FIRST STREET PLOT 11 (8), MANCHESTER M15 4FN

A SUMMARY OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: CITY OF MANCHESTER

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: 111170/FO/2016/C1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE CODE: FSS16

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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FIRST STREET PLOT 11 (8), MANCHESTER M15 4FN

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PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: 111170/FO/2016/C1

LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY: City of Manchester

CENTRAL NGR: 383794,397218

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE CODE: FSS16

COMMISSIONING CLIENT: Arcadis

On behalf of: Southside Regeneration Ltd

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Five evaluation trenches, each approximately 1.80m by 20.00m in plan, were excavated at the site of the proposed First Street South, Plot 11 (8) development, Manchester between October 3 and October 7, 2016. The investigation was centred at SJ 83816 97172 (Figure 1). Prior to the archaeological evaluation, archaeological watching briefs were carried out by Rosemary Banens and Mike Tunnicliffe of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) during two phases of geotechnical work. The following summary presents the results of these watching briefs alongside the results of the archaeological evaluation. Both the geotechnical test pits and the archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated by machine using a flat-bladed grading bucket. All test pit and trench locations as well as the locations of archaeological features and levels were recorded using a GPS system. The geotechnical test pits and archaeological trenches were located as follows (also see Figure 2):

Test Pit/Trench	Easting	Northing	Surface Elevation
TT202	383830.403	397207.531	34.57
TT203	383849.091	397183.672	34.69
TT204	383802.942	397165.128	34.13
TT205	383780.432	397197.258	34.05
TT206	383780.856	397178.519	34.17
TT207	383804.488	397153.523	34.14
TR 1	383768.015	397190.467	34.03
TR 2	383813.520	397216.582	33.95
TR 3	383796.494	397156.089	34.14
TR 4	383856.322	397216.744	34.18
TR 5	383864.023	397182.092	34.76

- 1.2 The site occupies two plots of vacant land on either side of Newcastle Street. Historically the site was occupied by workers' housing throughout the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. During the mid-20th century the site was cleared of buildings and eventually became used as a car park. The archaeological evaluation trenches were designed to target the workers' housing and largely to avoid the 20th century truncations identified by the geotechnical investigations.
- 1.3 PCA were commissioned for the work by Arcadis on behalf of Southside Regeneration Ltd.

 The project was managed for PCA by Chris Mayo and supervised by the author, and was monitored on behalf of the City of Manchester by Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director (Archaeology) at the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS).

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2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 Natural sand and gravel was seen as islands between the investigated truncations. It was recorded as loose mid-yellowish brown sand to sandy gravel. This varied little across the site and was seen in all excavated test pits and trenches. It occurred at its highest point in the southern part of the southeastern part of the site (Trench 5) where it was recorded at 34.09m OD. From here it sloped to the north where it was recorded between 33.46m OD (Trench 2) and 33.52m OD (Trench 4). In the southern part of the site, the gravel occurred immediately below the concrete and tarmac currently covering this part of the site. This suggests that horizontal truncation has occurred within this part of the site – presumably in order to level the site following the clearance of buildings during the second half of the 20th century.

2.2 Test Pit TT202

- 2.2.1 Excavation of this test pit exposed a number of archaeological features including the cobbled surfaces of the now extinct Ebeneezer Street [7] and Jones Street [3] as well as the remains of two cellared houses fronting the latter. Between Jones Street to the south and Ebeneezer Street to the north, part of a large cellared building was recorded. The basement walls, [4], [6] and [20], consisted of a mix of single and double skinned brick walls coated with white damp proofing paint on the internal side. It is possible that at least some of these brick walls represent the remains of Ebeneezer School, which was already in existence by the mid- to late 1840s. Alterations were undoubtedly made to these in the 1930s or 1940s when the building was converted or possibly rebuilt as the compliance works. This is evident from the use of reinforced concrete and the presence of later bricks within the walls. However, sections of earlier single skinned walls do appear to survive within the later fabric suggesting at least partial survival of the earlier building. When the building was demolished in the later part of the 20th century the demolition rubble [5] appears to been used to fill in the basement.
- 2.2.2 To the south of Jones Street were the remains of a cellar wall [2], which appeared to be of a 19th century date. It is likely that this forms part of one of the dwellings built along Jones Street in the early parts of the second quarter of the 19th century as shown on the map of Manchester published by Pigot & Sons in 1836. Cartographic evidence indicates that the buildings fronting the south side of Jones Street were demolished between 1922 and 1933 (Figure 6). Evidence for the demolition of the building to which the cellar wall belonged was seen in the form of demolition rubble [1], which had been deposited in order to fill in the cellar following the destruction of the dwelling.
- 2.2.3 Two large WWII air raid shelters, [9] and [24] aligned along a roughly north-south axis were recorded to the north of Ebeneezer Street (Figure 3). Only the westernmost of these was exposed to its full width (2m) and measured at least 5.96m in length the base of the western shelter was at a depth of approximately 32.54m OD, roughly 1.6m below the current ground surface. Only part of the northern end and a small part of the central part of the eastern

