclusions of 19th transfer printed earthenware and three late 18th-19th clay tobacco pipe stems (Plate 22). The deposit overlay another possible partial brick surface [RA204] comprised of unfrogged bricks, again roughly laid and in no discernible pattern ,which overlay a dark loose blackish brown sandy silt deposit (RA206) which was excavated for 0.8m without finding the lower extent (to a total test pit depth of 1.67m). Part of a 19th century brown stoneware rounded jar/bowl was retrieved from this deposit (See Finds summary: Section 7)

An east/west orientated wall [RA205] cross the eastern extent of Test Pit 2 below the level of the upper brick floor surface (RA202). The wall was constructed in a stretcher bond and bonded with a hard dark mortar (Plate 23). It was least two skins wide and observed to a depth of 0.8m without the base being found. No construction cut for the wall was observed and its relationship to surrounding deposits (RA204)(RA206) was uncertain, although it may represent a remnant of the structures which were cleared to construct the viaduct in the late 19th century, surrounded by demolition levelling layers for the construction of the viaduct.



Plate 21: Brick surface (RA202) within Test Pit 2, looking north



Plate 22: South facing section of Test Pit 2, looking north



Plate 23: Wall [RA205] within north facing section of Test Pit 2, looking south

6.2.3. Test Pit 3

Test Pit 3 (5m by 2m) was orientated north/south within the centre of the of the area within the western viaduct arch, positioned closest to Test pit 2 to the south-east and Test Pit 4 to the west.

The modern reinforced concrete floor (RA300) was removed to reveal a patchy brick surface (RA302) similar to that seen within Test Pit 2 (RA202). The surface, where it was present, comprised a mix of frogged and unfrogged brick, laid in an ad-hoc manner and bedded in a mid orangey-brown sandy silt deposit (RA301). The deposit (0.3m) comprised frequent inclusion of brick rubble, concrete mortar.

The partial brick surface (RA302) and the silty bedding layer (RA301) overlay a large, poured concrete block (1.65m by >0.9m) which extended from the west facing section of the test and was 1.5m deep (Plate 25). The upper surface of the concrete base incorporated a small circular hole at each end, possibly to fix and tank or machine.



Plate 24: Test Pit 3 following the removal of reinforced concrete modern surface, looking south



Plate 25: Poured concrete base extending from west facing section of Test Pit 3, looking south

The stub of a truncated brick wall [RA305] extended from the east facing section to the immediate north of the concrete base and was constructed of regular, machine-made brick bonded with a cement mortar. It appeared to sit with a construction cut on the north side [RA306] which was backfilled with a loose dark greyish brown silty sand (RA304) that extended to the south end of the test pit, surrounding the concrete base. The deposit appeared to be a demolition backfill or levelling layer, with frequent inclusions of brick rubble and mortar. Part of an imported stone ware bottle, originally holding “encre japonaise” or Japanese ink, was retrieved from the deposit, which has been dated to the late 19th century (See Finds Summary: Section 7). The deposit (304) was excavated to a depth of 1.2m without the lower horizon being observed.

The construction cut [RA306], cut into deposit (RA309) at the northern end of the test pit, which comprised a reddish-brown sandy silt (0.90m) which overlay an extremely compacted mid greyish black sandy silt with very frequent clinker material (RA307), (0.4m thick). The compacted deposit had inclusions of brick rubble , wood, 19th century pottery and ceramic drainage pipe.

A moderately compacted dark brownish-black sandy silt deposit (RA308) underlay layer (RA309), which also had frequent inclusions of brick rubble and mortar. A sondage was excavated by machine into this deposit to a total depth of 2m without a lower extent or natural being seen (Plate 27).



Plate 26: East facing section of Test 3, with construction cut [RA306] for wall {RA305] filled by (304)



Plate 27: West facing section of sondage into deposit (RA308) at north end of Test Pit 2

6.2.4. Test Pit 4

Test Pit 4 (2m by 1.5m) was located within the northwestern area of the western railway arch adjacent to the western wall (Fig 13).

Following the removal of the modern reinforced concrete surface (RA400) a friable, dark greyish-black silty sand deposit was immediately encountered (RA401), which contained general demolition rubble and rubbish. The fine deposit extended to a maximum thickness of 0.43m,overlaying and filling gaps in the underlying brick surface (RA402). As previously seen within Test Pit 2, the brick surface comprised two courses of unbonded mixed bricks, laid in an ad-hoc manner. Frogged brick had been interspersed with reused unfrogged brick and the occasional stone sett (Plate 28).

Underlying the brick surface (RA402), a loose dark greyish brown sandy silt deposit (RA403) was encountered with some patches of clay and moderately frequent inclusions of broken brick and plaster. The deposit yielded a machine-made colourless glass bottle neck and finish with crown cork closure which would indicate deposition after c. 1905. The deposit (>0.70m) was excavated to a test pit depth of 1.3m without the lower extent of the deposit being observed (Plate 29).



Plate 28:: Brick surface [RA402] following the removal of concrete (RA400) and some of (RA401).



Plate 29: Post excavation shot of Test Pit 4 following removal of brick surface (RA402), looking south

6.2.5. Test Pit 5

Test Pit 5 (2m by 1.5m) was located in the rear north-west corner of the railway arch, adjacent to western wall and the modern partition for the eternal stair tower for the Metrolink station.

Following the removal of the modern reinforced concrete surface (RA500), a partial brick surface (RA502) was encountered, similar that seen in Test Pits 2, 3 and 4. The brick surface comprised a single course of roughly laid mixed, unbonded bricks. Underlying the brick surface was a further concrete layer on the eastern side of the test pit (RA501). The concrete extended c.2m from the west wall of the railway arch, ending 0.5m from the east side of the test pit in a timber battered face (0.84m deep) (Plate 30). The rough concrete comprised frequent inclusions of brick fragments, including refractory bricks and may have dating to the construction of the railway arch in the late 19th century or soon after in the early 20th century.



Plate 30: Concrete foundation (RA501) within west side of Test Pit 5

A loose, loose dark greyish brown sandy silt (RA503) underlay the brick surface (RA502) on the eastern side of the concrete foundation (RA501). The deposit (0.40m thick) had frequent inclusions brick rubble and a lens of plaster at the base and was similar to levelling deposit (RA404) in Test Pit 4.

The southern extent of deposit [RA503] had been cut by an unknown feature [RA504](RA503) (>0.15m wide by 0.56m high) which had a near vertical side and extended beyond the test pit to the south.

Levelling deposit (RA503) directly overlay the mid reddish-brown sandy clay natural which was encountered within Test Pit 5 at a depth of 1m (33.45m aOD). This represented the only instance in which the natural ground level was reached in any of the test pits within the western railway arch



Plate 31: South facing section of Test Pit 5 to the east of concrete foundation (RA 501) showing natural (RA506) underlying (RA503)

7. Finds Summary (Jeremy Bradley)

7.1. Introduction

A small artefactual assemblage was recovered from the excavations at 325 Deansgate, Manchester, comprising 81 artefacts, weighing 4007.4g. The assemblage comprises finds from various material categories and is dominated by 19th century ceramics and glass, small amounts of clay tobacco pipe, as well as two Roman pottery fragments and a third, a fragment of ceramic building material, also likely to date to the Roman period. A description of each class of artefact group is provided in the following sections.

The aim of the finds report is to describe and quantify the material evidence recovered, along with some chronological interpretation, relating it as far as possible to other known finds from the same site or area, in line with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidelines (2022).

7.2. Methodology

The examination of the artefactual assemblage was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out by Historic England in MoRPHE (2015) and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Universal guidance for archaeological excavation, with particular reference to part 3 concerning project execution (2023), Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014, updated 2020) and Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2014, updated 2020). The pottery was examined with reference to A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology (Barclay et al 2016). Clay tobacco pipe was recorded in accordance with the Historic England Guidelines for the Recovery and Processing of Clay (Higgins 2017).

All categories of finds were examined in full, with observations supplemented by the finds records generated during the course of the fieldwork. The finds were categorised according to type and class and have been entered onto a database in order to prepare a preliminary catalogue. The finds were then given a unique accession number (Finds Number/FN) and digitally photographed. Full details of all recovered material reside within the project archive held at Salford Archaeology.

7.3. Overview

Material	Object count	Weight (g)	Number of contexts/ areas	% of total assemblage by object count	% of total assemblage by weight (g)	Period
Pottery	53	2632.6	7	65.4%	65.7%	Roman and Industrial
Clay tobacco pipe	6	123	2	7.4%	3.1%	Industrial
Objects of iron	1	504.6	1	1.2%	12.6%	Not closely datable
glass	14	282.2	4	17.3%	7.0%	Industrial -modern
Organics (shell and animal bone)	5	198.3	3	6.2%	4.9%	Not closely datable
Ceramic building Material	1	184.5	1	1.2%	4.6%	Roman
Composite (Bakerlite and copper alloy)	1	82.2	1	1.2%	2.1%	Modern
Totals	81	4007.4		100.0%	100.0%	

Table 1: Finds quantification table

The finds recovered from the excavation comprised various categories of material including; a small amount of Roman period pottery and ceramic building material, but predominantly Industrial period ceramics and glass. A single object of iron and small quantities of animal bone and marine shell were also recorded. For quantification and full contents of the assemblage, see Table 1: Finds quantification table.

Trench 1

The Roman period material recovered during the excavation derives from Trench 1, where layer 005, which produced a single fragment of samian ware (FN01), was seen to overlie subsoil deposit 004. From the upper fill (013) of a shallow north to south aligned ditch [008/011] was a single small sherd of oxidised ware (FN02). Any further Roman activity or indeed later activity before the late 18th century was not identified in this trench.

Western Railway Arch: Test pit 1

The earliest finds bearing deposit within TP1 was mid to late 19th levelling layer RA105 which produced 47 artefacts, the majority of which comprised pottery along with fragments of window and bottle glass. The earliest closely datable finds were two fragments of slip-coated buff ware recorded in Staffordshire from c 1720-1770 (Barker 2008). The remainder of the pottery from pearlware to a Keiller's marmalade jar spans the late 18th to later 19th century. Ware types include a brown stoneware ink bottle, transfer printed earthenwares, glazed red earthenware in dark and orange-brown glaze and white earthenwares. The bottle glass was not closely dateable other than to the 18th/19th century, whilst the plate glass with patterned surface was likely to be from the later 19th or 20th century.