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shelter were exposed. The northern end consisted of a brick built entrance, [10], while the main structure of both shelters consisted of corrugated metal sheets forming north-south aligned barrel vaults. These would have been secured to concrete blocks, [23] and [25], and covered with redeposited natural sand [8] to protect the occupants from shrapnel from nearby blasts.

- 2.2.4 In the eastern part of TT202, a 13.5m long section of a roughly east-west aligned brick box drain, [17], capped with York stone slabs was recorded at 31.12m OD (a depth of approximately 3m below the current ground surface). At the western end of the drain run, the box drain connected to a circular brick built backdrop, [12], measuring approximately 0.6m in diameter. The top of the backdrop had been covered with a York stone slap, presumably laid when the drain fell into disuse. Sealing the capped off backdrop was a layer of demolition rubble, [11], which presumably related to the clearance of the 19th century dwellings along Galloway Street and Ebeneezer Street in the second quarter of the 20th century.
- 2.2.5 Fragmentary remains of two further brick walls, [39] and [40], were seen in the northernmost part of the trench. These two wall sections likely represent the remains of dwellings along Galloway Street or Hulme Street. Both of these walls had been constructed using unfrogged red bricks bonded with hard dark grey lime mortar.
- 2.2.6 Sealing the archaeological remains was a layer of 20th century made ground.

2.3 Test Pit TT203

2.3.1 The only archaeological remains uncovered within this test pit were a north-south aligned brick wall, [26], and associated cellar floor also constructed of bricks. These were only exposed within a sondage at the northern end of the test pit. They are likely to represent the remains of a 19th century cellared dwelling fronting Jones Street to the north. It is possible that the brick wall is the return of wall [2] seen in TT202. Wall [26] survived to a height of 33.87m OD, while the maximum height of the associated cellar floor to the west was recorded at 32.21m OD. Like the cellars seen in TT202, the cellar in this test pit had also been backfilled using material derived from the demolition of the dwelling.

2.4 Test Pit TT204

- 2.4.1 Cutting the natural sand in the northern part of the test pit were the truncated remains of an east-west aligned brick box drain [27], capped with York stone slabs. To the west, the drain had been truncated by the construction of a 19th century brick wall, [30]. Along with wall, [29], wall [30] appeared to form the southwestern corner of an uncellared dwelling. It is likely that the masonry remains represent one of the dwellings fronting Newcastle Street to the east throughout the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century. These walls were overlain by patches of 19th century made ground.
- 2.4.2 To the east, the made ground, and indeed the brick box drain had been truncated by a concrete ground beam supported on deeper concrete block piles approximately every 3.5m. Another concrete beam cut the made ground in the southern part of the test pit. By the mid-

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20th century, the western part of the site had been cleared of dwellings and the area between Mount Street and Newcastle Street redeveloped as Medlock House. It is likely that the concrete foundations form the remains of this new building.

2.5 Test Pit TT205

2.5.1 In the northern part of the test pit, the natural sands and gravel were truncated by the remains of a cobbled surface, [35], flanked to the west by York stone slabs, [34]. The stone slabs had been laid against a north-south aligned brick wall, [33]. To the east the cobbled surface was laid against another north-south aligned brick wall, [31]. Together these features are likely to represent the external walls of two of the dwellings facing Mounsey's Court along with the cobble and York stone paving itself. Based on cartographic evidence, development along Mounsey's Court may have occurred as early as the 1820s-1830s, but certainly by 1851. Neither of these buildings appear to have had cellars as the natural sand and gravel occurs almost at the historic street level.



Plate 1: Cobble surface of Mounsey's Court seen in TT205. Looking southeast.

2.5.2 To the south, these features had been truncated by a modern brick wall aligned on a roughly east-west axis. Further to the south a number of deeper concrete footings were recorded. These along with the modern brick wall are likely the remains of the mid-20th century Medlock House.

2.6 Test Pit TT206

2.6.1 Cutting the natural sand in the central part of the test pit was a 19th century York stone capped brick box drain, [37], aligned along a north-south axis. Immediately to the east, the drain was abutted by the concrete footings for a modern brick wall. Across the entire test pit, the natural sand was sealed directly by concrete. This indicates that some horizontal truncation has occurred within this area and this can presumably be linked to the demolition of

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the buildings on the site in the 20th century.

2.7 Test Pit TT207

2.7.1 With the exception of a small section of brickwork, [38], observed only in the section of the north corner of the test pit, this intervention was entirely devoid of archaeology. Along the southern edge of the test pit, the natural sand was cut by a section of east-west aligned concrete footing.



Plate 2: Late 18th or early 19th infilled cellar in Trench 1. Looking northeast.

2.8 Trench 1

2.8.1 The earliest deposit observed was the natural sand and gravels, [89], which occurred at a maximum height of 33.63m OD. In the middle part of the trench the natural was cut by the construction of a cellared building constructed from bricks dated to the late 18th or early 19th century. The external walls of the dwelling, [83] and [87], survived, as did an internal partition wall, [91], within the cellar. When the building was demolished, the rubble seems to have been used to backfill the cellar. It is uncertain to what depth the cellar survives as the backfill

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was not excavated during the current investigation. Bancks' map dated 1831 (Figure 4) shows buildings along what later became Mount Street. The northernmost of these buildings seems to correspond with the building remains recorded in Trench 1. On the map, the dwelling is shown at the northern end of a terrace of houses with gardens to the east and west.

2.8.2 To the east of the building were the remains of a rammed gravel surface, [81], which had later been resurfaced with clinker and gravel, [80]. The rammed gravel was first seen at 33.45m OD while the clinker and gravel surface was recorded at a maximum height of 33.55m OD. It is likely that the surface represents the remains of Mount Street, which appears on maps as early as the mid-1830s. To the east of the street were the remains of a modern, north-south aligned brick wall visible on the surface beyond the trench.

2.9 Trench 2

- 2.9.1 In Trench 2, the natural gravel was sealed by what appeared to be a 19th century yard surface, [48], comprising a relatively compact deposit of clinker and gravel set in a sandy silt matrix. Near the northern end of the trench, the yard surface was truncated by an east-west aligned brick box drain, [41]. To the south of this, the yard surface was butting against the north-eastern corner of a brick building, [43] and [44]. The surviving brickwork seems to roughly correspond to one of the buildings shown fronting Hulme Street on the 1844-49 OS map (Figure 5).
- 2.9.2 Further to the south the 19th century yard surface had been cut by the construction cut for a slightly curvilinear wall, [45]. While both the brick and mortar is reminiscent of a 20th century date, none of the buildings shown on contemporary maps appear to have curvilinear sections. To the south, the wall was truncated by the construction of a WWII air raid shelter. As such, the wall must then be dated to the first half of the 20th century. The construction cut for the air raid shelter occupied the entirety of the southern half of the trench.

2.10 Trench 3

2.10.1 This trench was entirely devoid of archaeological features. Here, the natural sand was overlain directly by the current concrete surface suggesting that horizontal truncation had occurred within this part of the site.

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Plate 3: Overview of Trench 3. Looking southwest.

2.11 Trench 4

2.11.1 The southern half of the trench was occupied by the basement of Ebeneezer School or the later engineering works and can be seen as the continuation of part of the basement recorded in TT202. While the southern end of Trench 4 was situated almost entirely within the compliance works basement, the northern end demonstrated the partial survival of the foundations and associated surfaces of the dwellings along the now extinct Galloway Street and Ebeneezer Street. Here the foundations of the east wall, [69], of one of the dwellings facing Galloway Street survived. It consisted of unfrogged red bricks set in a mid-grey sandy lime mortar with frequent shell flecks. To the east of this were the truncated remains of a brick surface. As can be seen from Figure 5, which overlays the archaeological features onto the 1844-49 OS map, the brick surface corresponds with the area between the two easternmost buildings on the south side of Galloway Street. It presumably represents the paving of a passage leading to the latrines shared by the Galloway Street back to back houses. If this is indeed the case, then it is likely that a rectangular brick lined feature, [74], [75] and [76], at the

southern end of the paved area represents the remains of the communal cess pit.