Western Railway Arch: Test pit 2

Wall construction backfill RA206 contained part of a 19th century brown stoneware rounded jar/bowl, with lustrous iron oxide wash (FN13) and dark glazed coarse ware broadly dating from the 17th-19th century. Lying above this deposit was levelling layer RA203 which contained 19th century transfer printed earthenware (FN21) and three late 18th-19th clay tobacco pipe stems (FN24). A fragment of plate glass was also likely to be 19th century. Levelling layer RA201 dates to the 20th century as indicated by a 'Bakerlite' electrical plug with three cylindrical pins, as well as a residual a shell edge ware plate with a Rococo-inspired asymmetrical, undulating scalloped rim with impressed curved line (c 1775-1810), and a later variant with blue unscalloped rim with a simple impressed repetitive pattern (1840s-c 1860s).

Western Railway Arch: Test pit 3

Construction backfill RA304 dated to mid to late 19th century and contained an imported stone ware bottle originally holding "encre japonaise" or Japanese ink, from the French manufacturer "N. ANTOINE & FILS". Such ink bottles are found as far away as Christchurch in New Zealand and date to c 1870-1880 (Christchurch Archaeology Project 2024).

Western Railway Arch: Test pit 4

The earliest context encountered in TP4 was RA403, which yielded a machine-made colourless glass bottle neck and finish with crown cork closure (FN29), which would indicate deposition after c 1905 (Licence 2015, 13-14). This was accompanied by fragments of colourless plate glass, 2.5mm thick, some with gold and black linear decoration (FN28) as

well as an iron ring or collar (121mm in diameter). An early 20th century date for emplacement would be applicable.

The pottery

Fifty-three sherds of pottery, weighing 2632.6g were recovered from seven stratified contexts. Roman pottery was the earliest material covered. Roman layer 005 in Trench 1 yielded a small fragment of Samian ware, whilst the upper fill (013) of Roman ditch [008/011] yielded a single fragment of oxidised ware. Oxidised wares, considered here to be Wilderspool/Cheshire plains types, were common finds from the nearby sites at Beetham Tower, Deansgate and Barton Street (Leary 2007, 74-75; Scott Martin 2005, 59-61), which are both within 150m of the 325 Deansgate.

The remaining pottery from the site is entirely derived from a series of 19th century and later levelling, demolition or made-ground deposits RA:105, 201, 206, 304 and 403. The contents of which are described above. The earliest post-Roman pottery (from RA105) dates to the mid/late 18th and is likely to be residual in this context consisting of shell edge ware plate (FN09) with a Rococo-inspired asymmetrical, undulating scalloped rim with impressed curved line (c 1775-1810), and slip-coated buff ware (FN03). The bulk of the pottery is probably later 19th century datable by imported French ink bottle (FN15: c 1870-1880) and Keiller's marmalade jar (FN11) also from the later 19th century.

Clay tobacco pipes

Six clay tobacco pipe stems (FN: 22-24) from layers RA105 ad 203 can all be broadly dated by their stem bore diameters of 4/64th and 5/64th of an inch as dating to the late 18th-19th century .

Ceramic building material (CBM)

A single fragment of Roman period CBM (FN33) was recovered from the fill (015) of Roman ditch [006]. It retains a single measurable surface (68mm thick) and may be part of a brick or *pedalis*. The fabric is orange and sandy and preserves indentations suggesting moulding marks.

Glass

Some fourteen glass fragments weighting 282.2g were recovered from four stratified contexts. Window glass was the most numerous type, with eleven fragments from four stratified contexts being recovered. Five fragments from made ground deposit 403 were decorated with strips of black and gold (FN28), whilst FN27 from mid to late19th levelling

layer 105 exhibits a patterned surface. FN: 28, 30 and 31 are all examples of plate glass, that is glass ground and polished to produce plane and scratch-free surfaces (Dungworth 2019, 110).

Bottle glass comprises the remainder of the fragments. The earliest (FN26) maybe (17th or 18th century) which displays corroded surfaces possibly attributable to a low proportion of silica as well as the burial environment (Dungworth 2019, 65). Not enough survives of the pale blue/green bottle with a shallow push up base (FN25), from mid to late 19th levelling layer 105, to able to date the bottle with any certainty. But. a likely early to mid-19th century date may be applicable. Made ground deposit RA403 yielded a machine-made colourless glass bottle neck and finish with crown cork closure (FN29), which would indicate deposition after c 1905 (Licence 2015, 13-14). This is the date of the earliest introduction of the American Owens automatic bottle machine in the UK, first unveiled in Manchester (*ibid*).

Ironwork

A single Iron collar/ring, weighing 504.6g (FN32), was recovered from made ground deposit 403. It has an external diameter of 121mm, internal diameter of 101mm by 10mm thick and 24.5mm wide. Its function and date are not apparent.

Animal bones and Molluscs

Three animal bone fragments and two oystershells were recovered during the excavations. All are likely to food waste.

Bakelite

Made ground deposit RA206 yielded a ‘Bakerlite’ electrical plug with three partially split round pins with two short pieces of copper wire extending from it. A moulded inscription on top of the plug reads: "INSERT PLUG/BEFORE/ USING/SWITCH". ‘Bakelite’ was a trade name for phenol-formaldehyde resin invented in 1907 by Belgian-born chemist Leo Hendrik (American Chemical Society 1993; Digital Museum of Plugs and Sockets 2024) but is now widely used to describe this early type of polymer or plastic. The three (split) pin type of plug was introduced in 1934 (Digital Museum of Plugs and Sockets 2024), suggesting the earliest date for its emplacement.

Potential of assemblage and recommendations

Trench 1 produced the only Roman period finds, albeit only three fragments with the samian ware sherd weighing only 0.7g. However, truncation of the archaeological deposits is likely to have potentially removed further evidence of Roman activity especially when compared to nearby sites such as Beetham Tower and 340 Deansgate, both producing sizable Roman period finds assemblages (Pre-Construct Archaeology 2005; Gregory 2006).

Post-Roman activity, based on the finds and features excavated in the western railway arch (Test pits 1-4), does not commence until the later 18th century in the form of shell edge and slip-coated buff wares. The bulk of the pottery recovered appears to be from the later 19th century, with glass and a 'Bakerlite' electrical plug indicating continued deposition into the middle of the 20th century. As these finds were all found in made ground, levelling or demolition layers the material has little further research potential. It is recommended that the Roman material should be retained. While it is accepted that the industrial period finds have little further analytical value based on the present findings.

8. Discussion

Due to prior ground reduction across much of the site the Archaeological Evaluation at 325 Deansgate was limited to preserved sections within the north end of the site and within the western arch of the Castlefield Viaduct which crossed the south end of the site, rather than the 7 trenches which were planned within the WSI (Salford Archaeology, 2023)

Historical research of the site and previous archaeological excavations in the vicinity indicated that the site held good potential for the preservation of Roman deposits. Charles Roeder recorded in his 1900 book on Roman Manchester that a 'Roman Well' had been discovered in the 18th century on the site of The Crown Inn (now the site of The Deansgate). Furthermore, an urn containing around 200 Roman coins was reportedly found in 1840 in the north-east corner of the site, at the junction of Trafford Street and Crown Street (now Century Street), near to the location of Trenches 1 and 2.

Multiple phases of Roman activity in the form of ditches, pits and indications of timber-framed houses had been recorded during archaeological work on the plot on the north side of Trafford Street in 2004 ahead of the construction of the Beetham Tower (Plate 32) and also of a possible high-status Roman dwelling on the opposing side of Deansgate during excavations at 340 Deansgate in 2007.

The sections below the modern extension of the Deansgate Pub and below the Trafford Street within Trench 1 indicated that similar, probable Roman features and deposits survived below 19th century cellars and foundations, likely associated with the buildings to the rear of former Crown Public House which had been rebuilt in 1904.

A wide ditch [011]/[008] was recorded in the south-east facing section of Trench 1, which although heavily truncated by the 19th century cellars [017], retained a sequence of tipped deposits. These tended to be mid-greyish brown silty clay deposits which are typical of preserved Roman deposits found in eth area around Castlefield. A single fragment of Roman oxidised ware was retrieved from the uppermost fill of the ditch (013). Oxidised wares, considered here to be Wilderspool/Cheshire plains types, were common finds from the nearby site at Beetham Tower, Deansgate.

In addition, a single sherd of Roman Samian ware was retrieved from layer (005) preserved below the 19th century wall foundations in the south-west facing section of Trench 1, which also sealed a possible stake hole [002].

Although extremely limited in extent, the Roman features do add to the wider picture of the extra-mural settlement vici in Roman Mamucium, as posed by the North West Regional Framework (R14 (NWRRF, 2024)).



Plate 32: Plan of Post and Beam Built Structure and associated activity c. AD 120-160, on adjacent site of Beetham Tower (Courtesy of PCA, 2007)

The test pits undertaken within the western arch of the Castlefield Viaduct did not record any indications of Roman activity due to the considerable depth of made ground encountered below the modern reinforced concrete (over 2m at the north end). The reddish-brown sandy clay natural was only reached within Test Pit 5, at the far north-west corner of the arch at a depth of 1m (33.45m aOD) indicating that the natural ground level may have been stepped to the north, replaced by considerable depths of levelling deposits surrounding remnants of

the 18th and 19th century structures which where cleared to construct the Castlefield viaduct at the end of eth 19th century.

A brick surface encountered below the modern concrete in four of the test pits (202), (302), (402) and (502) may represent an early 20th century, ad-hoc floor surface within the railway arch.

9. Recommendations

The archaeological evaluation at 325 Deansgate, Manchester has provided a valuable, if limited, opportunity to record surviving buried remains related to the civilian settlement (vicus) of Roman *Mamucium*.

The understanding of the archaeological sequence at 325 Deansgate would be greatly enhanced by the processing and analysis of the environmental bulk and column samples retrieved from the excavation from features and layers presumed to date to the Roman period based on the retrieval of a small amount of Roman pottery found.

Cartographic sources:

Tinker Map of Manchester, 1772

William Greens Map of Manchester 1787-94

Bancks map of Manchester, 1831

Adhead's map of Manchester, 1851

Ordnance Survey mapping 1851-1965

Secondary Sources

BGS, 2024. *Geology Viewer.* [Online]
Available at: https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/
[Accessed 08 09 2024].

Bruton, F., 1901. *The Roman Fort at Manchester.* s.l.:s.n.

CIfA, 2020. *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials,* Reading: s.n.

CIfA, 2020. *Standards and Guidelines for the Creation, Compilation, Transportation and Deposition of Archaeological Archives,* Reading: s.n.

Grealey, S. & Jones, 1974. *Roman Manchester.* s.l.:s.n.

Gregory, A., 2007. *Roman Manchester.* s.l.:s.n.

NWRRF, 2024. *North West Regional Research Framework.* [Online]
[Accessed 10 09 2024].

Pre-Construct Archaeology , 2005. *An Archaeological Excavation at the Beetham Tower Site, Deansgate, Manchester ,* s.l.: s.n.

Roeder, C., 1900. *Roman Manchester.* s.l.:s.n.

Salford Archaeology, 2018. *325-327 deansgate, Manchester: Archaeological desk-based Assessment ,* s.l.: s.n.

Salford Archaeology, 2018. *325-327 Deansgate: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment,* s.l.: s.n.

Salford Archaeology, 2023. *325 Deansgate, Manchester: Archaeological Evaluation WSI,* s.l.: s.n.

UKIC, 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage,* London: s.n.

Finds Summary Bibliography

American Chemical Society, 1993 *A National Historic Chemical Landmark: The Bakelizer. National Museum of American History Smithsonian Institution*, Washington DC

Barclay, A., Knight, D., Booth, P., Evans, J., Brown, D. H., and Wood, I., 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology,* Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery and Medieval Pottery Research Group

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014 *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Reading

Dungworth, D., 2019 *Glassworking in England from the 14th to the 20th Century*, Liverpool

Higgins, D., 2017 *Guidelines for the Recovery and Processing of Clay Tobacco Pipes from Archaeological Projects*, Version 1.2, Historic England

Leary, R. L., 2007, Romano-British coarse pottery, in Gregory, R. A., *Roman Manchester: the University of Manchester's excavations within the vicus 2001-5*, Oxford, 73-115

Licence, T., 2015 *What the Victorians Threw Away*, Oxford

Scott Martin, T., 2005, Pottery, in Proctor, J., *An Archaeological Excavation at the Beetham Tower site, Deansgate, Manchester: Post-Excavation Assessment*, Pre-Construct Archaeology, 56-64

Websites

CIfA, 2022 Toolkit for Specialist Reporting
https://www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit
Accessed on 29/07/2022

Christchurch Archaeology Project 2024, Ink-credible inks
https://www.christchurcharchaeology.org/blog?year=2023
Accessed: 28/10/2024

Digital Museum of Plugs and Sockets, 2024 British plugs and sockets short history
https://www.plugsocketmuseum.nl/British-plugSocket_history.html
Accessed: 29/10/2024

Acknowledgements

Civic Heritage would like to thank Jedi Deansgate Ltd. and Assured CMS and specifically Richie Newsham and Bill Britnell for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, and to Ian Miller, Ben Dyer and Lesley Dunkley of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Service (GMAAS) for their advice and assistance.

The evaluation was undertaken by Salford Archaeology and was led Julian Thorley (north trenches) and Steve Tamburello (test pits within western arch) , with on-site assistance from Lucia Percy, Jenny Addis, Harrison Peters. The report was compiled by Steve Tamburello (Civic Heritage) and Lucia Percy with find analysis by Jeremy Bradley and illustrations Sarah Mottershead and Richard Ker. The report was edited by Ollie Cook, who was also responsible for project management.

Appendix 1: Context list

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (m AOD)
001	1 & 2	Deposit	Natural, loose red sand encountered throughout entire site	33.01
002	1	Cut	Cut for stokehole, possibly Roman in date and is the earliest feature at the site. Observed in south facing section	
003	1	Deposit	Fill of stokehole [002]. Friable mid brownish grey silty sand with stone inclusions. Observed in south facing section	
004	1	Deposit	Subsoil layer overlying [003] and natural [001] observed in south facing section.	
005	1	Deposit	Roman deposit overlying [004], observed in south facing section, truncated by [026].	
006	1	Cut	Roman ditch cut observed in east facing section cuts [001], located to the immediate north of Roman ditch [008/011].	33.45
007/014	1	Deposit	Primary fill of cut [006] observed in east facing section.	33.45
008/011	1	Cut	Roman ditch with gradually sloping sides and rounded base, cut into natural [001] and [015] on its north side, possibly an extension of ditch cut [006]. Cut by [016]. Observed in east facing section.	33.17
009	1	Deposit	Primary fill of cut [008/011] located at its base, Roman in date, cut by [016]. Observed in east facing section.	31.96
010	1	Deposit	Secondary fill of [008/011] overlying [009], cut by [016]. Observed in east facing section.	32.25

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (m AOD)
012	1	Deposit	Fill of Roman ditch [008/011], primary fill observed to the north of wall [017], cut by [016]. Observed in east facing section.	33.60
013	1	Deposit	Upper fill of Roman ditch [008/011] overlying [028]. Cut by [016] and [032]. Observed in east facing section.	33.65
015	1	Deposit	Secondary fill of Roman ditch [006], overlying [007/014], cut by modern pipe and [008/011]. Observed in east facing section.	33.45
016	1	Cut	Cut for late 18th century cellar wall [017], with vertical sides and flat base, cuts [008/011], [012], [028] and [013]. Truncated by modern ditch [032].	
017	1	Masonry	Late 18th century handmade brick cellar wall, cuts [011/008] and sits within cut [016] and abuts floor surface [018] to the south. Observed in east facing section.	
018	1	Masonry	Floor surface for late 18th/ early 19th cellar, made of brick and stone slabs. Abuts wall [017] to the north and sits on top of mortar layers [033] and [034].	
019	1	Deposit	Fill of wall cut [016], acts as packing for wall [017] to the immediate north. Observed in east facing section.	
020	1	Deposit	Fill of late 18th century cellar between cellar walls [017] and [021]. It is a demolition deposit overlying [018] cut by [031] and concrete foundation [036].	
021	1	Masonry	Southernmost wall of the late 18th century cellar, sits within wall cut [022]. Observed in east facing section.	

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (m AOD)
022	1	Cut	Cut for wall [021], cut into natural [001], truncated by modern cut [032]. Observed in east facing section.	
023	1	Deposit	Fill of cut [022], lies directly to the south of wall [021] acting as a packing material. Observed in east facing section.	
024	1	Cut	Cut for wall [025] at the north side of the east facing section.	
025	1	Masonry	Handmade brick wall from the 18th century cellar, within cut [022]. Observed in east facing section, cut by modern metal pipe.	
026	1	Cut	Cut for wall [027], runs across the length of the south facing section cutting [005].	
027	1	Masonry	Handmade brick wall located above cut [026] in the south facing section, runs east to west, likely late 18th/ early 19th century in date.	
028	1	Deposit	Fill of Roman ditch [008/011], overlying [012] and sealed by [013]. Observed in east facing section.	
029	1	Deposit	Fill of Roman ditch [008/011] located to the north of the ditch, sealed by [012]. Located in east facing section.	33.30
030	1	Deposit	Fill of wall cut [024], lies immediately to the south of wall [025]. Observed in east facing section.	
031	1	Deposit (group number)	Group number for all modern fills within modern cuts [032], observed in the east facing section underlying concrete layer [036]	

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (m AOD)
032	1	Cut (group number)	Group number for all modern cuts postdating the decommissioning of the cellar, likely late 20th century, located in the east facing section. Cuts [022] [020] [019] [020] [013] [028].	
033	1	Deposit	Mortar layer underlying floor [018] for late 18th century cellar. Observed in the east facing section.	
034	1	Deposit	Ashy loam deposit underlying floor surface [018], to the immediate south of [033], and overlying [035]. Likely associated with levelling layer for cellar floor.	
035	1	Deposit	Levelling layer of red sand underlying [034] associated with construction of the cellar.	
036	1	Masonry	Modern concrete foundation and levelling layer overlying [020] [031] [028] [025] [037] and truncating [020]. Observed in both east and south facing sections.	
037	1	Deposit	Demolition layer overlying [027] observed in east facing section.	
201	2	Deposit	Demolition deposit, overlying [001] in trench 2, possibly the same as [037]	33.40
202	2	Deposit	Modern concrete surface, same as [036]	34.60
RA100	RA (TR1)	Deposit	Modern concrete surface	33.775
RA101	RA (TR1)	Deposit	Modern backfill/ levelling layer underlying [RA100]	33.575
RA102	RA (TR1)	Cut	Cut for wall [RA103], cuts [RA105] & [RA107]	33.375

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (m AOD)
RA103	RA (TR1)	Masonry	North to South brick wall with concrete foundation	33.425
RA104	RA (TR1)	Deposit	Fill of construction cut [RA102], made ground	33.375
RA105	RA (TR1)	Deposit	Dark silty deposit east of [RA103] underlying [RA104]	32.875
RA106	RA (TR1)	Deposit	Clinker layer underlying [RA105], lowest deposit in trench	32.245
RA107	RA (TR1)	Masonry	Curved brick wall running Northwest to Southeast.	33.02
RA200	RA (TR2)	Deposit	Modern concrete surface	33.73
RA201	RA (TR2)	Deposit	Levelling layer below [RA200], from same event as [RA202]	33.56
RA202	RA (TR2)	Masonry	Brick surface underlying [RA200], from same event as [RA201]	33.53
RA203	RA (TR2)	Deposit	Made ground/ demolition deposit underlying [RA202] and [RA201], from same event as [RA204]	33.06
RA204	RA (TR2)	Masonry	Brick surface underlying [RA201] and [RA202], from same event as [RA203]	33.05
RA205	RA (TR2)	Masonry	East to West running brick wall	32.99
RA206	RA (TR2)	Deposit	Made ground deposit underlying [RA205] and [RA204], lowest deposit encountered in trench	32.63
RA300	RA (TR3)	Deposit	Modern concrete layer	33.705
RA301	RA (TR3)	Deposit	Levelling deposit from same event as [RA302]	33.535