Plate 4: Truncated brick surface in Trench 4 (1m scale). Looking northeast.

2.11.2 All of the archaeological features exposed in the northern half of Trench 4 were sealed by a shallow layer of demolition material, which in turn was sealed by the current surface within this part of the site.

2.12 Trench 5

2.12.1 At the southern end of Trench 5, the natural sand was cut by a small square brick lined ash pit/cess pit, [58]. Although all but the lower 0.4m of the structure had been removed by later truncation, the surviving part of the fill, [57], contained a high quantity of finds including several almost intact stoneware bottles, and a wealth of mid-19th century pottery sherds. The structure itself consisted of a single skin of bricks laid in a stretcher bond. At the bottom of the pit, bricks were laid in order to form a solid base. Approximately 1.3m the north of the ash pit, an east-west aligned brick wall, [62], was recorded. Both of these appear to be of 19th century date, and are likely to relate to one of the properties backing onto Cream Court from at least the 1840s (see Figure 5).

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Plate 5: Ash pit / cess pit [58] in Trench 5 (1m scale). Looking northeast.

2.12.2 At the northern end of the trench, the natural sand was sealed by a compact clinker rich layer of gravelly sand, [65], which likely formed the bedding for Park Street. Extending into the northern end of the trench was another brick lined feature, [68], which was initially thought to be another ash pit. However, excavation of the fill revealed a moderately steeply sloping brick base. It is more likely that the feature forms the remains of a coal chute for one of the properties fronting the north side of Park Street. If this is indeed the case, then it is likely that the associated cellar of the building survives to the north of the trench.

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Plate 6: Coal chute [68] in Trench 5 (1m scale). Looking northwest.

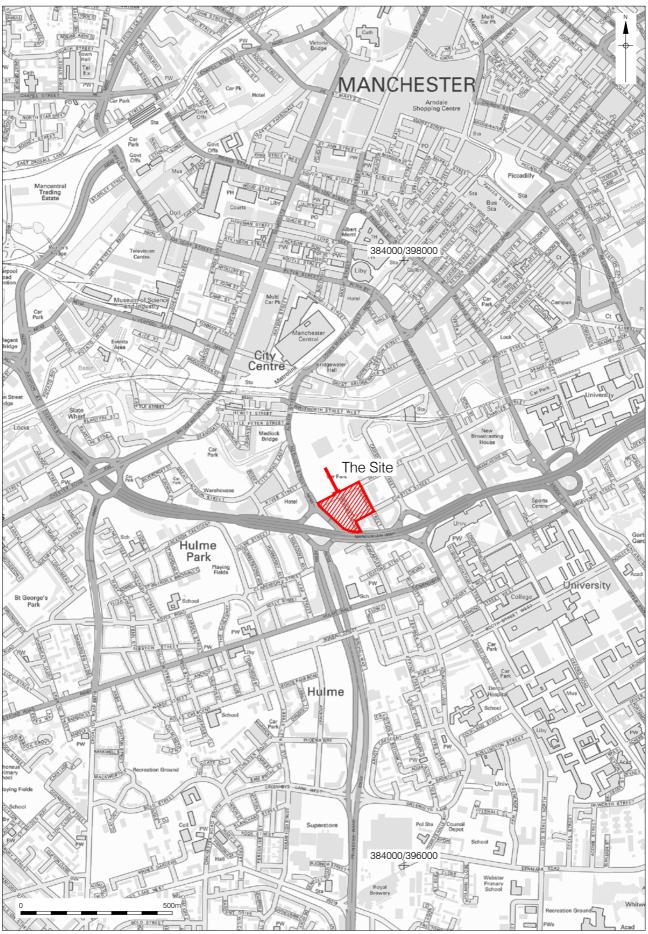
3 CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The watching briefs and the archaeological evaluation has demonstrated that the southern part of the site has been subject to horizontal truncation that has caused the natural sand and gravel to become exposed immediately below the concrete and tarmac surfaces in this part of the site. However archaeological features survive, albeit in a truncated state, within the southeast part of the site as is evident from the features in Trench 5.
- 3.2 Within the northern part of the site, the level of archaeological survival is greater and here not only cut features, but also layers have survived. Even so, the geotechnical investigation has demonstrated that several large 20th century truncations including air raid shelters and basements do exist throughout this part of the site, which have had a destructive effect on the buried archaeological resource. However, both the geotechnical investigation and the archaeological evaluation have demonstrated that islands of well preserved archaeological material survive between the 20th century truncations.
- 3.3 It is clear from both investigations that the remains of a variety of workers house, both cellared and non-cellared survive within the site and that these have the potential to further inform on the development and adaptation of these buildings within the Manchester area.