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (m AOD)
RA302	RA (TR3)	Masonry	Brick surface underlying [RA300], from same depositing event as [RA301]	33.530
RA303	RA (TR3)	Masonry	Concrete engine bed on east side of trench	33.41
RA 304	RA (TR3)	Deposit	Made ground underlying [RA301] and [RA302]	33.285
RA305	RA (TR3)	Masonry	East to west running wall, seen in east facing section.	33.275
RA306	RA (TR3)	Cut	Construction cut for wall [RA305] and machine bed [RA303] seen in east facing section.	33.215
RA307	RA (TR3)	Deposit	Compacted crush deposit to the north of [RA306] underlying [RA309]	33.325
RA308	RA (TR3)	Deposit	Dark sandy silt layer underlying [RA307] in the north of the trench, lowest deposit reached in sondage.	32.045
RA309	RA (TR3)	Deposit	Made ground deposit overlying [RA307] in the north of the trench, cut by [RA306]	33.215
RA400	RA (TR4)	Deposit	Modern concrete layer	33.74
RA401	RA (TR4)	Deposit	Levelling layer underlying [RA400], from the same event as [RA402]	33.47
RA402	RA (TR4)	Masonry	Stone and brick surface underlying [RA400], from the same event as [RA401]	33.39
RA403	RA (TR4)	Deposit	Made ground deposit, lowest deposit encountered in trench underlying [RA401] / {RA402]	33.70
RA500	RA (TR5)	Deposit	Modern concrete layer	33.77

Context Number	Area	Type	Description	Highest Level (m AOD)
RA501	RA (TR5)	Masonry	Concrete foundation on west side of trench	33.57
RA502	RA (TR5)	Masonry	Brick surface underlying [RA500]	33.57
RA503	RA (TR5)	Deposit	Made ground deposit underlying [RA502] seen in west and south facing sections cut by [RA504]	33.45
RA504	RA (TR5)	Cut	Cuts [RA503] and [RA506], seen in west facing section. Filed by [RA505]	33.45
RA505	RA (TR5)	Deposit	Fill of [RA504] seen in north and west facing sections	33.45
RA506	RA (TR5)	Deposit	Geological natural underlying deposits [RA503] and [RA505].	32.75

Appendix 2: Figure List

Figure 1 Site Location

Figure 2 Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on modern mapping

Figure 3 Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on Green's 1787-94 plan of Manchester and Salford

Figure 4: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on Bancks & Co 1831 plan of Manchester and Salford with their environs

Figure 5: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on 1851 Ordnance Survey town plan

Figure 6: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on 1922 Ordnance Survey town plan

Figure 7: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on 1934 Ordnance Survey national grid 1:2500 plan

Figure 8: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on 1955 Ordnance Survey national grid 1:2500 plan

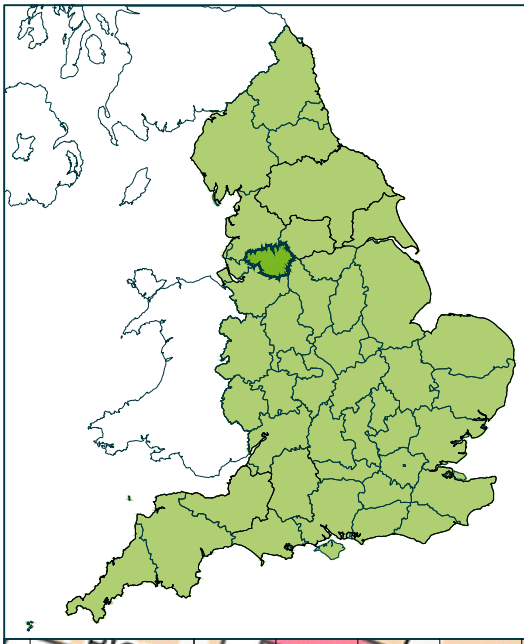
Figure 9: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on 1965 Ordnance Survey national grid 1:2500 plan

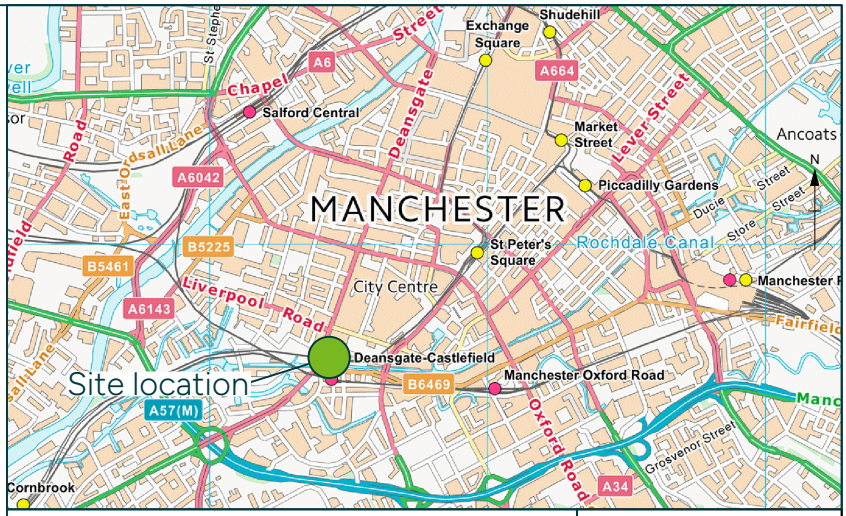
Figure 10: Excavated plan of Trench 1 and 2

Figure 11: Excavated plan of Test pits 1- 5 under the western railway arch

Figure 12: Trench 1 sections

Figure 13: Test pit sections





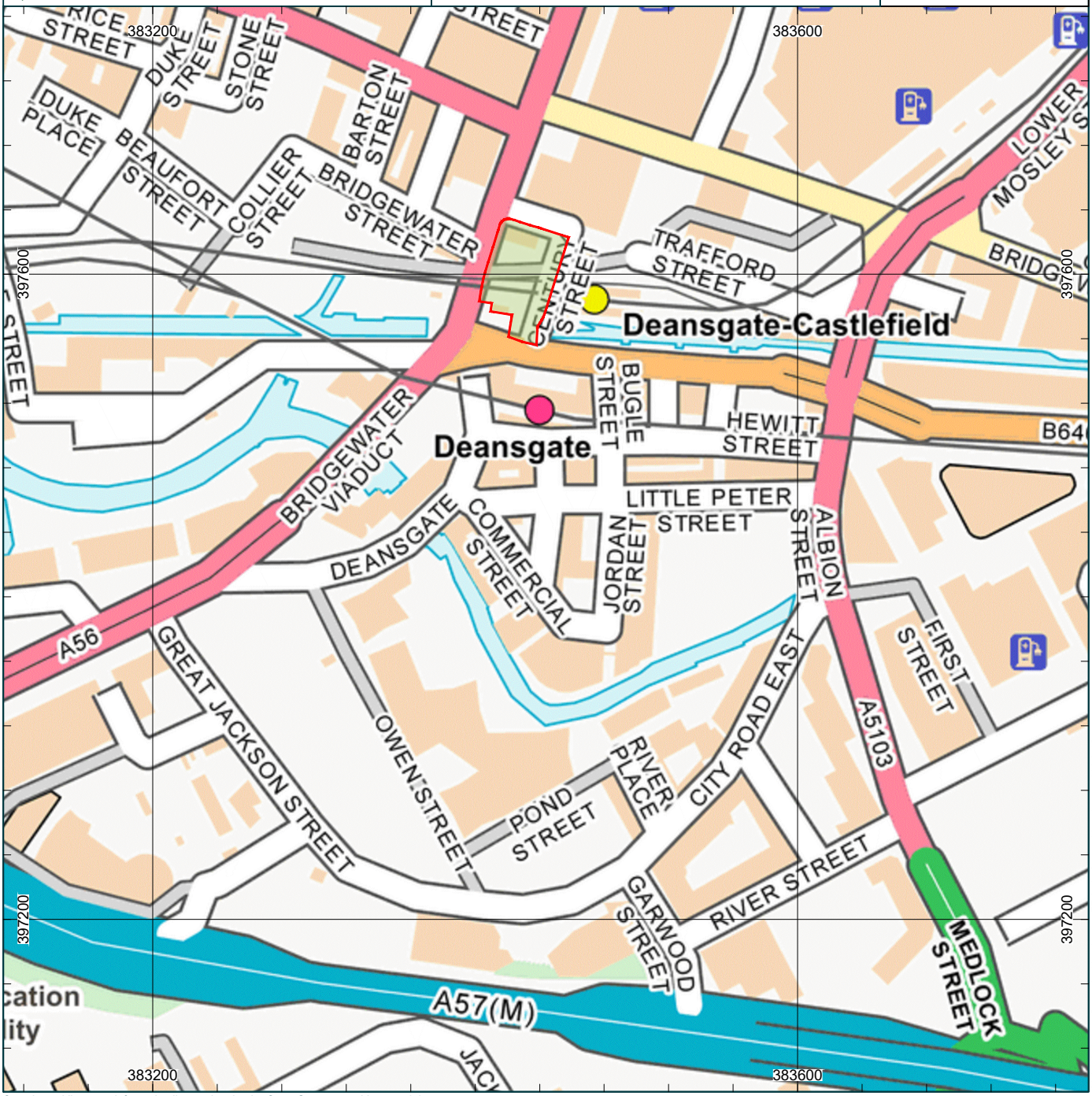
325 Deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 1: site location

Salford Archaeology
University of Salford

CIVIC HERITAGE



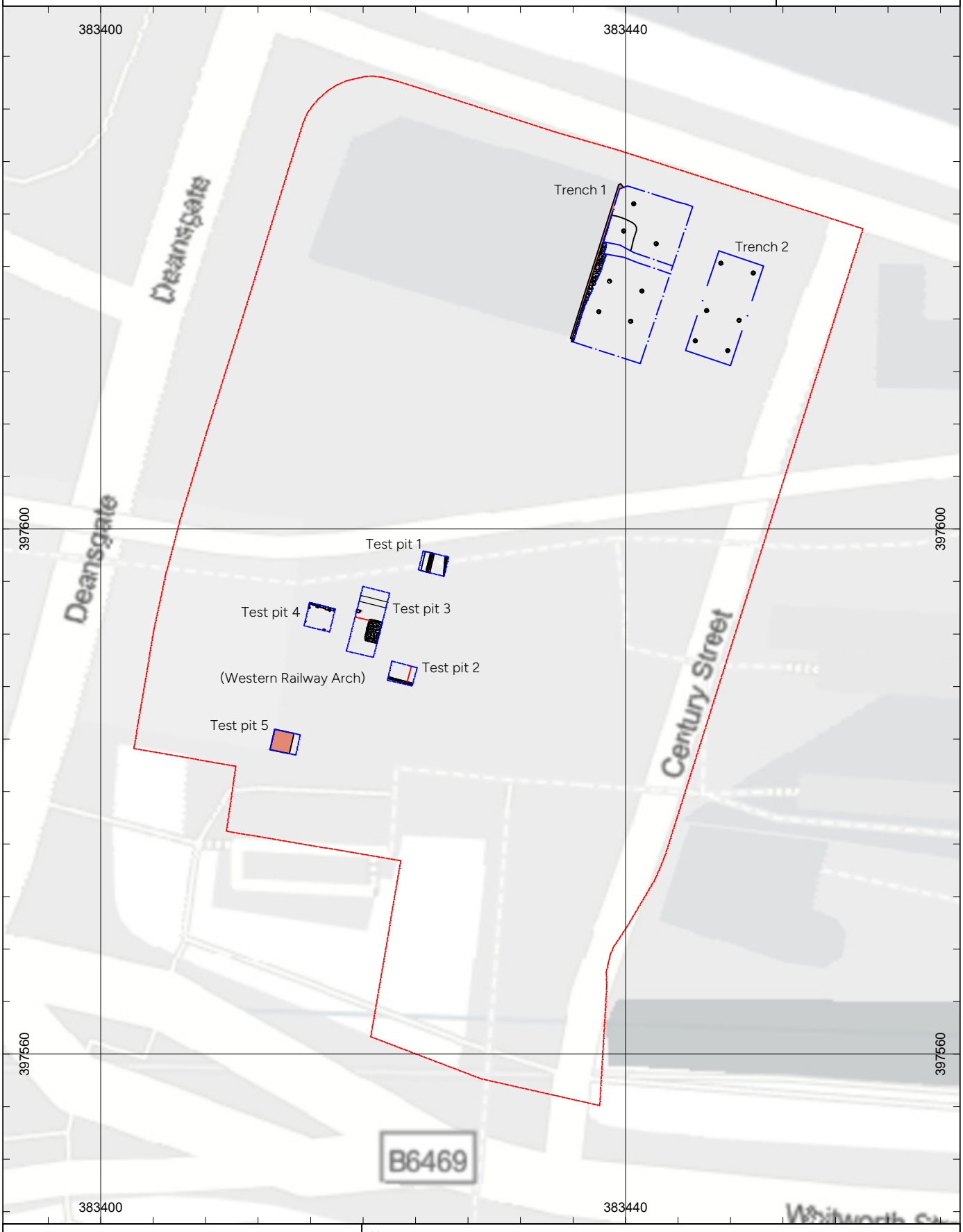
Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0

325 Deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 2: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on modern mapping



Salford Archaeology, University of Salford

CIVIC HERITAGE

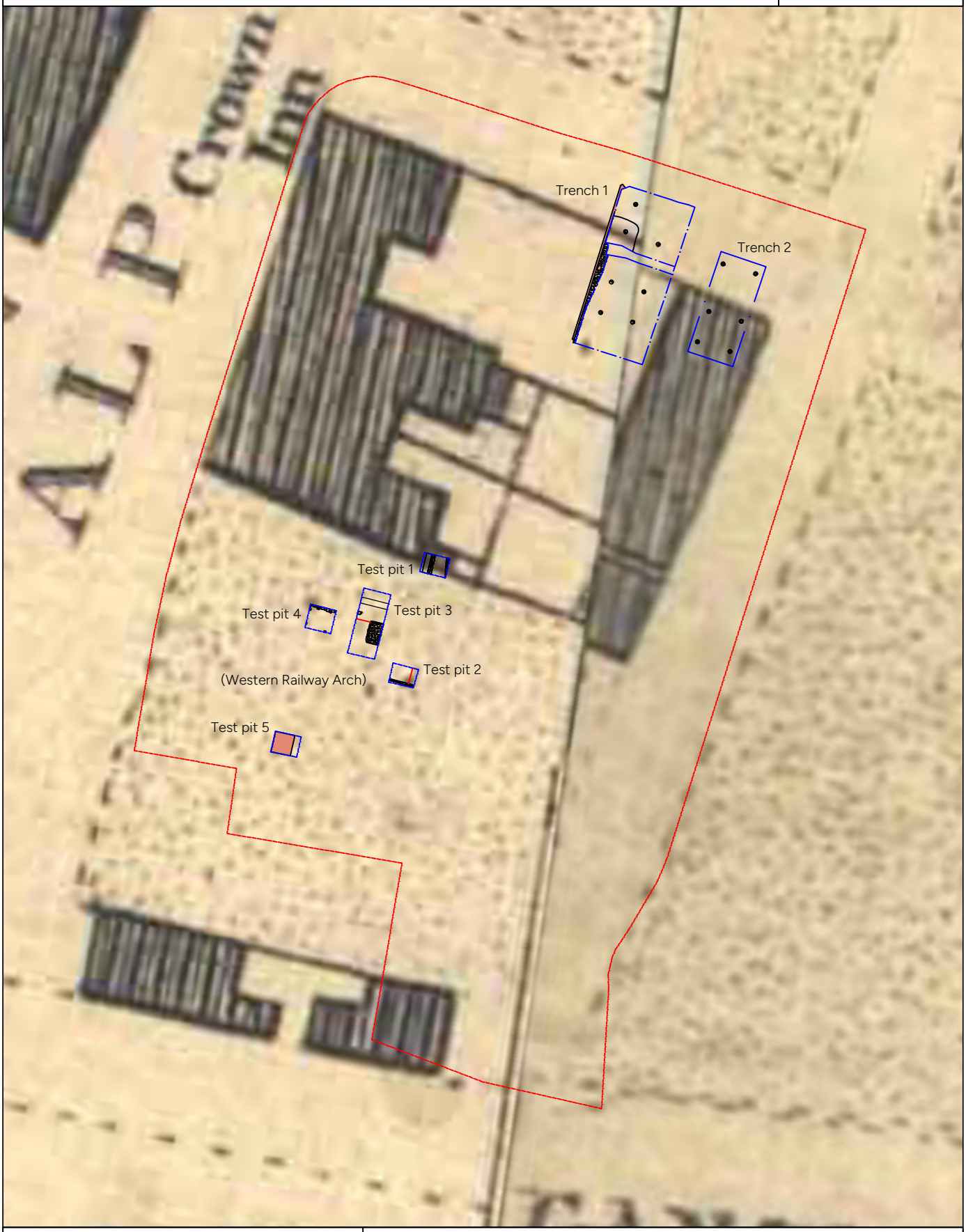
Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Esri Community Map contributors, Map layer by Esri Powered by Esri

325 Deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 3: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on Green's 1787 -1794 plan of Manchester and Salford



0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:400

Key:
- Site boundary
- Trench
- Brick
- Stone
- Concrete

Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

325 Deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 4: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on Bancks & Cos 1831 plan of Manchester & Salford



Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

325 Deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 5: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on the 1851 Ordnance Survey town plan

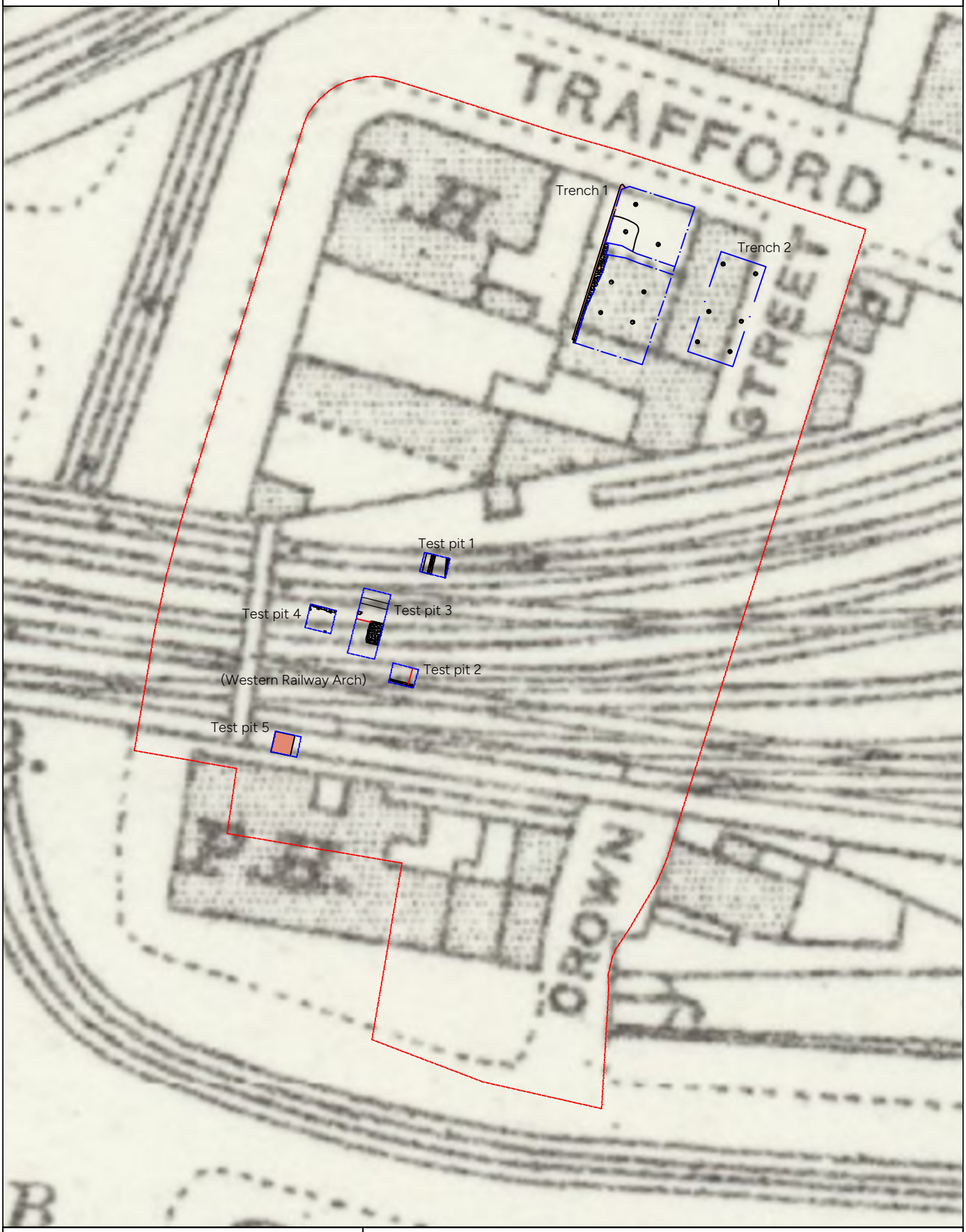


Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

325 Deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 6: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on the 1922 Ordnance Survey 25-inch to 1-mile plan



0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:400

Key:

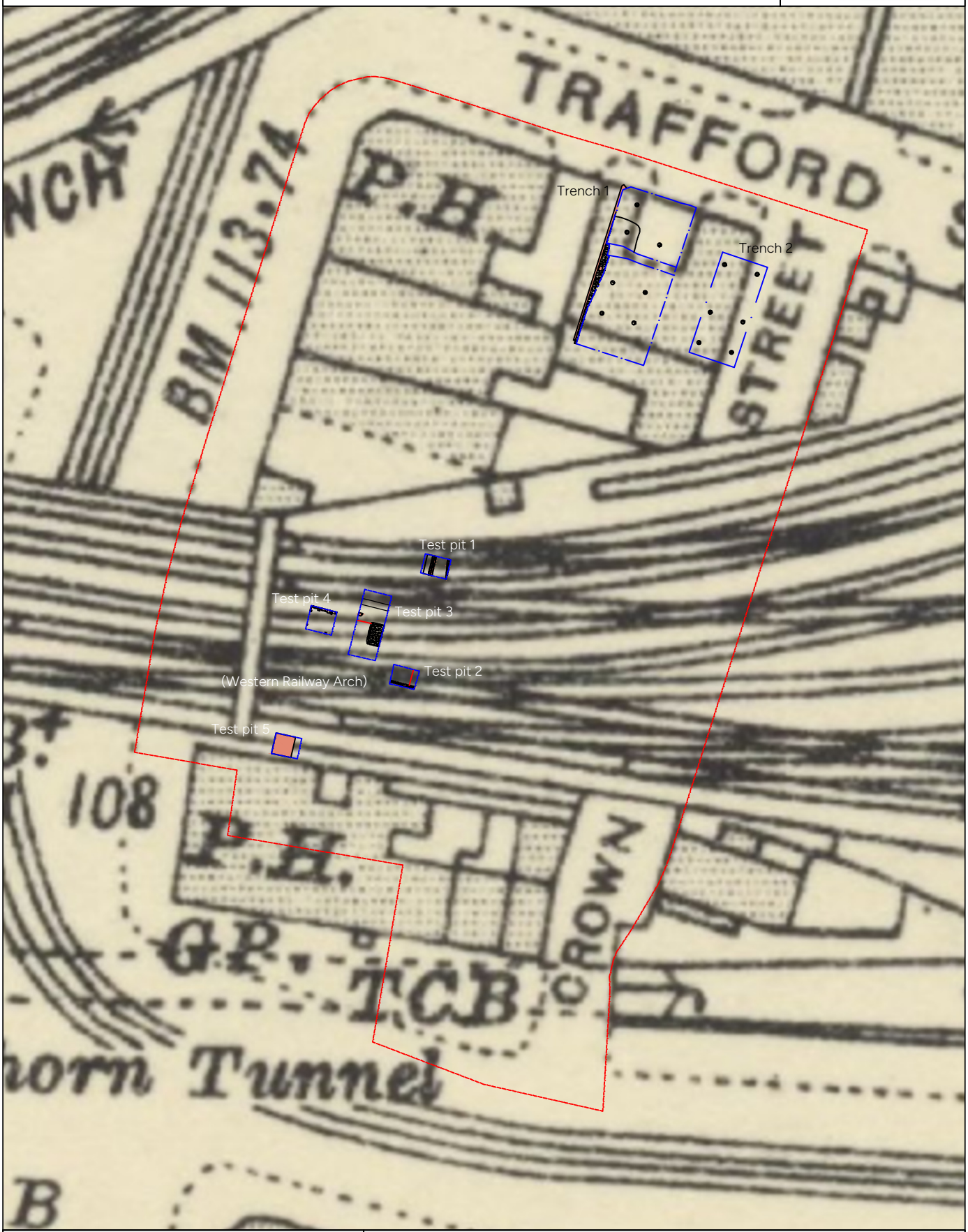
- Site boundary
- Trench
- Brick
- Stone
- Concrete

Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

325 Deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 7: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on the 1934 Ordnance Survey 25-inch to 1-mile plan



0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:400

Key:

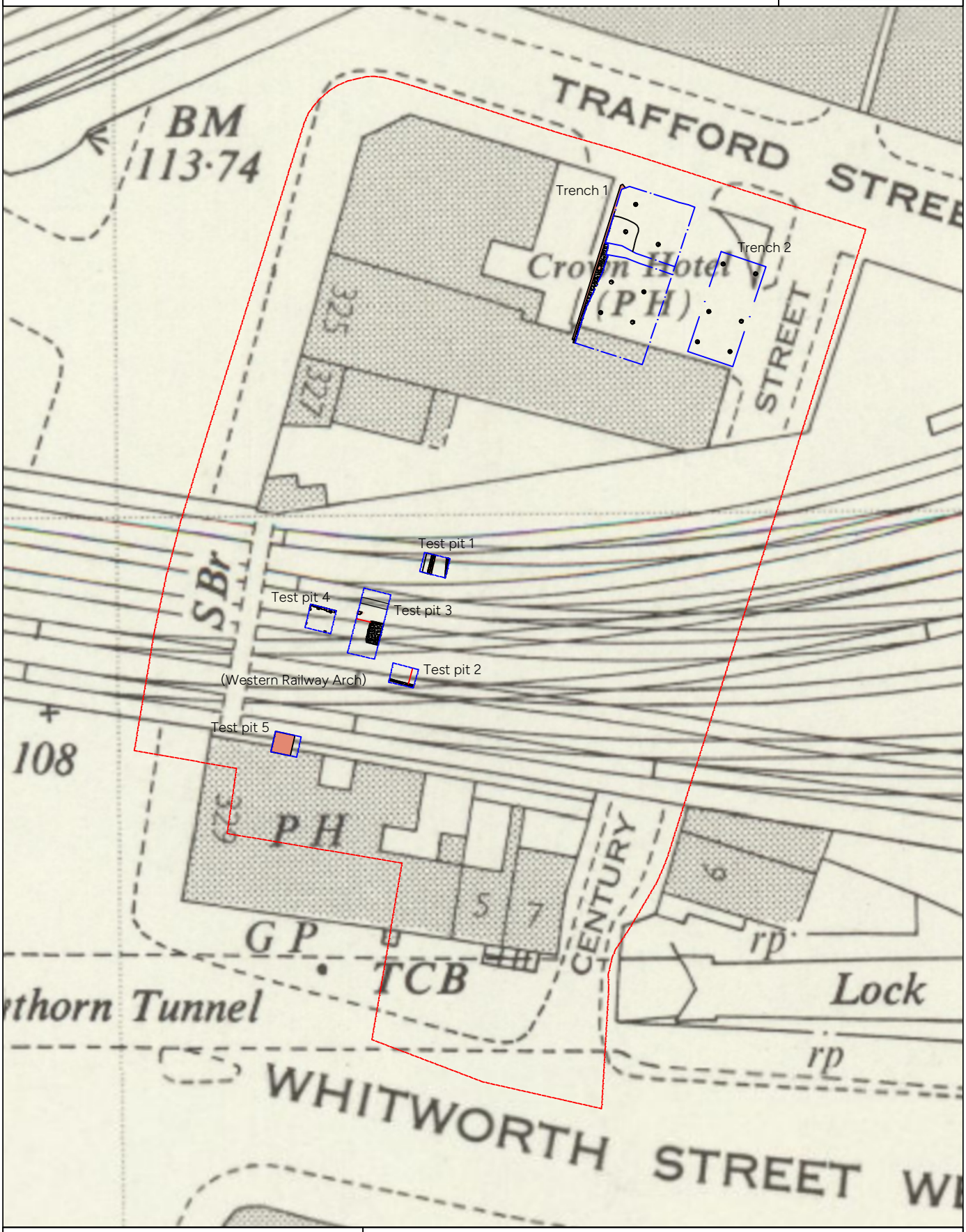
- Site boundary
- Trench
- Brick
- Stone
- Concrete

Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

325 Deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 8: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on the 1955 Ordnance Survey national grid plan



0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:400

Key:

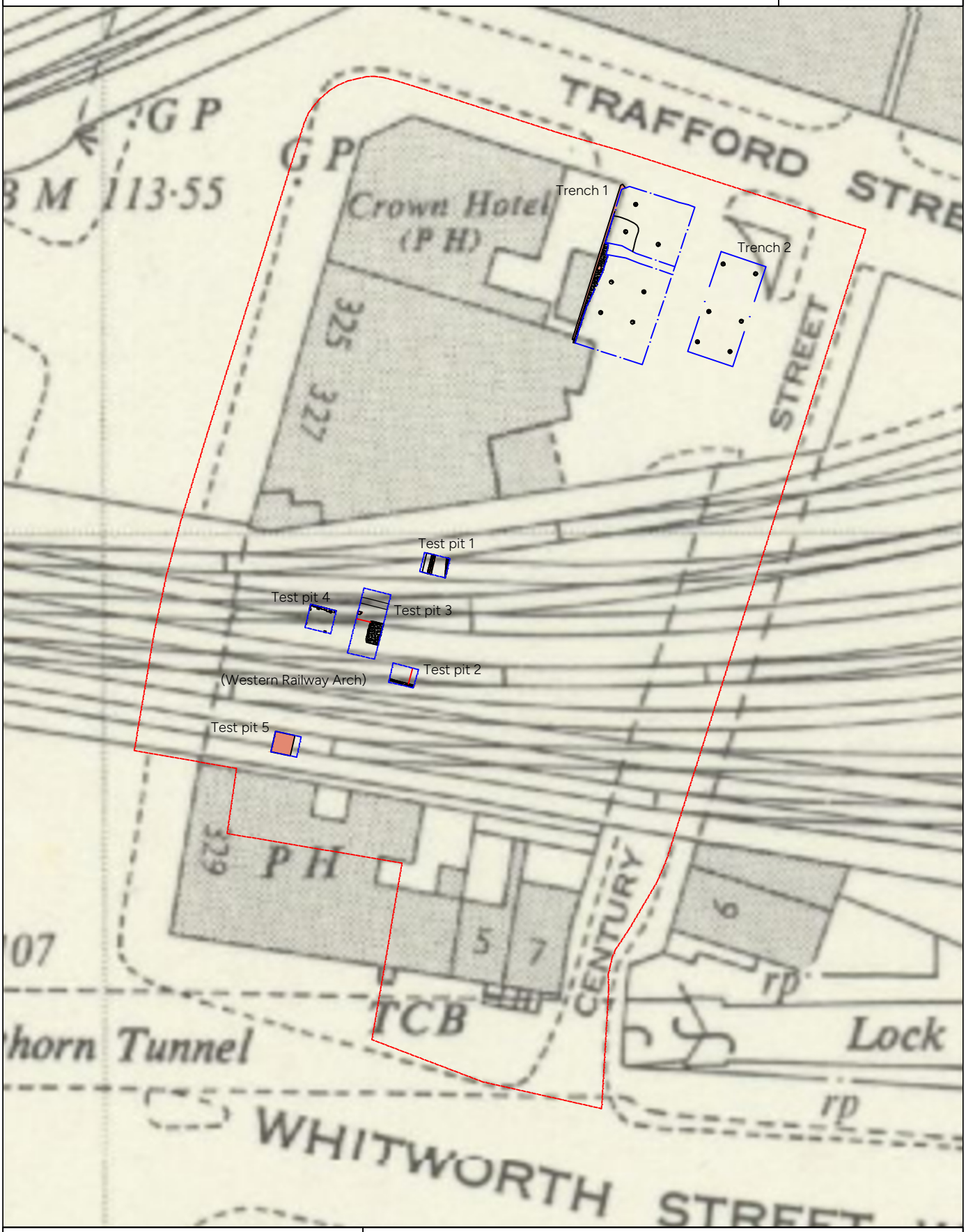
- Site boundary
- Trench
- Brick
- Stone
- Concrete

Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

325 Deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 9: Site boundary and excavation areas superimposed on the 1965 Ordnance Survey national grid plan



0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:400

Key:

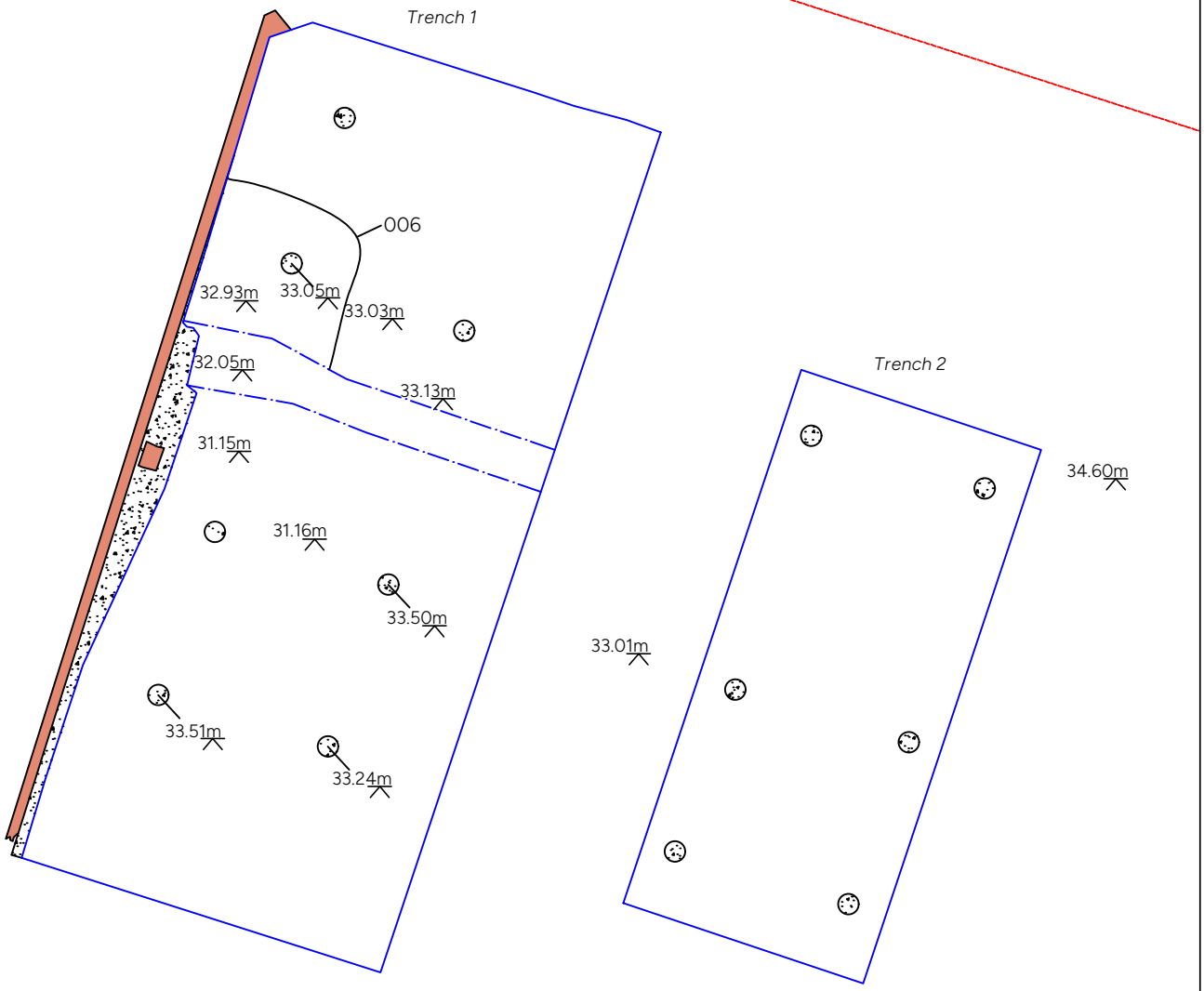
- Site boundary
- Trench
- Brick
- Stone
- Concrete

Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

325 Deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 10: Excavated plan of Trench 1 and 2



0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:400

Key:

Site boundary

Trench

Brick

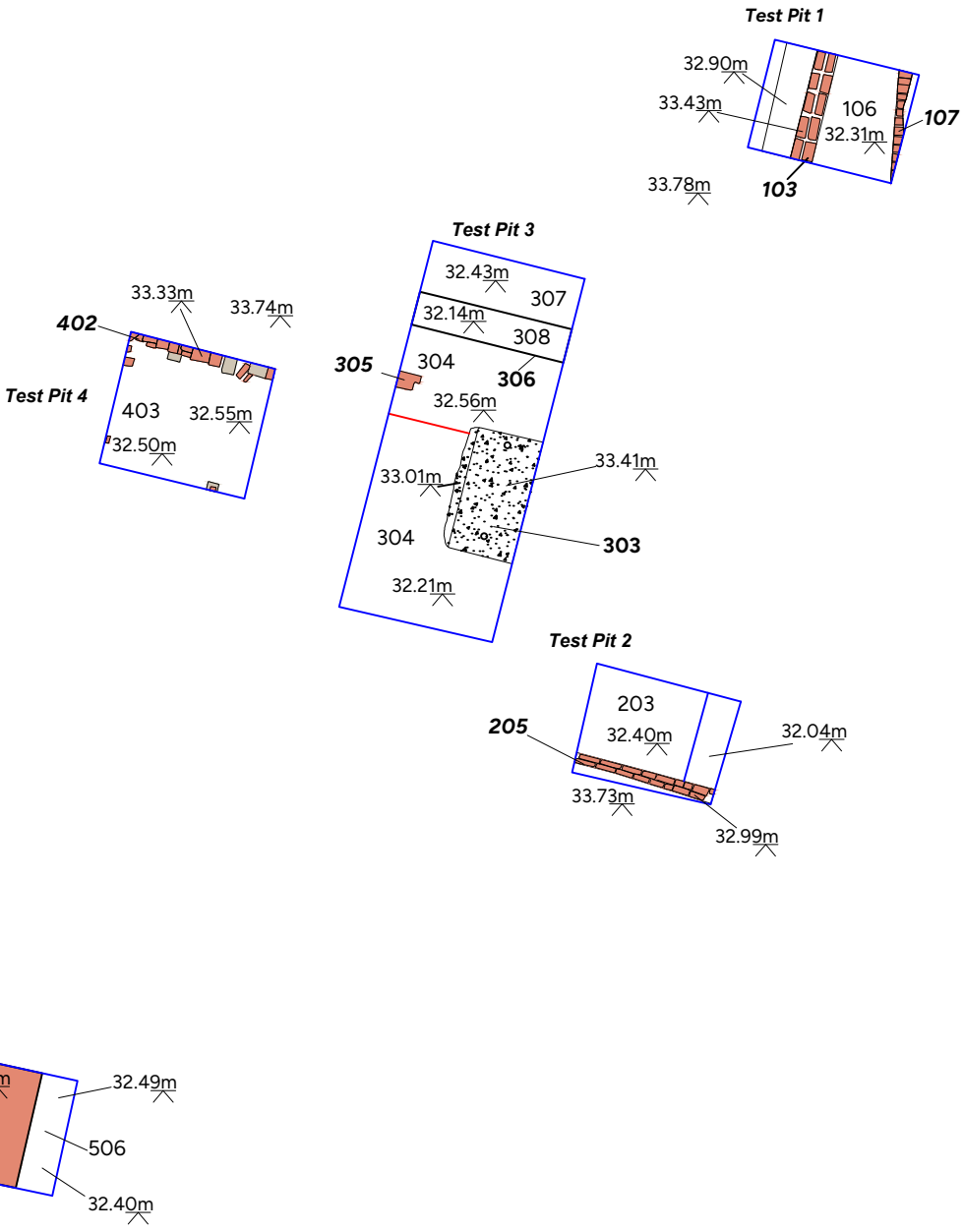
Concrete

Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

325 Deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 11: Excavated plan of Test pits 1 - 6 under the western railway arch



0 20 m

Scale at A4 1:400

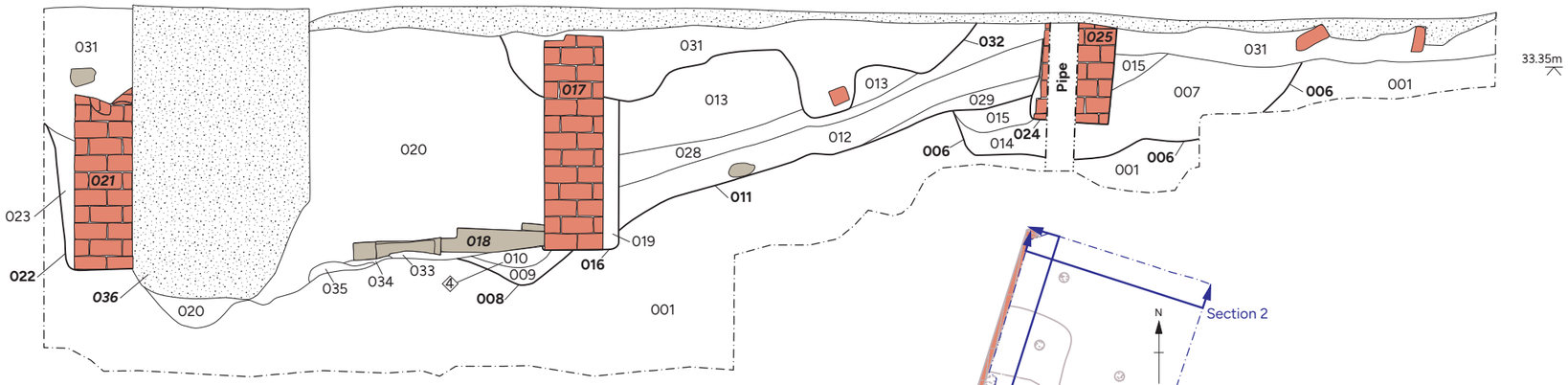
Key:

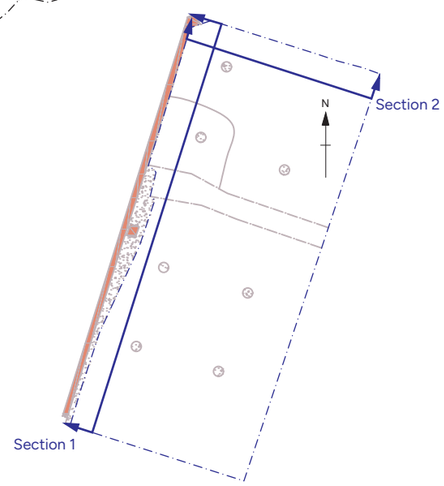
- Site boundary
- Trench
- Brick
- Concrete

Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

Section 1

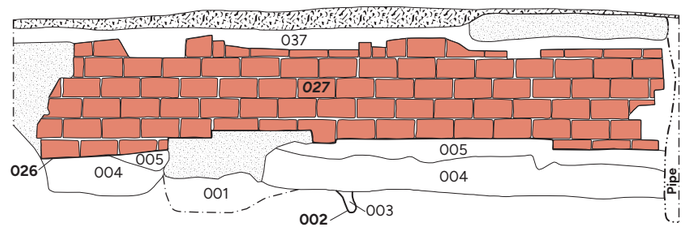
SW — southeast facing section — NE





Section 2

NW — southwest facing section — SE



CIVIC HERITAGE

325 deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 12: Trench 1 sections

Salford Archaeology, University of Salford

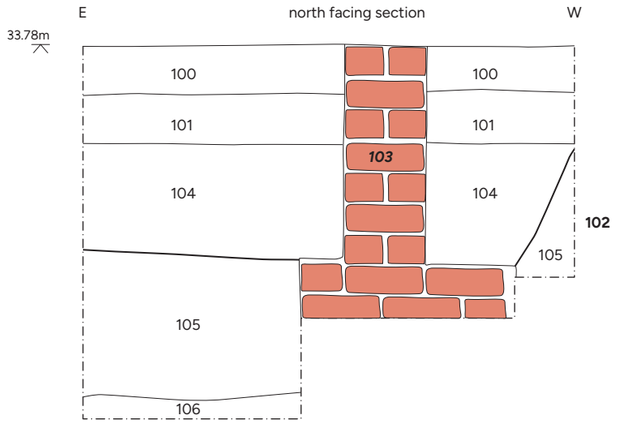
0 — 2 m

Scale at A3 1:40

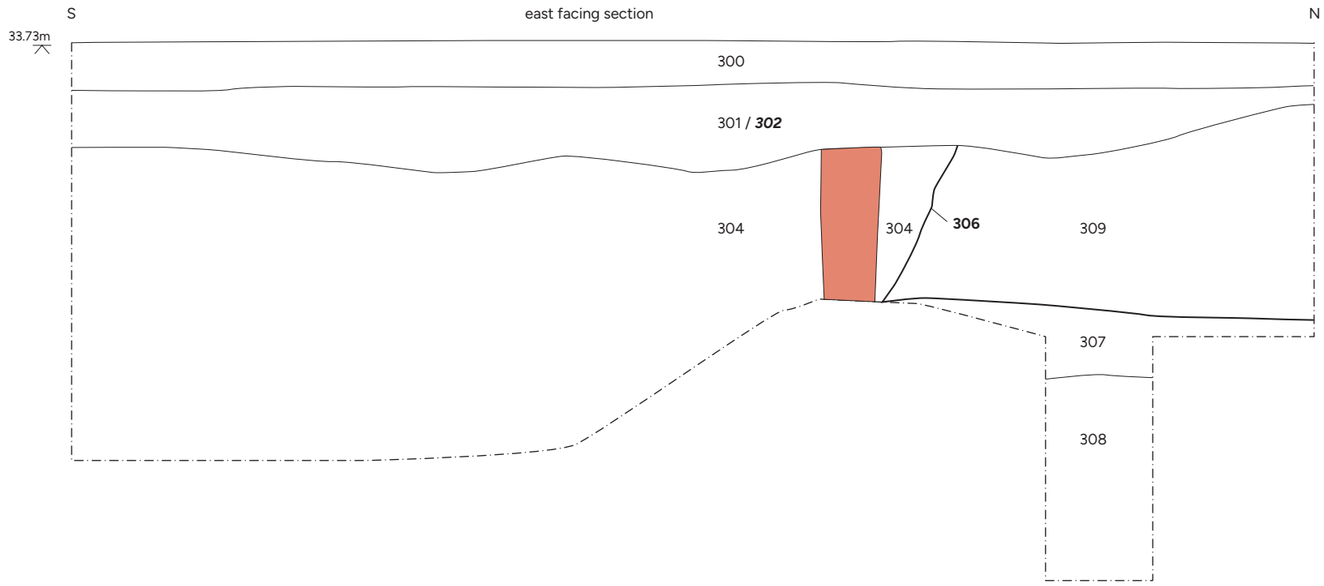
Key: Brick, Concrete, Tarmac, Stone

Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

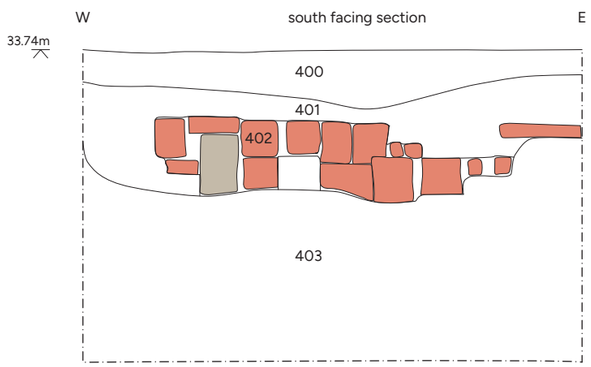
Test Pit 1



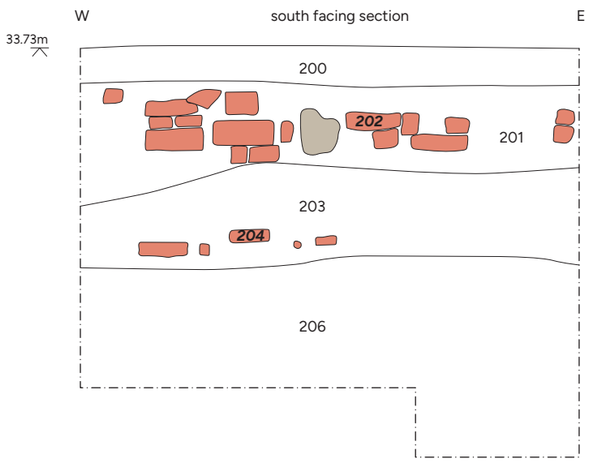
Test Pit 3

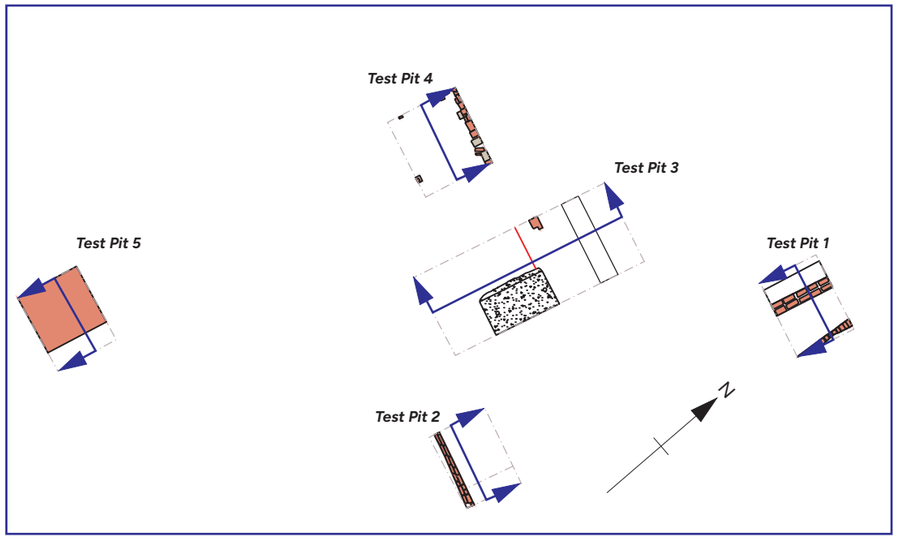


Test Pit 4

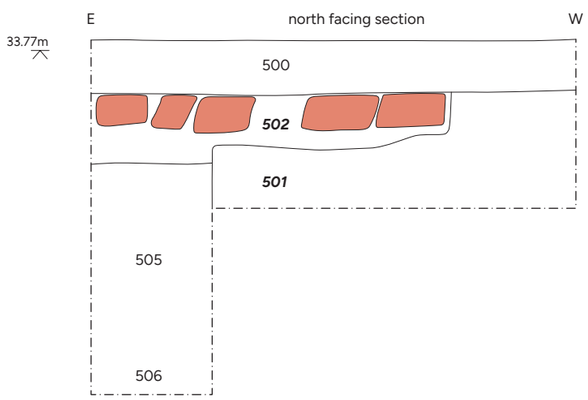


Test Pit 2





Test Pit 5



CIVIC HERITAGE

325 deansgate, Manchester

Project Code: 61119

Figure 13: Test pit sections

Salford Archaeology
University of Salford

0 1 m

Scale at A3 1:25

Key: Brick, Concrete, Tarmac, Stone

Civic Heritage, Carver's Warehouse 77 Dale Street Manchester M1 2HG

CIVIC

team-civic.com

thriving
together