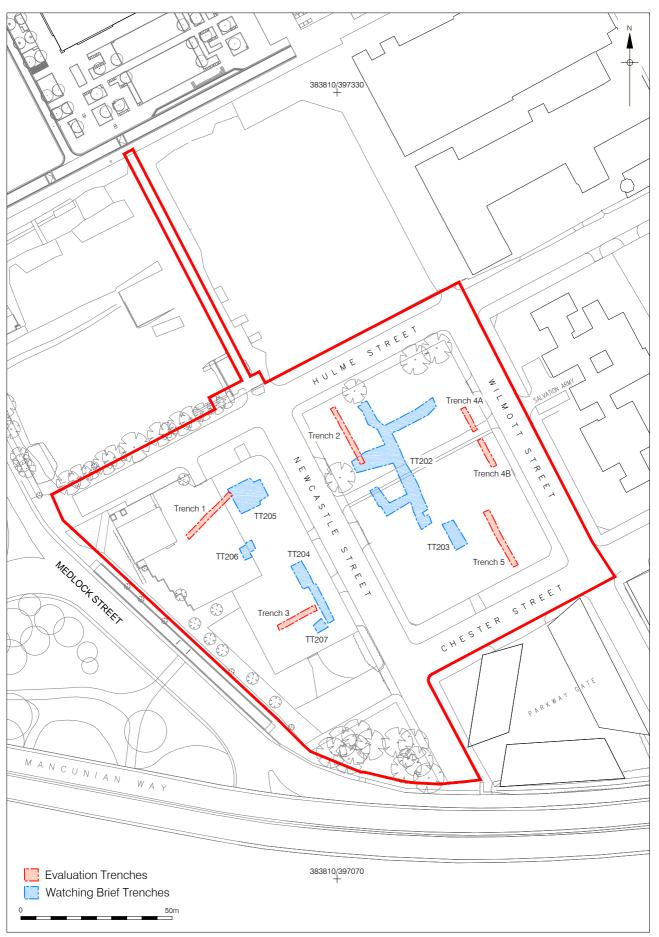
4 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Figure 4
Features overlain on a detail from Bancks' map, 1831
Approx. 1:500 at A4



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Figure 5 Features overlain on a detail from the Ordnance Survey map, 1844-49 1:500 at A4



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Figure 6 Features overlain on a detail from the Ordnance Survey map, 1932 1:500 at A4

5 OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-265358

Project details

Project name First Street Plot 11 (8), Manchester M15 4FN

Short description of

the project

Watching briefs were carried out during geotechnical investigations, followed by the excavation of five archaeological evaluation trenches. Both the watching briefs and the evaluation identified the remains of a variety of different 19th century workers' houses and associated

features.

Project dates Start: 06-09-2016 End: 07-10-2016

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any associated project FSS16 - Sitecode

reference codes

reference codes

Any associated project 111170/FO/2016/C1 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type WALL Post Medieval Monument type **CESS PIT Post Medieval** Monument type **ROAD Post Medieval** Significant Finds POT Post Medieval

Significant Finds CTP Post Medieval Significant Finds **GLASS Post Medieval**

Significant Finds **CBM Post Medieval**

Methods & techniques "Targeted Trenches", "Test Pits"

Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.) Development type

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country **England**

Site location GREATER MANCHESTER MANCHESTER First Street

Plot 11 (8)

Postcode M15 4FN

Site coordinates SJ 83816 97172 53.470780937653 -2.243839044364 53 28 14 N 002

14 37 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 33.45m Max: 33.85m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

Project design

originator

Chris Mayo

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Project supervisor Paw Jorgensen Project supervisor Rosemary Banens Mike Tunnicliffe Project supervisor Type of Developer

sponsor/funding body

Name of Arcadis

sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive

recipient

Manchester Museum of Science and Industry

"Ceramics", "Glass", "other" **Physical Contents**

Digital Archive

recipient

Manchester Museum of Science and Industry

"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Images Digital Media available

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Paper Archive

recipient

Manchester Museum of Science and Industry

"Context sheet","Drawing","Matrices","Plan","Report","Survey " Paper Media available

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